



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

The Bible tells God's big story.

THE BIBLE

The Bible Tells Us God's Big Story: John 1:1-5, 14 (II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Around The World
- **ACTIVITY** | Comic Strip Stories
- **QUESTION** | What kind of stories do you like?
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Hula Hoop
- **THE BIG IDEA** | The Bible tells God's big story.
- **BIBLE STORY** | John 1:1-5, 1:14
- **VIDEO** | Greatest Story Ever Told
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Backpack of Books
- **SCRIPTURE** | 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- **ACTIVITY** | DIY Book
- **ACTIVITY** | Books of the Bible Cup Stack
- **MUSIC** | Worship Time
- **PRAYER** | Life Timeline
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Romans 3:23; Psalm 139:14

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - How many books are there in the Bible?
 - What are the two parts of the Bible?
 - If someone asked you what the Bible was all about, what would you tell them?
 - Do you think people still need the Bible today? Why?
 - When and where can you read the Bible?
 - What are some ways you can make reading the Bible more of a priority?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Hebrews 4:12
- **ACTIVITY** | Bible Tic Tac Toe
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Romans 3:23; Psalm 139:14



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

The Bible tells God's big story.

THE BIBLE

The Bible Tells Us God's Big Story: John 1:1-5, 14 (II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Around The World

- Welcome! This month, we're talking about my favorite planet: planet Earth! God has given us an incredible planet to live on, so we're celebrating it! Let's start by playing a game!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the Around the World printables. Set a bucket in the middle of the room. Designate seven spots arranged in a semi-circle with the bucket in the middle. Label each spot with the name of a continent from your printables. Kids will start on one end of the semi-circle and throw a beanbag into the target. If they make it within two tries, they will move to the next continent and continue playing. Their goal is to make it all the way around the world without missing more than two times at one spot.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *If waiting in line to be able to play is difficult for your kids with special needs, you can move them up in the line so they are playing second or third. They might need to stand closer to the target if your circle is large.*
- Some of us traveled all over the world in that game! If you could visit another continent today, where would you go?
- God has given us an amazing planet full of people, animals, and adventure. The Bible tells us about His big story for the whole world.

ACTIVITY | Comic Strip Stories

- **Don't you love a good story?** Think about your favorite book or movie, but don't tell anyone what it is.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid a Comic Strip Story printable and crayons, markers, and colored pencils. Tell them to draw a scene from their favorite book or movie without telling anyone where it's from. When they're done, let them guess what book or movie their friends drew pictures of.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Offer the child with special needs some suggestions of popular children's books that he may be familiar with or bring in a few books for them to They may need help drawing a scene from the book. You could also use an iPad with books on it and let them find a scene they can show the other kids.
- **Was it hard to tell what book your friends were drawing pictures of?**
- When we just have one piece of the story, we can't always tell what the bigger story is all about. When we only see one scene from a story, we don't know the author of the story, how it began, or how it ends.
- Sometimes we think about the Bible as if it's a collection of lots of little stories, but every little story in the Bible is actually connected to God's big story! That's what we're going to learn about today.

QUESTION | What kind of stories do you like?

- **Do you like adventures, mysteries, non-fiction?** One thing I love about the Bible is it is filled with all sorts of stories — adventures, mysteries, history, letters, and even poetry and song lyrics.
- The Bible is one book, but it's filled with so many different kinds of stories and writings.
- And although the Bible is one actual book, it's made up of many books, with many authors. It was written by many people, but it was all inspired by God.
- And one of the coolest things about God's big story is all of it is true!
- goes through a total change for the good . . . even though it started out pretty bad.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

OBJECT LESSON | Hula Hoop

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hold up a hula hoop.
- **Who can come up and show me where this hula hoop begins and where it ends?**
- Like every other circle, this circle has no beginning and no end. It goes 'round and 'round with no end in sight. The same is true of God.
- God is eternal. He has always been and always will be. His story is bigger than we will ever know. We are a part of His big story, which goes on and on for eternity.

THE BIG IDEA | The Bible tells God's big story.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
 - Ask the kids to give you a drumroll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
 - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections).
 - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
 - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week's Big Idea: **The Bible tells God's big story.**

BIBLE STORY | John 1:1-5, 1:14

- People love the question, “What came first, the chicken or the egg?” **Do you have an opinion?**
- Beginnings are important. **What comes on before movies when you are at the theater?** Previews. What song usually is sung before a ball game? The National Anthem. **What do many people do before they eat?** Pray.
- All of these things come before the main event. **But what, or Who, existed before the creation of the world?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- God’s story began way before creation. God’s story has been going on forever, because He has existed forever. **What did these verses say was there from the beginning?** That’s right, the Word! The Bible says the Word was with God and was God. In this verse, ‘the Word’ means Jesus.
- All of God’s big story is about Jesus from before creation until forever.
- **Was Jesus a part of creating the world? How do you know?** These verses tell us that nothing was made apart from Him.
- **So, if the Bible is one big story, what’s it all about? And why are there so many different parts to the Bible?** Let’s learn a little bit more about the Bible.
- Think again of a book you like to read. **Do you know who wrote it? Books have authors. Did you know the Bible has authors, too?** There are about 40 people who wrote the Bible. Some of them we know, like Moses, David, and Paul. Others we don’t know their names. But we know God inspired all of them, so they wrote exactly what He wanted them to write.
- There are 66 different books in the Bible. It is split into two big parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament contains everything that happened before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and the New Testament starts with His birth.
- **So, what does all of this have to do with us today?** The whole Bible is a lot of different parts, different books, and lots of stories. But they all tell one big story about God creating people, sin entering the world, and God sending someone to redeem us from sin and restore our relationship with Him. The person He sent to redeem us and restore our relationship with Him is Jesus.

VIDEO | Greatest Story Ever Told

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Watch [this](#) video that summarizes the big story of the Bible.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *You can download and print out [study notes](#) that go with this video to help you with your own study or teaching.*
- **Which stories from the Bible did you recognize?**
- All of the stories are telling us one big story about God creating and redeeming the world.

OBJECT LESSON | Backpack of Books

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show kids a backpack and pull three different types of books out: a textbook, a fairytale book, and a how-to manual or book. Remove each book from the bag and ask the kids questions about it.*
- **How is this like the Bible? How is it different?**
- The Bible is similar to other books in many ways. It does teach us like a textbook, it has amazing stories like the fairytale book, and helps us like the how-to manual. But it is also very different.

- The Bible is 100% true. And most of all, it's about God and His story. Yes, He teaches us through the Bible, but the Bible is first of all about Him.

SCRIPTURE | 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- Let's see what the Bible says about itself.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up and read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.*
- **Who came up with the words for the Bible?** It was written by authors, and was inspired by God. That means He helped them know exactly what to write.
- **How is it useful for us?** It can be used for teaching, for correcting people, and helping train people to be like God.
- **Can you think of a way the Bible could teach us?**
- **How can it correct us, or show us when we are doing something wrong?**
- **How can it be helpful for teaching us what God wants us to do?**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

ACTIVITY | DIY Book

- The Bible is God's big story about His love for us. Our part in the story is to have a relationship with God and tell others about Jesus. Let's make our own book that tells God's story and tells our part in it. When you're done with your book, you can take it home and use it to tell other people the story!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out white paper, markers, stickers, hole punches, and one-inch metal clip rings to all the kids. Let them make a flip book by drawing the creation of the world on the first page, and then let them draw the story of Jesus and draw themselves on the other pages. Then help them punch holes in their papers and use the clip rings to attach all the pages.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Modify this DIY activity by shifting from a physical book to a digital video using a free [Clips](#) app. Instead of having students write or draw, have them record themselves talking about Creation, sin, Jesus coming to rescue, the example of the early believers, and the challenge that they and others have today.*

ACTIVITY | Books of the Bible Cup Stack

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the service, turn 66 plastic cups upside down and write a book of the Bible on the bottom of each of the cups near the rim. Make sure you can still see the name when the cups are stacked. Split the cups into two stacks: Old Testament and New Testament. If you have a large group, make multiple sets of these. Split your group into teams and give each team a stack. Mix the cups up, then let them work together to stack the cups in the right order. Tell them they can use a Bible (and the Table of Contents) if they need help putting the books in order.*
- **What is the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament?**
- **What is your favorite book of the Bible or story in the Bible?**
- **Who is your favorite person in the Bible?**

MUSIC | Worship Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can sing any songs you'd like, but for this lesson, we like "2 Timothy 3:16-17" from Seeds Worship and "Jesus Loves Me" from Hillsong Young and Free.*

- **When you're worshipping today, think about this: You are a part of God's story. How can your life point to Jesus?**

PRAYER | Life Timeline

- God has a big story, and your life has a story, too. From the time you were born, you've had lots of things happen to you. Someday, our lives on earth will be over and we will have the chance to spend eternity with God in heaven. Let's think about what we want our life stories to look like and draw pictures of our timeline.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each child a piece of plain paper and a pencil or pen. Have them create a timeline by drawing a long line on their paper and writing "Birth," and their birthday at the start. Then have them add several events that have happened in their lives and imagine what might come in the future. They can draw things like their family or trips they've taken, their first time going to school, their pets, and anything they hope to do in the future. You can have them write "Eternity in Heaven" at the end. When they're done, pray with the kids and thank God for His presence in their lives. Pray blessings over their futures.
- Your story is part of God's big story, too. Let's spend some time praying and thanking God for what He's done in your life. Then let's ask Him to lead us in the future.

MEMORY VERSES | Romans 3:23; Psalm 139:14

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **How many books are there in the Bible?** (66.)
- **What are the two parts of the Bible?** (The Old Testament and the New Testament.)
- **If someone asked you what the Bible was all about, what would you tell them?**
- **Do you think people still need the Bible today?** Why?
- **When and where can you read the Bible?**
- **What are some ways you can make reading the Bible more of a priority?**

SCRIPTURE | Hebrews 4:12

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **How is the Bible described in this verse?**
- **What does it mean that the word of God is 'living and active'?**
- **How should this living and active Word affect us?**

ACTIVITY | Bible Tic Tac Toe

- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOU:** Print the Bible Tic Tac Toe questions. Give each group some masking tape or floor tape and a set of Bible Tic Tac Toe questions.

- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP LEADERS:** Use masking tape, floor tape, or duct tape to tape a big tic tac toe shape on the floor that is big enough for a kid to sit in each spot (see diagram below for example). Split your small group into two teams: Xs and Os. Choose one group to go first. Then ask that team a question from the list. If they get it right, someone from their team gets to sit in a space on the tic tac toe board. Then let the other team go. Keep playing until one team gets three Xs or Os in a row in any direction.

MEMORY VERSES | Romans 3:23; Psalm 139:14

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