

PARENT GUIDE

A JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY OF REDEMPTION

This Parent Guide contains a modified version of the teacher's "At a Glance" page and "Resource" page for each lesson in the unit. The purpose of the Parent Guide is to equip you with the scriptures, key points, and other elements of the lessons so that you can have intentional discipleship conversations with your kids. The material is taken primarily from the Elementary lessons, but the Toddler and PK lessons follow the same sequence at an age-appropriate depth, so the guide should be helpful for T/PK parents as well.

LESSON 1 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: The King

Arrives. Lays Down His life. Takes His Throne. Fulfills His Promise. Unites His Kingdom. Makes All Things New.

April 14, 2024

Objective

Teach the kids that God had a purpose in Jesus' earthly *life* as well as His death. The perfect life He lived, He lived on behalf of all who would trust in Him. In this lesson, the King arrives to live righteously as a man so that He can give that righteousness to all who call on Him.

Scriptures

Teach from: John 1:1-18, Galatians 4:4-7 and Philippians 2:5-8.

Lesson Key Verse: John 1:14

Unit Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15

Context (HIStory)

Our main text (John 1), as it pertains to the birth of Christ, takes place after Abraham, the Kings, and the Prophets, but before the establishment of the church.

GOD

Attribute (God)

Use Hebrews 13:8 to show that God is unchanging. Jesus has always existed as God. He took on a human nature for us, but He did not change. He remained fully God.

Application

Our response to today's lesson should be to trust in the work that Jesus has done for us. We are all tempted to try and rely on our own righteousness, or good behavior, to make ourselves acceptable to God. Have you ever found yourself doubting God's love for you when you mess up but not when you're doing things right? That means you're basing His love and acceptance of you on your own righteousness instead of Jesus' righteousness. Trust in His righteousness. When you do, you actually have more power to obey Him.

Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: Why did Jesus (God the Son) take on flesh?

Answer: Jesus took on flesh to live a perfect life in our place and to die a sinner's death in our place.

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

- 1. God is unchanging.
- 2. Jesus lived a perfect life for us.
- 3. Jesus is fully God and fully man.



Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use Romans 5:19 to show that just as we are all born sinful because we are in Adam (his descendants with his sinful nature), so we who trust in Jesus are reborn righteous because we are in Christ.



Catechism (Foundation)

* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be

Q: How can we be made right with God? A: I can be made right with God through trusting in Jesus and receiving His righteousness.

Unit Memory Verse

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - The King Arrives Season 1. Unit 3. Lesson 1. April 14, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

MILLION DOLLAR WORDS

Sometimes, theological terms can be intimidating. For instance, "Hypostatic Union" sounds like something out of a medical school textbook. Oftentimes, though, we already know the concept; we just don't know the term for it. Two important terms that would relate to ideas in today's lesson are "Hypostatic Union" and "Incarnation." Here is a brief definition of both. You don't need to teach the kids these terms; this is just to give you some deeper insight into today's lesson.

Hypostatic Union - "Jesus has two complete natures: one fully human and one fully divine. What the doctrine of the hypostatic union teaches is that these two natures are united in one person in the God-man. Jesus is not two persons. He is one person. The hypostatic union is the joining (mysterious though it be) of the divine and the human in the one person of Jesus."

Source: https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-the-hypostatic-union

Incarnation - This simply means "the taking on of flesh." In Christian theology, it refers to the eternal Son, the second person of the Trinity, taking on flesh and becoming a man. (See John 1:1-2, 14)



Tough Questions

HOW CAN GOD BECOME A MAN?

SIMPLE ANSWER: If God exists, and He does, then nothing is too hard for Him. If nothing is too hard for Him, then stepping into His creation and taking on a human nature is not too hard for Him.

IF GOD BECAME A MAN, THEN DOESN'T THAT MEAN HE CHANGED?

When we say that God is unchanging, we mean something very specific. The Westminster Shorter Catechism says, "God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his **being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.**"

The statement, "God is unchanging," is meant to communicate something about the nature and character of God. He cannot be good today and evil tomorrow. He cannot be trustworthy today and a liar tomorrow. God taking on flesh in the person of Jesus the Son does not create a change in God since He remained just as perfectly God as He had always been. He did something that He had not done before, but He did not cease to be Himself in doing so.



Worldview Issues

This lesson can directly or indirectly prepare kids to think about issues such as:

Depravity - Man's fallen condition.

Grace - Our need for God to save us freely by His own goodness.

LESSON 2 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: The King

Arrives. Lays Down His life. Takes His Throne. Fulfills His Promise. Unites His Kingdom. Makes All Things New. April 21, 2024

Objective

Many kids are familiar with the idea of "Jesus dying for our sins" but not all understand what that really means. Teach the kids that Jesus, the King, came to offer Himself as a substitute in the place of sinners, why that had to happen, and what that does for all who believe in Him.

Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: Why did the King die in our place? Answer: The King died in our place to take the punishment that we deserve so that we could be forgiven.

Scriptures

Teach from: John 18:28-19:30, 2 Corinthians

5:21, Romans 3:26

Lesson Key Verse: John 12:27 Unit Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

- The King died in our place.
- 2. God is just.
- 3. Jesus trades our sin for His righteousness.



Context (HIStory)

Our main text (John 18:28-19:30) takes place during the time of Jesus' earthly ministry and before the establishment of the church.



Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use 2 Corinthians 5:21 to emphasize "The Great Exchange." When we trust in Jesus, He exchanges our sin for His righteousness.



Attribute (God)

God is just. Use Romans 3:26 to explain that because God is just, sin must be punished, and because sin must be punished, Jesus had to die in our place for us to be forgiven.



Catechism (Foundation)

- * For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be
- Q. How is Christ a priest?

A. Christ died for my sins and continues to pray for me.

Application

For those who have trusted in Jesus, we should be thankful that we don't have to ever fear God's punishment again. We can be certain that our punishment has already taken place in the person of Jesus. For those who have not trusted in Jesus, the Bible commands them to repent and believe the Good News!

Unit Memory Verse

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - The King Lays Down His Life Season 1. Unit 3. Lesson 2. April 21, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

ATONEMENT:

It's not uncommon to think of Jesus' death as some general appearsement of God's wrath to open up a pathway to be forgiven, as if Jesus just kind of smoothed things over between God and the world. But that is not the picture that the Bible gives us of the atonement. Christ's sinless life and His substitutionary death were much more powerful than that. If we are counted righteous, it is because He earned that righteousness in our place. If our sins are forgiven, it is because Christ took the legal punishment for those sins. He died for sin, but not in some abstract, general way. There was a list of your sins and my sins in the courtroom of God, and Christ took that list to the cross with Him. This is cause for joyful worship. The record against us was not just canceled; it was paid in full.

SEE Colossians 2:13-14

Tough Questions

WHY WOULD A LOVING GOD SENTENCE HIS OWN SON TO DEATH?

It's perfectly natural to ask this question. However, in an attempt to discredit Christianity, some skeptics have crudely called the crucifixion "Cosmic child abuse."



The charge that they are laying against God is that He wrongfully murdered His own Son, which they say is evil even if it is for the sake of others.

One thing that they miss is that God did not wrongfully murder anyone. Yes, Jesus was bearing the wrath of God in our place on the cross. And yes, this was the plan all along. But Jesus voluntarily laid down His life for us. In the Trinity, the Father, Son, and Spirit act in complete agreement.

Worldview Issues

This lesson can directly or indirectly prepare kids to think about issues such as:

Justice/Judgment - God will exercise judgment and punish all sin for those apart from Christ. **Grace -** Our need for God to save us freely by His own goodness.

LESSON 3 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: The King

Arrives. Lays Down His life. Takes His Throne. Fulfills His Promise. Unites His Kingdom. Makes All Things New.

April 28, 2024

Objective

Teach the kids that the resurrection of Jesus is about more than Him simply rising from the dead. He rose *and* ascended to His throne. The King defeated sin and death and is now ruling from Heaven.

Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: Where is Jesus now, and what is He doing?

Answer: Jesus is on His throne at the right hand of the Father, ruling and reigning.

Scriptures

Teach from: Matthew 28:1-10, Acts 1:1-11, John 14:19, & Romans 14:11

Lesson Key Verse: Hebrews 1:3 Unit Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

- 1. Jesus is on the throne.
- 2. God is sovereign.
- 3. Eternal life is in Him, and He will give it to all who trust in Him.



Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Matthew 28:1-10) takes place after the resurrection of Jesus and before the Great Commission begins.



Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use John 14:19 to share the Gospel with the kids emphasizing "Christ." Eternal life is in the King and He gives it to all who trust in Him.



Attribute (God)

God is sovereign. Use Romans 14:11 to show that God is the rightful ruler of all things.



Catechism (Foundation)

- * For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.
- Q. How is Christ exalted?
- A. Christ is exalted in rising from the dead and ascending to Heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father.

Application

Remember our lesson about Moses? We learned that when God's people were enslaved in Egypt, it looked like the promise was threatened. How could God do all those things He said He'd do for Abraham if His people were slaves? The people felt the same way after Jesus' death. But like He always does, God came through and showed that His plans are bigger than we can imagine. We can trust God even when it looks impossible.

Unit Memory Verse

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - The King Takes His Throne Season 1. Unit 3. Lesson 3. April 28, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

TYING IT ALL TOGETHER.

As we get close to wrapping up this season in our curriculum, be intentional about tying everything together. Ask review questions from random lessons to reveal the consistent thread all through scripture. Some good examples might be:

How is Jesus better than all of the Kings that came before Him? (He rules perfectly. He is always just. He protects His people. He keeps His people from following false gods.) He came from Abraham's family, but who else's family did He come from, which qualifies Him to be a King? (David) God promised that one of David's descendants would sit on the throne forever. How does today's lesson fulfill that promise? (Jesus will live and rule forever, and He is from David's family line.)

Tough Questions

IF GOD IS SOVEREIGN AND JESUS IS ON THE THRONE, WHY DO SO MANY BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

This is one of the most common objections to Christianity. Theologians and apologists throughout the centuries have taken many different approaches to this question, but I find the most straightforward answer to be the most consistent with scripture: because God has a good purpose even for the evil in the world.

We might not always see what that purpose is, but we can trust that He always has one (Eph. 1:11b) and that it is for our good in Christ (Rom. 8:28). Often, this answer leaves us wanting more, and thankfully the Bible gives us more. The Bible actually provides us with numerous examples of how God's good purpose is worked out even in the evil actions of people. Three of those examples are:

Evil event/Tragedy	God's good purpose fulfilled in it
Joseph is sold into slavery and imprisoned. (Gen. 37-50)	Joseph's family is kept alive in a famine. The bloodline of Abraham and the coming Savior is preserved. (Gen. 50:19-21)
Stephen is martyred. (Acts 7)	The Great Commission begins; the believers hadn't yet taken the Gospel out of Jerusalem like they should have. (Acts 8:1-8)
Jesus is crucified. (John 19)	God provides the salvation of all who trust in Him. (Rom. 5:10)

Worldview Issues

This lesson can directly or indirectly prepare kids to think about issues such as:

Theodicy (The defense of God in light of the evil in the world) - God made the world good, and He will make it good again.

Naturalism - The assumption that for something to be true, it must adhere to the normal everyday limitations of nature is not a valid assumption. God rules over nature and is therefore not bound to the Laws of Nature. They are His laws!

LESSON 4 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: The King

Arrives. Lays Down His life. Takes His Throne. Fulfills His Promise. Unites His Kingdom. Makes All Things New.

May 5, 2024

Objective

Teach the kids the connection between the spreading of the Gospel and the fulfillment of God's promises throughout the ages, especially His promises to Abraham.

Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: How does the spreading of the Gospel help fulfill God's promise to Abraham?

Answer: Because every time someone hears the Gospel and trusts in Jesus, they become part of Abraham's family.

Scriptures

Teach from: Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 8:26-40, Genesis 22:17-18, & Galatians 3:7-9 Lesson Key Verse: Galatians 3:29 Unit Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

- 1. We get to be a part of how God fulfills His promises.
- 2. God is faithful.
- 3. The Gospel is the message of what God has done for us in Christ.



Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Acts 8:26-40) takes place after Jesus ascended to Heaven. This passage describes things that happened many years ago, but we are still in this period of His Story.



Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use Matthew 28:18-20 and Galatians 3:29 to share the Gospel with the kids, explaining that God makes us right with Him through faith in His Word just like Abraham. In this way, we are counted as children of Abraham.



Attribute (God)

God is faithful. He can be trusted to do all that He says He will do. Use Genesis 22:17-18 to remind the kids of God's promises to Abraham and how we are part of that fulfillment.



Catechism (Foundation)

- * For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.
- Q. What is the Gospel?
- A. The Gospel is the message of what God has done for us in Christ. It is the story of the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.

Application

Knowing that God uses us to fulfill His promises, we should be excited to obey Him. Every time we share the Gospel with someone, we are entering into God's work of faithfulness with Him.

Unit Memory Verse

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - The King Fulfills His Promise Season 1. Unit 3. Lesson 4. May 5, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

ONE STORY - HIS STORY

Walk the kids through some of the high points of the HIStory season and remind them that we have been looking for and finding Jesus in every lesson. Some examples:

Creation - Created through Jesus.

Fall - He is the one who will crush the serpent's head.

Flood - The Ark and the salvation it provided were a picture of Jesus.

Abraham - The promise is ultimately about Jesus.

Egypt - Just as God used Moses to deliver His people from slavery in Egypt, so He uses Jesus to deliver us from our salvery to sin.

Kings - All of the Kings pointed to the perfect King, Jesus.

Tough Questions

WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE WHO NEVER HEAR THE GOSPEL?

It's important to note that while all who die apart from Christ will be punished for their sins, they are not being punished *for* being apart from Christ. They will be punished *for* their sins. We are all born sinners, and we all also choose to sin willingly. No one is innocent before God. We all deserve God's just judgment. Romans 1 makes it clear that we all know that God exists, and instead of giving Him thanks and honoring Him, we push that knowledge away in our unrighteousness.

If I were a criminal and the law says that I have to suffer a certain penalty, then it is fair for me to suffer that penalty. If a way existed to gain my freedom, but I never heard about it, it's still fair that I suffer my penalty. It would have been better if I had heard about it, but it's not unfair because I'm receiving the penalty for what I did, not for what I did or did not hear.

However, we don't want anyone to go to their judgment before God, not knowing that there is a way to be set free. That's why we MUST share the Good News. That's why we must go to hard, faraway places where the Gospel hasn't reached yet.

T.

Worldview Issues

This lesson can directly or indirectly prepare kids to think about issues such as:

Justice/Judgment - God will exercise judgment and punish all sin for those apart from Christ. **Grace -** Our need for God to save us freely by His own goodness.

LESSON 5 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: The King

Arrives. Lays Down His life. Takes His Throne. Fulfills His Promise. **Unites His Kingdom.** Makes All Things New. May 12, 2024

Objective

Big Question

Teach the kids that the church (all those who have trusted in the King) is God's one Kingdom on the earth.

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: How do we become part of God's Kingdom?

Answer: When we trust in Jesus, we become part of God's Kingdom.

Scriptures

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Teach from: 1 Corinthians 12:12-21, Ephesians

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

4:16, & Acts 2:41-47

1. God's people are the church.

Lesson Key Verse: Ephesians 2:19 Unit Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15

- 2. Jesus reconciles us to God and each other.
- 3. When we trust in Jesus, we become part of God's Kingdom.



Context (HIStory)

To a

Gospel Connection (Good News)

Our main text (1 Corinthians 12:12-21) takes place after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to His throne.

Use Ephesians 2:19 to share the Gospel with the kids focusing on what God does for us when we trust in Christ. He adopts us into His family, makes us members of His body, the church, and makes us citizens of His Kingdom.



Attribute (God)



God is our Reconciler. Use Colossians 1:13 to teach the kids that God is the one who brings us to Himself, saves us, and transfers us into His Son's Kingdom.

- * For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.
- O. What is the church?
- A. The church is the body of Christ, made up of all believers at all times in all places.

Application

Unit Memory Verse

Jesus is not just saving people; He is saving a people. He saves us to unite us to Himself and to His body, the church. This is why it is so important for us to meet together on Sundays and throughout the week. We are not meant to do this alone. We are meant to follow Jesus with the rest of the family of God.

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - The King Unites His Kingdom Season 1. Unit 3. Lesson 5. May 12, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

WRAPPING UP THE SEASON

We've have one more lesson in the HIStory season. As in the prior two lessons, spend some time tying everything together. The idea of Jesus reconciling us to God and each other can be linked back to several other lessons. Some examples:

Separation from God in the garden.

(The Gospel reunites us to God.)

Joseph and his brothers' relationship was broken.

(Joseph was a picture of Jesus, reuniting Himself to them in his forgiveness.)

Israel was cut off from the nations surrounding them.

(The Israelites were not united to the nations surrounding them but the Gospel unites every tribe, tongue, and people.)

The Kingdom was divided after Solomon's death.

(The earthly kings were never able to bring God's people back together, but Jesus did.)

The Jews and the Gentiles hated each other during Jesus' ministry.

(There was a hostility between these two groups that was resolved by the Gospel.)

God is in the process of making all things new. That process started when Jesus rose from the dead and will finish when He returns. Uniting us to one another now is part of that process.

Tough Questions

IF JESUS UNITES US, THEN WHY ARE THERE SO MANY DIFFERENT CHURCHES/BELIEFS WITHIN CHRISTIANITY?

Jesus' work is perfect, but He chooses to accomplish it through imperfect people. Just like He gives us new hearts and teaches us to obey Him, but we still mess that up pretty often, so we can mess up our unity in the Gospel. God is building and uniting His Kingdom, but it won't be perfectly united until we are made perfect. And we won't be made perfect until He returns. Of course, He could just snap His fingers and make us perfect right now, but that is not how He's chosen to do things. For now, He is shaping us, molding us, and changing us, and one of the ways He does that is through our learning how to deal with the imperfections in ourselves and in one another.

Worldview Issues

This lesson can directly or indirectly prepare kids to think about issues such as:

Exclusivity of Christ - Jesus is not just one way for the world to be reconciled to God and each other. He is the only way.

Image of God - All people are made in the image of God and are worthy of dignity and respect.

LESSON 6 AT A GLANCE

In This Unit: The King

Arrives. Lays Down His life. Takes His Throne. Fulfills His Promise. Unites His Kingdom. Makes All Things New.

May 19, 2024

Objective

Teach the kids that all of HIStory leads up to this one point in time - the point when the King returns to finish making all things new. Our hope is not just that we get to go to Heaven when we die but that the King will come back to fix everything one day.

Big Question

Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.

Question: What is our blessed hope?

Answer: That Jesus is returning to make all things new.

Scriptures

Teach from: Revelation 21-22, 2 Peter 3:13, Titus 2:13 Lesson Key Verse: Revelation 21:5a Unit Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15

Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.

- 1. He is making all things new.
- 2. God is the Creator.
- 3. If we trust in Jesus, we will be with Him forever.



Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Revelation 21) describes a time in the future. The same future event, the return of Christ, that the Biblical writers looked forward to is the event we look forward to.



Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use 2 Peter 3:13 to share the Gospel. Emphasize the fact that the Gospel doesn't end with "getting to go to Heaven when we die" but with the King returning to make everything right.



Attribute (God)

God is the Creator. Use Revelation 21:5a to show that God, who was the Creator in Genesis 1:1 in the beginning, will be the Creator in Revelation 21 in the end and new beginning.



Catechism (Foundation)

- * For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.
- Q: What will the new heavens and earth be like?

 A: A glorious and happy place, where the saved will be with Jesus forever.

Application

For 2000 years, believers have lived their lives knowing that Jesus could return at any moment. Even though all that time has passed, He still expects us to live the same way. When we do, it causes us to live for the things that really matter.

Unit Memory Verse

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - The King Makes All Things New Season 1. Unit 3. Lesson 6. May 19, 2024

Extra Teaching Tip

YOU'VE COMPLETED SEASON ONE!

That's a wrap! Season 1 is complete. Spend some time taking the kids through an overview of the HIStory. There will be plenty of details that will have been forgotten, but we'll count it a win if they finish the season with a firm understanding that 1) All of the Bible, from beginning to end, points to Jesus and 2) The Bible is not a book of separate disconnected stories; it's one big story - HIStory!

UNIT 1 - Creation, Fall, Flood, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph.

UNIT 2 - Exodus, Wilderness, Judges, David, Kings, Prophets.

Tough Questions

IF JESUS PROMISED TO COME BACK, THEN WHY HAS IT BEEN SO LONG?

This one is really easy. It's easy because the Bible actually anticipates this question and gives us an answer.

2 Peter 3:4-10 says,

"They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, 6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. 7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed."

From this passage, we see that Christ has not come back yet because God is patient. He is saving all that He will save before He returns, and that just because something seems like a long time for us, that doesn't mean its a long time for Him.

Worldview Issues

This lesson can directly or indirectly prepare kids to think about issues such as:

Justice/Judgment - God will exercise judgment and punish all sin for those apart from Christ. **Theodicy** (The defense of God in light of the evil in the world) - God made the world good, and He will make it good again.



