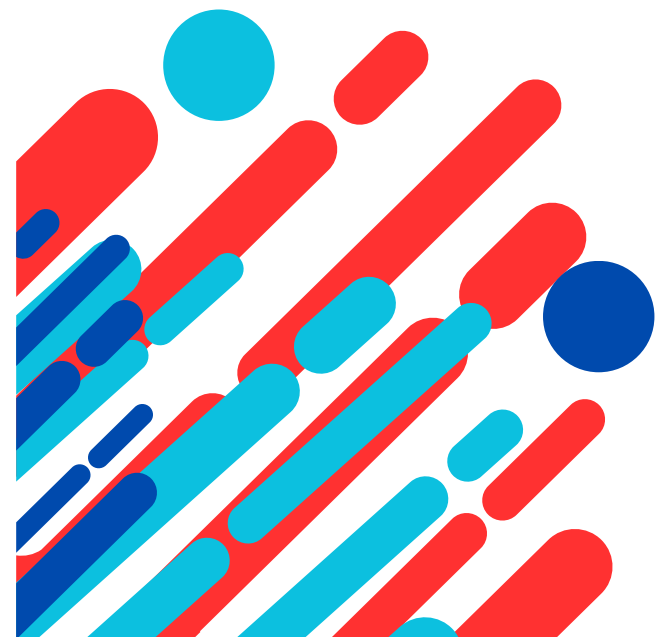
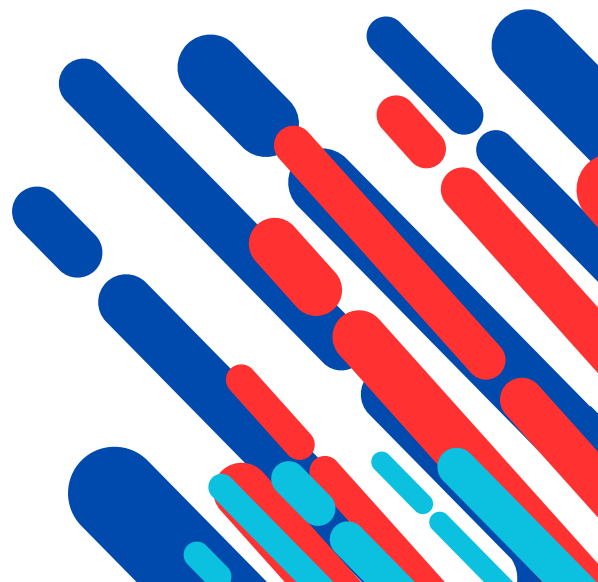
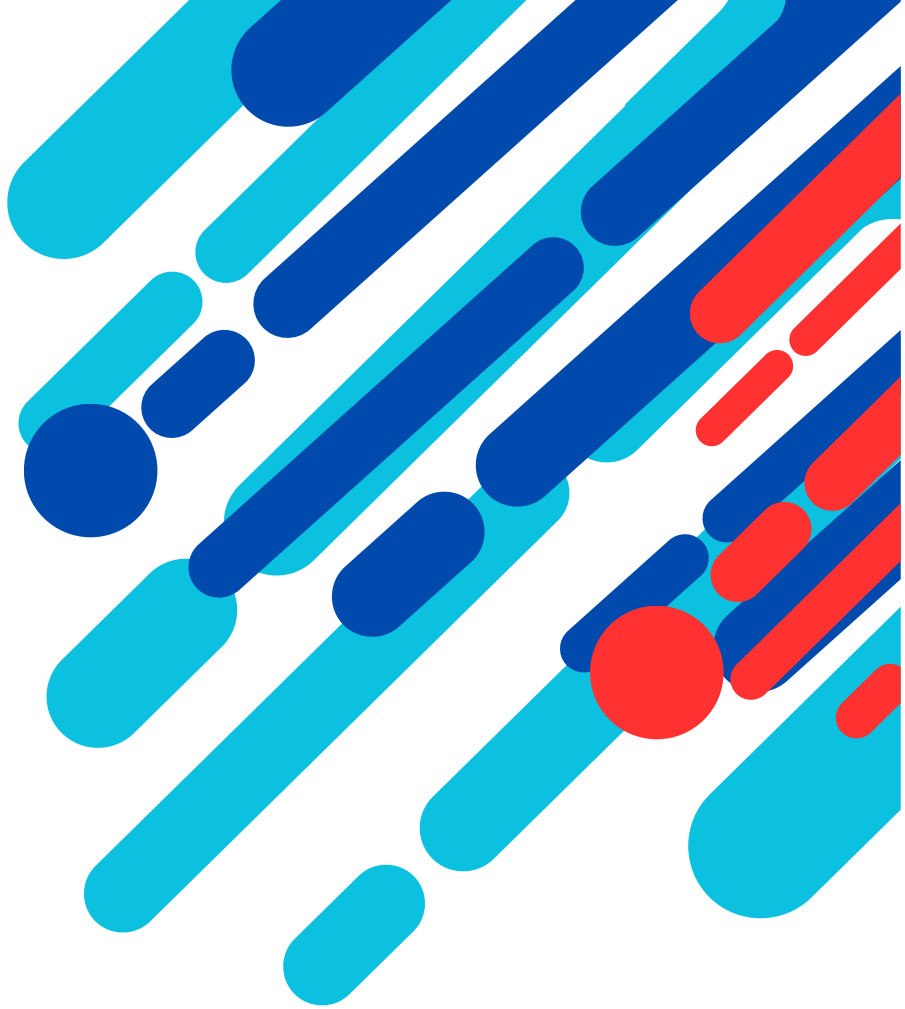


PARENT  
GUIDE

# GOOD NEWS

**THE GOOD NEWS  
OF THE GOSPEL IN  
6 LESSONS**





# LESSON 1 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit:

**God. Man. Sin. Christ. Response. Restoration.**

August 4, 2024

### Objective

Using the structure of “God, Man, Sin, Christ, Response, Restoration,” we will teach the Gospel to the kids one element at a time. This week, we will focus on the idea that the Gospel message begins with a good God who created everything for His glory.

### Big Question

*Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.*

Question: Why are we required to obey God’s commands?  
Answer: Because He is our Creator.

### Scriptures

Teach from: Daniel 2:20-23, 4:28-37, Jeremiah 29:11, & Isaiah 42:8.

Lesson Key Verse: Isaiah 42:8

Unit Memory Verse: Romans 10:15

### Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

*Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.*

1. God is our Creator, so He makes the rules.
2. We are accountable to God.
3. God is jealous for us.

### Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Daniel 2 and 4) takes place after the Israelites had been in the Promised Land for about 700 years and about 600 years before Jesus was born. At this point in HIStory, God’s people had been taken captive by the Babylonians because of their rejection of Him.

### Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use our text in Daniel to make the connection between God being the Creator and His ownership of, and sovereignty over, His creation. The Gospel begins with God creating a world and a people for His glory.

### Attribute (God)

Use Isaiah 42:8 to show that God is a jealous God. He desires that we belong to Him and not be held captive by our sins. He is jealous for His glory, that He gets the praise He deserves and not false gods.

### Catechism (Foundation)

*\* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. What does the first commandment require?  
A. The first commandment requires us to know and recognize God as the only true God and our God, and to worship and glorify Him accordingly.

### Application

Often, we reject God’s rule over us because we think that we know better. But God always knows what is best for His creation. What areas of our lives do we sometimes act as if we know better than God? How can we repent of that?

### Unit Memory Verse

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”  
Romans 10:15

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Sovereign God

Season 3. Unit 1. Lesson 1

## Extra Teaching Tip

### GOOD NEWS

We are beginning a new season on the Good News of the Gospel. We will take a deep dive into the core elements of the Gospel message in hopes that the kids will see their need for Jesus in a fresh way. The six elements that will be covered are:

1. **God**, and man's responsibility to Him
2. **Man**, and God's purpose in creating him
3. **Sin** and the fall, and how that changed everything
4. **Christ**, God's solution to the fall
5. The **Response** God expects from us
6. The current and future **Restoration** of all things because of what He has done in Christ.

## Tough Questions

### DID GOD TURN NEBUCHADNEZZAR INTO AN ANIMAL?

While God could have turned Nebuchadnezzar into an animal (Nothing is too hard for Him) that is probably not what is being described in Daniel 4. The animal-like descriptions are likely pointing to madness (craziness) that God inflicted on Nebuchadnezzar temporarily.

As you can imagine, the most powerful king on the planet at the time had to maintain an appearance of nobility, prestige, and dignity. People viewed him as a god. Being humbled in this way would have been a very serious judgment upon Nebuchadnezzar, and that's exactly why God did it -- to humble him and remind him that the only power he has is the power that comes from God.

### WHO WERE THE WATCHERS?

The Bible does not provide much information about the watchers, but they seem to be a particular class of angels that serve specific functions for God.



# LESSON 2 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit:

God. **Man.** Sin. Christ. Response. Restoration.

August 11, 2024

### Objective

Teach the kids the doctrine of man—that we are made in God's image to belong to Him, reflect Him, and be His ambassadors to all creation.

### Big Question

*Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.*

Question: What did God create man to do?

Answer: To know God, to represent Him on the earth, and to fill the earth and subdue it.

### Scriptures

Teach from: Genesis 1:26-28, 3, Galatians 4:4-5, Psalm 23:1.

Lesson Key Verse: Genesis 1:27

Unit Memory Verse: Romans 10:15

### Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

*Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.*

1. People are God's special creation.
2. We were made to know and reflect God.
3. God is our Provider.

### Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Genesis 1:26-28) takes place at the beginning of the creation of man.

### Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use Genesis 1 and 3 to show man's original purpose and his fall. Don't spend too much time on the fall this week. We will cover that in depth next week.

### Attribute (God)

God is our Provider. Use Psalm 23:1 together with this week's passages to show that we were created to depend on God, not ourselves. Part of man's purpose is to be a creature who relies on his Creator.

### Catechism (Foundation)

*\* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. How did God create man?

A. God created man, male and female, in His own image and in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, to rule over the other creatures.

### Application

As we learned last week, God is the Creator, so He makes the rules and knows what's best for His creation. When we disobey Him, we not only reject what is best for us, but being creatures made to reflect God, we also give the creation a wrong image of Him.

### Unit Memory Verse

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"  
Romans 10:15

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Not My Own

Season 3. Unit 1. Lesson 2

## Extra Teaching Tip

### SAVE "SIN" FOR NEXT WEEK:

We have to address the topic of sin to an extent this week because we are talking about God's purpose for man and man's failure to fulfill that purpose. However, don't get too far into discussing sin today other than the story of the first sin and how it affected all of mankind. Feel free to summarize Chapter 3 for younger or older kids if needed. Next week, we will talk about sin in depth. In this lesson, try to stay focused on the **purpose** for which we have been created.

## Tough Questions

### ADAM AND EVE WERE PERFECT, BUT NOW WE HAVE A SINFUL NATURE. DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE ARE NO LONGER MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE?

When mankind fell, the image of God in us was marred but not destroyed. Marred means it is now corrupted and distorted, but it is still there. Every human is made in the image of God -- and being made in the image of God is what it is to be human.

This means that we are still capable of good in a relative sense. Even the lost person can do what is right because they are made in the image of God. What they do will never be perfect, however, because it is not done from the right heart to the glory of God.

Nevertheless, this is why all people, even those who treat us badly, are worthy of dignity because they are creatures made in God's image (James 3:6-10).

When we come to Christ and are born again, we are made new, and God begins a process of restoring His image in us (Romans 8:29, Ephesians 4:24).



# LESSON 3 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit:

God. Man. **Sin**. Christ. Response. Restoration.

August 18, 2024

### Objective

Teach the kids why and how sin separates us from God. Show them the importance of understanding the severity of sin so that they can more fully appreciate God's grace in the Gospel.

### Big Question

*Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.*

Question: What did Judas do that we also do?  
Answer: He chose other things over God.

### Scriptures

Teach from: Isaiah 59:2a, John 13:21-30 & 18:1-11, Romans 1:23, & Habakkuk 1:13a  
Lesson Key Verse: Isaiah 59:2a  
Unit Memory Verse: Romans 10:15

### Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

*Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.*

1. Sin separates us from God.
2. We all choose other things over God.
3. God is holy.

### Context (HIStory)

Our main texts (John 13 & 18) were written during Jesus' earthly ministry, right before His crucifixion.

### Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use the passages about Judas' betrayal of Jesus to show that Judas sinned because he had a sinful heart and wanted to choose other things over God. Explain to the kids that we also have sinful hearts, and that's why we need the Good News of the Gospel.

### Attribute (God)

God is holy. God's holiness and His justice go hand in hand. Because God is holy, He can not leave sin unpunished. All sin will be punished. Those who trust in Jesus have had their sins punished at the cross, and that is why they can have a relationship with a holy God.

### Catechism (Foundation)

*\* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. What happened to man in the fall?  
A. Man fell into a condition of sin and misery.

### Application

Sin isn't just doing something wrong or making a bad choice. It is going against God's design and His rules for His creation. We need to see sin as a serious problem. This should us to Jesus for the solution.

### Unit Memory Verse

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written,  
"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"  
Romans 10:15

PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Exchanged Creator God for created things  
Season 3. Unit 1. Lesson 3

Extra Teaching Tip

**TEACHING OBEDIENCE TO KIDS WHO MAY NOT KNOW THE LORD YET:**

As you teach this lesson, keep in mind that sin is not a difficult concept for children to understand. Many of their interactions with adults at this age are filled with “do this” and “don’t do that.” We want to be careful to hold these two truths in tension:

1. Kids are commanded to obey.
2. No one can obey God rightly until they have been born again.

The two-ditch rule applies here. In one ditch, we will end up teaching the kids moralism and legalism—“be good little boys and girls because Jesus said so.” In the other ditch, we will end up teaching them that they are incapable of obeying at all. Neither is true. Here is a helpful way to think of teaching God’s commands. Theologians have identified three primary uses of the Law of God (His commands).

1. As a measuring stick that shows us that God is holy and we are sinners in need of a Savior.
2. As a way not of curing evil but of curbing it. In this regard, the Law functions in the same way that civil laws function.
3. As a guide for believers to live and reflect the nature of God.

Tough Questions

**WHY DIDN'T GOD FORGIVE JUDAS?**

In 2 Corinthians 7:10, we see two different types of repentance described: godly and worldly. It says, “For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.”

Worldly sorrow, like what Judas demonstrated, is often focused on being sorry for what you’ve done because you’ve seen the consequences to yourself or others. This type of sorrow isn’t really repentance. It’s more like regret. It doesn’t move our hearts towards God for true forgiveness and restoration.

Godly sorrow, on the other hand, occurs when we’re sorry for what we’ve done because we realize that we have offended God. This type of sorrow always leads to repentance, forgiveness, and restoration. As 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”





# LESSON 4 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit:

God. Man. Sin. **Christ**. Response. Restoration.

August 25, 2024

### Objective

Teach the kids that Jesus is the solution to our biggest problem - our separation from God. Jesus came to SEEK and SAVE us!

### Big Question

*Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.*

Question: Why did God send Jesus to save us?  
Answer: Because He loves us!

### Scriptures

Teach from: Luke 15:1-10, Hebrews 10:4-10, & 1 John 4:10  
Lesson Key Verse: Luke 15:4  
Unit Memory Verse: Romans 10:15

### Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

*Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.*

1. Jesus brings us back to God.
2. Jesus came to rescue us because He loves us.
3. God is love.

### Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Luke 15) takes place during Jesus' earthly ministry before He died and rose again as the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

### Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use Luke 15 to highlight a particularly good part of the good news. Jesus didn't just come to offer Himself as a sacrifice in an impersonal sense. He came to rescue us individually. He came to SEEK and SAVE!

### Attribute (God)

God is love. It is important to remember the "why" of the cross. God designed this entire plan to save us, and He did it because He loves us dearly.

### Catechism (Foundation)

*\* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. How did God demonstrate His love for you?  
A. God demonstrated His love for me by sending Christ to die for me while I was still a sinner.

### Application

All of the previous lessons in this season served to set up the problem - our separation from God. Today's lesson is the solution. We want the kids to leave today knowing what God has done for them in sending Jesus, and we really want them to know why. Make sure your students leave your class today knowing that God doesn't just make salvation possible for us, but because He loves us so much, He comes to bring that salvation to us!

### Unit Memory Verse

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"  
Romans 10:15

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Came to seek and save

Season 3. Unit 1. Lesson 4

## Extra Teaching Tip

### LOVED ME!

In the area of the world that we live in, we have become so familiar with the idea that “God loves us” that we lose some of the amazement that should come with that statement. While it’s true that we don’t need any more Gospel presentations that treat Jesus like a big teddy bear, we *do* need to rediscover what it means for God to truly love us. The two biggest things to address with that are:

1. Love is defined by God, not us. God’s love for us is not what the world often thinks it is. The world sees love as indiscriminate acceptance. They say, “If you love me, you will accept me the way I am.” God says, “Because I love you, I will accept you in order to make you into something better.”
2. God does love the world, but He also loves individuals. If you ask one of your students who God loves, they’ll likely say “everyone” or “the world” or “sinners.” And those answers are all correct. As amazing as that is, what’s even better is the fact that God loves YOU. The kids need to see that God knows each one of them individually and loves each one of them individually. It’s helpful to make them say it and add their name. “God loves \_\_\_\_\_.”

Look at Galatians 2:20 to see how Paul demonstrates this very thing. He says that Christ loved ME and gave Himself for ME!

## Tough Questions

### IF WE LOVE PEOPLE, SHOULDN’T WE JUST ACCEPT THEM AS THEY ARE?

“**Love is acceptance.**” This is the reigning view in our culture today. The irony is that most people are wildly inconsistent with how they apply that view. For instance, if your friend came to you and said that they had decided that they wanted to be a bank robber, what would you tell them? Would you say, “Yes! I support you! You do you. Be the best bank robber you can be!”

Of course not. You would warn them of the dangers of breaking the law, tell them that stealing dishonors God, and try to talk them out of it. If they said, “This is just who I am, and if you don’t accept me, then you don’t love me!” You would recognize that as foolish. You know that loving them means seeking what’s best for them, even if that goes against what they think they want for themselves.

### BUT DOESN’T JESUS ACCEPT US AS WE ARE?

Yes and no. In the sense, that He does not require us to clean ourselves up and try and be good enough to earn salvation, then yes, He accepts us as we are. We can’t clean ourselves up or make ourselves good enough.

But if you mean, does He approve of us as we are and allow us to remain as we are? Then no, He does not. Jesus receives us as sinners, not to leave us as sinners but to change us. The most loving thing Jesus can do for us is restore the image of God in us, and that’s exactly what He begins doing by His Spirit when He saves us.

# LESSON 5 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit:

God. Man. Sin. Christ. **Response.** Restoration.

September 8, 2024

### Objective

Teach the kids that there is nothing we can do to earn God's love, forgiveness, or acceptance. Jesus has done all that is required on our behalf and the response God tells us to make is "Repent and believe the Good News."

### Big Question

*Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.*

Question: What is repentance?

Answer: Repentance is a change of mind and heart about our sin. It is turning from sin and to Jesus.

### Scriptures

Teach from: Luke 15:11-32, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Matthew 6:9

Lesson Key Verse: Luke 15:20

Unit Memory Verse: Romans 10:15

### Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

*Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.*

1. When we repent, we see that God's way is right and our way is wrong.
2. When we repent, we come to Jesus in faith.
3. God is our Father.

### Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Luke 15) takes place during Jesus' earthly ministry before He died and rose again as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. This is a continuation of last week's passage.

### Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use Jeremiah 31:31-34 to show the kids that even our response to the Good News comes from God. He works in our hearts to call us to Himself and grant us repentance.

### Attribute (God)

God is our Father. God is referred to as a Father over 100 times in the Bible. Some of His fatherly qualities are: His love and care for us, His providing for us, and His defending and protecting us.

### Catechism (Foundation)

*\* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, by which we receive and rest on Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the gospel.

### Application

When we talk about believing in Jesus, it is important that we explain what that means. The kids need to understand that believing in Jesus is not simply believing that He exists or even that He did what the Bible says He did. As we see in the lesson today, Biblically to believe in Jesus is to put all our **trust** in Him.

### Unit Memory Verse

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"  
Romans 10:15

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Come to the Lord

Season 3. Unit 1. Lesson 5

## Extra Teaching Tip

### OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL

While we definitely want to steer clear of anything like an altar call or an emotional plea to convince kids to repeat a prayer, we still want to make sure that we always give our students the opportunity to respond to the Gospel. It can be as simple as regularly reminding them that you are here if they have any questions or want to discuss salvation or baptism further. We know that conversion is the Holy Spirit's job, not ours. However, we also want to be willing participants in the work He is doing in these kids' hearts. Find ways to give them opportunities to respond to the Word that you are teaching them.

## Tough Questions

### IF ALL WE HAVE TO DO TO BE SAVED IS TURN TO JESUS AND TRUST HIM, DOES THAT MEAN WE CAN THEN LIVE HOWEVER WE WANT?

Yes and no. The Apostle Paul actually addressed this question several times in scripture. Let's look at a couple of those instances.

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:1-4)

Here, Paul says that it's not a matter of "Can we go on living in sin?" but "Will we go on living in sin?" And his answer is, "By no means!" Why is that? Because when we come to Christ by faith, He changes us. We are no longer the same people we were before, which leads to the "Yes" part of the answer.

"For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13)

Notice what he said that God does in us: "both to **will** and to **work**." When we come to Jesus in faith, God not only makes us new creations right then and there, but He continues to change our very desires. The true believer **wants** to do what is pleasing to God because God is changing what we want from sin to godliness. In this sense, yes the believer does live how they want, but now their wants are aligned with God's commands.

That doesn't mean that believers never want sin. No, we will live in this tension, this battle between our new desires and our old desires until Jesus returns or we go to be with Him. (See Galatians 5.)

# LESSON 6 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit:

God. Man. Sin. Christ. Response. **Restoration.**

September 15, 2024

### Objective

Teach the kids that the end of the Gospel message is more than just personal salvation. As important as that is, the Gospel is actually much bigger and better than that. The end of the Gospel message is that Jesus is returning to make everything right again!

### Big Question

*Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.*

Question: What will happen when Christ returns?

Answer: He will make everything right again.

### Scriptures

Teach from: Luke 4:14-22, Matthew 13:31-33, Isaiah 65:17-19, & Daniel 7:13-14

Lesson Key Verse: Isaiah 65:17

Unit Memory Verse: Romans 10:15

### Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

*Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.*

1. God has already begun making all things new.
2. Every time someone trusts in Jesus, his kingdom grows.
3. God is our King.

### Context (HIStory)

Our main texts (Luke and Matthew) take place during Jesus' earthly ministry before He was crucified.

### Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use the passages in Luke and Matthew, coupled with the prophecy from Isaiah, to show that Jesus saves us as part of a bigger salvation operation. He saves us to make us a part of His restoration of all things one day!

### Attribute (God)

God is our King. We started off this season talking about the sovereignty of God. He is the Creator and Ruler of all things and it's only fitting that we finish the season in the same way.

### Catechism (Foundation)

*\* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. How is Christ a king?

A. As a king, Christ brings us under His power, rules and defends us, and restrains and conquers all His and all our enemies.

### Application

One of the often repeated commands to Christians in the New Testament is to be prepared, expectant, and to watch for Christ's return. We are to live in such a way that if Jesus returns today, we will not be ashamed.

### Unit Memory Verse

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"  
Romans 10:15

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Christ is coming again

Season 3. Unit 1. Lesson 6

## Extra Teaching Tip

### WORLD CHRISTIANS

A World Christian is a Christian who recognizes that the Good News of the Gospel is Good News for the whole world. World Christians are active in going, sending, giving, praying, and/or welcoming. As we wrap up our season on the Good News, spend some time reminding the kids that missionaries are not a special class of Super-Christians. Participating in spreading the Good News is something for **all** followers of Christ!

## Tough Questions

### IT'S BEEN 2000 YEARS. ARE YOU SURE JESUS IS COMING BACK?

It is interesting to note that the Apostle Peter anticipated this question from people hostile to Christianity even in the first century. Check out what he said:

“Knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, 6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. 7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. “ 2 Peter 3:9

Peter’s answer is basically 1. God is waiting because when Jesus returns, He will return in judgment, and the delay is actually a sign of God’s mercy and patience. And 2. Just because it is a long time for us doesn’t mean it’s a long time for God.

We could also note that many things that God promised in the Bible weren’t fulfilled until long periods of time had passed. Here are a couple examples. In Gen. 3:15 the Savior is promised, He wasn’t born until thousands of years later. In Isaiah, specific prophecies about Jesus were given that weren’t fulfilled until 700 years later. This just shows that God’s time table is not anything like ours. If He waits another 2000 years or if He returns tomorrow - either way we can be sure that He will because He has promised and God is faithful.





