

Monday Bible Study: God's Story

Skit Questions

1. If you were a dwarf, which one would you be?
2. Who did the dwarves represent? (*Us*)
3. Who is the Christ-like Character? Why? (*The Brothers Grimm, the authors of our story*)
4. What did the dwarves think was holding them back? (*Happy can't make others happy, Grumpy is always angry, Sleepy doesn't work as much as the others because he's always tired, Bashful has a hard time talking to people, and Doc doesn't think he is good enough to give suggestions.*)
5. What did the Grimm Brothers tell the dwarves at the end? (*They all have a purpose in being in a bigger story of God.*)

Ice Breaker

"What's your favorite movie?" (*Have them all answer, and relate it to the theme, God's Story*)

- Theme Verse: Revelation 22:13 - "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."
 - Alpha - Beginning of the Greek alphabet
 - Omega - Ending of the Greek alphabet

OPTIONAL - Perfect time to explain Creation and God's humongous role in all of it!

- Summarize Genesis 1
 - "God created the heavens and the earth..."
- John 3:16-17
 - "For God so loved the WORLD..."
 - Emphasis on "the world" to hammer in the idea that *the whole world is a part of God's story*
 - More importantly emphasize JESUS!
 - Verse 17 - "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be **saved through Him.**"

Story Lesson:

God's Story Timeline Activity:

Materials to create:

- Bible Picture Postcards featuring key Bible events (5-15 depending on age and Biblical literacy of group. For older kids, perhaps start with a partial set and add in more cards as they get it correct)
- Timeline Answer Key (don't forget to make yourself an answer key as well!)

Say: **"The Bible is a pretty big book, isn't it? Sometimes trying to read it can be really hard. Sometimes it feels like trying to read the dictionary. But did you know that the Bible is actually one big, long, story? All of the little stories are a part of God's bigger story."**

- Explain to the youth that each of the postcards represents a major character or event in God's story. Spreading them out on the ground or a table, youth should try and get them in the right order. (Let them talk it out before jumping in too quickly to help)
- As soon as they have a guess, let them know which ones are in the right order so they can "lock them in". (For instance, they might have 5 cards in the right order, and 4 other cards in the right order, but in the wrong "number spot on the answer guide". Let them know those are in the right order). Then have them rearrange the "wrong" cards and guess again. Continue letting them talk it out, making guesses, and then locking in the right answers until they have the whole story.

Read Acts 17:16-34

Summarize Acts 17:16-21

Main Point to arrive at: Paul is in Athens that is the center of a culture that worships false gods.

1. **Who is the main character?** Paul
2. **Where is he?** Athens
3. **Why is he distressed/worried?** The city was full of idols
4. **What do the people who live there think Paul is trying to do?** Introduce them to a new, foreign god/idol to worship.

These passages mention a lot about idols. What are idols? (Definition: an image or other material object representing a deity to which religious worship is addressed or any person or thing regarded with admiration, adoration, or devotion.) Basically, an idol is anything we worship besides God.

-In the U.S. we don't see lots of people bowing down to little statues, so what do we make into idols today? What do we worship instead of God?

-What is something you spend the most time doing??

Have everyone go around and say one thing they might be idolizing/prioritizing in their life over God.

ACTIVITY

Create a list of most to least important things in your day to day life - turn it into the circle where Jesus is the center. Jesus isn't just the "most important thing"; he wants to be a part of everything in our lives.

OPTIONAL: The golden calf story Exodus 32:21-24 - the Israelites wanted a visual "god." Sometimes we seek and yearn towards worldly and visual things.

Example: Did anyone bring something to camp to remind them of home or their parents? Stuffed animal? Picture? It can remind you of your parents, but what if you started acting like that thing WAS your parents. It seems silly, but that's what the Israelites did.

Example: Have you ever been on vacation and gotten a keepsake of the place while you were there? Something which had the location's name on it. Maybe a t-shirt or a baseball cap? A keychain? A snow globe? These things remind you of the great time you had visiting someplace while on vacation but what if you started believing you were magically back there whenever you touched that item? Not pretending, but really truly believing you were there. A little crazy to be sure but that is what happens with idols. People believed they could do crazy things.

READ: Acts 17:29-30 - "...we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man." (Have the campers pause to think and take this in...)

God is not formed by us, **but we are formed by God!** And how rad is that?!?! God ***breathed life*** into us! (Genesis 2:7) We are a part of God's creation!

What part of God's creation brings you a lot of joy? Sunsets, Flowers, Mountains, Friends, Family, etc

When you experience that part of creation, how does it remind you of God? Help you feel closer to Him? Creative God, Loving God, close, beautiful, feel peace/like everything will be OK.

READ: Acts 17:26-27

"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands."

What are your gifts?

Where do you feel God calling you?/What problem in the world would you most like to be part of solving?

(Little kids?) What do you want to be when you grow up? How can you glorify God through that?

END ON: God's grace and promises of HIS story and how we play a part in that in believe those promises in our every day lives

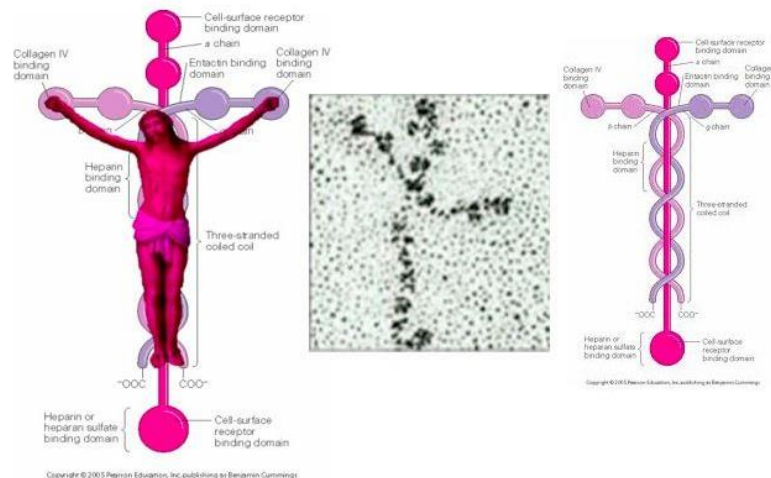
If Time Additional Activities:

- Read Psalm 148 - Louie Giglio Stars and Whales Video - 8 min

- All of Creation sings out and praises God
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=helxFeG-0n0>

- **Laminin Protein** – Explore and discuss the graphic below showing a key binding protein that holds our cells together in our human bodies and how it imitates the shape of a cross.

Colossians 1:17 *By Him (Yeshua) all things are held together. Laminin protein holds us together*



- Colossian 1:17 He is before all things, and in Him all things are held together. (NIV)
- Laminin is the protein that holds us together

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