

SMALL GROUP

ONE

INTRO

Origin stories. They're important because they give context.

Take superheroes for instance. They have the best origin stories because, often, they clue you in to what makes them the way they are. Once you know that Dex-Starr was an abandoned kitten who was almost drowned by hoodlums, you totally get why he would seek vengeance on street kids.

When we get the backstory on someone, it becomes easier to understand what drives them in the present day. And just like superheroes (or super cat villains), we each have an origin story. And so does humanity.

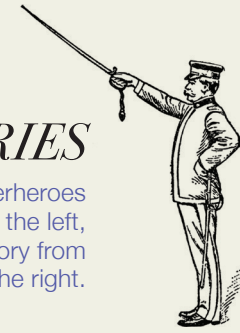
In this first Small Group, we're going to look into the origin story of us as people. We're going to learn how we got here. And we're going to take a peek at where we're headed.

Ready? Let's jump in.



ORIGIN STORIES

For each of the superheroes listed in the column on the left, match their origin story from the column on the right.



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GETTING STARTED

SUPERHEROS & SUPERVILLAINS

Batman
Superman
Nightman
The Whizzer
Catwoman
Squirrel Girl
Dex-Starr

SUPERHEROS & SUPERVILLAINS

- An abandoned kitten nearly drowned by hoodlums is transformed into an evil villain by the power of his rage.
- A flight attendant who is struck on the head during a plane crash and left with amnesia whose father owned a pet store.
- A saxophone-playing jazz singer gets struck by lightning on a cable car, giving him super-powers, but making it difficult for him to sleep.
- A young girl grew a tail.
- A rich man stands up to his fear of flying mammals and becomes one.
- A young man was bitten by a cobra, so his father injected him with mongoose blood, giving him super-speed.
- An alien that was sent to earth and must hide in plain sight.



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DIGGING IN

MY ORIGIN STORY

Work through the following activities with your group to unpack what they mean for your life.

PROMPT 1:

Describe in a few sentences how your life was growing up.

Answers will vary

PROMPT 2:

Describe who was primarily responsible for raising you.

Answers will vary

PROMPT 3:

Describe a few of the main blessings that have defined your life.

Answers will vary

PROMPT 4:

Describe some of the struggles that have defined your life.

Answers will vary

PROMPT 5:

If you had to imagine, write down a few sentences on where you think your life is headed.

Answers will vary

WHO IS RIGHTEOUS?

“But now, the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it — the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...” - Romans 3:21-23

- What is Romans 3:21-23 saying?

That no one, no matter if you are Jew or Gentile, can keep the law so well that it earns them salvation. Everyone who has ever lived has fallen short of God's glory. Everyone has sinned.

- Do you agree with this passage in Scripture? Why or why not?

Answers will vary. Ask students WHY they do or don't.

- If all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, what does that mean in our relationship with Him?

Answers will vary.



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WRAPPING UP

*A PSALM OF
YOUR OWN*

Come up with your very own psalm to express your feelings to God.

PROMPT 1:

What do you say in your heart about God? Don't hold back. Be honest.

Answers will vary

PROMPT 2:

If God were to look down from heaven on you, what would He see within your heart?

Answers will vary

PROMPT 3:

If your sin were an outward manifestation on you physically, what would you look like?

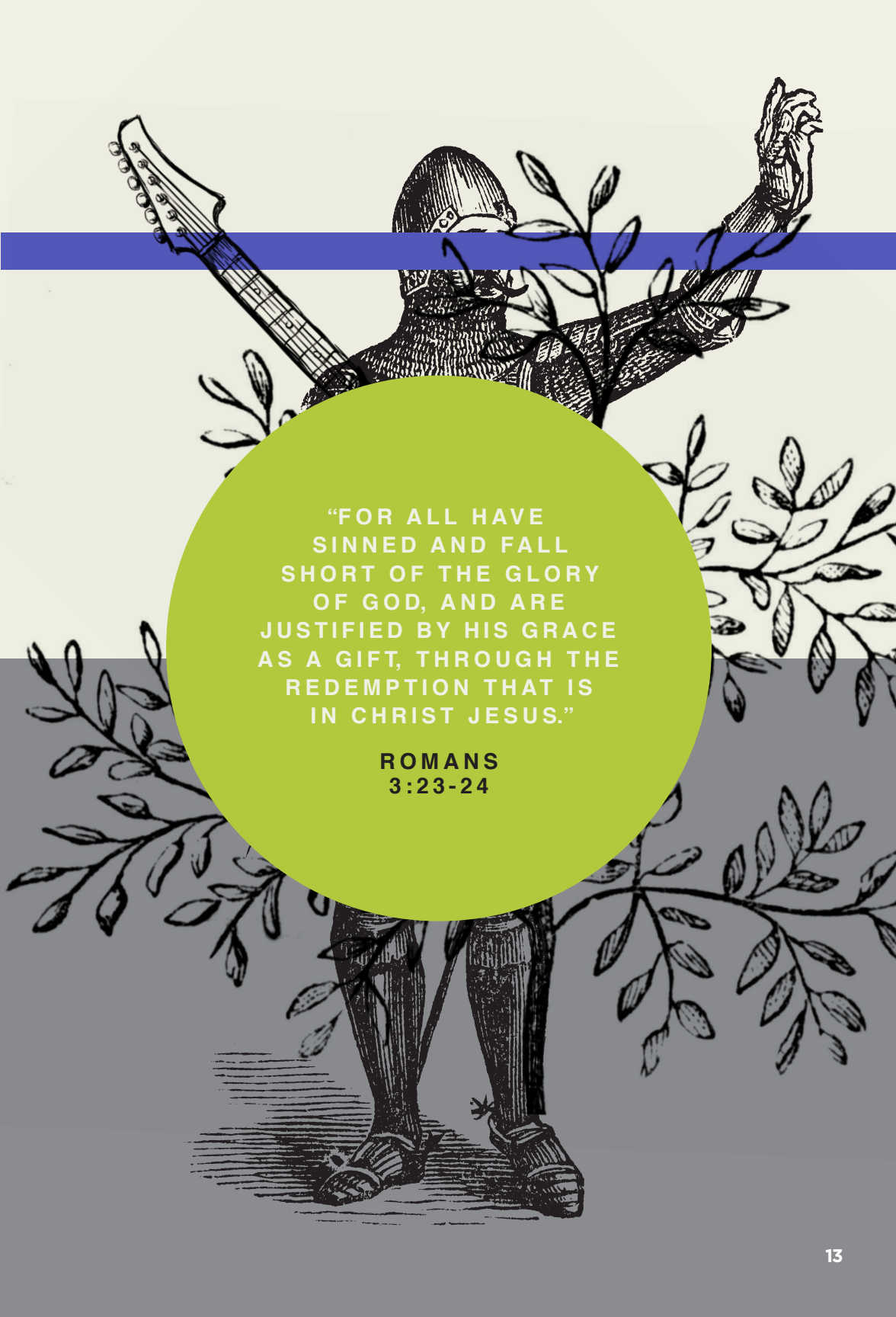
Answers will vary

PROMPT 4:

In verse 7, the psalmist talks about the salvation coming for Israel. How do you visualize salvation coming for you?

Answers will vary

Now build a psalm similar to the one you read in Psalm 14:1-7. Be creative!



“FOR ALL HAVE
SINNED AND FALL
SHORT OF THE GLORY
OF GOD, AND ARE
JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE
AS A GIFT, THROUGH THE
REDEMPTION THAT IS
IN CHRIST JESUS.”

**ROMANS
3:23-24**