

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



SESSION TITLE: Rules for Sacrifice

BIBLE PASSAGE: Leviticus

STORY POINT: God is holy and requires a sacrifice for sin.

KEY PASSAGE: Exodus 15:2

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- index cards
- pen
- beanbag

Write each word or phrase of the key passage on a separate index card. Arrange the cards in a grid on the floor. Invite the kids to take turns tossing a beanbag to land it on a card. If a kid is successful, she collects the card. Once kids collect all the cards, challenge them to put the key passage in order. Then read the key passage a few times. Invite volunteers to say the verse from memory. Praise each kid for his efforts and encourage all the kids to keep practicing the verse.

SAY • Our key passage comes from a song that Moses and the Israelites sang right after God parted the Red Sea for them to cross. God's people saw God's greatness and desire to save them, and they responded by praising His name. When we understand and believe who Jesus is and what He did to save us from sin, praising God will come naturally to us as well.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Leviticus. Explain that Leviticus is the third book in the Bible, and part of the Law—the first five books of the Old Testament.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What could God's people give to Him as offerings? (*animals or grain, Lev. 1–3*)
2. What were offerings used for? (*praising God or dealing with sin, Lev. 1–4*)
3. What purpose did the two goats serve on the Day of Atonement? (*One was killed for the people's sin, the other sent into the wilderness to represent the sin being carried away; Lev. 16*)
4. Why was the Day of Atonement so important? *Guide kids to discuss the Israelites' need to be made right with God. Talk about their sin and how it separated them from God. Remind them that the Day of Atonement was God's way of dealing with sin before Jesus came.*
5. Why don't we still have a Day of Atonement? *Talk about what Jesus accomplished on the cross. Remind them that His death was the one, perfect sacrifice to pay for sin forever. Remind the kids that we no longer need a scapegoat. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and removes our sin.*
6. How are the offerings Christians give similar to the offerings the Israelites gave? How are they different? *Guide kids to discuss that Christians can still give resources—money, food, clothing, time, talents, and so forth—as a way to serve the church and glorify God. Discuss the fact that we no longer need to give sin offerings, because Jesus died for our sins.*

SAY • God is holy and requires a sacrifice for sin. Before Jesus, people had to kill animals to deal with their sin. Now, if we trust in Jesus' perfect sacrifice, God forgives our sin and makes us new.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

LOW PREP

- large globe or map of the world
- flashlight

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

- grocery items or grocery store weekly mailer

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Marvelous light

Display a large map of the world. Invite the kids to sit or stand around the map. Hand one kid a flashlight and instruct her to shine the light on the map. Help the kids read the name of a country illuminated by the light. Lead kids to say a quick prayer for that country and the people living there. Then the kid with the flashlight will pass it to another kid, who will shine the light on a new area. Repeat the other steps. End the time by retrieving the flashlight, shining it on Japan, and leading the kids to pray for Japan and the Joneses.

SAY • The Joneses are a missionary family telling people in Japan about Jesus. They bring the light of the gospel to people who live in spiritual darkness. The Bible teaches that we are all born in spiritual darkness, far from God because of our sin. **God is holy and requires a sacrifice for sin.**

In the Old Testament, people had to follow the rules for sacrifice that God gave them. People could not obey God perfectly and had to repeatedly offer sacrifices year after year to cover their sin. God sent Jesus to live a perfect life and die the death we deserve. Jesus was our perfect sacrifice to pay for sin. When we believe in Jesus, God forgives our sin and removes it from us. We don't have to offer new sacrifices each year because Jesus is enough. This is good news worth telling the world about!

OPTION 2: Guess the price

Invite the kids to sit in a circle on the floor. Display various grocery items or a grocery store weekly mailer with the

prices covered. Ask the kids to guess the prices of the various items. Give them clues such as *higher* or *lower* until they are able to guess the correct price. Then discuss the price of sin.

SAY • God is holy and requires a sacrifice for sin. The

Bible teaches us that the fair payment of our sin is death. In the Old Testament, people had to offer animal sacrifices to cover their sin. God provided the rules for sacrifice because He is merciful. He wanted His people to be with Him.

God showed His incredible mercy again, in an even bigger way, when He sent Jesus to live a perfect life and die on the cross. Jesus' death completely paid for our sin. We don't need to offer more sacrifices because Jesus' sacrifice is perfect.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the journal sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.