

April 18th & 19th
4 year olds-1st Grade

Bible Passage: From Mark 1; Luke 4
(Jesus' Ministry)

The Father Has Big Plans for Jesus

REMEMBER VERSE

**Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and
believes him who sent me has eternal life.**

John 5:24a

Schedule

1. Activity
2. Storytime
3. Questions to go deeper
4. Blessing
5. Optional Worship songs

Supplies

- Bible
- Piece of paper
- Marker or pen

//Activity//

Parents, this is a fun way to introduce the lesson and get your kids to thinking about listening to our Heavenly Father who loves and cares for us.

Father Stop and Go

Jesus listened carefully to God the Father so He could follow the Father's plans. In this game, children will need to listen carefully to a "Father" so they can continue to play!

SUPPLIES

- None

SET UP

Create starting lines and finishing lines on each end of the room with some kind of object in your house.

RELATE

Today in The Big God Story, we will hear how Jesus often had to listen carefully so He could follow His Father's plans exactly. Family, we're going to play a game like Red Light, Green Light. Who has played that game before? That's great, because our game is very similar! Chose your child to stand in the front of the room. This child will be the "Father" in our game. Ask everyone else to line up on the other line facing the "Father." The "Father" should turn around so his back is to the group. In a minute, the Father will say, "Go." Everyone will start walking toward the Father. Make sure you're listening carefully, because when the Father says, "Stop" and turns, you'll need to freeze. If you're not frozen, you have to go back to the start line. The first player to cross the finish line will get to be the next "Father." Everyone in the family can take turns being the Father.

Add variety to the game by having children hop, skip, gallop, crawl, etc. to the Father. Point out it's another way they need to listen to hear the plan of the game.

//Storytime//

Hey parents! We will start with learning our Remember Verse.

- Write the Remember Verse (listed below) on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in your house near where you will be telling the story
- Grab an empty box with a lid near where you will tell the story. This will be used to help tell the story 😊

Mail Time



SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse written on a piece of paper
- Bibles (your personal and children's)

RELATE

Hide the Remember Verse somewhere in your house, perhaps near where you will tell the story. Choose one child to "seek" the Remember Verse. Give clues to its whereabouts by calling out "hot" and "cold."

Once the verse is found, find the Remember Verse in Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with the children.

Lead the children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory.

REMEMBER VERSE

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.
John 5:24a

REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS

Eternal: Lasting forever and ever

REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

Very truly I tell you: Nod head in affirmation, cup hands around mouth.

whoever hears my word: cup hands around ears.

and believes him who sent me: Point index fingers to the sky.

has eternal life: Point right index finger outward and make a circular motion.

Wardrobe of Wonder (Where a secret item is hidden that connects to the Big God Story. Use a box, a cabinet or whatever you have)

SUPPLIES

- Secret item/What's It: Ear (use a Mr. Potato head ear or do your best to draw one on a piece of paper or sticky note)
- Covered place to hide secret item (which is empty this week)

What's It: Ear

An ear can remind us of the importance of getting away and spending time in solitude so we can hear God speak to us about His plan for our lives. We're told of numerous occasions when Jesus went away to pray and listen to God. Sometimes we need to be away from the noise and hustle and bustle of everyday life in order to hear God speak to us.

RELATE

Invite your child volunteer to "spy" on the What's It by peeking into the "wardrobe." Have him whisper the identity of the

What's It in your ear to ensure he knows what it is.

Then lead your family in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What's It. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What's It from the wardrobe and bring it to you.

ASK

What's this we've found in the wardrobe today? Children answer. **Hmmm ... I wonder. Why would an ear be in the wardrobe?** Interact with responses. **What do we do with our ears?** You're right. **We listen with our ears. Today we're going to hear in The Big God Story how Jesus listened to God the Father and then did exactly what His Father told Him to do. God had a plan for His Son Jesus' life, just like He does for each of us! Do you know what time it is? Yes! It's time for The Big God Story!**

The Big God Story

This is the "meat" of the lesson where we open up the Bible to see how God moved in people's lives.

From Mark 1; Luke 4

RELATE

Hello, family! I'm so happy you're here! Before we go any further, let's invite God to teach us. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

Have you ever had to prepare, or get ready, before you did something? Have I (mom or dad, guardian) ever asked you to take a nap or rest when you have a big day ahead of you? How about going on vacation? What are some ways you prepare or get ready to go on vacation? Pause for responses. **That's right. You pack a suitcase or backpack with all the things you need. What are some ways you prepare to go to church?** Children answer. **Yes, you need to have your shoes on and brush your hair. Don't forget your Bible. Sometimes, if it's cold outside, you need to prepare by bringing a jacket or sweater, right?** Show children other sets of preparation items if you're doing this option.

Today we're going to talk about the big plans God the Father had for His Son Jesus, and I'm going to need your help! Every time I say the phrase, "big plans," I need you to shout out, "BIG PLANS" and wave your hands in the air. Let's practice ... Are you ready? Today we're going to talk about the *big plans* (allow time for kids to recite their phrase, "BIG PLANS") God the Father had for His Son Jesus. Great job; it sounds like you're ready to begin our storytelling! Make sure you're listening carefully for when I say ... "big plans" (allow children to answer, "BIG PLANS")!

God the Father had *big plans* (allow time for response) for His Son while He was here on earth. Jesus would be a great teacher and perform many miracles. He would heal the sick, make the blind see, and even bring the dead back to life. Jesus would do all these things because He wanted to do everything His Father asked Him to do. The Bible tells us that while Jesus was on earth, He had a body like you and I do. His body got hungry and tired, and He even felt pain. Jesus was sometimes tempted to make bad choices, just like we do. But He never sinned. He never made a bad choice—not even once.

When Jesus grew up, He knew it was time to prepare for the *big plans* (children respond) His Father had for Him to teach and perform miracles. So the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. He spent 40 days in the desert! Forty days is a long, long time! Can you hold up all 10 of your fingers? Now open and close your hands four times ... that's how many days Jesus spent getting ready to do all the *big plans* (children respond) God the Father had for Him.

When Jesus came back from being in the desert, He was ready to start His Father's *big plans* (children respond) for Him. First, He chose 12 men to be His disciples. What's a disciple? Children answer. A disciple is a follower of Jesus. One day, Jesus went into the synagogue. Can you say that word with me? Syn-a-gogue! A synagogue is a place of worship, like a church. Jesus went into the synagogue and began teaching. The people were amazed! They knew something was different about Jesus. What made Jesus unlike anyone else who ever lived, or ever will live? Pause for responses. Jesus is God, that's right!

God the Father's *big plans* (children respond) for Jesus didn't stop there! There were many days when Jesus taught people what is true about God and healed people who were sick. The Bible tells us there were days when people would come to Jesus for healing all day and into the night. Jesus must have become tired, but He stayed up all night healing people because He knew that was part of the *big plans* (children respond) God had for Him.

Jesus knew He would have many busy days talking with, caring for, and healing people. The Bible tells us that sometimes while it was still night, Jesus would go out to be alone and pray. He knew that being alone with God was the best way He could get ready for all the *big plans* (children respond) God had for Him. Jesus wanted to be sure He only did what God the Father wanted Him to do.

Did you know God has *big plans* (children respond) for each one of us, too? He already knows what you'll be when you grow up. God knows where you'll live. He has *big plans* (children respond) for you to tell others about Him and how much He loves all of us. We can get ready for God's *big plans* (children respond) for our lives by talking with God (touch your lips) and listening to God (touch your ears). We can listen to God when we pray and when we read our Bibles. God has also given us moms and dads to help us learn about Him. They can help us get ready for all the things God has planned for our lives. How can we get ready? By talking with God and listening to God! Encourage children to touch their lips and ears. Just like Jesus, we can hear and follow the *big plans* (children respond) God has for our lives. God is always with us, and He will help us!

Worship as Response

Supplies:

- Paper
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils

Just like Jesus invited the disciples to know and follow Him, He invites us too. When we choose to trust and obey Jesus, we become His disciples too. As Jesus' disciples, we get to show His love to the people around us! Today, in the middle of your paper, draw a person to look like yourself. Then when we're done, draw more people onto your paper. Do the activity along with the children.

See how more people are on your paper now? That's like when we tell others about God and we spread the good news of Jesus by what we do and say! When others see how we live, they'll want to have a relationship with Jesus too, and be part of God's big plan!

//Questions to go Deeper//

RELATE

From today's part of The Big God Story, we learned how important it was for Jesus to take time away to prepare for His Father's plans for Him. He would go out to be alone and pray. God has big plans for each one of us too.

I wonder ... How can I listen to God?

I wonder ... Why does God want us to hear His voice?

I wonder ... What plans might God have for me?

//Bless//

This is where YOU get to speak God's word over your child. It's powerful! Even if it feels awkward at first, give it a shot. You won't regret speaking TRUTH over your child.

RELATE

Today as you bless your children, remind them of the many opportunities they have to listen to God. Explain that one way we can listen to God is by being still. Encourage them to sit on the floor and hold their hands in front of them, palms up as if cupping them together to hold water. Share that they can be still, or they can quietly repeat after you (in a whisper), "**Thank You, God, for the plans you have for me**" several times. Allow a few moments of silence.

Before the final portion of today's blessing, invite your family to form a circle and hold hands as you speak the blessing over them:

May you always listen to God, so He may continue to show you the best path.

//Worship Songs//

Find our weekend songs online. [CLICK HERE](#)