

God's BIG Story

Reading | Level 2

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TO THE PARENT AND 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 that is 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 seven-year-olds.

Scriptural quotations at the end of each chapter are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible. This version has also been used where narratives and conversations in the text include word-for-word Scriptural quotations.

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 second 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 Creates Everything

When God made the world, He made all things good.

God spoke and **created** all things. He made the light. Then He made the sky and the dry land. He made the grass and the trees and the sun and stars. He made the fish and the birds. Then He made the **animals** that live on the land. He made the lions and zebras and the skunks and mice. He even made the worms and beetles and ants.

God made everything. He saw everything He made, and He said, “It is good.”

Then God made man. He formed a man out of the dust of the ground. God breathed into the man and gave him life.



This man was Adam.

Adam saw everything that God had made. He saw the sun and the sky and the grass and the **animals**. God's world was very good.

God saw His world, too. He looked at everything He had made. Then He looked at Adam. Adam was the only man in the world. He was all alone. God said, "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a **helper**."

God made Adam fall **asleep**. Then He took a rib out of Adam's side. From this rib God made a woman. Then He gave the woman to Adam.

When Adam saw the woman, he was very happy. God had made the perfect **helper** for Adam. Adam named her Eve.

God made Adam and Eve in His own image. He made them to be with Him and to worship and serve Him. God blessed them and told them, "Have **children** and fill the world I made. Rule over this world. Rule over all the plants and the **animals** and the fish and the birds. I give you every living thing that **moves** on the **earth**."

God saw everything He had made. It was all very good. Now His work of creating was **finished**. Now it was time to

rest. On the seventh day, God ended His work and rested. He blessed this day. It is called the Sabbath.

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.”

(Genesis 1:28)

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, for we belong to Him.

God is a good God — God made the world very good. Everything God makes is good. He is a very good God.

God made a helper for Adam — God saw that Adam was alone. This was not good, so God made Eve. He made man and woman. This is God's good plan. He knows what is good for His world.

God rested on the seventh day — God rested on Day Seven. His world rested on this day, too. This was the Sabbath Day. It was the day God made for us to rest.

Vocabulary

create
animal
helper

asleep
children
move

earth
finished
belong

CHAPTER 2

Sin Brings Death

God gave Adam and Eve an important job to do. He told them, “Have children and rule the world I made.” Adam and Eve lived in a garden God had planted for them. They worked in the garden and ruled the plants and animals just like He told them to. This was a **special** job God gave them. They were very happy to do it.

Many trees were in the garden. The trees were tall and green and pretty, and they were full of fruit to eat. God told Adam and Eve they could eat the fruit, but He said, “Don’t eat the fruit on the tree in the **middle** of the garden. This tree is not for you. If you eat from it, you will die.”

God knew what was good for Adam and Eve, so He gave



them a law to keep them safe. It was a very good law, for all God's laws are very good.

But soon an enemy came creeping and sneaking into the garden. The enemy was **Satan**, and he was very wicked. He didn't want Adam and Eve to obey God, so he came to trick them. He wanted to destroy God's world, so he tried to make Adam and Eve sin and **disobey** God. He wanted Adam

and Eve to trust in him, not God.

Satan was tricky. He tried to make Eve think God wasn't good. He told her, "God didn't give you a good law, so you must not obey Him. If you eat the fruit He told you not to, you will not die. You will be just like God!"

Satan lied, but Eve started to think that he was speaking the truth. She looked at the pretty fruit hanging on the tree. Then she said, "It looks very good to eat. Maybe what **Satan** is saying is true. Maybe God isn't good, and maybe His law isn't a good law." Then she took the fruit and ate it. Adam ate it, too.

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they **knew Satan** had lied to them. Now they **knew** God's law was good and that they had done a very bad thing. But it was too late. They had **disobeyed** God, and they had sinned. Now they were very **frightened**. "We must hide! We must hide from God!" Adam said. He and Eve ran away and hid behind the trees in the garden. They didn't want God to find them.

But God **knew** where they were. He told Adam, "You didn't obey me. You sinned. Now the work I give you will be hard work. You will have to work hard all your life. Then you will die."

Adam and Eve didn't want to die, but sin brings **death**.
This was a very sad day.

But God had mercy on Adam and Eve, too. He said, "You **disobeyed** me and sinned, and you will die. But I will bring a Seed into the world to save you from your sin. He will crush **Satan** and will save you."

Adam and Eve were **frightened**. They were very sad. They hadn't obeyed God. They hadn't obeyed His good law, and now they had sinned. But they trusted God's word. He said He would bring a Seed to save them from sin. One day this Seed would come. One day He would set them free from sin.

*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.
(Genesis 3:15)*

Faith Lessons

God’s Word is good — God gave Adam and Eve a very good law. He knew it was good for them to obey. He gave us the Bible. This is His good law. It teaches us what is good and what is bad. He is a very good God to give us His Word.

Sin brings a curse — The fruit from the tree looked good to Eve, but it was very bad for her. Sin brings a curse with it. We think sin is fun, but it isn’t. It will bring a curse. It will always bring very bad things with it.

God will send a Seed — God had mercy on Adam and Eve. He would send a Seed to save them from their sin. This Seed is Jesus Christ. One day He would come to save His people from sin.

Vocabulary

special
middle
Satan

disobey
knew
frightened

death

CHAPTER 3

Abel Trusts God

Adam and Eve had a son. They named their son Cain, and they **wondered**, “Will this be the Seed God promised? Will he save us from our sin?” They didn’t know, so they waited and **wondered**.

Cain had a **brother** named Abel. Soon the boys **grew** and became men.

Abel was a good man, but he sinned, too. All people sin. Yet Abel trusted God and asked Him to **forgive** his sins. Abel **wondered**, “How can God love us if we sin? How can He be our God if we are wicked people?” Abel knew that God is **holy** and good and perfect, so He must hate sin. How can we live with God if He hates sin?

Abel said, “I can’t stop sinning. I am full of sin. I can’t fix my sin, but God can. I must trust God to save me from my sin. I will trust His promises.”

All people who sin will die. This is the curse that sin brings on us. But Abel said, “God promised to send a Seed to save me from sin. This Seed will save me from sin’s curse.”

Abel trusted God to send a Seed. All his life he waited and trusted God.

Abel took care of the animals God made. He had flocks of sheep. One day he took one of his sheep and made an **offering**. He killed the sheep and gave it to God. This was a picture of God’s promise. The sheep died, and its blood spilled on the ground. Abel said, “God is **holy** and perfect, and I am sinful. My sin is very black, and God is angry with sin. This sheep will die, and its blood will spill on the ground. Can this sheep’s blood clean my sin away? No, it can’t. But one day God will make a **sacrifice** that will wash my sins away.”

Abel knew the sheep could not wash away his sins. But the sheep was a picture of an **offering** for sin. One day God would make a **sacrifice** to wash sins away. Abel trusted God to do this.



Cain saw what his **brother** Abel did. Cain made an **offering** to God, too. But he didn't trust God, and God was not pleased with his **offering**. This made Cain very angry. He said, "God likes the **offering** that Abel brings, but He is not pleased with my **offering**." What should Cain do? He should be sorry for his sin. He should pray to God and ask Him to save him from sin.

But Cain didn't pray to God. He got very angry. He said, "I will kill my **brother** Abel." Cain went up to Abel and talked to him. Abel didn't know what Cain wanted to do. They walked and talked together, and then Cain killed his **brother**. This was a very wicked thing to do.

After Abel died, God came to Cain. He said, "Where is Abel your **brother**?"

Cain was afraid, so he lied. He said, "I don't know where he is."

But God knew. He saw Cain kill his **brother**. God sees all things and He saw Cain sin, so God cursed Cain.

Now Abel was **dead**, but God would not forget His promise. Abel trusted God, and God would send an **offering** to save Abel from sin.

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

(Hebrews 11:4)

Faith Lessons

God is holy — Sin is very wicked and brings a curse, so God must punish us for sin. We cannot live with God if we sin. We must die. One day God will judge all the world for sin.

Abel trusted God — Abel was full of sin, but he trusted God. He made an **offering** for his sin. The sheep's blood could not wash Abel's sins away, but he trusted God to send an **offering** to save him from sin.

God will make an offering — God promised to send a Seed. This Seed would be a **sacrifice** for sins. Jesus is this Seed. He would die to be an **offering** for sin. He would wash away His people's sins.

Vocabulary

wondered
brother
grew

forgive
holy
offering

sacrifice
dead