

Elementary School Bible Story Day 1

Leader 1: Welcome Crews! Welcome to Center Grove's Summer Bible Adventures. I'm [your name and other leader's names], and we are so excited to explore deep into the Bible with you this week. (Hold up your Bible) The Bible is full of exciting truths for us to discover!

Leader 2: Today we're going back in time to the very beginning...God is our Creator! Every time you hear us say that you can say "Wow God!" Let's try it...God is our Creator - "Wow God!" Great!

Leader 3: Now before God made the world, everything was dark. Let's close our eyes. Keep them closed until I ask you to open them. I'm going to turn off some of the lights. It will be very dark in here, but don't be scared. You'll be totally safe, and it won't be dark for long.

(Leader 2: Turn off the lights.)

Leader 1: In the first book of the Bible, the book of Genesis says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of all the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'..."

(Leader 2: Turn on the lights)

Open your eyes.

"...and there was light." Wow! God made light just by speaking! That is how powerful He is!

Leader 2: Let's play the freeze game with turning darkness into light. We'll freeze in place when the lights are off, then move when the lights come on. Please stay on your carpet and be careful not to bump into each other.

(**Leader 2:** *Turn off the lights for several seconds, say "FREEZE", then turn the lights on for about 10 seconds, say "Let there be light!"*)

(Repeat several times, but don't flicker the lights rapidly as that can trigger seizures. After a few times, leave the lights on.)

Leader 3: God is our creator - "Wow, God!" Good job! God took nothing and made light! And God was just getting started....this was on the first day. Hold up one finger and pretend there is a light on the end of your finger to remind you of the light that God created on Day 1 of Creation.

Leader 1: On the second day of Creation, God made the sky. He separated the waters below and the waters above and made our sky! Take your two fingers and pretend to cut through the water to create the sky. This is how you can remember what God did on Day 2 of Creation - 2 fingers, cutting the waters in half. Now let's feel the effect of the skies. Everyone stand up on your carpet. Whew, it's getting a little windy in here! Move around like the wind is blowing you around. Be careful not to fall into others.

Leader 2: God is our creator - "Wow, God!" Good job! Have a seat. On Day 3 of Creation, God said, "Let the waters beneath the sky flow together, so dry ground may appear." So, God separated the water from the ground! Let's try it! There are branches laying on your carpet. Pick them up and wave them around. There is not enough for everyone so that means if you do not have a branch, you are the waters. If you are the waters, gather yourselves in and around the pool. If you are the land, gather over on the grass. Go!

(**Leader 1:** *Sprinkle land animals on each of the crew carpets*)

Leader 3: So, when you are trying to remember what God created on Day 3 of Creation, put up 3 fingers and wave them around like plants - land

plants because God had gathered the waters and we could see the land, plants and trees.

Leader 1: God is our creator - Wow, God! Now it was time for God to put some things in the sky. On Day 4 of Creation, God spoke...and stars and a moon appeared in the sky. Let's lay on our backs and enjoy the night "sky" for a minute.....Aren't they beautiful! This was the light for the nighttime! Then God spoke and a sun appeared in the sky. We can all sit up as this light; the sun was for daytime.

Leader 2: So, if you are trying to remember what God created on Day 4 of Creation, raise up 4 fingers (*for the stars twinkling in the sky*) and tuck your thumb down to make the moon. Just don't forget the sun! He created it on the fourth day as well.

Leader 3: God is our creator - Wow, God! There's another thing that God made for the sky! On the fifth day of Creation, God made the birds! God also made fish and other sea creatures that same day. If you are on the land, take your 5 fingers on one hand and pretend to be a bird flying. If you are in the waters, take your 5 fingers on one hand and pretend to be a fish (or any other sea creature) swimming in the waters. Let's do this....be a bird or a fish and go back to your crew carpet. Go!

Now let's let one hand be a bird and our other hand be a fish. Fly and swim (*in place*)! That's difficult, isn't it? Remember that God created both on Day 5 of Creation.

Leader 1: God is our creator - Wow, God! On the sixth day of Creation, God made something for the land! God made animals! Listen to this...Genesis 1:24 God said, "Let the land produce living creatures - livestock, creatures that move along the ground and wild animals." Wow God just said there should be animals on earth...and there were! Look around in the grass and shout out as many kinds of animals you can think of. What kind of noises do they make?.....Wow! That is a lot of animals!

Leader 2: Then God made his most special creation of all: people! The Bible says in Genesis 1:27....God created mankind in his own image; male and female God created them. People are the only thing God made in his own image. That means when you look at the people around you, you're seeing a little glimpse of what God is like! And the same is true when you look in a mirror at yourself!

Leader 3: Everyone leave your animals and come in front of the mirrors and lay on your bellies. Look at yourself. Think of something nice to whisper to yourself about the way God made you or just repeat after me:
I am wonderfully made!
I belong!
I am confident!
I am kind!
I am Blessed!
I am Treasured!

Leader 1: God is our creator - Wow, God! To remember what God created on Day six of Creation, put 5 fingers up for all the animals He created on the land and put up 1 finger for people. Maybe think of it as you! That is everything God created on Day 6 of creation. He called everything He created "good" but after He created people, He said that we were "Very good!"

Leader 2: God loves you and always will. Let's get ready to leave with our crew leaders. Please come back tomorrow and find out more about the Bible!

Room reset: Put the branches beside each of the 3 crew carpets and pick up all the land animals.

Elementary School Bible Story Day 2

Leader 1: Welcome Crews! Yesterday we learned that God is our creator! Let's review what God created each day.

Hold your fingers up:

Day 1 - He created light

Day 2 - He created the sky (*cut the waters with your 2 fingers*)

Day 3 - God created the plants on the land and in the waters (3 fingers - plants waving)

Day 4 - He created the stars, moon and sun (*4 fingers and thumb is the moon*)

Day 5 - He created the birds of the air and sea creatures (*5 fingers*)

Day 6 - God created the animals on the land and mankind (*boys and girls*)
5 fingers plus 1

And On Day 7 - God rested! Whew! He had done a lot of work and needed the rest!

Leader 2: Today we are going to learn that God is our safe place. When you hear us say that, you say "Wow, God!" Let's try it! God is our safe place - "Wow, God!" That means even though scary things may happen, we can turn to God to find strength and courage.

David: (*slips out of his hiding spot. When he sees the kids, he gives a startled cry.*) Eeeck! Who are you? Are you with Saul's army?

Leader 2: Um, no...

David: (*Interrupts*) No, you all seem too short for Saul's army. But if you can find me, that means Saul can find me.

Leader 2: Saul? Who is Saul? Wait— isn't he the king?

David: Yes—and that’s the problem! God chose me to be the king, well, someday. And King Saul doesn’t like that at all! He’s been chasing after me, trying to kill me! Oh, I’m David, by the way.

Leader 2: *(Fist bumps David.)* Nice to meet you! *(Motions to kids.)* These are my friends. Don’t worry—they’re pretty safe.

David: Good! I sure could use some friends. See, King Saul’s been jealous of me ever since I took care of that giant Goliath in a battle...and the crowds loved me. At first it went OK, and I even got a job in the palace. But then Saul got really jealous and came after me with a spear. Yikes! I had to take off. I’ve been looking for safe places to hide ever since.

Leader 1: Well, according to the Bible, it sounds like God’s been keeping you safe. *(Opens Bible.)* First Samuel 23:14 says, “Saul hunted David day after day, but God didn’t let Saul find him.”

David: God has definitely kept me safe. But I think I need to find a new hiding spot. *(Runs to stand conspicuously behind a tree.)* Can you see me here? *(Waits for kids to respond.)* So...where do you think I should hide around here? *(Let kids give suggestions, and try out a few.)*

Leader 2: David, don’t you have some other people hiding with you?

David: Yes! I have a bunch of men who help me fight battles and we’ve been hiding together. In fact, they just suggested I go hide deep in this cave. *(Hides behind kids.)*

Oh no! Saul’s coming into this cave! Do you think he’s going to find us?
(Pauses for response.)

Saul: *(Comes in and stands to pee)*

Leader 2: *(In a stage whisper)* Hmmm, it looks like Saul didn’t come in this cave because he knows you’re in here. He came in because...well...*(Whispers to David as if embarrassed.)*

David: He needed to pee!?! *(If kids are laughing, shush them so they don't give him away.)*

SHHH! So if he doesn't know I'm here, I could sneak up on him! He doesn't even have his guards with him!

Hmm. My men are telling me this opportunity is from God, and I could do whatever I want to hurt Saul. But I don't think it's right to hurt him. I'll just sneak forward and... *(Sneaks forward behind Saul and makes scissor motion with fingers, then picks up the piece of cut cloth and returns to kids.)*

There! I just cut off a little bit of his robe! But...maybe I shouldn't have even done that. I mean, he's God's chosen king, at least for now. I shouldn't be attacking him! Now nobody else try to hurt Saul, OK?

Saul: *(leaves cave)*

Leader 1: We won't. But what are you going to do now, David?

David: Well, Saul just left. I think I'm going to go after him and try talking with him. What do you think, friends? Should I do that? *(Pauses for kids to respond.)*

Leader 2: That seems a little dangerous, but you can do hard things with God's help.

David: I would never do anything dangerous just to test God — and you shouldn't either! But I think I need to talk with Saul.
(Leaves room, calling Saul's name.)

Leader 1: *(Looks out of cave as if observing what's happening.)* Wow! David went right up to Saul and bowed down! He's showing Saul the fabric from his robe and saying it proves he doesn't want to hurt Saul. And Saul is crying! He's grateful for David's kindness and amazed that David let him

get away! Oh my goodness, they're shaking hands and promising not to hurt each other or anyone in their families!

David: *(Returns to room.)* Friends, God has kept me safe, and now Saul promises not to try to hurt me anymore. Time for me to head out! Thanks for helping me hide!
(Exits room.)

Leader 2: Wow! God is our safe place - say Wow, God!

Children: "Wow God!"

He kept David safe when he was in serious danger! But more importantly, David knew he could always tell God his worries. He trusted God to guide him and help him do what was right. Let's talk about what that might look like for us. When I was young, I used to worry about finding good friends. Now tell us about a time you felt scared or worried. Share this with your crew and crew leader.

Leader 1: What can God do to help us in times like those? Allow kids to respond then add ideas: God can change the situation for our good, He can bring good friends into our lives, He always watches over us, He can remove scary things, He can protect us, and He can fight for us.

Leader 2: God is our safe place - Wow, God! That doesn't mean nothing scary will ever happen. And it doesn't mean we should do dangerous things on purpose to see if God keeps us safe. What it does mean is that whenever we feel scared or worried, we can imagine ourselves snuggling up into God's arms, where we feel calm and safe. Now go to the mirrors and lay on your bellies. Think of nice things to say to yourself or just repeat after me:

I am brave!
I am strong!
I am courageous!
I can do hard things!
I am loved!

Now you can sit up.

Leader 1: God is our safe place - Wow, God! And in tomorrow's totally true Bible story, we'll see what God did to keep us safe...forever! Come back and find out what happens! See you then!

Room reset: put cut cloth in the special place

Elementary School Bible Story Day 3

Leader 1: Welcome Crews!! Welcome back to Center Grove's Summer Bible Adventures! I'm so glad to see you all today because I have an important story to tell you!

Leader 2: So far this week we've been talking about how God created the world and people. We also talked about a man named David and how he praised and trusted God to keep him safe.

Leader 3: Today's Bible story isn't about David...but it is about his family. You see, many years after David lived, another important person was born! And David was one of his great-great-great grandparents.

Leader 1: That boy was Jesus. God sent his Son, Jesus, to live on earth and show people what it meant to follow God. Jesus did miracles and taught people about God's love. He helped people. He listened to them and loved them. But before long, Jesus knew his time on earth was coming to an end.

Leader 2: Jesus also knew he would suffer and go through a lot of pain in order to do what he'd come to do. I wonder if you've felt a little like that. I remember when I had a bad tooth and had to get the dentist to pull it out. It really hurt! Tell your crew and crew leader about a time you had to do something you didn't want to do.

(Pause for conversations)

Leader 3: When Jesus knew he had to do something he didn't want to do, he prayed about it. Jesus prayed "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." We learn that in the bible in Luke 22:42. *(Hold up Bible)* Jesus didn't want to suffer. But he did want to

obey God. So Jesus told God he would go through the hard thing if it was God's will.

Leader 1: Jesus gives us this great example of how we should always go to God and pray first so God can lead us in His will and help us with whatever we need.

Leader 2: Now think about a time a friend hurt your feelings. Don't say it out loud - just think about it. (*As kids reflect use a dry-erase marker to draw a heart with an X through it on the dry-erase cross.*) Crew leaders, please draw a heart with an X through it, like I have here, on the cross at your carpet.

Leader 3: Jesus understands how it feels to be hurt by a friend. Let's get into a position that might show we're praying. Maybe on our knees and with praying hands and closed eyes. Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank you for being our friend. Please help us to forgive those who have hurt us in the past. Help us to know the correct words and actions that we can say and do to make our relationships better. Thank you! Amen

Leader 1: As Jesus finished his prayer, a crowd of people came to arrest Jesus. One of Jesus' best friends led the crowd to Him. That friend had turned against Jesus! Who knows what that friend's name was? Judas! You are correct!!

Leader 2: Then Jesus had to go on trial before different leaders. One of the people in charge was the governor, named Pilate. That sounds like a pilot who flies a plane, but that was just his name. Pilate said Jesus didn't do anything wrong. But the crowd did not care. Listen to this. (*Read from the Bible*) In Luke 23: verses 18-21 we learn that The crowd shouted "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" Barabbas had been thrown in prison for murder. Do you know what murder is?

Yes, taking someone's life. Are we supposed to murder people?
No, you are correct!

Leader 3: Pilate tried to argue that Jesus hadn't done anything wrong, but in Luke 23: verses 23-24 we learn that with loud shouts the crowd insistently demanded that Jesus be crucified. Do you know what crucified means? Yes, punishing someone by nailing them to a wooden cross which causes their death.

Leader 1: Tell your Crew and crew leader about a time you got punished or had a hard consequence for doing something wrong. (*As Crews talk, draw a sad face on the dry-erase cross.*) Crew leaders, please draw a sad face on your cross on your carpet.

Leader 2: Normally when we get punished, it's because we've done something wrong. But Jesus had never done anything wrong—in his whole life Jesus never sinned! Jesus does know what it's like to get in trouble, even though he was perfect. And there was something Jesus was getting in trouble for. It wasn't for anything he'd done—it was for all the wrong things we've done.

Leader 3: Now think about something you've done wrong. It's not something you need to say out loud....

Maybe you've told a lie.

Maybe you've disobeyed your parents.

Maybe you've said something mean.

Or maybe there's something right that you didn't do. Like you saw someone who needed help and you ignored them. Or maybe you knew you should share a toy, but you wanted to keep it all for yourself. For me...I couldn't wake myself up today from a nap and I was late getting here. It caused problems with our setup. I am going to ask God for help and I am going to promise God to obey Him so that it doesn't happen again.

(Then press your finger onto a washable ink pad and make a fingerprint on the cross.)

Leader 1: Again let's get into a position that might show we're praying. Maybe on our knees and with praying hands and closed eyes. Silently talk to Jesus about something you've done wrong.

Dear Jesus, thank you for taking on the punishment that we deserve and dying on the cross for our sins. Please help us to be aware of our actions and how they affect others. Help us to make wise choices.
Thank you! Amen

Leader 2: Now go to the cross on your carpet and with the ink pad put your fingerprint on the cross like I did. Your crew leader will clean your finger with a wipe after you are done.

Leader 3: People made fun of Jesus, then hit him and hung him on a cross by nailing his hands and feet to it. They put a crown made out of thorns on his head and whipped him with sharp things. All that must have really hurt Jesus so much! Jesus' body hurt, but his heart must have felt so sad and heavy, too. Finally, Jesus breathed his last breath.

Leader 1: When Jesus died, his friends and family probably cried a lot. *(Mist the cross with water, allowing the towel to catch any drips.)* But the sadness didn't last! Jesus didn't stay dead! Jesus came back to life just 3 days later! Some women went to the cave where they had put his body and they found that his tomb was empty and there were some angels there instead!

Leader 2: Listen to this. In Luke 24: verses 5-6 we learn that "In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen! That means Jesus beat death! He was stronger than our sin! He took the punishment for the wrong things we do, and he got rid of those things forever.

(Wipe the cross clean with a paper towel.)

Leader 3: Jesus did all that to show us one of the best parts of God's nature: God is love - say: Wow, God! After I say God is love, you say Wow, God! Let's try it! God is love - Wow, God! Great!

Leader 1: Because Jesus died, we now have the opportunity to live forever with God in heaven where there will be no more tears, no more sin, and no more pain. Because of Jesus, God forgives you! When you ask him to forgive you, your sin is gone! God is love - "Wow, God!" Crew leaders, please take a wet wipe and clean off your crosses. Jesus loves you all and forgives you all.

Leader 2: Because of the cross and the empty tomb, we know what real love looks like. It is powerful, unstoppable and forever! Jesus wants to be our friend forever. When we ask Him to, he'll take away the wrong things we've done and He will fill our lives with His love.

Leader 3: Now I want you to again go to the mirrors and lay on your bellies. I want you to look at yourself and repeat after me:

I am fully loved!
God's love for me is unstoppable!
God's love for me is forever!
God loves me no matter what!
I am forgiven!

Leader 1: Thank you God for loving us! Amen. You can now go with your crew to your next station. Thank you for attending Summer Adventure this week with us! We loved having you all!