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Parent Guides

Entire Series



In the Beginning

Creation of the world

Genesis 1:1 - 2:4



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ Who created the heavens and the earth, and everything in them? (God)
- ★ What is the most special thing that God created? (man and woman)
- ★ What did God say when He looked at everything He had made? ("It's very good!")

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

God is creative! He made everything and everyone carefully and uniquely. In fact, people have been created in His image. What a great purpose each one of us has here!



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

The Bible is God's message to us. It is made up of many different stories that all work together to tell one big story, God's Big Story. In the Bible, we learn that God created people to have a relationship with Him from the very beginning.



Memory Verse:

Then God (point both hands up)
looked over (place hand over your brow and look around)
all He had made (pretend to form a ball with your hands),
and He saw that it was very good (draw a smile across your face)!

Genesis 1:31a (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for creating everything, including each of us, carefully and with a purpose. Help me to grow in my purpose to know and love You.
Amen.



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The First Sin

The Fall

Genesis 3:1 - 24



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Who made the beautiful garden where Adam and Eve lived?** (God)
- ★ **How did Adam and Eve feel after they ate fruit from the forbidden tree?** (They felt shame. They hid and said they were naked.)
- ★ **How did God punish Adam and Eve?** (God told Adam that growing food would be difficult. He told Eve that having children would be painful.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they disobeyed God. Sin is anything we say, think or do that displeases or disobeys God. God created rules to help protect us. One of the most important ways we can show God that we trust Him is by choosing to learn and follow His rules.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God created rules to help keep us safe. But the first man and woman didn't follow God's rules. They disobeyed God and this created a separation between God and people. But even after they sinned, God still loved Adam and Eve. He showed this by making clothes for them.



Memory Verse:

So the LORD God *(point both hands up)*
banished them from the Garden of Eden *(cross arms at wrists with closed fists)*,
and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground *(hit fist twice on palm)*
from which he had been made *(pretend to form a ball with your hands)*.
Genesis 3:23 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for creating rules to help keep me safe. Help me stay strong against the temptation to sin. Instead, may I always choose to obey You.
Amen.



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Two by Two

Noah and the flood

Genesis 6:5-9:17



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Why did God decide to send a flood?** (to wash away everyone on earth, because people were sinning so much)
- ★ **How was Noah different than everyone else?** (Noah loved and obeyed God.)
- ★ **What did Noah take on the boat with him?** (male and female animals, and his family)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

God provided a way to keep Noah, his family and the animals safe during the flood. He gave Noah instructions to follow. Noah followed God's instructions and was kept safe during the flood. God loves us and provides ways to keep us safe, too.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God gave Noah faith to love and obey Him. He made a way to protect Noah from the flood. We all sin and deserve punishment. But God protects those who trust and obey Him today through faith in Jesus.



Memory Verse:

But Noah (hand to chin as if stroking a beard)
found favor (raise praying hands over head)
with the Lord (point up).

Genesis 6:8 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
How great is Your love! You provided safety to Noah during the flood. And You provide safety for Your followers today, too. Help me to remember that I can always rest safely in You. Amen.



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God's Amazing Promise

Abraham is called by God

Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-7



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did God say to Abraham when he said his wife, Sarah, was too old to have children?** (“Trust Me.”)
- ★ **What did Abraham do when God told him to go to another land?** (Abraham trusted God. He went where God told him to go.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Abraham trusted God, even though he didn't know where God was leading him. God was faithful to keep His promises to Abraham. We can trust in God, too. And He will be faithful to keep His promises to us.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Trusting God is the right thing to do, even when it's difficult. Abraham trusted God, and God was faithful to lead him to a new life in Canaan. God provides a way for each of us to have new life, too, when we choose to trust and follow Jesus.



Memory Verse:

“I will make you *(point forward)*
into a great nation *(raise hands slowly from the floor upward).*
I will bless you *(reach arm out with hand facing forward)*
and make you famous *(throw hands up in the air),*
and you will be a blessing to others *(sweeping motion with palms up) ...*
All the families on earth *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
will be blessed *(reach arm out with hand facing forward)* **through you.”**

Genesis 12:2, 3b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
You have a plan for me. Help me to trust You to lead me and to ask for help when I don't know what to do.
Amen.



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Abraham's Big Test

Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-7; 22:1-19



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ How did Abraham feel when God told him to kill Isaac as a sacrifice? (He was confused, but he still trusted God.)
- ★ What did God provide for Abraham to sacrifice instead? (a ram)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Abraham loved his son. So he was confused when God told him to kill Isaac. But Abraham loved and trusted God completely, even in the midst of his confusion. Loving God does not mean things will always make sense and be easy. But trusting God means we can always know He will provide.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, but He provided a ram for Abraham to kill instead. In the same way, God provided the ultimate sacrifice for all of us: His Son, Jesus.



Memory Verse:

And Abram believed the LORD (hand on heart, looking up),
and the LORD counted him as righteous (stand tall with one fist on chest)
because of his faith (bring hands together in heart shape).

Genesis 15:6 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Just like You provided for Abraham and spared Isaac, I know You will do the same for me when I trust You. Help me to remember this even when I am confused and scared.
Amen.



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The Dreamer

Joseph is sold into slavery

Genesis 37; 39:1-6



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Why did Joseph's brothers throw him into a well?** (They were jealous of Joseph. They hated him.)
- ★ **What else did Joseph's brothers do to him?** (They tore off his special coat. They sold him as a slave.)
- ★ **What happened to Joseph in Egypt?** (He was sold to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's captains. Joseph was put in charge of Potiphar's whole household. God blessed Joseph and made him successful.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Joseph's brothers hated him and ultimately sold him into slavery. But even though all these horrible things happened to Joseph, God was always with him. God helped Joseph by blessing him and making him successful.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

We all face hardship, struggles and sadness. But just as He was with Joseph during his hard times, in the same way we can trust that God will be with us.



Memory Verse:

Soon Joseph had another dream (close eyes and lay head on hands), and again he told his brothers about it (move index finger outward from lips).

"Listen (cup hand around your ear),

I have had another dream (close eyes and lay head on hands)," he said.

"The sun, moon, and eleven stars (flicker fingers above your head)

bowed low before me!" (bow down)

Genesis 37:9 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

How wonderful it is to know that You are always with us and watching over us. Help me to trust You when I face struggles.

Amen.



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Dreams Come True

Joseph's rise to power

Genesis 39-45



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What special skill did God give Joseph?** (Joseph was wise and could interpret dreams.)
- ★ **What did Pharaoh do when Joseph correctly interpreted his dreams?** (He put Joseph in charge of storing up all the food.)
- ★ **How did Joseph respond when his brothers were scared of him?** (He said that God used his brothers' harm for good. Joseph shared food with them.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Trusting in and following God does not mean things will always be easy. But no matter how difficult things become, we can know that God sees us and will work everything for good.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God is always in control. No matter our challenges, hardships or circumstances, we can know that God is still at work, sees our suffering and will create good even when we cannot see it.



Memory Verse:

You (point away from yourself)
intended to harm me (point to yourself),
but God (point both hands up)
intended it all for good (thumbs up).
He (point both hands up) **brought me** (point to yourself)
to this position (stomp your foot once)
so I could save the lives of many people (thumbs up).
Genesis 50:20 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
You are powerful, and I am grateful that You are always in control. Help me trust in that truth even when pain and struggle come.
Amen.



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A Baby and a Bush

The birth of Moses and the burning bush

Exodus 1:6-2:15; 3:1-15; 4:1-17



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Why did Moses run away to Midian for forty years?** (He killed an Egyptian.)
- ★ **What did the voice of God say to Moses about His people?** (His people were suffering.)
- ★ **God told Moses that He had chosen him to free His people. What did God say when Moses said he could not do it?** ("I'll help you.")

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Moses was scared to talk to Pharaoh. But God assured Moses that he would not be alone. God would help him. No matter how powerful Pharaoh was, God was greater, and He would use Moses to free His people. God is still greater than all of our worries and fears. And He is still with His people today.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God saw the suffering of His people during the time of Moses and sees our suffering today, too. Just like God sent Moses to free His people from Pharaoh, God sent Jesus to free us from the punishment for sin.



Memory Verse:

"Now go (extend arm, pointing forward)!

I (point up with both hands) **will be with you** (hug your shoulders)

as you speak (cup hands around your mouth),

and I will instruct you (open your hands like a book)

in what to say (move index finger outward from lips)."

Exodus 4:12 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

How grateful I am that You are a God that sees our suffering and cares enough to help us. With You, I am never alone. Help me remember that even when I am scared or afraid, You are with me. Amen.



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Let My People Go

The Plagues and the Passover

Exodus 7:14–12:32



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What happened when Pharaoh did not listen or let the Israelites go free?** (God turned the water to blood, filled houses with frogs, the sky with gnats and the land with flies. Animals died, people became covered with sores, hail crushed crops, locusts ate the remaining food and darkness covered the land.)
- ★ **How did God protect the firstborn sons of His people, the Israelites, from death?** (He commanded them to sacrifice a lamb, eat it and put its blood on their doorposts.)
- ★ **What did Pharaoh do after his son died?** (Pharaoh let the Israelites go.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Pharaoh did not listen, so God punished Pharaoh. Finally Pharaoh let God's people go. In the midst of great suffering, God made a way to protect His people.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Lambs were sacrificed, and their blood protected every Israelite firstborn son from death. The punishment for sin is death and separation from God. But God provided a sacrifice for us, too – His Son, Jesus. Jesus died on a cross to save us from God's punishment for our sins.



Memory Verse:

This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews (point up with both hands), **says:**

Let my people go (cross arms at wrists, then release),

so they can worship me (lift arms up into the air).

Exodus 9:1b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

You were faithful to protect Your people even in the midst of suffering. Help me trust that You will be faithful to do the same for me.

Amen.



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God Makes a Way

The parting of the Red Sea and the 10 Commandments

Exodus 14; 16:11-16; 17:1-7; 19-20; 34:1-9, 29-32



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did God do when Moses raised his staff toward the Red Sea?** (God sent a strong wind and parted the sea!)
- ★ **What did God give Moses on top of Mount Sinai?** (The Ten Commandments on two stone tablets)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

The Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses helped the people know how to love and obey God. God had made a way for the Israelites to safely escape slavery. Then He also made a way for them to know how to worship Him.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Moses climbed Mount Sinai and received instructions on how to love and obey God. Later, God's own Son, Jesus, would also provide more instructions on how to love and obey God. God is good. He always provides us with the guidance we need.



Memory Verse:

But Moses told the people *(cup hands around your mouth),*

"Don't be afraid" *(shake head from side to side).*

Just stand still *(stand up straight and still!)*

and watch the LORD rescue you today *(cross arms at wrists and move upward to release).*

The Egyptians you see today *(place hand over your brow and look around)*

will never be seen again *(cover your eyes with your hands).*

Exodus 14:13 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

You did not just save Your people from Pharaoh. You gave them their life's purpose by teaching them how to love and obey You. Help me to learn about and put these instructions to use in my own life that I might love You more.

Amen.



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Waters Part and Walls Fall

Entering the Promised Land

Numbers 13-14; Joshua 2-3; 5-6



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Rahab do?** (She hid Joshua's spies and helped them escape down the wall.)
- ★ **What did the Lord tell Joshua to do?** ("For six days, march once around Jericho. Then, on day seven, march around seven times. Blow trumpets! Shout!")
- ★ **How did Joshua respond?** (Joshua trusted God and did what He told him to do.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Even though the other spies thought it was impossible, Joshua and Caleb said, "With God's help, we can do it!" Joshua also listened to, trusted and obeyed God, and God's people began to take the Promised Land. Rahab trusted God and was spared.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Joshua led God's people into the Promised Land even when it seemed impossible. Our sin makes new life and a relationship with God impossible. But Jesus, God's Son, made a way for those who choose to follow Him to have brand new life with God.



Memory Verse:

Suddenly, the walls (*hold arms out, bent at elbows*)
of Jericho collapsed (*let arms fall outward*),
and the Israelites charged (*stretch arm forward with fist*)
straight into the town and captured it (*bring arms towards you*).

Joshua 6:20b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for making waters part and walls fall. Thank You also for sending Jesus to create a way for me to have new life with You.
Amen.



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A Hairy Tale

Samson

Judges 13 - 16



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ Who did God choose to set His people free from the Philistines? (Samson)
- ★ What would happen to Samson if his hair was cut? (His strength would go away.)
- ★ What happened when Samson asked God to give him his strength back? (God made him strong one last time.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Samson did not keep his promises to God. But God kept His promise to Samson. Just like Samson did, we can also go to God and ask for help even when we have failed.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God kept His promise to Samson. And we can know that God will keep His promises to us, too. This is because of Jesus, who came to save all who trust in Him.



Memory Verse:

"You will become pregnant and give birth to a son (pretend to rock a baby in your arms), and his hair must never be cut (scissor fingers back and forth).

For he will be dedicated to God (bring hands together with palms up and raise them) as a Nazirite from birth.

He will begin to rescue (cross arms at wrists, then release)

Israel from the Philistines."

Judges 13:5 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
You kept Your promise to Samson, even when he did not deserve it. Thank You for being faithful and keeping Your promises. Help me be strong as I try to keep my promises to You.
Amen.



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Wherever You Go

Ruth

Ruth 1-2, 4:9-17



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Ruth do differently than Orpah?** (Ruth stayed with Naomi. Together, they went back to Israel.)
- ★ **What does a kinsman-redeemer do?** (He cares for his close relatives when someone dies.)
- ★ **Who became Ruth and Naomi's kinsman-redeemer?** (Boaz)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Ruth was selfless. Instead of starting over herself, she chose to travel back to Israel with Naomi. Both Ruth and Naomi were later helped by Boaz. He became Ruth's kinsman-redeemer. Those who trust in God have a kinsman-redeemer, too. Jesus!



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Boaz became a kinsman-redeemer to Ruth by caring for and protecting her. Jesus is the Kinsman-Redeemer for all who choose to believe in and follow Him. Jesus offers protection against the punishment we deserve for our sin and creates a way for us to know and have a relationship with God.



Memory Verse:

"Wherever you (point forward) **live** (bring hands together above your head),
I (point to yourself) **will live** (bring hands together above your head).
Your people (with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)
will be my people (bring palms to your chest),
and your God (point both hands up)
will be my God (point to your heart)."

Ruth 1:16b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for blessing me with Jesus! I know that no matter what happens, I will always have my Kinsman-Redeemer looking out for me.
Amen.



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A Voice in the Night

Samuel is called by God

1 Samuel 1; 2:11; 3



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Who called out to Samuel during the night?** (*The Lord*)
- ★ **What did Eli tell Samuel to say?** (*“Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.”*)
- ★ **What did the Lord tell Samuel to do?** (*The Lord told him to be His prophet and pass on His words faithfully to His people.*)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

Samuel did not know it was the Lord speaking to him at first. But when Eli told him it was the Lord, Samuel was ready to listen and obey. Samuel heard the Lord’s call and obeyed it faithfully for many years, until he was an old man.



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

When Samuel received instructions from God, he chose to obey them. Jesus also did what God, His Father, sent Him to do, even unto death. Today, God’s followers still receive guidance from Him. We can learn how to obey God by reading His Word, the Bible.



Memory Verse:

And the LORD (*point both hands up*)

came and called as before (*cup hands around your mouth*),

“Samuel! Samuel!”

And Samuel replied, “Speak, your servant is listening (*cup hand around your ear*).”

1 Samuel 3:10 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

Thank You for not leaving me alone without help or instructions. Help me to learn more about You and how You want me to live from Your Word.

Amen.



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Stones, Slings and Giant Things

David and Goliath

1 Samuel 16-17



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did God say He cares about?** (“I care about what’s in a person’s heart.”)
- ★ **What did David take with him to fight the giant, Goliath?** (Five stones and a sling)
- ★ **What happened when David threw a stone from his sling?** (The stone struck Goliath’s forehead and knocked him down.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

David was not afraid to face the giant, Goliath, because he knew that God was with him and would help him. With God’s help, David knocked Goliath down, and the Israelites defeated the Philistines.



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

David defeated the giant, Goliath, and saved the Israelites. Later, God would send His Son, Jesus, to defeat sin by taking the punishment that we deserve. Jesus offers salvation to all who choose to believe in and follow Him.



Memory Verse:

“**People** (with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)
judge by outward appearance (smooth hands over shirt),
but the LORD (point both hands up)
looks at the heart (bring hands together in heart shape).”

1 Samuel 16:7b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
You are more powerful than any trouble or struggle that I face. Help me to remember that You are always with me, just like You were with David.
Amen.



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Fire from Heaven

Elijah

1 Kings 16:29-17:1; 18:1, 17-39



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did the prophet Elijah say to King Ahab?** (“You have disobeyed God and worshipped Baal. Tell everyone to meet me on Mount Carmel. I will prove who the true God is!”)
- ★ **How did Elijah prove that God is the true God?** (Elijah prayed, and fire fell from heaven. It burned up the bull, the wood, the stones and the water!)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

God saw that His people were worshipping a false god. So, He sent help. God sent Elijah to show the people who the true God is.



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God used Elijah to show His people that He is the one true God. Elijah prayed for the miracle of fire from heaven to prove it. Later, God would send His Son, Jesus, to perform many miracles to show that He is God. This included healing the sick, casting out demons and even bringing people back to life!



Memory Verse:

If the Lord is God (*point both hands up*),

follow him (*walk fingers across your palm*)!

But if Baal is God, then follow him (*trace a statue shape with two fingers*)!

But the people (*with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them*)

were completely silent (*place one finger against your lips*).

1 Kings 18:21b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

Thank You for being patient with Your people, including me. Help me to grow in knowledge about You as I read Your Word. Help me to worship and follow You only.

Amen.



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A Roaring Rescue

Daniel and the Lions' Den

Daniel 1:1-4; 6



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Why was Daniel arrested?** (He would not pray to King Darius. Daniel continued praying to God.)
- ★ **What happened to Daniel after he was arrested?** (He was thrown to the lions.)
- ★ **What did the angel that God sent do?** (The angel shut the lions' mouths.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Darius liked Daniel. But Darius had to punish Daniel because he broke the law. God sent help to Daniel. He sent angels to shut the lions' mouths.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Daniel was punished for breaking an unfair law. We all deserve punishment for breaking God's good law. Every person sins and disobeys God. Just as God sent help to Daniel, God had a plan to send help for all of us, too. Jesus died to take the punishment for sin that all of us deserve.



Memory Verse:

"My God (point both hands up) **sent his angel** (stretch arms out like wings) **to shut the lions' mouths** (clap hands once) **so that they would not hurt me** (scrape fingers across chest and shake head), **for I have been found innocent** (place both palms over chest) **in his sight.** **And I have not** (shake finger "no") **wronged you, Your Majesty** (slight bow)."
Daniel 6:22 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Just like You heard Daniel, I know You hear everyone who calls out to You—including me. Thank You for hearing me. Help me remember that I can always call on You.
Amen.



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The Brave and Beautiful Queen

Esther

Esther 2-5; 7; 9:20-22



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Esther say when Mordecai told her to change the king's mind?** (“...He can have me killed.”)
- ★ **What did Mordecai tell Esther?** (“Perhaps you were made queen just for this moment.”)
- ★ **What happened to Haman at the end of the story?** (He was hanged on the gallows he’d built for Mordecai.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

Esther was probably very scared. People who went to see the king without being invited could be killed. But God had a plan. He had made Esther queen so that she could save the Jewish people, His people, from death.



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Even though Esther was scared, God used her to save His people. God loved Esther and made her for a special purpose. God loves each of us and has a purpose for us, too.



Memory Verse:

“Who knows (shrug your shoulders)
if perhaps you (point forward)
were made queen (pretend to place a crown on your head)
for just such a time as this (point down firmly)?”

Esther 4:14b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Even when I am scared, I can know that You are in control of everything. Help me to be brave like Esther. Help me fulfill Your plan for my life, too.
Amen.



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The Walls Go Up

Nehemiah and Ezra

Nehemiah 1-4; 6:15-16; 8:1-3; 10:28-29; 12:27



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Nehemiah say when he saw that things were even worse than he'd heard?** ("This will be a big job but, with God's help, we can rebuild these walls.")
- ★ **How did the enemies of God's people react?** (First, they laughed. But as the walls grew higher, they prepared to attack.)
- ★ **What did the people do when the wall was finished?** (They promised to obey God's law and praised Him for protecting them.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Nehemiah could have given up, but he did not. Nehemiah knew they could rebuild the walls with God's help. Nehemiah told the people this. Then, they worked together to get things done. It was not easy, but with God it was possible.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Nehemiah knew it would take a lot of work to rebuild the walls. But he also knew that God would help them. We can also know that God will help us when we choose to follow and obey Him.



Memory Verse:

"...The God of heaven (point both hands up)

will help (link index fingers together) **us succeed.**

We, his servants (place one hand on chest and bow slightly),

will start rebuilding this wall (pound fists together)."

Nehemiah 2:20a (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

Help me to have the same kind of courage that Nehemiah did. Help me remember his example about the power of praying with others who also love You.

Amen.



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