

## Devotional Time at Bible Adventure:

Be prepared and on time.

Read the Bible passage for the day.

Share how the verse for the day has impacted you.

Read the devotional thought.

Check out the website for additional info on Bible passage.

Allow others to share how this passage impacted them.

PRAY!



SERIES A

DEVO BOOK

2021-2022

**4 CHAPTER GOSPEL**

Creation

Fall

Rescue

Restoration

CREATION



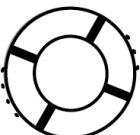
**How did it all begin?**  
*Where did I come from?*  
Genesis 1:1,31  
Genesis 1:27; 2:7

FALL



**What went wrong?**  
*Have you experienced hurt or pain?*  
Genesis 3:6-10  
Romans 3:23  
Romans 6:23

RESCUE



**Can anything be done?**  
*How does Jesus fix this broken world?*  
Romans 5:8  
Luke 19:10  
II Corinthians 5:17-21

RESTORATION



**What will the future hold?**  
*How can I join God now in His work?*  
Revelation 21:1-5  
Mark 16:15

## Series A Unit 1 Lesson 1

### 4 Chapter Gospel Overview

**Mark 16:15**- He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

**Truth:** God has a plan for all of life.

**Response:** Participate in God's plan.

I am sure each one of us has dreamed of what we wanted our life to look like and where we wanted to live, etc. Did you dream of becoming a person like Billy Graham? Did you ever dream of standing on a stage, behind a podium, sharing a Bible message with a large crowd? That was probably not in your dreams. For many of you, the thought of speaking to a large group of people scares you.

Did your dream include traveling to a remote part of the world, away from modern technology to share the gospel? What, no computer, internet, cell phone, electricity?

The truth for today says, "God has a plan for your life." The response we want for the students and each volunteer is that they will participate in God's plan.

God shares part of His plan in the verse for today which says, "**Go** into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Your "world" at this moment is the students God sends to us through Bible Adventure. We are sharing the **4 Chapter Gospel** with the students throughout the year.

- God **CREATED** a perfect world and created man in His image. God placed man and woman in the garden. Everything was very good!
- He gave Adam and Eve one rule, but they chose to disobey. That is sin. They fell from God's standard. As a result of sin, there are consequences. That is why there are problems in the world. That is **FALL**.
- God's love for man and woman was so strong that He provided a solution to man's fall. God sent Jesus (His Son) to earth to die on the cross to take away our sin. He sent Jesus to **RESCUE** us from our sin and from eternity in hell.
- Because of God's rescue, we should be so excited that we want to help others see the importance of being rescued. God has a better future for us and His world, and we can be a part of that future starting now. We need to help others see the need to experience **RESTORATION**.

Pray and ask God how you will be used to reach the students in Bible Adventure this year.

## Easter- Matthew 28, Resurrection

**Acts 3:19**, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

4 Chapter Gospel focuses are **RESCUE** and **RESTORATION**.

**Truth:** Jesus died and came alive again so we can have eternal life in heaven.

**Response:** I need to turn away from my sin and turn to God and receive the gift of eternal life.

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day dawned, Mary Magdalene and another Mary went out to the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone. His sitting appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. The guards shook with fear when they saw him, falling into a dead faint. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And now, go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen, and that He is going to Galilee to meet them there. Lo, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. And as they went, behold, Jesus met them saying, All hail. And they came and held Him by the feet and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said, "Do not be afraid; go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole Him away while we slept.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you." So, they took the money and did as directed; and this story has been spread among the Jews to this day. Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshipped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

*What does Jesus' resurrection mean to you? In what ways have you shared His teachings wherever you have been? Have you planted seeds of faith into the life of one who was later baptized?*

## Easter- John 13, Last Supper

**Mark 10:45**, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

4 Chapter Gospel focus is RESCUE.

**Truth:** Jesus came to earth to serve and to give His life to provide us salvation.

**Response:** I will make the decision to begin a relationship with Jesus.

On the night before His death, Jesus taught by example during His final observance of the Passover. He washed His disciples’ feet before the Last Supper, giving us a significant lesson in servanthood. He earnestly desired His followers to have a similar heart for service. The first Christians devoted themselves to “the apostles’ teaching.” Much of what the apostles had seen Jesus do and heard Him say was written down in the New Testament. Through fellowship, these new believers absorbed more of the life of Christ. They developed godly strength to reach out evangelically.

They also devoted themselves to breaking bread together in Communion and sharing common meals.

The fourth ingredient in their new life together consisted of “the prayers”. “The prayers” were the specified times for worship at the temple, and all believers went together.

While these early Christians did not cut themselves off from the world, they most certainly trimmed their worldly activities. They “eliminated” and they “concentrated”. They “continually devoted themselves” to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread together and the prayers.

In most Christian churches today, you will find all those practices under one roof. Perhaps we need to set these priorities in our homes as well. Dinners or Saturday brunches together might be the key to all four disciplines practiced in the family. First, the prayer over the meal might be said as a group, each adding his or her own concerns, before the head of the household closes with “In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen”. Fellowship could commence as we break bread together without telephone or cell phone interruptions. Following the meal, we could enjoy family worship in song and/or devotional, scripture reading.

*When dining in a restaurant, have you ever been served by someone with a silent sadness about him or her? If so, ask the server if there is a matter that you can pray about on his or her behalf. Consider adding the godly disciplines found at church to your home and community life.*

## Series A Unit 1 Lesson 2

Introducing the Bible

**Psalm 119:105-** Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

**Truth:** God’s Word is all true and needs to be my instruction book.

**Response:** Memorize scripture so I can use it in my life.

Psalm 119:105 is a very familiar verse to us. We recognize the Bible as God’s Word and that it is all true. Many of our students are not familiar with the Word of God. For some, there is not even a Bible in the home.

One Bible Adventure student, who didn’t have a Bible in the home, was given one. She took it home. Later we learned that she and her Mom read the Bible every night before she goes to bed.

It is important for us to model expectations for the students we are reaching. We want the students to see that God’s Word is all true and that it is the instruction book for life. Recently, I shared with a child, how to use the concordance in the Bible to find a verse on a particular subject.

It is also important for the students to hear you recite Bible verses. We tell them it is important to memorize, but we must set the example. Challenge the students to memorize the verses to say to you. You need to recite the verses to them. You also need to tell them how the verse has impacted you.

An example would be to memorize/recite the verse for today and share a story. You don’t always have to share a positive story. Don’t be too graphic but share... “Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.” When I was trying to decide where God was leading my life, I read many passages of scripture. I was sure God wanted me to serve Him but I was already involved at Joy El. Certainly, He wouldn’t call me to serve somewhere I enjoyed. Would He? Psalm 37:4 was shared with me. It reads, “Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart.” Yes, God leads, we just have to follow. Read and follow today.

What story will you share with your students concerning how God’s Word has impacted you?

### Series A Unit 1 Lesson 3

#### Creation

**Genesis 1:31**- God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning- the sixth day.

4 Chapter Gospel focus is CREATION.

**Truth:** God made the world by speaking each thing into existence and forming man with His hands.

**Response:** Recognize God's greatness through creation.

When was the last time you stopped to really enjoy creation. God made a beautiful world for us to enjoy. What is your favorite part of creation? Perhaps you enjoy taking an early spring walk, looking for the first glimpse of green peaking through the brown earth. Maybe a gentle summer rain bringing refreshment to your lawn reminds you of God's creation. The vibrant color of leaves and the scurrying of the squirrel collecting acorns may be a favorite for you. You may be the individual awed by the beauty of snow in winter. The important thing is, enjoy God's creation. Our verse for today says, "God saw all that He had made and it was very good."

The 4 Chapter Gospel focus for today is **CREATION**. We want the students to understand that God made the world by speaking each thing into existence. God then formed man with His hands. Think about it. After speaking each part of creation into existence, God used His hands to form man. Think about the intricacy of the human body. I remember a Mom speaking of her newborn daughter. I just keep counting her fingers and toes. I can't believe how perfect she is. That's God. He made us and He loves us. We want our students in Bible Adventure to know that God made each of them just the way He wanted them. We are special to God and so are they.

The students you minister to in Bible Adventure may believe in evolution. You have the opportunity today to open God's Word, the Bible to Genesis 1 and reading about creation. We can't assume that anyone has ever shared the truth of creation with these students.

### Series A Unit 6 Lesson 3

#### Ten Commandments - Love for People

**Matthew 22:39**-And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.

4 Chapter Gospel focus is RESTORATION.

**Truth:** God expects us to treat others the same way that we want to be treated.

**Response:** I will be nice to other people.

We are continuing with our emphasis on the Ten Commandments. The last six commandments focus on love for people. The Four Chapter focus is restoration. Once we have a relationship with Jesus, it is our responsibility to share with others. One way we can do that is by showing love to those around us, then they will be more willing to listen as we share about Jesus. I am going to share two true stories that contrast each other.

Several years ago an eight year old little league ball player slide hard into base. In the process, his cleats hit the baseman injuring his ankle. After the game, the Mom of the runner questioned him. With smugness he said, "I don't like that kid. He goes to my school. I purposely cleated him." From my vantage point, it had looked like an accident. Contrast that account with the next one.

A little girl was visiting her grandparents. In the early morning hours a fire erupted. The little girl screamed and grandma ran through flames to make a rescue. She picked the child up and ran back through flames to escape to the outside. Grandma and child were taken to separate hospitals with life-threatening injuries. When grandma awoke from a coma a few weeks later, one of the first questions was to ask about her granddaughter. Reports say the first reunion of the two was very emotional. That is love.

Now, let's look at the students we minister to in Bible Adventure. Are there students we have a difficult time showing love to? Pray for God to give you a love and understanding for that student so you can begin to share the love of Jesus.

## Series A Unit 6 Lesson 2

Ten Commandments - Love for God

**Matthew 22:38**-This is the first and greatest commandment

4 Chapter Gospel focus is RESTORATION.

**Truth:** God wants us to love Him and put Him first in our lives.

**Response:** I will love God and put Him first in all I do.

For many of you, loving God, is a huge part of your life and has been for many years. You want to believe that you put God first, but do you? Last week in the devotional, you were urged to evaluate how you spend your time. Are you loving God the way you should? Is there anyone who is willing to share what they learned when they stopped to think about this?

In 2007 Katie Davis was a teen when she visited Uganda for the first time. Katie was shocked as she witnessed starvation, illness, lack of clean drinking water and more. She chose to give up the normal teen dreams to return to Uganda and minister to "the least of these."

By 2011, four years after first visiting Uganda for the first time, Katie is ministering to 1,600 children and their families. Clean water, nourishing meals, medical care and health training are all part of the program. Katie is known as "MOM" to the thirteen girls that she has adopted.

Acts of love include finding a bed in the hospital for an eighty year old who sat dying in her rain soaked hut starving and unable to walk and dressing the burns of an alcoholic for 252 days. As she cared for his burns she prayed God's mercy and love over him and watched as he gave up alcohol and came to know Christ.

Katie comments, "People tell me I am brave. People tell me I am strong. People tell me good job. Well here is the truth of it. I am really not that strong, and I am not doing anything spectacular. I am just doing what God called me to do as a follower of Him. Feed His sheep, do unto the least of His people." Read more in the book, Kisses from Katie by Katie Davis.

Are you touched by Katie's story? Katie has certainly chosen to put God first in her life. She has decided to live out Restoration as she shares Jesus with the people of Uganda. What is the next step in your life?

## Series A Unit 2 Lesson 1

Adam and Eve made by God

**Psalm 8:5**- You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

4 Chapter Gospel focus is CREATION.

**Truth:** God made people special. He loves us.

**Response:** I will recognize that I am important to God.

**Creation:** God created man from the dust of the ground and formed woman from the rib of the man. The woman was made to be a helper for the man. God made people a little lower than the angels. When God created man, it was an intimate process. He formed him carefully out of dust and in the image of the Godhead. And then he breathed life into him. In this description, God is bringing man to life: "He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7)

After all of God's creations were complete - the sun, moon, stars, waters, plants, animals, etc., God proclaimed the creation "good." But when he created Adam and saw Adam was alone he noted this was "not good." So he put Adam into a deep sleep and removed a rib from the man and used it to form a partner who was perfectly suited for Adam. Because she had come from the flesh and bone of Man he called her Woman. They were sinless.

David says in Psalm 8:4-6, "What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet..." We are in charge of the physical things of this earth. Caring for creation is our God-given responsibility. As humans, we all have work to do here on earth. In Colossians 3 Paul told us, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." What work are you doing and what is your attitude towards it?

<http://faithforsons.blogspot.com/2013/09/3-and-god-created-man.html>

## Series A Unit 2 Lesson 2

Adam and Eve sin

**Romans 3:23**- for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

4 Chapter Gospel focus is FALL.

**Truth:** God designed us to live a life of righteousness but we sinned.

**Response:** Recognize that I am not a righteous person, I sin.

It is common knowledge that humans are imperfect. Even if one doesn't hold to the Christian doctrine of man's depravity (sinfulness), a popular cultural saying is "We're only human." It is both an admission and understanding that people fail often and are imperfect. As believers we should understand that this sentiment springs from the reality of sin in every human's life. Without "the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" we can do nothing but sin (Romans 14:23), relegating us to a life consistently "short of the glory of God."

Here's the good news: Paul didn't stop at verse twenty-three! We are raised from a place of condemnation to a place of adoption. It is as if we were on the stand in trial and everyone knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that we were guilty. But a marvelous thing occurred, and rather than send us to pay the penalty for our crime, the Judge's son took our place, and we were declared justified. That is the beautiful scandal of the cross, that the just would take the place of the unjust (1 Peter 3:18 - Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit). Understand your redemption through Jesus today and let his kindness lead you to repentance (Romans 2:4- Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?).

***Never forget about verse twenty four because therein lies our hope.***

## Series A Unit 6 Lesson 1

Ten Commandment Overview– Exodus 20

**Matthew 22:37**-Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Today's lesson focus for the 4 Chapter Gospel is FALL.

**Truth:** God gave us rules to follow so we could enjoy life.

**Response:** I will learn to obey all of God's rules.

Today we are introducing the Ten Commandments to our students. Although we want the students to learn the Ten Commandments we are teaching them verses from Matthew 22 on loving God and loving others.

When we look at the Ten Commandments we see that the first four focus on our relationship with God and the next six focus on our relationship with others.

If I were to ask you to recall the Ten Commandments many of you would be able to name them. What about our students in Bible Adventure, would they be able to tell you the Ten Commandments? A survey of 1,000 Americans conducted in 2007 revealed the following: 80% of those surveyed could name the main ingredients of the BIG MAC but less than 60% recognized "Thou shalt not kill" as a commandment. Only 45% could recall the commandment "Honor your Father and Mother".

I am sure that the statistics would be even more disappointing if conducted today. We need to continually stress to the students that the Bible is God's Word and it is all true. We need to give them practical examples of what it looks like to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

We each have 168 hours a week. How do we spend those hours? How many hours are spent in church? How much time do we spend reading, studying and meditating on God's Word? How many hours are spent watching television or communicating on Facebook?

We give the students an action step to help them grow in their Christian walk. Here is an action step for you, in the next week, I want you to evaluate how you spend your time. Are you loving God the way you should?

### Series A Unit 5 Lesson 3

Good Samaritan – Luke 10

**Romans 12:10-** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Today's lesson focus for the 4 Chapter Gospel is FALL and RESTORATION.

**Truth:** Jesus wants us to treat others with the respect we want.

**Response:** I will treat others the way I want to be treated.

Jesus was asked by an expert in the Jewish Law what he must do to have eternal life. Jesus asked, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" The expert responded to love God with all your heart, soul, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus said, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live." The expert had one more question: "And who is my neighbor?" Instead of answering directly, Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

Why did Jesus use a Samaritan as the hero of the story? Jesus knew he was speaking to a Jew, and he used the one group that Jews hated the most.

So, why did the Jews hate the Samaritans so much? After the death of King Solomon, the kingdom split in two: the Northern Kingdom (known as Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (known as Judah). Focusing on the Northern Kingdom, it had good kings and bad for several hundred years, until 722 BC. In that year the Assyrians came down and defeated them.

The Assyrians took many of the conquered Jews from the conquered Northern Kingdom back to their home country in order to keep an eye on them and to prevent rebellion. These people did not worship the One God of the Jews, instead worshipping many gods. It seems a safe assumption that the Jews who had remained in their country intermarried with the newcomers and followed in the same practice. Most of the foreigners who came to settle in the Northern Kingdom ended up settling in the region of Samaria.

And so what was the Jesus really saying when he answered the question of loving one's neighbor? The person you hate the most is your neighbor and is deserving of your love. It is not the person from the radically different culture on the other side of the world that is hardest to love, but the nearby neighbor whose skin color, language, rituals, values, ancestry, history, and customs are different from one's own. How do you respond to your neighbor?

### Series A Unit 2 Lesson 3

Tower of Babel

**Proverbs 16:18-** Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. (Proverbs 29:23, 11:2)

4 Chapter Gospel focus is FALL.

**Truth:** God commands us to obey. When we disobey, we face consequences.

**Response:** I will learn to follow God's commands.

Have you ever visited a foreign land and tried to get directions from a native? Perhaps you've felt the relief of finding someone who speaks a tongue you both know. Or perhaps you've experienced the uncertainty and confusion of getting nonverbal directions from someone who doesn't speak your language. All that confusion began with the Tower of Babel. Until the time of the Tower of Babel, all people spoke the same language. Because they could understand each other, they could collaborate to build a spectacular tower that would reach the heavens, a tower intended to be the center of civilization. People of all civilizations have built magnificent towers, but the builders of the Tower of Babel caught God's attention. Why? Because of their motive for building this tower: **making a name for themselves**. The builders of the Tower of Babel didn't want to build the City of God; they wanted to build the City of Humankind. **All was for the glory of humanity, for dominion over others, and for the glory of self**. God recognized that because these people had one language and were united, they would accomplish not only this project but also anything else they decided to do. So God intervened. The problem, God said, was that the people were unified. That has a strange ring to our ears. Why? Because we're always told to seek unity, not division. And yet God divided these people. He saw their unity and decided it could mean only harm. God knows that the heart of humankind is sinful and that the unity people create among themselves always inclines toward evil. So God confused them. He diversified their speech and scattered them. But in Christ, all curses are reversed, including this one. On the day of Pentecost, what do we see? People speaking in tongues previously unknown to them. Through the Spirit of Christ, we discover a unity that is holy and good. We see people from all nations, tribes, and languages uniting in Him, the head of the Church.

Are you experiencing confusion and division between yourself and someone else? Perhaps you're not speaking the same language.? You're experiencing the impact of our fallen nature. But you also know where the remedy comes from? Jesus Christ. Invite His Spirit to bring unity between you and others today.

<https://www.djameskennedy.org/devotional-detail/20180410-the-tower-of-babel>



## Series A Unit 3 Lesson 1

Joseph-Sold by His Brothers

**Romans 12:12** -Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

4 Chapter Gospel focus is FALL.

**Truth:** God cares for us even when everything seems to go wrong.

**Response:** I will look to God even when I don't understand life.

Many years ago, there was a little boy named "Freddy", whose mother was sent to jail for selling drugs. He had no grandparents to take care of him. He had no aunts or uncles to step up to the plate and take him into their homes. Social Services was going to take "Freddy" and place him in foster care. His mother's boyfriend decided to take on the care of this little boy. Freddy began coming to school with nicely pressed clothes, his hair was combed, his face was washed, and he had his homework done. He had his medication before coming to school. In fact this little boy was able to do better in school by getting better grades. His attitude changed. He got along better with other kids in school. Freddy didn't like that his mother was sent to jail, but for him it was the best thing that happened to him. Just as God cares for us, even when things go wrong, Freddy was able to be in a home environment that helped him to become a better person. Sometimes the key to survival is simply "setting our jaw" and going on faithfully trusting that God is there helping us, despite the apparent and outward circumstances. Choosing joy through hope rather than despair, choosing patient endurance in times of affliction, and choosing faithfulness in prayer are all decision of the will, trusting that the God who raised Jesus from the dead can also change our circumstances because He hears our voice.

<http://www.everydaydevotionals.co/2018/04/be-joyful-in-hope-patient-in-affliction.html>

## Series A Unit 5 Lesson 2

Jesus Feeds the 5,000- Luke 9

**Romans 12:13**- Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

4 Chapter Gospel focus is RESTORATION.

**Truth:** God reveals His power through miracles..

**Response:** I can join God in helping others.

Thank God for mothers! The miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for an unnamed mother who insisted that her son took lunch with him - perhaps over his protests?

Jesus sees the crowd coming and says to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food to feed all these people?" Philip does a quick calculation - Hmm! There are about 5,000 men here (plus women and children). It would take 200 day's wages to make enough money to buy enough bread for these people. Jesus, you're asking where we can buy enough bread. We've got another problem here, Jesus, before we start looking for a shop, we had better find some money! We just don't have that sort of money!

"There is a boy here who has five loaves of barley bread and two fish." He's the only one who thought to bring his lunch (thought to bring his lunch?). That's all! Not another soul had enough sense to bring their lunch with them. Here's this boy, Lord. Here's his lunch. He's offering it to you. If you're hungry, Lord, perhaps you should have it. "But what good are they for all these people?"

What would you have done if you had been that boy? Would you have hidden your lunch under your cloak all embarrassed, so that no one else could see it? Would you have hidden behind a bush and eaten it all by yourself? Would you have brought it to Jesus? If so, why? What would you have expected Jesus to do with it? I mean - Andrew was right, wasn't he? They wouldn't solve the problem of feeding all those people! We don't really know what that boy was thinking when he brought all he had to Jesus. It was an act of faith, an act of commitment. Jesus would do something. Jesus would know what to do. And so he did. He took the bread, gave thanks to God, and distributed it to the people sitting down. He did the same with the fish, and they all had as much as they wanted. And when everyone had enough there were still twelve baskets' full of pieces left over.

Can you feed 5000? I don't think so! But what I do know is that you can bring what you have to Jesus and he will do far more with your life than you could ever do by yourself. Jesus used the feeding of the 5,000 to show the world a miracle. Jesus **restored** faith to people by the use of five loaves and two fish. Think what he can do through you!

<http://peterjblackburn.net/sermons/pb940306.htm>



## Series A Unit 5 Lesson 1

Jairus' Daughter is healed – Luke 8

**I Peter 5:7-** Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

4 Chapter Gospel focus is RESCUE.

**Truth:** Jesus wants us to trust Him with the situations we have in life.

**Response:** I will take my problems to God and not try to take care of them myself.

Jairus is a prosperous man, and well-regarded in his community. Jairus is "the official who has charge of the arrangements for the synagogue services" He is the synagogue president, the leader. His duties include conducting the synagogue worship and selecting of those who are to lead the prayer, read the scriptures, and teach in the service. But now this highly respected citizen of Capernaum (for that is where we assume this took place) comes up to Jesus in the multitude of pushing and shoving individuals. They make way for him out of respect, but he is not there to pay his respects to the rabbi. He has been the one responsible for inviting Jesus to participate in the synagogue services since Jesus has taken up residence in Capernaum. But he doesn't just come to greet an old friend.

His face is ashen, his hands tremble, and when he finally reaches the Master he falls upon his knees before Jesus. He has been waiting for Jesus to return -- hoping he would return in time, and now he is here. Jairus' plea is "My little daughter is dying. Please come! Please!" So Jesus goes with him. This isn't just a daughter, one of a dozen children. This is "an only daughter", the apple of Jairus' eye. She lies at the point of death. Jairus is grief-stricken. Jesus is Jairus' last hope.

Have you been in the shoes of Jairus? Not knowing what to do in a difficult situation. Not sure of what direction to take. Take the steps that Jairus took. Place your faith in Jesus to **rescue** you from despair, desperation, and pain. Jesus gave life to Jairus' daughter. He rescued her from death and gave her life. He showed his power and His care for people. He can help you in a difficult situation too.

Have you stopped to think about the situations the students you work with face everyday? Talk to your students. They want to have someone to talk with. Pray with them about their situations. Jesus wants to carry their problems.

[http://www.jesuswalk.com/lessons/8\\_40-56.htm](http://www.jesuswalk.com/lessons/8_40-56.htm)

## Series A Unit 3 Lesson 2

Joseph- From Prison to Palace

**Joshua 1:9b-** ...Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

4 Chapter Gospel focus is RESTORATION.

**Truth:** God never leaves us even when we are in tough places.

**Response:** I will look to God even when I face hard times.

There was a young Marine named Timothy who scared his grandmother when she asked him what his next assignment would be. He was being assigned to Afghanistan. She wanted to know what he would be doing there. He responded calmly, "Oh, I will be the one who walks in front of everyone else and look for IEDs. I will sweep the roads for them." Immediately her heart froze. "You will be doing WHAT??? And what happens if you find one?" she asked. He looked at her as if she were a complete idiot and replied, "We will dig it out of course."

That was WAY too much information! She panicked. She went through an emotional roller coaster. She argued, wept, cajoled. Trusting Timothy to God's care or the USMC was not on her radar screen.

While on field maneuvers, Timothy saw a shiny coin in the dirt. On one side was the USMC symbol and on the other was that verse "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Through panic, fear and doubt, Timothy's grandmother had been provided with an unbelievable example of faith from Timothy himself. She will continue to have moments of fear, yet she needs to remember God never leaves us even when we are in tough places.

In what tough places have you been? Share them with your students and let them know how God has given you strength and courage.

### Series A Unit 3 Lesson 3

#### Joseph Forgives His Brothers

**Ephesians 4:32**- Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

4 Chapter Gospel focus is RESTORATION.

**Truth:** God wants us to forgive others when they hurt us.

**Response:** With God's help, I will forgive those who treat me badly.

Renee Napier lost her 20 year old daughter Megan and Megan's friend, Lisa, to a drunk driver. It was devastating to lose these two girls. Both families decided to forgive Eric, the driver who took their daughters' lives. They even appealed to have his 22 year prison sentence reduced to 11 years.

Since March 29, 2004, Renee has traveled all over the country telling this story to thousands of people, mostly teenagers. She always talks about forgiveness because they have learned how powerful it is for everyone. Eric told Renee that he has his eternal salvation because of Megan and Lisa. Renee shows Eric via video in her presentations and will soon have him standing with her, a living, breathing example of the dangers of drunk driving, but also of the power of forgiveness.

Forgiveness makes little sense, as long as we are the ones being asked to forgive. It goes against everything we feel inside when we are the wronged party. And being the flawed humans we are, we do have our limits. However, when we are the ones in need of forgiveness, well, isn't that quite a different story? C.S. Lewis wrote, "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." Let us always be mindful of our own deep and endless need for forgiveness, and grateful for the limitless forgiveness that is extended to us through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Let us be grateful that He did not wait for us to make the first move. "For God demonstrates his great love for us in this; while we were still sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8.)" He initiated forgiveness of our sins, and in doing so, released its healing power into the lives of all who accept.

Matthew West wrote "forgiveness can bring hope to our hopeless tragedies and freedom from the burden of resentment." What situations do you have that need the **restoration** of forgiveness?

### Series A Unit 4 Lesson 3

#### The Wise and Foolish Builders – Luke 6

**Matthew 7:24**- "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

4 Chapter Gospel focus is RESTORATION.

**Truth:** Jesus wants us to hear and obey His words so we can have a strong foundation

**Response:** I will build my life on Jesus by learning and living Bible truths.

In the parable of the wise and foolish builders we find several truths about both builders. Both of them hear the message, both of them build, both build near the stream, and both experience the flood.

There's only one difference between the two builders. One dug deep and built on the rock. He did the work. He put it into practice. It took time and effort to dig a hole the size of a house in the sandy land by the stream, until he hit bedrock.

When you've decided to build your life on Him, it's going to take time and effort and work. You may have to put things off for a time (or forever) – like career advancement, relationships, certain things you find pleasure in – so you can dig down to Christ, removing all the shifting sand beneath your feet that will cause problems for your house later.

It will mean emptying yourself of your favorite idols, believing you're in charge of your life, submitting yourself to Jesus and other mature Christians, and getting rid of the stuff in your house that distracts you from Christ. It means rearranging your schedule so you can pray, read scripture, attend church each week, and have a Sabbath rest. It means changing your priorities with your finances so you can give a portion of your finances back to God and live a generous lifestyle toward others in need. And it's hard.

And then we start to fill it back up again, stone after stone, replacing our thoughts with His thoughts, our ways with His ways, our heart with His heart, our will with His will, our habits with His habits, our words with His words, our plans with His plans, until we have built a solid foundation on Him and how He wants us to live.

And it is on this foundation that we build our house. And then when the rains come down and the floods come up, and the stream grows into a river – our house will stand. Not because of anything we've done – but because of who we've chosen to build on. We don't get the glory for a house that stands up to the flood, Jesus does!

He's the foundation. He **restores** us. He firms up our foundation in Him. He's the one who gave us the stones. He's the one who stays strong. That's why we build on Him and His Word. Since we have experienced God's **restoration**, we need to minister to others so they also can experience the **restoration**.

<http://artofthechristianninja.com/tag/parable-of-the-wise-and-foolish-builders/>

## Series A Unit 4 Lesson 2

Jesus Calls the First Disciples- Luke 5/Matthew 4

**I Thessalonians 5:24** - The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

4 Chapter Gospel focus is CREATION.

**Truth:** Jesus asked ordinary people to help Him teach others about God.

**Response:** I will be willing to learn about God and then share it with others

What do you remember about the men who became “fishers of men”? Disciple A was the one who when Jesus fed the 5,000, he found a boy with five loaves and 2 fishes. He was with Philip when the Greeks requested to meet with Jesus. He is usually mentioned with his brother, Simon Peter. (His name is Andrew.)

Disciples B and C were sent to prepare the Passover. They were the cousins of Jesus. Their mother and Jesus’ mother were sisters. They were part of Jesus’ inner circle with Peter. (Their names are James and John.) Disciple D was asked by Jesus how to feed the crowd of 5,000 and he said it would take 6 months’ salary to buy some bread but it wouldn’t be enough to feed the 5,000. He invited his friend Nathaniel to meet Jesus. This man was from Bethsaida. (His name is Philip.)

Disciple E was present when Jesus raised Jairus’ dead daughter. This man had a home in Capernaum. He was known by four different names. (His name is Peter also known as Simon, Cephas, and Petros.)

Jesus chose ordinary people who were doing ordinary things to follow him. Jesus **created** a community of followers who would revolutionize the world with His message. It has been said that “God doesn’t call the qualified, He qualifies the called!” Remember he will give you the strength and the courage to be called to do His will. What are you being called to do?

[http://www.biblewise.com/kids/char\\_topic/jesus-disciples.php](http://www.biblewise.com/kids/char_topic/jesus-disciples.php)

## Christmas

**I John 4:14**- And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.

4 Chapter Gospel focus is RESCUE.

**Truth:** God sent Jesus to earth to rescue us and give us hope.

**Response:** I will recognize that Jesus is the reason for Christmas.

Christmas is quickly approaching. Everywhere you turn you see decorations to compliment a secular holiday. The cheery music filling the airways in the stores doesn’t mention Jesus or the real reason for the season. The world views Christmas as an opportunity to attend parties with lots of food and lavish expensive gifts on family and friends. The working world views Christmas as a day off with pay. Children are excited as they anticipate the new techno gizmos and latest fashions they will receive. Excitement is highly visible. I am sure you are seeing it among the Bible Adventure students.

The excitement the world exhibits is temporary. As Christians we are the ones who have the real reason to celebrate. The verse for today says it all, “And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world. Think about it, Jesus, the Savior of the world has come.

Many years ago, a third grader watched as the Bible Adventure teacher set out each figure of the Nativity and shared the biblical/true account of Christmas. Suddenly the student became excited and exclaimed, “My grandma has one of those.” Another student spoke about seeing the Nativity figures on display in the center of town. The light bulb of understanding glowed on their faces as they realized the significance of the display.

We need to realize that some of our students don’t know about the birth of Jesus and the impact He had on the world. We have been handed the awesome privilege of “testifying” to these children and proclaiming to them that God sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world.

Today, remind the students that the Word of God is all true. Then, look up Luke 2 and take time to read the account of the birth of Jesus with them. Challenge them to read this to their family during the week.

Jesus came to rescue the world and we know the truth but we often fail to share the truth with the world.

## Christmas

**Luke 2:17-** When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

4 Chapter Gospel focus is RESTORATION.

**Truth:** God wants the world to know that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

**Response:** I will choose to tell others about Jesus.

This is the second week we are presenting the Christmas lesson to the students. For the “churched” students they may proclaim their boredom. Perhaps they will not display their boredom verbally, but in body language or an inner struggle. Many of these same students will watch the same movie repeatedly or play the same video game an hour or more each day. Challenge these students to listen intently to the lesson and find one new fact they didn’t know before.

Family Life Today has a resource known as, “What God wants for Christmas”. Seven little boxes are decorated to look like they have colorful bows wrapped around them. During the lesson, the boxes are opened one at a time. Each of the first six boxes has a small ceramic figure. The figures are an *Angel, Mary, Joseph, Jesus in the manger, Shepherd holding a lamb,* and a *Wise man*. Box #6 has a mirror. As the Christmas story is told each box is opened to reveal the next character. When the last box is the only one unopened, excitement is generated. The plan of salvation is shared. The students are asked, “Do you want to see what God wants for Christmas? You can see by looking in this box.” Each student is given the opportunity to peek into the box. They are asked to look quietly and to not say anything. Smiles are exhibited as students view their reflection. Yes, what God wants for Christmas is for each of us to have a relationship with Him.

To encourage more student involvement in this lesson I have allowed the little boxes to be held and opened by students in the class. As each box is opened I also have a student dressed to represent the figure come and stand in front of the class. I used a rambunctious third grader as my angel. (Her behavior didn’t match the stereotype). She rose to the occasion. At the end of fifth grade she said, “Do you remember when I was your angel in the Christmas story?” Two and a half years after the lesson, she still remembered her part. I am sure she shared the Christmas story with others. Our verse reminds us that the shepherds went out “spreading the word concerning what they had been told about the child.” Are you telling the world about Jesus?

## Series A Unit 4 Lesson 1

The Boy Jesus at the Temple- Luke 2

**John 1:1-** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

4 Chapter Gospel focus is CREATION.

**Truth:** Jesus is God

**Response:** I will recognize that Jesus is God and was perfect and knows everything.

Jesus was raised as a normal Jewish boy of his time. He was known as Joseph’s son and learned his “father’s” trade of carpentry.

Jesus would have attended synagogue school and would have observed the Sabbath and the Jewish feast days. When Jesus was twelve years old, it was time for him to take his place as an adult male in the religious community. He was now old enough to take part in the observances of the Jewish faith.

Jewish men were required to attend the religious celebrations surrounding the Feast of the Passover in Jerusalem. Sometimes their wives and children accompanied them. Jerusalem was just over 100 kilometers (approximately 64 miles) south of Nazareth. People travelled in groups for safety reasons. This may or may not have been Jesus’ first trip since he was a baby.

Joseph and Mary stayed the full seven days of the festival, although they were required to stay only two. The day they left Jerusalem, they probably thought Jesus was with the other members of their family who had also attended the feast. When night came, they anxiously looked for him. After searching the caravan they knew they had to return to Jerusalem.

The city would have been full of people so it must have been quite a job finding Jesus. It seems they travelled one day away from Jerusalem and one day back. The third day was spent searching Jerusalem for their son. They finally found him in the temple courts totally absorbed in listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Others were amazed at Jesus’ understanding but his parents were just worried about their son.

This seems to be the first time that Jesus struck out on his own faith. This would have been difficult for his parents to understand. Jesus still needed to mature and grow before he was ready to begin his ministry in the full sense. He returned home to obey his parents and grow in all of the areas humans must grow in.

Jesus had a human side as well as a God side to his being. Before Jesus came to earth as a baby, He already was in heaven. He is part of the God-head, Trinity. Jesus was in Genesis. He was with God. Therefore Jesus was part of the **Creation**.

<http://missionbibleclass.org/1b0-new-testament/new-testament-part-1/life-of-christ-early/boy-jesus-visits-the-temple/>