

Teaching God's Awesome Story in 52 Weeks

Teaching Plan

This book is written as a leader's guide: A parent leading the family or a facilitator leading a group of parents and youth. The person reading this book will preview the activities and will know the outcomes in advance.

It is important that family and group members not see the answers in advance. For example, in the activity "Pictures of Heaven" it reads, "the most common answer is 'sitting on clouds.'" The leader does not want to share this information prior to the lesson and in so doing influence the drawings.

The leader will make copies of the activity worksheets and handouts for each family or group member.

It could easily take a year to complete, learn and review the 52 lessons in this book. The goal is to learn the information, not to meet a completion deadline.

Keep a folder for each person in the family or group. Date and save completed drawings, timelines, maps and worksheets. Use a camera to capture memories from the activities. Take pictures that show parents and youth learning together. Add descriptive captions, print and add copies to each person's folder.

Parents, the folder may be more valuable to you right now than to your youth. Consider making an extra copy of the folder contents until they are older and possibly more invested in preserving what they've learned. Or, you may want to have the papers bound into a book as a reminder of their spiritual heritage.

The parent or group leader may choose to keep all the folders until the activities in this book have been completed. This will reduce the frequency of papers being misplaced or lost.

Following is a plan for completing *God's Awesome Story* in one year—52

activities in 52 weeks. The activities have been arranged to teach the seven components of God's story. The order of the activities has been mixed to provide variety and facilitate review.

God's Awesome Story in One Year

52 Activities in 52 Weeks

The Story - Weeks 1 & 2

Week 1: Learn the seven major components of a story by applying the seven components to your personal story.

Activity 1: My Story

Week 2: Apply the seven major components of a story to God's story in the Bible.

Activity 2: God's Story

Setting - Weeks 3 to 13

Week 3: Explore the setting for God's story. The goal of living the Christian life is for grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren to spend eternity with God in heaven. Explore different views of heaven. Ignite an interest and passion for heaven as the ultimate reward for a life committed to Jesus.

Activity 3: Pictures of Heaven

Week 4: Heaven is an exciting place where people will continue learning and working.

Activity 4: Heaven Job Description

Week 5: The majority of the Bible story takes place in the Middle East. Locate key Middle East landmarks.

Activity 5: Middle East Map

Week 6: Bible locations and stories are real. Identify key places mentioned in the book of Genesis.

Activity 6: Genesis Geography

Week 7: The last lesson looked at key places and people from the book of Genesis. Noah is one of the key leaders in Genesis. Study key components from the life of Noah.

Activity 24: Noah

Activity 6: Genesis Geography {review}

Week 8: Study key components from the life of Abraham. Review key components from the life of Noah.

Activity 25: Abraham

Activity 24: Noah {review}

Week 9: The last three lessons have focused on the setting of the Old Testament and two key leaders, Noah and Abraham. This lesson will examine key geographical New Testament locations.

Activity 7: New Testament Map

Week 10: The New Testament records the story of God's son, Jesus. Study key components from the life of Jesus.

Activity 31: Jesus

Activity 7: New Testament Map {review}

Week 11: Study the key components of another New Testament leader, Paul. Review the key components from the life of Jesus.

Activity 34: Paul

Activity 31: Jesus {review}

Week 12: Heaven, Old and New Testament locations are all part of the setting of the Bible. The "world" is another setting. God uses people to spread the Good News of Jesus around the world.

Activity 8: Great Commission

Week 13: God uses people to spread the Good News of Jesus around the world.

Activity 9: Mission Mail

Characters - Weeks 14 to 23

Week 14: The next component focuses on the characters in God’s story. The use of the descriptor “character” in discussing the biblical stories does not imply fictional or mythical. These are real people and real beings in a real story. This lesson will examine the Trinity— God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Activity 10: Trinity

Week 15: God is the author of the Bible. God is holy and we must be holy to live with him in heaven.

Activity 11: Holy God

Week 16: Jesus has superhero powers!

Activity 12: Jesus Superhero

Week 17: The Holy Spirit draws people to God.

Activity 13: The Fire of the Holy Spirit

Week 18: God’s powerful angels command respect and fear.

Activity 14: Angels

Week 19: The past five lessons have examined spiritual beings from the story of the Bible. This lesson will look at another group of characters, people. There are two groups of people in God’s story: Christians who believe and follow Jesus; and non-Christians who do not follow Jesus. God instructs Christians to tell non-Christians about Jesus.

Activity 15: Ambassador

Week 20: Sometimes in God’s story, Christians are a remnant. A remnant is a small group of people who continue to serve God in a culture that does not follow God.

Activity 16: Remnant

Week 21: Every person is a sinner. Everyone has sinned and missed the spiritual mark of holiness set by God.

Activity 17: Sinner

Week 22: There are other spiritual beings in God's story. Satan is a fallen angel and the evil enemy of God.

Activity 18: Satan the Fallen Angel

Week 23: Satan will pretend to be something good in order to deceive people and lead them away from God.

Activity 19: Satan the Deceiver

Conflict - Week 24

Week 24: Conflict is component number three. Conflict takes place between the characters and within the setting: Spiritual beings, people and a decaying creation. There is an unseen spiritual battle involving both spiritual beings and people.

Activity 20: Spiritual Battle

An Event to Start Things Rolling - Week 25

Week 25: God creates the universe.

Activity 21: Creation

Key Events, Development of the Story - Weeks 26-43

Week 26: This lesson will identify key biblical and historical events on an Old Testament Time Line.

Activity 22: Old Testament Time Line

Week 27: Moses is one of the key people in the Old Testament. Study key components from the life of Moses. Review key components from the life of Noah.

Activity 26: Moses

Activity 24: Noah {review}

Week 28: Study key components from the lives of the Judges. Review key components from the life of Abraham.

Activity 27: Judges

Activity 25: Abraham {review}

Week 29: Study key components from the life of King David. Review key components from the life of Moses.

Activity 28: David

Activity 26: Moses {review}

Week 30: Review the Old Testament Time Line. Study key components from the life of Jonah.

Activity 22: Old Testament Time Line {review}

Activity 29: Jonah

Week 31: Study key components from the life of Daniel. Review key components from the lives of the Judges.

Activity 30: Daniel

Activity 27: Judges {review}

Week 32: This lesson will identify key biblical and historical events on a New Testament Time Line.

Activity 23: New Testament Time Line

Week 33: Study key components from the life of Mary. Review key components from the life of Jesus.

Activity 32: Mary

Activity 31: Jesus {review}

Week 34: Study key components from the life of Peter. Review key components from the life of Paul.

Activity 33: Peter

Activity 34: Paul {review}

Week 35: Review the New Testament Time Line along with the lives of Mary and Peter.

Activity 23: New Testament Time Line {review}

Activity 32: Mary {review}

Activity 33: Peter {review}

Week 36: Assume the role of a newspaper reporter and report on a key event in the Old Testament.

Activity 35: Newspaper Reporter

Week 37: Assume the role of a newspaper reporter and report on a key event in the New Testament. This activity can be used countless times as a way to review any key event in the Bible.

Activity 35: Newspaper Reporter

Week 38: Seek to understand God's Word and key events by visualizing scripture. This activity can be used countless times as a way to review any key event in the Bible.

Activity 36: Seeing Scripture

Week 39: Learn and review scripture by memorizing lists of events, people and behaviors. Track the number of correct answers to use as a benchmark for measuring future improvement.

Activity 37: Lists

Week 40: Biblical names and places support the truth of God's word.

Activity 38: Bible Names and Places

Activity 36: Seeing Scripture {pick a new scripture to draw}

Week 41: A closer look at the Israelites after leaving Egypt and before entering the Promised Land.

Activity 39: Follow the Money

Week 42: A closer look at the presence of idols in biblical times and today. An idol is anything in a person's life that takes priority over God.

Activity 40: Idols Today

Week 43: This lesson will study what is of value to God. Review the lists of events, people and behaviors.

Activity 41: Currency of Heaven

Activity 37: Lists {review}

Climax - Week 44-46

Week 44: God's story reaches a climax in the death and resurrection of Jesus. In one week, Jesus was praised as a conquering king, crucified and raised from the dead.

Activity 42: Easter Calendar

Week 45: Through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, sins can be forgiven.

Activity 43: Forgiven Sins Disappear

Week 46: Jesus appeared to hundreds of witnesses in the 40 day period between the resurrection and the ascension.

Activity 44: Resurrection to Ascension

Ending - Week 47-50

Week 47: Jesus is coming back. There will be a judgment day. His followers will receive the reward of eternity in heaven. Those who reject Jesus as their Savior will spend eternity in hell. This lesson will look at judgment day.

Activity 45: Wheat and Weeds

Week 48: Review Activities 3 & 4 on heaven.

Activity 3: Pictures of Heaven {review}

Activity 4: Heaven Job Description {review}

Week 49: Those who reject Jesus as their Savior will spend eternity in hell.

Activity 46: The Rich Man and Lazarus

Week 50: The pain of hell is real, beyond our comprehension and avoidable.

Activity 47: Hell Letter

The Story Continues - Week 51 & 52 and Beyond

Week 51: What is the purpose of a family?

Activity 48: Family Mission Statement

Weeks 52+: Over the next few weeks and from time to time in the future, review the lessons in this book. Start with the following activities:

Activity 5: Middle East Map

Activity 7: New Testament Map

Activity 22: Old Testament Time Line

Activity 23: New Testament Time Line

Activity 37: Lists