

**God's
BIG
Story**

God's BIG Story

Reading | Level 4

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To the Parent & Teacher

Welcome to *God's Big Story*! It is our joy to partner with you in the glorious task of introducing young minds to the eternal truths contained in the Word of our gracious and loving God.

This coursework is intended to serve as an aid to parents who are looking for a Christian Family Discipleship approach to the education of their children. Christian education is always parent integrated, Bible integrated, and life integrated. This is the clear philosophy of education visible in Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Ephesians 6:4, and the book of Proverbs. *God's Big Story* seeks to follow this biblical mandate by introducing children to Scripture and to the faith and life lessons to be gleaned from it. This curriculum focuses on nurturing children in the faith, in Christ, and in Christian character. Every chapter of this reading course will familiarize

students with a new historical passage from Scripture and will teach the child how to learn from and apply the truths contained in each biblical account.

Best Book Approach

Nowadays it's fashionable to introduce "great books" to our children in their Christian paideia or educational training. We, however, recommend the best Book—the Bible. If our children want to learn to read and think, the first and core content of their study must be the Bible. These are God's stories, and our children should know all the stories of Scripture by the time they are reading on a fifth grade level.

Avoiding the piecemeal approach to Bible stories, the authors of this course instead present the whole story, the unity of Scripture, the true message intended by God. It is a redemptive story. While there may be moral lessons to glean here and there, the core message of Scripture is the work of God in redemption. This is the story the Bible presents from cover to cover and is the story focused on in this reading course. If our children learn a thousand other stories but miss this one, we have neglected our duty in their education.

The key objectives of this program are:

1. To provide the child with a clear understanding of biblical vocabulary to prepare them to read a substantive English translation of the Bible on their own.

2. To grant the child a familiarity with the full scope of biblical stories, the historical narrative of God's revelation.
3. To master the entire theme of the Bible, the Christ-focus of Scripture, and the fulfillment of the Old Testament in the New Testament.
4. To believe the Gospel.
5. To worship God, to fear God, and to obey His Word.

Our authors have been careful to present the wide range of scriptural stories without censorship. However, care has been taken to present stories on a level of understanding appropriate for ten-year-olds.

Scriptural quotations at the beginning of each chapter are taken from the New King James Version. The NKJV has also been used where narratives and conversations in the text include word-for-word scriptural quotations. Occasionally, the English Standard Version (ESV) was consulted as well.

God's Big Story is intended to be used in conjunction with the selection of read-aloud books that form a part of the Generations fourth grade reading curriculum.

May the Spirit of our God anoint these readings and studies to the spiritual enlightenment, the spiritual life, and the spiritual growth of the students.

Generations Curriculum Team

January 2021

CHAPTER 1

God Makes All Things

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Gen. 1:26-28)

There is one God who is three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There was never a time when God was not. The Triune God has always existed and always will exist.



In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. God is the maker of all things, visible and invisible. When people make things, they use existing materials. But God made all things out of nothing. He spoke a word, and things were made.

The world did not start with a big bang. The animals and people of this world did not evolve from other animals over millions of years. Instead, God created them in six days about six thousand years ago.

The first thing God created was light. He said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. Then God made the atmosphere, the dry land, and the trees. Next, God made the sun, moon, and stars. He also made the angels. Then, God made fish and birds and everything that flies in the air or swims in the ocean. Next, God made land animals.

Last of all, on the sixth day, God made mankind. Man is different than the animals because God made man in His image. God blessed man and charged him to rule over and care for everything He had made.

God named the first man Adam. The Lord gave Adam the job of naming the animals. As Adam named each kind of animal, he noticed that each one had a mate. The lion had his lioness, the bull had his cow, and the rooster had his hen. But Adam had no companion. After making each thing, God had declared it good. But now He said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him” (Gen. 2:18).

So the Lord caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. Then God took a rib from Adam and made it into a woman named Eve. Then God brought the woman to the man. When Adam saw Eve for the first time, he was very excited. He exclaimed in poetry:

*This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.
(Gen. 2:23)*

After making woman, God declared everything “very good” (Gen. 1:31). Adam and Eve loved each other and lived happily together. God created the woman to be a helper and companion to the man. God designed marriage to be a loving union between one man and one woman for life. Together, husband and wife are to work for the Lord and rear children for His glory. God’s design for men and women is good, true, and beautiful.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:15-25

Faith Lessons

God made all things—God made the world and everything in it. This means that all things belong to Him. He owns everything and rules everything. All the world must obey and praise Him. God made us, too. We must obey and praise God because we belong to Him.

God made mankind in His image—God made mankind, men and women, in His image. They are to take dominion of the earth together as caring stewards of God's creation. Because man is made in God's image, his life must be protected.

God made men and women—God made the woman to be a helper and companion to the man. God designed a man and a woman to live together in marriage and raise godly children together. God's design for men, women, and marriage is good, true, and beautiful. But Satan tries to distort and destroy it.

The Fall and the Promise

*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. (Gen. 3:15)*

God put Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, in the Garden of Eden. They were to work in and take care of the garden. God let them eat from most of the trees in the garden. But He told them not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

One day, a serpent began talking to Eve. The serpent was one of the smartest animals God had made. He asked Eve, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” The serpent misrepresented God’s command. He wanted Eve to doubt that God was good.



Eve replied, “We may eat from the other trees, but we may not eat or even touch the tree in the middle of the garden.” Eve corrected Satan but still misrepresented God’s command. God had said not to eat from the tree, but He hadn’t said not to touch it.

“You will not surely die,” the serpent told Eve. “God knows that when you eat the fruit your eyes will be opened, and you will know good and evil.” The serpent was telling Eve that God was withholding something good from her. He was not a good God.

Eve saw that the tree looked good. Its fruit looked tasty. She believed the serpent and ate from the tree, disobeying God. She

also gave some fruit to her husband Adam, who was there with her, but had said nothing. He also ate the fruit and disobeyed God.

Adam and Eve's eyes were opened when they ate the fruit. But instead of being happy, they saw their nakedness and shame. They sewed fig leaves to cover themselves. Then they heard the Lord walking in the garden. Before, they had walked with the Lord and enjoyed fellowship with Him. But now they tried to hide from the Lord. They were afraid of Him.

The Lord found Adam and Eve. "Have you eaten from the tree which I commanded you not to eat from?" He asked them.

Adam replied, "The woman You gave me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." Instead of confessing his own sin, Adam tried to shift the blame to Eve.

The Lord turned to Eve, "What have you done?"

Eve also tried to shift the blame, saying, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Then the Lord turned to the serpent and cursed it. Satan had spoken through the serpent to tempt Adam and Eve. The Lord told Satan, "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 Lord promised there would be enmity between those who would follow Him and those who would follow Satan. Someday, a Seed of the woman would come. Satan would wound that Man's heel, but that Man would crush Satan's head. This was

a promise of the gospel. This was a promise of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, who would crush Satan's head through the cross and resurrection.

Then the Lord turned back to the woman. He told her that women would now have pain when they gave birth to children. The Lord also told the man that men would find their work difficult. They would have to deal with thorns and thistles as they tried to grow food. These curses were consequences for sin.

When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they died, as God had said. They died spiritually right away. They were separated from God. They also began to die physically. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death."

Moreover, Adam was the representative of the human race. Because he sinned, all of us are born sinners. We aren't sinners because we sin. We sin because we are sinners.

But that's not the whole story. The Lord also showed mercy to Adam and Eve. Their fig leaves did not cover them well enough. So the Lord killed animals, took their skins, and used them to clothe Adam and Eve. The Lord provided the covering Adam and Eve could not provide for themselves.

The Lord expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. But He did not bar the way forever. He would send a Savior, the Seed of the woman, who would crush the serpent's head and open up the way back to paradise.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 3:1-19

Faith Lessons

Trust that God is good and knows best—Adam and Eve didn’t understand why God had forbidden them from eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Instead of trusting that a good God knew best, they believed Satan and disobeyed God.

Beware of Satan’s temptations—Satan was clever and smart in deceiving Adam and Eve. Satan is the father of lies, and he continues to tempt and deceive. We must beware of him. The Apostle Paul warns, “I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Cor. 11:3).

Praise the Lord for the Seed of the woman—God didn’t leave all mankind to perish in hell for their sins. He did what we couldn’t do. He promised and then sent a Seed of the woman to redeem all who trust in Him. This Savior is the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 3

Noah and the Flood

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. (Heb. 11:7)

After being driven out of the garden, Adam and Eve had two sons. The older was named Cain and the younger was called Abel. Abel was godly, but Cain was not. Both brothers sacrificed to the Lord. But the Lord rejected Cain's sacrifice, and Cain became angry at God and his brother. The Lord warned Cain about this, but he didn't listen. Cain's anger became hatred. One day, Cain murdered his brother Abel. Cain's descendants became more and more wicked. If sin is not stopped, it grows worse and worse.



The Lord gave Adam and Eve another son named Seth. Seth was the father of a godly family line. But as time passed, many of Seth's descendants became ungodly like Cain's were. People oppressed and murdered each other. The earth was filled with violence. God saw this and He was grieved. He had not created man to act like this. Because God is holy and just, He hates wickedness.

The Lord decided to destroy most of mankind because of their wickedness. But He had not forgotten His promise to send a

Seed of the woman to crush the head of the serpent. God decided to save one man and his family. The man's name was Noah. He had a wife and three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

God warned Noah that He was going to destroy the earth with a flood. He told Noah to build an ark, or a big ship, out of wood. The ark was huge. It had to be big enough to fit Noah's family, many animals, and food for all of them. It took Noah more than a hundred years to build the ark. In those days, people lived much longer than they do today. They also got married and had children later.

While Noah and his sons built the ark, Noah also preached and warned people. He urged them to repent of their sins and turn to God. But no one listened. Many people laughed at Noah. "Why are you building a big boat in the middle of land? You're a fool." Others became angry: "How dare you tell us to repent! Are you judging us?" But Noah kept on faithfully preaching and building. He was heartbroken to see the unbelief of friends and neighbors. But Noah would obey God no matter what.

At last, the ark was finished. God told Noah he was going to bring birds and land animals into the ark. But how would they get there? Noah was amazed to see the animals come two by two and enter the ark. When all the animals had come, God told Noah to enter the ark with his wife, his sons, and his sons' wives. So these eight people entered the ark. For seven days, nothing happened, and those outside the ark continued to laugh and mock.

But then, it began to rain and rain and rain. Waters shot up from under the earth. The waters rose higher and higher. No one outside the ark was laughing now. The waters rose for 150 days until they covered the tops of the highest mountains. Every human and land animal on earth died in the flood except for those safely inside the ark.

Noah and his family lived in the ark for about a year. The floodwaters slowly receded. The ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. Noah sent out a raven and then a dove to look for land. When it was finally dry enough, Noah, his family, and all the animals left the ark. As soon as he left the ark, Noah built an altar and sacrificed to the Lord. He was very thankful that the Lord had saved him and his family.

The Lord made a covenant with Noah. He promised not to destroy the earth again like He had in the flood. He also promised, “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease” (Gen. 8:22).

God also established civil government to punish murderers. This was to keep people from being as violent as they were before the flood. God also gave a sign of His covenant, the rainbow. The rainbow reminds us that God always keeps His promises. Every time you see a rainbow, you should remember God’s covenant with Noah and thank Him for it.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 9:1-17

Faith Lessons

God is holy and just—God is long-suffering. He was patient with wicked men for a long time. But because He is holy and just, God did eventually punish sinners in a global flood.

God is merciful—God had mercy on Noah and his family. He chose to save them from the flood. God also saved the animals. He told Noah how to build an ark. When the time came, God put Noah and his family in the ark and protected them from the flood outside. Then He made the waters recede so Noah's family and the animals could return to the dry land.

God always keeps His promises—God had promised to send a descendant of Eve to crush the serpent's head (Gen. 3:15). God was faithful to that promise, and He saved Noah and his family. After the flood, God made a covenant with Noah and promised not to destroy the earth again. He will be faithful to that promise too.

Abraham and Sarah

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. (Gal. 3:8-9)

Noah’s three sons and their wives had many children. The earth began to be filled with people again. Every person alive today is descended from Noah and his family who got off the ark after the flood.

In those days, everyone spoke the same language. God wanted people to spread out over the earth and settle and start different communities. But most people decided to group together and build a tower on a plain in Shinar. They wanted to build a city and a tower whose top would reach heaven. They wanted to make a name for themselves and be like God. So they built brick upon brick.



The Lord came down from heaven to see what they were doing. They were trying to reach heaven with their tower, but they didn't get very far. God confused their language. Each clan could no longer understand the others. They couldn't build anymore. So each clan went its own way into a different part of the earth. The place was called Babel, which means "confusion." God thwarts mankind's attempts to find peace and permanence apart from Him.

Abram was a man from Ur of the Chaldeans in the east. He did not worship the true God. He worshiped idols. But the Lord chose to have mercy on this man. He said to Abram, “Leave your country and your family. Go to the land of Canaan. I will give you that land. I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. In you, all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Abram had no children and he had never seen the land of Canaan before. But he turned from his idols and obeyed the Lord. He journeyed to Canaan with his household, including his wife Sarah and his nephew Lot. When Abram got to Canaan, he built an altar to the Lord and worshiped Him there.

Years passed. Abram and Lot separated. Lot went east to Sodom but Abram remained in Canaan. Abram was now about eighty-five years old. He believed God, but it was a struggle. He still had no son. One day, God appeared to Abram and said, “Do not be afraid. I am your shield and your great reward.”

Abram replied, “But Lord, I have no son, and one of my servants is my heir.”

God said, “I will give you a son and he will be your heir. Come outside.” God took Abram outside and showed him the stars in the sky. “Do you see all these stars? You will have as many descendants as these stars.” Abram believed God.

Then the Lord made a covenant with Abram. Abram took a heifer and a female goat, killed them, and cut them in half. At

that time, covenants were ratified this way. The animals would be cut in two; then the lesser party to the covenant would walk between the pieces. The one who did this was taking the curses of the covenant on himself. He was saying, “May I be cut in two if I break this covenant.”

But the Lord did something amazing. Abram did not walk between the pieces. The Lord Himself walked between the pieces. By doing this, the Lord was testifying in the strongest way possible that He would keep His promise and be faithful to His covenant. What an encouragement this was to Abram’s faith!

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him again and said, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.” The Lord changed Abram’s name to Abraham because he would be the father of many nations. Then He gave Abraham a sign of His covenant—circumcision. Obeying God, Abraham circumcised all the males in his household.

God was forming Abraham’s family into the nation of Israel. This nation was to be a light to the other nations. And the promised Seed who would bring the promised blessings would come from this nation. This Seed is the Lord Jesus Christ. In Him, all nations will be blessed. It doesn’t matter whether you’re a Jew or a Gentile. It doesn’t matter what nation you’re from. Everyone

who believes in Jesus like Abraham did is a child of Abraham and an heir of the blessings God promised him.

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Gal. 3:26-29)

Scripture Reading

Genesis 12:1-8

Faith Lessons

God sovereignly chooses—Abraham was an idolater. There was nothing in Abraham that moved God to choose him. But God sovereignly chose him for salvation. He chose to bless him and bring the promised Seed through him.

Believe God no matter what—Abraham believed God even though it was difficult to do so. He was old and had no child, yet he believed God's promise of a numerous seed. He owned no land, yet He believed God's promise that his seed would inherit the land of Canaan. He believed God would send a Savior. Abraham is the father of all who believe, whatever their ethnicity.

God always keeps His promises—God had promised to send a descendant of Eve to crush the serpent's head (Gen. 3:15). God was being faithful to that promise when He chose Abraham. By passing through the pieces, God was saying in the strongest way possible that He would keep His covenant promises.