

# META-NARRATIVE FOR KIDS



FELLOWSHIP  
GLOBAL MISSIONS

Dear Ministry Leader,

We are so thankful for you and the incredible work you do to share God's Word with the next generation. As you open this collection of lessons, we want you to know that these materials are meant to serve you—not to limit you

Each lesson has been created to help children understand the truth of Scripture in a clear and engaging way. We recommend following the lessons in the order that they are written, because they build on each other. However, you have the freedom to adapt and use these lessons as you see fit for your ministry context. Feel free to adjust the timing, simplify or expand activities, and choose the elements that best fit your students and setting. You don't have to use every activity—simply draw out the heart of the truth God wants to teach that day.

Most importantly, our desire is that these lessons would not stop in the classroom but would spark deeper conversations at home. Encourage parents and caregivers to walk through the truths with their children—helping them reflect, ask questions, and apply God's Word together as a family

Thank you for faithfully teaching and discipling the next generation. May God bless you as you lead, and may His Word take deep root in the hearts of the children you serve.

Here are a few key discipleship questions you can ask at the end of every lesson. Not every lesson will lend itself to these questions. So, you do not need to use all or even any of these questions, they can serve as a guide to point us in the right way of thinking through the lessons:

1. What did God reveal to you about His character in this lesson?
  2. How should I change my thinking after hearing this lesson?
  3. How can I see God's desire for a relationship with me in this lesson?
  4. What of my new spiritual identity is revealed in this lesson?
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# Why the Meta-Narrative?

The Meta-Narrative lessons help us to see the big picture of God's Eternal Plan of Redemption. By seeing the big picture, we can keep God at the center of creation. When we know God, we are able to trust Him and His work in our lives. We also understand the position that we as humans play in God's plan, and that context will teach us to better walk in the truth of our new spiritual identity.

# PRINCIPLES FOR STUDY

As a teacher or parent using this book, we ask you to consider a few principles:

## God-Centered

Please remember the Bible is God's revelation concerning Himself. God highlights His interactions with mankind to reveal His character and bring our focus back to Him. Please do emphasis God and His character, Please do not emphasis man and their character.

## God's purpose in Grace

As 2 Timothy 1:9 tells us, God's Eternal Plan of Salvation was according to His purpose in grace. God has always dealt with mankind through His grace. Please do emphasize God's grace as freely given and undeserved. Please do not emphasize mankind's effort or ability to earn God's grace.

## God's desire for relationship

The goal of God's Eternal Plan of Redemption's is to make mankind worthy of being in relationship with the Trinity. God's goal from the beginning has always been relationship. Christ came and died not just to save us from eternal death, but to bring us into an everlasting relationship with God. Please do emphasis God's desire for relationship and fellowship with mankind. Please do not emphasis mankind's love for God or God's desire for obedience over relationship.

## Conformity vs. Transformation

Because of Jesus Christ's fulfillment of the Eternal Plan we, now have a new spiritual identity in Christ. As a result of the transformation that has taken place in or lives we are now able to act like God's children, because He made us His children. Our activity is an outflow of identity due to the transformation God has done. However, if we seek to force conformity in outward behavior, we are not resting in the finished work of Christ but seeking to replace Christ's work in our lives with our own effort and work. Please do emphasis the transforming work of Christ and the new spiritual identity of Christians. Please do not emphasis the need to follow rules or commands to achieve a new spiritual identity, which is unachievable apart from God's transforming work.

# Teacher Preparation

## → Verses to read & meditate on:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Hebrews 1:1-2

John 17:20-26

## → Thoughts on the Lesson:

The goal of the lesson is for children to understand that God desires to be in a relationship with them. God knows that you cannot be in a relationship with a person you do not know. So, God gave us His word, the Bible, so that we could know Him. The Bible reveals to use God's nature on a more intimate level than creation. As Hebrews 1 states God has spoken to us through the fathers and prophets, but He has also spoken to us through Jesus. The Bible is the only record of the words of Jesus. John 17 shows that Jesus is interested in a relationship with humanity and Jesus wants that relationship to be the same as the relationship Jesus has with God the Father.

## → Discipleship questions for you, the teacher, to consider:

- Is my interest in a person based upon my effort to be interested or on that person being interesting?
- Do I find myself reading the Bible as God's list of rules for my life, or as God's love letter to me?

## → Materials

- The Bible
- Any Book

# Lesson 1



## Purpose

To teach that we must know who God really is in order to understand and trust the Bible.



## Materials

- The Bible
- A Book



## Lesson

*Teachers should read the italicized portions out loud*

**Show any book.**

*Pretend this book I'm holding tells you everything you need to be happy in life. It has directions to follow in order to always be happy. It promises that if you follow the steps in this book, you'll never get sad or deal with unhappy things. It's a guarantee of happiness! How many of you would want to follow the book? It's good to be happy, right?*

*Now what if I told you that the author of this book is the saddest person I know? He sulks all day and pouts and is just not fun to be around. Would you believe the things in the book then? Would you trust a book about happiness if the person who wrote it is NOT happy? No! That would be ridiculous, wouldn't it? We would expect the person who wrote a book on happiness to be happy themselves, right?*

*Now think of the Bible. The Bible is like God's manual for life for us. He gave it to us and it teaches us all kinds of true things about Him and the world. But just like with the book about being happy, if we don't know the author of the book, we can't truly trust what the book says. It's so important to know who God truly is in order to read the Bible.*

*If you think God is an angry God who wants to punish us all the time, then we'll read the Bible through that lens. If we believe God doesn't really care about us, then we won't really spend time reading the Bible.*

*Did you know that what you believe about God is the most important thing about you? What you believe about God is shown in how you live. We will do things in this life according to what we think about God. For example, if I believe it's going to be cold one day, what kind of clothes would I put on? (Wait for response) If I believe that there's going to be a thunderstorm outside, I probably will wait to play outside until it's over, right? In those instances, what we believe about the weather causes us to act a certain way. It's the same for what we believe about God. What we believe about God directs how we live. We will do things in this life according to how we view God.*

*Can you tell me some things that you would say describes God? What are some words you would use to describe God? **(Let several children answer. Don't correct or teach, just listen to their answers.)***

*In order to live how God wants us to live and read the Bible correctly and truly understand it, we must learn some things about God first. That's what we're going to do now. I'm going to read some Bible verses. I want you to tell me what each verse tells us about God.*

**(Read each verse, then let them think and respond. Tell them the answers if needed and spend time discussing each concept with them if needed.)**

- **Genesis 1:1**
  - answer: God is the creator of everything
- **Psalms 90:2**
  - answer: God existed before creation
- **Isaiah 40:28**
  - answer: God is everlasting- He always existed and always will.
- **Revelation 22:13**
  - answer: God is eternal
- **1 John 4:8**
  - answer: God is love



*It's also important to begin reading the Bible at the beginning. When you read any book, where do you start? It would be silly to start in the middle! The same is true of the Bible. In order to fully know the Bible, we must start at the beginning.*

*So, we talk about two things today that are important in order to read the Bible correctly. Can you remember what those are? (Let them respond: It's important to know who God really is since He's the author, and to begin at the beginning of the Bible.)*





THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE, JUST AS YOU, FATHER, ARE IN ME, AND I IN YOU, THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE IN US, SO THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE SENT ME.

**JOHN 17:21**

# Activities

## → **ACTIVITY 1: Creator Treasure Hunt** (*Genesis 1:1*)

- Read verse with the children.
- Ask kids to look around the room or outside and name as many things as they can that God created.
- Ask the children to name some things that we see, smell, hear, taste, and touch that are all created by God.
- Ask children to name things we can't see that are created by God.
- Ask the children to think of a thing or two that is their favorite (person, activity, game, food, music etc.). Take turns sharing and saying, "Thank you, God, for creating \_\_\_."

## → **ACTIVITY 2: Everlasting Stretch** (*Isaiah 40:28*)

- Read verse with the children.
- Have kids stretch their arms as wide as they can and say, "God's love and life are bigger than this stretch!"
- Ask kids to hold hands and make a long line with everyone's arm stretched wide open and say, "God's love and life are bigger than this stretch!"
- Ask kids to hold hands and make a big circle.
- Talk about how God never had a beginning and will never have an end and that His word will stand forever.

## → **ACTIVITY 3: Love in Action** (*1 John 4:8*)

- Read verse with the children.
- Ask the children to share ways in which they feel loved by those around them. Write it down on a board as they share this.
- Remind them that all good things come from our Father and love is one way we can feel God.
- Have kids share ways they can show love to family, friends, and others. Remind them that God is love and it is God alone who can give us the desire and ability to love others.



# Teacher Preparation

## → Verses to read & meditate on:

2 Timothy 1:9  
Ephesians 1:9-10  
Revelation 13:8

## → Thoughts on the Lesson:

The goal of this lesson is to give us a big picture view of God's plan, and show that the plan's purpose is in grace. Which means that the plan not only relies on grace for its completion, but the plan also exposes the grace of God. As you are teaching this lesson make sure to emphasize that grace was the focus of God's plan, not man's obedience. The unfolding of the Old Testament shows us that God never expected mankind to be able to keep God's law. Instead, God used the law to show humanity that we need His grace.

## → Discipleship questions for you, the teacher, to consider:

- Do I rely on God and His plan for my standing with Him, or do I rely on my own efforts?
- How often in my life do I think that God is mad or disappointed in me?
- Do I know that God's grace is never given sparingly or grudgingly?

## → Materials

- The Bible

# Lesson 2



## Purpose

To teach stage 1 and 2 of the meta-narrative



## Materials

- The Bible



## Lesson

*Teachers should read the italicized portions out loud*

*We know from the last lesson that God is love and He is eternal. He is the author of the Bible and it's important to know who He really is. It's also important to start at the beginning when reading the Bible. But today we're going to learn that God had a plan that actually started BEFORE Genesis 1:1. Do you know what God's plan is? Pretend you are going to take a trip. Does your trip start on the day you actually begin traveling or are there some things you should do to prepare for your trip? (Wait for responses.) Of course, anyone who wants to go on a trip would start preparing for the trip BEFORE the actual day of travel, right?! Your trip might not end well and it would certainly end very quickly if you didn't pack your things before the trip. Or if you didn't plan out the route you will take. There are lots of things to do before a trip. The same is true for God's plan. The Bible is His plan for the world, for people. But his plan started before He began creating the world!*

Let's read some Bible verses that will help us understand this. (Read each verse and guide the discussion to the main points listed.)

- 2 Timothy 1:9
  - Main point: God had a purpose/a plan "before the ages began"
- Titus 1:2
  - Main point: God promised something "before the ages began"
- 1 Corinthians 2:7
  - Main point: there is a secret that God had planned "before the ages"

So, what is this secret mystery plan that God had even before creation? We're going to look closely at one verse and discuss it. Read Ephesians 3:6. Write it out if you can so everyone can see it. Underline each phrase while explaining like this:

This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, That is us!

and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.  
The promise is OURS! When Jesus dies and rose again

*You and I are "Gentiles." God's plan was to carry out the promise of the gospel. How did He do that? This verse tell us "in Christ Jesus." What this verse and the others are telling us is that God had a plan before the creation of the world. This plan was to save all people. He saved us by sending Jesus to die for our sin and rise again to give us freedom from sin! We call that His plan of redemption. Redemption means to save someone from very awful situation. THAT is God's plan and the Bible is all about that plan.*

*It's important for you to understand that God's plan to save us has NOTHING to do with how we act. He already had His plan in place before you were born and He chose to save us before you could even sin once. We can't do anything for God to choose us. It all depends on Him. In fact, do you think that God knew Adam and Eve would sin?*

God knows ALL things. Yes, He knew they would sin. And then Cain and Able came, and Cain sinned. Then all the people of the earth were sinning when Noah built the ark. In fact, most the stories of the Old Testament tells of people sinning. Why do you think that is? (Pause) God wanted them to understand their need for Him. Our sin shows us that we need a savior—someone to take away our sin.

Think of it like this. A mom has been telling her child over and over again to finish eating his meal. But the child is stubborn and doesn't like his food and doesn't want to eat it. She keeps reminding him to eat and patiently waits for him to eat while everyone is done with their meal and she starts cleaning up. She even reminds him that he will be hungry later if he doesn't eat. But he just sits there, refusing to eat. Bedtime comes and the boy is hungry because he didn't eat. He gets mad. But whose fault is it that he didn't eat? (The boy's!) As he lays in bed, his hunger his growling tummy is a reminder of his sin and the consequence of being hungry. The solution would have been just to eat! He should have listened to his mom.

Sin is kind of like that. All throughout the Old Testament, the people didn't listen to God and were "hungry." They sinned over and over and ended up with some big consequences. Their sin continually showed them their need for God. They needed a savior. God was teaching them that they were sinful and couldn't save themselves. Remember, God had a plan "before the ages" of the world to redeem His people. But in order to save someone, they first have to know they NEED to be saved. God was preparing them to receive a savior. Because the people of the Old Testament sinned over and over, they realized their need for a savior. And we're going to talk about that savior in the next lesson!

**Ask the questions for review:**

- *When did God make His plan of redemption?*
  - Before the ages of the world
- *What does redemption mean?*
  - To save
- *What does sin show us?*
  - Our need for a savior



WHO SAVED US AND CALLED US TO A HOLY CALLING, NOT  
BECAUSE OF OUR WORKS BUT BECAUSE OF HIS OWN  
PURPOSE AND GRACE, WHICH HE GAVE US IN CHRIST  
JESUS BEFORE THE AGES BEGAN.

**2 TIMOTHY 1:9**

# Activities

## → **ACTIVITY 1: God's Purpose Discussion**

- Read 2 Timothy 1:9 with the children.
- Ask the children to think about what their parents needed to prepare before they were born. Their parents would have heard the news of the coming baby and started gathering things the baby would need like clothes, blankets, a place for the baby to sleep in etc. Once they were born, did the parent ask the baby to do anything for them? What did the parents do for them as babies? (feed them, clean them, stay up at night to watch them etc.)
- Remind the children that God has a wonderful plan for our lives and that He made that plan even before we or the world ever existed. He, like the parents did for the baby, takes care of us and meets our needs.

## → **ACTIVITY 2: Promise Treasure Hunt**

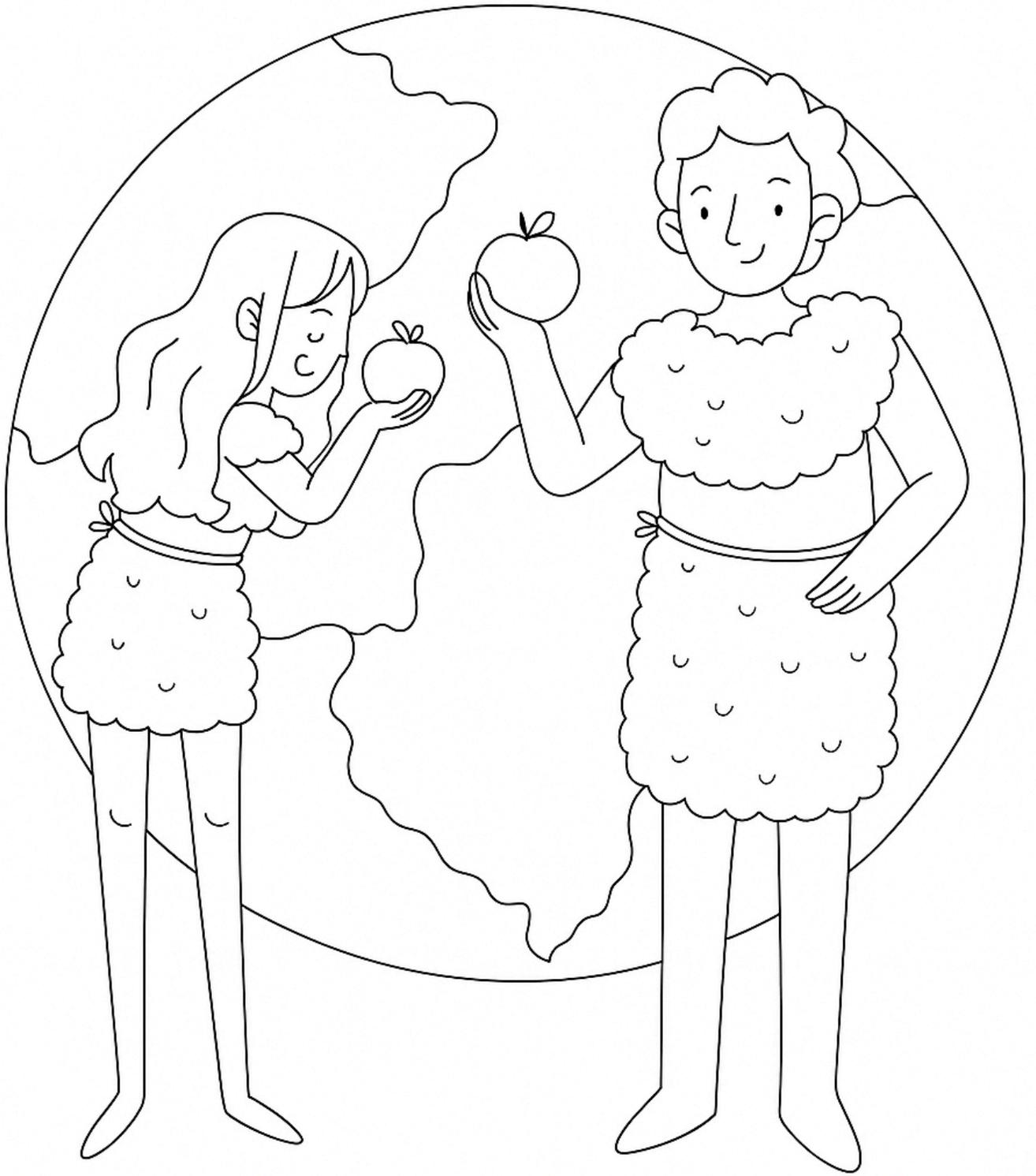
- Read Titus 1:2 with the children.
- Have a few items (or a piece of paper cut into pieces) that you hide in the classroom before class begins or have the children close their eyes while you do this. You may hide some pieces in easy to find places and some in more difficult places. Tell them that you have hidden these objects and if they are able to find all the pieces, you (the teacher) will sing them a song or do funny/silly dance. Help them find the pieces that are more difficult to find. Once all the pieces are found, do what you promised to do.
- Tell the children that God promised eternal life before time began, and that promise is like a treasure we can trust forever. Unlike this game, God does not make these promises and treasures hard to find. He makes it so that everyone can find this treasure and if anyone does need help finding it, He helps us just like the teacher helped.
- Remind the children that God always keeps His promises just like the teacher did.



## ACTIVITY 3: Wisdom Whisper Game

- Read 1 Corinthians 2:7 with the children.
- Explain that God's wisdom is like a special plan meant for us. Whisper a simple "wisdom" phrase to the first child (e.g. "God's love is always with you"). Let the whisper pass around the circle to see if it stays the same. Repeat this with different "wisdom" phrases.
- Discuss how some things, like God's plan, might be hidden but are very important and true.
- Close by reminding kids God's wisdom was planned for us before time began and that His plans will be fulfilled.





# Teacher Preparation

## → Verses to read & meditate on:

1 John 2:2  
1 Peter 1:3-4  
Romans 7:24-8:1

## → Thoughts on the Lesson:

The goal of this lesson is to show the big picture view of God's fulfillment of His eternal plan and the results we can now enjoy because of the fulfillment. We want to show the children that they are living in the church age, which is in the results portion of God's plan. The context of our position in God's plan will affect how we understand what the New Testament is trying to teach us. We want to make sure that we continue to remind the children consistently of our role and place in God's plan.

## → Discipleship questions for you, the teacher, to consider:

- If God has completed His plan, what do I need to do? Do I have a role in fulfilling God's plan?
- When do I get to enjoy the results of God's fulfilled plan?
- Is there a time when God's plan will become unfulfilled or invalid?

## → Materials

- The Bible
- Any Book

# Lesson 3



## Purpose

To teach stage 3 and 4 of the meta-narrative



## Materials

- The Bible



## Lesson

*Teachers should read the italicized portions out loud*

*In the last lesson, we talked about how God was preparing the people of the Old Testament for a savior. How did He do this? (By showing them their need for Him. When they kept sinning, that showed they needed a savior.) Now we're going to talk about what happened after the Old Testament. Each of these lessons is to show you the BIG picture of the Bible. We are moving through the whole bible very quickly just to show you what God's big plan in the Bible is. This is very important. Remember, in order to trust the Bible and read it correctly, we have to know the purpose of it and the author behind it. So, we've talked about God's eternal plan that he created before the creation of the world. We talked about how his plan is to save the world from their sins. And we talked about how he prepared people by showing them their need for Him.*



*Let's read some Bible verses to begin our time. Read John 12:22, 27 and John 17:1. These verses are spoken by Jesus. When Jesus came to the earth, He only had one mission. It was to glorify God. To glorify God means to worship and honor Him, to give him the praise and respect that He deserves. It means to recognize God for who He is. That was Jesus' mission on earth. And He did that by showing the world that He is the Son of God. By teaching and preaching and healing, He could show the world who God is because Jesus is God. By dying on the cross and rising to life, He glorified God by breaking the power of sin and the devil. He crushed the devil and the power of sin. He won. And not only that, but He gave all people on earth the ability to know God and praise Him! WE can also glorify God through faith in the gospel.*

*When Jesus died on the cross, He took all the sin of the world onto Him and sin died with him. He paid the price for our sin. He was the savior that everyone in the Old Testament needed. He is our savior today! Because of what He did, we don't ever have to live in the power of sin. The devil has NO power over us.*

*Remember, God IS love. He did all this because He loves us. He WANTS a relationship with us. And he planned that before creation. Read Ephesians 1:4. This is saying that even before creation, He CHOSE us! His plan of redemption was for you and me. ALL we have to do is believe that. Romans 6:23 says "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." "Wages" means the payment.*

*The payment of sin is always death. But because Jesus died in our place, we are saved from eternal death. We get to go to Heaven and we get to live with Him right now. We can't do anything to earn his salvation. He did it all- He planned it from before creation!*





*The last part of his plan of redemption is really exciting. We're going to talk about what we receive when we are saved. First, let me tell you a short story. "Once upon a time, in a small village nestled between rolling hills, there lived a poor boy named Oliver. Oliver was kind-hearted and always wore a bright smile, despite having little to eat and only a few tattered clothes to wear. He lived in a tiny cottage with his grandmother, who told him stories of adventure and magic.*

*One sunny afternoon, while exploring the village, Oliver stumbled upon a shiny penny lying on the ground. It sparkled in the sunlight, and Oliver picked it up, admiring its beauty. "This must be lucky!" he thought, tucking it safely in his pocket. That evening, as Oliver and his grandmother sat by the fire, he shared the story of the lucky penny. His grandmother chuckled, "Well, my dear, sometimes luck comes in the most unexpected ways."*

*The next morning, Oliver woke up to a loud knock at the door. When he opened it, he found a man in a fine suit standing there. "Hello, young man! I have some exciting news for you!" the man exclaimed. "I'm Mr. Thompson, a lawyer. You have inherited a fortune from a distant relative you never knew!"*

*Oliver's eyes widened in disbelief. "A fortune? But I'm just a poor boy!"*

*Mr. Thompson smiled. "Yes, but your great-uncle was a wealthy adventurer who loved to explore the world. He left you his treasure, which includes gold coins, jewels, and even a beautiful house!"*

*With a heart full of hope, Oliver followed Mr. Thompson to the grand estate that now belonged to him. The house was filled with treasures beyond his wildest dreams! There were sparkling chandeliers, colorful paintings, and a garden bursting with flowers."*

*Wouldn't THAT be great! To discover that you inherited a fortune?! Well, guess what? We DID inherit a fortune! Not in money or nice houses or being rich here on earth. But in what God gave us when we became Christians.*



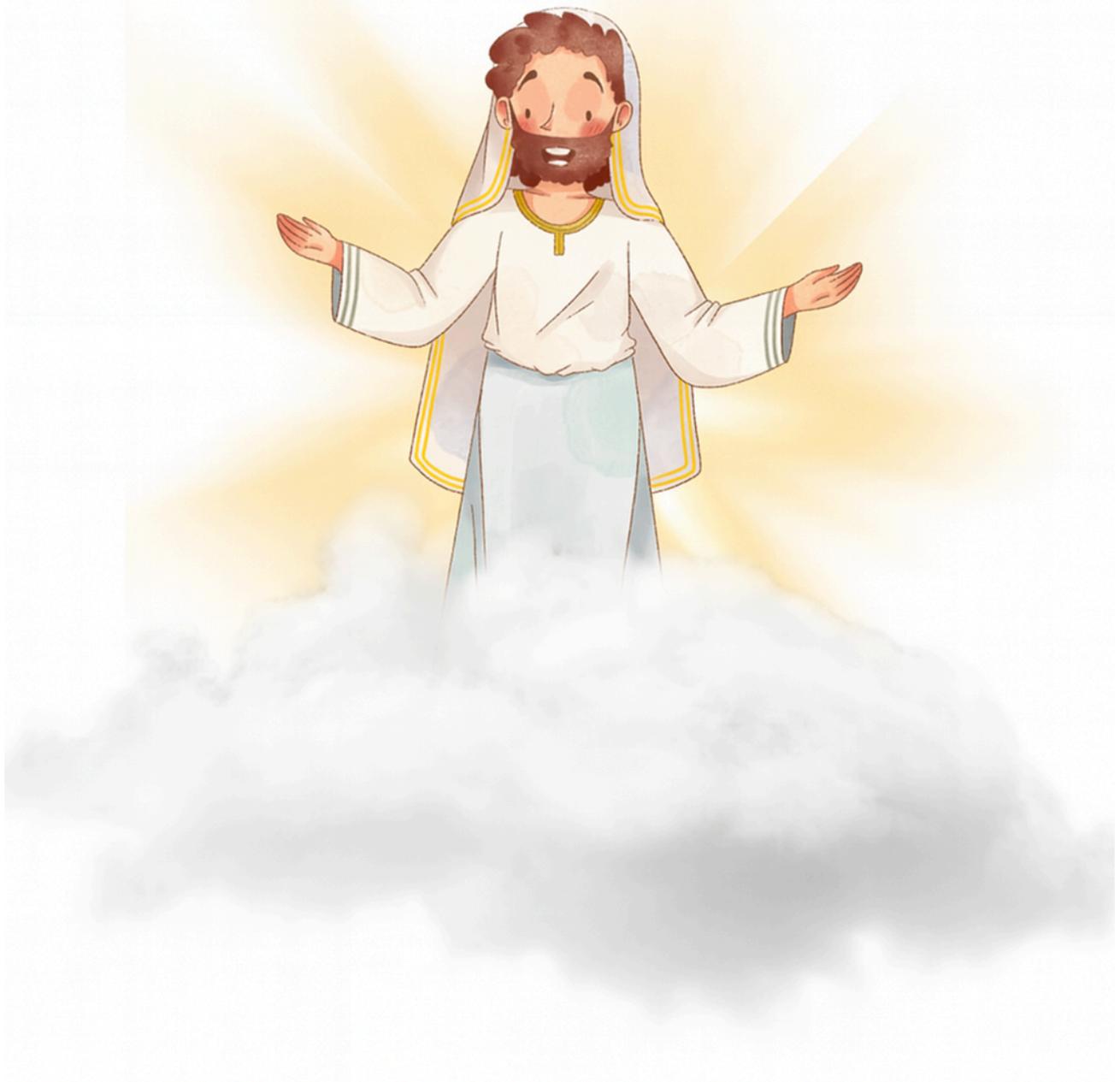
*Let's read some verses about what He gave us. Then I want you to tell me what you heard in the verse about His gifts to us.*

**(Read each verse, a couple times if needed, and have them talk about it.)**

- **Ephesians 1:3**
  - We've been blessed with EVERY spiritual blessing
- **Colossians 3:3**
  - We have been hidden with Christ in God- our identity is new!
- **Ephesians 1:7**
  - We have redemption and forgiveness
- **2 Peter 1:2-4**
  - We have been given everything we need
- **Ephesians 1:13-14**
  - We've been given the holy spirit- a guarantee of our inheritance
- **1 Thessalonians 4:17**
  - We will spend eternity with Him

*And there are many more blessings that He's given us! His plan was to save us, but He didn't stop there. He gave us a spiritual inheritance. Because He loves us! And because all of that glorifies Him. We are saved so that we can glorify Him. When we trust Him, pray to Him, learn more about Him, we develop a relationship with Him. And we will begin to live a life that pleases Him, which in turn, glorifies Him. His whole plan from before creation to the end of the world is to be glorified through redeeming/saving people. He uses US to glorify Himself! (Eph. 1:14).*

*You see, salvation all depends on God. He planned it before we were even born. He carried it out through sending Jesus to die for us. And he guaranteed it by giving us the Holy Spirit and every spiritual blessing. Nothing we can do will take that away. Just as the boy in the story did nothing to get his fortune, we don't do anything to be saved. God gives it freely to us. THAT'S good news, isn't it!?*



FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY  
SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT  
PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

**JOHN 3:16**

# Activities



## ACTIVITY 1: Hidden Hearts

- Read Colossians 3:3 with the children.
- Draw small hearts on a piece of paper, cut them out so there is one heart for each child. Play a quiet game of "hide and seek" with the hearts. Ask a child to come up and ask everyone else to close their eyes. While all eyes are closed, ask that child to quietly hide the heart somewhere (in their hand, left or right pocket, left shoe etc.). Once ready, ask everyone to open their eyes and guess one place they think the heart will be. Give each child a turn to do this.
- Remind the children that when we believe in Jesus we are now hidden in Christ with God and that it is safe there.



## ACTIVITY 2: Rain of Abundance

- Read 2 Peter 1:2-4 with the children.
- Have the children clap their hands using one left and one right finger. Say two after which each child should start clapping using two fingers. Continue this counting to five. The one finger clapping will be softer while the five-finger clap will be much louder. Remind the children that when God gives us grace and peace, He does not give it to us in ones or twos but gives it to us abundantly like the five-finger clap and even more.



## ACTIVITY 3: Sealed with the Spirit

- Read Ephesians 1:13-14 with the children.
- Have all the children stand up in a line or circle. You will make some statements and if that statement is true of the child, the child can return to their seat. For e.g. Whoever has a “J” in your name can go back to your seat or whoever has long hair can go back to your seat etc. Continue making statements till you have none or a few children left standing. Do this again but this time make a statement that will take every child back to his/her seat. Eg: Whoever is a Nigerian or whoever is between the ages of 7-9 can go back to your seat.
- Remind the children that once they have placed their trust in Christ, they are marked with a seal, the Holy Spirit. Just like being Nigerian will get them all back to their seat, a person who believes in Jesus will be sealed with the Holy Spirit.



