

God's Valuable Treasure: Me!

Written by: Brandi Williams

Possible Ideas that we used:

Motto we used: God is seeking His most precious Treasure: you and me!

Theme décor idea we used: Indiana Jones Theme

Main verses throughout the lessons

Colossians Chapter 1: 13-14

World English Bible

who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love, ¹⁴ in whom we have our redemption, [†] the forgiveness of our sins.

King James Version

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Note About Translations

You are welcome to use another translation of scripture, but as a writer that publishes this on my website, I want to make sure I follow copyright laws. The World English Bible and King James Version are the only Bible translations that I am aware of that are public domain. That means I have free permission to use as much of the Bible without limits or permission of usage. So to use the Bible correctly online and print, I will have the verses in both Bible translations as an option. These lessons were originally used as Vacation Bible school lessons. Instead of days, I put them as numbered lessons. These are just lessons. Other members of the church stepped in and came up with décor ideas, games, and activities for learning scripture. Feel free to use the five lessons as you want. I tried to type summaries of each Bible story, and some lessons have relatable examples to tie in each Truth of the lesson.

Teacher Lesson Devotionals

*These are for the teachers only to encourage them a little deeper before each lesson.

Lesson 1: “God Made you”

This is a basic Truth that many people who have grown up with the church have heard, “God made you.” This lesson today, that the children are learning, seems like first Truth we heard from God’s Word. “God made you.” A simple sentence that some yet, have not heard. The children are learning about creation and the fall of mankind in the garden. This Truth is being attacked in schools, colleges, and by people of other religions every day. Did you know that most in America accepted that there was some type of creator, a designer, until about the 1800’s when Darwin’s theory of Evolution was accepted? Schoolrooms had the McGuffey readers which had scripture in them.

If we, as the Church, (not the building, but as Christ Followers) do not teach what the Bible says, about Creation and all a child ever hears is, “I am a cosmic accident. We evolved from monkeys... etc.” then no wonder we see no value to human life. These days on social media, I have seen posts about abortion and women’s rights. The comments referring to the unborn as nothing, but bacteria to rid themselves of.

Do we believe the basics of God’s Word that God spoke the World into existence in six literal days? Do we believe God made us for a purpose? Our God created man after He created the perfect environment for mankind to live. Three days God created the environments, and

the final three days He filled those environments with birds, fish, dinosaurs (fun fact some descriptions of history of encounters with “Dragons” sometimes fit the descriptions of dinosaurs) included in the land animals, and finally humans.

God made us, but even after the fall, came into the garden. He didn’t storm and stomp with every step He took, although Adam and Eve hid due to shame. He simply said, “Where are you?” God mercifully sent them out of the garden, as the Word tells us, “lest they eat of the Tree of Life and live forever.” Genesis 3:22 says. Despite the rebellion, He prophesized that He would send One who would “bruise the serpent’s head.” What such great mercy, God did not plan leaving mankind doomed to the fate we deserved. God would send Jesus in His Perfect Timing.

Mankind is God’s Valuable Treasure, and only when we acknowledge God who knows the answers to the questions of “Why am I here?” “How did I get here?”, “What’s my Purpose?”, and “Where am I going?” will we know the Truth. Oh, there are a lot of ways people try to explain the Truth away, but anything other than the Truth leaves people searching and life is not as valued as high as what the One True God does.

God made you. It’s a simple Truth. Today, you woke up and have breath in your lungs because God gave such blessings to you. Are you seeking answers to questions? Seek the One who made you, to know the Truth, rather than the lies that the world is bombarded with.

Today’s verse the children are learning is Psalm 100:3:

World English Bible

Know that Yahweh, he is God. It is he who has made us, and we are his. We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

King James Version

“Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he *that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”

You are God's Valuable Treasure because He created you and placed value on your life, knowing you before you took your first breath.

Lesson 2 : “Not Plan B”

God didn’t see the fall of man, and anxiously wring his hands together and say, “What are we going to do?” No, before He created the world, God knew we would need a Savior and Redeemer. It wasn’t like God the Father told Jesus, “Well, I guess you will have to go down there to show them how to live, and be the punishment for their sins.”

This was “plan A “all along. Jesus tells us that in John 10:17-18,

World English Version

Therefore the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, * that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it away from me, but I lay it down by myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. I received this commandment from my Father.”

King James Version

17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Jesus didn’t do this because we earned His Love or Favor, in fact the children’s verse today says, Romans 5:8

World English Bible

But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

King James Version

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

What was His Purpose in doing this? Making the Only Way we could have a relationship with God. You see, God had every right to abandon mankind after the Fall. It would have been just, but God sent His most precious Treasure, His only Son to take our punishment. He took God’s wrath toward sin for us. It’s a great love that is hard to grasp. Once enemies, but now willing to adopt anyone who accepts Jesus as both Lord and Savior, as adopted children of God. Not slaves, but family and co-heirs with Christ. Romans Chapter 8:28-30 says this, “We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.

God cared enough about us that He still did all He could to save us from sin, death, and Hell. 1 John 4:9-11 says,

World English Bible

By this God's love was revealed in us, that God has sent his only born-† Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice† for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another.

King James Version

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Verse 19 also says, "We love him, because he first loved us." (Both versions)

Remember today, you are God's valuable treasure and He chooses to love those He has adopted into His family, the ones who acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior. He cares for you. He loved the people of the world enough to send Jesus to rescue us. Sadly, not everyone will accept Him and His Love and Mercy. We can either be like the thief that acknowledged His need for Jesus, or like the one who mocks and rejects Him. I don't know how your relationship with the Lord is today, but remember, if you are His Child, pray and two- way converse with your Heavenly Father, asking and listening.

“casting all your worries on him, because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7 World English Version

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” 1 Peter 5:7 King James Version

. Jesus wasn't “Plan B.” He was the lamb slain before the foundation of the world. If you have turned from sin, you don't have to beat yourself up, because you fall into sin again. Yes, we should strive to “Go and sin no more,” but perfection will not come this side of eternity. When you fall, run to Him in prayer. Don't run and hide like Adam and Eve did. The quicker you confess your sin, the quicker your relationship with the Lord will be restored. I will leave you with these verses of promise for the believer. I John 1:9

World English Bible

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

King James Version

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Romans 8:1-2

World English Version

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who don't walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.^{† 2} For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death.

King James Version

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Lesson 3: “The God Who Sees”

Have you ever felt alone, mistreated, or hurt? In this fallen world, sometimes that seems like it can be a daily experience. Do you wonder if God sees the pain and hurt a co-worker or family member caused you? Does He even care? Maybe you have endured weeks, months, or even years of pain, and you wonder if it will ever end. Hagar was mistreated by Sarai. (She wasn't Sarah yet at this point.) It had been about ten or eleven years since God made the promise of a son and a great nation to Abram. Sarai suggested that Abraham have a son through her maidservant that she received while they were in Egypt. Not only that, but we have no recorded command from God to even leave the land God promised, during the famine. No recorded command to go to Egypt. Hagar came back with them, after their series of lies and trouble they caused there.

So not only did they bring Hagar back, but now she's right in the middle of the no son drama between Abram and Sarai. Well, Hagar gets pregnant and Sarai mistreats her, while blaming Abram. Remember the whole plan was Sarai's idea not God's. Hagar flees and what seems like an Old Testament pre-incarnate encounter of Jesus (before Jesus officially came to earth to walk among us). He finds her in the wilderness and asks what she is doing. He tells her to go back to Sarai and submit to her. The reason I believe this was Jesus meeting with her at this moment, is because the promise and use of “I will multiply your offspring.” We know God's angels would have said, “He will...” After the full conversation we read Hagar declaring “God sees me.”

Years pass, and now Ishmael is older, Isaac has been born to his parents, now called Sarah and Abraham. Sarah asks Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away, after she sees Isaac's brother mocking him. Abraham was upset, but God told him to send them away and promised that Ishmael would have a nation of people as well.

The next morning Hagar and Ishmael were sent away and, in the wilderness, again. Water running out, she left her son under the bushes and sat down at a distance. She was unable to watch him die. God heard the boy's crying and called to the boy's mother to get up

and grab his hand. God opened her eyes and she saw a well, and she got a drink for her son. God's promise to her about her son would be fulfilled. Ishmael did not die.

When Hagar's need was dire and all hope was lost in her own eyes. God intervened. No situation that we go through in life is permanent. God sees every tear, hears every cry, and will deliver in His Perfect time.

Remember this:

Psalm 56:3-11

World English Bible Version

When I am afraid,

I will put my trust in you.

⁴ In God, I praise his word.

In God, I put my trust.

I will not be afraid.

What can flesh do to me?

⁵ All day long they twist my words.

All their thoughts are against me for evil.

⁶ They conspire and lurk,

watching my steps.

They are eager to take my life.

⁷ Shall they escape by iniquity?

In anger cast down the peoples, God.

⁸ You count my wanderings.

You put my tears into your container.

Aren't they in your book?

⁹ Then my enemies shall turn back in the day that I call.

I know this: that God is for me.

¹⁰ In God, I will praise his word.

In Yahweh, I will praise his word.

¹¹ I have put my trust in God.

King James Version

3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

5 Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil.

6 They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul.

7 Shall they escape by iniquity? in thine anger cast down the people, O God.

8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?

9 When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.

10 In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.

11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Maybe you've read all this about Hagar and you're like that's great, but I have been obedient to the Lord. I believe I am right where I am supposed to be, and I feel forgotten. What's my next step?

Noah was obedient to every detail in the building of the ark for many years. God brought the animals, two of some and seven of others. One day, it was time for Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives to enter the ark. Noah obeyed and after a week of waiting, the rains and floods started. The fountains of the deep, broken up. Soon, those eight people were the only people alive. But here is what I think we tend to gloss over, between the forty days and nights of the flooding and recession of floodwaters, there was a waiting period. Yes, we know Noah sent birds out to see what they could find. But the period between entering the ark and the time God called them out, was around a year!

We have no recorded message of God speaking to Noah during that time. A year of being in the massive ark. That was his home for a year. Can we imagine, not seeing trees, sunshine, land, for a year? Could Noah have had moments where he felt alone, even though he was right where God placed him? Sometimes there are periods of waiting for a reason we might not see why. Wait till He calls you to take that next step. You'll be right where God set you up to be. Noah had no way to steer that boat, he had to trust God fully.

You are God's Valuable Treasure and God hasn't forgotten you.

Isaiah 46:4

World English Bible Version

Even to old age I am he,
and even to gray hairs I will carry you.

I have made, and I will bear.

Yes, I will carry, and will deliver.

Proverbs 5:21

World English Bible

For the ways of man are before Yahweh's eyes.

He examines all his paths.

King James Version

“For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.”

Today, the children will be learning one of two Bible stories. The Pre-k/ Kindergarten will be learning about Noah, while 1st-6th will be learning about Hagar. Noah is in Genesis Chapters 6-9 and Hagar is in Genesis Chapter 16 and 21. The children will learn that God has not forgotten them.

Lesson 4: “Rejoice”

Over and over again in the Bible, we see this word, “Rejoice.” In our English language, there is the prefix “Re” that means “repeat or do again.” I found an article while writing this from the Washington Times online article on April 28, 2016. The article states, “There are a lot of “re” words in the Bible. Words like redemption, renew, repent, restore, resurrection, reconciliation and regeneration show up over and over throughout the Bible, especially the New Testament. These “re” words have to do with returning something (a person, a relationship, a project, a universe) to its original intended state.” – Direct Quote from the Article “Wilberforce Weekend: God Loveth “re” Words.”

Think about this in light of the children’s Bible stories today. Due to the shortness of the stories, they will be learning about The Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin in Luke Chapter 15. Both stories that the owners lost something important and precious to them. The owners searched, until the coin was found and the sheep was returned home. The owners also wanted to celebrate with others.

Jesus told us these parables to show God the Father’s heart and His own at the joy they have when mankind repents. Great rejoicing in Heaven over someone who accepts the Truth revealed and Salvation offered. Our world today, rejoices and affirms many things, which sadly are the very sins and rebellion that keeps mankind in bondage spiritually: chains of sin. If we could see our friends and family in the spiritual sense, would we celebrate seeing them behind bars, or captive in chains?

The above quote stands out to me with this phrase, “returning something to its original intended state.” Interesting. Think about God’s Purpose wanting to redeem mankind and having the relationship with His people that sin hinders. God rejoices at freeing another one from sin’s bonds, all while our culture, even some professing Christians rather say, “God will let

you in Heaven. He will let you slide. Jesus is okay with sin.” This is totally unbiblical. We got to be careful that we rejoice at the right things. Things that would please the Lord that line up with His Word.

The children’s verse for today is Luke 19:10

World English Bible

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.”

King James Version

“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Even what is considered the “love chapter” of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13:6 says, “Love” doesn’t rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; or “Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;”

People are a valuable treasure to God, each and every person. Let’s rejoice when one is freed from sins bonds, like Heaven does, not encouraging them to stay in the sins they are bound in.

Lesson 5: “Don’t Be a Bitter Sibling”

Today, the children will be learning about the “Prodigal Son” from Luke Chapter 15:11-31. The father had two sons, but the younger wanted his inheritance now. The father divided the livelihood between his sons, and few days later the younger son left the country. He spent what his father gave him recklessly. A famine came upon the land after this son had wasted all his inheritance. Being in need, he sought a job, and one person sent him to feed the pigs. Even though he was working, no one gave him any food, so he could fill his belly.

“How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough to spare and I am dying of hunger! I will go to my father, and tell him I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no more worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”

The son arose and headed back to his father, but his father saw him still far away and ran to him, hugged and kissed him. The son says, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and you. I am not worthy to be called your son. Make me like your hired servants.”

Hmm, did the father say, “Okay, your forgiven, go sleep in the servants’ quarters?” No, scripture says that the father said, “Bring out the best robe, ring, and sandals. Put them on his feet. Kill the fattened calf, let’s eat, and celebrate!” This was not to celebrate what his son did wrong, but the father’s words were, “For my son was dead, and is alive again. He was lost and now found. That was the reason for celebrating.

The other son who had stayed with his father, hears the music and dancing. He calls to one of the servants and asks, “What’s going on?”

“Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf for him because he received him back safe and healthy.”

The son was angry and would not go in. His father came out and begged him to join them. The son replied, “All these years I have served you, never disobeyed you. You never gave

me a goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But your son returns home after wasting the inheritance you gave him; you kill the fattened calf.

“Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But it was appropriate to celebrate and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again. He was lost, but now he has been found.”

This parable was taught by Jesus along with the lost coin, and the lost sheep. It was in context, a time where pharisees were grumbling because Jesus was teaching tax collectors and sinners: the outcasts/ the isolated. This parable shows our Heavenly Father’s heart toward mankind. He desires that no one perish, but that all come to repentance, accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. All meaning the murderers, the prostitutes, the orphan, the thief, etc.

If you know Jesus as Lord and Savior, does the desire to see others saved and adopted as sons and daughters into the kingdom, burn within you? Do you see the news of horrific events and people and immediately condemn them to Hell? Do we forget the grace and mercy we have received?

No matter the name or title we give a sin, one sin is enough to separate an unrepentant person from God eternally. If you know Jesus, you may be like “I already have taken that step.” Bitterness, unforgiveness affects our relationship with Jesus as well. It doesn’t strip us of salvation, but holding a grudge can retain sin in our hearts, hinder prayers, and communication with the Lord, if we refuse to obey by forgiving. Only God can change hearts, but we don’t know who all our future brothers and sisters in Christ will be. We will only know that when God finally creates the New Heaven and Earth.

I don’t know where this original thought came from to give the credit, but even Paul entered Heaven to the rejoicing of those he once martyred. That’s not a bible verse, but we do know Jesus says, “There is rejoicing in Heaven over the sinners that repent, more than those who did not need to repent.”

Here is verse the children are learning today:

John 17:24

World English Bible

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also whom you have given me be with me where I am, that they may see my glory which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world.

King James Version

“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”

This was our Savior’s heart in the Garden of Gethsemane, before He endured the cross for our sins and rebellion against God. While we were enemies, not yet adopted or grafted into the family of God. He had the desire to see us redeemed with Him. Who are we that we think we have the right to withhold the grace and mercy shown us? Let’s not be a bitter sibling when a person is changed by the Gospel and adopted into God’s family. Let’s rejoice, for Jesus has done all perfectly, so mankind could have a restored relationship with the Father. Does He not deserve all who will to be with Him as He desires? Unfortunately, while we pray about our dreams and desires and whine and complain when they are left unfulfilled, not even God will ever have all of mankind in His loving Presence for eternity. There will be those who still choose an eternity without Him, experiencing the wrath, Jesus died and resurrected to save them from.

The One True God, perfect without sin, ultimate’s desire is for no one to be in Hell. Since we know that’s sadly not reality, let’s pray and share Truth with those who still have breath. Let us be about the Father’s business and not be the reason the Good News of the Gospel is hindered from reaching a soul that desperate needs the Hope, only found in Jesus. The numbers around Jesus’ throne mentioned by John the Disciple

in the Book of Revelation are beyond counting, but by Jesus' own words in Matthew 7:13-14, "Narrow is the way to Life, and few that find it."

God's Valuable Treasure: Me!

Pre-k & Kindergarten Bible Lessons

Note to the teacher:

These are the bible lessons for Pre-K & Kindergarten. Each day's Bible lessons have bolded words in them. These words are meant to be repeated, so the children can learn and focus on important information. The more of the five senses you use during a lesson, the more likely a child will retain what you teach them. Each bolded word could have a stick figure, a motion, or sound that the kids can learn and interact with the story.

Each day has a bible verse that goes along with the lesson. Some lessons also have suggested hands on activities for the kids to participate in. If you have any other hands-on activities, or suggestions that you would like to incorporate into the Bible lessons go ahead. Do not be afraid to add any suggestions that you may think may be helpful and beneficial for the students learning.

Sincerely,

Brandi Williams

Lesson 1: God Created You

Today's lesson motions and suggestions for the bolded text.

Have kids hold up corresponding number of fingers for each day.

Serpent- hiss sound and or curved motion with their hands together like it's moving.

Tree- wrists together in a v shape with fingers up like branches.

Use your story characters.

Genesis Chapters 1-3

In the beginning **God** created the Heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty. Darkness was on the surface of the deep and the Spirit of **God** was hovering over the surface of the waters. **God** spoke on **Day 1** saying, "Let there be light," and there was light. **God** saw it was good, and that was the first day. On **Day 2** God created the sky and waters and said it was good. On **Day 3**, **God** spoke saying, "Let the water be gathered together in one place, and let dry land appear." He also spoke and trees and plants appeared. **God** said, "It was good." So, land and seas were created on day three. On **Day 4** **God** created the sun, the greater light to rule the day, and the moon to rule the night along with the stars. They were also created as signs to mark the seasons. Once again, God said, "It was good." On **Day 5**, God created the birds that fill the sky and the fish that live in the water. He blessed them and told them to increase in number. **God** said, "It was good." **God** once again spoke on **Day 6** saying, "Let the earth produce living creatures such as land animals, dinosaurs, and bugs. **God** was not finished yet. **God** said, "Let us make man in our own image after our likeness. Let them have rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, all over the earth, and over very creeping thing on the earth." **God** made the first man that we know as **Adam** from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils, the breath of life, and man became a living being (soul). The first time that **God** created in a different way than just saying the word. **God** placed **Adam** in the garden He created. God had Adam name the animals and because **Adam** had no helper, **God** made **Adam** fall asleep. God took one of his ribs and made the first woman. They could eat plants and fruit from the trees, no meat yet. **God** created both male and female. On **Day 7**, **God** rested from His Work, not because He was tired, but because He made the day Holy.

God commanded **Adam** and **Eve** not to eat from the **Tree** of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, because they would die. At some point, the serpent or **snake** spoke to **Eve** and asks if **God** really told them not to eat from any **tree** of the garden?" **Eve** tells him they can eat of the **trees** in the garden, but not the **Tree** of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The **snake** says, "You won't die. When you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and will be like **God** knowing good and evil. **Eve** saw the tree was good for food, and

desired to be wise, she took and ate the fruit. **Eve** gave some to **Adam** and he ate as well. They realized they were naked and used fig leaves to cover themselves. They heard **God** walking and **God** asked **Adam**, "Where are you?" **Adam** spoke and said, "I heard your voice and was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid." **God** asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree I told you not to? Adam blames **Eve**, who blames the **snake**. Because of their sin, **God** sent them out of the garden, so they would not eat of the **Tree** of Life, and live forever with no hope of forgiveness for disobedience. **God** covered them with animal skins. **God** cursed the ground with thorns, and other pain and suffering, but God promised to send Jesus to defeat the **snake** also known as Satan or the Devil, and give us a way to have a relationship with **God** once again!! **God** made you, but sin separates us from Him and we are lost without Him.

Hands on Activity- Have two trees: One to represent the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The other to represent the Tree of Life. Use the activity to show what will get us into Heaven. I recommend having the trees cut out from paper and having children be involved with deciding where they think the apple or fruit goes. You can either give examples or write actions on the apples. Example: "Stealing, where do you think this apple goes?" You could do green apples for good things and red for things that go against what God commands. I would have a shape of a cross cut out, after they realize no apples went on the second tree. This will hopefully help the little ones learn what sin is and Jesus is our Only Hope.

Verse for the Lesson: Psalm 100:3

World English Bible

Know that Yahweh, he is God.

It is he who has made us, and we are his.

We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

King James Version

"Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is he that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture."

How are you God's Valuable Treasure? You are valuable to God because He formed you with His Hands.

Lesson 1 Questions:

1. Who created the world?
2. What did God create each day?
3. What did God do the 7th day?
4. What did Adam and Eve do?
5. Where did God send them?

Lesson 2: God Loves and Cares for You

God sent His Most Precious Treasure to rescue you. His Name is Jesus and He is God's Son.

Today's lesson motions and information for the bolded text.

Use your story characters.

Pilate- kids can move their hands like they are washing them, because Pilate didn't want to have anything to do with sentencing Jesus.

For the criminals- have the kids put their hands out in front of them, and cross them upward at the wrists.

Luke 23:13-26, 32-44, 50-53/ Luke 24:1-9

Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples for thirty pieces of silver, and handed over to the chief priests. The **people** accused **Jesus** of wrongdoing and wanted him to die. They took him to **Pilate** who found no reason for **Jesus** to die. **Pilate** said he would have **Jesus** beaten or flogged and then release him. **Pilate** usually released one person from prison back to the **people** during the feast. But they cried out, "Away with this man! Release to us Barabbas." Barabbas was a murderer. Then **Pilate** spoke wanting to release Jesus, but the **people** cried out more, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him. So, **Pilate** released Barabbas to the people and Simon of Cyrene was grabbed to carry **Jesus'** cross. There were also others, two **criminals** led with **Jesus** to be put to death. They crucified **Jesus** and the two **criminals** were on His right and left.

Jesus said, "**Father**, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

Dividing his garments among them, they cost lots. The **people** stood watching. The rulers said, "He saved others. Let Him save Himself, if this is the Christ of God, His chosen One!" The soldiers also

mocked him and offered **Jesus** some vinegar. They said, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was a sign placed over **Jesus** saying, "This is the King of the Jews." According to Matthew's account of the Gospel (Matthew 27:44), both **criminals** originally mocked **Jesus**. It is recorded in Luke that one **criminal** said, "If you are the Christ, save yourself and us!" But the other one answered, "We deserve what we are getting, because of what we've done, but this man has done nothing wrong." He said to **Jesus**, "Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

Jesus replied, "I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Soon darkness covered the land for three hours, for the sun had been darkened. The veil of the temple was torn in two. **Jesus** cried in a loud voice, "**Father**, into your hands, I commit my spirit!" Having said this, **Jesus** breathed His last. A centurion saw this and said, "Truly, this was the Son of God." Many women who had followed **Jesus** were there. When evening came, Joseph of Arimathea asked for **Jesus' body** with **Pilate's** permission. He laid **Jesus' body** in his own tomb. On the first day of the week, at dawn, the women came to the tomb and brought the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away, and didn't find **Jesus' body**. Two men stood by them, and the women were terrified. The men said, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He isn't here but He has risen. You were told that **Jesus** had to be crucified and three days later rise again." The women remembered His words and told these things to the eleven remaining disciples and others who followed **Jesus**. After **Jesus** arose from the dead, He appeared to many **people** over the next forty days. **Jesus** ascended or went into Heaven and is at the right hand of God now and forever alive!

Hands on Activity- Cut out black crosses, or maybe black strips of construction paper with sins written on them. Glue red pieces of paper to cover the black. **Jesus** died to cover and forgive our sins completely.

Verse for the Lesson: Romans 5:8

World English Bible

But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

King James Version

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

How are you God's Valuable Treasure? God loves you enough that He gave His Only Son to take the punishment we deserved.

Lesson 2 Questions:

1. Did the crowd want Barabbas or Jesus free?
2. What did they do to Jesus?
3. Were the people nice to Jesus?
4. What happened to Jesus on the Cross?
5. Did He stay dead?

Lesson 3: God has not Forgotten You

Today's lesson motions and suggestions for the bolded text.

Use story characters.

Noah- when name is said have children make a fist and put hands together and act like they are building.

God sees you wherever you are does not forget you.

Genesis Chapters 6-9

God told **Noah** to build a boat the size of a football field with three floors in it. God was going to destroy the world by sending a flood because people were disobeying His commands. God told **Noah** to build a boat or ark for two of every land animal and seven of every kind of bird. It would also keep **Noah's** family: his wife, his three sons and their wives safe. It rained for 40 days and nights the waters rose for 4-5 months, but they remained on the ark for over a year. **God** had told **Noah** to gather supplies and how to build the boat so they would have a home and food during their time on the boat. **Noah** sent both a raven out to see if the land was dry. Then he sent out the dove, again no dry ground. The dove came back and **Noah** waited another seven days, and she came back with an olive leaf in her mouth. Again, **Noah** waited seven more days, and sent the dove out again, but this time she did not return. Finally, a couple months later, **God** called to **Noah** and his family to come out of the ark with the animals. They got off the ark, after at least a year of being aboard. **Noah** worships **God**. Setting His Rainbow in the sky, **God** promises not to flood the entire earth again, even though we still disobey Him.

God didn't forget **Noah** in the ark, but **God** waited to call him out of the ark at the right time. He didn't forget **Noah** although he may have thought so. **God** didn't tell **Noah** how long he was going to be that ark, but **Noah** trusted **God** that one day they would get out.

Story Example: Early one morning, Sally's mother dropped her off at school. It was her first day at a new school. Sally walked with her mother into the building with her stuffed tiger in her hands. She was nervous even though she had met Mrs. Bell a few days ago. As they walked the long hallway, Sally noticed all the classrooms. Mrs. Bell's classroom was the very last door before the exit sign. Sally's mother stepped into the room with Sally quietly standing behind her.

"Hi, Sally," Mrs. Bell said with a smile. "We are going to have fun today." Mrs. Bell took Sally's hand and walked her to a play station where other kids were digging and scooping up the rice. Mrs. Bell handed

Sally a shovel, and Sally began to slowly scoop up the rice. She smiled at her mother. Then her mother said, "Bye, Sally." Sally just waved goodbye as her mother left the room. Sally stopped smiling and just sat down on the floor holding her tiger. A boy named Billy came up to her, "Hey want to play with me?"

"No."

"Are you okay?"

"I miss my mom."

"She will be back."

"How do you know?"

"My mom and dad pick me up every day after school."

"What if she forgets about me?"

"She won't."

The bell rang. "That's the morning recess bell," Billy told Sally.

Mrs. Bell said, "Line up everyone."

The class walked into the hallway and out the doors to the playground.

Sally was shocked at all the stuff to play on and ran toward the swings.

"Maybe school won't be so bad after all," Sally thought to herself.

Soon, hours passed with lunch, craft time, music, naps and so much more. The school day ended and Sally waited outside for her car ride, and mother to pick her up. The teacher opened the car door and Sally smiled big for she saw her mother. Billy was right, her mother hadn't forgotten her. She had been back, right on time.

Verse for the Lesson: Proverbs 5:21

World English Bible

For the ways of man are before Yahweh's eyes.

He examines all his paths.

King James Version

"For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings."

How are you God's Valuable Treasure? God sees you and everything you do. He doesn't forget that you are here.

Lesson 3 Questions:

1. What did God tell Noah to do?
2. What was coming?
3. Did God protect Noah?
4. How long were they in the ark?

Lesson 4: God Looks for You

Today's Lesson motions and suggestions for the bolded text.

Use your story characters.

Sheep – baa sound

Find or found- for the sheep story have the kids bring their arms up to their shoulders as if they are carrying a sheep. For the coin story have them make a circle with their finger and thumb and hold it up, like they found a coin.

God looks for us, since we all have sinned and turned away from Him. He longs to rescue us from sin and make us part of His family.

Parable of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells us this parable or story: If you had a hundred **sheep** and lost one of them, would you not leave the other ninety-nine in the wilderness and look for the missing one? Would you not look for the **sheep** until it was **found**? When the shepherd finds it, he carries it on his shoulders, happy he has **found** his missing **sheep**. He calls his neighbors saying, "Rejoice (or celebrate) with me for I have **found** the **sheep** that was lost." **Jesus** says in the same way, there is celebration over the one person who turns from sin, (those things that we do that God doesn't want us doing.) There is more joy than over the ninety-nine who did not need to ask God forgiveness of sin in that moment.

Jesus also told this story: A **woman** had ten silver coins. If she lost a **coin**, would she not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search for it, until the **coin** was **found**? When she **found** it, she would call her neighbors and friends and say, "I have **found** my **coin** that I had lost!" There is joy in the presence of the angels of **God** over one person who turns away from doing what the Lord doesn't like. **God** wants us to obey His commands.

Story Example: Billy went to spend the weekend with his Aunt Maria and Uncle Charles. His mother had given him one dollar to spend at the concession stand that evening at the Friday night. They arrived at the football stands. Billy had put his dollar in his pocket to use halfway during the game. The sounds of cheering filled the stands, as the game started. Soon, it was halftime and Billy walked with his aunt and uncle to get some snacks. Billy was so excited to see what he would be able to buy with his dollar.

"Billy, you can buy popcorn or nachos with your dollar, or two pieces of candy," Aunt Maria said.

"I want some popcorn," Billy said with a smile. He reached into his pocket. "Oh no, my dollar is gone!"

He began looking on the ground. "It's okay," Uncle Charles said, "I will pay for it."

"No, I want to pay for it myself." Billy said.

Aunt Maria paid for the other snacks, and they started searching for the lost dollar. Sally walked over, "What are you doing, Billy?"

"Looking for the dollar I lost."

"I will help you," Sally said.

"Thank you."

Sally and Billy continued looking on the ground near the concession stand, Billy's aunt and uncle walked back toward the stadium seats to check there. After a few minutes, Billy was wanting to cry. He had lost his dollar. He sat down on the ground, and Sally came and sat beside him. He reached into his pocket and felt something odd. His hand grabbed the object and pulled it out. He couldn't believe it!

"I found my dollar," Billy said excitedly and rather loudly. He ran toward the stadium and yelled, "Aunt Maria, Uncle Charles, 'I found my dollar.'"

"That's great," Aunt Maria said with a smile. "Where was it?"

"It was in my other pocket."

"Let's go get you some nachos," Uncle Charles said.

"Nachos? But I want to spend my dollar on popcorn."

"How about I buy the nachos and you buy the popcorn?" Uncle Charles grinned.

"Okay!" Billy said with a smile.

Billy ran to the concession stand. He proudly put his dollar on the counter and got his popcorn and nachos, and Uncle Charles even paid for Sally to have some nachos of her own. They spent the rest of evening cheering on their favorite team. It was a great night to celebrate, a night Billy would never forget!

Hands on Activity- Have at least ten coins. Keep nine with you, and hide the last one. Let the kids use a broom to sweep and search for the missing coin. Another option is to just see who finds the coin the fastest without the broom.

Hands on Activity- Pretend the children are sheep. Choose a child to hide while you count. You be the shepherd, or allow another child to be. Search for the child. In both, activities have a moment of rejoicing when the item or person is found. Another option: Pretend the children are sheep, let them

follow you. Choose one to walk around away from the other children in the line. You be the shepherd, or allow another child to be. Search for the child. In both, activities have a moment of rejoicing when the item or person is found.

Verse for the Lesson: Luke 19:10

World English Bible

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost."

King James Version

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

How are you God's Valuable Treasure? God wants you to stay safe by following His rules. When we disobey His rules, it's as if we are the sheep that has run away. He will look for and rescue us if we ask Him.

Lesson 4 Questions:

1. What did the woman lose in the story?
2. What did the shepherd search for?
3. Did they find what they were looking for?
4. What did they do with their friends?

Lesson 5: God Wants you in His Family

The Parable of the Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told another story or parable:

“A man had two sons. The younger son said to his **father**, “Give me my share of your property.”

The **father** divided what he had between his sons. A few days later, the younger son gathered all his stuff and went into a far-off country. The **son (Son 2)** wasted what he had, spending it all. Then a famine arose in the country, and he was in need. The **son (Son 2)** went and found someone who would hire him. The man was sent out to feed the pigs. He was so hungry that he would have eaten the pig’s slop. But no one gave him anything.

The **son (Son 2)** thought to himself, “How many hired servants of my **father’s** house have bread enough to spare, and I’m dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my **father**, and will tell him, “**Father**, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no more worthy to be called your **son (Son 2)**. Make me like one of your servants.”

He arose and went to his **father**, but while he was still far off, his **father** moved with compassion, ran to him. He hugged and kissed him.

The **son (Son 2)** said, “**Father**, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your **son (Son 2)**.”

But his **father** said to the servants, “Bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let’s eat and celebrate; for my **son (Son 2)** was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.”

They began to celebrate. Now the older **son (Son 1)** was in the field. As he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. He asked one of the servants, “What is going on?”

The servant replied, “Your brother has come, and your **father** has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy.

The **son (Son 1)** was angry and would not go in. His **father** came and begged him. His **son (Son 1)** said, “Many years I have served you, and I have never disobeyed you, but you never gave me a goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. When your **son (Son 2)** came home spending all you gave him in wasteful living, you killed the fattened calf for him.”

His **father** said, “**Son, (Son 1)** you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But it was appropriate to celebrate and be glad. Your brother was dead, and is alive again. He was lost and now is **found.**”

Story Example:

Sally’s mother Annabele took Sally and her older sister Kaity shopping one Saturday morning. Kaity was thirteen years old, eight years older than Sally. They walked in the store together. Sally’s mom had brought the girls so they could shop for new clothes. The girls had been excited, and had eaten their breakfast quickly. Now, their mother was getting the shopping cart.

“Stay with me at all times, girls.”

“Yes ma’am,” they said together.

Sally walked right beside her mother as they went to the clothes section. Anabele let Kaity look at her clothes section first. Sally was so ready to go see what was new in her own size. Kaity tried on outfit after outfit, while, Sally played under the clothes rack. She would occasionally peek out and say, “Mom look!” Sally would be in different places each time.

Soon, Sally’s mom called out, “Sally, let go look for clothes for you.” Sally did not speak. Actually, her mother didn’t even see her.

“Kaity, have you seen your sister?”

“I saw her earlier, looking at the purses, but I don’t see her now. Maybe she is just hiding.”

They looked for several minutes under the clothes racks. “I don’t see her,” Anabele said.

“Kaity, I am going to look for her in the toy aisles. Stay here in case Sally comes back.” Sally’s mother went up and down the toy aisles calling Sally’s name, but she was nowhere to be found.

Sally’s mother was about to go tell the manager that her child was missing, when a voice came over the speaker, “Will Sally’s mother come to the return desk please?”

Anabele ran to the front as fast as she could. She saw Sally standing there. “Oh, Sally! I was so worried about you. I told you to stay with me. “

“I am so sorry, mother. I got lost, and couldn’t find you or Kaity.”

“I am so glad you are okay. This is why I don’t want you running off. You are safe with me.”

“Yes, ma’am.”

Her mom thanked the manager once again for finding Sally, then they went toward where Kaity had been told to stay.

“Well, there she is,” Kaity said.

“Yes, isn’t that great news, Kaity. Your sister was found. Let’s finish our shopping and then we will go out to lunch for milkshakes, with our burgers and fries.”

“Yum,” Sally said excitedly.

“Yeah, whatever. Let’s get this over with,” Kaity said.

They finished shopping and went to lunch. Finally, they made it back home, and Anabele let Sally go play. “Kaity, what’s wrong? You have been upset since we found Sally.”

“I did exactly what you asked, and have never run off. Yet, Sally goes missing, and you give her the reward of a milkshake, burger, and fries, when we could have eaten lunch here.”

“Do you not realize we could have lost your sister today? I thought she might never be found. The lunch was not a reward for disobeying me, but the joy that your sister was returned to us. Today, could have been very different. We got to celebrate as a family once again, and for that reason, I celebrate!”

Verse for the lesson : John 17:24

World English Bible

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also whom you have given me be with me where I am, that they may see my glory which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world.

King James Version

“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”

How are you God’s Valuable Treasure? God wants us to pray and ask forgiveness for our sins. He also wants us to become part of His family.

Lesson 5 Questions:

1. Did both sons stay with their father?
2. What did one son do?
3. Did he come back?

4. What did the father do when the missing son came home?
5. Was the father happy?

God's Valuable Treasure

1st- 3rd Bible Lessons

These are the bible lessons for 1st-3rd Grade. Each day's Bible lessons have bolded words in them. These words are meant to be repeated, so the children can learn and focus on important information. The more of the five senses we can use during a lesson, the more likely a child will retain what we teach them. Each bolded word will have a figure, a motion, or a sound that the kids can learn and interact with the story.

Each day has a bible verse that goes along with the lesson. Some days also have suggested hands on activities for the kids to participate in. If you have any other hands-on activities, or suggestions that you would like to incorporate into each lesson, do not be afraid to add them, especially if you think may be helpful and beneficial for the students learning.

Sincerely,

Brandi Williams

Lesson 1: God Created You

Today's lesson motions and suggestions for the bolded text.

Have kids hold up corresponding number of fingers for each day.

Serpent- hiss sound and or curved motion with their hands together like it's moving.

Use your story characters.

God created you for a purpose, but sin/ disobedience and this fallen world is an issue we cannot ignore. Jesus is our only Hope. We are lost without Him.

Genesis Chapters 1-3

In the beginning **God** created the Heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty. Darkness was on the surface of the deep and the Spirit of **God** was hovering over the surface of the waters. **God** spoke saying, "Let there be light," and there was light. He saw it was good, and that was the **first** day. The **second** day he created the sky and waters and said it was good. The **third** day, **God** spoke saying, "Let the water be gathered together in one place, and let dry land appear." He also spoke and trees and plants appeared. **God** said, "It was good." So, land and seas were created on day **three**. Day **four** **God** created the sun, the greater light to rule the day, and the moon to rule the night along with the stars. They were also created as signs to mark the seasons. Once again, **God** said, "It was good." Day **five**, **God** created the birds that fill the sky and the fish that live in the water. He blessed them and told them to increase in number. **God** said, "It was good." **God** once again spoke saying, "Let the earth produce living creatures such as land animals, dinosaurs, and bugs. This was the **sixth** day, but wait He was not finished yet. **God** said, "Let us make man in our own image after our likeness. Let them have rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, all over the earth, and over every creeping thing on the earth." He formed the first man that we know as **Adam** from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils, the breath of life, and man became a living being (soul). The first time that **God** created in a different way than just speaking the word. He placed **Adam** in the garden He created. **God** had **Adam** name the animals and because **Adam** had no helper, **God** made **Adam** fall asleep. **God** took one of his ribs and made the first **woman**. They could eat plants and fruit from the trees, no meat yet. He

created both male and female. On the **seventh** day, **God** rested from His Work, not because He was tired, but because He made the day Holy.

God commanded **Adam** and his wife not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, because they would die. At some point, the **serpent** spoke to the woman and asks if **God** really told them not to eat from any tree of the garden?" The woman tells him they can eat of the trees in the garden, but not the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The **serpent** says, "You won't die. When you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and will be like God knowing good and evil. The **woman** saw the tree was good for food, and desired to be wise, she took and ate the fruit. She gave some to **Adam** and he ate as well. They realized they were naked and used fig leaves to cover themselves. They heard God walking and **God** asked **Adam**, "Where are you?" **Adam** spoke and said, "I heard your voice and was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid." **God** asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree I told you not to? Adam blames his wife, who blames the serpent. Because of their sin, **God** sent them out of the garden, so they would not eat of the Tree of Life, and live forever with no hope of forgiveness for disobedience. **God** covered them with animal skins. **God** cursed the ground with thorns, and other pain and suffering, but **God** promised to send Jesus to defeat the serpent also known as Satan or the Devil, and give us a way to have a relationship with **God** once again!! Because God had said that they would have children, Adam called his wife's name **Eve** **God** made you, but sin separates us from Him and we are lost without Him.

Hands on Activity- Have two trees: One to represent the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The other to represent the Tree of Life. Use the activity to show what will get us into Heaven. I recommend having the trees cut out from paper and having children be involved with deciding where they think the apple or fruit goes. You can either give examples or write actions on the apples. Example: "Stealing, where do you think this apple goes?" You could do green apples for good things and red for things that go against what God commands. I would have a shape of a cross cut out, after they realize no apples went on the second tree. This will hopefully help the little ones learn what sin is and Jesus is our Only Hope.

Verse for the Lesson: Psalm 100:3

World English Bible

Know that Yahweh, he is God.

It is he who has made us, and we are his.

We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

King James Version

“Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he *that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”

How are you God’s Valuable Treasure? You are valuable to God because He formed you with His Hands.

Lesson 1 Questions

1. Who created the world and everything in it, including you and me?
2. What did God tell Adam and Eve not to do?
3. Who tempted Eve?
4. What happened after they ate the fruit?
5. Did God send them out of the garden?

Lesson 2 : God Loves and Cares for You

Today's lesson motions and suggestions for the bolded text.

Use your story characters.

Pilate- kids can move their hands like they are washing them, because Pilate didn't want to have anything to do with sentencing Jesus.

For the criminals- have the kids put their hands out in front of them, and cross them upward at the wrists.

God sent His Most Precious Treasure to rescue you. His Name is Jesus and He is God's Son.

Luke 23:13-26, 32-44, 50-53/ Luke 24:1-9

Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples for thirty pieces of silver, and handed over to the chief priests. The people accused **Jesus** of wrongdoing and wanted him to die. They took him to Pilate who found no reason for **Jesus** to die. **Pilate** said he would have him beaten or flogged and then release him. **Pilate** usually released one person from prison back to the people during the feast. But they cried out, "Away with this man! Release to us Barabbas." Barabbas was a murderer. Then **Pilate** spoke wanting to release Jesus, but they cried out more, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him. So, they released Barabbas to the people and Simon of Cyrene was grabbed to carry **Jesus'** cross. There were also others, **two criminals** led with Him to be put to death. They crucified **Jesus** and the two criminals were on His right and left.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

Dividing his garments among them, they cost lots. The people stood watching. The rulers said, "He saved others. Let Him save Himself, if this is the Christ of God, His chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him and offered Him vinegar. They said, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was a sign placed over Him saying, "This is the King of the Jews." According to Matthew's account of the Gospel (Matthew 27:44), both **criminals** originally mocked **Jesus**. It is recorded in Luke that one **criminal** said,

“If you are the Christ, save yourself and us!” But the other one answered, “We deserve what we are getting, because of what we’ve done, but this man has done nothing wrong.” He said to **Jesus**, “Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

Jesus replied, “I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” Soon darkness covered the land for three hours, for the sun had been darkened. The veil of the temple was torn in two. **Jesus** cried in a loud voice, “**Father**, into your hands, I commit my spirit!” Having said this, He breathed His last. A centurion saw this and said, “Truly, this was the Son of God.” Many women who had followed Jesus were there. When evening came, Joseph of Arimathea asked for **Jesus’** body with **Pilate’s** permission. He laid **Jesus’** body in his own tomb. On the first day of the week, at dawn, the **women** came to the tomb and brought the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away, and didn’t find **Jesus’** body. Two men stood by them, and the **women** were terrified. The men said, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He isn’t here but He has risen. You were told that He had to be crucified and three days later rise again.” The **women** remembered His words and told these things to the eleven remaining disciples and others who followed **Jesus**. After **Jesus** arose from the dead, He appeared to many over the next forty days. He ascended into Heaven and is at the right hand of **God** now and forever alive!

Hands on Activity: Cut out black crosses, or maybe black strips of construction paper with sins written on them. Glue red pieces of paper to cover the black. Jesus died to cover and forgive our sins completely.

Verse for the Lesson: Romans 5:8

World English Bible

But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

King James Version

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

How are you God's Valuable Treasure? God loves you enough that He gave His Only Son to take the punishment we deserved.

Activity: Gather pepper, water, bowl or cup, dish soap, and a q-tip. (videos can be found on youtube.

Fill a cup or bowl with water and sprinkle pepper in it. The pepper represents sin. God cannot dwell with sin, but when we ask God for Jesus to be Lord and Savior of our lives, He helps us to do what is right in God's sight. Put a little dish soap on the q-tip. The pepper cannot stay where the dish soap is. If you don't have a q-tip, a finger also works. Pepper will stick to a finger, and less to a finger that has had dish soap on it.

Lesson 2 Questions:

1. Did Pilate want Jesus killed?
2. Who did the crowd want released?
3. What did the crowd want to happen to Jesus?
4. Who were crucified with Jesus?
5. Did Jesus stay dead?

Lesson 3: God has not Forgotten You

Today's Lesson motions and information for the bolded text.

Use your Bible Characters

God saw where Hagar was and met her there. He also kept His promises to her.

Genesis Chapter 16/ Genesis Chapter 21:9-20

Background for today's story: **Abraham**, who was **Abram** at the time, and **Sarah** who was called **Sarai** first were waiting on **God's** promise for a son. It had been a few years, since **God** had given the promise. After a series of events, they ended up in Egypt and since **Abram** lied about **Sarai** being his wife, due to the fear of being killed. **Sarai** ended up in Pharaoh's house. Eventually, after **God** intervened, **Sarai** was returned to her husband and **Hagar** her maidservant went with her. Since time had passed without God fulfilling the promise of a son, **Sarai** tells **Abram** to be with **Hagar**, so a son could be born. More time passed and now they are called **Abraham** and **Sarah**. **Hagar's** son **Ishmael** is older, and now **Isaac**, has been born and a little older himself.

In Today's story, **Sarah** sees **Isaac's** brother mocking him. **Sarah** requested to **Abraham** that **Hagar** and **Ishmael** be cast out or sent away because **Sarah** didn't want **Ishmael** to be heir with their son **Isaac**. This grieved **Abraham**, but **God** told him to listen to **Sarah**, because the promise had given was through **Isaac**. God also promised that **Ishmael** would also be a different nation because he was also **Abraham's** son. **Abraham** gave them food and water the next morning, and sent **Hagar** and **Ishmael** away. They wandered the wilderness and the water was gone. **Hagar** put **Ishmael** under a shrub and then she walked away, about a bow shot away, because she said, "Don't let me see the death of the boy," She wept and **God** heard the voice of the boy. The angel of **God** called to **Hagar** out of the sky, and said, "What troubles you, **Hagar**? Don't be afraid. For **God** has heard the voice of the boy, where he is. Get up, lift up the boy, and hold him with your hand. For I will make him a great nation." **God** opened her eyes, and she filled the container with water and gave the boy a drink. **God** was with the boy and he grew up and his mother got him an Egyptian wife.

God was there in Hagar's most desperate moments. In fact, this was not the first time, Hagar had encountered God intervening in her life. Back when she was pregnant, **Sarai** mistreated her and **Hagar** fled. **God**, most likely **Jesus** in a pre-incarnate human form met her by a fountain in the wilderness. He asked her, "Where did you come from? Where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress, **Sarai**." He said, "Return to her and submit to her. He promised, "I will greatly multiply your offspring, (descendants). You are with child, and will bear a son. You shall call his name **Ishmael**, because **God** has heard your affliction (pain or suffering). She replied, "You are a **God** who sees," for she also said, "Have I even stayed alive after seeing Him?" **God's** promise came to pass and even in the wilderness with her second encounter of desperation, He again confirms what He had promised before. **God** doesn't forget His promises even though we think He has forgotten, or it seems like a delay. Remember his promises even when the situation doesn't seem to have an outcome that matches with His Promises. He can change situations at any time.

Verse for the Lesson: Proverbs 5:21

World English Bible

For the ways of man are before Yahweh's eyes.

He examines all his paths.

King James Version

"For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings."

Lesson 3 Questions

1. Who was Hagar?
2. What was her son's name?
3. Who wanted to send her away?

4. What happened to Hagar and her son while they were in the wilderness?
5. What did Hagar say about God?

Lesson 4: God Looks for You

Today's Lesson motions and suggestions for the bolded text.

Use your story characters.

Sheep – baa sound

Find or found- for the sheep story have the kids bring their arms up to their shoulders as if they are carrying a sheep. For the coin story have them make a circle with their finger and thumb and hold it up, like they found a coin.

God looks for us, since we all have sinned and turned away from Him. He longs to rescue us from sin and make us part of His family.

Parable of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells us this parable or story: If you had a hundred **sheep** and lost one of them, would you not leave the other ninety-nine in the wilderness and look for the missing one? Would you not look for the **sheep** until it was found? When the shepherd **finds** it, he carries it on his shoulders, happy he has found his missing **sheep**. He calls his neighbors saying, "Rejoice (or celebrate) with me for I have found the **sheep** that was lost." **Jesus** says in the same way, there is more joy over the one person who turns from sin, (those things that we do that **God** doesn't want us doing.) There is more joy than over the ninety-nine who did not need to ask God forgiveness of sin in that moment.

Jesus also told this story: A **woman** had ten silver **coins**. If she lost a **coin**, would she not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search for it, until the **coin** was **found**? When she **found** it, she would call her neighbors and friends and say, "I have found my **coin** that I had lost!" There is joy in the presence of the angels of **God** over one person who turns away from doing what the Lord doesn't like. **God** wants us to obey His commands.

Story Example: Billy went to spend the weekend with his Aunt Maria and Uncle Charles. His mother had given him one dollar to spend at the concession stand that evening at the Friday night. They arrived at the football stands. Billy had put his dollar in his pocket to use halfway during the game. The sounds of cheering filled the stands, as the game started. Soon, it was halftime and Billy walked with his aunt and uncle to get some snacks. Billy was so excited to see what he would be able to buy with his dollar.

"Billy, you can buy popcorn or nachos with your dollar, or two pieces of candy," Aunt Maria said.

"I want some popcorn," Billy said with a smile. He reached into his pocket. "Oh no, my dollar is gone!"

He began looking on the ground. "It's okay," Uncle Charles said, "I will pay for it."

"No, I want to pay for it myself." Billy said.

Aunt Maria paid for the other snacks, and they started searching for the lost dollar. Sally walked over, "What are you doing, Billy?"

"Looking for the dollar I lost."

"I will help you," Sally said.

"Thank you."

Sally and Billy continued looking on the ground near the concession stand, Billy's aunt and uncle walked back toward the stadium seats to check there. After a few minutes, Billy was wanting to cry. He had lost his dollar. He sat down on the ground, and Sally came and sat beside him. He reached into his pocket and felt something odd. His hand grabbed the object and pulled it out. He couldn't believe it!

"I found my dollar," Billy said excitedly and rather loudly. He ran toward the stadium and yelled, "Aunt Maria, Uncle Charles, 'I found my dollar.'"

"That's great," Aunt Maria said with a smile. "Where was it?"

"It was in my other pocket."

"Let's go get you some nachos," Uncle Charles said.

"Nachos? But I want to spend my dollar on popcorn."

"How about I buy the nachos and you buy the popcorn?" Uncle Charles grinned.

"Okay!" Billy said with a smile.

Billy ran to the concession stand. He proudly put his dollar on the counter and got his popcorn and nachos, and Uncle Charles even paid for Sally to have some nachos of her own. They spent the rest of evening cheering on their favorite team. It was a great night to celebrate, a night Billy would never forget!

Hands on Activity- Have at least ten coins. Keep nine with you, and hide the last one. Let the kids use a broom to sweep and search for the missing coin. Another option is to just see who finds the coin the fastest without the broom.

Hands on Activity- Pretend the children are sheep. Choose a child to hide while you count. You be the shepherd, or allow another child to be. Search for the child. In both, activities have a moment of rejoicing when the item or person is found. Another option: Pretend the children are sheep, let them follow you. Choose one to walk around away from the other children in the line. You be the shepherd, or

allow another child to be. Search for the child. In both, activities have a moment of rejoicing when the item or person is found.

Verse for the Lesson: Luke 19:10

World English Bible

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.”

King James Version

“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

How are you God’s Valuable Treasure? God wants you to stay safe by following His rules. When we disobey His rules, it’s as if we are the sheep that has run away. He will look for and rescue us, if we ask Him.

Lesson 4 Questions

1. What did the woman lose?
2. What did the shepherd lose?
3. What did the woman and shepherd do when they realized something was missing?
4. When the shepherd and the woman found what they were looking for, what did they do?

Lesson 5: God Wants You in His Family

The Parable of the Prodigal son Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told another story or parable:

“A man had two sons. The younger **son (Son 2)** said to his **father**, “Give me my share of your property.”

The **father** divided what he had between his **sons**. A few days later, the younger **son (Son 2)** gathered all his stuff and went into a far-off country. He wasted what he had, spending it all. Then a famine arose in the country, and he was in need. He went and found someone who would hire him. The man was sent out to feed the pigs. He was so hungry that he would have eaten the pig’s slop. But no one gave him anything.

The **Younger son** thought to himself, “How many hired servants of my **father’s** house have bread enough to spare, and I’m dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my **father**, and will tell him, “**Father**, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no more worthy to be called your **son**. **(Son 2)** Make me like one of your servants.”

He arose and went to his **father**, but while he was still far off, his **father** moved with compassion, ran to him. He hugged and kissed him.

The **son (Son 2)** said, “**Father**, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your **son**.”

But his **father** said to the servants, “Bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let’s eat and celebrate; for my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.”

They began to celebrate. Now the older **son (Son 1)** was in the field. As he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. He asked one of the servants, “What is going on?”

The servant replied, “Your brother has come, and your **father** has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy.

He was angry and would not go in. His **father** came and begged him. His **son (Son 1)** said, “ Many years I have served you, and I have never disobeyed you, but you never gave me a goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. When your **son (Son 2)** came home spending all you gave him in wasteful living, you killed the fattened calf for him.”

His **father** said, “**Son (Son 1)**, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But it was appropriate to celebrate and be glad. Your brother was dead, and is alive again. He was lost and now is found.”

Story Example:

Sally’s mother Annabele took Sally and her older sister Kaity shopping one Saturday morning. Kaity was thirteen years old, eight years older than Sally. They walked in the store together. Sally’s mom had brought the girls so they could shop for new clothes. The girls had been excited, and had eaten their breakfast quickly. Now, their mother was getting the shopping cart.

“Stay with me at all times, girls.”

“Yes ma’am,” they said together.

Sally walked right beside her mother as they went to the clothes section. Anabele let Kaity look at her clothes section first. Sally was so ready to go see what was new in her own size. Kaity tried on outfit after outfit, while, Sally played under the clothes rack. She would occasionally peek out and say, “Mom look!” Sally would be in different places each time.

Soon, Sally’s mom called out, “Sally, let go look for clothes for you.” Sally did not speak. Actually, her mother didn’t even see her.

“Kaity, have you seen your sister?”

“I saw her earlier, looking at the purses, but I don’t see her now. Maybe she is just hiding.”

They looked for several minutes under the clothes racks. “I don’t see her,” Anabele said.

“Kaity, I am going to look for her in the toy aisles. Stay here in case Sally comes back.” Sally’s mother went up and down the toy aisles calling Sally’s name, but she was nowhere to be found.

Sally’s mother was about to go tell the manager that her child was missing, when a voice came over the speaker, “Will Sally’s mother come to the return desk please?”

Anabele ran to the front as fast as she could. She saw Sally standing there. “Oh, Sally! I was so worried about you. I told you to stay with me. “

“I am so sorry, mother. I got lost, and couldn’t find you or Kaity.”

“I am so glad you are okay. This is why I don’t want you running off. You are safe with me.”

“Yes, ma’am.”

Anabele thanked the manager once again for finding Sally, then they went toward where Kaity had been told to stay.

“Well, there she is,” Kaity said.

“Yes, isn’t that great news, Kaity. Your sister was found. Let’s finish our shopping and then we will go out to lunch for milkshakes, with our burgers and fries.”

“Yum,” Sally said excitedly.

“Yeah, whatever. Let’s get this over with,” Kaity said.

They finished shopping and went to lunch. Finally, they made it back home, and Anabele let Sally go play. “Kaity, what’s wrong? You have been upset since we found Sally.”

“I did exactly what you asked, and have never run off. Yet, Sally goes missing, and you give her the reward of a milkshake, burger, and fries, when we could have eaten lunch here.”

“Do you not realize we could have lost your sister today? I thought she might never be found. The lunch was not a reward for disobeying me, but the joy that your sister was returned to us. Today, could have been very different. We got to celebrate as a family once again, and for that reason, I celebrate!”

Verse for the Lesson: John 17:24

World English Bible

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also whom you have given me be with me where I am, that they may see my glory which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world.

King James Version

“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”

How are you God’s Valuable Treasure? God wants us to pray and ask forgiveness for our sins. He also wants us to become part of His family.

Lesson 5 Questions:

1. What did the younger son want from his father?
2. What did the younger son do a few days later?
3. What natural disaster happened while he was on his own?
4. Did he take care of himself or did he waste all that his father gave him?
5. What did he decide to do?
6. How did the father respond to his return?
7. How did the brother act?
8. Why did the father celebrate his son's return?

God's Valuable Treasure

4th-6th Bible Lessons

Note to the Teacher:

These are lessons for the Bible time for 4th- 6th grade. This level is purposely written in a different style than the younger 1st-3rd who will be covering the same lessons. It is the goal to share the deeper Truths of the Bible Stories that some have heard all their lives. We want them not only to listen to the Bible stories and answer basic trivia knowledge, but to also have activities where they can teach others. Throughout, the week you will see bible verses that correspond with each lesson. Some days have extra activities and demonstrations that I found, hopefully to help give some multi-sensory learning. There are questions to think and ponder upon. For 4th- 6th grade, these are often grades who listen better if they are actively doing something while they are being taught the lesson.

Since the students will be covering the Creation, Jesus' death and resurrection, and being a part of God's family, we realized we have the Gospel being taught. It would be amazing to have them work on a page each day (out of construction paper or other materials) that covers the story they learned, by writing and/or drawing pictures. By the end of the week, these pages will become a book that they can share the Truth of the Gospel with others. We truly want to give these growing students more than basic answers they can just repeat when asked. We want them to realize this is the Truth because God said so, and can be trusted.

Do not be afraid to add any suggestions that you may think may be helpful and beneficial for the students learning

Sincerely,

Brandi Williams

Lesson 1: God Created You

Genesis Chapters 1-3

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty. Darkness was on the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. God spoke saying, "Let there be light," and there was light. He saw it was good, and that was the first day. The second day he created the sky and waters and said it was good. The third day, God spoke saying, "Let the water be gathered together in one place, and let dry land appear." He also spoke and trees and plants appeared. God said, "It was good." So, land and seas were created on day three. Day four God created the sun, the greater light to rule the day, and the moon to rule the night along with the stars. They were also created as signs to mark the seasons. Once again, God said, "It was good." Day five, God created the birds that fill the sky and the fish that live in the water. He blessed them and told them to increase in number. God said, "It was good." God once again spoke saying, "Let the earth produce living creatures such as land animals, dinosaurs, and bugs. This was the sixth day, but wait He was not finished yet. God said, "Let us make man in our own image after our likeness. Let them have rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, all over the earth, and over every creeping thing on the earth." He formed the first man that we know as Adam from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils, the breath of life, and man became a living being (soul). The first time that God created in a different way than just speaking the word. He placed Adam in the garden He created. God had Adam name the animals and because Adam had no helper, God made Adam fall asleep. God took one of his ribs and made the first woman. They could eat plants and fruit from the trees, no meat yet. He created both male and female. On the seventh day, God rested from His Work, not because He was tired, but because He made the day Holy. He created the environments of earth, the first three days, and then filled them the next three days. No one or anything was created that could take credit for God's creative work.

God commanded Adam and his wife not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, because they would die. At some point, the serpent spoke to the woman and asks if God really told them not to eat from any tree of the garden?" The woman tells him they can eat of the trees in the garden, but not the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The serpent says, "You won't die. When you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and will be like God knowing good and evil. The woman saw the tree was good for food, and desired to be wise, she took and ate the fruit. She gave some to Adam and he ate as well. They realized they were naked and used fig leaves to cover themselves. They heard God walking and God asked Adam, "Where are you?" Adam spoke and said, "I heard your voice and was

afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.” God asked, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree I told you not to? Adam blames his wife, who blames the serpent. Because of their sin, God sent them out of the garden, so they would not eat of the Tree of Life, and live forever with no hope of forgiveness for disobedience. God covered them with animal skins. God cursed the ground and told Adam that he would work, but it would be a struggle because thorns and thistles would be there. It would be harder to work the ground and that he would eventually die. His wife would become the mother of all mankind, but not without the pain of childbirth. Adam then named his wife Eve. God made them coverings of animal skins for their nakedness. The serpent was told that one of the woman’s offspring would come and give him a fatal wound, “a bruise to the head”, not a literal bruise, but a sign of defeat. God promised to send Jesus to defeat the serpent also known as Satan or the Devil, and give us a way to have a relationship with God once again!! Jesus came and was crucified, but rose again to life. Jesus came to destroy and overcome sin, death, and Hell. God created you for a purpose, but sin/ disobedience and this fallen world is an issue we cannot ignore. Jesus is our only Hope. We are lost without Him.

Hands on Activity- Have two trees: One to represent the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The other to represent the Tree of Life. Use the activity to show what will get us into Heaven. I recommend having the trees cut out from paper and having children be involved with deciding where they think the apple or fruit goes. You can either give examples or write actions on the apples. Example: “Stealing, where do you think this apple goes?” You could do green apples for good things and red for things that go against what God commands. I would have a shape of a cross cut out, after they realize no apples went on the second tree. This will hopefully help them learn what sin is and Jesus is our Only Hope.

Verse for the Lesson: Psalm 100:3 World English Bible

Know that Yahweh, he is God.

It is he who has made us, and we are his.

We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

King James Version

“Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he *that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”

How are you God's Valuable Treasure?

God created you for a purpose. The purpose was for mankind to have dominion over creation and have fellowship with God, but sin and disobedience in this now cursed and fallen world is an issue we cannot ignore. Jesus is our only Hope for restoration. We are lost and doomed without Him.

Lesson 1 Questions:

1. Who created the world and everything in it, including you?
2. We often hear that "God saved the best for last," in reference to mankind being last of creation, maybe it's true, but ponder this: If Adam had been made first, he wouldn't have had a suitable environment to live in at first, in those beginning days. God also left no way for another to take the credit for His Work since the majority was completed before Adam was created.
3. What was God's original purpose for creating mankind? Hint: (What did God give mankind dominion over?)
4. What was Eve's sin? Was it just because of the type of fruit she ate, or the fact she disobeyed the Lord's command?
5. Did God come angrily into the garden or calmly? (Hint what did He do in the cool of the day, and what was His question to Adam?)
6. In God's Mercy, He sent Adam and Eve out of the garden. What would have happened if they had eaten of the Tree of Life after their sin?

Lesson 2: God Loves and Cares for You

Luke 23:13-26, 32-44, 50-53/ Luke 24:1-9

Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples for thirty pieces of silver, and handed over to the chief priests. The people accused Jesus of wrongdoing and wanted him to die. They took him to Pilate who found no reason for Jesus to die. Pilate said he would have him beaten or flogged and then release him. Pilate usually released one person from prison back to the people during the feast. But they cried out, "Away with this man! Release to us Barabbas." Barabbas was a murderer. Then Pilate spoke wanting to release Jesus, but they cried out more, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him. So, they released Barabbas to the people and Simon of Cyrene was grabbed to carry Jesus' cross. There were also others, two criminals led with Him to be put to death. They crucified Jesus and the two criminals were on His right and left.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

Dividing his garments among them, they cost lots. The people stood watching. The rulers said, "He saved others. Let Him save Himself, if this is the Christ of God, His chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him and offered Him vinegar. They said, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was a sign placed over Him saying, "This is the King of the Jews." According to Matthew's account of the Gospel (Matthew 27:44), both criminals originally mocked Jesus. It is recorded in Luke that one criminal said, "If you are the Christ, save yourself and us!" But the other one answered, "We deserve what we are getting, because of what we've done, but this man has done nothing wrong." He said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

Jesus replied, "I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Soon darkness covered the land for three hours, for the sun had been darkened. The veil of the temple was torn in two. Jesus cried in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit!" Having said this, He breathed His last. A centurion saw this and said, "Truly, this was the Son of God." Many women who had followed Jesus were there. When evening came, Joseph of Arimathea asked for Jesus' body with Pilate's permission. He laid Jesus' body in his own tomb. On the first day of the week, at dawn, the women came to the tomb and brought the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away, and didn't find Jesus' body. Two men stood by them, and the women were terrified. The men said, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He isn't here but He has risen. You were told that He had to be crucified and three days later rise

again.” The women remembered His words and told these things to the eleven remaining disciples and others who followed Jesus. After Jesus arose from the dead, He appeared to many over the next forty days. He ascended into Heaven and is at the right hand of God now and forever alive!

Activity- Cut out black crosses, or maybe black strips of construction paper with sins written on them. Glue red pieces of paper to cover the black. Jesus died to cover and forgive our sins completely. If you decide on this activity for 4th-6th, maybe have them work on it to keep their hands busy, while you are discussing the story and questions.

Verse for the Day: Romans 5:8 World English Bible

But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

King James Version

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

How are you God’s Valuable Treasure?

God decided before the foundations of the World, even before one sin was committed, that He would send His Most Precious Treasure to rescue you. His Name is Jesus and He is God’s Son. Jesus who never sinned or disobeyed God’s commands, became the perfect sacrifice. It was the required payment for God to rescue mankind. His anger poured out on Jesus at the cross, toward sin, allowed God to be Just, while still being able to forgive, but not in the sense of overlooking sin. When we accept Jesus as both Lord and Savior, God the Father sees you covered in Jesus’ blood in a sense that makes you eternally safe from Hell and God’s Wrath toward sin. Jesus didn’t die just to take away your sin, but to also be your Lord, which means doing and saying whatever He leads to do. It doesn’t mean He’s rescued you, so you can still keep cursing or lying. It means that He gives us the power through the Holy Spirit, to choose not to keep falling into the same sin and temptation over and over.

Hands on Activity: Gather pepper, water, bowl or cup, dish soap, and a q-tip.

Fill a cup or bowl with water and sprinkle pepper in it. The pepper represents sin. God cannot dwell with sin, but when we ask God for Jesus to be Lord and Savior of our lives, He helps us to do what is right in God's sight. Put a little dish soap on the q-tip. The pepper cannot stay where the dish soap is. If you don't have a q-tip, a finger also works. Pepper will stick to a finger, and less to a finger that has had dish soap on it.

Lesson 2 Questions:

1. Jesus coming to earth, dying, taking the punishment for our disobedience and rebellion, and resurrected on the third day was not Plan B. God knew before He created anything including you or I, that we'd need Jesus to rescue us, if we were ever going to have the opportunity to be with God again. How does that make you feel, that God would go to such great cost to save us, when He didn't have to?
2. Both criminals had different reactions to Jesus in the last moments of their lives. One continued mocking, while the other in just a few hours, realized he needed Jesus to save him not physically, but eternally. The criminal humbled himself, and realized Jesus was his only Hope. Just think on this for a moment and don't respond out loud. Do you believe Jesus is who He says He is? Is He Lord, the Son of God, or do you think He was merely a man or good teacher?
3. One sin, one step of disobedience against God's commands, has the penalty of death eternally, if we never make Him Lord of our Lives turn from our sins. Can a murderer go to Heaven? Can a cussing person go to Heaven? Can an alcoholic go to Heaven? Will those without Jesus as Lord, spend eternity with Him or away from in Hell?
4. There are no people good enough to go to Heaven, no matter what good or bad things they have done. Who is our only Hope? How do we get to Heaven and be with God forever?

Lesson 3: God Has Not Forgotten You

Genesis Chapter 21:9-20 / Genesis Chapter 16

Background for today's story: Abraham, who was Abram at the time, and Sarah who was called Sarai first were waiting on God's promise for a son. It had been a few years, since God had given the promise. After a series of events, they ended up in Egypt and since Abram lied about Sarai being his wife, due to the fear of being killed. Sarai ended up in Pharaoh's house. Eventually, after God intervened, Sarai was returned to her husband and Hagar her maidservant went with her. Since time had passed without God fulfilling the promise of a son, Sarai tells Abram to be with Hagar, so a son could be born. More time passed and now they are called Abraham and Sarah. Hagar's son Ishmael is older, and now Isaac, has been born and a little older himself.

In Today's story, Sarah sees Isaac's brother mocking him. Sarah requested to Abraham that Hagar and Ishmael be cast out or sent away because Sarah didn't want Ishmael to be heir with their son Isaac. This grieved Abraham, but God told him to listen to Sarah, because the promise had given was through Isaac. God also promised that Ishmael would also be a different nation because he was also Abraham's son. Abraham gave them food and water the next morning, and sent Hagar and Ishmael away. They wandered the wilderness and the water was gone. Hagar put Ishmael under a shrub and then she walked away, about a bow shot away, because she said, "Don't let me see the death of the boy," She wept and God heard the voice of the boy. The angel of God called to Hagar out of the sky, and said, "What troubles you, Hagar? Don't be afraid. For God has heard the voice of the boy, where he is. Get up, lift up the boy, and hold him with your hand. For I will make him a great nation." God opened her eyes, and she filled the container with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy and he grew up and his mother got him an Egyptian wife.

God was there in Hagar's most desperate moments. In fact, this was not the first time, Hagar had encountered God intervening in her life. Back when she was pregnant, Sarai mistreated her and Hagar fled. God, most likely Jesus in a pre-incarnate human form met her by a fountain in the wilderness. He asked her, "Where did you come from? Where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress, Sarai." He said, "Return to her and submit to her. He promised, "I will greatly multiply your offspring, (descendants). You are with child, and will bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because God has heard your affliction (pain or suffering). She replied, "You are a God who sees," for she also said, "Have I even stayed alive after seeing Him?" God's promise came to pass and even in the wilderness with her second encounter of desperation, He again confirms what He had promised before. God doesn't forget

His promises even though we think He has forgotten, or it seems like a delay. Remember his promises even when the situation doesn't seem to have an outcome that matches with His Promises. He can change situations at any time.

Verse for the Lesson: Proverbs 5:21

World English Bible

For the ways of man are before Yahweh's eyes.

He examines all his paths.

King James Version

"For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings."

How are you God's Valuable Treasure?

He sees all, just like He did with Hagar's situation. He saw how she was mistreated, and He gave her the assurance and Hope she needed in the right moments. Unfortunately, Abraham and Sarah found out the hard way, that even after the years of waiting, that God has a different timetable than we do. Sometimes, He acts in ways we do not expect. With Sarah and Abraham, He waited until there was no way humanly that they could still have children. They could only give God glory for the miracle of Isaac's birth. God may not act in the ways we expect or when we desire Him to do so. But God still is the God who sees: each tear, each cry, each joy, and His promise to those who are His people, His Children will come to pass. He will fulfill those promises, even though the wait may seem long. He has not forgotten you.

Lesson 3 Questions:

1. Hagar was in a difficult situation in today's story. Who met her where she was at?
2. God helped Hagar when no one else could. What did she call the Lord? (Hint: The God who ____)
3. Was Hagar's situation in the desert a temporary situation or a permanent one? (Hint: Did the boy die? Did they get out of the wilderness?)
4. What God promises us, will come to pass even if we have to wait years. Will we trust Him? The Bible is full of His promises to us, that we can remember in times of fear, anger, worry, and more.

Lesson 4: God Looks for You

Parable of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells us this parable or story: If you had a hundred sheep and lost one of them, would you not leave the other ninety-nine in the wilderness and look for the missing one? Would you not look for the sheep until it was found? When the shepherd finds it, he carries it on his shoulders, happy he has found his missing sheep. He calls his neighbors saying, "Rejoice (or celebrate) with me for I have found the sheep that was lost." Jesus says in the same way, there is more joy over the one person who turns from sin, (those things that we do that God doesn't want us doing.) There is more joy than over the ninety-nine who did not need to ask God forgiveness of sin in that moment.

Jesus also told this story: A woman had ten silver coins. If she lost a coin, would she not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search for it, until the coin was found? When she found it, she would call her neighbors and friends and say, "I have found my coin that I had lost!" There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one person who turns away from doing what the Lord doesn't like. God wants us to obey His commands.

Story Example: Billy went to spend the weekend with his Aunt Maria and Uncle Charles. His mother had given him one dollar to spend at the concession stand that evening at the Friday night. They arrived at the football stands. Billy had put his dollar in his pocket to use halfway during the game. The sounds of cheering filled the stands, as the game started. Soon, it was halftime and Billy walked with his aunt and uncle to get some snacks. Billy was so excited to see what he would be able to buy with his dollar.

"Billy, you can buy popcorn or nachos with your dollar, or two pieces of candy," Aunt Maria said.

"I want some popcorn," Billy said with a smile. He reached into his pocket. "Oh no, my dollar is gone!"

He began looking on the ground. "It's okay," Uncle Charles said, "I will pay for it."

"No, I want to pay for it myself." Billy said.

Aunt Maria paid for the other snacks, and they started searching for the lost dollar. Sally walked over, "What are you doing, Billy?"

"Looking for the dollar I lost."

"I will help you," Sally said.

"Thank you."

Sally and Billy continued looking on the ground near the concession stand, Billy's aunt and uncle walked back toward the stadium seats to check there. After a few minutes, Billy was wanting to cry. He had lost his dollar. He sat down on the ground, and Sally came and sat beside him. He reached into his pocket and felt something odd. His hand grabbed the object and pulled it out. He couldn't believe it!

"I found my dollar," Billy said excitedly and rather loudly. He ran toward the stadium and yelled, "Aunt Maria, Uncle Charles, 'I found my dollar.'"

"That's great," Aunt Maria said with a smile. "Where was it?"

"It was in my other pocket."

"Let's go get you some nachos," Uncle Charles said.

"Nachos? But I want to spend my dollar on popcorn."

"How about I buy the nachos and you buy the popcorn?" Uncle Charles grinned.

"Okay!" Billy said with a smile.

Billy ran to the concession stand. He proudly put his dollar on the counter and got his popcorn and nachos, and Uncle Charles even paid for Sally to have some nachos of her own. They spent the rest of evening cheering on their favorite team. It was a great night to celebrate, a night Billy would never forget!

Hands on Activity- Have at least ten coins. Keep nine with you, and hide the last one. Let the kids use a broom to sweep and search for the missing coin. Another option is to just see who finds the coin the fastest without the broom.

Verse for the Lesson: Luke 19:10

World English Bible

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost."

King James Version

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

How are you God's Valuable Treasure?

God could have left us doomed to an eternity of Hell, but He comes searching for us. It's not that God doesn't know where we are, but He desires for the one who knows Jesus as Lord and Savior to turn from sin as quickly as possible. He wants our fellowship with Him restored. Don't run from the One who wants to rescue you. If the Lord is dealing with you about sin, whether you are a Christ Follower or not, listen and obey. - I John 1:9

Lesson 4 Questions:

1. Something precious was lost in both stories, precious in the owner's eyes. Do you know you have worth in God's eyes? He doesn't need us, but like it was talked about in earlier lessons, Jesus's death and resurrection had purpose, the opportunity to rescue you. Think on this.
2. God has placed people in your life whether parents, grandparents, friends, that invited or brought you here to learn. Whatever the reason may be, you are having the opportunity to hear the Truth of God's Word, the One True God who loved you so much that His Son died for you. We are all like that sheep who ran off that the Shepherd seeks to rescue. He wants us to turn from our sin/ our disobedience and come to Him for safety. Think on this.
3. If you know Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life, are you rejoicing with God and all of Heaven when others come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior? It's a reason to celebrate!!
4. God wants no one to go to Hell. He doesn't enjoy the death of anyone. You were not created to spend eternity away from the Lord. Hell was a punishment meant only for Satan and the demons. But He gives us the choice to choose or reject Jesus as Savior and Lord. He wants us to choose life with Him, but will not force us to be with Him. Even the worst person you can think of, God desires them to choose Jesus. God will forgive those who ask Him. Remember if someone has wronged or hurt you, we must forgive them as God forgave us. -Matthew 6:14.

Lesson 5: God Wants you in His Family

The Parable of the Prodigal son Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told another story or parable:

“A man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, “Give me my share of your property.”

The father divided what he had between his sons. A few days later, the younger son gathered all his stuff and went into a far-off country. He wasted what he had, spending it all. Then a famine arose in the country, and he was in need. He went and found someone who would hire him. The man was sent out to feed the pigs. He was so hungry that he would have eaten the pig’s slop. But no one gave him anything.

The son thought to himself, “How many hired servants of my father’s house have bread enough to spare, and I’m dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will tell him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no more worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your servants.”

He arose and went to his father, but while he was still far off, his father moved with compassion, ran to him. He hugged and kissed him.

The son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

But his father said to the servants, “Bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let’s eat and celebrate; for my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.”

They began to celebrate. Now the older son was in the field. As he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. He asked one of the servants, “What is going on?”

The servant replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy.

He was angry and would not go in. His father came and begged him. His son said, “ Many years I have served you, and I have never disobeyed you, but you never gave me a goat, that I might celebrate with

my friends. When your son came home spending all you gave him in wasteful living, you killed the fattened calf for him.”

His father said, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But it was appropriate to celebrate and be glad. Your brother was dead, and is alive again. He was lost and now is found.”

Story Example:

Sally’s mother Annabele took Sally and her older sister Kaity shopping one Saturday morning. Kaity was thirteen years old, eight years older than Sally. They walked in the store together. Sally’s mom had brought the girls so they could shop for new clothes. The girls had been excited, and had eaten their breakfast quickly. Now, their mother was getting the shopping cart.

“Stay with me at all times, girls.”

“Yes ma’am,” they said together.

Sally walked right beside her mother as they went to the clothes section. Anabele let Kaity look at her clothes section first. Sally was so ready to go see what was new in her own size. Kaity tried on outfit after outfit, while, Sally played under the clothes rack. She would occasionally peek out and say, “Mom look!” Sally would be in different places each time.

Soon, Sally’s mom called out, “Sally, let go look for clothes for you.” Sally did not speak. Actually, her mother didn’t even see her.

“Kaity, have you seen your sister?”

“I saw her earlier, looking at the purses, but I don’t see her now. Maybe she is just hiding.”

They looked for several minutes under the clothes racks. “I don’t see her,” Anabele said.

“Kaity, I am going to look for her in the toy aisles. Stay here in case Sally comes back.” Sally’s mother went up and down the toy aisles calling Sally’s name, but she was nowhere to be found.

Sally’s mother was about to go tell the manager that her child was missing, when a voice came over the speaker, “Will Sally’s mother come to the return desk please?”

Anabele ran to the front as fast as she could. She saw Sally standing there. “Oh, Sally! I was so worried about you. I told you to stay with me. “

“I am so sorry, mother. I got lost, and couldn’t find you or Kaity.”

“I am so glad you are okay. This is why I don’t want you running off. You are safe with me.”

“Yes, ma’am.”

Her mother thanked the manager once again for finding Sally, then they went toward where Kaity had been told to stay.

“Well, there she is,” Kaity said.

“Yes, isn’t that great news, Kaity. Your sister was found. Let’s finish our shopping and then we will go out to lunch for milkshakes, with our burgers and fries.”

“Yum,” Sally said excitedly.

“Yeah, whatever. Let’s get this over with,” Kaity said.

They finished shopping and went to lunch. Finally, they made it back home, and Anabele let Sally go play. “Kaity, what’s wrong? You have been upset since we found Sally.”

“I did exactly what you asked, and have never run off. Yet, Sally goes missing, and you give her the reward of a milkshake, burger, and fries, when we could have eaten lunch here.”

“Do you not realize we could have lost your sister today? I thought she might never be found. The lunch was not a reward for disobeying me, but the joy that your sister was returned to us. Today, could have been very different. We got to celebrate as a family once again, and for that reason, I celebrate!”

Verse for the Lesson : John 17:24

World English Bible

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also whom you have given me be with me where I am, that they may see my glory which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world.

King James Version

“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”

How are you God's Valuable Treasure?

God desires all mankind to know Jesus as Lord and Savior, and turn from sin or disobedience toward God. He rejoices when that happens. Unfortunately, in today's culture many say that, "Everyone is God's Children." The Truth is that unless we turn from sin, we aren't considered a Child of God. You are God's Creation, absolutely, but that is not the same as following Jesus as Lord and Savior and obeying Him. He leaves the choice up to us. We are adopted into the family of God as sons and daughters eternally, only because of Jesus 'making the Way possible. The verse for this lesson wasn't said after His Resurrection. These words were recorded from Jesus' prayer in the garden just a few hours before He endured the cross. The desire to for us to be with Him for eternity was expressed before Jesus endured the suffering, and that desire hasn't changed. He longs for mankind to be with Him forever. To Him, the cost was worth it.

Lesson 5 Questions:

1. What did the father divide between the sons?
2. What did the younger son do a few days later?
3. Was the son wise with what he had been given, or was he wasteful?
4. What happened when the famine came? Did he have the provisions he needed to survive?
5. What was he thinking when he decided to return home?
6. How did the father greet the returning son?
7. Why was the other son upset instead of celebrating?
8. In the example story, what did Sally's mother do when she realized Sally was missing?

9. Why was Kaity upset?
10. What was the reason the parents in both stories celebrated a person's return? Was it to reward bad behavior, or was it because they didn't know what had happened to their family member and they wanted to celebrate that they were alive and safe?
11. God longs to celebrate the day you come to Him and turn from sin and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. When we do this, we become His child, a part of His family. If you have done this, are you sharing Jesus with others, so they have the opportunity to become part of God's family? We should rejoice that many are being saved and added to the family daily. Think on this. What a joyful thought!

