

April 11th & 12th
4 year olds-1st grade

Bible Passage: The Big God Story
(Easter)

The Big God Story

REMEMBER VERSE

**Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and
believes him who sent me has eternal life.**

John 5:24a

Schedule

1. **Activity**
2. **Storytime**
3. **Questions to go deeper**
4. **Blessing**
5. **Optional Worship music**

Supplies

- **12 plastic eggs and egg carton**
- **paper**
- **markers**
- **Paper for Remember Verse**
- **Bible (yours and your child's)**
- **Easter basket**
- **Crown (made from paper)**
- **Royal robe (bath robe or coat)**
- **Scepter (broom or stick)**

//Optional Activity//

Parents, this is a way to introduce the lesson and get your kids to thinking about the entire Big God Story that they will get to hear today, including Jesus' resurrection.

The Big God Story Eggs

SUPPLIES

- The Big God Story Eggs images or you can draw simple images
- Scissors
- Plastic eggs (12)
- Egg carton (empty)
- Permanent marker

PREPARE AHEAD

Print and cut out The Big God Story Eggs images. Number the eggs 1 through 12 on the bottom of each. Place each image in its corresponding egg and place eggs in carton.

RELATE

Today is a very special day, and we're going to hear something very special in storytelling later. There is something inside each of these eggs that have something to do with that special story. I would really like it if you would help me explore them! Encourage children to take turns opening each egg in order and identifying what's inside. **What part of The Big God Story is this from? What did God do during that part?** Continue until you've finished opening each egg in the carton.

//Storytime//

Hey parents! We will start with learning our Remember Verse.

- Write the Remember Verse (listed below) on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in your house near where you will be telling the story
- Grab an empty box with a lid near where you will tell the story. This will be used to help tell the story 😊

Mail Time

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse written on a piece of paper
- Bibles (your personal and children's)

RELATE

Hide the Remember Verse somewhere in your house, perhaps near where you will tell the story. Choose one child to “seek” the Remember Verse. Give clues to its whereabouts by calling out “hot” and “cold.”

Once the verse is found, find the Remember Verse in Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with the children.

Lead the children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory.

REMEMBER VERSE

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.
John 5:24a

REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS

Eternal: Lasting forever and ever

REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

Very truly I tell you: Nod head in affirmation, cup hands around mouth.

whoever hears my word: cup hands around ears.

and believes him who sent me: Point index fingers to the sky.

has eternal life: Point right index finger outward and make a circular motion.

Wardrobe of Wonder (Where a secret item is hidden that connects to the Big God Story. Use a box, a cabinet or whatever you have)

SUPPLIES

- Secret item/What’s It: Empty Wardrobe
- Covered place to hide secret item (which is empty this week)

What’s It: Empty Wardrobe

Jesus’ followers had taken His body, wrapped it in linens, and placed it in a tomb. They needed to wait until Sabbath ended to return and properly prepare His body for burial. When they arrived at the tomb, all they found were the linens used to wrap His body. The tomb was empty___Jesus had risen just as He said!

RELATE

Invite your child volunteer to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking into the “wardrobe.” Have him whisper the identity of the What’s It in your ear to ensure he knows what it is.

Then lead the group in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What’s It. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and bring it to you.

ASK

(Insert child's name), **did you see what's inside the Wardrobe of Wonder?** Encourage him to whisper it in your ear. **It's empty? What do you mean? Are you sure?** Allow child to answer. **Why don't you check one more time?** Child will check the wardrobe and again see that it's empty. **Okay**, (insert the child's name), **now tell everyone what you saw in the Wardrobe of Wonder.** Child will announce that it's empty. **Empty?!** Open the wardrobe to show children. **Friends, what do you think? We'd better find out why the wardrobe is empty. Do you know what time it is?**

The Big God Story

This is the "meat" of the lesson where we open up the Bible to see how God moved in people's lives. The Big God Story images #1–13 (look at end of lesson) will be used as visuals during storytelling today. There are two storytelling roles the **Actor** and the **Storyteller**. You can combine these parts into one or have another family member read one of the parts.

Easter

SUPPLIES

- The Big God Story images #1–13 (found at bottom of lesson)
- Easter basket (small)
- Plastic eggs (empty)
- Box (large)
- Props: Bible, crown (made from paper), royal robe (bath robe or coat), scepter (a stick or broom can be used)

RELATE

Actor enters from the back of the room carrying an Easter basket filled with plastic eggs. As she enters, she is singing or humming while placing/hiding eggs in various places around the room (perimeter of the children). While hiding the eggs and making her way to the front of the stage, she begins her opening dialogue about Easter. The Storyteller will be sitting in the audience with the children.

Actor: Hi, everyone! I'm so excited to be here with you all! Today is such a special day! Do you know why? Pause for response from children while continuing to hide eggs. **That's right!** Arrive at front of stage, stop, turn, and face children. **Today is Easter!** Begin to pick up tempo of speech, then slow down toward the end and make a dramatic stop to catch your breath. **I love Easter because today we get to eat candy, and search for eggs, and ... and ... and ... well, I think that's it, but isn't it great?!**

Storyteller: Wait, wait, wait just a minute. Walk up to stage. **You're forgetting the most important thing! You're forgetting the reason we celebrate Easter. Friends, let's all pray and ask God to be the one to teach us today.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds. Actor sits on small stool onstage next to Storyteller, actively listening—ready to engage.

Before we jump into The Big God Story, I want to show you something. Reach into prop box and pull out Bible. **Do you know what book this is?** Pause for responses. **Yes! It's the Bible. It's filled with God's Word for us and helps us to know God. The words inside the Bible are all true. We call all the stories we read from the Bible "The Big God Story" because God is big, His story is big, and He wants us to be a part of it! Now, we need to start at the very beginning of the Bible. Reveal image #1: The garden.** As image is revealed, **The true story I'm about to tell you began in a beautiful garden that stood between four grand rivers. God made the very first people to live in the garden of Eden. They were named Adam and Eve. Reveal image #2: Adam and Eve in the**

garden.

It was wonderful in the garden until they sinned. Sin is what happens when we make bad choices and do something that doesn't please God. Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God and made a bad choice, they weren't allowed to be in the garden anymore or be as close to God as they once were. **Reveal image #3: Adam and Eve leaving.** But, God is such a good God, He never leaves His people alone. God made a promise that someday there would be a Savior. This promised Savior would be able to forgive us, and all people, of our sins so we can know God and be with Him forever. And so it began ... all the people on earth began to wait for The Promise to come.

After the creation and Adam and Eve, there was Noah. **Reveal image #4: Noah and the rainbow.** There was a big flood that covered the earth with water. The only people who were left alive were Noah and his family. After the flood, God made a covenant with Noah. A covenant is an extra-special promise. When God makes promises, He always keeps them! God made a covenant with Noah and all the creatures on earth that would ever live. It's a promise for me, for you, and for all our friends here. He promised He would never flood the whole earth again. And to remind us that He always keeps His promises, God puts a rainbow in the sky after it rains to show that we can trust Him. *Parents: at this point you can choose to lead a song of praise with your kids. We suggest "Rainbow" by Hillsong Kids that you can access on youtube.com. OR you can continue with the story.*

Noah's family began to grow and grow. The earth was once again filled with people and new nations. God always stayed very close to His people, protecting them when they fought with other countries. He guided them through the desert to lead them to a new home, and He sent them prophets. A prophet is someone to whom God gives a special message that He wants shared with all of His people. It was a way for God to always be with His people, even before the promised Savior came.

God told His people that He wanted to be their King and show them the best way to live. But the people of God didn't listen. They wanted to have kings just like all the other countries and nations. **Reveal image #5: The kings.** Storyteller reaches into prop box while talking and pulls out crown, royal robe, and scepter. Begin to dress Actor. Once in costume, Actor walks back and forth as a noble king. Walk among children; place crown on child's head and scepter in another child's hand, then sit in front row with them. **So, God gave them kings. There were good kings—like King David and King Josiah—and there were bad kings. Because of some bad choices the bad kings made, God's people were taken to lands that weren't their own and were forced to leave their homes.**

God never left His people alone. He remembered His promise. God used faithful people who listened to His words and obeyed His directions to bring His people back home to Israel, where the Savior would be born. And then something happened ... **(reveal image #6: God was silent)—God was silent.** Pause and wait in silence for a beat or two; lower voice for next couple of sentences. **He didn't say anything to the people through a prophet, a priest, or a king—not one word. And so the people just waited for The Promise. There were almost 400 years before the people heard anything from God. God was quiet, but that didn't mean He forgot His promise. We can trust God, because we know He always keeps His promises.**

One night, God ended His silence. **Reveal image #7: Mary and the angel.** God sent an angel named Gabriel to a young girl named Mary. He told her she was going to have a baby—God's Son—who would be the Savior for all people. God gave us The Promise when He told Mary she would have the baby Jesus. Jesus was the Savior God had promised in the garden with Adam and Eve many years before!

Reveal image #8: Angels and shepherds; On the night Jesus was born, God sent angels to announce His birth to shepherds in a field nearby! God didn't send just one or two angels. The Bible tells us He sent too many angels to even count. The shepherds were so excited they went to see the baby Jesus right away. **Reveal image**

#9: Shepherds sharing the news of Jesus' birth. *Then, they went and told everyone what they'd seen and heard. The promised Savior had been born in Bethlehem!*

Through the years, Jesus grew up in a way that was pleasing to God. He never made a bad choice or did anything wrong. Not even once! Jesus lived His entire life teaching people the best way to live. **Reveal image #10: Jesus and the people.** He cared for people who were hungry, healed people who were hurt or sick, and even brought people who had died *back to life!* Jesus really showed His power and showed that *He was God!*

God sent Jesus to be the Savior and bring us back to God so we could live closely with Him again. Remember ... people hadn't been able to experience being really close to God because Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Jesus was the Savior God promised to send. Jesus made the way for us to be forgiven of our sins and be in relationship with God. Can someone tell us what Jesus did for us? Invite your children to tell what happened on Good Friday and Easter. He came to earth to give up His life on the cross so we could be forgiven of our sins and live forever.

He didn't stay dead, did He? Children answer. **No!** After He died, Jesus' friends took His body, wrapped it in linen cloth, and placed Him in a tomb. **Reveal image #11: The tomb.** Then they closed the tomb by rolling a very large stone in front of it. When they came back on the third day, Jesus wasn't there! **Reveal image #12: Tomb and angel.** The tomb was empty! An angel was sitting on top of the tomb and told Jesus' friends He had risen! **Reveal image #13: Risen Jesus.** He came back to life, just like He promised. He was on earth for 40 days teaching His disciples. Then He went back up to heaven! Jesus is alive! *That's what we celebrate on Easter morning!*

And that's why the Wardrobe of Wonder was empty—our clue to The Big God Story! Jesus isn't dead; *He is alive!* He came to earth to give up His life so we could be forgiven of our sins and live forever. When we choose to believe that Jesus, God's only Son, died for our sins and decide to follow Him, we get to be with God forever! I'm so thankful Jesus came so I can know God and be close to Him. And that's not the end of the story. We get to be a part of God's big story! The story continues with us. Isn't that exciting?

Actor: I can be part of God's big story? That's amazing! I want to learn more about what it means to be part of God's family *and* about my part in His story!

Storyteller: Deciding to be a part of God's family is a *big* decision. When you see your mom and dad, ask them all about it. I know they'll be so excited to talk with you about Jesus! Storyteller and Actor exit as Worship Leader enters to lead response.

Storyteller: Hey Kids, remember you can ask me about deciding to be a part of God's family. It's just like the ABCs.

- Can you say "A?" A is for Admit. Say that with me, "A is for Admit." Admit that you're a sinner. We all do wrong things. It says in the Bible that "All have sinned." Romans 3:23
- Now "B". B is for Believe. Say that with me, "B is for Believe." Believe Jesus is God's Son and your Savior." The Bible says, "If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9
- And now "C." C is for Call – Call on Him to save you from your sin. Call on Him – can you say that? "Call on Him." The Bible says: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13

Worship as Response

Today, as part of our response to Jesus and all He has done for us, we're going to spend some time talking with Him and praying. *Parents- Take a white piece of paper and fold it in half and then in half again. Each square is a place for you and your child to do each of the activities below:



The heart can be a symbol we use to tell Jesus we love Him.

Draw a heart in one of the boxes. Color it in red. Place your hand over the heart and tell Jesus that you love him.



The cross can show how we want to tell Jesus thank You for forgiving us for the things we do wrong, and for being our Savior.

Draw and color a cross in the next square. Close your eyes and tell Jesus what you are thankful for and thank him for forgiving us for the things we do wrong.



The person shape can be used if there's someone you know who needs to hear The Big God Story for the first time. Think of a person that does not know Jesus. Draw and color a picture of that person. Say a prayer to Jesus for that person.

In the blank square, draw or write a prayer to Jesus. Whatever is on your heart and mind share it with Jesus. (Hang your paper somewhere where you can see it throughout the week.)

//Questions to go Deeper//

RELATE

Today in our storytelling time, we heard The Big God Story the whole way through! God loves us so much that He promised to send a Savior for us.

I wonder ... What's my favorite part of The Big God Story?

I wonder ... How do I know God better today?

I wonder ... What sins or bad choices do I make?

I wonder ... How do I know Jesus died for me?

I wonder ... How can I be part of The Big God Story?

//Bless//

This is where YOU get to speak God's word over your child. It's powerful! Even if it feels awkward at first, give it a shot. You won't regret speaking TRUTH over your child.

SUPPLIES

- heart stickers or heart cut out of paper (1 per child)

RELATE

Jesus is the promised Savior. He loves you! He died for your sins, and He died for my sins. But Jesus is stronger than death! He didn't stay dead. He rose and came back to life! Because of Jesus, we can know God and live with Him forever and ever. The Bible tells us that God chose us to belong to Him. He decided to

choose us long ago so that everything would work according to His plan and purpose (paraphrase Ephesians 1:11).

Give each child a heart sticker as you bless her:

(Insert child's name), may you know and experience God's great big love for you. May you see in each day the special part you are in The Big God Story.

//Worship Songs//

To find our weekend songs [CLICK HERE](#)

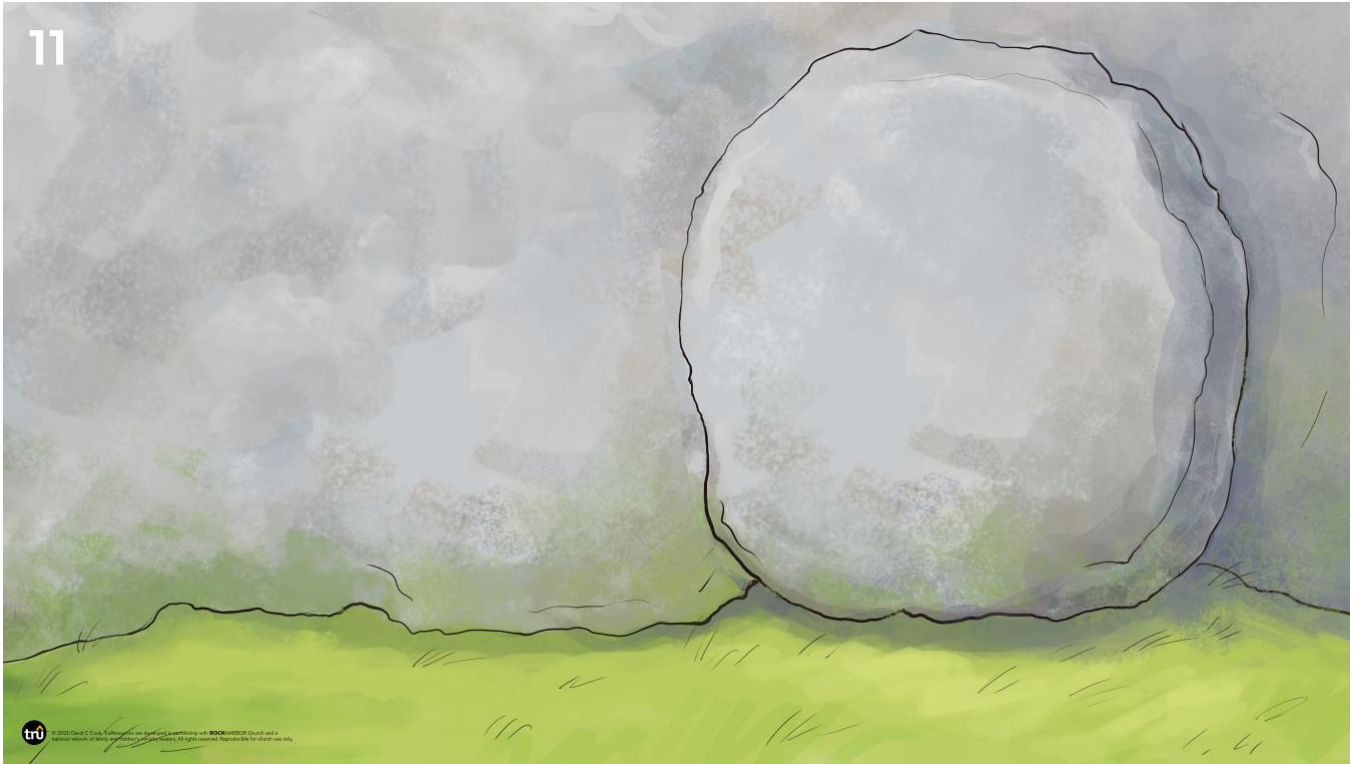














April 2020

4 Year olds-1st graders



MORNING TIME

Pray this blessing over your child: [Insert child's name], may you know and experience God's great love for you, and may you see in each day the special way you're a part of His big story.



MEAL TIME

Read to your child Luke 24:1. Ask and discuss the following questions: What happened to Jesus on the third day? What does this mean for us? What is your favorite part of the Big God Story?



CAR TIME

Practice the Remember verse from John 5:24a, "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes in him who sent me has eternal life." Try practicing the verse in different voices (ex. Cat, robot voice, slow, fast, etc.)



BED TIME

Read Exodus 12:1-30 together. Discuss with your child(ren) that The Passover Feast was a significant celebration of Passion Week. It was the remembrance of when the Lord's judgement "passed over" all those who obeyed Him during the Israelite's final days in Egypt. Jesus became our unblemished lamb and his blood covers all those who believe and choose to follow Him.

