

CURRICULUM
YEAR 3

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Lesson 1 Unit 1

What Happened in the Beginning?

Takeaway: *God created the world and called it good.*

Memory Verse:

Colossians 1:16- For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

Consider a story from your life of a time when you made something that you loved. Maybe you built something from wood or used your art abilities to draw a picture or painting…Share how you felt when you created this thing you loved and enjoyed.

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Open your Bible to **Genesis chapter 1**. The Bible is our textbook
  To begin our year in CIA, we are going to start at the beginning of the story of the Bible. The Bible is the greatest and truest story we will ever hear. To understand the story, we must start at the beginning.
- Read **Genesis Chapter 1** with the students taking turns reading aloud.
- Stop the students as they read and ask questions to make sure they are comprehending.
  1.Who created the world and everything in it?
  2 What materials did God use to create the world?
  3.Why do you think it is important to know who created the world and what He used to create the world.
- Read **Colossians 1:16**, our verse to memorize,
  It says **all things** were created by Him (GOD). This includes everything in heaven and on earth. It includes everything we can see and everything we cannot see. The next part reminds us that he created thrones, powers, rulers and authorities. So, even if someone important thinks they made themselves powerful, they are wrong. *God did it.*
  The end of the verse tells us that **all things** were created through Him and for Him. God made everything for His pleasure.
- It is important to understand that God made everything. the last verse of Genesis 1 says, God saw all that He had made and it was very good.

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

What does this mean for you? What will you do with this Knowledge when your teacher tries to convince you that evolution Happened?

Goals for this Lesson:

- Students understand God created all things
- Students understand God made all things just by speaking
- Students understand God's Word as truth

Lesson 2 Unit 1

Where Did Everything Go Wrong?

Takeaway*: Humans chose to sin and the consequence is death and separation from God.*

Memory Verse

1 John 1:8- If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

Tell your class about a time you did something that you knew was wrong, but you tried to justify your reason for doing it. Share how guilty you felt afterwards.

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Open your Bible to **Genesis chapter 3**. Last week we read Genesis 1. We learned that God created the whole world. In verse 31 God looked at everything He had made and declared that it was "very good."
- In Genesis 3 that changes. Read **Genesis 3:1-13**.
- Questions about the passage:
    1. Who was the serpent?
    2. What rules did God give Adam and Eve?
    3. Why do you think Eve took the fruit and ate?
    4. Would you have eaten the fruit?
- God made Adam and Eve, the first people.
- He put them in a beautiful garden.
- He gave them rules to follow.
- Satan, as a serpent, tempted Eve with a luscious piece of fruit.
- She ate the fruit, gave it to Adam, he ate.
- They realized they had disobeyed. (Sinned)
- Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent.
- God punished them. (Genesis 3:14-19)
- Read the memory verse- **I John 1:8** - "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."
- Adam and Eve both tried to claim the sin wasn't their fault. Do we do that? What does the word "deceive" mean?

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

What are some areas of your life that you are deceiving yourself into thinking you are not doing wrong?

What does God's Word say about your behavior? The Bible is our rule book for life.

This week, take time to stop and reflect on your actions. Take time to change a behavior where the truth is not showing.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Students will understand that each of us sin.
- Students will recognize that when we sin we deceive ourselves.
- Students will understand that sin separates us from God and His plan.

Lesson 3 Unit 1

What Hope Do We Have for the Future?

Takeaway: *God chose to send His perfect Son to rescue us from the consequences of sin.*

Memory Verse

John 1:29- The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

Perhaps share about an important person that you had the privilege of meeting. At a conference or parade or even at a wedding, you wait for the special person to be introduced. In our lesson today, John, also known as John the Baptist, introduced Jesus, the most important person ever.

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- John- 4th book of the New Testament, shares the account of Jesus life.
- **John Chapter 1** shares about John the Baptist who announced to the world that Jesus had arrived. (verses 29-42)
    1. What do you know about John the Baptist?
    2. How did he get the name "Baptist"?
    3. How did John know who Jesus was? (Luke 1 :41-45)
- **John 1:29**, our memory verse says, "Look the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
- Last week we read **Genesis 3** and the first sin when Adam and Eve disobeyed and ate the forbidden fruit.
- In the memory verse we see Jesus, the lamb of God, prepared to die for our sin.
- God had to send His son Jesus to die on the cross to pay for our sins.
- Jesus was perfect. He never sinned so he was the only one who could take the punishment we deserved.
- **John 3:16-** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- **John 19:1-6** relays how Jesus was treated when he was arrested. (crown of thorns, purple robe, slapped in the face and the proclamation to crucify him)
- **John 19:17-37-** He carried his own cross and was crucified between 2 thieves. In verse 30, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit (died).
- **John 20:1-16-** Jesus resurrection from the dead. Victory over death and sin.
- **I Peter 3:18**- "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. he was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit."

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

Last week we learned that Adam and Eve sinned when they ate the fruit. Sin separates us from God and we are hopeless. Today we learned that John saw Jesus and announced that the Lamb of God was coming to take away the sin. Now we have hope, but only if we make the choice to invite Jesus into our life and ask Him to forgive us of our sin.

You have a choice to make. You can continue to be separated from God or you can choose to invite Jesus into your life and ask him to forgive you of your sin so you can live in heaven forever.

What choice will you make? If you have already made the choice to begin a relationship with Jesus, are you sharing Jesus with others?

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will recognize that sin separates them from God.
- Student will make the choice to begin a relationship with Jesus.
- Student will share Jesus with friends.

Review week

Memory Verses:

Colossians 1:16- For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

1 John 1:8- If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

John 1:29- The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Jeopardy

Who:

10 Who created the world?
20 Who were the first 2 people created by God?
30 Who started as an angel but got kicked out of heaven?
40 Who was known as the forerunner of Christ? (came before)
50 Who provided the way for us to have eternal life?

What:

10 What separates us from God?
20 What must you do to have a relationship with God?
30 What materials did God use to create the world?
40 What word did 1 John 1:8 use to describe us when we "claim we haven't sinned?
50 What did John the Baptist call Jesus?

Verses:

10 Genesis 1:1
20 John 3:16
30 I John 1:9
40 John 1:29
50 Colossians 1:16

Anything:

10 What camp is connected to the CIA program?
20 What do the letters CIA stand for?
30 What words did God use in Genesis 1 to describe His creation?
40 How do you earn points in CIA?
50 How many books are in the Bible? What are the names of the two parts of the Bible?

Objects:

10 What book do we study in CIA?
20 This item got Adam and Eve in trouble.
30 Where did God place Adam and Eve when He made them?
40 What covered the earth before God created it?
50 What did God use to provide clothing for Adam and Eve?

Lesson 1 Unit 2

What Are the Names of God? (Jehovah Rapha)

Takeaway: *God is the One who heals us physically and spiritually.*

Memory Verse:

Psalm 30:2- Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

Share a testimony with the students about someone who has received a physical and or spiritual healing from God. If you have a personal account that will be great for the students to hear.

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Jehovah Rapha is one of the names of God we are studying this year. This name for God means the God who heals physically and spiritually.
- **Exodus 25:26-** "He said, "If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD who heals you."
- Last unit we learned about Jesus' time here on earth. Now, Jesus has returned to heaven. We are going to look at the book of Acts in the New Testament. Acts is the history of early believers.
- Open your Bible to **Acts 9**. We are going to learn about Saul.
- **Read Acts 9: 1-9** Questions about this passage:
    1. What was Saul's opinion of those following the LORD?
    2. Who did Saul get a letter from so he could put Christians in prison?
    3. How did God get Saul's attention as he traveled to Damascus?
    4. How many days did he go without eating and drinking while he thought about his situation?
- **Read Acts 9:10-19** Questions for understanding:
    1. The Lord called to Ananias in a vision. What did he tell Ananias to do?
    2. Was Ananias obedient to the Lord?
    3. When Ananias placed his hands on Saul what happened?
- Reread **Acts 9:17-18**, Saul was healed spiritually. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saul was healed physically. Something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again.
- Saul took on a new job. He told people the good news of Jesus.
- Are you sharing the good news?
- Read the memory verse. Psalm 30:2 "Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me." When have you called to the Lord for help?

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

Do you need physical healing? Do you need spiritual healing? Have you called out to God and asked for a healing? Everyone needs a spiritual healing if you have not invited Jesus into your life.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will recognize that the name Jehovah Rapha means God provides physical and spiritual healing.
- Student will search his heart to determine whether he has received the spiritual healing God offers.
- Student will learn to call on the Lord for help.

Lesson 2 Unit 2

What Are the Names of God? (Jehovah Nissi)

Takeaway: *Victory in our struggles is found in God!*

Memory Verse:

Exodus 17:15- Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner.

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

Do you have a story where God has given you victory or provided a miracle? Share the story with your students. Personal stories are important.

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Jehovah Nissi is one name of God. The name means "the Lord is my banner."
- Provide a little background of Exodus.
  - God's chosen people the Israelites were slaves in Egypt.
  - God appointed Moses to lead the people away from Egypt and to the land He was giving them.
  - God had already shown His power by bringing them through the Red Sea, destroying the Egyptians, providing food in the form of manna and quail…
  - God traveled with the Israelites. He was a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night.
- Open your Bible to **Exodus 17** and have the students read it aloud.
- Questions for understanding:
  1. In the beginning of the chapter, what were the Israelites grumbling about?
  2. How did God provide water for the Israelites?
  3. What group of people attacked the Israelites?
  4. While Joshua led the army in the fight against the Amalekites, what was Moses doing?
  5. What happened when Moses' hands became tired?
  6. Who helped Moses keep his hands up so they could be victorious?
- Jehovah Nissi, the name for God means victory in our struggles is found in God.
- God gave the victory to the Israelites during their struggle with the Amalekites.

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- Moses had to stay focused on God throughout the entire battle against the Amalekites. Even when he was tired and he wanted to put his arms down, he couldn't. He couldn't give up. When he wanted to give up, Aaron and Hur helped him. God gave the victory.
- What are some situations you face where you want to give up? Who is helping you to remain faithful.
- The victory is recorded in the Bible. Are you recording the victories God is giving you.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Students will know what Jehovah Nissi means
- Student will share about a time where God gave them victory over a struggle
- Student will recognize that even in struggles he needs to hang on and let God win the battle.

Lesson 3 Unit 2

Why Does God Allow Bad Things to Happen?

Takeaway: *Even when we don't understand God's plan, we can trust His heart.*

Memory Verse:

Romans 8:28- And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

Are there things that happen in your life that you say, "why me?" Maybe you have a goal of being a great sports hero but then you are in an accident, and the injury leaves you with a permanent disability. Your dreams are destroyed. How do you deal with disappointment? Perhaps you are angry… Then someone quotes today's verse, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- We are studying Joseph today. Open your Bible to **Genesis 37**. Read verses **2 thru 11.**
- Joseph was one of twelve sons of Jacob. Some of them were half-brothers.
- Questions about this passage
    1. What did Joseph's Dad give him because he loved him so very much?
    2. How did his brothers feel about Dad giving him a special gift?
- Joseph's brothers were shepherds, taking care of sheep. Jacob sent Joseph to check on them.
- Read **Genesis 37:17-28**
- Questions about this portion of scripture
    1. When the brothers saw Jospeh coming to meet them, what was their first plan?
    2. What did they decide to do to Joseph when they saw the opportunity to make some money?
- Joseph was sold as a slave.
- He went to work for Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials.
- Potiphar's wife accused Joseph of misbehaving. She lied about him and he was sent to jail.
- Even while he was a prisoner, he was put in charge of the prison.
- He revealed the meaning of a dream that Pharaoh's butler had while in jail, but the butler forgot about Joseph.
- Joseph remained in jail for two more years.
- Pharaoh had a dream and the butler told him about Joseph.
- Joseph interpreted the dream, telling Pharaoh that a famine was coming in seven years.
- Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of storing food and named him second in command.
- **Genesis 42-44** relates how Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food but didn't know they bowed to their brother.
- Read **Genesis 45-47**. Joseph's reveals his identity and invites his brothers to live in Egypt. They are scared of him.
- In **Genesis 50:19-20** Joseph tells his brothers that although they intended to harm him, God meant the situation for good.

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- Think about a situation in your life that isn't going the way you want it to go. Is God growing you into a better person? "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will recognize that God is in control of his life.
- Student will learn that not all situations are easy but are part of God's plan.
- Student will reflect on his life and ask God how he can learn from a situation.

Lesson 4 Unit 2

Review Week

Memory Verse:

Psalm 30:2- Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.

Exodus 17:15- Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner.

Romans 8:28- And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

In lesson 1 we talked about God's name, Jehovah Rapha- the one who heals physically and spiritually. Have a testimony time. Allow the students to reflect for a minute. When have God healed them or someone close to them physically or spiritually. Give time for sharing. We are often so busy we don't listen.

In lesson 2 we learned God's name Jehovah Nissi- victory in our struggles or a miracle. Again offer a minute for the students to reflect and share when God has provided victory.

After the sharing time, PRAY and thank God for the healings and the miracles and victories. Use this time for the students to pray and thank God for what the others have shared.

Play a review game. Ask questions. Have 2 teams. Go back and forth. Take points away if one team gets noisy or calls out the answer. Give 10 points for each correct answer. Keep the game moving quickly. If a team doesn't know the answer, move to the other team with the same question.

1. Who was the man in Acts 9 who wanted to hurt/kill Christians?
2. How did God get Saul's attention?
3. How many days did Saul go without eating and drinking as he reflected on God?
4. God got Ananias' attention through a vision. What did he want Ananias to do?
5. Why didn't Ananias want to obey God and visit Saul?
6. When Ananias placed his hands, on Saul what happened?
7. What was Saul's new job, given to him by God?
8. What does Jehovah Rapha mean?
9. God's chosen people, the Israelites, were not free in Egypt. What were they?
10. God provided a leader for the Israelites. Who was he and what was he supposed to do?
11. Name three things God did for the Israelites that proved he was God?
12. What did God provide during the day and during the night to show He was with the Israelites?
13. Moses had to hold his hands up during battle so they would be victorious. What happened when he was tired?
14. What does Jehovah Nissi mean?
15. When bad things happen in your life does that mean God doesn't care?
16. Quote Romans 8:28. It has something to do with God working all things for our good.
17. Who was Joseph?
18. What did Joseph's dad give to him?
19. How did Joseph end up in Egypt as a slave?
20. Jospeh spent time in prison. What did he do for Pharaoh that landed him in a leadership position?
21. When Joseph was reunited with his brothers, how did he behave?

Lesson 1 Unit 3

What if I Have Doubts About God?

Takeaway: *When struggling with doubt, turn to Scripture to find the truth.*

Memory Verse:

Mark 9:24- Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

Do you ever doubt your ability to do something? Think about a new sport or activity. When you picked up a bat for the first time, did you believe you would hit the ball the immediately or did you wonder if you would ever connect the bat with the ball? Perhaps you struggle in math, and you doubt you will ever be able to figure out how to get the answer. In a few years you will be learning to drive a car. You might doubt your ability to remember all the details to become a safe driver. Today, we will be reminded to believe and to overcome our unbelief.

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Open your Bibles to **Mark 9:14-29**. Have the students read the passage aloud.
- Questions for understanding:
  1. A man brought his son to the disciples for a healing. What was wrong with his son?
  2. Why didn't the disciples heal him?
  3. What were some of the things the evil spirit did to the boy?
  4. According to verse 19, what does Jesus call this generation?
  5. What did the evil spirit do when it saw Jesus?
  6. What were some ways the spirit tried to kill the boy?
- The father of the boy asks Jesus for help. He says, "If you can do anything…"
- Jesus took charge of the situation. In verse 23 Jesus says, "Everything is possible for one who believes."
- The boy's father says, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief."
- Read the memory verse, "Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"
- Do we have unbelief when we should have belief?
- Jesus rebuked the impure spirit and commanded the spirit to come out of the boy and never enter him again.
  Questions for understanding:
  1. Was the spirit obedient?
  2. How did the spirit act when it came out of the boy?
  3. The boy looked dead. What did Jesus do to show there was life?
  4. The disciples wanted to know why they couldn't drive the spirit out. What was Jesus' answer?

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- Turn to scripture and prayer for answers in our personal life situations. Jesus said, "this kind of spirit can come out only by prayer. Are you spending enough time reading the Bible and praying? That is where you should find answers.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will identify an area of doubt and seek answers through scripture and prayer.
- Student will turn his doubts to Jesus.

Lesson 2 Unit 3

Why is There a Baby in a Manger? (Christmas)

Takeaway: *Jesus' birth brought hope for restoration from sin.*

Memory Verse:

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

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

Have you ever visited a museum and seen a display showing a scene, but you didn't know what it was? You had to read the plaque explaining the scene. Can you imagine if you didn't know that Jesus was placed feed trough as a baby? That would look unusual. Today we are going to read the account of Jesus' birth and learn how the shepherds reacted.

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Open your Bible to **Luke 2:1-20**. We will read it together.
- The accounts of Jesus' time on earth are recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. (The gospels.)
- **Luke 1:26-38** tells us how Mary found out she was going to be the mother of Jesus.
- **Matthew 1:18-25** tells us how Joseph knew he was going to be a part of Jesus life.
- Questions for comprehension:
    1. Where did Joseph and Mary travel to so they could register and pay taxes?
    2. When it was time for Mary to have her baby, what did she wrap him in and where did she lay him?
    3. The shepherds were in the fields, who appeared in the night sky?
    4. What was the important message the angel brought?
- Have you accepted Jesus as the Savior? Read verse 11 again.
- John 14:6- Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- There is no other way to get to heaven except through Jesus.
- When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds decided to go to Bethlehem to see this amazing scene.
- After they saw Jesus lying in the manger, they told everyone about it.
- Our lesson verse says, "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world."
- Are you "testifying" that Jesus is the Savior of the world?

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- When we started CIA this year, we learned that God made the world and everything in it.
- We learned that sin entered the world when the serpent (Satan) convinced Eve to eat the fruit. (First sin)
- We recognized that Jesus came to die for our sin.
- Today we heard the lesson that when Jesus came to earth as a baby, the angels proclaimed him as the Savior of the world.
- What will you do with this information? I hope you will make sure that you have invited Jesus into your life as your Savior.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will recognize Jesus as his Savior
- Student will learn that he has the responsibility to share the Good News of Jesus with everyone he meets.
- Student will understand that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Lesson 3 Unit 3

What Does the Baby in a Manger Have to Do with Me? (Christmas)

Takeaway: *Believing in Jesus will bring you healing from the brokenness of sin.*

Memory Verse:

1 Peter 2:24- "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*
Last week we had a Christmas lesson. When we think about Christmas, we often get excited. We have a break from school. We attend parties, eat lots of good food, and enjoy special gifts. It is not your birthday, but you get gifts. Do you take the time to think about the greatest gift ever? Today, we will read the scripture again and reflect.

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Think about this question. What does the baby in the manger have to do with me?
- Why did Jesus leave heaven and come to earth as a baby?
- Open your Bible to **Luke 1:26-32**. In this passage Mary finds out from an angel that God has a special plan for her.
- Read **Luke 1:30-31**. The angel tells Mary she will give birth to a son (Jesus). He is the Son of the Most High.
- Last week we read **Luke 2:11**- "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."
- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 1:18-24**. Read the verses.
- Questions for discussion:
  1. Mary was planning to get married to Joseph. How did Joseph find out she was having a baby?
  2. How was the baby conceived in Mary?
  3. In verse 21, what will the baby be named and what is His special plan?
  4. What did Jesus have to do to be able to "save his people from their sins?" (brokenness)
  5. Have you invited Jesus into your life to forgive you of your sins.
- Each one of us sins and deserves punishment. (eternity in hell)
- Jesus is the only way to heaven. **John 14:6**- Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- Our memory verse, **1 Peter 2:24**- "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."
- Jesus came as the baby in the manger so that he could grow up and die on the cross.
- He died on the cross so we could have our sins forgiven, BUT, you must ask him to forgive you of your sins.
- Salvation, deliverance for your sins, is a gift, but you must ask for it. It doesn't cost you anything but it cost Jesus everything.

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- Look at the nativity scene. Jesus is the baby. He is a gift for you. Have you received the gift of forgiveness?
- Once you have received the gift of salvation, you need to tell others how to receive the gift.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will recognize that sin in his life has caused brokenness and will lead to death.
- Student will understand that the baby in the manger is more than a little baby.
- Student will choose to accept the free gift of salvation offered by Jesus.

Review Week:

Memory Verse:

Mark 9:24- Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

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

1 Peter 2:24- "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

Play a review game with the kids. Cut cardstock in the shape of Christmas ornaments. (2 inch balls or stars…) On the back of each ornament write a point value. (5, 10, 20, 50) Divide the class into 2 teams. Ask questions for kids to answer. When a correct answer is given, the kid will select an ornament. The number of points listed on the back is what he receives for his team.

1. In the lesson where the man brought his son to Jesus, what was wrong with the son?
2. Why didn't the disciples heal the boy?
3. What were some of the things the evil spirit did to the boy?
4. Jesus took charge of the situation. He said, "everything is possible for the one who _____. (Mark 9:23)
5. According to our lesson verse, Mark 9:24, how long did it take for the father to believe?
6. Why couldn't the disciples make the spirit obey them and come out of the boy?
7. Quote Mark 9:24 starting with "Immediately…"
8. How did Mary find out she would be the Mother of Jesus, God's Son?
9. How did Joseph learn that he was still supposed to marry Mary?
10. Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem before Jesus was born?
11. When the shepherds learned from the angel that a Savior was born, what did they do?
12. After the shepherds visited Jesus, what did they do?
13. Quote I John 4:14. The verse talks about testify.
14. What does the word "testify" mean?
15. If you were one of the shepherds, what would you have testified?
16. It is your responsibility to share Jesus with others. Briefly tell me who Jesus is to you.
17. Jesus came to earth as a baby. What was His reason for leaving heaven?
18. What punishment do we deserve for our life of sin?
19. What did Jesus do to take our punishment for our sin?
20. Since Jesus died on the cross for our sins, does this mean everyone will go to heaven?
21. What must you do to spend eternity in heaven?
22. Jesus came to earth as a baby, a gift. Do you pay for a gift or do you receive it for free?
23. Have you received the free gift of salvation? How did you receive it?
24. Quote I Peter 2:24. The verse mentions that we are healed by His wounds.

Lesson 1 Unit 4

What Are the Miracles of Jesus? (Paralytic Through the Roof)

Takeaway: *Choose the people you spend time with carefully.*

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 13:20- Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

What kind of friends do you have? Are they friends that help you make smart choices or do they lead you toward negative behavior? True story: Many years ago a teen who loved animals was at a party with friends. She was playing with puppies outside. Inside, the party attendees were involved with illegal drugs. The police arrived and arrested everyone. One of the consequences involved losing her driving privileges. She suffered years without a driver's license because the hefty cost of taking the test and getting her license again were always out of reach financially. Look at our memory verse, "Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm." The takeaway is choose the people you spend time with carefully.

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Do you have wise friends?
- What does the Bible say about wise friends according to **Proverbs 13:20**, our memory verse for the week.
- Open your Bible to **Mark 2:1-12**. We will read this aloud and find out what kind of friends this man had.
- Questions for discussion:
  1. Jesus was in Capernaum teaching. What was his location?
  2. Describe the number of people in the area where Jesus was teaching.
  3. In verse 3 there was a paralyzed man. How many friends decided to take him to Jesus?
  4. Have you ever carried anything heavy a distance? Do you think this man got heavy?
  5. When the friends got to the house where Jesus was teaching, what was the next obstacle they experienced?
- In this account we see friends who cared about their paralyzed friend. They took a risk. They carried him to Jesus.
- We don't know how far they carried him. He would have gotten heavy. Then they arrived and faced the next problem.
- The house was full of people. They didn't let that stop them. They climbed up on the roof, carrying their friend.
- They dug a hole through the roof. They lowered the man down into the room. They overcame more problems.
- They had faith that Jesus was going to take action or they wouldn't have gone to such great effort.
- Jesus forgave the man of his sins. That was huge. Then, he offered him physical healing.
- He told him to get up and take his mat and go home.
- The friends played a great part in this story but they aren't recognized for their efforts.
- Questions to consider:
  1. As a friend, do you go to great effort to help a friend?
  2. As a friend, would you be upset that you weren't even recognized for your great idea and heavy work?

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- What can you do in your life this week to make sure you are walking with the wise. How easy is it to be caught with the fool?

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will understand the importance of choosing good friends.
- Student will think about whether they are a good friend.
- Student will recognize that doing good for a friend may not be noticed.

Lesson 2 Unit 4

What Are the Miracles of Jesus? (Ten Lepers)

Takeaway: *Remember to always be grateful.*

Memory Verse:

1 Thessalonians 5:18- Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

- Growing us, did you ever get sick and Mom said you were contagious? Did you have to stay in your room, away from others so you wouldn't make them sick? Did you feel lonely and isolated? Perhaps you weren't very thankful for your circumstances because you missed out on activities. Let's read our lesson verse…

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Today we are going to read a lesson that involves men with leprosy. Leprosy was a skin disease. In Bible times, it was believed that if you had leprosy you were contagious and anyone who touched you or breathed the air near you could "catch leprosy." If you had leprosy you were separated from your family and everything you loved.
- What is a miracle?
- Have you ever experienced a miracle in your life or in your family's life?
- Jesus performed many miracles. Open your Bible to **Luke 17:11-19**. Read the verses.
- Questions for understanding:
  1. Jesus was walking to Jerusalem. Along the way he saw 10 lepers. Why were they standing away from others?
  2. Why did they speak to him in a loud voice? What was their message?
  3. Jesus gave them a command. What was the command? Why was that an unusual command?
  4. The lepers went to see the priest. What miracle took place as they were going to see the priest?
  5. How many men realized they were healed?
  6. How many men remembered to come back to Jesus to say thank you?
- Read the memory verse. **1 Thessalonians 5:18**, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
- Do you think these men were grateful when they had leprosy?
- Were these men grateful when they received a miracle and were healed of leprosy?
- Are there circumstances in your life that you aren't grateful for?
- The verse says be grateful in "all circumstances."
- Do you think these lepers were grateful that they had leprosy and had to live separate than healthy people?
- As a leper, would you have been grateful when you were healed?

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- Write down 2 circumstances that you struggle with being grateful. Pray over these. Ask God to help you be grateful.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will recognize the command to be grateful in all circumstances.
- Student will identify a circumstance where he is not grateful and give the situation to God.
- Student will choose to express thanks.

Lesson 3 Unit 4

What Are the Parables of Jesus? (Parable of the Good Samaritan)

Takeaway: *God wants us to show kindness to everyone around us.*

Memory Verse:

Colossians 3:12- Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

- You are walking down the hall at school and a kid with a broken foot, using crutches for support just dropped a book. Do you stop and pick up the book or do you just walk on past because you are on your way to class and helping could make you late? He isn't the most popular kid in school, in fact, some people really avoid him. The memory verse for today says, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." If you were to stop and help, what part of this verse might you be showing?

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Explain "Parable" to the class. Earthly story with a deeper heavenly meaning.
- Open your Bible to Luke 10:25-37. Read the passage in class.
    - In verse 27, how much should you love the Lord your God?
    - What happened to the man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho?
    - What condition was the traveler in when the bad guys were done?
    - Who was the first person to come down the road? Would you have expected him to help?
    - The second man who came down the road was a Levite, he worked in the church. Should he have helped?
    - The third man was the least likely to help, why?
    - Who helped and what kind of help did he offer?
- In Bible times, the Priest and the Levite had excuses for not touching the injured man. If they touched him they could have been made unclean because of their laws. The man was probably bleeding. Then they wouldn't have been able to work.
- The Samaritan went above and beyond. He inconvenienced himself by serving. What did he give up by helping?
- Helping can be costly. The Good Samaritan gave up his time and money.
- What words would you use to describe his behavior? Are any of these words found in our Bible verse for the day?

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- Is helping someone always convenient?
- What are you willing to give up to help someone out?
- The memory verse for today says, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." What words in this verse stick out to you?

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will look for ways to demonstrate compassion this week.
- Student will recognize that kindness is not always convenient.
- Student will learn that serving can be costly.

Lesson 4 Unit 4

Review Week:

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 13:20- Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

1 Thessalonians 5:18- Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:12- Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Jeopardy

Who:

10 Who carried the paralyzed man to Jesus?
20 Who walked past the man who was beat up and didn't help? (name 1)
30 Who did Jesus tell the lepers to "go show themselves" to?
40 Who stopped to help the man who was beat up traveling to Jericho?
50 According to Colossians 3:12 who are we?

What:

10 What was wrong with the ten men who called out to Jesus in a loud voice?
20 What is a miracle? Name one from the Bible.
30 What happened to the man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho?
40 What kind of people are we to walk with if we want to make wise?
50 What did the Samaritan do to help the man who was attacked by robbers?

Verses:

10 Proverbs 13:20
20 I Thessalonians 5:18
30 Colossians 3:12
40 I John 4:14
50 I John 1:8

Anything:

10 How many lepers returned to tell Jesus thank you after they realized they were healed?
20 When you earn 300 points in CIA, what is your award?
30 When Jesus told a story that had a deeper meaning, what was it called?
40 Tell me about a time when you weren't grateful.
50 If you were explaining the plan of salvation to a friend, tell me what you would say.

Objects:

10 What book is 100% true and should be read each day?
20 What did the four friends remove so they could get their paralyzed friend to Jesus?
30 What did the Samaritan give to the innkeeper?
40 Name 5 things you are grateful for?
50 When the Samaritan stopped to help the man who was injured, what did he use to help him?

What Are the Parables of Jesus? (Parable of the Unforgiving Servant)

Takeaway: *God wants us to show forgiveness to those around us in the same way He has forgiven us.*

Memory Verse:

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

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

- What does it mean to forgive? Imagine a new x-box. You enjoy hours of fun with your friends. One day when you're not home, your little brother finds his way into your room and destroys the controls. Now you can't play against your friends. Dad and Mom tell you to forgive your little brother. He didn't understand that he was ruining your things. How are you going to respond? Are you going to pound him or forgive him? Ephesians 4:32 is our verse for the week and it is a good verse to memorize. "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Today we are reading another parable, an earthly story with a deeper heavenly meaning.
- Open your Bible to Matthew 18:21-35 and we will read it aloud.
- Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone who sins against him. He thinks 7 times is a generous number.
- Questions for discussion:
  1. The King was settling accounts with his servants and expecting them to pay what they owed. How much did the first servant owe him?
  2. What were the consequences if he couldn't pay the debt?
  3. The servant asked for patience so he could figure out how to pay up. How did the king respond?
  4. Did the King cancel a large debt?
  5. The servant who had been forgiven a huge debt, found another servant who owed him a small debt, was he willing to forgive?
  6. What happened to the one who owed a small amount?
  7. How did the King react when he heard the servant's actions?
- Think about this: The King is God and you are servant with the large debt of sin. Do you want God to forgive you?
- Considering that God/Jesus has forgiven you for ALL your sins, what should you do when someone wrongs you?
- The end of the memory verse says, "forgiving each other, just as God forgave you." The way you forgive needs to match how God forgives you.

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- Reflect on the verse. Are you kind and compassionate? If you are "kind and compassionate" do people know it is because you love Jesus and want to live the way he has commanded?
- Think about a friend or family member that needs to be forgiven for doing something wrong to you. It is time to forgive and get back to being a good friend.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will evaluate his life to see if he is willing to forgive as God forgave him.
- Student will recognize kindness and compassion as powerful qualities in his life.
- Student will strive to forgive as God forgave him.

Lesson 2 Unit 5

What Did Jesus Teach? (Loving Your Enemies)

Takeaway: *Extend God's love to everyone, even the ones that are difficult.*

Memory Verse:

Luke 6:35- But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

- Last week we talked about forgiveness. This week we are learning about loving your enemies. Do you have any enemies? I hope not. Think about the most difficult person you know. Middle school students are constantly irritating each other. Boy #1 sits across from Boy #2 in the cafeteria. He smashes the snack crackers, rips the lunch box and kicks under the table with the steel-toed boots he is wearing. Boy #2 sits quietly and accepts the mistreatment. How should he act? Should he fight back? Should he try to win Boy #1 with kindness? Read our lesson verse. "But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. What could/should he do?

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Open your Bible to **Luke 6:35**. Read the verse.
- We will discuss this verse line by line:
  - "But love your enemies." What is an enemy? Do you have enemies? What would it look like to love your enemy?
  - "Do good to them." What does it look like to do good to an enemy? Would you share your favorite snack with them?
  - "Lend to them without expecting to get anything back." What would you be willing to give without expecting anything in return? Do you expect recognition for giving?
  - "Then your reward will be great." What would be a great reward? Is recognition for your behavior enough of a reward?
  - "You will be children of the Most High" What words are capitalized? Who is the Most High? Do you want to be His child? Why? What is the reward?
  - "Because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked." What actions make Him kind? Have you stopped to thank him for His kindness? Are you one of the ungrateful and wicked? Think about your behavior. What needs to change?
- Biblical examples of this verse in action is found in **I Samuel 24** and **I Samuel 26**.
- Saul was the first king for God's people the Israelites. He made poor choices and God chose David to be the next king.
- Saul was angry at David. Saul and his army continuously chased David to kill him.
- On two separate occasions, God allowed David to be in a position where he could have killed Saul.
- David cut a piece of Saul's robe off to prove he was close enough to kill Saul.
- David went into Saul's camp and took his spear and water jug while everyone slept to prove he spared Saul again.
- David would not kill the Lord's anointed leader.

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- Do you have an enemy? Choose to do something nice for them this week. You may have to do many nice things.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will choose to extend God's love to others, even those who are difficult.
- Student will begin to pray for an enemy this week.
- Student will complete an action of kindness without expecting anything in return.

Lesson 3 Unit 5

What Did Jesus Teach? (Salt and Light)

Takeaway: *You have the opportunity to point others to Jesus by how you live.*

Memory Verse:

Matthew 5:14- "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

- Have you ever been in a dark theatre and someone's cell phone lights up? You see it immediately. Perhaps you have been in a candlelight service where someone with a candle lights someone else's candle and they continue to light candles until the entire room is bright with light. That can be you sharing Jesus with the world. Don't hide your testimony. The lesson verse for today says, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- What does your behavior say to those around you? Do you reflect Jesus? Do your friends know that you belong to Jesus or do you act just like the other teens in your class?
- Our memory verse is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (**Matthew 5-7**). It says, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."
- Are you being the light?
- Open your Bible to **Acts 16:16-35**. This is the account of Paul and Silas.
- They were missionaries telling the world about Jesus.
- Questions for understanding:
  1. A servant girl followed Paul and Silas shouting. What was she saying?
  2. How did Paul and Silas set this girl free?
  3. They were severely beaten thrown in prison for sharing Jesus. Did they stop being the "light"?
  4. What were Paul and Silas doing to continue to be the light?
  5. An earthquake happened. The prisoners chose to stay even though they could have escaped. Because of their behavior, what did the jailer want to know?
- Paul and Silas had the opportunity to share Jesus with the jailer because they didn't stop shining even in a dark place.
- The jailer's life was completely changed. He took Paul and Silas out of jail. He washed their wounds and he fed them.
- The jailer and his whole household (family) believed in Jesus.
- God worked in an amazing way and provided a way for Paul and Silas to be released from jail.

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- You are in a world that is dark. People need to know Jesus.
- What can you do to point people to Jesus?
- What does your language say?
- What do the graphics on your shirts say?

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will point people to Jesus by being a light for Jesus.
- Student will understand that the world is watching even when they aren't talking.
- Student will speak to others about Jesus.

Lesson 4 Unit 5

Review Week:

Memory Verse:

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

Luke 6:35- But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

Matthew 5:14- "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."

Choose a review method.

Option 1: Divide the class into groups. Give each group one of the verses from the unit. Allow them to illustrate the verse and then explain it to the remainder of the class. If you have a large group, you may choose to have 2 or 3 groups illustrate each verse.

Option 2: Ask review questions and assign point values to determine a winner.

1. What is a parable?
2. What does it mean to forgive?
3. Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone. How did Jesus respond?
4. The King was settling accounts. When he found a servant who owed him lots of money, did he require immediate payment?
5. The man couldn't pay back the large amount of money so what did the King do?
6. The man who had been forgiven a huge debt found another servant who owed him money. How did he treat the man?
7. Ephesians 4:32 tells us to "be kind and compassionate." What is one thing you can do to show this?
8. We are to forgive each other, just as Christ forgives… Is it easy to forgive someone? Why or why not?
9. Quote Ephesians 4:32.
10. According to Luke 6:35- How should you treat your enemies?
11. What reward will you receive if you treat your enemies well?
12. Who is the "Most High" in the verse?
13. King Saul didn't like David. What did David have the opportunity to do to King Saul but didn't?
14. Name one way David proved that he could have killed Saul but spared his life.
15. According to Matthew 5:14 what are you to the world?
16. How can you be a light to the world?
17. Paul and Silas were missionaries. What is a missionary?
18. Why were Paul and Silas put in prison?
19. Even in prison, what did Paul and Silas do to be a light?
20. How did the jailer respond after the earthquake?
21. Quote Matthew 5:14.

Lesson 1 Unit 6

How Do I Grow in My Relationship with God? (Spiritual Discipline- Worship)

Takeaway: *You grow in your relationship with God by worshipping Him, no matter what you feel like.*

Memory Verse:

John 4:24- God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

- Have you ever attended a sporting event like baseball, basketball, or soccer? You watch as the player scores a run, basket, or goal. Do you sit quietly or are you on your feet clapping, cheering, and yelling with excitement? We are expressing praise to the team for their accomplishments. Today we are going to learn about worship. Worship is giving praise to God. God is great. He always deserves our praise/worship.

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- The title of the lesson is How do I grow in my relationship with God? (Spiritual Discipline- Worship)
- We are going to break this down. Do you have a relationship with God? If you do, you don't expect to stay the same as the day you started.
- A baby starts out needing constant care, but the baby grows, they learn to sit up, crawl, walk, run and eventually they are independent. None of you had Mom feed you breakfast. You fed yourself.
- As a Christian you started out having someone teach you about Jesus but then you began to read the Bible, memorize verses, pray, etc.
- Spiritual disciplines are things we do to grow as Christians. One of those disciplines is Worship.
- What is worship? Worship is giving praise to God. God is great and deserves our praise.
- How do you worship? You can worship by singing songs, dancing, bow down in reverence…
- To begin personal worship, you can reflect on words that describe God. Use the alphabet to get started…Awesome, Believable, Compassionate, Dependable, Eternal…
- Worship by looking up verses that go with each descriptive word.
- Think about this: What if you have a bad day? *You studied for a test but received a bad grade. Your family isn't getting along. Your best friend just moved away.* Do you still worship?
- YES! Worship helps you to focus and put life back in order.
- Listen to worship music.
- Our verse for the week says, "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in Spirit and in truth." Since God is a spirit, we don't need to limit our worship to just a building like church. We can worship at home, at school, in nature…
- God will meet us where we are and refresh our souls. (**Psalm 23:3**)

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- This week you need to work on the Spiritual Discipline of worship. Take time to worship by writing a list of words that describe God and look up verses that verify those descriptions.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will understand that God is a spirit so you can worship God anywhere.
- Student will recognize God for who He is and will give Him honor and adoration in worship.
- Student will grow as a Christian by practicing Spiritual Disciplines.

Lesson 2 Unit 6

How Do I Grow in My Relationship with God? (Spiritual Discipline- Fasting)

Takeaway: *You grow in your relationship with God when you make Him your primary need and focus.*

Memory Verse:

Psalm 16:8- I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

- "I'm starved. Roar! My stomach is growling. I need food." Have you ever said those words? When we go a few hours without eating, we naturally reach for food to satisfy our desires. Did you know that in some poor countries, they may only eat once a day? We would complain. Today we will learn that denying ourselves something we desire is beneficial to spiritual growth.

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Last week we talked about growing as a Christian. (Spiritual Disciplines)
- We focused on the Spiritual Discipline of Worship. This week our focus is the Spiritual Discipline of Fasting.
- Fasting is often staying away from food for a period of time, maybe a day.
- We usually eat when we want to. Our stomach growls and we reach for food to satisfy our need or desire.
- During a fast, when you feel hunger pains you stop and pray. You lean into God to give you strength to make it.
- Fasting can remind you of your need for God more than food.
- Our lesson verse says, "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken."
- In the book of Esther in the Bible, Esther the queen, calls for a fast among the Jews. (**Esther 4-7**)
- Queen Esther was a Jew, but King Xerxes didn't know she was a Jew.
- King Xerxes had just signed a law that Jews could be killed on a certain day.
- King Xerxes hadn't called for Esther to come to him for 30 days.
- Esther could be killed if she went to the King without his invitation.
- She asked the Jews to fast and pray, then she would go to the King to plead for the Jews to be spared.
- God went before Esther and prepared King Xerxes' heart. Esther was accepted and the Jews were allowed to live.
- You can also fast, by staying away from your phone screen and computer.
- In a media fast, you can lock up your phone for 24 hours.
- Every time you want to look at your phone, you can stop and pray and read the Bible.
- Your phone can rob you of time you should be spending with God.
- The person writing this lesson puts her phone in the kitchen so she can focus on quiet time with God in the other room.
- Don't think a media fast is just hard on teens. It is hard on adults also.
- Discipline is not easy. It is hard but worth it. You grow in your relationship with God.
- There are many accounts of fasting in the Bible. *(Daniel 9, Ezra 8, Acts 9, Acts 14, Luke 4)*

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- It is important to grow in your Christian walk. Practicing Spiritual Disciplines is one way to grow. Think about food that is important to you. Perhaps you are dependent on chocolate or an energy drink every day. Choose to go without for a day or a week. When your body is crying for your to eat or drink what you have given up, stop, pray and read the Bible.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will give up (fast) something important and lean in to God for strength.
- Student will recognize the importance of growing as a Christian.
- Student will understand that discipline is not easy but necessary to grow as a Christian.

Lesson 3 Unit 6

How Do I Use My Gifts for Jesus?

Takeaway: *You can serve Jesus by using your gifts to point other people towards Him.*

Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 10:31- So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

- The lesson title is "How do I use my gifts for Jesus?" Gifts is another word for talents. How do I use my talents for Jesus? Do you have talents? Some of you are probably saying you don't have any talents. A man with serious learning disabilities uses His talents. He was in second grade before he learned to write his name. He can't read and doesn't know how much money things cost, but, he is involved in his church and community organizations. He will empty trash cans, wash pots and pans for hours, and deliver food to needy people. He uses his talents. What can you do?

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Open your Bible to **I Corinthians 10:31**. Read the verse.
- So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
- Think about what you eat, does it glorify God? What does the food do for your body? Is it healthy?
- What do you drink? Is it hard on your body? Does it slow down your reaction time?
- "Whatever you do", that takes in all your actions.
- "Do it all for the glory of God." Everything you do should be done to glorify God.
- Think about it this way, Can I put a GG beside what I am doing? Does it Glorify God?
- When you are studying a lesson, doing a school assignment, are you doing it for God's Glory?
- When you are helping with chores at home or practicing on a sport's team, are you doing it for God's Glory?
- When you are reading God's Word, having your quiet time, singing at church, are you doing it for God's Glory?
- Are you telling people about Jesus?
- Read **I Corinthians 6:19-20**- "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, who you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."
- Everything you do, you should do with 100% effort. Often, we do just enough to get by.
- Open your Bible to Luke 21:1-4. Read the verses aloud.
    - Jesus was watching people put their gifts (money) into the temple treasury. What did the poor widow put into the treasury?
    - What did Jesus say about the gift the widow gave?
    - Why was the gift valuable to Jesus, especially when other people put in more money?
    - What would you have to put into the treasury? A little from your wealth or all your dad's?

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- What are you going to change this week? What activity are you going to give 100% effort?
- God has blessed you with gifts. Are you going to use them for the glory of God or will you do as little as possible?

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will learn that his gifts (talents) belong to God.
- Student will recognize that everything he does is to be done for God's Glory.
- Student will realize God gives talents to everyone, and we need to give them back to God.

Lesson 4 Unit 6

Review Week:

Memory Verse:

John 4:24- God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Psalm 16:8- I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

1 Corinthians 10:31- So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1. What is a Spiritual Discipline?
2. Worship is a Spiritual Discipline. What is worship?
3. Do you need to be in church to worship?
4. Why does God deserve our worship?
5. What can you do at home to worship?
6. Quote John 4:24.
7. Fasting is a Spiritual Discipline. What is fasting?
8. When you are fasting from food, what should you do when hunger pains take over?
9. Why is fasting important?
10. There was something about Queen Esther that King Xerxes didn't know. What was it?
11. King Xerxes signed a law that Jews could be killed on a certain day. What action did Esther take?
12. When the Jews fasted, God changed the situation. Esther went to the King. What happened?
13. Quote Psalm 16:8
14. What is one way you can keep your eyes always on the Lord?
15. Can you fast from your electronics, including your phone?
16. Is discipline easy? Then why do we do it?
17. In lesson 3 we learned to use our gifts for Jesus. What gifts do we have to use for God?
18. Quote I Corinthians 10:31.
19. The verse says that "whatever you do" should be for God's Glory. What does this mean?
20. If you only do part of your homework, are you living out the verse?
21. You are told to clean your room, what would you need to do to "do it for the glory of God"?
22. What food or drink that you put in your body would not bring "glory to God"?
23. If you share the message of Jesus' love with your friends, how is that bringing "glory to God"?
24. What is one gift you can use to serve God?

Lesson 1 Unit 7

What Does the Cross Mean for Me?

Takeaway: *When Jesus took my sin on the cross, He gave me the opportunity to be restored to relationship with God again.*

Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 15:3- For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

- The young child loved playing pretend. As Easter approached, he stretched out his arms like he was dying on the cross. He told his older brother he was playing Jesus and dying on the cross to save people from sin. Unexpectedly, the child died, and his parents made the decision to donate his organs to provide life for those who were running out of hope. His Mom said, "he couldn't be Jesus and die for the sins of people but he could rescue someone who was dying physically." That story is true. Our lesson verse I Corinthians 15:3 says, "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,"

- ***Connect:*** *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*
- The first two lessons this year were about creation and the first sin.
- Where were Adam and Eve living when they ate the fruit?
- What was the punishment for disobedience? *They were kicked out of the Garden of Eden. Their relationship with God was broken.*
- From the time they sinned, God planned a way to restore the relationship.
- God's plan was to send His Son, Jesus to die on the cross for the sins of everyone.
- Open your Bibles. Read **Romans 5:8**. Did Jesus wait for us to get our life cleaned up before he died for us?
- Jesus died for us while we were still living in sin.
- Open your Bible. Read **John 19:14-30** aloud.
- Questions for understanding:
    1. Pilate tried to release Jesus because he realized he was innocent. What did the Jews holler?
    2. Verse 30, what were Jesus last words before He died?
- After Jesus died, He was buried in a cave (tomb) and a large stone was put over the entrance. On the first day of the week, women came to the tomb to put spices on Jesus' body.
- Read **John 20:1-2, 11-17** aloud.
- Questions for understanding:
    1. Mary knew Jesus died during the crucifixion, so why was she crying now?
    2. Who did Mary say she was looking for?
    3. What command does Jesus give in verse 17?
- Our lesson verse for today is I Corinthians 15:3 says, "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures."

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- Mary was told to go and tell others that Jesus was alive. Our verse says to "pass on what was of first importance: that Christ died… Have you passed that message on to others.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will know he has the responsibility to share Jesus death and resurrection with others.
- Student will recognize opportunities to tell others the Good News about Jesus.

Lesson 2 Unit 7

What Does the Empty Tomb Mean for Me? (Easter)

Takeaway: *When Jesus was raised to life again, he gave me the opportunity to be raised to new life too!*

Memory Verse:

John 11:25- Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

- Have you ever attended a funeral or a graveside service where a body is being put in the ground. You know you will never see that person on this earth again. It is a sad time. Last week we learned that Jesus was put in the tomb after he died, but he came back to life. When the women and the disciples went to the Jesus tomb, they found it empty. Other religions had leaders that they followed. Each of those leaders died. The body of each leader is still in the grave where it was put. None of them came back to life. That is what makes Christianity different. JESUS IS ALIVE. Because Jesus is alive, we have hope of eternity. Our verse says, "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

- ***Connect:*** *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*
- Have you ever asked yourself, How did Jesus come back to life?
- Look at the verse for today. Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;
- Resurrection means, "the action or fact of restoring a dead person to life."
- Open your Bible to Acts 2:24 and read it aloud.
    1. Who raised Jesus from the dead?
    2. Why was it impossible for death to keep its hold on him?
- Read Acts 2:29-34 aloud. Answer discussion questions.
    1. David was a king in the Old Testament, a great leader. Where is David's body today?
    2. In verse 32, who raised Jesus?
    3. Who are the witnesses to Jesus' resurrection?
    4. Verse 33, where is Jesus today?
- Read I Peter 3:18-22.
    1. Jesus suffered and died for our sins to bring us to God. How many times did he have to suffer and die?
    2. Jesus' body died, but what was it that came alive in him?
    3. According to verse 22, where is Jesus today, and who is he in authority over?
- Read I Corinthians 15:53-57 aloud
- We inhabit perishable bodies. We will die and be made alive becoming imperishable. Mortal bodies will transform into immortal bodies.
- Verse 57 reminds us that our eternal life is because Jesus was victorious over death. We are VICTORIOUS.

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- We have a leader, (Savior) who lives. This is different than other faiths. We need to accept that fact that Jesus died and rose again so we can spend eternity in heaven. Have you ever made the decision to follow Jesus? It not, pray and ask Jesus to forgive you of your sin and come live inside of you

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will understand Jesus died and is alive again.
- Student will recognize that because Jesus lives, we can live for eternity.
- Student will choose to surrender his life to Jesus and live for Him.

Lesson 3 Unit 7

Why Did God Send the Holy Spirit to Us?

Takeaway: *God sent His Holy Spirit to be with us always and guide us into remembering what Jesus taught about how to live.*

Memory Verse:

John 14:26- But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

- What happens when you get into a discussion with another student in class, and you aren't in agreement? You need an advocate. What is an advocate? An advocate is someone who supports or recommends a cause or policy. They can offer you advice and help. Today we are going to learn that if we have Jesus as our Savior, we have an Advocate. That Advocate is the Holy Spirit. Our verse for today is John 14:26- But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- When Jesus was here on earth, He taught many people including the disciples. Everything he did was correct.
- Jesus knew that the disciples would need someone to help them make good choices after he returned to heaven.
- Open your Bible to **John 14:16-17, 26**. Read these verses.
- Questions for discussion:
    1. Jesus told the disciples he would ask God to send an Advocate. Who is the Advocate and what is his job?
    2. In verse 17 the "Spirit", *capital "S"* is the Holy Spirit. What word describes "Spirit"?
    3. In verse 26 the Holy Spirit has two roles, what are they?
    4. So, if the Holy Spirit's job is to teach and remind you of all things that Jesus has taught, how will we know these things to begin with?
- Read **Romans 8:26-27**. Read this passage aloud. Answer the discussion questions.
    1. Have you ever been in a situation where you needed to pray but you didn't know what to say?
    2. What does the Holy Spirit do for us in this situation?
    3. What does it mean to "intercede"?
    4. God sees our hearts. The Spirit knows us and speaks to God on our behalf. Are you grateful for an Advocate?
- **Acts 2:38** reminds us that we need to repent and be baptized… in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins… And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Have you repented… do you have the Holy Spirit?
- Read **I Corinthians 6:19-20**. You have the Holy Spirit living in you, you need to honor God with how you live. Since the Holy Spirit is living in you, how should you behave? What should not be put in your body?
- Galatians 5:22-23 tells us what the Fruit of the Spirit looks like. Read these verses and see how you are doing.
- When Jesus was on earth, he told the disciples he was going away but He would not leave them alone. **John 14:26**
- We just touched the subject of the Holy Spirit. Google "***Holy Spirit"*** and read all about the benefits He offers.

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- The Holy Spirit is available to teach, remind, comfort, intercede… What areas of your life are you going to allow the Holy Spirit to guide you? When you don't know how to respond to a situation, seek out the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.
- Student will recognize the Holy Spirit's power in prayer.
- Student will study God's Word the Bible so they can know when the Holy Spirit is speaking.

Lesson 4 Unit 7

Review Week:

Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 15:3- For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

John 11:25- Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

John 14:26- But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Jeopardy

Who:

10 Who were the first two people to disobey (sin)?
20 Who is the "Advocate"?
30 Who died on the cross to pay for the punishment of our sin?
40 Who did Jesus tell the disciples He would send to help them when He was gone from them?
50 Who tried to release Jesus because he realized Jesus was innocent?

What:

10 What does Easter mean to you?
20 What does the word "crucifixion" mean?
30 What is the job of the Holy Spirit?
40 What "Fruit of the Spirit" is hardest for you to live?
50 Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would "intercede" for us. What does it mean to "intercede"?

Verses:

10 I Corinthians 10:31
20 John 14:26
30 John 3:16
40 Matthew 5:14
50 I Corinthians 15:3

Anything:

10 How long will life in heaven last?
20 When you earn 300 points in CIA, what is your award?
30 What makes Jesus different than leaders of other religions?
40 When Jesus came back to life that was called _____?
50 What must someone do to receive life in heaven forever?

Objects:

10 What book is 100% true and should be read each day?
20 What symbol do we use to represent Jesus giving His life for us?
30 Where was Jesus' body placed after He died?
40 What did the serpent use to tempt Eve to sin?
50 What was placed over the tomb to keep Jesus' body in?

Lesson 1 Unit 8

How Do I Make Disciples for Jesus?

Takeaway: *I can share my faith boldly with my friends and family.*

Memory Verse:

1 Peter 3:15- But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

- You leave your classroom to go to the office to be dismissed to attend CIA. Your friend wants to know where you are going and why? Why would you leave your favorite class to go learn about Jesus? What is your answer?

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Open your Bible to **I Peter 3:15**, our verse for today. "But in your hearts revere *(deep respect or admiration)* Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."
- Jesus is the reason for your hope, but only if you have invited Him to be your Savior. If not, receive Him today.
- Are you ready to share Jesus with your classmates, family, neighbors…?
- Are you scared they might make fun of you or kill you?
- Open your Bible to **I Kings 18**. Be ready to follow along and read verses.
    1. Have you ever felt like you were the only one who loved God in your class or family?
    2. Do you have enough information about Jesus to share who He really is to others?
- Elijah was a prophet of the LORD. He told King Ahab (wicked man) that it wouldn't rain for a few years. (**I Kings 17:1**)
- There was famine in Samaria and King Ahab was angry. He was looking to kill Elijah. **I Kings 18:2**
- Ahab and Elijah met. Elijah felt like he was the only prophet of the LORD. **vs. 16-22**
- Elijah told Ahab to meet him on Mt. Carmel along with the 450 prophets of Baal (false god). **vs. 22**
- Elijah asked the people how long they would try to follow God and Baal. *Have you chosen God?* **vs.21**
- Prophets of Baal built an altar to sacrifice an animal, the catch, Baal would have to light the fire. **vs. 25**
- The prophets of Baal called to their god all morning with no results. Elijah taunted them. **vs. 26-29**
- Late in the day, Elijah rebuilt the altar of God. He put wood and the animal on the altar. **vs 30-31**
- He had a ditch dug around the altar and 12 large jars of water poured over the wood. *Does wet wood burn?* **vs. 31-35**
- Elijah asked the LORD God to show His power. **vs 37**
- God answered. He burned the sacrifice, wet wood, stones, soil and dried up the water. **vs 38**
- The people fell to the ground and proclaimed, "The LORD- He is God! The LORD- He is God! **vs 39**
- Read the lesson verse. "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- Are you bold or do you hide? Do you feel like you are the only one following God? Elijah was both.
- Pray for courage to follow God and speak to others.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will understand they need to stand up for what they believe.
- Student will recognize the need to be prepared to give the world an answer about Jesus.
- Student will be bold in his faith.

Lesson 2 Unit 8

Who Am I Because of What Jesus Did?

Takeaway: *You are God's child and He has called you to a different way of living as His child.*

Memory Verse:

1 John 3:1- See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Capture: *Share an engaging story to capture their attention.*

- Have you ever struggled with fitting in? Perhaps you are not athletic, and your friends always want to play baseball or basketball. You feel out of place. Maybe, in your family, you feel out of place. Perhaps you are the youngest and the older siblings have many more privileges. Did you know that God has offered you a special place as a child of God? You only need to invited Jesus into your life and that makes you a member of God's family.

Connect: *Point them to Scripture and open Bibles.*

- Question: Have you invited Jesus into your life as your Lord and Savior?
- Open your Bible to **John 1:12**. Who are we once we believe in the Lord Jesus and receive him?
- What rights do "children" receive from a parent versus those who are "guests"?
- Look at the lesson verse, **I John 3:1** "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him."
- Questions for discussion:
  1. What does "lavished" mean?
  2. What benefits does a child have that others do not, especially as a "child of God"?
  3. Why doesn't the world "know us" or understand us?
  4. How do we "know him"?
- Open your Bible to **Romans 8:14-17**. Read these verses.
- Questions for discussion:
  1. If you are led by the Spirit of God, what do you become?
  2. Once you receive the Spirit, you are no longer a slave? Does a slave share in the master's estate?
  3. Once you receive the Spirit, you are adopted? What is adoption? Does an adopted child share the same as a biological child in the family estate?
  4. We have the right to call God "Abba Father". ("Papa God"- close relationship) Does a Father love his children?
  5. Verse 17 says, "we are heirs". What is an heir?
  6. We are "co-heirs" with Christ. That is very important. Tell me what co-heirs are in an estate.
- Read Philippians 2:15 We are to become blameless and pure, "children of God" without fault. Are you his child?

Call: *How does this apply to our lives? What do we do with this?*

- The author of this lesson has adopted children. Those children will receive an inheritance like a biological child. They are loved. You are loved by God like his beloved Son Jesus. Have you made the choice to become his child and share in the inheritance of eternal life? He has "lavished" His love on us. You can receive the gift by confessing your sins to Jesus and inviting him into your life.

Goals for the Lesson:

- Student will give thanks for the realization that God has lavished love on us as children.
- Student will understand he can be a "child of God" by inviting Jesus into his life.
- Student will recognize that God has provided eternal life for His children.