

God's Great Story

Do you have a favorite story? Maybe it is a book you love to read or a movie you could watch over and over. Maybe it's even a story that someone told you. It could be something true, or something just made up. What is it about the story that makes you like it so much?

This month we are going to learn about an incredibly special story. This story is true; every bit of it really happened! It is a story about the whole world, from the very beginning to the future yet to come. It is a story of amazing love, sacrifice, redemption, and hope. It is God's Great Story!



Parent Guide:

I'm so glad you and your family are joining us this month! Here are a few tips to make your lessons go as smoothly as possible.

- Every study includes four parts to “RAMP up” learning – Read, Apply, Make it Stick, and Prayer. See comesojourn.com/resources for more information on this method.
- I encourage you to preview the lessons before doing them with your family so you are familiar with the material. You know your children best and looking ahead gives you a chance to anticipate areas where they might need more (or less) time and focus for the best understanding.
- The lessons often build upon one another, so it is ideal to do them in order without skipping any.
- Before starting, check out the “Make it Stick” sections where materials for each activity are listed. I try to keep the crafts and activities simple, using things you may already have at home, but take a look in case you need to stock up on anything.
- I recommend printing the verses (last page), cutting them, and posting each verse in a place your children will frequently see it. We like to use the bathroom mirror – memorizing and brushing teeth at the same time!
- Looking for additional reinforcement of the lesson? Check out the “Bonus” section for optional extras!

Thanks again for joining us. I pray God blesses your family as you draw near to Him together!

Lesson 1: In the Beginning



Read: Genesis 1:1-2:3

Imagine trying to make cookies just by saying “let there be cookies!” It wouldn’t work would it? No, you would need gather the right tools and ingredients. You would need to measure and mix everything together. You would need time to bake the batter in the oven. Only then could you have a fresh batch of cookies to eat.

But God is all powerful and able to do beyond what we can imagine. He created everything in the world, from the farthest star shining in the sky to the strangest fish swimming in the depths of the ocean. He made the sun and moon, the water and land. He made every animal and every plant. And He did it all simply by speaking!

God made people too. He made us special, different from the rest of His creation. As we read in Genesis 1:26-27, God made us in His image. Humans have a unique place in creation because we were made to reflect characteristics of God and to connect with Him in a way that nothing else in creation does.

In the beginning. Those are the first three words of God’s Great Story. Before God created the world, there was nothing! Nothing except God. When He created the heavens and the earth it was truly the very beginning of the whole world. And when it was complete, God called His creation good. The world as God made it was perfect.



Apply: When you think about the way God made the whole world, how does it make you feel? What can you learn about who God is through creation?



Make it Stick: Creation Scavenger Hunt

Go outside and explore God’s creation, spotting, collecting (or photographing!) reminders of what was created on each of the six days.

Supplies:

- Optional - Creation scavenger hunt checklist (see next page)
- Optional – camera/phone

Instructions:

- Find a spot outdoors for your children to search for things in nature that remind them of each of the days of creation
- Check off each day as you go, collecting items when possible if desired
- Alternatively, bigger kids might enjoy taking pictures of items they find to complete the scavenger hunt

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Pray: Thank God for His amazing creation.

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Verse: Genesis 1:1

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Bonus: God's Great Story Garden

This month all bonus activities will center around an ongoing project – creating a mini garden to remind your children of God's Great Story. This week your child will plant their garden as a reminder of God's work of creation.

Materials:

- Small pot
- Potting soil
- Seeds (grass or anything you choose that grows quickly)
- Optional – paint

Instructions:

- Paint the outside of the pot if desired
- Fill pot with soil and plant seeds
- Don't forget to have your child water and take care of their mini garden throughout the week!

Creation Scavenger Hunt



- Day 1: Light
- Day 2: Sky
- Day 3: Seas and Plants
- Day 4: Sun, Moon, and Stars
- Day 5: Fish, Sea Animals, and Birds
- Day 6: Land Animals and People



Little Disciples

Some ideas...

Day 1: Jump in and out of shadows as an illustration of light

Day 2: Point out the breeze moving in the trees or blow bubbles and watch them float up in the sky

Day 3: Leaves, nuts, pinecones, and flowers are all good finds

Day 4: Peek out at the stars before tucking in for bed

Day 5: See if you can find a feather or simply birdwatch a while

Day 6: Watch for little critters in the yard or pick a family pet as an example. Don't forget people too!

Lesson 2: Sin Enters the World



Read: Genesis 2:15-17, Genesis 3

The world as God made it was perfect. The people He created – Adam and Eve – were living in the beautiful garden of Eden He had made for them. Genesis 3 even tells us that God walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the garden!

Then something terrible happened. Satan – who is the enemy of God – disguised himself as a serpent and deceived Eve. Through twisted words and lies he made her doubt God’s instructions, and Eve, followed by Adam, disobeyed God.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they sinned. And when sin came into God’s perfect world it changed everything. Sin broke the special connection that Adam and Eve had with God. Because of their disobedience they were ashamed. Life became much harder for them and they had to leave the beautiful garden God had made for them. When sin entered the world, death entered the world, and not just for Adam and Eve but for the whole world, for every person yet to come.

But God had a plan. God knows all things and He knew, even then, what needed to happen someday to heal what had been broken by sin. One day, God would send someone to save the world from sin.



Apply: Do you know what God’s plan was? Genesis 3:15 gives us a hint. Read Romans 5:19 for another clue!



Make it Stick: Sin Enters the World Visual

This simple visual representation of sin entering the world can help your children better understand the way sin changed everything.

Materials:

- Clear cup of water
- Food coloring (darker color is best)

Instructions:

- Fill a clear cup with water – the clean, clear water represents the world without sin, the perfect world God created
- Show your children the food coloring – describe this as a representation of sin
- Add one drop of food coloring to the cup of water – watch as it slowly spreads. It will not fill the cup immediately but point out that this shows sin entering the world.
- Swirl or stir the water to completely mix the color – remind your children that it took just one sin to impact the whole world.
- Ask your children if they think they could make the water clear again. Just as there is nothing they could do to take the color out of the water, there is nothing we could do on our own to save ourselves from sin. But remember – God had a plan and next week we'll see just what that was!

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Pray: Just like Adam and Eve we all sin, we all disobey God. But we know we can come to God and ask for forgiveness. Thank Him for listening and forgiving us.

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Verse: Genesis 3:15

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Bonus: God's Great Story Garden

Continuing with the mini garden, this week we'll place a representation of sin in our garden.

Materials:

- Small stone
- Mini garden (as started last week)

Instructions: Place the stone in the garden you planted. Just as stones mark the places where people are buried, this stone represents how sin, and with it death, entered the world.

Redemption is a big word that means to be saved, to be bought back. We have redemption through Jesus because the price of sin was paid – our lives are bought back for God and we are saved from death through the promise of eternal life with Him.

We all need this redemption – we all need forgiveness from our sins – and the only way is through Jesus. We must simply put our faith in Him and believe as John 3:16 teaches:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

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Apply: Have you put your faith in God and accepted the incredible gift He offers of forgiveness of sins? If you have, thank Him again for the sacrifice Jesus made. If not, talk to your parents about it to understand more.

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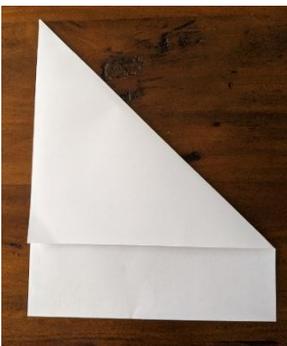
Make it Stick: The Cross Brings Life

With some special folding and a single cut you can turn a piece of paper into a cross and the word life – a reminder of the life we’re given through Jesus.

Materials:

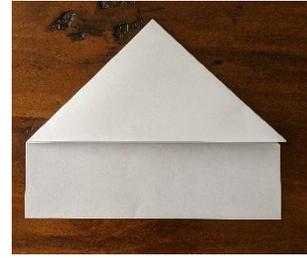
- One sheet plain paper (8x10)
- Scissors

Instructions:

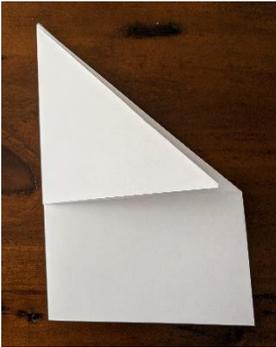


- Fold the top right corner of the paper down

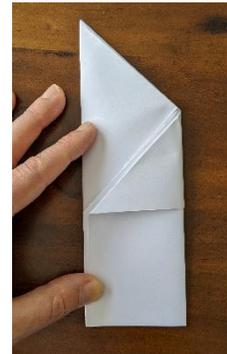
2. Fold the top left corner down



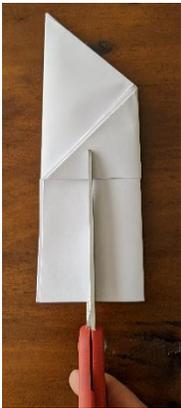
3. Turn paper over and fold it in half lengthwise, left to right



4. Fold in half again, lengthwise, right to left



5. Cut the paper in a straight line down the middle.



6. Unfold the paper. The large piece on the left will form a cross, the remaining scraps can be put together to form the word life.



Original source for this activity found on: <https://missionbibleclass.org/2013/03/09/the-story-of-the-cross/>

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Pray: Thank God for the incredible gift of redemption and forgiveness from sins.

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Verse: John 3:16

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Bonus: God's Great Story Garden

We'll continue to build our mini garden, this week making a representation of the price of redemption.

Materials:

- Mini garden
- Red paint
- Small paintbrush

Instructions: Paint the stone (added last week) red as a reminder of Christ's shed blood which paid the price for our sins. Let the stone dry, then place it back in the garden.

Lesson 4: All Things New



Read: John 14:1-6, Revelation 21:3-5

Over the past month we've learned a lot about God's Great Story. We started at the beginning with the creation of the world. We learned about how sin entered the world and about God's plan to save us from sin through His Son Jesus.

God's Great Story isn't finished yet, but guess what? We know what the ending will be! And it's even better than we can imagine.

Before Jesus's death, He gave His disciples a special message which we read in John. It's a message for us as well. He said He was going to His Father's house to prepare a place for us, so that we may be with Him. What is this place He was talking about?

We learned last week that Jesus made a way for us, through His death and resurrection, to be forgiven and to be with Him in heaven one day. That's the place He is preparing for us!

The verses that we read from Revelation tell us a little bit about heaven. Other parts of Revelation give us even more details:

- In heaven there is no sadness, pain, or death (Rev 21:4)
- We will be able to see God, He will live with His people (Rev 21:3, 22:4)
- It will be magnificently beautiful with a crystal clear river and trees full of fruit. The streets, walls, and gates of the city will be made of jewels, gold, and pearls (Rev 21: 1-2,18-21)
- It has no end; we will be with God in heaven forever (Revelation 22:5)

This is the ending of God's Great Story. It is an ending that is actually a new beginning. A new beginning that goes on forever!

God promises that He will make all things new. Everything will be perfect and it will never end. It's hard to imagine or fully understand, but isn't it amazing to know that we can look forward to a future with God in such a place?



Apply: Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” (John 14:6) What does Jesus mean? How can we know we will be in heaven someday?

Parents: This is a great time to do a brief summary review that connects all the lessons throughout the month so that your children can see the full picture of God’s redemptive plan. Allow them to do as much as they are able, but you can use these pointers as a guide as needed.

God created a perfect world and made humans as a special part of the world, uniquely set apart to commune with Him.



Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve’s disobedience. As a result, all people are now sinners.



God sent Jesus to pay the price for sin. He died in our place to redeem us. Through His death and resurrection we are forgiven from sin and given the promise of a future in heaven. We must only put our faith in Jesus and accept the free gift of forgiveness.



Someday God will make all things new and everyone who believes in Jesus can look forward to a future in heaven with God for eternity.

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Make it Stick:

Create a colorful suncatcher to hang on the window as a reminder of the promise of heaven we can look forward to someday.

Materials:

- Colorful tissue paper
- Wax paper
- Glue
- Paintbrush
- Black construction paper (if desired)

Instructions:

1. Cut tissue paper into small squares
2. Mix glue with water to thin it. A ratio of 2:1 glue to water works well.
3. Lay out a slice of wax paper, slightly larger than you want your final project to be.
4. Place tissue paper squares, individually, on the wax paper, gently painting glue overtop of the squares as you lay each one. Overlap the edges of the squares as you add them.
5. Allow glue to dry.
6. Cut finished product into a shape you would like. If desired, you can cut a border out of black construction paper and use it as a frame.
7. Hang your suncatcher on a window in a sunny spot and enjoy!



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Pray: Thank God for the promise of heaven and the gift of Jesus who made a way for us to be there someday.

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Verse: John 14:6

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Bonus: God's Great Story Garden

This week we'll finish off our garden with a small reminder of how God's love for us made a way for us to be with Him in heaven someday.

Materials:

- Mini garden
- Gold (or yellow) paint
- Small paintbrush

Instructions: Paint a gold heart on the small stone in your garden. Place it back in your garden. The heart shape reminds us of love: it was because of God's love for us that He sent Jesus. The gold color reminds us of the streets of gold in heaven.

Verses: Cut out the verses to post each week

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

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.
Genesis 3:15

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."