

the
GREATEST
STORY
ever told

Part 1 : The Old Testament

Experiencing the BIG Story of the Bible

the **GREATEST** STORY ever told



These lessons will help you walk children through the BIG Story of the Bible and see the overarching theme of God in relationship with His people. Through familiar and sometimes less-familiar stories, children will see Jesus as the Promised One who can save His people from sin and death. Here in part 1; *THE OLD TESTAMENT*, we'll look at the overarching story of the Bible, walk through the Old Testament where God spoke to His people through prophets and priests and Kings, and sometimes directly. This unit ends at the beginning of the New Testament, where we see things being put in place for God to speak again, and where we get a hint of how God was coming into the world.

Lessons are designed to be taught in a 1-hour setting for children ages 5-11 (K-5th grade). Each lesson includes an introductory activity, worship through singing (with links to suggested songs), multiple ideas for telling the Bible story, an opportunity to see where this story fits into the storyline of the Bible, suggested worship songs with links, application activities, weekly memory verses with activities, worksheet pages to use as review or send home, and journal pages to go along with the lesson. These journal pages can be printed as needed and completed in class and sent home, or you can have the books printed and bound and at the end of the year, kids will be able to take home the full story of the Bible.

NOTE: all scripture quoted in the lesson word file is ESV. KJV & NIV versions of the teaching materials and student journals are available for churches who would prefer those translation.

For the "Story Time" portion of each lesson, options are given to (1) read the story from Scripture, (2) tell the story in your own words, being sure to hit listed key points or (3) read from a favorite story Bible (page numbers are listed for several popular and gospel focused children's story Bibles).

NOTE: The overall outline of this curriculum follows the flow of the story in "The Big Picture Story Bible," so if you are choosing a story Bible to use, and have mainly younger elementary children, that would be a good choice. If using other story Bibles, you will occasionally have to read 2 stories to get the full scope of the Biblical text being covered in the lesson. With older kids, it may be best for you to tell the story in your own words, with an open Bible, after you have studied the suggested passages.

There are lots of great storybook Bibles available these days. If you are choosing a storybook Bible, there are a few things to keep in mind. No matter the age of your class or your church's belief when it comes to printed images of Jesus, you want a storybook Bible that is Gospel focused and is as close to Scripture as possible, but in age-appropriate language. Next you want to look at the number of words in the story and the images and determine if they are appropriate for your age group. After those factors, different storybook Bibles offer different advantages. Some are written to clearly show the overarching story of the Bible, some are quick to make

connections to Jesus and the gospel throughout and some have discussion questions and prayer prompts. This is where you get to choose what works best for your situation.

Here are my thoughts on the different storybook Bibles I have referenced in these resources:

1. The Big Picture Story Bible – by David Helm – As I mentioned before, the lessons follow the outline and flow of this book. This storybook Bible is great for preschoolers and younger elementary classes. The words are simple, the pictures are engaging, and there are questions throughout the stories reminding kids of previous stories. Each story is about 10 pages. The goal of this storybook Bible is for kids to see the big, overarching story of the Bible, so occasionally a story will cover multiple Bible stories.
2. One Big Story Storybook Bible – The Gospel Project – This storybook Bible has 1 page of text and 1 page illustration for each story. It is written to be read to/ with younger elementary students. The illustrations are simple but do help to build conversation around the story. One thing I love about this resource is that each story included a ‘Christ Connection’ section to show how this story points to the gospel and fits into the big picture of the Bible, as well as a discussion question and answers. These additions make this a great resource for family devotions.
3. The Biggest Story Storybook Bible – by Kevin DeYoung – This storybook is based on DeYoung’s popular chapter book called ‘The Biggest Story’ and traces the redemptive story throughout the Bible. The illustrations are similar to the previous books and help to tell the story without being too childish or cartoony, which gives this book an appeal for older elementary students. It should be noted that none of the people in the book are drawn realistically, many with green or blue skin and there is lots of imagery in the pictures which leads to discussion. For younger children, the images can be a little dark or hard to understand. One bonus at the end of each story is a sample prayer.
4. The Gospel Story Bible- by Marty Machowski – As its name would suggest, this book focuses on the gospel and seeing Jesus throughout the Bible. Each story contains 1 page of text and 1 page of illustration, and the word count makes it more appropriate for middle to older elementary students. The illustrations are bright and colorful but lean more abstract than realistic. One thing I love about this book are the discussion questions at the end of each story, which are great for teachers or parents who want to go a step further with their children.
5. The Jesus Storybook Bible – by Sally Lloyd Jones – For many years this was the ‘go-to’ storybook Bible for ages 4-8. The illustrations are colorful, and captivating and the text of the stories are easily understood and whimsical. Lloyd-Jones has a way with words, making the stories come to life, and she does a great job of showing glimpses of and connections to Jesus throughout each story. However, she often takes creative license and includes details that aren’t in Scripture, which can be confusing for younger children when you’re trying to show them to authority of God’s Word. Personally, when I want to be reminded that all of Scripture points to Jesus, I love reading the Old Testament stories in this storybook.
6. More Than a Story – by Sally Michael – This resource from Truth 78 (Desiring God) makes a great read aloud or devotional tool for elementary age children. Each story is 4-5 pages long with simple, colorful, and realistic images. The author includes multiple direct Scripture references in the text of each story emphasizing the authority of Scripture. I also love that each story includes discussion questions, prayer prompts, a suggested memory verse and a gospel connection. This is a great resource for any parent or teacher to have on hand.



UNIT ONE – OLD TESTAMENT

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IN THE BEGINNING

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Bibles, kid's "Greatest Story" journals, pencils/ markers, Bible book cards, timeline cards, creation 'mold-inary' cards, playdough, memory verse poster, cardstock, torn construction paper, glue

INTRO- - PLAY THE MIRROR GAME

Have kids stand facing you and explain that they are going to be your mirror. You will do an action, and they have the mirror you. Let a few kids take turns leading the actions and having the rest of the kids mirror them. Explain that in the story today you're going to talk about the fact that God made people in His image (to be like Him and reflect Him to the world around us).

WORSHIP THROUGH SINGING

- [Almighty Creator](#) – Sovereign Grace
- [God Made Me and You](#) – Shai Linne

STORY TIME

Read or tell the story of creation from **Genesis 1 & 2**.

Or read from your favorite story Bible:

- "The Very Good Beginning" - pages 16-35 of [The Big Picture Story Bible](#)
- "From Him are All Things" and "Let us Make Man" – pages 23-30 of [More Than a Story – Old Testament](#)
- "The Very Good Beginning" – pages 18-27 of [The Jesus Storybook Bible](#)
- "God Created the World and People" – page 2 of [One Big Story: Story Bible – The Gospel Project](#)

Take time to discuss the story either after telling or while you tell it. As you go through the story make sure that the kids pick up the following key points:

- God is eternal. He was there in the beginning. God has always been. He was not made.
- God made the world out of nothing, and He made the world by speaking.
- God made everything in the world.
- God made people in His image and made them to rule over the rest of creation.
- God gave Adam & Eve one rule. God told them to obey Him because He was their king.
- God warned His people that the punishment for disobeying Him was death.

After finishing the story, ask one of the older kids to read **Genesis 2:4-24** and discuss as a group what it says about how people were made, and what made people different from the rest of creation.

Make note of rule that God gave Adam (**Genesis 2:16-17**). Talk about how God only gave him one rule to follow and that as we'll soon see Adam couldn't follow that one rule because of something called sin. Give kids a chance to talk about the rules in their homes or schools and how hard it is to follow the rules sometimes. Ask the kids to remember Adam's one rule, because it will come up in next week's story.

Show this week's timeline card and look at where the story fits in the timeline.

ACTIVITY- CREATION MOLD-INARY

Play a game like Pictionary (except the kids will be molding with playdough instead of drawing). One kid at a time will choose a card and will mold the item or part of the story out of playdough for the rest of the group to guess what it is.

As they play remind them that God created the world out of nothing (He didn't have any playdough...) and that He spoke His Word and the world was created.

MEMORY VERSE – ADD A VERSE WORD

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

Ask if anyone in the group can tell you the 1st four words of the whole Bible.

Open to **Genesis 1** and read, 'In the beginning, God...' Talk about how before we read about what God did in the beginning, we are reminded that He was in the beginning. God is eternal. He has no beginning or ending.

Tell the kids that you're going to take a few minutes to learn the key verse for this week, **Genesis 1:1**, by playing a game called Add a Verse Word.

Have the kids read the verse together. Start the game by saying the verse as its written. The 1st kid in the circle should say 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and.... (name something God made).' Genesis 1:1.

Continue around the circle with each child adding another thing to the list of what God made within the verse. By the end, the last child should name what each other child said in order. Finish by having everyone say the verse together.

JOURNAL WORK

Hand out journals (or journal pages) and help kids find this week's pages in their journals. Hand out pencils, markers, crayons, etc.

Encourage kids to think about what parts of the story they will draw and any writing they will do, before picking up pencils or markers. Give them plenty of time to work on their journals. Make sure older kids in the group stop drawing in enough time to do some writing in their book. As kids work, talk about what they learned today and how today's story fits in the big story of the Bible.

PRAYER

Close in prayer, thanking God for making people in His image and for giving us His Word. Pray that kids would listen to and obey God's Word as they learn more about who He is and what it means to be in a relationship with Him.

BONUS CRAFT ACTIVITY – CREATION TORN PAPER CRAFT

Remind the group that God created the world about nothing and that since we can't create out of nothing you want them to create out of torn paper. Give each child a piece of cardstock (or thick paper) and supply a variety of colors and sizes and shapes of torn construction paper as well as glue. Encourage them to sketch out something that God made on their paper and then glue the scraps of paper onto their pages to create an image of something that God made. Finish the activity by praying a prayer of thanksgiving for all the things that God made.

BIBLE SKILLS GAME – GET IN ORDER

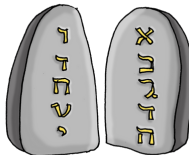
Play the game "Get in Order" to review the books of the Bible.

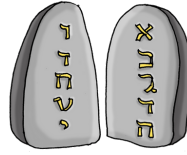
Randomly hand out Bible book cards (cards with books of the Bible written on them) to kids in the group and have them put their cards in order by standing and holding their cards. You can challenge older kids to name the books between the books showing or ask them to tell you something about that book of the Bible.

EXTRA TIME

Play the Mirror Game again, or have kids work on their worksheet pages.

IN THE BEGINNING





**"In the
beginning,
God created
the heavens
and the earth."**

Genesis 1:1 (ESV)

IN THE BEGINNING



Write this week's memory verse in the space below

Genesis 1:1

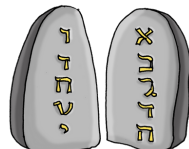
WEEK 2 - CREATION MOLD-INARY CARDS

creation MOLD-INARY WATER	creation MOLD-INARY SUN	creation MOLD-INARY STARS
creation MOLD-INARY EARTH	creation MOLD-INARY DOG	creation MOLD-INARY SHARK
creation MOLD-INARY ELEPHANT	creation MOLD-INARY FLAMINGO	creation MOLD-INARY TREE
creation MOLD-INARY CARROTS	creation MOLD-INARY SNAKE	creation MOLD-INARY BANANA
Jesus Died on the Cross and Came Back to Life Matthew 27-28	Paul Traveled Around the World Telling People About Jesus Acts	One Day Jesus will come back and Take His People to Live with Him Forever Revelation

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JOURNAL

This Journal Belongs to:
.....





IN THE BEGINNING

Genesis 1-2

Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten horizontal rows of dashed lines.

Key Word

**"In the beginning,
God created the
heavens and the
earth."
Genesis 1:1 (ESV)**



IN THE BEGINNING

Genesis 1-2
