

Lesson 4

God's Promise



Lesson Goals:

The children will:

- learn about Abraham and God's promise to him.
- understand that Abraham believed God's promises.
- begin to understand faith.

Scripture:

Genesis 12:1-8

Items Needed:

large pieces of blank paper for drawing, something to draw with

Review: (Lesson 3)

Have the children review the story by responding to true or false statements. Ask the children to stand up if they believe the statement is true or remain sitting if they believe it's false.

- The snake tricked Eve to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **(True)**
- Adam did not eat the fruit. **(False)**
- After they sinned against God, Adam and Eve knew they were naked. **(True)**
- A curse resulted from Adam and Eve's sin. Women will experience pain in childbirth. **(True)**
- Men will work hard for food. **(True)**
- God made clothes for Adam and Eve out of leaves. **(False. It was made out of animal skins.)**
- God did not send Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. **(False)**

Introduction:

We know that the snake was actually Satan. He is the father of lies. He went into the garden with a plan to destroy Adam and Eve's relationship with God. When they disobeyed God, they were separated from him.

The good news is that God had a plan! God knows everything. He knows the future, and he knew that Adam and Eve would disobey him. From the very beginning, God had a plan to rescue his children. Today we are going to learn about an important part of God's plan.

Adam and Eve had children, and then their children had many children. All of them were born separated from God. The world began to fill up with many people. Nations and cities rose up. People kept sinning. But God had a plan.



Bible Story:

God's Promise to Abraham

The Lord said to Abraham, “Leave your native country and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

So Abraham departed as the Lord had instructed. Abraham was 75 years old when he left Haran. He took his wife, Sarah, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, Abraham travelled through the land as far as Shechem. There he set up camp beside the oak of Moreh. At that time, the area was inhabited by Canaanites.

Then the Lord appeared to Abraham and said, “I will give this land to your descendants.” And Abraham built an altar there and dedicated it to the Lord, who had appeared to him. After that, Abraham travelled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There he built another altar and dedicated it to the Lord, and he worshiped the Lord.



Activity:

Give each child a blank piece of paper and something to draw with. Divide the children into four groups. Assign each group one of the stories they have learned to draw.

If possible, hang the drawings up on the wall. One member of the group will briefly talk about their group’s drawing. Have groups present their drawings in chronological order of the stories.

Life Application:

Discuss the following concepts with the group:

- Abraham had faith in God and obeyed his call to leave his country.
- Faith is believing in something even when you cannot see it.
- To have faith in God is to believe that he cares for you even though you cannot see him.
- God said that all nations would be blessed through Abraham.
- Many years later Jesus, one of Abraham’s descendants, was born. All who have faith in Jesus are blessed.
- This fulfils the promise that God made to Abraham.
- God has the power to do what he says.
- Is there anything you have in your life that is difficult?
- Is there anything that is scary?
- Is there anything that you hope for?
- God is in charge, and he has a plan for your life. You can trust him and learn how to listen to him just like Abraham did.

Memory Verse: Psalm 18:30

God’s way is perfect. All the Lord’s promises prove true.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you are good. We praise you for keeping your promises. We ask that you would show us how to put our faith in you just like Abraham did. We love you, Lord. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Remember to go to www.kidshubafrika.org.za for more information and materials available for download.



Lesson 5

The Lord is Powerful

Lesson Goals:

The children will:

- learn the story of David and Goliath.
- understand that they can have faith like David.
- understand that God is all-powerful.

Scripture:

1 Samuel 17:32-37, 40-41, 43-50

Items Needed:

none

Review: (Lesson 4)

Split the group into teams. The team that answers the most questions correctly wins. Consider asking extra questions that are worth double the amount of points to increase the fun. In case of a tie, be sure to have a tiebreaker question ready to use to end the game.

Questions:

- What did God call Abraham to leave?
(**his country, his family, and his relatives**)
- Abraham had _____ to leave his country to follow God's call. (**Faith**)
- How old was Abraham when he left his country? (**75 years old**)
- What did Abraham take when he left his home? (**his wife, Sarah, and all their possessions**)
- What did God promise Abraham? (**that he would make his family into a great nation**)
- What land did Abraham finally reach at the end of his journey? (**Land of Canaan**)
- What did Abraham do when he reached the Land of Canaan?
(**Worshipped God or built an altar to God**)

Introduction:

God's people were now living in the land that God had promised Abraham. They had become a powerful nation called Israel, and their king's name was Saul. Another powerful group of people called the Philistines were fighting against Israel.

The Philistines sent a giant man named Goliath out to fight. He shouted to the Israelites and made fun of them. He shouted for the Israelites to send out one warrior to fight him. Whoever won the fight would win the whole battle for his people. All of the men of Israel were scared to fight him. Day after day, Goliath would come out and challenge Israel's army, and day after day, no man in Israel stood up to him. Finally, one day, a young man named David came to the battlefield. He watched over his family's sheep. His brothers were soldiers, and his father sent him to bring them food. When David heard how Goliath was shouting and mocking God, he was angry. David went to King Saul and offered to fight Goliath himself.



Bible Story: David & Goliath



“Don’t worry about this Philistine,” David told Saul. “I’ll go fight him!”

“Don’t be ridiculous!” Saul replied. “There’s no way you can fight Goliath and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.”

But David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said. “When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to Goliath, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! The Lord who rescued me from the lion and the bear will rescue me from Goliath!”

Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the Lord be with you!”

He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight Goliath.

Goliath walked out toward David. “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled.

David replied to Goliath, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord —the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord’s battle, and he will give you to us!”

As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit Goliath in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground. So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.

Activity:

Divide the children into six groups. Each group will act out the story of David and Goliath for the whole group. Instruct the children to think about the different details that each group chose to include in their presentation.

Life Application:

Discuss the following concepts with the group:

- David believed in God’s power to protect his people. He had faith like Abraham!
- God wants all of us to have strong faith like David and Abraham.
- You probably will not have to fight off bears, lions, or warriors like Goliath in your life, but you may have other things that are scary or difficult for you. School may be hard or you may have people who are not nice to you. There may be sins that you commit that are hard to stop doing.
- God wants you to pray to him and ask for help. He wants you to trust him to take care of you just like David did.
- The Lord is powerful and mighty, and he will give you strength and victory as you obey him.

Memory Verse: 2 Samuel 7:22

How great you are, O Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, Thank you that you are with us even when we cannot see you. Thank you for your great love and power. There are some things in my life that are very hard, and I need your help. Thank you that you hear our prayers. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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Lesson 6

The Most High God



Lesson Goals:

The children will:

- learn the story of Elijah.
- understand that God is more powerful than any other god.
- understand that God is worthy of our trust.

Scripture:

1 Kings 18:19, 21, 23-25a, 26-30a, 31a, 32-40

Items Needed:

crumpled piece of paper

Review: (Lesson 5)

Have the children sit in a circle. Begin by sharing something about the story and throw a crumpled piece of paper to one of the children. That child must then share something she remembers from the story. Then she throws the ball to the next child. The game continues until everyone has had the opportunity to share something they remember from the story.

- David explained to King Saul how he had protected his father's sheep from a lion and a bear.
- Goliath was a giant man and everyone was scared of him.
- King Saul allowed David to fight Goliath.
- David gathered 5 small stones.
- Goliath made fun of David.
- David fought for God.
- David grabbed a stone, put it into his sling and swung the sling. The stone sank into Goliath's forehead and killed him.
- David showed God's power to all the people.

Introduction:

David had great faith in the Lord. He conquered the giant Goliath and saved the nation of Israel. David became the king of Israel. While David ruled as king, the nation prospered, and there was peace in the land.

Many more kings came after David to rule over God's chosen people. Some of them were good kings. They led God's people to honour God's commands, but most of the kings after David were bad kings. They disobeyed the commands of God, worshipped idols, and built temples to false gods. They led God's people into terrible sin. God sent the people special messengers, called prophets, to warn them; they would declare to the kings and the people that they needed to turn back to God. Sometimes the people did, but often they did not.

God sent Elijah to speak to one of the very worst kings of Israel. His name was King Ahab. Ahab led the people into worshipping false god named Baal.



Bible Story: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Elijah said to Ahab, "Tell all Israel to join me at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of Baal." Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, "When will you decide? If the Lord is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!" The people did not answer.

Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Bring two bulls. Choose one and cut it into pieces and lay it on the wood of your altar. Do not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood on the altar, but not set fire to it. Then call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by setting fire to the wood is the true God!" And all the people agreed. Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "You go first."

So they prepared one of the bulls and placed it on the altar. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning until noontime, shouting, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no reply. Then they danced around the altar they had made.

About noontime Elijah said, "You'll have to shout louder for surely he is a god! Perhaps he is daydreaming, or is relieving himself. Or maybe he is away on a trip, or is asleep and needs to be wakened!" So they shouted louder, and following their normal custom, they cut themselves with knives and swords until the blood gushed out. They raved all afternoon until evening, but still there was no reply.

Then Elijah called to the people, "Come over here!" They all crowded around him. He took twelve stones and built the altar in the name of the Lord. Then he dug a trench around the altar. He piled wood on the altar, cut the bull into pieces, and laid the pieces on the wood.

Then he said, "Fill four large jars with water, and pour the water over the offering and the wood."

After they had done this, he said, "Do it again!" And when they were finished, he said, "Now do it a third time!" So they did as he said, and the water ran around the altar and even filled the trench.

Elijah walked up to the altar and prayed, "O Lord, God of Abraham, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command. O Lord, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself."

Immediately the fire of the Lord flashed down from heaven and burned up the bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench! And when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, "The Lord—he is God!"

Activity:

Reread the story one more time, only this time have one of the children come up and pretend to be Elijah. As you read the story, he should act it out, using arms, etc. and facial expressions. As you read, stop and ask the group what the child, "Elijah", should do to act out that scene, and then have him try it. If another child has a good idea, have him come up and show it. Once you have gone through the whole story once and talked about how "Elijah" should act it out, do it one more time with another child.

Life Application:

Discuss the following concepts with the group:

- King Ahab led the people of Israel to worship Baal.
- Elijah proved that the Most High God was the only one that could truly answer.
- Today, people put their faith in false gods instead of trusting in the Most High God of the Bible.
- To whom do you turn when you need help?

Memory Verse: Psalm 47:2

The Lord Most High is awesome.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we declare that you are the Most High God. You are all powerful. We put our trust in you. Thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Lesson 7

Doing What is Right



Lesson Goals:

The children will:

- learn the story of Daniel.
- understand that obedience to God means doing the right thing, even when it is hard.

Scripture:

Daniel 1:6, 8-18, 20

Items Needed:

none

Review: (Lesson 6)

Have all the children stand up. Give directions to the children to sit down or remain standing, depending upon whether or not statements apply to them.

- Everyone whose name does NOT start with the letter “R”, please sit down.
- If you have a brother, remain standing.
- If you’re wearing anything red, sit down.
- Everyone whose name has an “O” in it, please sit down.

When you have a handful of children still standing, ask each child to quickly review what the story was about or share something that was meaningful to them. Look for these things to be said:

- Elijah challenged the people of Israel to decide who they believed the one true God was – Baal or the Lord.
- Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a competition. Sacrifices would be made to Baal and to the Lord. Whichever answered by fire would be the one true God.
- The false prophets tried to get Baal’s attention by performing rituals such as dancing and cutting themselves. Baal did not answer.
- Elijah poured water over the sacrifice and prayed to the Lord.
- Suddenly, the fire of the Lord fell from heaven and burned up the sacrifice, including the wood, stones, and water.
- The people bowed and shouted, “The Lord is God! The Lord is God!”



Introduction:

God would send the kings and people of Israel prophets like Elijah to warn them. Sometimes the people would turn back to God and follow his commands. Most often, they did not. God warned his people that if they did not obey him, he would drive them out of the land he had promised to Abraham. The people kept turning away, so God sent the powerful nation of Babylon to invade the nation of Israel. They took the people of Israel captive and forced them to move to far away places. Many of them died! Daniel and his friends were taken captive when they were young men.

Bible Story: Daniel Stands Firm

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen to be trained as the king's officials.

But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. Now God had given the chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel. But he responded, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has ordered that you eat this food and wine. If you become pale and thin compared to the other youths your age, I am afraid the king will have me killed."

Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. "Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water," Daniel said. "At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king's food. Then make your decision in light of what you see." The attendant agreed to Daniel's suggestion and tested them for ten days.

At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and stronger than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king. So after that, the attendant fed them only vegetables instead of the food and wine provided for the others. God blessed Daniel and his three friends with wisdom and knowledge.

When the training period was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. The king was very impressed with Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. He made them palace officials. **Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom, he found them ten times wiser than any of the magicians in his kingdom.**

Activity:

Divide the group into four groups and give each group a situation to discuss. Encourage them to work together with their group. Have one child give a report on how the group decides to handle each issue.

Situation 1 – A student finds a test paper with all of the answers on it. They have a similar test soon in their own class.

Situation 2 – A student takes something from someone else's desk.

Situation 3 – Several students are telling lies about someone else in the class.

Situation 4 – A student becomes very angry with a friend and starts a fight with her.

Life Application:

- Daniel and his friends had to decide if they were going to do what God wanted them to do instead of what the king of Babylon wanted.
- They wanted to obey God, but instead of getting into trouble with the king, they found a clever way to keep themselves from sinning.
- God blessed them for their obedience. He made them very wise.
- We have to decide if we are going to obey God or if we are going to join in the sins of the world and the people around us.

Memory Verse: Galatians 6:9

Let's not get tired of doing what is good.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help us to do what is right, even when it is hard. We are so glad you hear our prayers. Thank you for forgiving us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Lesson 8

The Birth of Jesus

Lesson Goals:

The children will:

- learn the story of the birth of Christ.
- understand the significance of the birth of Christ.
- understand that Jesus was born into an earthly family.

Scripture:

Luke 1:26a, 27-28, 30-32a, 33b; 2:1, 4, 6-17a

Items Needed:

student books, something to draw with

Review: (Lesson 7)

Line the children up along a wall. Create a finish line no more than ten child-size steps ahead of them. Explain that the children will be told true or false statements about the story. Once they hear each statement, the children must hold up their hands to indicate whether they think it is true or false. Only those who are correct move one giant step forward. The goal is to reach the finish line. The following are some true/false statements:

- Israel had been taken captive by Babylon. **(True)**
- Daniel and his friends were chosen to be trained to serve the king. **(True)**
- Daniel and his friends ate the food the king served. **(False, they ate vegetables and water only).**
- After 10 days, they were healthier than the others young men being trained. **(True)**
- God made Daniel and his friends wise; they were chosen to serve the king. **(True)**

Introduction:

Many years after Daniel, the Lord made a way for the Israelites to return to the land he had promised to Abraham. They rebuilt the nation and lived there for hundreds of years. They continued to wait for the promise that the whole earth would be blessed through Abraham's family. The blessing they were waiting for was the promised one who was coming to restore man's relationship with God. His name was Jesus, and he was the one that God had been promising all along. He is God's Son. God sent him to save us from sin and death and to restore our relationship with God.



Bible Story: The Birth of Jesus

God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favoured woman! The Lord is with you!"

Mary was confused and scared. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favour with God! You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. His Kingdom will never end!"

The Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. Because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem, David's ancient home. He and Mary travelled there from the village of Nazareth.

While they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. They named him Jesus. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

That night there were shepherds in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them. They were terrified, but the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Saviour has been born today in Bethlehem! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." The shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened.



Activity:

Have the children turn to page 22 of their books. Have them look at the picture of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Discuss the concept of a family. Have the children draw a picture of all the members of their families in the space provided in their books. It should include mum, dad, sisters, brothers, grandmothers, grandfathers, and anyone else who lives with them. Have volunteers share their pictures with the group or with a friend, explaining all about the family God has given them.

Life Application:

Discuss the following concepts with the group:

- Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph.
- When we celebrate Christmas, we are celebrating his birth because it is the most important thing that has ever happened in the world.
- Jesus was born to save us from the wrong that we do and to restore our relationship with God.
- Jesus was the great blessing that the Lord promised to Adam and Eve and Abraham.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6b

He will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Prayer:

Dear God, Thank for you fulfilling your promise to your people to send a Saviour to the world. Help us to understand this miracle. Give us faith to believe in him and love him with all of our hearts. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Lesson 9

Jesus' Power over Death



Lesson Goals:

The children will:

- learn the story of Jairus' daughter.
- begin to understand Jesus' power over sickness and death.

Scripture:

Mark 5: 21-24; 35-42

Items Needed:

none

Review: (Lesson 8)

Have the children review the story by responding to true or false statements. Ask the children to stand up if they believe the statement is true or remain sitting if they believe it's false.

- Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph. **(True)**
- Jesus is not God's Son. **(False)**
- When Mary became pregnant, she was not married. **(True)**
- God's Holy Spirit gave Mary the baby. **(True)**
- Jesus was born in a hotel. **(False, he was born on a bed of hay.)**
- Angels appeared to shepherds to tell them of Jesus' birth. **(True)**
- The shepherds did not go visit Jesus. **(False)**



Introduction:

Jesus grew up to be a man. He never did one thing wrong. He began teaching through the towns of Israel. Jesus had power to heal the sick, cast out demons, and raise people from the dead. Thousands upon thousands of people came from all over the nation of Israel to listen to Jesus' teaching and receive healing from their diseases.

Bible Story: Jairus' Daughter

Jesus got into the boat again and went back to the other side of the lake, where a large crowd gathered around him on the shore. Then a leader of the local synagogue, whose name was Jairus, arrived. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet, pleading fervently with him. "My little daughter is dying," he said. "Please come and lay your hands on her; heal her so she can live."

Jesus went with him, and all the people followed, crowding around him.

Messengers arrived from the home of Jairus. They told him, "Your daughter is dead. There's no use troubling the Teacher now."

But Jesus overheard them and said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid. Just have faith."

Then Jesus stopped the crowd and wouldn't let anyone go with him except Peter, James, and John. When they came to the home of Jairus, Jesus saw much commotion and weeping and wailing. He went inside and asked, "Why all this commotion and weeping? The child isn't dead; she's only asleep."

The crowd laughed at him. But he made them all leave, and he took the girl's father and mother and his three disciples into the room where the girl was lying. Holding her hand, he said to her, "Little girl, get up!" And the girl, who was twelve years old, immediately stood up and walked around! They were overwhelmed and totally amazed.

Activity:

Put the children in charge of acting out the story. Depending upon the number of children, have the whole group work together to create a short play, or divide them into small teams and assign them small portions of the story to present to the group.

Life Application:

Discuss the following concepts with the group:

- The Lord Jesus travelled all over Israel teaching and healing the people.
- Many people believed in Jesus.
- They followed him wherever he went.
- Jesus chose twelve men to be his special helpers. They were called disciples.
- Not everyone in Israel liked Jesus. Many of the most powerful people hated him. They thought he might take away their power! They did not like what he taught about God! They refused to believe that Jesus was God!
- These leaders plotted to have Jesus killed. Many times they tried to arrest him.

Memory Verse: Matthew 19:26

With God everything is possible.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, Thank you for all that you do for us every day. We praise you for your mighty power to heal our sicknesses. Thank you for always watching over us. Help us to trust you more. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Lesson 10

Jesus Saves

Lesson Goals:

The children will:

- learn about the death and resurrection of Christ.
- understand the significance of the cross.

Scripture:

Luke 23:33-35, 37-44, 46a, 47, 52-53; 24:1-6a, 9

Items Needed:

none

Review: (Lesson 9)

Split the group into teams. The team that answers the most questions correctly wins. Consider asking extra questions that are worth double the amount of points to increase the fun. In case of a tie, be sure to have a tiebreaker question ready to use to end the game.

Questions:

- What is the name of the man who begged Jesus to come to his home because his daughter was very sick? (**Jairus**)
- Jesus decided to go and took _____, James, and John with him. (**Peter**)
- Along the way, some men came and told Jairus that his daughter had _____. (**Died**)
- Jesus told Jairus not to worry but to have what? (**Faith**)
- When they arrived at the house, they found people doing what? (**Crying**)
- Jesus told the people that the girl was doing what? (**Sleeping**)
- Who did Jesus take into the room where the girl was lying? (**her parents, Peter, James, and John**)
- What did Jesus tell the little girl? (**Get up!**)
- What happened? (**The girl got up and walked around.**)

Introduction:

Jesus spent over three years teaching and healing people. Then he knew it was time for him to repair the relationship between humans and God. The religious leaders sent soldiers to arrest Jesus in the middle of the night. They put Jesus on trial. None of them could find anything wrong with Jesus, but the religious leaders still wanted him dead. They demanded that Jesus be put to death on a cross. This was a very long and painful way to die. The governor was afraid of the religious leaders so he agreed. His soldiers took Jesus away, beat him, and forced him to carry his own cross to the place where he would be killed.



Bible Story: Jesus Dies and Comes Back to Life

When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. Two criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. People who passed by said terrible things about Jesus. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. “He saved others let him save himself if he is really God’s Chosen One.” The soldiers called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” A sign was fastened above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals hanging beside him said, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”

But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. Then Jesus shouted, “Father, I put myself into your hands!” Then he died.

When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, “Surely this man was innocent.”

A follower of Jesus named Joseph went to Pilate, the governor, and asked for Jesus’ body. Then he took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in a long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb that had been carved out of rock. A big stone was rolled against the entrance to the tomb.

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn’t find the body of Jesus. As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.

The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, “Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead!”

So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his disciples—and everyone else—what had happened.



Activity:

Have the children find a partner to discuss the story with. They will take turns telling each other what they thought were the three main points of the story. After 10 minutes ask for a few volunteers to share what they discussed with the rest of the group.

Life Application:

Discuss the following concepts with the group:

- Jesus hung on the cross for six hours before he died.
- Joseph took his body, and buried him in a tomb.
- For three days his body lay there, but on the third day something amazing happened.
- Jesus rose from the dead! Death could not stop him!
- His death destroyed the power of sin and restored man’s relationship with God.
- Anyone who believes that Jesus is Lord will live forever in heaven with God!
- This was the most amazing moment in history!
- After 40 days, Jesus returned to heaven to live with God. He promised to send his Spirit to help everyone that believes in him.

Memory Verse: John 3:16

God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Prayer:

We can have salvation just like the criminal. All of us sin, and all of us need Jesus to save us. The Bible tells us that if we tell our sins to God, he will forgive us and give us eternal life. If you have never asked Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour, and would like to now, please pray this prayer:

Lord Jesus, We thank you for dying on the cross and rising again. We believe that you are Lord and that you can save us from our sins. We are sorry for choosing to do what we want and sinning against you instead of obeying you. We receive you, Lord Jesus, into our hearts. We ask that you would give us strength and power to love and obey you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Remember to go to www.kidshubafrica.org.za for more information and materials available for download.



Lesson 11

A Life Changed



Lesson Goals:

The children will:

- learn the story of Paul's conversion.
- understand that God saves all kinds of people all over the world.

Scripture:

Acts 9:1-8, 10-15, 17-20

Materials:

crumpled piece of paper

Review: (Lesson 10)

Have the children sit in a circle. Begin by sharing something about the story and throw a crumpled piece of paper to one of the children. That child must then share something she remembers from the story. Then she throws the ball to the next child. The game continues until everyone has had the opportunity to share something they remember from the story.



- Jesus was nailed to a cross at a place called "The Skull" along with two criminals.
- The leaders and soldiers mocked him.
- They hung a sign at the top of the cross that said, "King of the Jews".
- One of the criminals repented of his sins and received Jesus as Lord and Saviour.
- At noon, the sky turned dark.
- Joseph took Jesus' body down from the cross, wrapped it in fine cloth, and placed it in a new tomb.
- Women came to anoint Jesus' body with spices.
- Angels told the women that Jesus was alive!

Introduction:

After Jesus came back to life he spent 40 days on earth teaching his followers. He then went to heaven to live with God. His followers began spreading the good news that Jesus was the Saviour. Saul was a Jewish leader who followed all of the rules of the law. He was so sure that he was right all of the time that he began to arrest and kill the Christians who were living in Israel. He did not like what they were saying and did not think they should be spreading false teachings to his fellow Jewish people. He did not know Jesus and did not believe he was the Son of God.

Bible Story: Saul's Life is Changed

Saul was making threats and was eager to kill Jesus' followers. So he went to the high priest. He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of Jesus he found there.

As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"

“Who are you, lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone’s voice but saw no one! Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus.

There was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

“Yes, Lord!” he replied.

“Go to the house of Judas. Ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again.”

“But Lord,” exclaimed Ananias, “I’ve heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name.”

But the Lord said, “Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to all people.”

Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Instantly something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength.

Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is indeed the Son of God!”



Activity:

Divide the group into groups. Each group will act out the Bible story as they remember it for the entire group. Tell the children to think about the different details that each group chose to include in their presentation as they watch.

Life Application:

Discuss the following concepts with the group:

- Saul became a follower of Jesus.
- His name was changed to Paul.
- God used Paul to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ all over the world.
- Often, he would be beaten and thrown into jail for telling people about Jesus, but many people listened to his message and believed in Jesus, so Paul knew that it was worth it.
- He was willing to do whatever Jesus asked him to do because following the Lord had become the most important thing to him.
- When you give your life to Jesus, you can trust him with every part of your life just like Paul.
- His Spirit is in you, and he will help you.

Memory Verse: Romans 10:13

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, Thank you that when you come into our lives we are given new hearts that are filled with your Spirit. Help us to love you and serve you, Jesus. In your holy name, Amen.

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