

City SG—May 1st, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Start Spreading the News (Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel) • *Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1-2*

Today's Bottom Line: God is always with you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *But those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.* Isaiah 40:31 (NirV)

1. Bible Story Timeline

Non-Reader Option highlighted below

What You Need: "Bible Story Pictures" Activity Page (2 sets printed on cardstock per group), paper, markers

What You Do:

- Hold up the "Bible Story Pictures" one at a time to identify what's happening in each picture.
- Explain that you will put the pictures in chronological order.
- Enlist the kids' help in laying the pictures in order.
- **To help them be successful, point out the number at the bottom of each picture.**
- Split your group into 2 teams.
- Give each Team a set of "Bible Story Pictures" and instruct each team to shuffle their pictures face down in front of them.
- On your "GO!", the first team to put the pictures in order, wins the round.
- Play a few rounds as time and interest allows.
- Pass out a piece of paper to each kid.
- Set out the markers.
- Instruct them to draw a self-portrait.
- After they finish, lay their pictures at the very end of the sentence strip, fanning them out as best you can.

What You Say:

(Point to Picture #1.) "Jesus came to Earth to save us! He died on the cross so that everyone can live with God forever. Three days after He died, Jesus rose again. The tomb was empty because Jesus was alive.

(Point to Picture #2.) "For over 40 days, Jesus appeared to different people—over 500! He showed up over and over again to prove that He was alive.

(Point to Picture #3.) "Jesus' friends even shared a meal with Him after He was resurrected. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit as a helper to them.

(Point to Picture #4.) "Jesus wanted His friends to tell the WHOLE world about Him. The Holy Spirit came down like fire and suddenly, the Spirit allowed the people to speak in different languages! The power of God's Spirit would help them tell SO many people about Jesus.

(Point to Picture #5.) "Peter spoke to a large crowd, telling them about Jesus. The other Jesus followers shared his words and continued to spread the story. God's Spirit was so powerful that over 3000 people believed in Jesus and were baptized that same day!

(Point to Picture #6.) "The early church grew quickly. Those first believers met and ate together. They shared what they had and encouraged each other. And the message of Jesus kept spreading.

“The Holy Spirit is with us, too! The Spirit helps us understand who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Jesus told His followers to tell EVERYONE about Him. But that seemed like an impossible task! Jesus made a promise to be with them. He sent the Spirit to help. That’s why we know about Jesus today! When we put our faith in Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit to help us, too! We are a part of this same mission, and we can keep going and keep telling others about Jesus because we aren’t alone! Remember, no matter what happens, you can bounce back. You can get back up again because you are never alone. **[Bottom Line] God is always with you.**”

[Make it Personal] (Share a time you faced a tough situation and you knew or felt that even when things were tough, God was with you. Maybe God sent someone to help you. Maybe someone prayed for you. Be specific and give a concrete example. And as always, make sure your example is age-appropriate.)

2. God Is with Me

What You Need: “Idea Cards” (1 set per Group), ball (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Gather kids to stand in a big circle.
- Place your “Idea Cards” face down in the middle of your circle.
- Explain that you will read an example (below) of a time a kid might feel alone.
- Then bounce the ball to a kid across the circle.
- The kid who catches the ball will pull one of the “Idea Cards” for you to read aloud. Each card will give an example of a way to remember that God is with them even in the example you gave.
- Continue in the same way until all cards have read.

Examples of times kids may feel alone:

1. I am left out at recess.
2. It seems like I’m the only one who doesn’t understand our math worksheet.
3. No one chooses me for the team.
4. My two close friends are talking about something, and they won’t tell me what it is.
5. My older sister has a friend over and won’t let me play with them.
6. A group in our neighborhood is playing basketball, and I’m not good at basketball.
7. My bike is broken, and all my friends are riding their bikes.
8. No one chooses to sit by me when the teacher lets us choose our seats.

What You Say:

“Sometimes, we feel left out. Sometimes, we are left out. But the truth is, even when we feel alone, we aren’t REALLY alone. God is with us, always. It’s a promise God made, and we know for sure that God always keeps promises. So this week, when you feel all alone or maybe it feels like you’re the only one choosing to do the wise thing, remember that **[Bottom Line] God is always with you.**”

3. Memory Verse Motions

What You Need: Bible marked at Isaiah 40:31

What You Do:

- Look up and read the memory verse to your group.
- Read the verse aloud two or three times to help familiarize them with the words.

- Teach the kids the following motions to the verse as they repeat it together.
 - *But those who trust in the Lord* (Make a “T” with your hands.)
 - *will receive new strength.* (Flex arms out to sides to show off your muscles.)
 - *They will fly as high as eagles.* (Flap like a bird.)
 - *They will run and not get tired.* (Jog in place.)
 - *They will walk and not grow weak.* (Walk in place.)
 - Isaiah 40:31

What You Say:

“Great job! Our verse is packed full of so much good stuff about bouncing back! We can put our trust in the Lord. When you feel like giving up, remember that **[Bottom Line] God is always with you.** And He promises to give new strength so we can keep going, even when we feel like giving up!”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Say:

“God, thank You for Jesus and for sending Your Spirit as our helper. This week, when we feel down or all alone, please help us bounce back as we remember that You are WITH us! Remind us, God, that You will NEVER leave us. You are an awesome, big, and powerful God. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”