



The First Christmas Gift

Jesus is born

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-25



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 angels tell Mary and Joseph?** (Mary would have a baby who would be God's Son.)
- ★ **What good news did the angel tell the shepherds?** ("Your Savior has been born.")

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

A savior is someone who rescues someone else. Sin creates a separation between us and God that we cannot repair. Thankfully, God loved us enough to send Jesus, our Savior, to save us from our sin and bring us back to 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:

Sin separates us from God. But God loves us so much that He made a plan to bring us back to Him. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.



Memory Verse:

The Savior (reach both hands high in the air and look up)
—**yes, the Messiah, the Lord** (point both hands up)—
has been born (pretend to rock a baby in your arms)
today in Bethlehem, the city of David (point forward)!

Luke 2:11 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for making a way for me to know and love You. Thank you for sending Jesus to be my Savior.
Amen.



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The Beloved Son

Jesus is baptized

Matthew 3:1-3, 13-17; Luke 3:15-16; John 1:29; Malachi 3:1



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did John tell the people to do?** (“Change your ways. Turn from the bad things you have done. Be baptized.”)
- ★ **What did John say when Jesus came to be baptized?** (“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!”)
- ★ **Who did God say Jesus was when He was baptized?** (God said Jesus is His beloved Son.)

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

John knew that Jesus was the special One whom God had sent. That’s why John wanted Jesus to baptize him. But, instead, Jesus told John to baptize Him. And John trusted Him, believing it was the right thing to do.



Explore God’s Big Story:

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

John told people to turn from the bad things they had done and be baptized. Baptism is a way to show the washing away of sin. It’s also a way of showing that you want to follow and obey God. Jesus, who is God’s Son, is also called the Lamb of God. He can take our sins away completely.



Memory Verse:

“**Look!** (place hand over your brow and look around)

The Lamb of God (put hands together, palms up, and raise up)

who takes away (pretend to grab something)

the sin of the world! (make a big circle in front of you with hands).”

John 1:29b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus. Help me trust Him and do what He says. Please give me strength to change my ways and follow You.

Amen.



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A Test in the Desert

Jesus is tempted
Matthew 4:1-11



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did Jesus use to resist Satan when he tried to tempt Him?** (God's Word, the Bible)
- ★ **What happened after Satan left Jesus?** (Angels came and cared for Jesus.)

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

Satan tempted Jesus many times. But Jesus never sinned, not even once. Jesus knew how to resist Satan and temptation by depending on God and what God says.



Explore God's Big Story:

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

Jesus was tempted just like we are. When we are tempted to do things our own way instead of God's way, we can follow Jesus' example. He resisted temptation by depending on God and His Word.



Memory Verse:

People (with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)
do not live by bread alone (pretend to eat),
but by every word (open your hands like a book)
that comes from the mouth of God (point both hands up).
Matthew 4:4b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
I know temptation will come. But I also know that You will not leave me helpless. Thank You for always providing a way out of temptation. Thank You for giving me Your Spirit and Your Word.
Amen.





The King and the Kingdom

The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 4:23-7:29; John 18:36-37



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **Who is the King?** (*Jesus*)
- ★ **What people are part of His kingdom?** (*Those who put God first in their life, trust Him, and obey Him are part of His kingdom.*)
- ★ **In the story Jesus told, what happened to the house built on the sand?** (*It fell down with a crash.*)

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

Jesus said that we can be like the man who built his house on the rock by putting Jesus' words into action. God wants to make our hearts like His. This happens when we trust Jesus and let His words guide our own hearts, choices and actions.



Explore God's Big Story:

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

While on earth, Jesus taught people how to love God and love each other. He taught us that we can trust God to take care of us.



Memory Verse:

Anyone who listens to my teaching (*cup hand around your ear*)
and follows it is wise (*point to your head*),
like a person who builds a house (*bring fingertips together above your head*)
on solid rock (*pound one fist on the other palm*).

Matthew 7:24 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be my hope and help. Worry and fears will come. Help me to remember to choose to trust in You when they do.
Amen.



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Through the Roof

Jesus heals a paralytic man
Luke 5:17-26



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did Jesus tell the man who couldn't walk?** (His sins were forgiven.)
- ★ **Why were the religious leaders very unhappy?** (They grumbled that only God can forgive sins.)
- ★ **What happened to the man who couldn't walk?** (Jesus forgave his sins. Jesus healed him. He could walk.)

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

Jesus did not just say that He is God. Jesus showed that He is God. Jesus proved that He is God by doing things that only God has the power to do.



Explore God's Big Story:

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

While on earth, Jesus performed many miracles, like healing the sick. Jesus did things that only God can do, like forgiving sin. This is how Jesus demonstrated that He is God.



Memory Verse:

Seeing their faith (bring hands together in heart shape),

Jesus (touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch)

said to the man (cup hands around mouth),

"Young man, your sins are forgiven" (slide one hand across the other, flip and repeat!)"

Luke 5:20 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

I am grateful that You have the power to heal our bodies from sickness and to forgive sin in our hearts. Help me grow to love and obey You more.

Amen.



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Demons Destroyed

Jesus casts out evil spirits

Mark 5:1-20



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did Jesus do to the man who had all the evil spirits inside of him?** (Jesus made him well. Jesus commanded all the evil spirits to leave him.)
- ★ **What did the evil spirits ask Jesus to do?** (send them into the herd of pigs)
- ★ **What did Jesus tell the man to do?** (Jesus told him to stay and tell everyone what He had done.)

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

Jesus has power that only God has. Even the evil spirits knew who Jesus was. They were scared of Jesus' great power and had to obey 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:

Jesus showed who He is by doing things that only God can do. Only God can cast out evil spirits by just the power of His word. Jesus only spoke, and the man was healed.



Memory Verse:

A crowd soon gathered (extend arms, then bring in to yourself) **around Jesus, and they saw** (place hand over your brow and look around) **the man who had been possessed** (cross fists tightly over chest) **by the legion of demons. He was sitting there** (relax arms down, palms out) **fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid** (gasp with wide eyes as if afraid).

Mark 5:15 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Your power is great and so is Your love. Thank You for making the man well. Help me to remember that You have the power to help me also.
Amen.



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Time to Get Up

Jesus heals a girl
Luke 8:40-42, 49-56



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did Jesus say to Jairus when he was told his daughter was dead?** (“Don’t be afraid. Believe, and your daughter will be healed.”)
- ★ **What did Jesus say about the girl when He saw the people weeping?** (Jesus said the girl was not dead. He said she was only sleeping.)
- ★ **What happened when Jesus took the girl’s hand and told her to stand up?** (She got up and walked around the room.)

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

More than one person had already seen that Jairus’ daughter was dead. But Jesus brings the power of God. He told Jairus to believe and his daughter would be healed. And that is what happened!



Explore God’s Big Story:

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

Only God has the power to bring people back to life. Jesus showed that He is God by bringing people back to life, like Jairus’ daughter.



Memory Verse:

But when Jesus heard *(cup hand around your ear)* **what had happened,**
he said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid *(float shaking hands over chest).*
Just have faith *(bring hands together in heart shape),*
and she will be healed *(from top of head, sweep hands quickly down and out).”*
Luke 8:50 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
How grateful I am to know that You help those who believe in You. Help me trust in You like Jairus did.
Amen.



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The Big Picnic

Jesus feeds 5,000

Mark 6:30-44



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **Why did Jesus not send the people away like His disciples asked?** (Jesus wanted to show the people that they could trust God.)
- ★ **What did the little boy give Jesus?** (five loaves of bread and two little fish)
- ★ **How many people did Jesus feed?** (5,000 men plus women and children)

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

The little boy had very little. But He gave it to Jesus. God showed that the people could trust Him to take care of them. Using only the 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, Jesus provided enough for everyone to eat until they were full. There was even food leftover!



Explore God's Big Story:

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

Jesus did something great with the very small amount of food the little boy gave Him. God showed the people that they could trust Him to provide for their needs, even when it seemed impossible. God also showed that He can do amazing things with even the smallest things we give Him.



Memory Verse:

A total of 5,000 men (with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them) **and their families** (pretend to place hand on top of imaginary children's heads) **were fed** (pretend to eat).

Mark 6:44 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for being faithful. Thank You for being a God who cares and provides for my needs. Help me remember this and trust You always.
Amen.



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Coming Home

A father and his two sons

Luke 15:11-32



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did the younger son do with the money his father gave him?** (He wasted all of it.)
- ★ **What did the older son do when the younger son returned?** (He complained that it was not fair.)
- ★ **What did the father say to the older son about his brother?** (“Your brother was dead; now he’s alive! He was lost; now he’s found!”)

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

Jesus told this story to the religious leaders to teach them about God’s love. When a sinner turns back to God, God shows His love to the sinner, just like the father showed love to his son in the story.



Explore God’s Big Story:

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

Like the younger son in this story, we are all lost and dead in sin until we return to the Father who created us and loves us. God rejoices when His children choose to change their ways and follow Him.



Memory Verse:

“For this son of mine was dead (rest one forearm on top of the other) and has now returned to life (pivoting at the elbow, slowly raise the top forearm). He was lost (look around with hand over brow), but now he is found (hug yourself).”
So the party began (dance and celebrate).
Luke 15:24 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
How grateful I am to know You! Help me as I try to help others come to know You, too.
Amen.



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The Donkey and the King

The triumphal entry

Matthew 21:1-11; John 12:16-19; Luke 19:36-40



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did Jesus tell two of His disciples to find?** (a donkey)
- ★ **Why did people put cloaks and palm branches on the road before Jesus?** (to honor Him)
- ★ **What did Jesus say would happen even if the people stopped shouting?** (the stones would still praise Him)

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

Jesus is the King that God promised would come. When Jesus rode in on the donkey, He was showing the people who He was. They honored Him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel!"



Explore God's Big Story:

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

Where Jesus is, God is. Jesus brings God's power. He fulfilled promises that God had made to His people, too. This proves that Jesus is the King of Israel, the promised Savior!



Memory Verse:

"Tell (cup hands around your mouth) **the people of Jerusalem,**
'Look (place hand over your brow and look around),
your King (pretend to place a crown on your head) **is coming to you.**
He is humble (fold hands together on chest and bow your head),
riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt (pretend to hold a rope with both hands)."
Matthew 21:5 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
You are a faithful God. You keep Your promises. Thank You for sending Jesus! By Your love and power, help me to keep my promise to obey and follow You.
Amen.



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A Goodbye Meal

The last supper

Matthew 26:14-16; John 13:26-30; Mark 14:12-26



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did Jesus say to His disciples about the bread at the meal?** (Jesus said the bread was His body. It was given for them.)
- ★ **What did Jesus say about the cup?** (Jesus said the drink was His blood. It was poured out to forgive sins.)

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

Jesus shared this last meal with His disciples to show them what was going to happen at the cross. Soon, Jesus would give His own life to save many. Jesus would willingly pour out His own blood by dying so that our sins could be forgiven.



Explore God's Big Story:

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

Jesus told His disciples to remember Him when they ate the bread. He wants us to remember that He gave His body and blood on the cross. He freely died to take the punishment for our sins so that we could be forgiven.



Memory Verse:

As they were eating (pretend to eat),

Jesus took some bread and blessed it (hold hands palms up and look up).

Then he broke it in pieces (pretend to break bread)

and gave it (pretend to pass bread out to others) to the disciples,

saying, "Take it, for this is my body (trace two fingers down the sides of your torso)."

Mark 14:22 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

Thank You for making a way so that I can be forgiven. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who took the punishment I deserve.

Amen.



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In the Garden

Jesus is arrested

Matthew 26:31-75; John 18:1-8



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did Jesus say would happen before the rooster crowed?** (Peter would say that he didn't know Jesus three times.)
- ★ **What did Jesus pray to the Father in the garden?** (Jesus prayed that God would show Him another way. If there was no other way, He would do as God asked.)
- ★ **After Jesus was arrested, how did Peter answer when people asked him if he had been with Jesus?** (Peter denied it. He told them they were wrong.)

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

Jesus knew that Peter would deny Him. He also knew that His enemies wanted Him dead. Jesus knew that dying was part of God's plan for Him, too. But Jesus showed that He was willing to obey God—even if that meant giving up His life.



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's way may not always be easy, but it is always right. The pain Jesus felt was very hard. He even asked God to show Him another way. But Jesus was willing to obey God no matter what. We benefit from Jesus' obedience to God. By trusting Him, we can receive the free gift of forgiveness that He offers. We can also learn from Jesus' example to be obedient to God always.



Memory Verse:

"My Father (praying hands, looking up)!

If it is possible, let this cup of suffering (draw tears down face with your finger) be taken away from me (pretend to push something away).

Yet I want your (point up) will to be done,

not mine (place hands on chest, and shake head)."

Matthew 26:39b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

How grateful I am that Jesus was faithful to obey You. Because of His dying on the cross for my sins, I can know, love and follow You. Help me follow Jesus' example of obedience by walking in Your ways.

Amen.



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It is Finished

The Cross

John 18:28-19:42; Luke 23:34-35, 44-45



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did Pilate say about Jesus?** (Jesus was innocent, and there was no reason to kill Him.)
- ★ **What was Jesus nailed onto?** (a cross)
- ★ **What was the last thing Jesus said on the cross?** ("It is finished.")

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

Jesus could have saved Himself. But He loves us so much that He willingly died. Jesus did not deserve to die, but He chose to die to pay the debt we owed for our sins.



Explore God's Big Story:

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

Jesus never sinned. He did not deserve to die. But Jesus willingly died on a cross to pay the price for our sins. He died to fix the sin problem that we could not fix ourselves.



Memory Verse:

When Jesus (touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch) **had tasted it** (make sipping sound),

he said, "It is finished!" (hold arms straight out on either side)

Then he bowed his head (bow your head) **and gave up his spirit** (hands from chest to reaching high).

John 19:30 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear Lord,

How thankful I am for Your great love. Thank You for dying for my sins. You show me what real love looks like. Help me show that kind of love, too.

Amen.



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A Happy Sunday

The empty tomb

Mark 16:1-4; Matthew 28:5-8; John 20:3-10; Luke 24:1-12, 36-49



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 women find when they went to Jesus' tomb?** (It was empty. The stone had been moved away. There were angels there.)
- ★ **What is the Good News about Jesus coming back to life?** (Everyone's sins can now be forgiven if they turn to God and trust in Jesus.)

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

Jesus offers us the greatest gift. We can accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness by repenting or saying "no" to sin and by believing in 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:

Jesus paid the price we owe for our sins. When Jesus rose from the dead, He showed that the debt made by sin had been paid in full for each person who chooses to trust and follow Him.



Memory Verse:

"The time (*pretend to tap a wristwatch*)
promised by God (*point both hands up*)
has come (*beckon with hand*) **at last!** ...

The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins (*sweep arms out in front of you*)
and believe (*bring hands together in heart shape*) **the Good News!**"

Mark 1:15 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear Jesus,
Thank You for willingly paying the price for my sins. I believe You died and came back to life. I want the new life that only You can give me. I accept the free gift of forgiveness. I want to love, follow and obey You.
Amen.



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Into the Clouds

Jesus returns to heaven

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:4-12



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What were the last things Jesus said?** (“Tell everyone about Me.” “I will always be with you.”)
- ★ **What did the two angels tell the disciples about Jesus?** (“He will come back in the same way!”)

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

We are never alone. God’s Holy Spirit lives inside those who follow Jesus. The Holy Spirit is our Helper, guiding us to listen to, learn from and obey God.



Explore God’s Big Story:

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

Jesus returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. He sent His Holy Spirit to help us. While we wait for Jesus’ return, it is important to share the Good News about Jesus with others.



Memory Verse:

Jesus *(touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch)*
has been taken from you into heaven *(lift arms up slowly),*
but someday he *(point up)*
will return from heaven *(slowly bring arms down to the ground)*
in the same way you saw *(place hand over your brow and look around)* **him go!**
Acts 1:11b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
I am thankful to be part of Your great story. Help me share Jesus with others, so that they can come to know Your love, too.
Amen.



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God's Wonderful Gift

The Holy Spirit comes
Acts 2:1-47



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 God's promised gift arrived?** (There was a sound like howling wind, something like fire settled on each of Jesus' followers and God's Holy Spirit filled them.)
- ★ **What did God's Holy Spirit give them the power to do?** (speak different languages)

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

Jesus had died willingly on the cross and had come back to life! Everyone who believes in Jesus could now be forgiven for their sins! But not everyone knew this Good News. So, God sent His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helped Jesus' followers to share the Good News of Jesus with others. The Holy Spirit is with Jesus' followers today, 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:

After Jesus returned to heaven, God sent His Holy Spirit to help His followers spread the Good News about Jesus. Today, people are still hearing this Good News through the words and actions of His followers and through God's Word, the Bible.



Memory Verse:

And everyone present (with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them) **was filled** (slowly move hands from your sides upwards) **with the Holy Spirit and began speaking** (move index finger outward from lips) **in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them** (extend hands forward, palms up) **this ability.**

Acts 2:4 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for the Good News we have in Jesus! Send Your Holy Spirit to help me to share this Good News with others so that they can know Him, too.
Amen.



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No Silver, No Gold

A crippled man is healed

Acts 3:1-4:4



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did Peter give the crippled man that was better than money?** (Peter healed him in the name of Jesus Christ.)
- ★ **What did the man do after he was healed?** (He jumped around and praised God!)
- ★ **What did many of the people do when they heard whose power had healed the man?** (They decided to follow Jesus, too.)

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

Peter performed a miracle. He healed the crippled man! But Peter gave Jesus all the credit. Peter knew that it was not his own power that healed the man. It was the power of God!



Explore God's Big Story:

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

Peter healed a man through the power of Jesus' name. But the crippled man was not the only person who was helped. When they found out who had healed the man, many people decided to follow Jesus too. Today, Jesus' followers can still call upon the name of Jesus for help.



Memory Verse:

But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you *(show empty hands and shake head).*

But I'll give you *(extend hands forward, palms up)* **what I have.**

In the name of Jesus Christ *(touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch)*

the Nazarene,

get up *(move hands from floor upward)* **and walk!** *(walk in place)"*

Acts 3:6 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
I am thankful that you are a mighty God who helps others! Help me to follow and obey you. And help me to show love toward others, too.
Amen.



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From Enemy to Friend

Paul meets Jesus

Acts 9:1-19



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **Who stopped Saul on his way to Damascus?** (Jesus)
- ★ **What happened after Ananias prayed for Saul?** (Saul could see again! Then he was baptized.)
- ★ **How did Saul change when he became a follower of Jesus?** (He became a church leader and told everyone about Jesus. He changed his name to Paul.)

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

Ananias trembled when Jesus told him to go pray for Saul. He knew that Saul wanted to arrest Jesus' followers, but Ananias still obeyed God. Jesus changed Saul from a man who arrested and even killed Christians to a man who helped spread the Good News about 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:

Meeting Jesus changed Paul completely. God's love is so great that there is nothing anyone can do that He cannot forgive. Through faith in Jesus, God is able to help us change.



Memory Verse:

But the Lord (point both hands up) **said, "Go** (extend arm, pointing forward), **for Saul** (touch top of head) **is my chosen instrument to take my message** (cup hands around your mouth) **to the Gentiles** (open one hand palm up) **and to kings** (open the other hand palm up), **as well as to the people** (with palms up lace fingers together and wiggle them) **of Israel."**

Acts 9:15 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
You changed Paul into a new person inside. You changed a man filled with hate into a man who spread the news of Jesus' great love. Thank You that you can change me on the inside, too!
Amen.



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Everybody's Welcome!

Peter's vision and Cornelius
Acts 10



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did Peter see in his vision?** (He saw a huge sheet coming down from heaven filled with animals that Jews weren't allowed to eat.)
- ★ **What did Peter tell Cornelius, his family and his friends about God?** (God accepts people from every nation. God sent Jesus to everyone.)

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

God's people, the Jews, did not eat certain animals. But in Peter's a vision God told him that it was okay to eat these animals. This meant that anyone could be part of God's family, even if they did not keep the same rules that the Jews did. Jesus died so that all people can be forgiven from their sins.



Explore God's Big Story:

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

Peter told Cornelius and his friends that God's love is not just for a select few. God sent His gift of the Holy Spirit to Jews and Gentiles alike. God's love and the forgiveness is available to everyone who chooses to believe in Jesus. God welcomes everyone!



Memory Verse:

He (touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch) is the one all the prophets testified about (cup hands around your mouth), saying that everyone who believes (bring hands together in heart shape) in him will have their sins forgiven (slide one hand across the other, flip and repeat) through his (touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch) name.
Acts 10:43 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
I am grateful that You welcome everyone! Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to make me part of Your family.
Amen.



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Journeys for Jesus

Paul's journey and trials

Acts 13-14; 16; 20-21; 25; 27-28



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did Paul believe God wanted him to do?** (tell the Gentiles about Jesus)
- ★ **What happened to Paul after he was unfairly arrested?** (He was shipwrecked on his journeyed to Rome. Then he lived in Rome as a prisoner.)

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

Paul knew that God wanted him to spread the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. He was committed to do this, even when he was a prisoner in chains. Nothing could stop God from using Paul to fulfill His purpose, and nothing could stop Paul from obeying God's plan for his life.



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 Paul's time in prison to inspire Paul to write some of the books of the Bible. God can use the hard times we go through in our lives today to fulfill His plan for us.



Memory Verse:

For the next two years (raise two fingers),
Paul lived in Rome (bring fingertips together above your head) at his own expense.
He welcomed (smile and wave) all who visited him,
boldly proclaiming (cup hands around your mouth)
the Kingdom of God (point both hands up)
and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ (touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch).
And no one (shake head) tried to stop him (stretch arm forward with hand out).
Acts 28:30-31 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
It is amazing to know that nothing can stop the plan You have for my life. When I feel stuck or worried, help me to remember that You are always in control.
Amen.



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A Forever Promise

The new heaven and the new earth
Revelation 1:17-18; 21:1-7



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What did John see in his vision?** (Jesus showed John a new heaven and a new earth and God's Holy City, the new Jerusalem.)
- ★ **What will be gone forever in the new heaven and new earth?** (There will be no tears, pain or death.)
- ★ **Who did Jesus say the new world is for?** (His children, those who are faithful to Jesus)

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

Jesus shared a wonderful promise with John that is for all people who choose to trust in Jesus and follow Him. In our world today, we experience pain, sorrow and death. But these things will not be part of the new heaven and new earth!



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 end of God's Big Story is really a new beginning with Jesus in a brand new heaven and earth made by God. When we turn away from our sin and trust in Jesus, we can know that this future promise and new beginning is for us, too.



Memory Verse:

"To all (extend hands out in a broad sweeping gesture) **who are thirsty** (pretend to drink) **I will give freely** (extend your hands forward, palms up) **from the springs of the water** (make a wave motion with your hands) **of life** (make a circular motion over your heart)."

Revelation 21:6b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
What a wonderful future You have in store for Your children! When I feel pain and sadness, help me to know that one day I will live with You in a brand new heaven and earth where there is no more suffering.
Amen.



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God's Good News

Be Part of the Story



Review and Discussion:

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

- ★ **What brought death into the world and broke our relationship with God?** (sin; when Adam and Eve disobeyed God)
- ★ **What did God do because He loved us?** (God had a plan. He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to fix our relationship with God that sin had broken.)
- ★ **What did Jesus do that proved He broke the power of sin and death?** (Three days after He died on the cross, Jesus rose from the dead!)

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

God loves all the people He created—including YOU! Are you ready to be part of God's story? You can become part of His family by trusting in Jesus and following 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:

Jesus returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. He sent God's Holy Spirit to be with us and help us live the way God wants us to live. We also have God's Word, the Bible. We can read it to learn more about God's Big Story, His love, and His plan for our lives.



Memory Verse:

For this is how God (point both hands up) **loved the world** (cross arms over your chest): **He gave his one and only Son** (hold one finger up and move forward), **so that everyone** (with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them) **who believes** (bring hands together in heart shape) **in him will not perish** (hang head) **but have eternal life** (raise hands up toward heaven).

John 3:16 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
I have disobeyed You. But I believe Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment that I deserve. I believe that He came back to life three days later, proving that He fully paid the price that I owed. I am yours! Help me to learn more about You and act more like Jesus.
Amen.



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