

BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of September 17, 2017

Timeless Truth: Humans are God's crowning creation and He desires a relationship with each one of us.

Bible Basis: Genesis 1-4, 6-9-9:17

The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:

Chapter 1 – The Beginning of Life as We Know It

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



TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

- If you could live one full day as any animal, what animal would you choose? What would be some of the fun, interesting, or challenging things about living as that animal?
- What is your favorite part of God's creation? Why do you think you are drawn to that particular part?
- Read the story of creation in the Bible (Genesis 1). How does God feel about his creation?
- How does God feel about you?
- What are some things that are special and unique about you?
- We make choices every day. Some choices are good and some are not good. We miss out on God's best when we choose to disobey him. Why do you think we sometimes struggle to make good choices?
- Is there a special place in creation where you feel particularly close to God? What makes that space special to you? What can you do to help you feel close to God every day?

EXTRA MILE

As a family, visit a local self-serve frozen yogurt shop (ie: Yogi Topi) OR set up an ice cream sundae bar at home with lots of topping choices. (NOTE: This activity can be used with any "build your own" food. Baked potatoes, pizza toppings, sandwiches, salads...use your imagination!)

Once each family member has created their delicious dessert, invite each person to name their creation and share the following:

- What ingredients did you use to make your creation?
- Why did you choose those ingredients?
- Was there a specific method you used in building your creation? (ie: oreo on the bottom, then yogurt, then syrup, then more yogurt, etc.) If so, explain.
- What do you think about your creation?

Once everyone has had a chance to share, use these same questions to discuss the WHO, WHAT, and WHY of God's creation story.

PRAYER TIME

Dear God, Thank you for making me and all of creation. Help us to put you first in all we do. Remind us that we have been created in your image, that you love us and want nothing more than to be in relationship with us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

DAY 1

Reading: The Story of Creation, pg 1 – 1st break on pg 5 (blue-pgs 9-12)(6 mins)

This reading covers: Genesis 1-2

Summary: God shows how wonderful He is when we look at everything He created.

Do together: Give each person a blank piece of paper and crayons, markers, and anything else you'd like to create with. Ask everyone to create something new, a new plant, animal, fish, bird, person, recipe, vehicle; be as creative as you'd like. Take a moment to look at each other's creations and allow the artist to describe the creation.

Think about: God expresses his beauty through His creation, especially you! You were made one-of-a-kind exactly the way He wants you to be.

Prayer: Father, Thank you for creating me exactly the way you want me to be. Thank you for my family and how you have made us different, but brought us together. Help us to be grateful for our differences and to love each other always. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 2

Reading: The Fall, 2nd paragraph on pg 5 - break in middle of pg 8 (blue- pg 13- break in middle of pg 17) (5 mins)

This reading covers: Genesis 2-3

Summary: We miss out on God's best when we choose to disobey him.

Do together: Play Simon Says. Take turns being Simon. How much fun is it when you are called out because "Simon didn't say?"

Think about: We all have people we obey. Mom and Dad obey their bosses and the government. Children are to obey their parents. We are all to obey God. And when we choose not to obey there are consequences (like sitting out during Simon Says).

Prayer: Father, I know that your way is the best way for me to live. Help me to follow you and obey you. Also, help us to obey others that you have put in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 3

Reading: The Flood – Break in middle of pg 8 - end (blue- break in middle of pg 17-end)(6 mins)

This reading covers: Genesis 6-9

Summary: God chooses to start over again with a man named Noah.

Do together: Take a moment to brainstorm how you can be kind to each other and others today. Maybe read a book to or play a game with a sibling, do an extra chore, bring in an older neighbors trash cans.

Think about: Genesis 6:8 says, "Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord." What would it look like if you lived in a way where you found favor in the eyes of the Lord? How would it look for you to live in a way that puts a smile on God's face?

Prayer: Father, help me to live in such a way that I put a smile on your face. Help me to show love and kindness to my family and my neighbor. In Jesus' name, Amen.