



God's BIG Story

Reading | Level 3

By R.A. Sheats

Illustrations by Zakir Hussain

Copyright © 2021 by Generations

All rights reserved.

Printed in Korea

1st Printing, 2021

ISBN: 978-1-954745-02-5

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Cover Design: Justin Turley

Cover Illustration: Matthew Sample II

Interior Layout Design: Sarah Lee Bryant

Published by:

Generations

19039 Plaza Drive Ste 210

Parker, Colorado 80134

www.generations.org

For more information on this and
other titles from Generations,
visit www.generations.org or call 888-389-9080.

CONTENTS

1. Creation.....	12
2. Sin and Promise.....	17
3. The Flood and the City of Babel.....	22
4. A Promise to Abram.....	27
5. Jacob and the Blessing.....	32
6. Joseph and His Brothers.....	38
7. Joseph and the Test.....	43
8. Joseph Reveals Himself.....	48
9. God Tests Job.....	53
10. Job and His Friends.....	58
11. God Questions Job.....	64
12. Ruth and Naomi.....	70
13. Boaz the Redeemer.....	75
14. Jonah Runs From God.....	80
15. Nineveh Repents.....	85
16. Esther the New Queen.....	91
17. Haman's Plot.....	95
18. God Saves His People.....	100
19. Daniel in Babylon.....	106
20. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream.....	112
21. The Fiery Furnace.....	118
22. Judgment on Nebuchadnezzar.....	124
23. Writing on the Wall.....	130
24. Daniel and the Lions.....	135

25. Preparing for the Savior.....	140
26. A Boy Named John.....	145
27. The Savior Is Born.....	150
28. Jesus in the Temple.....	155
29. John the Baptist.....	161
30. The Temptation of Jesus.....	167
31. Disciples and Fishing.....	172
32. The Sabbath and a Sermon.....	178
33. A Question and a Sinful Woman.....	183
34. Calming a Storm and a Demoniac.....	188
35. Jesus Raises the Dead.....	194
36. Sending Twelve, Feeding Five Thousand.....	199
37. Listen to the Son!.....	204
38. Martha and Mary.....	210
39. Seventy Sent to the Harvest.....	214
40. The Good Samaritan.....	220
41. The Lord's Prayer.....	225
42. Sin Comes from Within.....	230
43. Wine, Lamps, and a Fig Tree.....	236
44. Pharisees and Fools.....	241
45. Parables about the Kingdom.....	246
46. Healing on the Sabbath Day.....	250
47. A Lost Sheep, a Lost Coin, and a Lost Son.....	256
48. A Shrewd Man and a Perfect Bible.....	262

49. Jesus Heals Ten Lepers.....	268
50. Prayer, Pride, and Humility.....	274
51. Jesus and Zacchaeus.....	279
52. A Parable about Minas.....	285
53. The Triumphal Entry.....	290
54. David's Son and a Widow.....	296
55. Two Sons and Some Wicked Tenants.....	302
56. Invitation to a Wedding.....	308
57. A Day for Salvation.....	314
58. The Sheep and the Goats.....	320
59. The Last Supper.....	325
60. The Garden of Gethsemane.....	331
61. Jesus on Trial.....	337
62. The Cross and the Tomb.....	342
63. He Is Risen!.....	347
64. The Ascension.....	352
65. Ananias and Sapphira.....	357
66. Open Prison Doors.....	363
67. Preaching at Cyprus and Antioch.....	369
68. False Gods and New Churches.....	374
69. The Jerusalem Council.....	380
70. Riot at Ephesus.....	386
71. John Writes the End.....	391

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 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 eight-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 third 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

Creation

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. God spoke and created all things.

On the first day, God said, “Let there be light.” And the light was created instantly. Then God divided the light from the darkness. He made water and land and plants and trees. Everything God made was good. He made trees with fruit, and He made bushes with berries to eat. He made corn stalks and watermelon vines. All things He made were full of beauty and were very good.

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the sky.” He made the sun and moon and all the stars. We can’t count all the stars God made, but He can. He calls them each by their own name.

God had a plan when He made the world. He made all things with a purpose. When He created fish and birds, He commanded them, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the land.”

The fish began to grow and multiply. They laid eggs and



hatched thousands of little fish. The birds multiplied, too. Soon the land and seas were filled with birds and fish, just like God had commanded. Dolphins and sharks and all kinds of sea creatures filled the oceans, and pelicans and eagles and hummingbirds filled the sky. These animals were created by God, and He gave them a purpose when He created them. Everything God created brings glory to Him.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures." God made all the animals and bugs that live on the land. He made dogs and dinosaurs and cows and even crickets, too. Now the world was filled with all the wonderful things God made.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle. They will rule over all the earth and over everything that lives on the earth." Then God created man and woman, and He made them in His own image. They were called Adam and Eve.

God gave Adam and Eve eyes to see all the things He had created. They saw the world God had made. All around them they could see land and oceans and plants and animals. Stars twinkled in the sky above them. Everywhere they looked, they saw what God had made. This filled them with wonder. God was a mighty, wise, powerful, and very good God to make such a world! Adam and Eve praised and glorified God.

God made Adam and Eve, but He didn't make them like the plants or trees or animals. He gave them a mind to understand

Him and a heart to love and serve Him. He made them in His own image. He made them holy, and He taught them about Himself. He made them to be with Him and to worship Him.

God had a plan for Adam and Eve. He commanded them, “Be fruitful and multiply. Have many children, and fill the earth with people. Rule over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

God told them, “See, I have given you the plants and trees in the earth. Their fruit will be food for you.”

Then God planted a garden. He made the garden for Adam and Eve to live in. He told them, “You may eat of every tree in the garden except one. Don’t eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If you eat of that tree, you will die.”

Now God’s work was finished. He had created the whole world, and now He ended His work. He took six days to make the world. Then He rested on the seventh day. This day is called the Sabbath.

God looked at everything He had made. The world was filled with His perfect creation. It was very, very good.

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the firmament shows His handiwork.
(Psalm 19:1)*

Faith Lessons

God made the whole world — God spoke and created the world. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit worked together to make the world.

God's world brings glory to Him — God must be very wise to make such a world. He must be very good, too. His creation brings glory to Him. It tells people about the God who made the world.

God made all things with a purpose — God had a plan when He created the world. He made each of His creatures with a purpose. He made people in His own image, and He made them to glorify Him and to fill the earth and rule over His creation.

Vocabulary

create
instantly
beauty

purpose
multiply
dominion

glorify
creation

CHAPTER 2

Sin and Promise

God made Adam and Eve and put them in a perfect garden. Inside the garden, God planted many plants and trees and commanded Adam and Eve to care for them. God made all things, so He rules over all things. He gave rules to His creatures, and He gave rules to Adam and Eve, too.

But Satan didn't like God's rules. He hated God, so he tried to make Adam and Eve disobey God. God told them not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, so Satan tried to trick them into eating from that tree.

Satan came to Eve and said, "Did God really say that you can't eat from any of the trees in the garden?"

Eve said, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden, but we can't eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If we eat from that tree, we will die."

But Satan said, "You won't die! God knows that if you eat from that tree, you will become just like Him. The fruit from that tree



will open your eyes so that you can tell what is good and what is bad. You'll be a god, too."

Eve listened to Satan's words. Then she looked at the tree and started thinking. Was the tree good for her to eat from? It was a very pretty tree, and the fruit looked very good to eat. Was God deceiving her and Adam when He told them not to eat from that tree? He told them it would be very bad for them to eat the fruit, but maybe He was lying to them. Eve looked at the tree and

wondered. Should she believe God, or should she believe Satan?

Eve took a piece of fruit from the tree. She decided she would trust Satan, so she ate the fruit. Adam was with her, so she gave him a piece of the fruit and he ate it, too. But Satan had lied to them. Suddenly, when they ate the fruit, they realized that they had sinned. Their eyes were opened, and they knew they were naked. They had broken God's law, and now they must die.

Adam and Eve were terrified, so they ran behind one of the trees in the garden and hid from God. They didn't want Him to find them or find out what they had done. But God knows all things. He created the world, and He knows everything that happens in His world. He already knew what Satan had said and what Adam and Eve had done.

God called to Adam and said, "Where are you?"

Adam knew he couldn't hide from God, so he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid myself." Then Adam sinned even more. He blamed Eve for his sin. Even though he chose to eat the fruit, he pretended that it was Eve's fault. He told God, "The woman You gave me took the fruit and gave it to me, so I ate it." Adam tried to blame Eve, but this only made his sin even worse and even more sinful.

Then God asked Eve, "What have you done?"

Eve was afraid, so she sinned even more, too. She tried to blame Satan for everything that had gone wrong. She attempted to excuse her own sin by blaming it on the devil. "He deceived me, so I ate the fruit," she said.

Satan had sinned, so God cursed him and promised to destroy his works of wickedness. But Adam and Eve had sinned, too, and God judged them for their sin. One day they would die, just like God had warned them. Now their work would be difficult, too. Women would have difficulty when they gave birth to babies, and men would have trouble when they worked. All of this happened because of their sins.

But God wasn't finished with Adam and Eve. He punished them for their sin, but He also gave them a very special promise. He promised to send Someone who would save them from their sins. That Someone was Jesus Christ, and He would come into the world one day to save His people from sin.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in
Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23)*

Faith Lessons

Satan fights against God — Satan hates God and everything that God does. He tries to destroy it all, but God will destroy him instead. God will defeat Satan and will destroy all his works of darkness and sin.

Adam and Eve blamed others for their sin — Adam and Eve sinned because of their own fault. They shouldn't have tried to blame their sin on someone else. It is never right to blame someone else for our sin.

God promised a Savior — God judged Adam and Eve for their sin, but He also had mercy on them. He promised to send a Savior to save them from their sin. Let us praise God for His promise!

Vocabulary

knowledge
deceive
believe

realize
attempt
wickedness

difficulty
savior

CHAPTER 3

The Flood and the City of Babel

After Adam and Eve sinned, God sent them away from the garden. They had disobeyed Him, and now they weren't allowed to eat from any of the trees in the garden. They weren't even allowed to live there anymore.

Adam and Eve had many children, and soon the earth was filled with people. Seth was one of Adam's sons. He followed God and taught his children to love and fear the Lord. Because Adam had sinned, all the people on earth sinned, too. Yet, even though Seth sinned, God blessed him and had mercy on him and his children.

But some of Adam's other sons were very wicked men. They broke God's law and killed people. They treated others badly and didn't love or fear God.

Many, many years passed. Adam grew old and died. Then his sons grew old and died. Now the world was full of people. Wicked people got worse and worse. They filled the earth with violence and wickedness. The men who followed God watched how the

wicked people lived. Then they began to marry women who didn't love or fear God. Soon they became wicked just like the others.

God saw the wickedness of the people and what was happening to His world. He was grieved that His creation had become so sinful, so He said, "I will destroy man whom I have created. I will wipe them off the face of the earth. I will destroy both man and beast, for I am sorry that I have made them."

The Lord would send a flood to destroy all mankind. Waters



would cover the earth and kill all the animals and creatures, too. But God had mercy on one man. His name was Noah. God chose Noah and commanded him to build an ark to save himself and his family. The ark would also save some of the animals. The Lord would send a flood because of sin, but He would remember His promise. He wouldn't kill all the people He had created. He would have mercy on Noah and would spare him and his family.

Noah obeyed God and built the ark just like God commanded. Then the Lord sent the flood and killed all mankind. But He protected Noah and his family in the ark. After the flood ended, Noah built an altar and worshiped God. He was a righteous man, and he walked in God's ways.

When the flood was over, Noah's sons had children and began to multiply on the earth. But these people didn't follow God, either. They decided to build a city and a tower to make themselves great and mighty. They all spoke the same language, so they worked together to build their city.

God saw what the people were doing, and He wasn't pleased. Mankind was disobeying Him again. They planned to build a huge city and a tall tower, and they hoped to become powerful in the earth. Just like Adam and Eve, they were trying to be God instead of following God.

The Lord stopped the people and their evil work. He gave them different languages to speak. Suddenly they couldn't understand each other. Confusion filled the city, and the people had to stop

building. Because of all the confusion, they named the city Babel. After God changed their language, they left the city. Then they scattered throughout the whole world.

So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth. . . .” But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.
(Genesis 6:7-8)

Faith Lessons

Sin brings judgment — People sin when they disobey God. They sin when they don't follow His laws and commands. God is a holy God, so He judged the world for sin. He sent a flood and destroyed almost all of mankind. One day He will judge all the world again. Jesus Christ will return to earth as the Judge. He will judge every person for sin.

God chose Noah and had mercy on him — God destroyed the earth with the flood, but He chose to save Noah and his family. The Lord is a gracious God who has mercy on His people.

God knows what is good for His creation — God created mankind, so He knows what is good for them. It wasn't good for the people to try to make a huge city where they could all live together. God commands people to fill the whole earth. This is good for the earth, and it's good for mankind, too.

Vocabulary

violence

grieve

mankind

spare

righteous

gracious

confusion