

GOD'S BIG PLAN

In the beginning . . .

Genesis 1:1; 2 Peter 1:20-21

Supporting Scriptures: John 1:1, Psalm 90:2, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19



Lesson Goals: To show that God has always been.
To understand that the Bible is God's Word, not man's idea.

Scripture Memory Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. 2 Timothy 3:16a (CEV)

NOTE: Familiarize yourself so much with this story that it can be told as a STORY, not as "He said. . . She said" or read. But, to reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

The Lesson:

Who made the moon and the stars? Who made the plants and trees and animals? How did you and I get here?

Can you do these kinds of things? Can you make a mountain or the ocean? Can you make a star and put it in the sky?

How did our world begin and who is in control of it? Is anyone in control?

Is there a God? If there is, who made Him? What is He like? When did all of this happen?

How can we know the truth when so many people say so many different things?

We have been given a story from God that explains all of these things. God wants us to know about Him. No man made this story up, the story came straight from God. Let's see what God's story tells us. Listen carefully! Let's see how much you can remember.

READ: Genesis 1:1, John 1:1 and 2 Peter 1:20-21 (and hold the Bible in your hands throughout the story.)

In the beginning, there was God. There was no world yet; only nothingness. There was no light yet; only darkness. There were no plants, no animals, no people. There was only God. God is Spirit. He does not have a body. He cannot be seen and touched the way you and I can. God is one God, but three in one; God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. God has always been around. He was not created and He will never die. No one made God. He is in control of everything. He does not answer to anyone. There is no one more important than He or more powerful than He to answer to! God lives in heaven. Heaven is not a place we can travel to in a plane or a rocket, even though it is very far away. Heaven is far above the sun and moon and stars. It is far above our solar system and the Milky Way galaxy we live in. We cannot travel to God, and God

does not need to travel to reach us. God is everywhere, all the time. He knows us, too. He knows what we are thinking and what we do because He is here, right now and all of the time. God is everywhere and He knows everything.

God is a big God and He has a big plan! God loves us. He loves you and He loves me. He loves us so much that He wants to share His story with us. He wants us to know what His big plan is. This big plan includes you and it includes His Son, Jesus. God shared different parts of His plan with almost forty different men who wrote down what God let them know. These men didn't write their own ideas and thoughts; they shared God's thoughts with human beings. In all, they wrote sixty-six different books that make the Bible, God's story to us. God chose a group of people for Himself and this group is where the writers of the Bible came from. They were Israelites, from the country of Israel. They were not American or Mexican and they did not speak English or Spanish. Even though these men wrote God's story down in a language we cannot read or understand, it has been translated into many different languages. God's story is for you and for me. God's story is for everyone.

I have read God's story and I will share it with you through this year so that you, too, can know God's story and understand what a big plan God has.

Review:

Now, let's review what you have learned. Who can retell the story? (After allowing a student to retell the story, ask your group if anything was left out of the story or told differently. This will help, in weeks to come, with story accuracy and retention.) Would anyone else like to retell the story? (Don't pressure your students. Even if they are not confident enough to retell the story, they will have the story reinforced as they listen to it again and again.)

Now that you have had a chance to retell the story, I have a few questions for you.

Who was in the beginning? (God) What else was there in the beginning? (nothing) So, what does this tell us about God? (He doesn't have beginning; He has always been).

Who is God? (God is Spirit.) Can we see and touch God? (No) Where does God live? (heaven) Can we travel there by rocket or plane? (No) Does God stay only in heaven? (No, He's everywhere).

Does God love you? (Yes) What has He given you? (His story) How did God give us that story? (He shared the story with men who wrote it down.) Who is God's story for? (Me, and everyone else!)

Where is God? (Heaven and everywhere) If God is everywhere, are we ever really alone? (No) How much can God see? (Everything) God knows who you are and loves you very much.

You've done a great job listening to the story. So that you don't forget it, I want you to share this story with a new person every day this week! And we will continue the story next week.

Planning for Next Week
Lesson 2 • God Creates Angels
Genesis 3:1-5 • Isaiah 14:12-17

PRESCHOOL LESSON

SING: “My God is So Big”

SHARE: Close your eyes. What do you see? Nothing, right? Can you imagine opening your eyes and seeing “nothing” again? Well, in the very beginning, there was God.

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I have read God's story and I will share it with you through this year so that you can know God's story, too, and understand what a big plan God has.

PRAY: God, thank you for loving me and sharing Your story with me.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Make Bibles. Use colored construction paper for the binding and white computer paper for the pages. Fold four pieces of computer paper together and insert these into a piece of folded construction paper. Fasten the pages together with yarn or by stapling. Write one word from the verse on each “page,” being sure to include the reference. Be sure to label the books as “My Bible Book.”
- Make G-O-D drawings On medium weight paper, color the paper with crayons, being sure to cover most of the paper with a thick colored layer. Cover the paper with black tempera paint and allow to dry. Scratch off the letters G-O-D and talk about God being in the beginning when nothing else was around.
- Make God’s Eyes. Use craft sticks and brightly colored yarn.
- If you haven’t done so yet, now is a great time to learn the books of the Bible. We will be studying through them chronologically and therefore, will not be studying through them sequentially. Even so, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn the books of the Bible. Make it an activity each week that you meet. This activity can be as simple as printing each book of the Bible on separate, large index cards. These can be used as flash cards or to play the “Memory Game.”
- Play “Hide and Seek,” explaining that unlike the person who is “it,” God knows where we are all of the time.
- Provide word puzzles and coloring pages that go along with the lesson.