

About the Author

Kurt Jarvis holds his B.A. degree from Asbury College and his M.A. degree in Education from Rowan University. He has had over fifty years direct experience in children's ministry at both the national and local level as well as with international with various Christian organizations and missions and has conducted international training activities and children's rallies in over 25 countries worldwide.

In 2008 Kurt founded CBS4Kids, a non profit international training ministry for pastors, teachers and other children's workers under American Ministry Support, www.AMSUSA.org. For other resources on the CBS4Kids approach to teaching and telling the Story of God go to www.CBS4Kids.org

The Bible Story of God is a project of CBS4Kids.org. This book is available as a free download for copying and distribution. CBS4Kids also produces other resources and FREE downloads for church leaders parents, teens and children

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The Chronological

Story of God

Beginning Devotional 4 Kids



12 Stories

For

Parents, Teachers, and Children's Workers

m. k. Jarvis

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The Beginning Bible Storying Devotional

www.cbs4kids.org

Becoming Part of God's Family

Questions and discussion:

1. What does the Bible tell us about sin and how the sin of Adam and Eve affects us?
2. Since the very beginning of creation many people try to please God by doing things. What are some things that people do to try to please God?
3. Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night time to ask Him questions?
4. Nicodemus was a very religious man. Why do you think he did not know the answers to the questions he asked Jesus?
5. What does the Bible tell us about how we can please God?
6. What did Jesus tell people they needed to do to be part of God's family?
7. How did Zacchaeus become part of God's family?
8. How do you become part of God's family?

matter if we are young or older, God is just waiting for us to ask Him to forgive us and take us into His family.

If you are not part of God's family and would like to be in God's family you can pray that prayer right now. Just talk to God and tell God you are sorry of disobeying and tell God you want Him to forgive you and He does. Once you pray and ask God you are then part of His family.

My Story of God Devotional

Name: _____

You are starting an exciting Bible journey. In this book you will learn about the God of the Bible and how much He loves you and cares for you. Each story of the Bible tells us more and more about God and how He wants everyone to know Him, love Him and know Jesus as their personal Savior. This beginning Story of God is the Bible in just 12 stories and these 12 stories can help you understand how much God loves you.

If you have a counselor, teacher, parent, pastor or adult friend who can help you study these story lessons, these will help you begin this journey to know God and Jesus. At the end of each story-lesson are questions for you to answer. If you have a Bible or if someone else has a Bible you can read this scripture verse listed for each stories yourself.

When you finish this book if you want to study more of the stories, have someone help you contact www.CBS4Kids.org for the complete book of 60 stories.

We pray God will lead you as you study His Word and learn His Story.

Kurt Jarvis & Marion Grant, Directors, CBS4Kids

follow like praying several times a day. It doesn't matter even if they mean what they pray; they just are required to pray. Still in other religions leaders tell them the only way to heaven is to give money and do good deeds. People work their whole life trying to work their way to heaven but the Bible tells us there is nothing we can do, there are not enough good things we can do to have our sin forgiven.

It is the Bible that reminds us that the only way to God and the only way to heaven is to ask God to forgive us, believe that Jesus was the true Son of God and died for us and then we become part of God's family.

In the Bible book of Romans 3:23 it says, "*Everyone has sinned, everyone has disobeyed God.*" We were all born that way since the time of Adam and Eve. We cannot be part of God's family with sin in our lives. But the Bible also tells us all we need to do is tell God that we are sorry for our sin and disobedience and ask God to forgive us. When we do that, we automatically become part of God's family.

A Bible verse in the book of I John 1:9 says, If we confess or tell God we have sinned and disobeyed and ask Him to forgive us, God will do that right away and we are then forgiven and made clean from all we have ever done to disobey God. It is that easy and it does not

Jesus was teaching people many things about God and heaven when some people asked Jesus how they could be part of God's family. Jesus said if they told God they were sorry for disobeying and if they believed He, Jesus, was the Son of God, they could be part of God's family too. Seems pretty easy, doesn't it?

In another story, a very religious man by the name of Nicodemus came to Jesus very late at night. He asked Jesus how he could become part of the Kingdom of God. Jesus told him that everyone who wants to be part of God's family must be born again. If you remember that story Nicodemus did not understand this. He asked Jesus how anyone could go back and be born all over again. It sounded silly to Nicodemus that a person could be born like a newborn baby again. But when we ask God to forgive us, God forgives us and it is just like starting our life all over again – we “born again” but this time we are born as part of God's family.

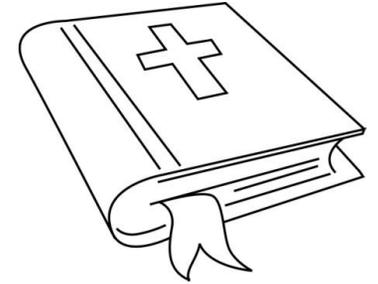
The day that Jesus met Zacchaeus he became part of God's family because he believed in Jesus. Zacchaeus said he was sorry for his sin and taking extra money from people when he collected taxes.

It all seems so easy but it is amazing how many people never believe in Jesus, never ask God to forgive them for their sin and consequently never become part of God's family. When you study about people all over the world you find that so many people try to work their way to God. In some religions they make sacrifices to idols of stone or wood. Other religions have rules that people must

The Bible is a Special Book

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16

Passage for memorization and Biblical telling: II Kings 22: 1-13



Books have been written for a very long time; actually machines have printed them now for over 500 years. Before that, time books were hand written and hand copied so there were very few books. Today there are millions and millions of books, maybe even trillions. Some books are fiction, which are made up stories. Other stories are true and might be stories about people, places, and history. Some books, like math books, are written for learning.

But one book, the Bible, is such a special book and different from any other book ever written. There are two parts of the Bible, the Old Testament, which is the history of the beginning of the earth and is the story of God's people and the New Testament which is about the life of Jesus, the beginning of the Christian church and a description of heaven, the end of this world and the new world to come.

There are 66 small books in the Bible and those 66 books make up the entire Bible. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. God used 40 different men to write the books of the entire Bible. These men did not all live at the same

time and it took 1,600 years for the entire Bible to be written. Even though some of these writers lived hundreds of years before another writer, in many places in the Bible something a person wrote and said was going to happen in the future, came true hundreds of years later. That was proof of something very special about this book, the Bible, because only God could know that something He said was going to happen, would happen. (2 Peter 1:20, 21)

Of all the books of the trillions of books ever written, they were all written by a person except for one book. That one book is the Bible. God wrote the Bible and was the real author of that book. Before the printing press was invented the Bible was written down by hand and copied over and over. Every word was checked and rechecked to make sure the words never changed.

There are many other religious books, but this book is different. Some men who wrote other religious book had ideas about God and wrote down their ideas, but they were just their ideas and thoughts. But the Bible is God telling us about Himself, about His Son, Jesus, and about the Holy Spirit, which is also part of God. So, God is really the writer of the Bible.

In the Old Testament book of 2 Kings 22:1-13 is the story Josiah, a king of Israel who became king when he was only 8 years old. At that time the Israelites, who were God's special people, had forgotten about God, did not worship God like God wanted them to

Becoming Part of God's Family

Scripture: John 3:1-18

Passage for memorization and Biblical telling: John 3:1-18



How many families do you have? Some children have just one family. And there are other children that have more than one family because one or both of their parents were divorced and they married someone else. Some adults have a family with just one parent because their father or mother might have died or their parent is divorced. Sometimes children are adopted into a new family. And there are some children who live in a house with many children we call an orphanage because both their parents might have died and there was no one else to take care of them

Families can come in all different ways. But no matter what family we are part of we can be part of a second family at the same time. That is very special and so all of us can have two families. We have the family we were born into or the family we live with and if we believe in Jesus we can also be part of God's family. The Bible says anyone can be part of God's family if they believe that Jesus is real and is God's only Son.

Jesus Dies for Us

Story Questions and Discussion:

1. Why did children and adults come to the road and wave branches when Jesus came into the town?
2. Did everyone love Jesus? Does everyone today love Jesus?
3. Why did some people not like Jesus?
4. What happened after Jesus died? Where did they put his body?
5. What did Jesus' friends do when they came to the cave and found out that Jesus was not there?
6. How did the disciples know that Jesus was really alive?

For older children

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to die?
2. What was so important about the fact that Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey?
3. Why do you think made people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem with palm branches and 5 days later yelling to have Him killed?

worship, and were not following God's ways. They had disobeyed God for many years. When King Josiah was 22 years old he ordered that the temple be rebuilt as it was in terrible condition. While the workers were rebuilding the temple they found a secret room and the scriptures of God were there sealed away for many years on rolled up scrolls. They took these to the king and the king had his secretary read them. When the scriptures were read Josiah discovered he and all the Israelites had not been following God's ways and were disobeying God, which is sin.

Josiah tore his clothes (which in Bible days meant he was sorry to God for not obeying) and he fell on the floor with his face to the ground and asked God to forgive him. Then he had all the people come to the palace and Josiah read the scriptures to all the people. They too discovered they were all disobeying God and all the people also fell to the ground with their faces to the earth and told God they were sorry for disobeying. The entire nation returned to obeying God because the scriptures had been told to them.

When we hear the story of God, the Bible, it tells us how we should be living and obeying God and tells us how we should live every day. If we do not follow God's ways, then we are being disobedient to God. But, we can tell God we are sorry and we can stop disobeying and begin to follow the way God wants us to live.

The words of the Bible, the scriptures, changed the lives of all the Israelites. Those same words of the Bible can change us too if we listen to them and obey.

The Bible is how God talks to us today. It tells the story of how God created the entire world, the seas, mountains, trees, birds, animals and most of all, people. And, the Bible tells us how we are special creations of God, each man, woman and child. God made us different from all other creation because God had a special purpose and plan for us.

And most of all, the Story of God, the Bible, is the story of how much God loves us, each one of us, no matter what country we live in, the color of our skin, the kind of house we live in; God loves each one of us exactly the same. How do we know all this? Because that is exactly what the Bible tells us.

donkey and this is a reminder to us that Jesus really was the Son of God.

Still there were other people who did not like Jesus and when they saw people waving branches and thanking God, they got angry. There were so many of the religious people telling the Roman leaders to have Jesus killed that the Roman leaders finally agreed and let them put Jesus to death.

After Jesus died His friends put him in a cave and they buried Him and put a large rock in front of the cave. This all happened on a Friday. Jesus was in the cave three days. The Roman leaders put guards at the tomb so that no one could steal Jesus' body and then say He had come back to life on the third day like He said he would.

On Sunday Jesus' friends came to the place where He was buried and found the rock was rolled away from the cave. The Roman guards were also gone. They looked inside and Jesus wasn't there but an angel was inside the cave and told Jesus' friends that Jesus was no longer dead but alive. God had brought Jesus back to life.

Jesus' friends ran and went and told the disciples and others. The friends came to the cave and also saw that Jesus was gone.

Later Jesus' friends had gathered together to have a meal. While they were eating Jesus came to meet with the disciples and He also had a meal with them. When they saw Jesus eating food they knew He was alive and was real. They were not dreaming, their friend Jesus had come back to life just like He said he would and exactly how the scripture prophecies had predicted. This was proof that Jesus really was God.

Jesus Dies for Us

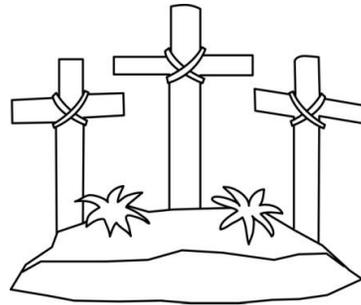
Scripture: John 18, 19; John 12:12-16, Zechariah 9:9

Passages for memorization and Biblical telling:

John 12:12-16 /

John 19:1-16 / John 19:16-22

John 19:28-30 / John 19:38-42 / John 20:1-17



Jesus had been teaching people about God and doing many miracles and most people loved Jesus and were so happy that He made many people well who were sick and that He loved people so much. But there were some people who did not like Jesus because He told them they were disobeying and not following God.

One day Jesus came to the city of Jerusalem where He had been many times before teaching people about God. When people heard that Jesus was coming, they came out on the road to greet Him.

Many people and children even took branches from palm trees and when Jesus came down the road riding on a donkey they called out “*Hosanna*” which means they were thankful to God for sending His Son to earth.

Over 700 years before Jesus was born, a prophet of God said the Messiah, Jesus, would come riding on a donkey. What the prophet said happened that day as Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a

The Bible is a Special Book

Questions and discussion:

1. Who wrote all the books in the world ever written except one book?
2. What makes the Bible different from all other books ever written?
3. Who really wrote the Bible?
4. How does God talk to us today?
5. How many books are in the Bible?
6. How many books are in the Old Testament?
7. How many books are in the New Testament?
8. The entire Bible was written over 1600 years. What is one way we know what the Bible says is true?

Creation

Scripture: Genesis 1 Psalm 90:4

2 Peter 3:8

Passage for memorization and Biblical telling: Genesis 1- 2:1

People have different ideas as to how the world began. Some things about creation remain a mystery. We know that dinosaurs lived at one time because we find their bones and you can see their skeletons in museums. Science does not know why the dinosaurs all died. There are many ideas what happened but no one knows for sure. When people do not know for sure what happened in the past or what might happen in the future, they sometimes make up stories and write those ideas in books. But that does not make those ideas true.

Even the Bible does not tell us everything about the past. But there are many things the Bible does tell us and that information is true. We know it is true because over many years the Bible has been proven to be true in everything that is written in it. There is nothing written in the Bible that anyone has been able to prove is not true.

But there are many books where people wrote about things from the past that today we have found were not true. For example, at one time people wrote in books that you could go to the country of China if you just sailed west on the sea from England or Spain. Then a man named Christopher Columbus tried to do that but instead of China he found America and America was only part way west going



Zacchaeus Becomes Jesus' Friend

Questions and discussion:

1. Why did no one like Zacchaeus?
2. Why did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus?
3. How did Jesus know Zacchaeus' name?
4. What do you think Zacchaeus and Jesus talked about when Jesus went to his house for lunch?
5. What happened to Zacchaeus after Jesus went to his house?
6. What are some ways we can be a real friend to others?
7. What did Zacchaeus do to make things right with people he had cheated?
8. How did Zacchaeus become part of God's family.

Zacchaeus. Why don't you climb down out of the tree so we can have lunch and I can visit with you at your house?"

Zacchaeus was shocked. Jesus actually spoke to him and wanted to stay at his home. He climbed right down and Jesus went with him to his home. When they got to this house Jesus told Zacchaeus about the things of God and how God wanted Zacchaeus to live and to be honest with people.

Zacchaeus told Jesus he was sorry for what he had done and was going to give everyone back the extra money that he had taken from them. In fact, Zacchaeus said he would give each person back four times what he had taken. Jesus said that this day Zacchaeus became part of God's family because he showed that he was sorry for disobeying God.

toward China. It was a great discovery and that discovery proved that what had been written before was not true.

The Bible tells us many things that are true and one of the things the Bible tells us is about the very beginning of the earth and the universe. It even tells us about the beginning of time and day and night. The Bible also tells us how special we are to God.

The Bible tells us that God was there before He created the world, the moon, the sun and the stars. God was there even before He created time for people on the earth. The Bible also tells us that with God one day is just like 1000 years and 1000 years is just like one day. We live in a world that has day and night and seasons, and time. But God was there before all of this was created. God even created time.

We call the sun, the moon, and planets and stars that we can see part of the universe. Earth is part of the universe too. The universe is so big we have no idea even how big it is because we cannot see the end of the universe. We do know that there are millions and millions of miles between the earth and stars and planets. The entire universe is so large it cannot be measured. Most important, it is wonderful to know that God is even larger than the entire universe.

The Bible tells us God created everything. He created light and darkness. He created the dry ground and the oceans. He created the mountains and the rivers and streams. He created the grass and trees and flowers. God created the birds and animals and even the smallest insect. God created all the fascinating creatures in the sea. There is nothing that you can see that God did not create.

When God created days and nights He created the week, seven days; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. God also said that after He created the entire universe, the earth, days and night and all things He took one day to rest and to look over everything He had created. The Bible tells us God rested on the 7th day and He looked over everything He had made and said to Himself, *"This is good."* God was very happy with all He had made. God also created one day each week for us to rest and worship too. That day is called the Sabbath or Sunday.

And in all of creation there was one very special thing God created. He created man, Adam. And when He created Adam, God created man different from all other things He had made. Man was the only creature that could think in a special way, talk, and make decisions and was created so he could love God. Nothing else that God created can love Him like we can. God not only created man and woman, Adam and Eve, God created you. God loves you and loves everything He created.

Zacchaeus was determined to see Jesus but it was obvious that the people in the village were not going to help him. He figured he would just walk to the end of the crowd and then walk in front of the people. But the news of Jesus coming made everyone so excited that just about everyone in the town and come down to the main road to see Him. It was like the biggest parade you ever saw and the line of people was so long Zacchaeus could not even see the end. There was no used trying to get around the crowd, it was just too large.

Zacchaeus did not give up. He thought and thought about what he could do. Then he saw a Sycamore tree by the road and the crowd. A Sycamore tree is very different because it has all sorts of bumps on the tree trunk and the bumps make an easy place to put your feet so kids loved Sycamore trees because they were easy to climb. Zacchaeus saw some other kids in the Sycamore trees high above the crowd so that gave him an idea. Zacchaeus found a Sycamore with no kids in the tree and he climbed the tree. He thought this way he could see Jesus when Jesus walked by.

Soon Jesus came down the street. The crowd went wild. Everyone was calling to Jesus and waving branches at Him to let them know how glad they were he came to their village. When Jesus came near the tree that Zacchaeus had climbed He stopped right at the place where Zacchaeus was. Jesus looked up in the tree and said *"Hi!*

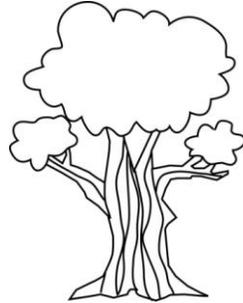
Zacchaeus Becomes Jesus' Friend

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

Passage for memorization and Biblical telling:

Luke 19:1-10

A person who does not have even one friend is the loneliest person in the world. God created us to be with other people but in order have friends you must also be a friend to others. To be a friend means you have to take time away from doing what you want to do what your friends want to do. But that is how friendships happen, when you take time to be with others.



In the Bible Jesus met a man who did not even have one friend. His name was Zacchaeus and he was a man that most people did not like, first because he was a tax collector (explain) and also because he was not fair and would take extra money for himself. Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to his village and that He did miracles (explain miracles). Zacchaeus decided to go into the village to see Jesus and when he got there a large crowd had gathered. Because Zacchaeus was a very short man he could not see over the heads of the other people and no one would let him through the crowd to the front where he could see Jesus arriving. As much as he tried, people just stayed in his way and they were not about to give room to someone who was as mean and dishonest as Zacchaeus. Even when he asked people to let him through they ignored him and just stood in his way.

Creation

Questions and Discussion:

1. What do people sometimes do when they do not know the answer to something?
2. What was the most special thing God created?
3. What are some ideas people had hundreds of years ago they thought were true but found out were not true?
4. Why do you think God created all the things in the world?
5. How are people different for all other things God created?
6. Why do you think God created people so very different from everything else in creation?
7. What are some things you see every day that tell you about God and what He is like?

Adam and Eve

Scripture: Genesis 2:7, 15-24

Passage for memorization and Biblical telling:

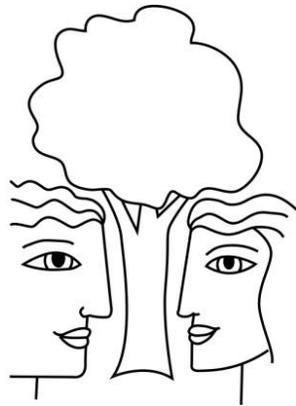
Genesis 3

Press your finger on the table. Did you know that your fingerprint is different from anyone else's? If your fingerprint were compared to one million other fingerprints yours would still be different?

God not only created people special from all other things He created, God created each person different from everyone else that has ever been born or from anyone that ever will be born. Even identical twins have differences. They may look exactly the same, but there still are differences. Identical twins do not have the same brain so each one can think differently from his or her twin. Identical twins even have different fingerprints.

The first people God created were Adam and Eve. They were special from all other things God created because they were created in God's image. In many ways we are like God; we can think, we can talk, and we can love others. We can also make decisions.

We can decide to be kind to someone or we can decide to be mean. We can decide to obey our parents or we can decide to disobey. We can decide to love someone or we can decide not to love someone.



Jesus is God – the Winds and the Waves Obey Him

Questions and discussion:

1. The story tells us that when Jesus got into the boat He went to sleep? Do you think He knew a storm was coming? If you said yes, then why do you think Jesus went to sleep?
2. What do you think the disciples were taking about while they were rowing across the lake?
3. Even if a storm was coming, why do you think at first the disciples might not have been worried?
4. Why were the disciples afraid when Jesus was in the boat with them?
5. What did the disciples NOT really understand about Jesus when this storm happened?
6. What did Jesus ask them when they woke Him up?
7. What can we do when we are afraid?

storm. Finally the boat began to break apart and sink and the disciples got so scared they woke Jesus.

The disciples called to Jesus, *“Master, wake up, do you not even care that we are all going to drown?”* Jesus woke up and He was not even scared. Jesus stood up and just said to the wind and the waves, *“Stop...be calm.”* Immediately the winds stopped blowing and the waves stopped beating against the boat. All was calm.

The disciples were amazed. The winds and the waves immediately stopped when Jesus spoke to them. Jesus said to the disciples, *“Why are you so afraid. Where is your faith and trust in Me?”*

People have the ability to make decisions and that makes them very different from all other things that are created.

First God made all the animals and other living creatures. After God made the birds and the animals and the living creatures in the sea, God saw what He had made and said it was good. God even made the insects and snakes and crocodiles and also said that was good too. What God did when He created the world was just amazing. No one could ever create what God made.

Then God created the first man, Adam, out of the dust of the ground and God put His own breath into Adam. Adam was different from all of the other things God had created. God did not put His own breath into animals or fish or birds, but God did put His own breath into man.

After God created Adam, God saw that Adam was still lonely. God knew that Adam needed someone like himself to talk to and be with. So God put Adam into a deep sleep and took one of Adam's bones and from that bone God created a woman, Eve, to be his companion. I am sure they also both had fingerprints that were different from each other even though Eve was made from one of Adam's bones.

The garden where Adam and Eve lived was a perfect place. Adam and Eve did not even have to work. God gave them all the food they would ever wanted. In the center of that garden was one tree that God said they could not eat from. That tree was called the tree of knowing the difference between good and evil. God told them if they did eat from that tree, they would die.

But there was also something else in that garden that was not so perfect and that was Satan. Satan is the enemy of God and Satan had a plan to trick Adam and Eve into disobeying God.

One day Eve was walking by herself past that tree that had fruit and God said they should not eat the fruit. The serpent called to Eve and started talking to her about the beautiful garden. As the serpent Satan kept talking to Eve he pretended to notice the fruit tree and told Eve how delicious that fruit looked. Then he suggested that maybe Eve should try some of that fruit because it looked so good. Eve said she and Adam were not allowed to eat the fruit from that tree or they would die.

Then the serpent told Eve the biggest lie ever told. He told Eve what God said was not true. He told Eve if she ate that fruit she would not die but they would be just like God and that she would know wonderful things that she never knew before.

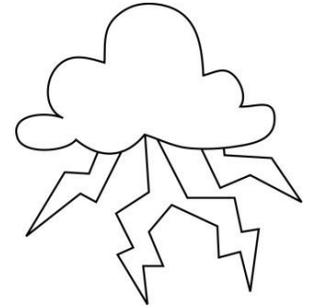
Eve thought about what the serpent said and believed what he told her. So Eve picked some of the fruit and she ate it. When she did, she now understood new things so she quickly took some of the fruit and ran and found Adam. She told Adam about what the serpent told her and gave some of the fruit to Adam and he took the fruit and he also ate it. Once they both ate the fruit, they knew they had disobeyed God.

When God came to the garden, like He did almost every day to walk and talk with Adam and Eve, He could not find them where they usually met. So God called to them. Adam and Eve were hiding in the shrubs because now they knew they had disobeyed God. They finally came out from where they were and God asked them why

Jesus is God – the Winds and the Waves Obey Him

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

Passage for memorization and Biblical telling: Mark 4:35-41



Have you ever been in a really bad thunderstorm? If you have, you know how scared everyone can be. Even adults can be afraid of lighting and thunder. One thing is for sure, if a storm is really bad, even if in the middle of the night, very few people can sleep through the noise and lighting.

The Bible tells a fascinating story of Jesus, His disciples and one of the worst storms you could ever imagine. Jesus had been teaching crowds of people all day while at the beach. When He was done teaching He told the disciples to get into the boat and go to other side of the sea.

Jesus was so tired He went to sleep in the back of the boat on a pillow while the disciples sailed the boat across. Soon a strong windstorm began to develop. The wind got stronger and stronger and the waves got higher and higher.

Jesus kept right on sleeping through the storm. Soon the winds and the waves got so bad the disciples thought the boat would turn over and they would all drown. Jesus was still sleeping through the entire

Jesus the Good Shepherd

Questions and discussion:

1. What are some things you know about sheep from this story?
2. Why do you think God says that we are like sheep?
3. What does a shepherd do?
4. If someone tried to hurt a shepherd's sheep, what would the shepherd do?
5. If a sheep got away and got lost what would the shepherd do?
6. Jesus is our shepherd. If we are afraid what can Jesus do for us?
7. How does God take care of some people who do not even believe in Him?
8. Tell about some times when God took care of you in a special way.

they were hiding. Then they told God they were hiding because they had no clothes and were naked and they were afraid.

Then God asked them if they disobeyed and ate the fruit He told them not to eat? Adam blamed Eve. He told God Eve gave him some of the fruit and he ate it. Then God looked at Eve and Eve blamed the serpent Satan. She told God the serpent told her to eat it and she did. Adam and Eve never said to God they were sorry for disobeying Him. God was so unhappy because Adam and Eve had disobeyed.

Because Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God had to put them out of the garden forever. God did this because there was another tree in the garden, which was called the tree of life. Adam and Eve could no longer be allowed to eat from that tree, because now their bodies would get old and someday they would die, just like God said they would.

The perfect world was not perfect any more. And God did not forget about the serpent. He also punished Satan for what he had done but God knew that this was not the last time He would have to punish Satan. God knew that Satan was going to try to make everyone else disobey too. And that is what Satan does today. He tries to make all of us disobey God.

Adam and Eve

Questions and discussion:

1. How do you know that you are different from all other things God has created?
2. How are people different from animals and birds?
3. Why did God create Eve as a companion for Adam?
4. What does it mean when we say that the garden was a perfect place?
5. What did Adam and Eve do that made God unhappy?
6. How did Satan trick Eve?
7. What did God have to do because of Adam and Eve's sin?
8. Why did God make Adam and Eve leave the garden, the perfect place?

things. But until children become an adult they need someone to help them. Parents are like a shepherd for their children.

Jesus grew and soon became a man and God announced to everyone that Jesus was the Messiah who would take away the sin of all mankind. Jesus was also just like a shepherd because He came to earth to show everyone how much God loved them.

When a shepherd takes the sheep out to the pasture the shepherd leads them and the sheep follow him because they know him and they trust him. The sheep will not follow anyone they do not know.

If the shepherd sees a wolf coming after his sheep he will fight the wolf to protect his sheep. If one of the sheep runs away, the shepherd would make sure the rest of the sheep were safe and he would go and look for the one lost sheep even if it took him a long time until he found it. The shepherd would take the lost sheep back to the pen and make sure the sheep was safe once again.

Jesus is our shepherd and He watches over us and takes care of us. If we are ever afraid, like a sheep that got lost, Jesus will help us not to be afraid and to be safe. If we are lonely, Jesus, our shepherd, will be our friend. If we need help, just like the shepherd, Jesus will help us.

It is good to know that we have a shepherd in Jesus just like sheep have a shepherd. With Jesus as our shepherd we do not have to be afraid.

Jesus the Good Shepherd

Scripture: John 10: 1-18

Passage for memorization and Biblical telling:

Psalms 23 / John 10:11-18



What would you do if someone took you far, far out in the country, miles away from where anyone lived, and just set you down in the middle of a field and drove away.

Well, at first you might be really scared and wonder what to do. Then you would realize you were thirsty and you would have to find some water. Then you would have to find some food so maybe you might find some berries on a bush and eat them. The night would come and you would need to find a place to sleep. Then, if the next day was the same, you would start this all over again, looking for water, food and a place to sleep.

Well, if you were there for a long time you might get pretty tired trying to figure out what to do.

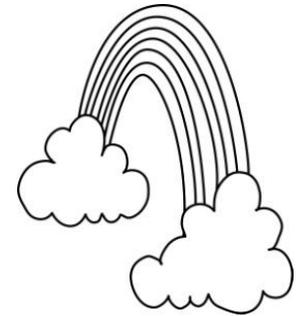
Now, if you were a sheep, you could not even figure anything out, so you would really be lost and would have no idea what to do. Sheep are interesting animals. They cannot take care of themselves. They need someone to take care of them just like parents take care of their children. As we grow up parents teach us how to do more and more things for ourselves. Then, when children become adults they can cook meals, fix the car, mow the grass and do all sorts of

Noah and God's Promise

Scripture: Gen. 6:1- 9:17

Passage for memorization and Biblical telling:

Genesis 6:9-22



Did you ever start to make something and the project turned out to be a really big mess? Maybe you were trying to paint a picture and all the colors ran together and it looked awful. Or maybe someone was trying to bake a cake and it just did not bake right and looked awful and tasted awful.

This is a story about a project that went wrong. And most important, this was God's project. It was the world that He had created. That was what had gone wrong.

Many years after Adam and Eve there lived a man named Noah and his family. In the time of Noah most people had forgotten about God. Only Noah and his family remembered about God and obeyed God.

When God looked over all the earth He saw that almost everyone had forgotten about Him. They were disobeying Him and were doing all kinds of things that God had told people not to do. God was very sorry He had made people. His project was not turning out the way he had hoped. God just wanted to love all people and have everyone love Him. But God also created people with the ability to

make choices, and now almost all the people on earth were making really bad choices and were not following God.

But Noah loved God very much and Noah and his family obeyed God even when all the other people did not. That part made God happy.

God finally decided He would destroy everything on the earth except Noah and his family and start the world over again. He told Noah He was going to make rain and that water would cover the entire earth and destroy everything. Up to this time it had never rained, so even the idea of rain was something new for Noah to understand.

God then began to tell Noah about His plan. He told Noah he wanted Noah and his sons to build a large boat, an ark, and when he was finished to take his family and two of every creature, animals, and birds into the ark before the rain came so they could be saved.

Noah obeyed God even though he did not understand what rain was and began building the ark exactly the way God told him. Soon the people where Noah lived saw him and his sons building something. They all came to ask Noah what he was doing. Noah told them what God had said and he warned them that a flood was coming. But the people only laughed. They just thought that Noah was a silly old man and that he was wasting his time.

So all the people went back to having their parties and disobeying God. But Noah trusted God and knew that God always kept His word. If God said a flood was coming, Noah knew that there would be a flood coming.

Jesus is Born

Questions and discussion:

1. How was sin forgiven in the Old Testament?
2. What promise did God give His people in the Old Testament about His Son Jesus?
3. What was so special about the baby Jesus?
4. Why did Joseph and Mary have to go to the town of Bethlehem?
5. Why did Mary and Joseph have to sleep in the barn?
6. What was special about the baby Jesus?
7. How did the shepherds know about Jesus being born?
8. Why do you think that God did not send Jesus to a very wealthy family to be born and maybe to a king and queen.

because they were so afraid. The angels told them not to be afraid and then told them great news. They told the shepherds that a Savior, Jesus, had just been born and if they went into town to the inn they would find the new King there.

The shepherds hurried into town and found Jesus just as the angel had told them. Soon many others had heard that Jesus had been born and they were happy to hear the wonderful news.

Finally Noah and his sons finished the project. The ark was done. Noah then took two of every kind of creature, animal and birds into the ark with him and his family. Then God closed the door of the ark and caused it to rain for 40 days and 40 nights. The rain and water from the ground caused a flood that covered the entire earth and everything God created was destroyed except for what was in the ark.

After the flood went down, Noah, his family, and all creatures and birds came out and started everything over again. When Noah came out of the ark he made a special thank you offering to God for protecting him and his family.

Then God created the rainbow in the sky and told Noah every time people would see this it would be a sign for all times that He would never destroy the earth again by a flood.

Noah and God's Promise

Questions and discussion:

1. Why was God sad about the people He had created?
2. When Noah told the people what God was going to do, how did they react?
3. Why do you think it was so hard for Noah to obey God and do what God told him to do?
4. Why do you think Noah and his family were obeying God when all the other people that lived around them were disobeying?
5. Noah's sons did what their father told them to do. How do think the friends and neighbors of Noah's sons reacted when they saw what they were doing and what they were building?
6. What did the people know about rain and flooding before the rains really started to come? Why is this important in the story?
7. Why was Noah and his family saved from the destruction of the world?
8. How does God remind us He will never destroy the world with a worldwide flood?

Testament way of taking care of sin would not have to be done any longer. This was all part of God's plan.

One day an angel came to a young girl named Mary and told her that she would be the mother of God's Son. An angel also came to Joseph who was going to marry Mary and told him that Mary would have a child and that they should name Him Jesus. Both Mary and Joseph were amazed at what the angel said. Mary soon found out she was going to have a baby just like the angel had told her.

At about that time the ruler of the land, Caesar, made an announcement that everyone should go to their town where they were born and register in their hometown. Caesar wanted to know how many people lived in the land because he wanted everyone to pay a tax.

By this time Mary was very pregnant with her baby and the trip was going to be very hard for them to make. Mary and Joseph went on their journey toward Bethlehem because that was Joseph's hometown where he and Mary had to sign their names in the town book. When they got to Bethlehem Joseph could not find any place to stay overnight. Finally they found a place to keep warm in a barn in back of a small inn (or hotel.)

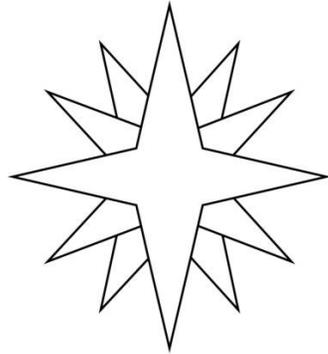
During the night Mary had her baby. Because they were staying in the barn there was no baby crib. Mary and Joseph wrapped the baby in a small blanket and laid him in a manger where they put hay for the cows and donkeys.

An angel came to shepherds who were taking care of sheep outside of town. The heavens lit up with bright lights and there was singing coming from heaven. The shepherds fell down on the ground

Jesus is Born

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-19

Passage for memorization and Biblical telling: Luke 2: 1-19



Once the Israelites entered the new land they settled there with their families. Soon those families became thousands and thousands of people and most of them once again forgot about God and began to worship idols.

But many years before Jesus was born God had promised the world that a Messiah, His Son, Jesus, would come to earth. That Messiah was Jesus and He would save the people from their sin once and for all time. During the Old Testament times God had made a way for people to have their sin forgiven by making sacrifices of animals and birds at the temple. The blood from the sacrificed animals was a symbol of the way God would forgive sin. Do you remember in the story of Adam and Eve how God had to kill animals and make clothes for Adam and Eve? God had to kill animals as part of taking care of what happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed and sinned. From that time on the sacrifices of animals was a reminder to God's people of their sin and how much God loved them and was ready to forgive them.

For many years this was how sin was forgiven. But God had promised that one day He would send His Son, Jesus to earth to become the once and for all time sacrifice for sin so that the Old

Moses is Protected by God

Scripture: Exodus 1:7-2:10;

Matthew 18:10

Passage for memorization and Biblical telling: Exodus 2:1-10



Did you know that kids have special angels that watch over them? If you don't believe this, read Matthew 18:10.

Did you ever "almost" get into some sort of accident but something happened so you were not hurt? Maybe you almost ran out into the street and a car was coming and a friend stopped you or shouted a warning for you to watch out. Maybe you did not see anyone there and the accident missed you or something just seemed to make you stop from walking into the street. Or maybe you were at work on our job and a piece of machinery broke and almost injured you really badly but someone pulled you out of the way just in time. Or maybe no one pulled you out of the way but you just moved just at the right time to miss something that would have fallen on you. That could have been God or His angels protecting you.

The Bible tells us that many years after Noah's time people forgot about God again. God had separated many people in the world into a large tribe called the Israelites or Hebrews and many years later the Israelites became captured and were made slaves to the Pharaoh that ruled Egypt where they all lived.

Pharaoh was not kind to God's people. He made them all work very hard. He was cruel to the Hebrews and when the Hebrews complained that the work was too hard Pharaoh even made them work harder. The Hebrews finally remembered God and cried out to Him and felt as though God had forgotten about them. But God promised His people that one day He would give them a leader who would take them out of Egypt into a land of their own.

The Egyptian king, Pharaoh saw that there were so many Hebrew people and he was afraid soon there would be more Hebrews than Egyptian people. So the king said that all boy babies born to the Hebrews should be killed and should be thrown into the river. Pharaoh thought this was a way to get rid of the Israelites because there were so many of them. The Egyptian soldiers went through the camps where the Hebrews lived and were taking all the boy babies and killing them.

One of the Hebrew women had a baby boy and the parents were afraid the Egyptians would find him. The mother made a basket and sealed it with tar so it would float. She wrapped up her son in soft cloth and placed him in the basket and took it to the river and set it by the reeds along the river's edge so it would not float away. Then she had the baby's sister hide in the reeds and watch to see what would happen.

That day Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to take a bath. When Pharaoh's daughter saw the basket floating she opened the blanket and found the baby and felt sorry for him. Pharaoh's daughter adopted the baby and named the baby "Moses," a name which means he was taken out of the water. Moses would one day

The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Questions and discussion:

1. What is another name for the Hebrew people?
2. Why did Pharaoh want the Israelites to stay in Egypt?
3. Pharaoh finally said he would let the people go. Then, after they left, what did king Pharaoh do?
4. Why do you think Pharaoh changed his mind?
5. What do you think the Hebrews said to Moses and Aaron when they came to the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army was coming up behind them?
6. What did the Hebrews forget about God?
7. What are things that people blame God for that are not God's fault?
8. How does God protect and help you every day?

right in the middle was a path and the ground was dry. God had made a path through the sea to the other side. The Israelites walked across the dry bottom of the ocean floor to the other side.

When Pharaoh and his army finally reached the beach and saw the Israelites on the other side of the sea they were so mad. Pharaoh and his army came after the Israelites and they also took their chariots and soldiers running on the dry ocean bottom while the high the walls of water stood tall on each side. But all of a sudden the dry bottom began to have water and the wheels of the chariots began to sink in the wet sand. All the chariots got stuck and so did the soldiers. They also began to sink in the wet sand. While they were stuck in the middle of the sea floor, God closed the walls of water and they all drowned. God protected His people from the Egyptians.

become the great leader of the Hebrew people who would one day help them get away from Pharaoh, just as God had promised. Moses had been protected by God in a very special way.

She took Moses back to the palace and there Moses was raised in Pharaoh's household and became a very important leader of the people in all of Egypt. She even hired Moses' mother to come and be his caretaker and Pharaoh's daughter never even knew this woman was Moses' real mother. So Moses' real mother still raised him and often reminded Moses how God had protected him for something very special.

Moses is Protected by God

Questions and discussion:

1. Why do you think in this story people forgot about God after all that God had done for them in the past?
2. Why did God let the Israelites become slaves in Egypt?
3. What was happening to the babies being born in Egypt?
4. Why was King Pharaoh afraid of the Hebrews?
5. What plan did God have for Moses?
6. Moses' mother had to give up Moses in order for him to have a chance at staying alive. How did God make Moses' mother's plan successful?
7. What special way did God make happen so that Moses' mother could still raise him and take care of him?
8. Can you think of any time when God saved you from being really hurt or having something bad happen to you? Tell about that time.

The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Scripture: Exodus 13:17 – 15:21

Passage for memorization and Biblical telling: Exodus 14:15-28



Moses grew and soon became the leader of the Hebrew people. One day God told Moses the Hebrew people were to leave Egypt and go to a new land He would give to them. The Hebrews were special people of God. Today we call this people group the Jews. They were also called the Israelites because all the Hebrew families that began this nation of people came from the family of a special man of God, Abraham.

God warned Moses that Pharaoh would not be happy when they left Egypt and that Pharaoh and his army would chase after them. And what God said happened? Pharaoh was mad when they left and he took his soldiers and chased after the Hebrews to bring them back. The Israelites came to the beach and sea and thought they were trapped and could not escape. They complained to Moses but Moses told them to trust God to take care of them. God was going to do even something more amazing.

When they got to the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army was chasing after them they felt they were trapped. Pharaoh's army was behind them and a sea was in front of them. God told Moses to hold his walking stick out over the water. When Moses did this the sea parted right in half with a huge wall of water on one side and a huge wall of water on the other side. The water was as tall as a tall building. But