



WEEK
THREE
AUGUST 2022

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

No Matter What
The Fall
Genesis 3
(Genesis 2:15-17; The Gospels)

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Who has loved you even
when you've messed up?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God loves us no matter what.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Here is what love is. It is not
that we loved God. It is that he
loved us and sent his Son to give
his life to pay for our sins."
1 John 4:10, NIV

HOST SUPPLIES

- Printed the "Messed-up Story" for each Small Group
- Pencils/pens for each group

STORY SUPPLIES

- "Story Plot" Printable
- Hat

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Friend Like You" from *This Love*, "All About Love" from *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, and "You Make My Heart Sing" from *Every Beat*)
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Review and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotional for Kids
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Love—Showing others how much they matter to you

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO:

AUDIO:

Host enters holding a clipboard.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as they welcome everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that is happening culturally or currently, the latest video game or movie launches, and so on. Host tells them how excited they are that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Welcome, everyone, to [Name of Environment]! I'm [your name], and I have a brilliantly book-tastic epic challenge to get us started today—and even better, it's for everyone in the whole room!"

Have everyone gather in their Small Groups.

"Now, we've all messed up and done stupid things, right? Myself included. I can't tell you how many things I did that were totally idiotic when I was your age. Have you ever wanted to go back and redo those decisions? Hit Control-Z on your day? Re-write the story?"



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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

“Well, today, we can rewrite the story. Maybe not with time travel and maybe not to stop you from testing out the voltage in your house by shoving a fork in the outlet, but we can rewrite some craziness right here in this room!

“I’ll hand each group a story. If you look closely, there are some things that are just plain messed up about it. As a group, you can make up to TEN changes to the story. By changes I mean add a word, change a phrase, delete a word, or something similar. You can’t change whole sentences, but once you change a word, it’s changed for the whole story. With these ten changes, see if you can make the story better—and maybe make a bit more sense! Let’s play “Rewrite the Epic!”

SLIDE: “REWRITE THE EPIC” TITLE

Hand out the stories to each group, along with pencils and clipboards, if necessary. You can use the story below, or add your own “Mad-Lib”-style story for the groups to change!

The Messed-Up Story

“A refrigerator was walking down the street, minding his own business. It was a beautifully pink day, and spaghetti was falling gently from the sky. Nobody knew just what was about to happen, when suddenly, out of nowhere, a cactus shouted loudly. “Bananas, I declare!” yelled a driver, speeding through the intersection. He was about to jump the curb and slam into some popsicles! A brave toaster, just in the nick of time, grabbed the refrigerator and dove out of the way! The day had been ruined. “What a businessman,” the crowd cheered after seeing the toaster’s heroic efforts. “I’m just doing what anyone else would do to love their scuba,” sobbed the humble hero.

Allow the groups to work on their changes, and after a few moments, gather everyone’s attention and have groups read out their stories. Applaud creativity, and vote for the best if desired.

“Wow, I was totally worried about that fridge getting run over by the cactus. You totally fixed it! Those new stories were truly epic!



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Friends, I’m so glad to see you all here today! Those stories you came up with were super fun, and as a person who likes stories, I appreciate the creativity.

“I just happen to have another story challenge. This one will take a bit of imagination, so I’ll need a few people who have big, wide, creative imaginations! For this one, I need a small group leader and one kid.

Choose one Small Group Leader and one willing volunteer.

“Have either of you ever just made things up on the spot? There’s a fun story game called ‘And Then . . . !’ that I’d like to try, but we’ll need to pick an element to our story first. Now, in a story, we know we need characters. Those are the people in the story. In addition to that, we’ll need a setting. That’s where the story takes place.

“On the screens you will see a list of settings and a list of characters. Your first job is to pick one of each!

SLIDE: SETTINGS AND CHARACTERS

After a setting and characters are chosen, hold up the hat with the plot slips in it.

“Anyone know what the last element we need is? (Pause for responses.) That’s right! The plot! Reach in and pull out a plot slip from our Story Hat! (Reveal the selected story plot.)

“Fantastic! Now, to play ‘And Then . . . !’ all you have to do is tell the story plot, in your setting, with your characters. Each one of you can alternate sentences in the story, starting with ‘And then . . .’ Want to try? Let’s go!

Play the exercise. Keep the energy up by asking questions, helping to steer them if they get stuck.

“Awesome job, can we get a round of applause for our amazing improvisational storytellers? Let’s try one more!

Choose two new volunteers, one adult and one child.

“Okay same idea. You can’t use the ones that were already used, but choose a setting and characters. Then pick a new plot slip out of the Story Hat, and away you go!”

Play the exercise one more time, applaud the volunteers when finished, then continue.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “At first, you might’ve thought you knew where the story was headed. Judging by the plot and the characters, things may have made sense to go a certain way. However, things don’t always go as planned, do they? Stories take a turn. Choices turn out to be different than we thought.



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“And this happens regularly in real life, too, doesn’t it? You might think you know how you’d act in a certain situation, but when you get there, you might act a completely different way. And sometimes, we know how we’re supposed to act, yet sometimes we do the exact opposite! Why is that? What is wrong with us?”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Our story picks up right where we left off last week—and if you weren’t here, God has just created the earth, the sky, the heavens, all of the plants, animals, fish, birds, water, day, night, the whole deal—and then God created humans, man and woman.

“The setting is the Garden of Eden. The characters? Adam and Eve. The plot? Adam and Eve were to live in the Garden, walk and talk with God, and enjoy peace, harmony, and paradise.

“But as you just witnessed . . . the story doesn’t turn out exactly like you might think. Let’s begin!

“God created the entire universe out of a deep, deep love and then filled it with an explosion of creativity and life.

SLIDE: TRUTH IMAGE 1

“Into that world, people were created in God’s image. God wanted a relationship with people. The people had the job of loving and caring for the world that God made. God placed these first humans, Adam and Eve, in a beautiful garden called Eden. It was theirs to enjoy as they cared for the world.

SLIDE: TRUTH IMAGE 2

“Even though Adam and Eve were tasked with caring and ruling over the garden and all of the creatures within, who was totally in charge here?

Pause for responses.

“Exactly . . . God was. God created everything, including the people. So as God created humans to thrive and shine in this beautiful garden, God also gave them some instructions to follow.

Open the Bible to Genesis 2:16-17 (NirV) and read.

“The Lord God gave the man a command. He said, “You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you will certainly die.”

“How many of you would be like, ‘OK, hold up a second. Tree of good and evil? What’s good? And furthermore, what’s evil? Why can’t I eat that particular tree?’ TONS of questions, I’m guessing. However, let’s focus on a few facts: Did God provide them other things to eat? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes! Every tree. Fruits, nuts, vegetables, a whole spread. Every tree except for one. There was one important tree that was off limits, but the rest was for them!

SLIDE: TRUTH IMAGE 3

“What was with this tree? What made it so special?



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"This tree, other than being a cool looking tree with interesting fruit, was a sign of love and trust. God was telling them right away that this tree was not for them, and He was asking them to trust Him. 'Trust Me about the tree; you don't want it,' God was saying. 'Love Me enough to leave the tree alone. Believe I will care for you and that you don't need this tree.'

"But all it took was one, simple conversation to turn this story in a different direction.

"Enter a 'deceiver.' A misleading voice, an idea-planter, a nudger. This voice was going to bend their ears and make them think really hard about that tree and why God told them to stay away from it and get them to question whether they should trust God.

"The deceiver? It's the 'serpent.'

SLIDE: TRUTH IMAGE 4

Open the Bible to Genesis 3:1 (NirV) and read.

"The serpent was more clever than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. The serpent said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden?'"

"Wow, this serpent wasted no time. Right to the point. (in a sneaky voice) 'Did God really say that? Are you sure? And if He did really say that . . . don't you wonder why?'

"Yep. A deceiver, all right.

Open the Bible to Genesis 3:2-3 (NirV) and read.

"The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. But God did say, 'You must not eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.'"

"Eve understood how gracious God was by giving them all of the other trees to eat from. It was not a big deal to her that there was one tree that was off limits. She understood the consequences. This seemed like a good moment . . . until . . .

SLIDE: TRUTH IMAGE 5

Open the Bible to Genesis 3:4-5a (NirV) and read.

"You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. "God knows that when you eat fruit from that tree, you will know things you have never known before."

"Plot twist. And a twisting of the truth. You see, God knew that if Adam and Eve ate the fruit, their eyes would be opened to certain terrible things, they wouldn't be able to remain in the garden, their closeness with Him would end, and they would eventually die. The serpent wasn't lying, but he certainly wasn't telling her the whole truth.



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“That deceitful voice made the woman question God’s love. (*Sneaky voice*) ‘God is holding out on you. He is not giving you His best. There is something God could give you that would be so amazing but He just won’t. So . . . you could just take it?’

“And that was enough.”

Open the Bible to Genesis 3:6 (NirV) and read.

“‘The woman saw that the tree’s fruit was good to eat and pleasing to look at. She also saw that it would make a person wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her. And he ate it.’

SLIDE: TRUTH IMAGE 6

“And in a moment, everything changed. The way they saw each other . . . the way they saw themselves . . . and the way they saw God.”

Open the Bible to Genesis 3:8-9 (NirV) and read.

“‘Then the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking in the garden. It was during the coolest time of the day. They hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called out to the man. “Where are you?” he asked.’

SLIDE: TRUTH IMAGE 7

“In this moment, Adam and Eve didn’t want to hear from God. Instead of rejoicing and walking with God, Adam and Eve wanted to hide. They were scared of God now. This was not how it was meant to be for them.

“And this wasn’t the only relationship that broke. Adam blamed Eve.

Open the Bible to Genesis 3:12 (NirV) and read.

“‘The man said, “It’s the fault of the woman you put here with me. She gave me some fruit from the tree. And I ate it.”’

SLIDE: TRUTH IMAGE 8

“Adam told God it was ‘the woman YOU put here with me.’ The relationship between the man and woman and the relationship between man and God suffered drastically.

“There were severe consequences from this moment on, just as God said there would be. The deceiving serpent was cursed. Adam and Eve were kicked out of the garden and forced to work the soil, which would now bear thorns and thistles. And one day, they would eventually die. Because of their actions, death entered into the human story.

SLIDE: TRUTH IMAGE 9



A love story
for the ages

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"The human story had become quite a mess. What seemed like the perfect setting with the perfect characters was tragically turned into a horrible plot.

"But not even that is the true end of the story. You see, even then, even as Adam and Eve turned their backs on the garden and headed out into the wilderness, God had a plan. God would never give up on people. God wouldn't leave them to toil and struggle forever. God never stopped loving Adam and Eve and never stopped loving people. Thankfully, God had an answer even then how to rescue all generations for all time.

"Enter the Savior. Jesus.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Did you know that Jesus is sometimes known as 'The Second Adam?' Where Adam fell short, Jesus stood tall.

"Jesus was tempted by the same deceiver in the desert for 40 days, but He didn't give in.

"Where Adam and Eve disobeyed God and took matters into their own hands, Jesus followed every command of His heavenly Father for His entire life.

"When Adam and Eve heard God, they hid, ashamed. Jesus is God's Son and called out to the shamed and the hidden, teaching them, healing them, and leading them.

"Adam and Eve went to a tree and found death. Jesus hung crucified on a tree and found life everlasting for all of us.

"God was fixing that story that was messed up so long ago. He was fixing our story. He never stopped loving people—and Jesus made a way to bring people back to God again!

"And, you know what? I don't want you to EVER forget how much God loves you. There will be times when each of us messes up—just like Adam and Eve did.

SLIDE: GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE

SLIDE: WEEK 3 TIMELINE IMAGE

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"And just like when God never stopped loving Adam and Eve, God never stops loving us! Jesus is the greatest proof of this. Jesus came to bring us, all of us, back to God. And God is also making a way for us to have right relationships with one another again. We get to live by a much better story—the story that God is now telling through Jesus!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today as you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION



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“Who has loved you even when you’ve messed up?” Think on that for a moment. We’ve all messed up. We’ve all fallen short. We’ve all made decisions that we wished we didn’t. But who has forgiven us for all of our mess-ups? And more to the point, if you can think of something specific or a specific time it’s happened, how did you feel? You’ll discuss this further in your Small Groups, but before we go, let’s pray. Let’s let God know how we’ve messed up. Let’s tell God about the times when we’ve fallen short and thank Jesus for taking on our sins and shortcomings so that we might be forgiven. Let’s pray.

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP