



3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

February 1-2, 2014

DATE

God's Story

LESSON TITLE

The Bible (the whole story)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God Loves Us and Wants Us to Be Part of His Story

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (15 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

**Small Group (15 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

There will probably be quite a few new kids today. Welcome them by name to make them feel known. Then give them a "tour" of the room and introduce them to other kids if they don't seem to know anybody.

## check-in/out

**As kids leave, give them a God's Story video poster.** Encourage them to use it to retell the story at home!

## large group heads up

Kids are learning God's whole story today. That's right, they're getting an overview of the beginning of Creation through Re-creation. But what we really want kids to know is that God's story shows us his unconditional love for us.



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### IMAGINE LOVE

- Have kids gather around one (or two for bigger groups) **whiteboard(s)**
- Kids should write the name of one person they love (can include pets if kids are struggling)
  - **Discuss:** Tell us about a time you showed love to one of those people. What does it feel like to love others? *\*\*If you have a big group group, ask a discussion question, then let them share in pairs instead of to the entire group.*
- Erase the whiteboards.
- Now pretend that person/pet moved far away and you couldn't see or talk to them anymore. What would you be willing to do or give up to get them back?
  - (Have kids write answers on the whiteboards. Give them light-hearted ideas like: never eat another cookie, give up my TV, walk across the country on the your tip-toes through a blizzard to find them, sing the National Anthem as loud as I could in the middle of class, walk backwards for a day, etc. Make it goofy and fun!)

**Before you go to Large Group, ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) retell God's story and (2) understand that God loves them and wants them to be a part of it!

**Why?** If kids can retell a story (even a summary of a very large story), it means they understand it. We hope that if kids understand it, they'll want to be a part of it by following Jesus!

**Tip:** Turn both activities into a game to keep kids engaged!

## small group

### DEBRIEF

1. Did anybody hear God tell you something about his love? (If so, ask: What are you going to do about it?)

### REVIEW ACTIVITY: STORY CARDS

- Give each kid 1-2 **story cards** from the small group pack (mix them up first; make sure all 24 are distributed)
- First, just put them in order as a team (you can use the poster as a **key**, but don't show kids!)
- *For an added challenge, time them.*
- Then retell the story. Each person is responsible to retell the portion on his/her card.

### DIG DEEPER

- How can we be part of God's story?
- Where would we be in this story? (refer to space between Bible's end and re-creation on the story card layout)
- Do you have any questions about how to be part of God's story?
- What does it mean when I say God loves you *unconditionally*? How is that different from the way we show love? (refer to things kids shared during Connect Time)

**\*Pray with the kids, thanking God that we can be part of his story.**

**COLLECT ALL 24 STORYTELLING CARDS TO BE REUSED AT THE NEXT SERVICE**

### APPLY

- Tear **paper** into slips and give one to each kid.



(Continue on the following page)

- Everybody think of one thing we can do when we're part of this story. (Give hints about specific ways to follow Jesus: obeying, praying, sharing, making friends with somebody lonely, telling others about God's unconditional love, etc.)
- Kids should **write** it on a slip of paper.
- Split kids into two teams.
- Using the **whiteboard**, play Pictionary:
  - The "artist" chooses a slip of paper
  - They try to draw what's on the paper while their team guesses
  - Each team has 60 seconds to guess. Whether they get a point (guess correctly) or not, gameplay moves to the next team after 60 seconds.

*Extra Time? Gather the kids together and watch today's videos again. Or collect all the cards, mix them up, and redistribute: kids have to find others with the pieces they need to build their puzzle.*



## special notes

As you refer to God's Story and talk about the beginning and the Fall, assume that some kids have never even heard of it!

## presenter tips

Use the first video to calm the room down and set the stage for you to describe the seriousness of the Fall in hushed, low tones. Then ramp up the audience with the second video and loud, excited celebration of God's love for us!

## script

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here today. As you guys probably figured out, it's a pretty big day here at Crossroads. Does anybody know why? (Let kids respond.) That's right: It's Super Bowl Weekend!

So for Super Bowl Weekend, we started by talking about the people we love. Then we pretended they moved far, far away. Maybe you said we'd be willing to clean the entire house or stop playing Minecraft for a whole week if it meant they'd move back!

### **GOD LOVES US**

We're talking about that because God loves US so much! If somebody asked him to write down the name of a person he loved, he'd write down *yours*.

To think about his love for us, we're going to watch a video that compares the way God created the world to the way somebody bakes a cake—with a lot of love and care. As you watch, pretend you are the cake, being lovingly crafted and made perfectly by God.

### **Video: Context: The Haven**

Wow, that's amazing. And did anybody like hearing how God created the world precisely, with no mistakes, with attention to detail? Did anybody have a favorite part of that video? (Let kids share. They may say: no mistakes, beautiful, with a plan, imaginative, paying attention to big and small parts, made everything just right, delighted in it, one-of-a-kind, special, lovely, made with love. *Summarize what they miss.*).

### **WE GOT SEPARATED FROM GOD (Change to a serious tone for this section)**

Sounds like a world created that carefully should be perfect, right? Well, it used to be. But God has an enemy who doesn't want us to feel loved by God. He wants us to be sad and sick and mean and feel like nobody likes us. He wants us to do wrong things and turn away from God.



## script continued

*Unfortunately*, God's enemy the devil convinced the first two people, named Adam and Eve, to disobey God. When they chose to disobey, all the wrong things in the world began and those wrong things separated us from God. But the good news is, God loves us WAY too much to leave us that way. He had a plan to rescue us—and *he would do ANYTHING, even send his own son to die...just to be close to us!*

### **GOD GOT US BACK! (Build excitement through your tone and enthusiasm)**

**(Hold up the Bible.)** The Bible tells us about God's rescue plan. And the really cool part is, it ALSO tells us the end of the story, which hasn't happened yet, because God's story is going on *right now!* Let's watch a video about God's story and his rescue plan to get us back. As we watch, see if you can figure out how you can be a part of God's Story right now.

### **Video: God's Story: God's Story**

What an amazing rescue! God certainly loves us, doesn't he? And did anybody figure out how we can be part of God's story right now? (Let kids respond.) YES, by following Jesus. Everybody who follows Jesus is a part of God's family. And we can serve God and show others how to serve him too. And we can be close to him again!

### **GOD LOVES US UNCONDITIONALLY**

You know what else is great? God wants every single one of us to be part of his family. And his love is *unconditional*. That's a BIG word, so let's figure out what it means by playing a game.

This game is called: "Will God Still Love Me If..." I'm going to say an action and you pretend you did it. If God still loves you afterward, put your thumbs up. If God won't still love you afterward, put your thumbs down.

Alright, first one. Ready?

- Will God still love me if...I pray?
- Will God still love me if...I tell a lie?
- Will God still love me if...I'm sad?
- Will God still love me if...I give my money to those who need it?
- Will God still love me if...I say a bad word?

Some of you might have figured out by now that this is a trick game: there is NOTHING we can do to make God stop loving us! That's what unconditional love means: God loves us, no matter what. Of course, he wants us to say sorry when we mess up and turn back to him and follow him instead of disobeying him. But he's always, ALWAYS going to love us and forgive us.

### **GOD CALLS US HIS FAMILY**

It's hard to even imagine that kind of love, isn't it? There's nobody on earth who will ever love us like that. God sent his own perfect son—who never messed up—to rescue US, even though we do wrong things that hurt him all the time! He wanted US to be able to be part of his family too.



## script continued

In the Bible, 1 John 3:1 tells us this:

**SLIDE: 1 John 3:1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!**

Isn't that amazing? God loves us so much that he rescued us and now we can be part of his family—and part of his story by following him and showing others how to follow him too!

### **PRAY**

Let's pray together and ask God to help us understand how much he loves us. He might put a thought in your head or give you a picture of something. Maybe you just hear the words "I love you." If you don't hear or see anything, that's OK too. God still loves you! But it's always good to sit quietly and see if he has something he wants to say to us.

Pray: God, will you tell us how much you love us today? (Pause for a minute. Then close with prayer.)

### **WORSHIP**

When we realize how much God loves us, it makes us want to love him back. One way we can show God how much we adore him is by singing to him. So let's sing a song about his love!

**Song: Jesus Loves Me (with hand motions)**

Dismiss kids back to small groups.

**\*Extra song in case you have extra time: Wake**





**script continued**

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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

- 1-2 whiteboards per group (depending on group size/whiteboard size)
- Dry erase markers
- 1 dry erase or paper towel per group

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## small group supplies

- Bible
- Markers
- 1 piece of paper
- At least one whiteboard per group (2 if they are small)
- Dry erase markers, erasers
- 1 pack of 24 storytelling cards per small group
- 1 God's Story poster per small group (use as example and key)
- 1 God's Story poster per kid (can be handed out at the door at checkout)

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## large group supplies

- A Bible

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## a/v needs

1. Video: Context / Haven
2. Video: God's Story / God's Story
3. SLIDE: I John 3:1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
4. Song: Jesus Loves Me (hand motions)
5. Music Video: Wake:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=io2WOQ-3aVs>

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## connect questions

- Tell me about God's story.
- How can we be part of God's story?

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## parent page

We talked about how Bible is God's story. It lays out His rescue plan and shows us how deeply he loves us (I John 3:1). The best part is, God's story isn't over, which means we can be a part of it! You can watch today's video at [CrossroadsKidsClub.net](http://CrossroadsKidsClub.net) by searching for "God's Story: God's Story."