

Name _____

Lesson #1: What's the Bible Really About?

Directions: Read the Following, discuss them in your group, and answer them on your paper.

Now, some people think the Bible is a book of rules, telling you what you should and shouldn't do. The Bible certainly does have some rules in it. They show you how life works best. But the bible isn't mainly about you and what you should be doing. It's about God and what he has done. Other people think the Bible is a book of heroes, showing you people you should copy. The Bible does have some heroes in it, but (as you'll soon find out) most of the people in the Bible aren't heroes at all. They make some big mistakes (sometimes on purpose). They get afraid and run away. At times they are downright mean. No, the Bible isn't a book of rules, or a book of heroes. The Bible is most of all a Story. It's an adventure story about a young Hero (Christ) who comes from a far country to win back his lost treasure. It's a love story about a brave Prince who leaves his palace, his throne--everything--to rescue the one he loves. There are a lot of stories in the Bible, but all the stories are telling one Big Story. The Story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them. It takes the whole Bible to tell this Story. And at the center of the Story, there is a baby (Christ). Every Story in the Bible whispers his name. He is like the missing piece in a puzzle ~ the piece that makes all the other pieces fit together; and suddenly you can see a beautiful picture. (Introduction to The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones)

1. Do you agree with this author's opinion about what the Bible is really all about? Why or Why not?

2. Why is it important that to understand that the Bible is not "a book of rules, telling you what you should and shouldn't do"?

3. Who are some of the favorite heroes from fictional stories you've read? What qualities did they have that you admire?

4. What are some of the qualities that make Jesus a great hero? How is he different from the fictional heroes we read about?

5. What do you hope to learn during this study?

Lesson #2: *The Beginning*

Watch the Video: *The Beginning* (Jesus Storybook Bible)

Read: *Genesis 1:1-25* and answer the following questions.

1. What does this story reveal to us about God?

2. Why do you think God kept using the word “good”?

3. In the Bible it says that God made you in his image. What do you think this means?

4. In What ways do you think God made us like him? In what ways are we different? List them below.

5. Some people, like in the video, call the Bible “God’s love story.” Why do you think they call it a love story? Do you agree? Explain.

Lesson #3: *The Garden of God*

Read: Genesis 2:1-25 and answer the following questions.

1. According to the Bible, life in the Garden was paradise—it was absolutely perfect in every way. What do you think it would be like to live in a perfect place?

2. What role did God give man in the garden?

3. Much of the time we dislike work. We dislike homework, yard work and other chores. Why do you think we dislike work so much? Do you think Adam and Eve disliked the work God had for them? Explain your answer.

4. What rules did he give Adam? According to God, what would happen if he broke that rule?

5. What do you think God meant by, “If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die?” Why do you think it was such a big deal to God?

6. Why did God create Eve? (What did God tell Adam?)

Lesson #4: Paradise in Crisis

Watch: *The Terrible Lie* (Jesus Storybook Bible)

Read: Genesis 3:1-7 and answer the following questions.

1. What question did the serpent ask Eve? How did Eve reply?

2. How does the serpent respond? What does she tell her will happen if they eat?

3. Where do you think Adam was while all of this was happening? Use text evidence.

4. What happens when Adam and Eve eat the fruit?

5. What do Adam and Eve do to deal with their shame?

Lesson #5: Paradise Lost

Watch Again: *The Terrible Lie* (Jesus Storybook Bible)

Read: *Genesis 3:8-24* and answer the following questions.

1. According to verse 8, where was God at this time?

2. How do Adam and Eve respond when they hear God coming? Why do you think they respond this way?

3. When God begins to question Adam, he makes some excuses for his actions. What excuses does he make? Use text evidence.

4. Why do you think just eating a little piece of fruit such a big deal to God? Why did this break his heart?

5. Because of their choice to not obey God, he gives them some consequences. What consequences does he give them? Use text evidence.

6. Do you ever feel like hiding from God? Explain.

Lesson #6: A New Beginning

Watch: A New Beginning (Jesus Storybook Bible)

Read: Genesis chapters 6 -8

1. Describe what the world was like during this time. What problems existed? Use text evidence.

2. What is God's solution to this problem?

3. What do you think of God's solution? Does it seem too extreme? Explain your answer.

4. What kind of guy was Noah? Use text evidence.

5. Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed crazy? Explain.

6. How does the story end? What happens after the flood? What promises does God make? Use text evidence.

Lesson #7: *The True and Better Passover Lamb*

Watch: The Servant King (Jesus Storybook Bible)

Read: Matthew 26:17-30 and answer the following questions.

1. What kind of meal were Jesus and the disciples eating? What were they celebrating?

2. According to Jesus, what did the bread represent? Use text evidence.

3. According to Jesus, what did the wine represent? Use text evidence?

4. Read the account of the first Passover in Exodus 12:1-29. Compare the two Passover meals. What crucial piece of the “old” Passover meal is missing from the account with Jesus and the disciples?

5. Why do you think this item is missing? What might the author or even Jesus be trying to tell us?

6. How is Jesus the “real” Passover lamb?

Lesson #8: The World's Darkest Night

Watch: *The Sun Stops Shining* (Jesus Storybook Bible)

Read: *Matthew 27:27-61* and answer the following questions.

1. What did Jesus say right before he died? What do you think this means? Why would he say this?

2. **Read Psalm 22.** This passage was written about a thousand years before Christ by David. What similarities do you see between this passage and Matthew 27?

3. After Jesus' death the curtain of the temple was torn from top to bottom. Why do you think this happened?

4. Read John 2:13-22. Based on what you read in Matthew 27, what do you think Jesus meant by "destroy the temple"?

5. **Read Isaiah 53:9.** Is there anything interesting about this verse?

Lesson #9: God's Wonderful Surprise

Watch: *God's Wonderful Surprise*

Read: *Matthew 28:1-15* and answer the following questions.

1. How do you think the disciples felt after they had watched Jesus be crucified, die, and buried?

2. What do you think Jesus' followers were thinking when they found out that his body was gone from the grave?

3. How do you think the disciples felt when they realized that Jesus was alive and had risen from the dead?

4. Why do you think that the resurrection is such an important event?

5. Do you think Christianity would have ever taken off if Jesus would have stayed in the grave? Explain.

6. How do you think that resurrection changed the disciple's lives?

Lesson #10: The Wedding Feast of the Lamb

Read: Revelation 19:1-10 and answer the following questions.

1. Look at verse 1. How many people were in heaven crying out? How many people do you think this is?

2. What were these people doing? What were they saying?

3. Read Isaiah 25:6-8. How is this event similar to the one described in Revelation? How is it different?

4. In verse 7, it speaks of a bride. Who do you think this bride is? Who do you think the groom is?

5. Who gets invited to this supper? What do you think it means to be invited?

6. If this supper were to happen today, do you think you would be invited? Why do you think this way?

Lesson #11: The New Heavens and New Earth

Read: Revelation 21:1-7 and answer the following questions.

1. Based on what you've read, describe the New Heavens and New Earth.

2. Where does God live in this city?

3. According to verse 4 what will God do? What do you think this means?

4. According to verse 4, what will NOT be in the New Heavens and New Earth?

5. What do you think it means to "drink from the springs of the water life without payment" in verse 6?

6. Does this remind you of any other passages we read this year?

Lesson #12: The Garden the City of God

Watch: Video—A Dream of Heaven.

Read: Revelation 22:1-7 and answer the following questions.

1. Where does the river of life flow from? Why do you think this is significant?

2. What other familiar object shows up in verse 2? Where have we seen it before?

3. In this account, what will the tree of life do? How is it different than the first time we saw it?

4. What happened to the sun? Why is it no longer needed?

5. Why is it important that the people of God can see his face? Has there ever been a time when they have been unable to see his face?

6. What good news does God give us at the end, in verse 7? Why is this good news?
