

The Bible As One Story

Theme Lesson

PREPARATION

Objective

Students will have a basic understanding that the Bible is one book with one story about God making his name known so that he rightly receives the praise and glory he deserves.

Outcomes

1. Students will understand that God wants people to know him.
2. Students will realize that the Bible is one story about God and it is true.
3. Students will be able to do hand motions representing key events in God's story.

Directions

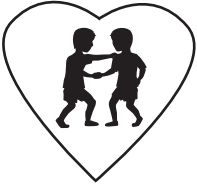
1. Using the black marker, print the word "BIBLE" on the front cover of the file folder.
2. Print and cut out the pictures for bookmarks #1-6. You may wish to print them out on white card stock or laminate them. You will be using these bookmarks in other lessons.
3. Tape a 6-inch piece of yarn or ribbon to the back of bookmarks #1, #3, and #5, leaving about a 4-inch piece free.
4. Tape a 12-inch piece of yarn or ribbon to the back of bookmarks #2, #4, and #6, leaving about a 10-inch piece free.
5. Open the file folder and arrange the bookmarks in order, with three bookmarks on each half of the folder. (See illustration below.)
6. Tape the other end of the piece of yarn or ribbon inside the file folder, about two inches from the edge.

**PREPARATION: 20 min.****TEACHING: 25 min.**

Materials

- letter-size file folder
- black marker
- three pieces of yarn or thin ribbon cut in 6-inch lengths
- three pieces of yarn or thin ribbon cut into 12-inch lengths
- "God's Story Bookmarks" cut-out pages (Introduction pp. 23-24) printed on 8 ½ x 11-inch sheets of white paper or card stock
- glue
- clear tape
- Bible
- "God's Story Chart" teacher aid (p. 2)

God's Story Chart

	SAY	DO
1	 In the beginning, God created a strong friendship with people.	Clasp own hands in front of body.
2	 Sin breaks friendship with God and people live in darkness.	Break clasped hands apart and cover eyes with hands.
3	 God blessed Abraham so he could bless the nations.	Raise arms above head and flex fingers to represent stars.
4	 What is the biggest blessing? Jesus takes the punishment for our sin, dying, but then living again.	Cross fist ed hands in front of chest. Release arms and extend out to shoulder height. Lower arms and sweep upwards in front of body, raising hands above head.
5	 Friendship with God is restored through Jesus. We should tell others.	Clasp own hands in front of body. Release hands and point to mouth.
6	 In heaven, people from all nations will worship God.	Raise arms up high.

TEACHING (CORE)

THEME LESSON: GOD'S STORY

Directions

1. Have the students sit in a large group. Tell the story with “God’s Story Bookmarks” and hand motions where indicated.
2. Ask the students, *“How many of you like to hear stories? What are some of your favorite stories?”* Allow a few children to share their favorites. Then say, *“I love stories, too. I love stories that are make-believe and stories that are true. Does anyone know what ‘make-believe’ means?”* Allow one or two students to give a definition. Summarize by saying, *“That’s right. A make-believe story did not really happen. It is a story that comes from the writer’s imagination.”*
3. *“Today I am going to tell you a story that is true. This story really did happen. We know this is a true story because God said it is true. Can we trust God to tell the truth?”* (yes) *“You bet we can! God can’t lie because he is holy. He is perfect!”*
4. *“My story today is from the Bible. How many of you know stories in the Bible? What are some of the stories you know?”* Allow children time to share different stories. *“Those are all wonderful stories. Did you know that all those small stories are really part of one big story? That’s right! It’s one BIG story – the story of the Bible.”* Hold up your Bible and flip pages from the beginning to the end.
5. *“The story of the Bible starts at the beginning. Does anyone know what God did in the beginning?”* Allow one or two responses. Then say, *“That’s right! The story of the Bible begins with creation.”*
6. Open the “God’s Story Bookmarks” and say, *“This picture reminds me of when God created man and woman.”* Unfold bookmark #1 and let it hang down from the folder. *“Do you remember their names?”* (Adam and Eve) *“That’s right. God loved Adam and Eve so much that he spent time with them every day in the garden. Do you think that would be awesome to be able to go for a walk with God? From the beginning, God wanted people to know him. He wanted to be friends with the people he created. Hold your hands together like this in front of you as if you are shaking hands with a good friend.”* Demonstrate hand motion #1 and have the children repeat. *“This motion will remind us of God’s friendship with people. For a while, God and people had a good friendship.”*
7. *“But then something terrible happened! Man and woman sinned! Oh no!”* Take bookmark #2 and let it hang down from the folder along with bookmark #1. Then say, *“The Bible says that ‘all wrongdoing is sin’ (1 John 5:17). Oh my, did Adam and Eve do something wrong! God told them they could eat of any tree in the garden but one. Guess what they did.”* Allow brief responses. *“That’s right. They ate the fruit off that very tree. Because they chose to disobey God, their friendship with him would never be the same.”*
8. *“Have you ever done something wrong like disobeying your parents?”* Allow children to offer illustrations. Then ask, *“Have you ever tried to hide or cover up what you did? That’s what Adam and Eve did. Because they*

Materials

- “God’s Story Bookmarks” visual aid (Introduction pp. 23-24)
- Bible
- “God’s Story Chart” teacher aid (p. 2)

disobeyed, Adam and Eve now felt afraid of God. They knew God would not like what they did, so they hid themselves. But God knew where they hid because he knows everything.”

9. *“Adam and Eve knew God is holy. He is perfect and no sin can be in his presence. That means that God and sin cannot be together. The Bible says God is light. At night, when you turn out your light what do you see?”*
(dark, black, nothing) *“Yes, darkness. When people sin, it separates them from God. Because they cannot be with God, who is light, their hearts live in darkness. That BIG problem touches all of us, because the Bible says ‘all have sinned’ (Romans 3:23). We all have done wrong things. Can you show me our sign for friendship with God? Yes, hold your hands together, like this.”* Demonstrate hand motion #1. *“Boys and girls, because of sin, people’s friendship with God was broken.”* Demonstrate the first half of hand motion #2 and have the children copy you.
10. *“Adam and Eve’s sin made God sad (look very sad), but he still loved them. He looked for them even when they hid from him, but the damage had been done. Ever since Adam and Eve, the Bible says that everyone is born into darkness!”* Instruct the children to place their hands over their eyes to represent living in darkness. Have them put hands down before moving on to the next bookmark.
11. Unfold bookmark #3 and let it hang down from the folder with the other two bookmarks. Then say, *“Living in darkness! Without God! This would not do! God’s purpose is for people to know him and worship him. God had to do something and he did. He had a plan. God planned to bless a man named Abraham. We do not use the word ‘bless’ very often today, but it is an important word. God used the word to make a promise to Abraham. God blessed Abraham by giving him faith in God and by giving him a big family. How many people do you have in your family?”* Allow for response. *“Well, Abraham’s family includes more people than the number of stars in the sky. That is a big family! Let’s reach our hands into the sky and make our fingers look like twinkling stars.”* Demonstrate hand motion #3. Then say, *“Great! Put your hands down but remember this sign. It will remind us of Abraham’s blessing.”*
12. *“Abraham’s family was supposed to share their blessing, their faith in God, with all the people of the world. In Genesis 12:1-3, God told Abraham, ‘I will bless you and all the people on the earth will be blessed through you.’ Abraham’s family was the children of Israel. Many of the stories in the Bible are about Abraham’s family and how God made himself known to the world through their lives.”*
13. Unfold bookmark #4 and let it hang down from the folder with the other three bookmarks. *“God used Abraham to bless the world in the biggest way through Jesus. Jesus’ mother, Mary, belonged to Abraham’s family. She lived hundreds of years after Abraham, but she was still a member of his family. God sent Jesus to take care of our sin problem once and for all.”*
14. *“Do you remember when we talked about Adam and Eve’s sin? Well, the Bible says that the punishment for even one sin is death, or separation from God. We cannot go to heaven when we die, nor can we be friends with God here on earth. How terrible! But God loved us so much that he sent Jesus to take that punishment for us. The Bible says, ‘the gift of God is eternal life’*

(Romans 6:23). God's gift is Jesus and his death on the cross. Jesus took the punishment for our sins when he died on the cross. Rising from the dead, he proved that only he had the power to forgive our sins and to give us eternal life in heaven. Here is a sign to remind us of Jesus' dying on the cross and then rising from the dead. Make your hands into fists and cross your arms in front of you." Demonstrate hand motion #4. "Next, reach your arms straight out to the sides. Now sweep your hands up like Jesus is rising up from the grave. Good job!" Have the students do both parts of the hand motion.

15. Unfold bookmark #5 and let it hang down from the folder with the other four bookmarks. Then say, "Our next picture shows us that people who believe in Jesus don't live in darkness any longer because their sins have been forgiven. Not only do they become God's friends, but they become 'children of God' (John 1:12). The Bible says that if we believe in Jesus, we belong to God 'that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.' (1 Peter 2:9). As God's children we should tell other people what God has done for us. If they believe in Jesus, too, they will not have to live in darkness any more. Put your hands together like our first sign of friendship." Demonstrate and let students repeat. "This shows that people can be friends again with God. Now, point to your mouth." Demonstrate and have the students repeat. "This reminds us that we are to tell others about Jesus." Now have the students do both parts of hand motion #5.
16. Unfold bookmark #6 and let it hang down from the folder with the other five bookmarks. Then say, "The story of the Bible ends with a picture of people from different countries, languages, and tribes worshiping God around his throne. The Bible says, 'all the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name' (Psalm 86:9). This part of the story is different from the rest because it hasn't happened yet. We know it will happen one day because God's Word, the Bible, tells us so and God's Word is true."
17. "We have not come to the end of the story yet because many people have never heard the name of Jesus. This is where we come into the story! God designed you and me to worship God and make his name known to people all over the world. Raise your hands way up high in the sky." Demonstrate hand motion #6 and have the students repeat. "This is our sign for worshiping God! One day, people from everywhere will worship him."

IN CLOSING: REVIEW AND PRAYER

Directions

1. Repeat the hand motions with the children, highlighting the concept that matches with each.
2. Allow several children to use the "God's Story Bookmarks" to tell parts of the story of the Bible in their own words.
3. Lead in prayer, thanking God for giving us the Bible, for its being true, and for God showing us his plan through the story of the Bible. Ask God to help the students to be a blessing to the world by sharing the story of the Bible with their friends and family.

Materials

- "God's Story Bookmarks" visual aid (Introduction pp. 23-24)
- "God's Story Chart" teacher aid (p. 2)



VIDEO: GOD'S KALEIDOSCOPE

Before the Activity Directions

1. Preview “God’s Kaleidoscope” on the DVD.

Directions

1. Hold up the globe and say, *“This globe is a model of the earth.”* Show the students the country where you live.
2. Say, *“Children live all around the world in many different countries. In some ways, these boys and girls are different from you. In some ways, they are just like you.”*
3. *“As you watch this video, look for what is the same and different.”*
4. Show the video.
5. Ask, *“How were the children in the video different from you?”* Allow responses.
6. Ask, *“How are all children around the world the same?”*
7. Conclude by saying, *“No matter where they live, what they wear, what they eat, what games they play, or what language they speak, God loves all children and wants them to know and worship him.”*



PREPARATION: 11 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- “God’s Kaleidoscope” (VF)
- TV/DVD
- globe



CRAFT: FACE RUBBINGS

Before the Activity Directions

1. Copy “Face Rubbings” patterns onto cardstock and cut in fourths. Another option is to trace the patterns onto cardboard.
2. Squeeze a thick line of puff paint onto all lines to trace. Allow the paint to dry for at least 24 hours before using.
3. Remove the paper wrapping from the crayons.

Directions

1. Use masking tape to attach the rubbing cards to the work table.
2. Have the students sit in groups of eight on the floor. To each group, pass out small pieces of scrap paper, a container of various shades of skin tone crayons, and scissors.
3. Talk about the many shades of tan and brown that God used when he created people. Direct the students to look at their own skin. They should make crayon marks on the piece of scrap paper and decide which color best matches their skin color.
4. Direct one group at a time to the “rubbing area” table. Tell students to bring the crayon color that best matches with their own skin.
5. Pass out a piece of white copier paper to each student at the table. Help them place their paper on top of one rubbing card.
6. Show them how to use the side of their crayon to rub over the paper completely to reveal the face.
7. Call another group to the table. Direct the first group back to their work area on the floor to cut out their faces.
8. Optional: Collect the finished faces and staple them around a picture of Jesus.



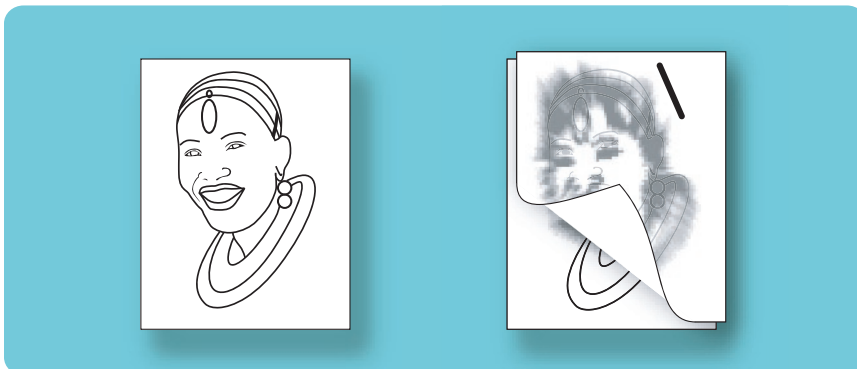
PREPARATION: 24 hours

TEACHING: 25 min.

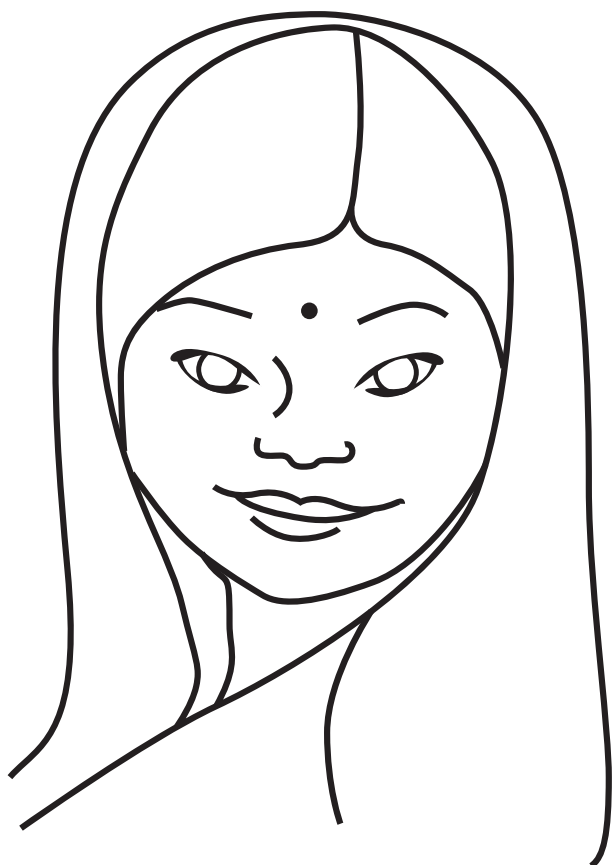
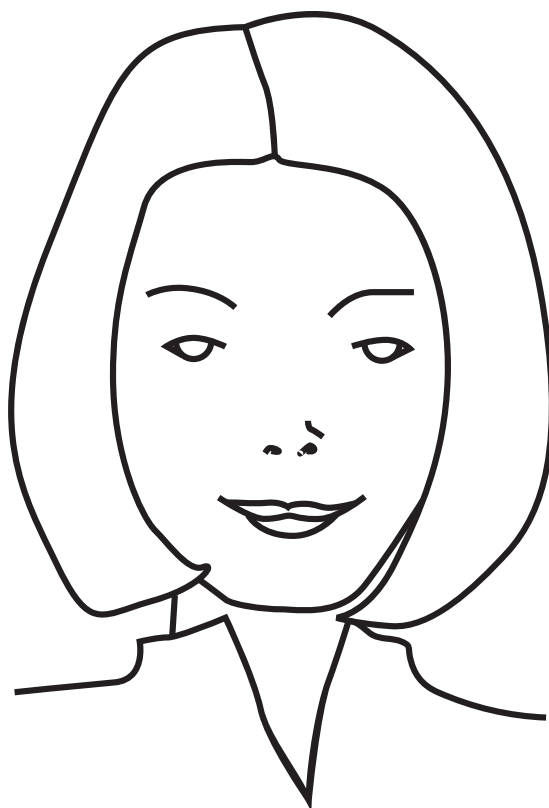
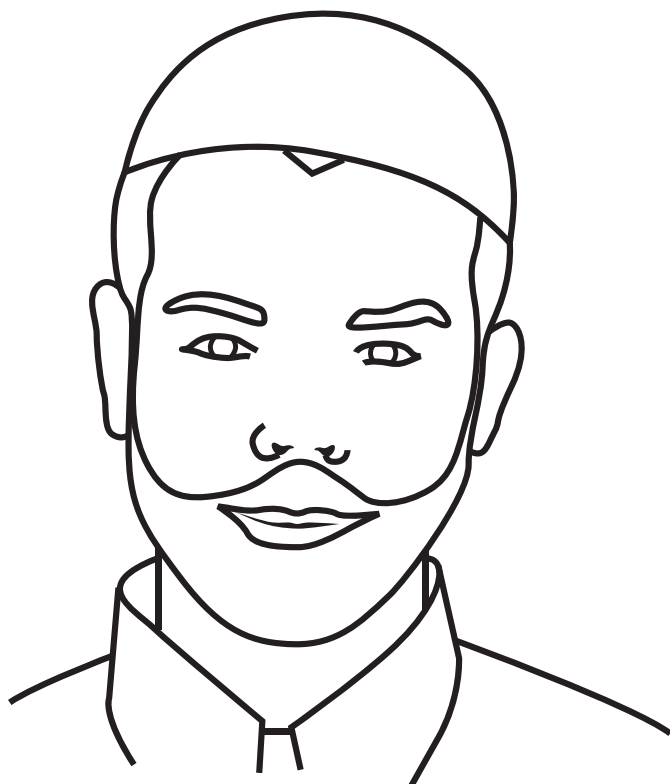
Note: Prepared rubbing cards must dry for 24 hours before class.

Materials

- “Face Rubbings” patterns (p. 8)
- cardstock, one piece makes four patterns
- pencil
- white puff paint
- masking tape
- pieces of light-colored scrap paper
- multiple shades of tan and brown crayons
- containers for crayons
- scissors
- one piece 8 ½ x 11-inch white copier paper for each student
- one picture of Jesus (optional)
- stapler (optional)



Face Rubbings





GAME: GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Directions

1. Say, *“God created each of us special. They are many differences in the way we look, the way we act, what we are good at, and what we like and do not like. God loves each of us, no matter if we have blue eyes or brown, if we are shy or daring, if we are good at swimming or dancing, if we love peas or ice cream.”*
2. *“God knows all about us, but we can always learn more about each other. In this game, we’ll get to know each other better.”*
3. Divide students into groups of eight, each with an adult helper.
4. Have each group of students form a circle. Give each adult helper a beanbag and direct him or her to stand in the middle of the circle.
5. Say, *“Your leader will choose one student to come into the middle of the circle. This student will ask your group a question. Listen carefully because each of you will get a chance to answer. Because we are all different, you will hear many different answers.”*
6. Have the adult leaders choose a volunteer to come to the middle and hold the beanbag.
7. Have the adult helper whisper a topic in this student’s ear. See a list of suggested topic questions at the end of this activity. It is not necessary for all the groups to introduce topics in the same order.
8. Say, *“The boy or girl holding the beanbag will call out the first question and toss the beanbag to someone in the circle. If you catch the beanbag, you answer the question first. Then pass the beanbag to the person sitting next to you in the circle.”*
9. *“Answer the question when the beanbag is passed to you. Then pass it on to the boy or girl next to you. When all the children have gotten a chance to answer, your leader will choose a new volunteer to come to the middle of the circle.”*
10. You may want to do a practice round with one group and have the other students observe.
11. After each round, the adult volunteer whispers a new topic question to the student in the middle of the circle.
12. You may wish to have students stand for some rounds if they get restless.
13. If time allows, let each student have a chance to come to the middle.

Suggested topic questions:

- Who lives with you in your house?
- What is your favorite toy?
- What is your middle name? (or first name if students do not know each other)
- What kind of ice cream do you like best?
- Can you say something in another language?



PREPARATION: 5 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- one beanbag for every eight children

- *What game do you like to play with your friends?*
- *What is your favorite book or story?*
- *What are you good at?*
- *What is your favorite song?*



SNACK: PURPOSE PRETZELS

Makes nine servings (one serving = one 2-inch pretzel)

Note: For quicker preparations, use frozen roll dough. Go directly to step #4.

Directions

1. Dissolve yeast in water and let sit until bubbly.
2. Add salt and sugar.
3. Gradually mix in flour and knead dough 3-4 minutes.
4. Divide the dough into nine equal pieces.
5. With your hands, roll each piece into a long snakelike rope.
6. Take each rope and form it into the letter “P.”
7. Place on a greased cookie sheet.
8. Brush the letters with egg glaze and sprinkle additional salt on top.
9. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes.
10. Pass out the plates, napkins, and pretzels.
11. Say, “*These pretzels look like the letter ‘P.’ ‘P’ is for Purpose.*” Hold up the “Key Word Purpose Statement” teacher aid. Remind students that, “*God created us to worship him. That is God’s PURPOSE.*”



PREPARATION: 30 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- ½ tablespoon yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- ¾ cup warm water
- ½ tablespoon salt
- ½ tablespoon sugar
- 2 cups flour
- pastry brush
- cookie sheet
- small paper plates
- napkins
- “Key Word Purpose Statement” teacher aid (Introduction p. 22)



PRAYER ACTIVITY: POINT AND PRAY

Directions

1. Place a world map on the wall at the students' height.
2. Before playing, remind students that God's purpose is to bring all peoples to worship him. Tell them that this map shows where all the peoples of the world live.
3. Blindfold one student and spin them around several times.
4. Guide the student toward the map and have him touch a location on the map.
5. Remove the blindfold and say the name of the country for the students. If the student touches water, select a country close by.
6. As a group, pray for the families in that place to come to know and worship God.
7. Choose another student to blindfold. Continue as long as time allows.



PREPARATION: 5 min.

TEACHING: 10 min.

Materials

- blindfold
- large world map
- tape or sticky tack