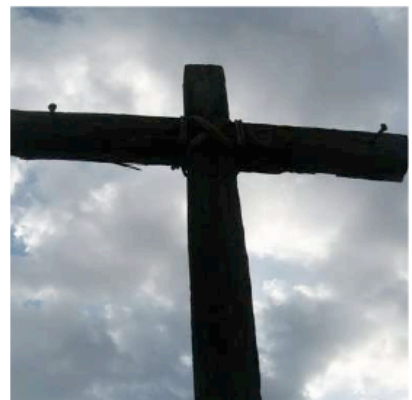


God and His Rescue Plan



**Backyard Bible Clubs
Kids Summer Splash
Teacher's Guide**



God and His Rescue Plan

Table of Contents:

Introduction	2
Day One: God and His Kingdom	4
Day Two: Sin Causes Separation	8
Day Three: A Temporary Plan	14
Day Four: The Promised Savior	20
Day Five: Learning to Grow	25
Final Review	29



God and His Rescue Plan

Introduction

As a Bible teacher, it is important to bathe your study in prayer as you prepare each lesson. The Lord will teach your heart the simplicity of each day's gospel message. Allow Him to fill you with His truth so that His message will shine, and in doing so, you will experience confidence that each lesson you teach will be understood and will change lives.

In order to be prepared for the layout of this curriculum, you are encouraged to read the following resources: *AND BEGINNING WITH MOSES*: a booklet that gives a brief background and rationale for the curriculum, and *THE STRANGER ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS*: which gives a wonderful overview of the Bible's overarching theme of Jesus as our substitution.

In this 5-day curriculum, we seek to expose children to the very basic truths of the Bible. Day One introduces kids to the God of heaven and earth. Day Two describes Satan and the Fall of Man. Day Three introduces the concept of animal sacrifices – God's temporary plan for the atonement of sin. Day Four gives the great news that Jesus, God's first and final plan, came to take away our sin. And Day Five explains how to live life in the Kingdom of God.

We have provided review questions in the curriculum. When the material is understood, you can feel confident to move onto the next section.

GENERAL TEACHING INFORMATION:

These lesson plans give you a general outline for you to go by, allowing you to teach in your own words. These plans are only meant to be a guideline. **Object lessons and props** have been added to the lesson plans.

Your daily teaching time will be about 25-30 minutes, followed by a review. This review time can be in the form of a game, and should not be counted in your 25-30 minutes of teaching time.

TEACHING SCHEDULE

Monday	God and His Kingdom
Tuesday	Sin Causes Separation
Wednesday	A Temporary Plan
Thursday	The Promised Savior
Friday	Learning to Grow

PROPS

Visual aids have been prepared for each Bible teacher. These aids will make your lesson come to life and will encourage your listeners to pay attention. Please use your props! You will notice that you will need to bring some props from home for a few of the lessons. Be sure to plan ahead so that you have what you need to successfully communicate God's TRUTH to our kids each day.

GOD'S LETTER TO YOU

Each day you will pull out the **large yellow envelope** ("To the kids of (neighborhood's name)" and "from God" are on the front). Inside, place a children's Bible for you to remove and teach with. You will use this prop each day to remind the children that the Bible is a special letter written for them that comes directly from God! And like a letter that comes to them in the mailbox, they should take this letter and read it all the time. Even though it was written long ago, it is still true. The Bible will ALWAYS be true.

REVIEW

Reviewing each lesson will give you an idea of how well the children listened as well as what they have understood. Be sure to review each lesson. Creating review games will ensure attentive listeners and make learning fun!

DAY 1: MONDAY

GOD AND HIS KINGDOM

Extra props to bring from home: a craft that you have made

Props provided by Grace: large yellow envelope, attributes of God signs

A LETTER TO YOU:

Pull out the **large yellow envelope** containing Children's Bible. (See envelope instructions above called **GOD'S LETTER TO YOU.**)

If a soldier is serving in another country, he will write letters home to his wife and children. The wife will go to the mailbox every day. What is she hoping to find? *A letter from her husband.* When she does get a letter from her dear husband, she can't wait to read it! She will treasure that letter and read it over and over.

God's Word is a love letter to you. Letters with good news are especially wonderful, and God's letter to you is FULL of great news for you!

GOD IS ETERNAL

Let me open God's love letter and read the first few words. ***"In the beginning, God..."*** Wait! Let's stop right there. The very first words of the Bible tell us that God was here before anything else. Before the plants, animals, and humans. He was never born, and He will never die. We have a birthday, but God does not. He has always been! Everyone hold your arms straight out to your sides and point your fingers. The Bible says God is from everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 90:2). He lasts forever in the past and forever in the future. He always was, and He always will be.

GOD IS SPIRIT

Everyone pinch your own cheeks. This is your skin, your flesh. If you touch your chin or elbow, you can feel your bones. We have flesh and bones. God does not have a body like you and I do. God does not need skin and bones. He is a Spirit. He is invisible.

GOD IS EVERYWHERE AT ONE TIME!

God can be with you and with me at the same time. He can be in India and Africa, China and America at the same time. God can be at school with you at the same time He is on an airplane with your dad. He can help a mountain climber and a deep-sea diver at the same time.

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

God knows everything. He knows everyone's name and birthday. He knows how many hairs are on your head. Do *you* know how many hairs are on your own head? God knows how many grains of sand are on the beach. God even knows what each person thinks and feels.

GOD IS ALL POWERFUL

We know how powerful God is because God created everything. God created everything we can see (trees, grass, mountains, sky...) and even the things we can't see (air, wind, heat...)

God created angels. Before there was ever an earth or universe, God created angels. They lived in heaven with God. God gave the angels a special job - to be His messengers. There are so many angels that we could never count them all (Revelation 5:11). We cannot see angels, just like we cannot see God. They are spirits. The angels praised God. The angels watched and shouted for joy while God created our world (Job 38:7). This may have sounded like we sound when we are watching a huge fireworks show. Ohhh, Ahhh!

God spoke creation into being. Let's go back to the Bible, God's love letter to us. The third sentence, Genesis 1:3 says, "**God said, 'Let there be light.' And there was light.**" This is amazing! When God made the world, He didn't use any tools. He didn't use clay, or wood, a hammer, or nails. He made the world out of nothing. He just SPOKE, and it was there! Now that's power!

Prop: Show the kids a craft that you have made. Briefly explain how it was made and what materials were used to make it. Remind them that when God made the world, He didn't use ANY tools or supplies! God just spoke – and there it was!

Support Activity: Invite a volunteer to come up. Say that you are really thirsty and would love a glass of water. Challenge your volunteer to create a glass of water the way God can, by speaking and making it happen. Let him/her speak and what happens? Nothing! No one but God can create something out of nothing.

The first book of the Bible tells us all about how God created everything. God is so smart and organized! He made everything in just the right order, according to His perfect plan. He took six days to create everything in our world. He spoke and made light. Then He separated the sky from the water. Next, God spoke and made dry land. Everyone reach down and touch the land that God made! He also made trees and plants. I'm so glad He made these because I love to eat fruits and vegetables! Next, He made the sun, the moon, and the stars. That's good, because those plants and trees need sunshine to grow! Then, the next day, God made all

the birds, and every kind of fish and sea creature. Has anyone been to the Aquarium downtown? Wow! God is SO creative to think of all those crazy, colorful creatures! And finally, on the sixth day, God made all the animals on the land. Raise your hand if you have an animal living in your house with you. Animals are so fun!

Also, on that sixth day, God made people. God made one man and one woman. Who knows the names of the first people? Adam and Eve were the BEST part of God's creation. God made Adam and Eve differently than He made all the other things in the universe. God didn't just speak them into being. He used His hands when He created them. The Bible tells us that God breathed His breath to give them life. Perhaps the most amazing thing about Adam and Eve is that God made Adam and Eve in His own image. They had spirits and they could make choices. They were sinless, just as God is. When God looked at all the things He created, He said it was all very good. On the seventh day, God rested.

GOD IS ORDERLY & GOD MADE RULES

God is orderly. He wanted everything to fit together, so the world would work in the right way. He made the sunrise in the morning and the sunset in the evening. It does this every day without changing. Did you notice that God made the plants before the animals, so the animals would have food to eat? And God made the ocean before He made the fish, so the fish would have a place to swim. God made everything in the perfect order.

God also made rules because He loves people, and He knows what's best for them. He gave people rules to protect them. Sometimes we don't like rules, but what would the world be like without them? What if there were no stop signs and traffic lights? What if no one obeyed the teacher's rules at school? Our world would be chaotic without rules.

God knows what is best for everyone. When people obey God's rules, they are happy and safe.

GOD IS LOVING

God made things beautiful to look at. Who can tell me something beautiful that God made? God also made things that taste good. Who would like to tell us something that tastes good to them? God cares for us, so He made things look, smell, and taste good.

GOD IS PERFECT

God created a perfect world because that is just the way He is. God is perfect. There is nothing bad or wrong in Him. God can only be with perfect people (Isaiah 59:2, Psalm 66:18).

GOD IS OWNER AND KING (Do not miss this point!)

Show your craft and remind the kids that you made it. Ask them who owns it. (You do) Whoever made something is the owner of it. Because God made everything in our world, and beyond, He owns everything. He rules over all things. When God spoke, the molecules formed and obeyed His word. All the plants and animals obeyed God. Adam and Eve obeyed God. Because God is the Ruler and Owner, we call Him KING. Adam and Eve obeyed the will of the King, so they belonged to God's kingdom. God's kingdom was perfect. God's kingdom was in heaven and earth.

Day One Questions and Answers

1. The Bible is a very important letter sent to us. Who is it from? **God**
2. The Bible says God was never born. Will He ever die? **No**
3. What word do we use to describe that God was never born and will never die? **Eternal**
4. What does the word *create* mean? **To make something**
5. Who created the angels? **God**
6. You cannot see God. You cannot see angels. They do not have bodies of muscle and bone. What are they called? **Spirits**
7. We need a hammer and nails to make something, but when God made the world, how did He do it? **He just spoke.**
8. God made everything simply by speaking. What does this tell us about God? **He is very, very powerful.**
9. God made the world in how many days? **Six**
10. Who made Adam and Eve? **God**
11. In whose image were Adam and Eve created? **God's**
12. If God can be with you, your family, and your friends all at the same time, what does that mean? **God is everywhere at the same time and very powerful.**
13. How much does God know? **Everything**
14. To whom does the world belong? **God**
15. Why does the world belong to God? **He made it.**
16. God made rules so that the world would work in the right way. What sort of place would the world be without any rules? **Unhappy, confused, upset, unsafe**
17. What do we call something that has nothing wrong with it and is good in every way? **Perfect**
18. God is the Owner and Ruler of heaven and earth. What do we call Him? **He is King.**
19. When Adam and Eve obeyed the will of the King, they belonged to God's _____ . **Kingdom**

DAY 2: TUESDAY

SIN CAUSES SEPARATION

Extra props to bring from home: a can of Coke, a tree (ficus, palm, real or fake), a quarter, weeds/thorns, a live plant, a clear drinking glass with water, motor oil

Props provided by Grace: garden basket, black snake, scissors

REVIEW

- God is all-powerful. He spoke creation into being.
- God owns everything. He is the Ruler and King.
- Adam and Eve obeyed God in God's kingdom.
- God made rules because He loves us and knows what is best for us.

HEAVEN

God is perfect. He can only be surrounded with perfect people and perfect things. Though God can be everywhere, His home is a wonderful place called heaven (Ephesians 1:20). The Bible tells us that heaven is a perfect place, where perfect people and perfect angels live with the perfect God (Hebrews 12:22-24). Heaven is too beautiful for us to imagine! There is a city right in the middle where nothing is broken. It is so beautiful that it has streets of gold that look like clear glass. There is no sickness, sadness or death (Revelation 21:4). Heaven is full of beautiful music. There is no darkness or night, because God's glory lights everything up (Isaiah 60:19). This probably means no bedtime! Everything in heaven is absolutely perfect.

LUCIFER REBELS

Yesterday we learned that God created angels before He ever created earth, plants, animals, or people. Sadly, God's most important angel, Lucifer, became prideful. He didn't like the job God gave him. Even though God gave him many blessings, he thought that he deserved something better. Lucifer did not want to be an angel anymore; he wanted to be like God. For the first time, one of God's angel's decided NOT to do the will of God, the King. Lucifer convinced other angels to join him. One-third of all the angels followed Lucifer. They hated God and wanted to ruin everything. Heaven was not a happy place anymore.

SIN

As far as we know, Lucifer's prideful attitude was the first sin. Sin is the **choice** not to live God's perfect way. Sin is disobeying God. Every sin begins in the heart (Matthew 15:18-20). Sin can be doing bad things or saying wrong things. Even bad thoughts are sin. When we sin, it is like telling God that we know better than

Him. It is completely wrong for us (the created beings) to think that we know better than the all-powerful, all-knowing King of the universe!

Sin always spoils things. Just a little bit of sin ruins everything!

Support Activity: Hold up a can of Coke. Take a few sips and tell the kids how much you LOVE Coke. Ask them if any of them like Coke. Now, SPIT into the Coke. Say, “*Now*, who would like a sip of my Coke? No one wants this Coke now because it is yucky. Just a little bit of spit has completely ruined this Coke.”

Sin causes death and separation from God. Romans 6:23 tells us that the payment for sin is **death**.

Support Activity: Hold up a quarter. Ask a child to do something for you (like bring you a prop). Tell the group that because this child did this for you, you are going to give him a “wage.” A wage is payment that you earn.

The Bible says that the payment for sin is death. What we “earn” by sinning is death.

And, even worse than death, Isaiah 59:2 tells us that sin **separates** us from God. Have you ever been away from someone you loved for a long time? It might make you cry or feel “homesick.” Being separated from God – forever – is a terrible thought! Everything good comes from God (James 1:7). When someone is separated from God, they are separated from everything that is good.

GOD IS FAIR

All bad actions deserve to be punished. It is not fair when someone does something bad and they are not punished. A fair judge could not let some people commit crimes and walk away without being punished. God is always fair. He punishes just the right amount. **ALL SIN MUST BE PUNISHED.**

BAD ANGELS

Lucifer and the angels that chose to be on his side had sinned against God. Because God is perfect, these imperfect angels could not stay with God. Their sin caused separation from God. God threw them out of heaven and out of His kingdom. They could never come back. Lucifer’s name was changed to **Satan**, which means enemy. Satan was now an enemy of God.

A TERRIBLE PLACE CREATED FOR LUCIFER AND HIS ANGELS

God created a place for Satan and the bad angels called the Lake of Fire. This new place is terrible. It is full of heartache and unhappiness. One day Satan and his angels will all have to go to the Lake of Fire, and they will have to stay there forever and ever. (Revelation 20:10, Matthew 25:41)

GOOD ANGELS

The good angels stayed in heaven. They continue to live there with God today. They still serve God; they are still His messengers.

ADAM AND EVE SIN

When God created the world, it was just like heaven. There was no sin and nothing died. The world was just how God wanted it to be. The people He created were also perfect. Adam was perfect; Eve was perfect (Genesis 5:1). God placed them in the Garden of Eden and it was perfect. The garden was full of beautiful animals and plants. (Show basket.) Adam and Eve enjoyed spending time with God in the garden. God gave them ONE rule because He knew what was best!

Support Activity: Show a tree that has some fruit hanging on it. Read Genesis 2:16-17: “The Lord God gave the man a command. He said, ‘You can eat the fruit of any tree that is in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you can be sure that you will die.’”

Why didn’t God want Adam and Eve to know about evil? *God loved them.* It’s kind of like when your parents won’t allow you to watch really bad shows or commercials on TV. They don’t want you to know about things that will hurt you or harm you. They are not being “mean”; they are protecting you.

If Adam and Eve obeyed God, it would show that they trusted Him and believed what He said. There were many other trees to eat from, so they just had to trust God. That’s how it was in the beginning - perfect people living in a perfect world trusting a perfect God.

(Use snake to represent Satan.) Then one day, Satan, disguised as a serpent, visited Adam and Eve in the garden. Satan told Adam and Eve that if they ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would become like God! He told Eve a lie to get her to disobey God’s one rule. He did not want Eve to be on God’s side. In Genesis 3:4, the serpent said to Eve, “You will NOT die; you will be like God.”

Who should Adam & Eve trust – God or Satan? God said, “You WILL die.” Satan said, “You will NOT die.” If Adam and Eve believed Satan, they would eat the fruit. If they trusted God, they wouldn’t! If Adam and Eve obeyed God, they showed God that they trusted Him.

A WRONG CHOICE/DISOBEDIENCE

Adam and Eve decided that living in a perfect garden wasn’t good enough anymore. They decided that they wanted to be like God. In their hearts, **Adam and Eve believed Satan’s lie instead of believing God’s truth.** Their wrong belief led them to eat the fruit that God said not to eat. Adam and Eve

sinned. They disobeyed God's ONE rule! They believed Satan instead of God, their King. When people don't do what God asks them to do, it always brings separation and death.

NO LONGER PERFECT

When Adam and Eve decided to trust Satan, everything changed! The Bible says that Adam and Eve's eyes were opened. Then they knew what evil really was. Remember sin ruins everything. The perfect garden changed. Weeds and thorns sprung up. (Show weeds with thorns.) Animals began to kill each other. Adam and Eve experienced sickness, selfishness, and sadness.

Adam and Eve thought they were making the best choice, but it was just the opposite. Their choice ruined everything. It ruined their special friendship with God. Sin always spoils things! God told Adam and Eve that the punishment for not following His ONE rule was separation and death.

SEPARATION

Because God is holy and Adam and Eve were sinful, they could not be together.

Support Activity: Oil and Water

(This demonstration will need a glass of water and a bottle of car oil. Label the water "HOLINESS." Label the oil "SIN." Hold up the glass of water as you begin.) Say, "I have a fresh glass of water here. It reminds me of the purity and holiness of God. Now watch what happens if I mix some oil into the water. The oil represents sin. No matter how much we try to mix them together, you will see them separate. Sin and holiness do not mix; they remain separate. The Bible tells us that God is Holy; in fact, His eyes are too pure to look upon sin." (Isaiah 64:7)

Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God, their loving King, because they did not trust Him. Adam and Eve had joined Satan's side, so one day they would have to go live in his terrible home, the Lake of Fire. (This was created for Lucifer and his fallen angels, but people who do not trust God will also be separated from God there.) It is not God's plan that ANYONE go there; it is a person's choice.

PHYSICAL DEATH

Because Adam and Eve sinned, their bodies would stop working one day; they would die one day. God created Adam and Eve for life, not death. ***Their choice*** to trust Satan instead of God brought about death.

Support Activity: Show the children the live plant you brought from home. Cut off part of that plant using a pair of scissors. Ask, "Is this part of the plant living or dead? *Dead*." Say, "Separated from God, man is in the process of dying."

GOOD NEWS! GOD'S RESCUE PLAN!

People who are not perfect can't live with the perfect God. But God loved Adam and Eve, and did not want to be separated from them. He did not want them to suffer in the Lake of Fire.

Because God is SO GOOD, He had a plan to make Adam and Eve perfect again so that they could be with Him in His perfect heaven forever. God made a way! But Adam and Eve would have to trust God's way. They had to choose. Would they come to God His way?

Day Two Questions and Answers

1. God lives in a perfect home. What is it called? **Heaven**
2. Name three things the Bible tells us about Heaven? **It is very beautiful, there is no sickness, sadness or death; Heaven is a perfect place, where perfect people and perfect angels live with a perfect God.**
3. What was the name of God's most important angel? **Lucifer**
4. Was Lucifer happy with the special job that God gave him? **No**
5. What did Lucifer want? **He wanted to be like God.**
6. The Bible uses a special word to describe Lucifer's choice to disobey God. What is that word? **Sin**
7. Why did Lucifer want to be like God? **He thought he was smarter than God, and that he knew better than God.**
8. What is having bad thoughts and doing wrong things called? **Sin**
9. Why isn't it right for someone to get away with doing bad things? **It's not fair. All wrong should be punished.**
10. Is God fair all the time or just some of the time? **All the time**
11. Because God is perfect, He could not have the bad angels living in His perfect home. What did He do with them? **He threw them out of Heaven.**
12. God changed Lucifer's name to Satan. What does the name *Satan* mean? **Enemy**
13. What is the name of the home that God made for Satan and the bad angels? **The Lake of Fire**
14. Many angels still obeyed God. Where do these good angels live? **Heaven**
15. Because God loved and cared for Adam and Eve, what special place did He make for them to live in? **A garden**
16. How many rules did God give Adam and Eve? **One**
17. What rule did God give Adam and Eve? **He told them not to eat the fruit from one tree.**

18. What did God say would happen to Adam and Eve if they disobeyed this one rule? ***They would die.***
19. What did Satan say about eating the fruit from that one tree? ***Adam and Eve would not die. They would be like God.***
20. Was Satan telling Adam and Eve the truth or a lie? ***A lie***
21. Did Adam and Eve obey God's one rule? ***No***
22. What came into the world because of sin? ***Death***

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY

A TEMPORARY PLAN

Extra props to bring from home: paper, stone

Props provided by Grace: big silver coin, stuffed lamb, plastic knife, red cloth, X-ray, 10 Commandments poster, 10 Commandments rope, scissors, masking tape

REVIEW

- God made the world
- God is perfect
- Satan's lied to Eve
- Adam and Eve believed Satan's lie
- Sin brought death and separation from God

GOD HAD A PLAN

Adam and Eve weren't perfect anymore because they had sinned. In time, Adam and Eve had children. Those children were formed in Adam's image (Genesis 5:3). They were like Adam; they had sin. Later, those children had children, and so on. Because these children came from Adam and Eve, they were born with the same nature as Adam and Eve. Everyone born from Adam and Eve has a sin nature. Did you know that everyone here came from Adam and Eve's family? That means we ALL have a sin nature (Romans 3:23).

Think about a little baby. They are little and sweet, and they seem innocent. But it only takes a couple years before they *naturally* disobey their parents. No one ever had to teach (my) children to disobey. It comes naturally to every single child, because every one of us has a sin nature.

We know that God must punish sin; He can't just pretend that it never happened. But God loved Adam and Eve and ALL their children – including us! And He wanted to rescue them. God wasn't stuck; He had a plan! Way back in the garden, God promised Adam and Eve that He was going to send a SAVIOR. The SAVIOR would "save" them from the punishment they deserved. God didn't tell them HOW or WHEN the Savior would come. He just told them to trust Him. Would they TRUST GOD?

JUST TRUST ME

Do you know what TRUST means?

In a country called Indonesia, they don't have words for *believe* or *trust*. The closest phrase they have is "leaning with your whole weight." (Call on a volunteer

to come up. Ask him if he would trust you enough to fall back and let you catch him at the count of three. Make sure you don't let him fall!)

There is much more to trusting than just saying it with your mouth. You **prove** your trust with your actions. It's easy to say that you trust me to catch you. However, your actions are what **prove** whether you really trust me.

A STORY: A Boy, A Tree, and A Snake

One day, a father and his son were taking a hike deep into the woods. They discovered the perfect climbing tree. The little boy began to climb the tree while his dad prepared their picnic lunch. The little boy called to his dad. When his dad looked up to answer his son, he saw a large, poisonous snake just limbs above where his son was playing. The snake was slithering down the tree towards the boy. The father immediately told his son to COME DOWN. Now remember, the boy had no idea that there was a snake in the tree; he was just having fun!

Should he come down? Should he whine and complain and say, "Why Dad?" Should he OBEY his father even though he was having fun? Who knew what was best here? *The father*. Did the little boy know what was best for him? *No*. How can the little boy show that he trusts his dad? *If he obeys, he shows that he trusts his dad*.

Now think about Adam and Eve - Who knew what was BEST for Adam and Eve? *God*. Who knows what is best for us? *God*. God wanted Adam and Eve to TRUST Him. He didn't tell them everything, but He had made a promise. He promised that He would send a Savior.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION

God couldn't pretend that people had never sinned. But He couldn't allow them to be with Him in heaven without taking care of their sin problem. Because God is perfectly fair, all wrong must be punished. But God is also loving. How could God punish sin without punishing people?

Support Activity: Coin Illustration

Hold up a coin. This coin reminds me of God. It is shaped like a circle, and a circle has no beginning and no end. God is from everlasting to everlasting. He has no beginning, and no end. This is one coin, yet it has two sides; each side is different. That's just like God. He has two sides to His nature. On the one hand He loves us and doesn't want us to suffer the consequences of our sin, and on the other hand He is just and must punish sin.

A SUBSTITUTE

In order to punish the sin, but not punish the person, God would use a substitute. A substitute is something that takes the place of the real thing, but can still do the same job. Think about if your teacher at school is sick; you have a substitute teacher come in for the day. She isn't your REAL teacher, but she still teaches you and fills the void that your teacher left. It's the same with God's plan. God didn't want people to have to die, so He would use a substitute.

A PERFECT LAMB/PUNISHMENT FOR SIN

Long before God sent the promised Savior, God told His people to do something very sad. It would help them understand how terrible their sin was, and help them understand what a substitute was. He told them to bring an animal to a special place called an altar. The man would kill the animal as a sacrifice for his sin.

None of us likes to talk about killing an animal. This seems very strange and harsh to us, but God is very serious about sin. Yesterday, we saw that **sin brings death** (Romans 6:23). Listen to what the Bible says about blood:

*The life of each creature is in its blood. So I have given you the blood of animals to pay for your sin on the altar. **Blood is life. That is why blood pays for your sin.*** - Leviticus 17:11

The Bible says that life is in the blood of an animal. This is a fact that has been well known by doctors for years and years. You may have seen a slogan on bumper stickers or t-shirts that says, "Give blood, Give life." People donate blood to help save the lives of others. (Once again, modern science confirms what the Bible told us thousands of years ago.)

The life that is in the blood of an animal sacrifice covered the death that came from man's sin. The Bible says, "Without the spilling of blood, no one can be forgiven." (Hebrews 9:22b)

Many times, God asked for a lamb. It couldn't be just any old lamb. It had to be the person's **best** lamb. It had to be a **boy** lamb that was **not sick**. It couldn't have a **broken bone**, or even have **spots** on its fur coat. The man bringing it had to put his hand on the head of the lamb. When he did this, God would look at it as if all the man's sin was being placed onto the lamb.

Props: Demonstrate with the stuffed lamb, plastic knife, red cloth (to represent blood).

Since the lamb now had the man's sin, it had to die. The lamb was punished **instead of** the man. The lamb was the **substitute** for the man. The blood of the innocent animal covered the death of the man's sin.

ONLY GOD'S WAY

Those who trusted God made the sacrifice that He required. They did things God's way. But some people didn't believe God's plan. They didn't believe that trusting God could really take away sin. They came up with their own ways, like being nice, doing good things, etc. They made up their own rules. They thought if they did more good things than bad things then they would be good enough to live in Heaven. But these things could never take away their sin. Sin brought death, and they needed life.

SOME RULES

Remember, God is **PERFECT**. Who can tell me what perfect means? (Make sure kids have a clear understanding of the word perfect.) God does not have even **ONE** thing wrong with Him. All of the people were separated from Him because they were **not perfect**. God wanted His people to understand that *on their own*, they could never be good enough to be with Him.

It's sort of like this: Let's pretend that I went to the doctor for a regular check-up. I felt fine, but when the doctor did all of his tests, he found that I had a serious disease. There was medicine to cure my disease, but without the medicine, I would die. Since I didn't feel sick yet, the doctor would have to convince me that I was sick so I would take the medicine. He would have to show me my x-ray to convince me that I had a serious problem and needed a cure. (Show X-ray.)

In the same way that the doctor would show me my x-ray so I could see my problem and accept the cure, God gave His people something to show them how bad their sin problem was so they would accept His cure. God gave these rules:

Read the Ten Commandments to show them that no one could possibly keep all 10 rules. These rules, called the Law, were written on stone tablets. No one could ever add his own rules or rub one out. The stone tablets were given to Moses. God wanted everyone to understand that they could never obey God's rules perfectly. They were sinners. They needed a substitute.

Support Activity: String with 10 knots and a pair of scissors.

James 2:10 says, "*Suppose you keep the whole law but trip over just one part of it. Then you are guilty of breaking all of it.*" The ten knots in this rope are like the 10 rules. If you break just one, you have broken them all. (Demonstrate what happens when you use the scissors and cut one of the knots.) The rope is broken; it is no longer perfect. There is no person who could keep all 10 rules perfectly.

GOD IS PERFECT

Support Activity: Write the word “Perfection” on a strip of masking tape. Place the masking tape strip at one end of an area designated as your “jumping activity” area to be your goal. Be sure to make the goal IMPOSSIBLE to reach. Give each child a chance to try to jump and reach the goal. Ask, “*Do you think if you had had a running start, you would have been able to reach the goal? If you had had more practice, or were taller, would that have made a difference? No! The goal was impossible to reach.*”

What standard, or ideal, does God hold us to? In His Word, He tells us, “Be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48) No matter how good we try to be, we can’t keep all the rules perfectly. We can’t measure up to God’s standard of perfection.

THEY NEEDED A LAMB

Everyone needed to understand that no matter how hard they tried, they could never be good enough to live with God. They were sinners. They couldn’t save themselves. They needed the perfect lamb.

Day Three Questions and Answers
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1. Did God tell Adam and Eve His entire plan? **No**
2. God promised that He would send a special man to save them from the punishment of their sin. What would this man be called? **A Savior**
3. Should Adam and Eve believe what God promised? **Yes**
4. Did Adam and Eve have to promise that they would never do one bad thing again before God told them He would save them? **No**
5. Why do people need to be made perfect to live in Heaven? **Only perfect people can live with a perfect God**
6. Why didn’t God want to punish Adam and Eve? **He loved them**
7. Could God pretend Adam and Eve never sinned? **No**
8. God showed people how He would punish sin without punishing them. What sort of animal were they told to bring? **A lamb**
9. Did the lamb have to be a boy or a girl lamb? **A boy lamb**
10. Could the lamb have a broken leg or have wool falling out? **No**
What sort of lamb did it have to be? **Perfect**
11. Where on the lamb was the man to place his hand? **On the head**
12. What happened to the man’s sin when he put his hand on the head of the lamb? **The man’s sin was moved onto the lamb.**
13. What had to happen to the lamb because it had the man’s sin? **It had to die.**
14. The lamb didn’t do anything wrong. Did it deserve to be punished? **No**

15. The Bible says that death is the punishment for sin. In whose place did the lamb die? ***The man's place***
16. Why was the lamb punished if it hadn't done anything wrong? ***It carried the man's sin.***
17. How many of God's rules could a person break and still be perfect? ***None***
18. Is it okay to tell a lie, as long as it is a little lie? ***No***
19. Does telling just *one lie* make a person a sinner? ***Yes***
20. What does the Bible say children are doing when they talk back to their mother or father? ***They are sinning***
21. Other people don't know what we are thinking inside our heads, but does God know? ***Yes***
22. If we try to be very good and not do or think bad things, will we be perfect enough to live in Heaven? ***No***

DAY 4: THURSDAY

THE PROMISED SAVIOR

Extra props to bring from home: Nativity Set, sheet

Props provided by Grace: lamb, Plastic sheet protector with SIN written on it, red dry-erase marker, nails, crown of thorns, king's crown

REVIEW

- God couldn't ignore sin. He had to punish sin.
- Because He loved people, God told the people he would provide a substitute.
- What kind of animal was used for the substitute? A perfect, male lamb
- The man placed his hand on the head of the lamb to transfer his sin.
- The lamb now carried all of man's sin.
- The lamb's lifeblood covered the death from the man's sin.

IN MAN'S PLACE

The innocent lamb was punished in place the man. (Show the lamb.) This was a good plan, but it was not the final plan. What do you think was the problem with this plan? *Listen for answers.* The BIG problem was that the animal sacrifice did not take sin away **forever**. Someone would kill an animal, then sin again, and then have to kill another animal. This plan was temporary; it was not permanent.

Support Activity: Show the plastic "sleeve" that is holding a paper with the word SIN on it. Explain that when the person who had sinned put his hand on the lamb and killed it, the man's sin was covered. Color over the word SIN with a red dry-erase marker. This was very good for the person. However, the next day or the next week the man would sin again. Wipe off the red marker, exposing the word SIN. Then he would have to make another animal sacrifice. You can imagine how exhausting it was to know that the sin covering was not permanent. It only **covered** his sins for a little while. It could **never take** away his sin completely (Hebrews 10:4).

A LOVING SAVIOR

Do you think that this problem was a surprise to God? *NO! Of course not.* God knows everything. And the good news is that God had a BETTER plan in mind **all along**. God's permanent plan was the SAVIOR that He had promised way back in the garden. The animal sacrifices were only a symbol, or a picture, of the Savior that He was going to send. For years and years, people looked forward to the day the Savior would arrive.

GOD HIMSELF IN THE FLESH

Finally, the day arrived. The Savior came to earth in the form of a newborn baby! The Savior was God Himself. He came to Earth.

Prop: Use the Nativity Set to explain the birth of Jesus in Luke 2. Talk about Mary, Joseph, the stable, and shepherds.

JESUS

“Jesus” means God is the One who saves. Jesus came from Heaven. He was 100% God and 100% man. He never stopped being God. The most important thing about Jesus that made Him different from everyone else was that He never sinned. He lived a life just like us - playing games with His friends, spending time with His family, learning, and growing older - but He NEVER sinned. Jesus lived an ordinary life in an unordinary way. He lived with an ordinary family, yet He was PERFECT! He never sinned; not even one time! Can you imagine never even having a bad thought about your brother or sister?

MIRACLES

When Jesus grew up, he did many wonderful things – things that no one else could do. They were called miracles. Jesus performed miracles to show people how powerful He really was and to show the world that He really was the Savior sent from God.

Share the following miracles and remind the children that they all come from the Bible:

Blind to see (Bartimaeus)	Mark 10:46-52
Lame to walk	Mark 2:1-12
Dead to life	Mark 5:21-43

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT THE KINGDOM

Jesus performed miracles so that people would know He was from God, and they would believe the things He said (Mark 2:10-11). When Jesus spoke, people knew that He had authority (Matthew 7:29). Jesus taught a message that was different than anyone had ever taught. Jesus taught about the kingdom of God.

Remember, the kingdom of God includes more than heaven; it is anywhere the will of God is done. Jesus taught that life in the kingdom was so very different than life in this world. In God’s kingdom, there is no sin, no evil, no pain, no suffering, no death, and no separation. In God’s kingdom is healing and full life.

Jesus came to bring God’s kingdom to earth. Jesus came to bring men, woman, and children back into God’s Kingdom.

GOD'S PLAN

Remember God's temporary plan: All people deserved to die because of their sin. God said an innocent, perfect, male lamb could die in place of the man who sinned. This was a picture of what Jesus came to do.

THE LAMB OF GOD

Jesus was called **the Lamb of God** who came to take away the sins of the world (John 15:5). Death is the punishment for sin. Jesus did not have to die, because He never sinned. But at just the right time, Jesus would willingly die as man's substitute.

Let's compare Jesus with the Old Testament lamb:

- Were they both male?
- Were they both first-born?
- Were they both innocent?
- Were they both without flaws?

THE FINAL LAMB

Even though Jesus had never done anything wrong, He was punished. Roman soldiers hung Jesus on a wooden cross, which was how people were punished long ago. Jesus was nailed to the cross. Remember, Jesus was God. Could Jesus have stopped the men from punishing Him if He wanted to? *Yes, He could!* But Jesus wanted to be our substitute because He loves us so much.

While Jesus hung on the cross, Jesus chose to take on all of our sin. All of our sin was taken off of us and placed on Him. Jesus took EVERYONE'S sin. For the first time, Jesus felt sin.

Once Jesus had willingly taken our sin on Him, then He had to die. Jesus willingly took our place, our punishment. Jesus called out, "It is finished!" and He willingly gave up his spirit.

DEAD

There was no question that Jesus died. Jesus' friends were very sad. They lovingly put Him in a tomb and rolled a big stone in front of the tomb. The men who killed Jesus put soldiers in front of the tomb.

ALIVE!

The amazing part of the story is that it doesn't stop there... The stone could not stop God. The soldiers could not stop God. Nothing can ever stop God's plan.

On the third day after His death, Jesus rose from the dead! With His amazing power, God conquered death once and for all. Jesus spent 40 days with His friends here on Earth, telling them more about God's plan for us.

A PROMISE KEPT

Jesus was God's rescue plan all along. 1 John 1:17 tells us, "The blood of Jesus, God's Son, purifies us from all sin." The **life** of Jesus' perfect blood covers the **death** of our sin. All you need to do is BELIEVE that Jesus is YOUR Lamb – that He has been punished for your sin. When you TRUST JESUS, your sin is not just covered, it is GONE! (Take the plastic sleeve, remove the paper with SIN written on it, and tear it to pieces.) If your TRUST is in Jesus, He makes you **perfect** so that you can be with God in His kingdom. You will have new, abundant life here and now! And when your body dies, you will live forever in heaven!

God loves you and wants you to experience peace and life – abundant and eternal. Because of Jesus, we don't need to be afraid of death. Because of Jesus, we don't have to go to the Lake of Fire. No more lambs are needed! Jesus was the FINAL Lamb!

Support Activity: Getting Across the Big Cavern

Play a pretend game of getting across a big cavern - one so deep that you can't see the bottom, and there are alligators at the bottom! (Use a sheet to represent the cavern). The object of the game is to jump to the other side without falling into the cavern. The other side represents "the safe place." Since the cavern is too wide to jump across by themselves, each child will need a "savior" to carry them across. Only ONE person can bridge this gap. Invite the BYBC host father to carry each child on his back to the other side, serving as the "savior." Invite each child to ASK to be carried to the other side. When they get there, congratulate them on their arrival to "the safe place." Ask them if they made it across by their own strength. Point out that a child might **say** that they trusted the "savior," but unless they allowed him to carry them, they would not get across.

Draw the parallel. Tell kids that just as they could not get across the cavern using their own ability, it is impossible to get into the kingdom of God without a Savior. No amount of strength can enable them to get there alone. God is so good to save us!

We have been set free because of what Christ has done. Through his blood our sins have been forgiven. We have been set free because God's grace is so rich. – Ephesians 1:7

Day Four Questions and Answers

1. Who left Heaven to become the Savior? **God**
2. To be the Savior, God became a man. Did this mean He stopped being God? **No**
3. The Lord knew that the only way to save us was to become like us. How did He come to earth? **He came as a baby.**
4. The Lord was born as a baby in a stable – a place where sheep and little lambs are sheltered. Who were His first visitors? **Shepherds**
5. What name was God given when he came to earth? **Jesus**
6. Why did Jesus make blind men see, heal those who could not walk and bring dead people back to life? **So people would know that He was God. So people would believe what He said.**
7. Jesus lived on earth just like any other man. How was Jesus different? **He never sinned.**
8. Because Jesus never sinned, did Jesus have to die? **No**
9. Jesus said that men would beat Him and nail Him to a wooden cross to kill Him. After being dead for three days, He would come back to life. How could Jesus know these things before they happened? **He was God. God knows everything.**
10. What was Jesus called that reminded people of the lambs? **The Lamb of God.**
11. How did the Roman soldiers punish Jesus? **He was nailed to a wooden cross**
12. Because Jesus willingly took all of our sin on Himself, what had to happen to Him? **He had to die.**
13. Why don't we need to kill lambs anymore? **Jesus was the final lamb.**
14. After Jesus died, His body was put in a special grave. What was this type of grave called? **A tomb**
15. What happened after Jesus had been dead three days? **Jesus came back to life!**
16. How can our sin be taken away, and how can we enter into the kingdom of God? **Trust in Jesus, believe in Jesus.**

DAY 5: FRIDAY

LEARNING TO GROW

DO NOT DO A REVIEW AT THE BEGINNING TODAY! INSTEAD, DO A MASSIVE REVIEW OF THE WEEK AT THE END OF TODAY!

Extra props to bring from home: baby doll

Props provided by Grace: GROW poster, bandana

John 14:6 says that **Jesus is the WAY**. He is the only way to enter the kingdom of God. There is no other way. **Jesus is the TRUTH**. Jesus reveals who God is. When we listen to the words Jesus spoke, and look at His actions, we see who God really is. **Jesus is the LIFE**. Before we trust and believe in Jesus, the Bible says that we are dead in our sin. But Jesus conquered death! He paid for all the sins of the world, and He came to give us life! All He asks of us is to completely TRUST in Him!

Today, we will be talking about what to do once you believe and trust that Jesus is your Savior who rescued you from sin and death. When you believe and trust in Jesus, you enter God's kingdom. God sends His Holy Spirit to live inside of every person who trusts in Jesus! God's Holy Spirit lets you know, deep down in your heart, what is right and what is wrong. He also gives you the power you need to do what you should do and to say no to what is wrong. This is just the beginning of a wonderful new life in Jesus. When you enter God's kingdom, it is only natural that your King wants to communicate with you! He already knows everything about you. He wants you to know Him better. When you know Him, you can't help but love Him. Everything about God is completely lovable!

LEARNING TO GROW:

Props: GROW poster

Our focus is going to be on the word GROW! We can GROW in our relationship with God by remembering these 4 easy things:

G - Get to know God

R - Recognize His voice

O - Obey

W - Walk with Him

GET TO KNOW GOD:

If you meet a new friend at school, how would you get to know him? *Listen for answers*. The only way that you become better friends with that person is to spend time with him, talk with him, and learn about the things that he likes.

What if you decided to just ask other people *about* him? Would you get to know him that way? You would learn facts *about* him, but you wouldn't really *know* him.

It is great to know facts about someone, but it is not nearly as good as experiencing life with that person. The experiences you have with someone else will change *your* experience. For instance, what if you and your friend were going to go to the zoo? You could go at separate times, then each of you could write a paper about your trip to the zoo, and you could read each other's papers. OR, you could go to the zoo **together**. You could smell the same smells, and see the same sights. You might point out a crazy monkey to your friend, and you would laugh together. Your friend might point out a lion hiding in the tall grass, and you would marvel at his power together. Which zoo experience would be better?

It is the same in your relationship with the Lord. You can read about God – which is very good, and necessary. But please don't miss out on KNOWING God. The perfect, loving, all-knowing Creator of the universe wants you to **know** Him. God wants you to experience life with Him.

Ways that we can get to know God better:

1. Read your Bible. This is God's love letter to you!
2. Talk to God in prayer all day long. He wants speak to you and He wants to hear from you.
3. Spend time with other followers of Jesus. That way, you can encourage each other get closer to God.

RECOGNIZE HIS VOICE:

As you talk with your friends, you get to know them better. You talk to them at school. You hang out together and you call them on the phone. You start to recognize their voice. If they called you at home, you probably wouldn't even have to ask WHO was calling because you'd recognize their voice.

Prop: baby doll

The same is true for a baby. When a baby is born, he recognizes his mother's voice instantly because he has heard her voice every time she has spoken for the past nine months, while he was growing in her tummy. Even though he doesn't know anything else in the whole world, he knows his mother's voice. Isn't that a beautiful picture? Since the baby recognizes his parents' voice, the baby can then respond to his parents' voices.

When you pray, remember that you cannot always talk. What if you ALWAYS did the talking with your best friend and NEVER let her talk? Do you think she would like that? Would you know very much about her? Would you be able to recognize

her voice? *Probably not.* Sometimes we have to stop and let our friends talk. The same is true with God. Sometimes we must be quiet to hear God's voice. God's voice will guide us through life. He already knows the plans for your life, and He wants to guide you. You have to recognize God's voice to be able to respond to it!

Anytime you are upset, frightened, or confused, tell God how you are feeling. Ask Him what He wants you to know. Listen for His answer. He might remind you of a Bible verse, or give you truth some other way. He may simply give you peace. God's answers are always in line with His written word.

OBEY:

We ALL know what it means to obey! God created us with the ability to make choices. Because of that, we are given MANY opportunities each day to obey God. Every time that we choose to obey, we grow a little closer to God.

A Story. Three girls were spending the night together. One girl said, "Hey, let's sneak out of the house tonight and go roaming around the neighborhood." One of the girls said, "I can't do that. My father would kill me!" The third girl said, "I can't do that. *It would kill my father.*" The third girl wanted to obey her father, not because she was afraid of him, but because she loved him so much. She knew that his rules were in place to protect her. She trusted her dad and respected his authority.

This is the way believers should feel about God's rules. God laid down His life to save us. He wants us to live a wonderful life in His kingdom! He did not create rules to keep anything good out of our reach. His rules are for our good. If we love Him, and truly trust Him, we will be glad to obey Him. Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will obey my teaching." (John 14:23)

One way to obey God is to obey the people who God has put in authority over you. First and foremost, this means your parents. God gave you your parents to help lead you in life. When you obey your parents, you remain under God's protection and blessing. Ephesians 6:1-3 says, "Children, obey your parents as believers in the Lord. Obey them because it's the right thing to do." When you obey your parents, you are obeying God. Scripture says, "'Honor your father and mother.' That is the first commandment that has a promise. Then things will go well with you. You will live a long time on the earth." If you obey God, the consequences are good. If you obey your parents, the consequences are good. Can anyone tell me about a time when you chose to obey and the consequences were good?

Also, obey the other adults in your life like grandparents and teachers. God has put each of them in your life to guide you. Remember that each time you choose to obey, you are growing toward God.

WALKING WITH GOD:

God is perfect and there is no sin anywhere near Him. If I choose to sin, I am walking on a path that is leading away from God.

SUPPORT ACTIVITY: Walking WITH God

Teacher, start walking in one direction, but motion that your back is to God, and you are walking away from Him. Say, "When I realize I am sinning, I must confess, or agree with God that my sin is wrong, and turn away from it." Teacher, do an about-face. Say, "1 John 1:9 says, 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' Once I confess my sin and turn away from it, I am walking toward God again." Teacher, start walking in the direction toward "God." Say, "Walking with God means living with NO KNOWN SIN. The Holy Spirit's job is to make us aware of our sin. If there is some sin in my life, then I must admit that I have sinned. I must confess my sin and turn away from it."

None of us is perfect, so we are also going to have to get back up when we have fallen. Just like when a toddler is learning to walk: they plop down, get up, take a few steps, plop down again, but they keep getting up. Eventually, the toddler learns how to take a few more steps before he falls down. He uses the guidance of his parents and other people around him to learn to walk. He will keep falling. Even once the toddler grows up, there are still times that he will fall.

As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, there are still times that we will sin. But the Holy Spirit will let us know when we have sinned, so that we can confess it. When we sin, it's like when a toddler plops down. Because God has given us a NEW nature, we get sick of plopping down, and we listen closely to the leading of the Holy Spirit to help us walk correctly. However, when we don't depend on the Holy Spirit within us, we have our times when we plop down.

GROWing is a life long process. But the AWESOME news is, we are not alone! God's Spirit is within us, helping us to know God and live out our lives in the kingdom. Do not get frustrated when you mess up, but ask God to help you know what is right and wrong. Ask Him to help lead you down the correct path.

SUPPORT ACTIVITY: G.R.O.W

Props: bandana

Choose two kids from your club. Blindfold one child with the bandana. Put the other child "in charge", so he gets to determine where the two are going. The blindfolded child must **Get to Know** the child in charge (lean on him, etc.). The

blindfolded child must **Respond** to his ideas (yes, I understand where we are going). The blindfolded child must **Obey** the directions of the child in charge. The blindfolded child must **Walk** with him or he will fall. This is a great time to discuss how we all fall sometimes, but God doesn't give up on us; He picks us up and continues to help us learn (Matthew 14:31).

In John 15:5, Jesus said, "I am the Vine. You are the branches. If anyone remains joined to Me, and I to him, he will bear a lot of fruit. **You can't do anything without Me.**" Did you hear the last part of John 15:5? "**You can't do ANYTHING without Me!**" Our whole existence depends upon God. Just as we cannot give ourselves the gift of eternal life, we cannot give ourselves the ability to live for Jesus. We must continue to grow closer to Him, because without Him, we can do nothing!

FINAL REVIEW:

1. God made everything simply by speaking. What does this tell us about God? **He is very, very powerful.**
2. Why was God only able to create a perfect world? **He is perfect.**
3. The Bible uses a special word to describe Lucifer's choice to disobey God. What is that word? **Sin**
4. Why isn't it right for someone to get away with doing bad things? **It's not fair. All wrong should be punished.**
5. What is the name of the home that God made for Satan and the bad angels? **The Lake of Fire**
6. What word does the Bible use to describe Adam and Eve's disobedience? **Sin**
7. What came into the world because of sin? **Death**
8. God promised that He would send a special man to rescue all people from the death and separation that came from sin. What would this man be called? **A Savior**
10. Why do people need to be made perfect to live in Heaven? **Only perfect people can live with a perfect God.**
11. Could God pretend that Adam and Eve had never sinned? **No**
12. God showed people how He would punish sin without punishing them. What sort of animal were they told to bring? **A lamb**
13. What happened to the man's sin when He put his hand on the head of the lamb? **The man's sin was moved onto the lamb.**
14. In whose place did the lamb die? **The man's place**
15. Why was the lamb punished if it hadn't done anything wrong? **It carried the man's sin.**
16. If we try to be very good, will we be perfect enough to be with God? **No**
17. Who left Heaven to become the Savior? **God, Jesus**
18. Because Jesus never sinned, did Jesus have to die? **No**

19. How did Jesus' death make it possible for people to be with the perfect God? ***He took our sin on Himself, He makes them perfect.***
20. What was Jesus called that reminded people of the lambs? ***Lamb of God***
21. What is the only way for a person to enter into the kingdom of God?
Trust in Jesus, believe in Jesus.