

God's Plan: 4 Us 2 KNOW Him!

Bible Story

The Personification Revelation

John 1:1–2,14; 5:1–9; 6:16–21; 11:57; 14:1–7

What is
God like?

Bible Verse

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'" John 14:6–7

When you read
about Jesus in
the Bible, you
know more
about God.

Session Goals

1. PARTICIPATE in telling the story of Jesus' life.
2. IDENTIFY ways to learn more about God.
3. THANK God for His Word, the Bible, and that we can know Him by reading about Jesus.
4. CHOOSE to live as a member of God's family.

Spark Principle— Motion

Objects at rest stay at rest until a force puts them in motion. People were stuck in sin until Jesus came and put God's plan in motion.





Bible

God sent His Son, Jesus, to Earth so that we can know God better. Jesus said if we know Him, we will know God. We can know Jesus by reading about His life in God's Word, the Bible. When you see a Bible, you can remember that God wants us to know Him.

Heart Prep

What is God like? The question has been asked through the ages. Many answers have been given. Some are false. All were incomplete until the Lord Jesus Christ came and explained, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

The account of Christ's life in the Bible is limited. This is one of the proofs of the Word. Had someone invented a history of the life of Christ, how exaggerated would have been the tales, like the ancients told of their gods. Jesus spoke as no other person spoke—this we know; but He also did what no other person did. Crowds kept coming after Him, seeking a sign to prove who He was. What signs did He furnish? He said, "the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (Matthew 11:5). He never catered to the demands of idle curiosity, nor was any work ever done selfishly. He only desired to show that He was sufficient for the needs of the body and the spirit.

He did want all people to know that He is the Christ. He not only called Himself the Son of God, but He also allowed Peter to make it a public confession. Every other thing in Jesus' character that we know to be true would have compelled Him to quickly deny such a statement if it had been untrue.

Some say that Jesus is the greatest of all teachers; yes, the best man who ever lived. But this is not enough, for this man was to be our Savior; and if He is not God, then He cannot redeem a lost world.

Bible Story Recap

Jesus was with God in the beginning, when everything was created. He was there when sin came between people and God. After hundreds of years passed, the Word—Jesus, the Son of God—became flesh. That means He became a human being with skin and bones and hands and feet and hair and eyes!

Jesus grew up and chose 12 friends to be His disciples. The disciples traveled with Jesus and got to know Him as their Teacher and their Friend. They watched what He did and listened carefully to everything He said.

During their time with Jesus, the disciples saw Him do amazing things. He healed the sick and the lame. He calmed the winds and water during a violent storm at sea. But most of all, He taught people about God and how much God loves everyone.

But not everyone loved Jesus. The religious leaders made plans to trap Jesus and arrest Him, even though Jesus had done NOTHING wrong!

Jesus told His friends that He was going away but that they knew the way to get there. Thomas said, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" (John 14:5).

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him" (John 14:6–7). Reading about Jesus' life in the Bible is one way we can know about Jesus. And when we know what Jesus is like, we know what God is like.

Daily Recap

At the end of each session, take time to reflect on what happened. Use these questions as a guide:

- What worked well today? What truth did you discover from God's Word?
- Did the kids take away their need to read God's Word to know more about Jesus?
- Be prepared to briefly tell about the time when you experienced God's presence in your life.

Bible Story Review Game

Clip 'n' Slip

Materials

- Bible
- Bible Story Cards (p. 48)
- 2 scissors
- 2 balls of string
- 2 boxes of paper clips

Preparation

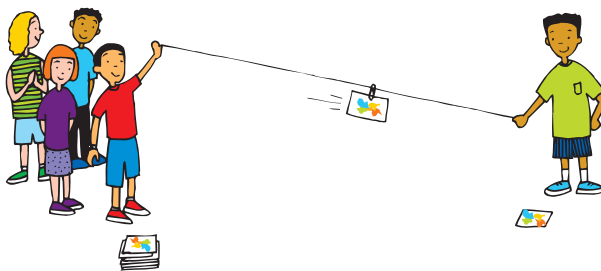
Photocopy, cut apart and shuffle Bible Story Cards. Make two sets of cards and place in separate piles. Place a ball of string, pair of scissors and box of paper clips next to each pile.

Procedure

Throughout time, people have used a variety of ways to communicate with other people. Can you name some of these ways?

(Smoke signals, drums, sign language, telephone, texting, email, etc.) **God communicated a very important message to us in person when He sent His Son, Jesus. Let's see how you can communicate to your team members with these items.**

Group divides into two teams. Assign each team to a pile of Bible Story Cards. Each team sends a team member to the opposite side of room.



Teams race to put Bible Story Cards in story order. Using string and paper clips, they devise a way to send cards to the team member across the room without leaving their places. (Teams stretch a length of string across room to their waiting team member. Players place a paper clip on each card, thread paper clip over string and slide card down the string by gravity or wave motion.) Once the team member across the room has all the cards, the team members join up again and lay cards on the floor in story order.



Conversation

Jesus lived an amazing life! God loves us so much, He wants us to know who He is. That's one reason why He sent Jesus to Earth and gave us His Word, the Bible.

- How does reading stories about Jesus' life in the Bible help us know Jesus? (We can read about the things He did, the things He said and what other people thought and said about Him.)
- How does knowing about Jesus tell us what God is like? (Jesus is God. Jesus said that when we know Him, we will know the Father as well.)

What is our Daily Plan today? I'll start it and you finish: God's Plan is . . . Pause for children to respond, "4 Us 2 KNOW Him!" **Just as we enjoy spending time getting to know our friends, God wants us to spend time with Him and get to know Him. Reading about Jesus in the Bible teaches us about God. Not only can we read what Jesus said when He was teaching others about God, but also, Jesus says, when we know who He is, we know God the Father as well!**

Younger Elementary Adaptation: Use Bible Story Cards for Younger Elementary on page 49. Number the backs of cards in story order.

Older Elementary Adaptation: Use Bible Story Cards for Older Elementary on page 50. In addition to putting cards in story order, children look up Bible references and write captions for each picture.

Bible Verse Game

Son and Wind Power

Preparation

Post Session 3 Bible Verse Poster where children can see it. Photocopy Bible Verse Cards, making two sets. Keeping each set of cards separate, cut cards apart and shuffle.

Place 12 Ping-Pong balls in each bucket, and place buckets on one side of the room. Make sure there is room behind the buckets for a team of players to line up. Set an egg carton on the other side of the room, opposite each bucket. Place a pile of cards next to each egg carton.

Procedure

Scientists have learned about many different kinds of power in the world. They know how to use solar power (from the sun), water power and electrical power to make things move and work. Today we are going to use wind power to move a ball across the floor. Demonstrate how both blowing air through a straw and sucking air into a straw can move a Ping-Pong ball.



Give each player a drinking straw. Group divides into two teams. Teams line up behind their buckets. In relay fashion, each player places a Ping-Pong ball on the floor and uses the straw to blow it across the room to the egg carton opposite. Once the player has reached the egg carton, player sucks the ball up with the straw and then releases it into the carton.

Player takes the top card, returns to team and the next player takes a turn.

When all cards have been retrieved, team races to put the cards in verse order. The first team to finish reads verse aloud.

Conversation

Today's verse is also the theme verse for SonSpark Labs because we're all about God's plan for you, and God's plan is all about Jesus!

How is Jesus "the Way"? "The Truth"? "The Life"? Volunteers respond after each question.

Thinking about the verse, what is a reason we ALL need Jesus? (Jesus provided a way for us to become members of God's family at Baptism. We all sin and all need Jesus' forgiveness.)

What is today's Daily Plan? Pause for children to respond, "4 Us 2 KNOW Him!" **God gave us His Word, the Bible, so that we can read about Jesus' life and learn about who Jesus is. As Jesus tells us in our verse, when we know Him, we know God the Father as well.**

Materials

- Bible
- Session 3 Bible Verse Poster from *Bible Teaching Poster Pack*
- Bible Verse Cards (p. 51)
- scissors or paper cutter
- 24 Ping-Pong balls
- 2 buckets
- 2 empty egg cartons

For Each Child

- 1 drinking straw



Recreation Game

Body Balloons (Water Game)

Materials

- Bible
- chalk, rope, tape or other way to mark game boundaries
- small water balloons
- water

Preparation

Use chalk, rope, tape or other way to make two parallel lines about 15 feet (4.6 m) apart. For each pair of players, fill a water balloon with enough water to make the balloon squishy but not too full. Tie each balloon in a knot.

Procedure

Have group form partners and stand behind one line. Give each pair of players a water balloon. When leader yells out a part of the body, partners work together to carry their water balloon to the other line and back using only the designated body part.

Start the game with easy body parts (hands, arms and stomachs), and gradually make it harder (foreheads, backs, hips, etc.). This is not a race. Partners may move as carefully and slowly as they need to. Partners who drop or pop their balloon must wait until the next round.

Game Variations: To get even more wet, use Styrofoam cups filled with water. To stay dry, use beanbags or small potatoes.

Conversation

Today's Daily Plan is "God's Plan: 4 Us 2 KNOW Him!" YOU are here because God loves you and wants you to love Him, too.

- **On which holiday do we celebrate Jesus' coming to Earth?** (Christmas.)
- **Name one of the amazing things Jesus did.** (Healed a man who couldn't walk. Walked on water. Calmed a storm.)
- **Why did some people not like Jesus?** (They were jealous that so many people liked Jesus and wanted to follow Him. Jesus taught people things about God that were different from what the religious leaders taught.)
- **What do you know about Jesus?** (He is kind, powerful, loving, etc.)

The question from today's Q&A is "What is God like?" The answer is "When you read about Jesus in the Bible, you know more about God." God wants us to know Him. Why? Because you can't really be friends with someone until you know what that person is like. God sent Jesus to Earth so that we could know Him better. That's also why God gave us His Word, the Bible. When we read about Jesus in the Bible, we get to know Jesus. And when we know Jesus, we know God the Father, too!

Older Elementary Adaptation: Group divides into two teams and plays game as a relay race.

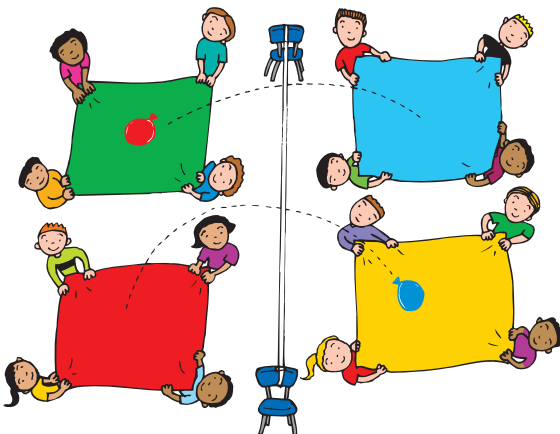


Alternate Recreation Game

Rocket Launch (Water Game)

Preparation

Tie volleyball net or rope across two chairs. Fill several water balloons with water, and knot to secure.



Procedure

Group divides into four teams—two teams on each side of the net. Give a blanket to each team. Team members stretch the blanket taut. Choose one side of the net to make the first launch. Place water balloons in the center of both teams' blankets. Team members work together to "rocket" their balloons over the net.

To improve teamwork, encourage teams to count backwards to launch saying, "Three-two-one, launch!" Receiving teams try to catch the "rockets" on their blankets. Play continues back and forth across the net. (Note: Diagonal shots are allowed and will add greatly to the fun.)

Teams score one point every time the receiving team fails to catch the rocket on its blanket. Replace broken rockets with new ones. For fun, poke a pinhole in one of the water balloons so children get squirted as they play.

Game Variation: To stay dry, use beanbags instead of water balloons.

Conversation

Our Scripture verse for today, is John 14:6–7, "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him

and have seen him.'" God wants us to know Him. That's why He sent His Son, Jesus. By reading about Jesus in the Bible, we will learn what God is like.

What is one thing a kid your age might need to know about Jesus? (Jesus is with us when we're scared. Jesus listens to our prayers. Jesus helps us have courage or strength to do good things.)

Why is following Jesus important to our lives? (Jesus helps us. He gives us what we need. Jesus guides us. He helps us know and do what God has planned for us. Jesus shows us how to live in the very best way.)

What is today's Daily Plan? Pause for children to respond, "4 Us 2 KNOW Him!" **God gave us His Word, the Bible, so that we can read about Jesus' life and learn about who Jesus is. Jesus makes it possible for us to know God, because Jesus said that when we know Him, we know God the Father as well.**

Younger Elementary Adaptation: Don't use the volleyball net or rope. Teams of children simply try to pass the rocket from one team to another.

Materials

- Bible
- volleyball net or rope
- 2 sturdy chairs
- water balloons
- water
- 4 small blankets

