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# A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 2, LESSON 14

## Bible Lesson: The God Who Made Us

### A Good Day's Work

Just as a sculptor begins with rough forms before concentrating on finer details, God began the work of creation by separating and shaping. The farther along God went, the more defined creation became.

Show your class the overhead of the seven days of creation. Review with them what God made on each day.

God made His greatest and most wonderful creation—man—on the sixth day. God made us: you and me. God made the first man and woman just like Himself! He took the dust from the ground and

shaped it into man's body. He made every part just like it should be—the eyes, nose, etc.

God created everything good. After God had finished creating the world and everything in it, he was very pleased. Genesis 1:31 tell us, "Then god saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good."

So, on the seventh day God rested from all the work which He had created. That is why we set aside at least one day a week for a Sabbath or rest day.

### Game: Win, Lose, or Sculpt

The group is divided into two groups. One person is picked at a time to represent their side. Teachers give players an "assignment" on a 3X5 card. The player then has to sculpt with the play dough until their side guesses correctly or until time runs out (2 min.). Points are given

for correct answers. Play moves back and forth until each side has had the same number of tries. The side with the most points wins.

*(Alternative: have players draw on the dry erase board or newsprint.)*

### QUIZ QUESTIONS

**Q:** What is the first verse of the Bible?

**A:** "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."  
Gen. 1:1

**Q:** What person is introduced in the first verse of the Bible?

**A:** God, our heavenly Father.

**Thought Question:**  
Were the days of creation literal 24-hour days?

### MEMORY VERSE:

**Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."**

**John 1:3, "All things were made through Him; and without Him nothing was made that was made."**



**God is the  
Maker of all  
things.**



# A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 2, LESSON 15

## Bible Lesson: God's Response to Disobedience

### Fall Comes to Eden

Today, as we discuss the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, remember that in the Bible, human life begins as a relationship—not simply a chance occurrence involving slimy primordial ooze.

I heard a six-year old boy on a playground say, "Hey! That's against the wooods (rules)." Well, God had to say that to Adam and Eve. God gave Adam almost unlimited freedom, plus a fulfilling job naming animals and overseeing the garden. The one "rule" was that Adam had to avoid eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

We don't know how many

blissful years Adam and Eve spent in Eden. The next account we have is when things go sour for them.

**Short story:** the serpent caused Eve to doubt what God had said. The fruit looked delicious. Eve grabbed a piece, took a bite, and handed some to Adam so he could share the experience. Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent. They had moved from innocence to sin and, even though they didn't die immediately, death came to them in time, and to all of us as well.

God had to bring punishment on Adam, Eve, and the serpent, but God had not ceased to care about human beings.

## Game: Simon Says

Play the old favorite game, Simon Says, with your group. Have fun with it and make it energetic. Consider having some fun background music to liven things up. Use a leader who can really command attention and is creative. Get everyone moving. If the game goes quickly and you get down to

one person rapidly. Play the game again.

After the game, apply this moral: *Everyone makes mistakes. There is no perfect person.*

### QUIZ QUESTIONS

**Q:** Who were the first man and woman?

**A:** Adam and Eve (Gen. 2:19,20)

**Q:** Name the tree that God told Adam not to eat of it.

**A:** the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

### Thought Question:

Why would God place a potentially lethal tree in Eden?

### MEMORY VERSE:

**Job 5:17, 18,**  
"Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty."



**The God Who  
made us is the  
God Who  
corrects us.**



# A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 2, LESSON 16

## Bible Lesson: We're in a Pickle

### Adam & Eve Paid for their Sin

We don't know how many blissful years (or decades or centuries) Adam and Eve spent in Eden. The next account we have is when things go sour for them and they get into a big pickle.

Satan is not mentioned in this story, but no doubt the serpent is none other than the Tempter himself, the devil. In the book of Revelation, Satan is designated "that ancient serpent" (Rev. 20:2).

God punished Adam and Eve because they disobeyed Him by eating of the fruit they were told not to eat. God always punishes sin. No one can ever get away with it. God sent them out of the beautiful Garden of Eden where

they had lived. He told them they could never return.

The Bible tells us in Genesis 3:8 that Adam and Eve "hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden." This is usually what happens when we disobey our parents. We want to run and hide and we hope they will never find out what we did. None of us want to get caught and be punished.

So...we are all in a pickle because of Adam and because of our own sins. Now what? Well, the God who corrects us is also the God who plans our salvation.

## Illustration: Life's a Pickle

Have a large jar of dill pickles (enough for each child to have one). Explain the process of making pickles from cucumbers.

Now, ask, "Can a pickle be turned back into a cucumber?" Allow discussion.

Apply by saying, "All of us have disobeyed God in some way.

To be restored is just as much a miracle as a pickle being turned back into a cucumber. But that is exactly what God does. When we put our faith and trust in Jesus, He restores us. We are justified (just as if I'd never sinned.)"

Give each child one of the dill pickles to eat at snack time.

### QUIZ QUESTIONS

**Q:** Did God make man good or bad?

**A: God made man good.** *"Truly, this only I have found, that God made man upright (good) (Ecclesiastes 7:29)*

**Q:** Did man remain good after God made him?

**A: No, he did not. He sinned against God.**

### Thought Question:

Why are WE being punished for something Adam & Eve did?

### MEMORY VERSE:

**Job 5:17, 18,**  
**"Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty."**



**The God Who made us is the God Who corrects us.**



# A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 2, LESSON 17

## Bible Lesson: Getting Out of a Pickle (The Promised Savior)

### The Promised Savior

In Genesis 3:15 we have the first prophecy about the coming messiah (Savior). Isn't God good? Right here among these serious curses on Adam, Eve, and the serpent, is a promise of a coming Savior.

Even though the curse is now in effect. Mankind has become a fallen race. Through one single act of disobedience, Adam and Eve are forced to leave the Garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve had attempted to make their own covering for sin by sewing fig leaves over themselves. Our self-efforts to "get right with God" never work.

God made clothes for Adam

and Eve out of the skins of animals. He shed the first blood to provide a covering for man. In this way He gave us a picture of what He would eventually do through sending Jesus Christ to die for the sins of all mankind.

The only way back to Paradise is through the sacrificial blood of the Lamb, who is Jesus Christ. Only faith in Jesus Christ can gain us entrance into heaven, or Paradise. There is no other way to get into heaven.

Our Wonderful God has found a way to offer us hope in the face of tragedy and to get us out of our pickle.

## Skit: The Judge Who Pays the Fine

Have a young man come before the judge. It turns out that this is the son of the judge. The crime carries a stiff fine and the judge says the young man must pay it. (pounding the gavel)

Next, have the judge get up from his seat, remove his judge robe, and come around in front with his

son. He takes out his wallet and pays the fine for his son.

Explain: the same judge who made the penalty for the crime becomes the father who pays the penalty. Say: In the same way, God the Father made the punishment for sin, but also paid for our punishment with the death of His own Son.

### QUIZ QUESTIONS

**Q:** How were Adam and Eve punished?

**A:** They were separated from God by being sent out of the garden.

**Q:** Who paid for the punishment we deserve for our sin?

**A:** Jesus took our punishment for our wrongdoing by dying on the cross. (Romans 6:23)

### Thought Question:

Why did Adam and Eve think they could hide from God?

### MEMORY VERSE:

**Genesis 3:15:** "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."



**The God Who made us is the God Who corrects us and the God Who planned our salvation.**



# A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 2, LESSON 18

## Bible Lesson: Jesus Paid for My Sin

### Facts About the Crucifixion

Jesus was marched to a place outside the city called Golgotha, carrying the large wooden crossbar (cross) to which his hand would be nailed. When he could no longer manage the weight of his cross, a man named Simon of Cyrene (now Libya) was recruited to carry it.

When they reached Golgotha, Jesus was offered an anesthetic, which he tasted but refused to take. Then he and two criminals were crucified.

Crucifixion was a heinous way to die. Roman citizens were exempt from such treatment and only inflicted it on others. Nails were driven through the wrists, pinning the prisoner to the crossbar; the crossbar was then raised and at-

tached to the upright beam, after which the feet would be nailed to the upright through the heels. Death would come fairly quickly if no other support was provided for the feet. Unable to raise himself to take a breath, the victim would eventually die of asphyxiation. With support, death could take two or three days.

It took Jesus about three hours to die. Jesus' crucifixion took place on Friday; the next day was the Sabbath and the Jewish authorities wanted the prisoners to die quickly. They asked that their legs be broken. Jesus was already dead so they thrust a spear into his side, releasing a sudden flow of blood and water. (John 19:31-37)

## Story: He Took My Punishment

Tell the old story of the country school and it's new school master who had the boys make up some rules for the school to run by. (See story supplement for this lesson.)

### Another Idea:

Consider serving communion to the children. You may serve it in

the way your church does, or use an alternate method. For example: you could have a small drink box of grape juice for each child (the ones with their own straw attached). And you could serve pita bread for the children to tear off a piece. Read from the Bible to explain communion. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

### QUIZ QUESTIONS

**Q:** How did God make it possible for us to have eternal life?

**A:** "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."  
John 3:16

**Q:** What did Jesus do to take away our sins?

**A:** He died on the cross and there He was punished for our sins.  
(Rom. 5:8)

### Look it Up

See if you can find all seven of Jesus' last words from the cross in Lk. 23; Jn 19, and Mt. 27.

### MEMORY VERSE:

**1 John 2:2:** "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."



**Jesus' death on  
the cross paid for  
my sin.**

## One Room School House



In the days of the wild West, there was a one-room school with a bad reputation. The kids were completely out of control. There were rough fights. Some kids were so mean, nobody wanted to go to school there. Even the teachers would quit. They might start with good intentions, but the teachers eventually just left.

While several teachers did leave, a new teacher was called to take over the school. Something happened when he arrived; somehow, things just seemed different. This teacher was calmer. He listened to the kids. There was another thing that made him different – he carried his Bible, and he spoke about God.

There was, of course, the first day. It was chaos as usual. The fighting was so bad, it looked like someone would be seriously hurt for sure. The kids didn't even stop when the teacher came in. They expected him to start yelling, but he didn't.

This new teacher walked straight to the blackboard. He told the kids it was his job to make the school work, but he wanted their help. They could help be in charge. He asked them if they would like to take part in making the rules.

The kids couldn't believe their ears. This was what they'd been waiting for! One by one the kids made suggestions for the rules. If the others agreed, the teacher listed each suggestion. The list included not stealing, no fighting, no cursing and no spitting. Then the teacher asked for suggestions on punishment.

In those days, it was common for teachers to spank the children. In fact, the kids in our story decided how many swats with a stick would be given for the offenses.

The kids thought it was fun, but the teacher reminded them how serious it was. He told them not to complain when the penalty had to be paid.

At first there were no problems. The kids had such a big part in making the rules that they wanted to see things work. However, one of the kids decided to steal an apple. He waited for recess, and while everyone was outside, he snuck back into the classroom. He wasted no time pocketing the apple and even thought his scheme worked. However, one of the students saw what happened.

The boy was caught and brought before the class. The teacher asked him if he had anything to

say before he received his swats. What he said next broke everyone's heart.

He said that his father was out of work and had left home. The family had no money for food, and there was nothing to eat in their house. He said he was sorry for taking the apple and promised never to do it again.

Everybody felt sorry for the boy and they all expected the teacher to let him go. The teacher explained that he didn't want to give the boy a spanking, but the children had agreed to the rule and the punishment. As he lifted the stick, the other kids shouted, "No! That's not fair!"

One of the kids held up his hand and said, "Wait! We talked about the rules and the punishment, but we never discussed who had to take the punishment."

The teacher listened as the older boy explained. He stood up and said he was willing to take the punishment for the younger boy. The fact is that it was the older boy's apple that was stolen, and he was still willing to accept the swats. The teacher told him that he didn't have to, but the older boy insisted.

The teacher allowed the older boy to take a stand for the younger lad and began the punishment. It was ten swats, the penalty for stealing. After five swats, tears started rolling down the younger boy's cheeks. Other kids began to choke up as they thought about how the older boy was taking the punishment.

The teacher said he was thankful to be in a school where children would support each other. He asked the class to bow their heads and just listen. He opened his Bible as he continued to speak to the class.

He said that the greatest price ever paid was when Jesus went to the cross. Jesus took all the sin of the world. Jesus laid His life down for all humankind. He told the students that Jesus took our punishment ... our swats. The price had to be paid because of our sin. That was a day that would always be remembered by each kid in that one-room school.



# A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 2, LESSON 19

## Bible Lesson: Who Am I?

How do you find out what something is and what it is used for if you don't know? (Allow kids to answer.) Who could you ask that would know 100% what something's purpose is? You can ask the *Inventor!* The person that made the item could sure tell you what it is, and what its purpose is. That person would know better than anyone else.

In this lesson we are asking the question, *Who am I?* This is a question that everybody asks at some point in their lives. Who do you think the best person to answer that question is? Your parents might know a little bit, and so might your teachers and friends too. But the only person that can really tell you who you are is the one who

made you, GOD!

There was a man in the Bible who reminds me a lot of our lesson. His name was Jeremiah. Jeremiah was an ordinary boy that lived back in Bible times. But God had an extraordinary plan for his life. This is what the Bible says. (Read *Jeremiah 1:4-8*) Even before Jeremiah was ever born, God had set him apart for a special purpose. The same is true for you. Before you were born, God knew you and had a special plan for you. Do you want to find out what that special plan is? Do you want to know who God has created you to be? Then whom do you have to ask? That's right; you have to ask God, the only One that knows the answer.

## Object Lesson: "What IS this?"

Select several random objects from home or the office. Allow the kids to guess what they think the object is used for. (It's best to use objects that most kids wouldn't know what to do with, like a staple remover) Even allow some of the kids to

come up and use the object how they think it should be used. Afterwards, tell and demonstrate for the kids what the object is used for. Make the point that *If you don't know what something's purpose is, you're likely to misuse it.*

### QUIZ QUESTIONS

**Q:** What happens to anyone who belongs to Christ?

**A:** 2 Cor. 5:17 "he is made new."

**Q:** Who is the only person that can answer the question, "who am I?"

**A:** God.

**Q:** What man in the Bible did we learn about today?

**A:** Jeremiah

### MEMORY VERSE:

2 Corinthians 5:17,  
"If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is made new."



If you want to know who you are, you must first know Jesus.





# A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 2, LESSON 20

## Bible Lesson: The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

In the story told by Jesus, a man has two sons. The younger demands his share of his inheritance while his father is still living, and goes off to a distant country where he "wasted his substance with riotous living", and eventually has to take work feeding pigs.

Then he comes to his senses, and determines to return home and throw himself on his father's mercy.

But when he returns home, his father greets him with open arms, and does not even give him a chance to express his repentance; he kills a "fatted calf" to celebrate his return.

The older brother becomes angry. But the father responds:

"It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found." (Luke 15:32, [KJV](#))

We are like the lost son. We're born a child of the King, but we go our own ways — away from the Lord. That's why it's important to remember who we are. We're children of the Creator. We are created in God's image. He is our source, and we are to return to His open arms. God will not reject you or shut you out. Don't listen to any lies. The truth is your Creator loves you even more than the father in our story loved the prodigal son.

## Object Lesson: Right Tool for the Right Job

**Needed:** Several nails, 2x6x4' board, and several tools like a hammer, screw-driver, spoon, hairbrush, etc.

**Introduction:** "Sometimes in life we go to the wrong place for answers. Sometimes we use the wrong method to accomplish something. I need a few volunteers ..."

Pull out a board with several nails sticking out of the board. Allow students (1 at a time) to drive nails into the board with

tools you select for them. Give the first student a hairbrush, the next a spoon, etc. Obviously save the hammer for last. Ask them why it's not working. Close the illustration by saying, "It doesn't make sense to use the wrong tool for the job!"

**Introduce the Topic:** Many times we go to the wrong sources for our meaning for life. We need to go to the God Who created me and Who loves me.

### QUIZ QUESTIONS

**Q:** Why did God create you?

**A:** Because he loves you.

**Q:** What do you become if you accept Jesus?

**A:** John 1:12 "a child of God."

**Q:** When the prodigal son realized he was wrong, whose house did he decide to go to?

**A:** His father's.

**Q:** Before he returned home, what job did the son have?

**A:** Feeding pigs

### MEMORY VERSE:

John 1:12, "Some people did accept Him...To them He gave the right to become children of God."



God created me because He loves me. I will love Him back.



# A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 2, LESSON 21

## Bible Lesson: My Purpose

### Matthew 25:14-30, The Parable of the Talents

Have your children act out a skit. You will need three kids, six envelopes with play money in them, a rug and a box. Place the rug at the front of the stage where it can be easily seen. Place three envelopes of money offstage where your actors can find them.

Read verses 14-16, give the first actor an envelope with five play money bills in it and have him go offstage. Say, "the servant who got five talents went quickly to invest the money."

Give the second actor an envelope with two play money bills in it and have him go offstage. Say, "Like the first servant, the second servant left to invest the money."

Now give the last actor an envelope

with one play money bill in it. Have him hide the envelope under the rug and go offstage. Say, "The third servant received one talent from the master and then he went and hid the money and left.

(While they are offstage, have the first two actors get new envelopes with twice as much play money in each envelope.) Say, "After a long time the master came home. He asked the servants what they did with the money."

Praise each of the first two servants for earning more and then, look sternly at the third servant. Take away his envelope and give it to the first servant. Say, "You are bad and lazy!" Make him leave the stage.

What is our lesson today? My purpose is to serve God today.

## Object Lesson: One Can of Soda Pop

Hold up a can of soda pop and say, Who knows what this can of soda was made for? (Allow for response.) It was made to quench thirst. Today this drink can fulfill its purpose by serving one of you. (Choose a child to come forward.)

Say, this soda is for you. However, before it can quench your thirst or soothe your parched throat, some-

thing has to happen. (Don't open the soda. Pretend to pour it into the child's mouth.)

Why isn't this soda doing what it is supposed to? (Allow response.)

Before the soda can fulfill its purpose, it has to be opened. We are the same way. If we stay closed up to the things of God, we will never do what we were created to do.

### QUIZ QUESTIONS

**Q:** What is your purpose?

**A:** To serve God (Eph. 2:10).

**Q:** According to Eph. 2:10, why did God make us new?

**A:** "So that we would do good works."

**Q:** In today's Bible story, who hid his money?

**A:** The third servant

### MEMORY VERSE:

**Ephesians 2:10, "In Christ Jesus, God made us new people so we would do good works."**



**My purpose is to serve God today.**



# A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 2, LESSON 22

## Bible Lesson: My Potential

### Do as the Good Samaritan

Have some children help you by acting out this story as you tell it (or read it from Luke 10:25-37.)

Use a piece of posterboard with the word "Inside" drawn on one side and "Outside" drawn on the other. Now say, Jesus went on to say that we are supposed to be like the Good Samaritan.

The first two men looked very religious on the *outside*. (*Display the posterboard with "Outside" facing the audience.*) These men were people who wanted others to know that they were men of God. They dressed right — looking good on the outside. They acted right — they behaved well on the

outside.

However, these men didn't do the simplest thing that God wanted them to do. These religious men weren't allowing the Lord to work on their *insides*. (*Display the posterboard with "Inside" facing the audience.*)

The Samaritan may not have looked like much on the outside, but God was working on his *inside*. That's what the Holy Spirit does for you and me. He works on our inside. He changes us every day and helps us live the way God wants us to live. This is the secret to experiencing God's potential for your life.

## Object Lesson: Suspend a Beach Ball

**Objects needed:** Leaf blower & beach ball (Can also use tennis balls or others.)

**Procedure:** You will be using the leaf blower to project a stream of air straight up. Then, you will place the beach ball into the air stream. The beach ball will be locked in and you will be able to make it float as well as

move around as you rock the blower back and forth.

Talk with the children about how we are like the beach ball and the Holy Spirit is like the air stream (wind). We are able to live up to our potential if we let God's power help us. We can be our best with God's Holy Spirit.

### QUIZ QUESTIONS

**Q:** Who do we need to be our best?

**A:** God's Holy Spirit.

**Q:** 1 Cor. 3:16 says that we are God's what?

**A:** God's Temple.

**Q:** Where does God's Spirit live?

**A:** In us (1 Cor. 3:16).

### MEMORY VERSE:

**1 Corinthians 3:16,**  
"You should know that you yourselves are God's temple. God's Spirit lives in you."



**We can be our best  
with God's Holy  
Spirit.**



# A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 2, LESSON 23

## Bible Lesson: Faithful = Fruitful

### Use the Parable of the Sower in Luke chapter 8

Have four children help you who are comfortable with acting. Plan to read the story and Jesus' interpretation of the story phrase by phrase. After each phrase, coach your four helpers to act it out.

**"Some fell on the path."** For this have one actor jump forward and squat down. Have the other three act like birds who come and carry off the "seed."

**"Some fell on rock."** Have three actors be rocks. Let the fourth actor pretend to be planted, grow up some, and then wither away.

**"Some fell among thorns."** Let three helpers act like clods of dirt. As the fourth actor "grows" the first three should make their hands look like thorns and choke the fourth actor.

**"Some fell on good soil."** Your first three actors should lie down in straight rows. The fourth will jump forward and then grow up nice and tall.

Now as you read verses 11-15, have your actors do a little skit for each phrase.

**Path** = Have one actor pray. Then let the other three come and distract him and take him away.

**Rock** = Have one actor pray and then let the other three make fun of him for praying and carrying a Bible. They invite him to come party with them.

**Thorns** = Have one pray and then let the others tempt him with money, fast cars or fame.

**Good Soil** = Let one pray and then preach to the crowd and the other three actors to remain faithful to God.

## Game: Alphabet Pockets

Divide into two teams. Everyone on the team searches through their own pockets, wallets, pocketbooks, etc. The group tries to come up with one possession which begins with each letter of the alphabet. The winning team is the

one to have objects representing the most letters. Play lively music while the game goes on.

Ask, "Was it hard to complete this game?" Explain that God wants us to be faithful to Him and complete His plan for our life.

### QUIZ QUESTIONS

**Q:** What Does God have in store for you?

**A:** Great things.

**Q:** What does Proverbs 28:20 say?

**A:** "A faithful man will be richly blessed."

**Q:** Should you just quit when things get hard?

**A:** No.

### MEMORY VERSE:

**Proverbs 28:20,**  
**"A faithful man**  
**will be richly**  
**blessed."**



**God has great things in store for me, and I will never quit.**