

Grown Up Children Stories – December Student Ministry Curriculum Overview



As a child, you may have heard some common bible stories from a children's bible. When you get older, we should take some time to revisit these classic stories to understand a little more of what the bible has to say, explore the story a little deeper, and understand these well-known bible characters. Jesus shows up in the Old Testament, let's explore some childhood passages together while we learn more about Abraham, Samson, and Jonah.

Week 1 – Dec 3 - Abraham

Main Point: **Trust God and learn to follow where He leads you**

Main Passage: Gen 22:1-14 (Gen 11-25, Gal 3:6-9, Rom 4, Hebrews 11)

The Beginner's Bible Page: pg 46 Visitors

Jesus Connection:

- Isaac & Jesus are long awaited "beloved sons"
- Both sons carry wood leading to their death
- God provides the sacrifice substitute

Week 2 – Dec 10 - Samson

Main Point: **Doing what is right in the Lord's eyes, not your own, will lead you to faithfully following God.**

Main Passage: Judges 13:5; 16:28 (Judges 13-16)

The Beginner's Bible Page: pg 146 Samson

Jesus Connection:

- Birth Story, similar to Jesus. Angel shows up to say coming child. Similar to Jesus' story, show up to Mary
- Betrayed for silver & taken away bonded
- Blinded/ Blindfolded

Week 3 – Dec 17 – Jonah

Main Point: **You never realize Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have.**

Main Passage: Jonah 1-3 (Matthew 12:40-41, 2 Kings 14:25)

The Beginner's Bible Page: pg 257 Jonah and the Big Fish

Jesus Connection:

- Sacrifice Story (relate back to Abraham & Isaac, point to Jesus)
- Matthew 12:40-41
- Jesus & Jonah 3 Days Darkness/ Separated

Devotionals for Grown Up Children Stories



Over this series, we have 3 devotionals planned out that go along with each bible character in this series. The Watermark Bible has great resources to help students understand the bible character and draw a connection to Jesus. An animated video helps to bring the information to life that is illustration of what is read in the bible. The devotions are available on the Bible App Plan, follow the link for each devotional.

Week 1 – Abraham & Isaac - 3 Day Devo

- Bible App Plan Link - <https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/29080>

Week 2 – Samson – 3 Day Devo

- Bible App Plan Link - <https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/33020>

Week 3 – Jonah – 3 Day Devo

- Bible App Plan Link - <https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/30363>

WEEK 1

CONVERSATION GUIDE

ABRAHAM



THIS SERIES: GROWN UP CHILDREN STORIES

THE BIG IDEA

Trust God & learn to follow where He leads you.

THE BIBLE

Genesis 22:1-14
Gen 11-25, Gal 3:6-9, Rom 4, Heb 11

Jesus Connection

- Isaac & Jesus are long awaited "beloved sons"
- Both sons carry wood leading to their death
- God provides the sacrifice substitute

1. **Icebreaker:** Share a childhood memory of story time or a memorable story someone told you.
2. What are your thoughts on the concept of "Grown Up Children's Stories"? How do you feel about diving deeper into familiar childhood stories from the Bible?
3. **Understanding Abraham:** Before today, what did you know about Abraham? What is he known for?
4. **The Journey of Abraham:** Reflect on Abraham's journey, leaving his homeland at 75 with a promise from God. How do you think he felt, and what challenges might he have faced?
5. **Covenant with God:** Discuss the significance of God's covenant with Abraham. How does this relate to the idea of "Leveling up your faith and following where God leads"?
6. **Testing of Abraham:** How would you have felt if you were in Abraham's shoes when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac? How does Abraham's response reveal his faith?
7. **Gospel Connections:** Explore the connections between the story of Abraham and Isaac and the Gospel. How do you see Jesus threaded into this narrative?
8. **Sacrifice and New Life:** Discuss the concept of sacrifice as seen in the story. How does the idea of sacrifice bringing new life apply to us today?
9. **Galatians 3:6-9:** Read the passage from Galatians about Abraham's faith. How does having faith connect us to Abraham, according to Paul?
10. **Application:** How can we apply the lessons from Abraham's faith to our lives? In what ways can we "Trust God" and follow where God leads us?

WHO IS YOUR ONE?

ABRAHAM

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

- Abraham's family was from Ur, a very influential city in Mesopotamia.
- His father, Terah, took the family north to Harran, which is where God spoke to him about moving to Canaan to become a great nation.



MARRIED: SARAH

- Abraham married Sarah, who gave birth to his famous son Isaac.
- He also had another child, Ishmael, with Sarah's servant Hagar. It is believed that Ishmael's descendants became the people of Islam, while Isaac's descendants became the people of Israel.
- Abraham also married Keturah, and had several children with her. But he left his entire estate to Isaac.

Birth of Jesus

Birth: Approx. 2166 BC

2000's AD

Death: Approx. 1991 BC

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Abraham became father of Isaac, even though his wife was 90 and he was 100.
- 2 Abraham obeyed God when asked to sacrifice his son Isaac, only to have God intervene and provide a ram as a substitute.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness." *Romans 4:3*

"Now then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'In you shall all the nations be blessed.' So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith." *Galatians 3:7-9*



Bible Lookups: James 2:23, Genesis 12, Hebrews 11:8

WEEK 2

CONVERSATION GUIDE

SAMSON



THIS SERIES: GROWN UP CHILDREN STORIES

THE BIG IDEA

Doing what is right in the Lord's eyes, not your own, will lead you to faithfully following God.

THE BIBLE

Judges 13:5, 16:28
Judges 13-16 Samson's Story

Jesus Connection

- Birth Story, similar to Jesus. Angel shows up to say coming child. Similar to Jesus' story, show up to Mary
- Betrayed for silver & taken away bonded
- Blinded/ Blindfolded

1. **Icebreaker:** Share your favorite childhood superhero and why you loved them.
2. **Series Introduction:** What are your thoughts on exploring "Grown Up Children Stories"? How does it feel transitioning from childhood versions to a deeper understanding of these stories/characters?
3. **Samson's Story:** Reflect on the children's Bible version of Samson's story. What surprised you or stood out in the adult version that wasn't in the children's Bible?
4. **Samson's Background:** Summarize Samson's background and his unique Nazarite vow. How did these factors shape his life?
5. **Strength and Sight:** Discuss Samson's strength and his struggle with doing what is right in his own eyes. How did his physical strength sometimes lead him away from faithfulness?
6. **Samson's Downfall:** Explore Samson's moments of disobedience and how they contributed to his downfall. How can we learn from his mistakes in our own lives?
7. **Sovereignty of God:** What does "Sovereignty of God" mean, and how did it play a role in Samson's story? Share instances in your life where you've seen God's sovereignty at work.
8. **Gospel Connections:** Examine the connections between Samson's story and Jesus. How does Samson's birth story resemble Jesus', and what similarities do you see in their experiences?
9. **Application:** How can we apply the main point, "Do what is right in the Lord's eyes, not your own, will lead you to faithfully following God," to our lives? Share practical ways to focus on God's will over personal desires.
10. **Closing Thoughts:** Reflect on the idea that it's never too late to cry out to God and allow Him to use you. How can this encourage and inspire us in our faith journeys?

WHO IS YOUR ONE?

WEEK 3

CONVERSATION GUIDE

JONAH



THIS SERIES: GROWN UP CHILDREN STORIES

THE BIG IDEA

You never realize Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have.

THE BIBLE

Jonah 1-3
Matthew 12:40-41, 2 Kings 14:25

Jesus Connection

- Sacrifice Story (relate back to Abraham & Isaac, point to Jesus)
 - Matthew 12:40-41
 - Jesus & Jonah 3 Days Darkness/ Separated
1. **Icebreaker:** Share a favorite childhood story or Bible story that you've revisited recently and discovered new insights.
 2. How does it feel to transition from childhood versions of Bible stories to a deeper understanding? Why do you think it's important to explore the layers of these stories?
 3. **Jonah's Story:** What are some common perceptions or memories people have about Jonah's story? Discuss any preconceived notions you might have had before today's discussion.
 4. **Literal or Parable:** Do you believe Jonah's story is a literal account or a parable? Share your thoughts and discuss how your perspective affects your understanding of God's grace.
 5. **Nineveh's Wickedness:** Reflect on the comparison between Nineveh's wickedness and modern examples of wickedness. How does this challenge your understanding of God's grace and mercy?
 6. **Jonah's Disobedience:** Discuss Jonah's initial response to God's command. Can you relate to times when you've wanted to go your own way instead of following God's plan?
 7. **Glimmer of Compassion:** Explore Jonah's response when he realizes he's the cause of the storm. How does his humility and sacrifice for the sailors reflect on his character?
 8. **Cry to God:** Jonah prays from the belly of the fish, and God hears him. Share personal experiences of crying out to God in difficult times and how God responded.
 9. **Second Chance to Obey:** How does Jonah's second chance to obey God resonate with the idea of God giving us second chances? How can we apply this theme of second chances in our own lives?
 10. **Jesus Connection:** Discuss the connections between Jonah's sacrifice and Jesus' sacrifice. How do these sacrifices pave the way for redemption, and why is Jesus considered the ultimate sacrifice?
 11. **Main Point Reflection:** Reflect on the main point: "You never realize Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have." How does this statement apply to your life, and how can it shape your perspective on challenges and difficulties?

WHO IS YOUR ONE?

JONAH

AT-A-GLANCE



CHILDHOOD:

Jonah is listed in the Bible as the son of Amittai.

Jonah lived in a region of northern Israel, called Gath Hepher, near the Sea of Galilee when he began to prophesy, but it is unknown whether he was born and raised there.



MARRIED:
Unknown

Birth of Jesus

Birth: Approx. 815 BC

2000's AD

Death: Unknown

CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 Jonah was the fifth of the minor prophets listed in the Old Testament.
- 2 Jonah was swallowed by a large fish and remained in its belly for three days.
- 3 Jonah helped Nineveh to repent from idolatry when he finally obeyed God's command to prophesy there.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." *Jonah 1:12*

"Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'" *Jonah 2:8-9, from the Prayer of Jonah, which he made inside the belly of the fish*



Bible Lookups: Jonah 1:3, Jonah 1:17, Matthew 12:39-40