



Sneak-a-Peek

King Josiah Finds God's Word

BIG IDEA: It's true, it's true! The Bible is true!

BIBLE BASIS: 2 Kings 22:1-23:30

KEY VERSE: "All your words are true." Psalm 119:160

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

During my late teens and early twenties I had one of the most challenging, albeit best, jobs on earth—I was a camp counselor. The pay was miniscule. (One year we calculated that the counselors earned less than a dollar an hour.) Moreover, the hours were long. And by "long," I mean that we only got two nights off a week, for four hours each night. So when our nights off rolled around, you can imagine all of the things we needed and wanted to accomplish—laundry, shopping, relaxation, recreation. But most of all, we just wanted to spend every possible moment hanging out and building friendships with the other counselors who had the night off.

One summer, though, I felt convicted to approach my nights off differently. Although they were precious few, I was compelled to devote the first of my two nights off every week to God. For those four hours, I would spend time reading the Bible, praying, journaling, and meditating. As I wrestled with the thought of giving up half of my free time, I couldn't imagine how I was going to accomplish everything I needed in the four remaining hours of the week. Moreover, I was afraid of missing out on all of the fun that the other counselors would be having together. Nevertheless, I gave it shot.

Predictably, my time each week with God was life-giving. I saw more spiritual growth during that summer than I ever had before. And simply put, I fell more deeply in love with God than I could have imagined. What I didn't anticipate, though, is that by giving God the first portion of my time, the remainder of my time seemed multiplied. Not only did I have enough time to do everything I wanted and needed, I had an abundance of time. And best of all, there was a divine sweetness that permeated it all. Although I had essentially cut my time of community in half, my connection with the other counselors was twice as deep. Not only was my time with God having a profound impact on me, it was also profoundly impacting those around me.

12.1 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



If you're like me, you might think you're too busy to give that much time to God. But in fact, the opposite is true. We're too busy *not* to give that much time to God. God created us first and foremost to have fellowship with Him, and when that's missing, everything else suffers. So try something wonderfully dangerous this week—give God the first portion of your day. And not just your spare time. Instead, be radically generous with the time you give Him. You'll be amazed at how faithful God is when you put Him first.

David Rausch
Mooblio President

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LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

3 Ways to Capture Kids with Your Voice

Has the continual droning of someone's voice ever made you want to take a nap? A tediously dull and monotonous voice is as sure to put someone to sleep as eating a whole turkey while watching C-SPAN. On the other hand, a skilled communicator can grab the attention of an audience and cut through boredom with their voice like a sword-wielding ninja! So, what do you want to be—C-SPAN or a ninja? (I'm going to assume you just karate chopped the air and yelled "ninja.") That's the spirit! Here are 3 ways you can begin to use your voice to grab kids' attention:

Pace: Simply put, pace is the speed or tempo of your delivery. Avoid using the same pace throughout the entire lesson. Variety creates interest. When you get to the climax of a story, illustrate the excitement by increasing your pace. When you're talking about the incredible height, and width, and depth of God's love for us, slow down and let each word float into the ears of the kids.

Pitch: Pitch is the highness or lowness of a voice. When you fail to vary your pitch, you become monotone, which is the perfect recipe for boredom. Questions should typically end on a high note, but when you end a statement on a high note, it can create doubt in the listener's mind. When you're speaking with authority and certainty, try using the lower end of your voice.

Volume: Volume is the degree of loudness in your voice. Be sure to always speak at a volume that can be heard by the kids. Higher volumes can communicate excitement or dominance while lower volumes can communicate intimacy and tenderness. To create excitement, let your voice crescendo as you work towards the pinnacle of a dramatic point or story. Conversely, trail off to a whisper when you really want to pull the kids close for a more tender moment.

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UNIT DESCRIPTION

A picture says a thousand words! Unfortunately, our story pictures are all covered up. But not for long! Bit by bit, the preschoolers will sneak-a-peek at the picture until they can guess what it is. As the pictures are revealed, not only will they say a thousand words, they'll shine light on the greatest Word—the Word of God—the Bible!

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- Print the “Bible Story Pictures and Covers” on 8½ x 11 cardstock. (See Resource Folder.) Place one Picture Cover over the top of each Story Picture. Using Scotch tape, tape the Picture Cover and Story Picture together along the left side as if you are binding a book. Cut along the dotted lines on each of the Picture Covers. (Do NOT cut the Story Picture below it.) When finished, you should be able to fold each of the four strips of the Picture Cover back, thus revealing the Story Picture a little bit at a time.
- Place 3 popular picture books in the storytelling area. These should be fictional stories that the children are familiar with such as *The Cat in the Hat* or *The Pokey Little Puppy*. Be prepared to give the children a 1–2 sentence synopsis of each book.
- Create a “Bible Box” and place your storytelling Bible inside. This box will be used every week. See the Resource Folder for details on how to make the “Bible Box.”

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★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

Slide: show “Sneak-a-Peek” title graphic

Music: (optional) play upbeat music as children enter the storytelling area

WELCOME AND MUSIC

As children enter the story time area, give them a high-energy welcome—smile, wave, give high fives, and tell them you’re glad to see them. For added energy during the transition, play a fun song that the children are familiar with. When the children have all arrived, play one worship song and lead the kids in singing.

Music: play one worship song

After the song, help the children sit down by saying the following rhyme with them:

Topher the Gopher 1, 2, 3. *(Clap on each number.)*

Digs a hole right under me. *(Make a motion as if digging with a shovel.)*

Slowly I start sinking down. *(Twist your body back and forth, lower and lower to the ground.)*

Until I’m sitting on the ground. *(Sit down on ground or chair.)*

BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

Large Group Leader: Hello everybody. Today is such a happy day! In fact, every day at church with my friends is a happy day! What’s your favorite thing to do with your friends at church? *(Take answers.)* Great answers! My favorite thing is reading stories from the Bible!

The Bible is such a special book because it’s filled with God’s words. And all of God’s words are true! **It’s true, it’s true! The Bible is true!** That’s our Big Idea for the day. Let’s say it together! *(Repeat Big Idea with children.)* **It’s true, it’s true! The Bible is true!** The Bible really is true! In fact, that’s what our memory verse tells us. Let me teach it to you.

“All *(fan hands outward with palms up)* your words *(with palms still facing up, put hands together like you’re holding a book)* are true *(two thumbs up)*.” Psalm 119:160 *(extend hands like you’re holding a book)*.

Let’s do that together. *(Repeat Memory Verse with children 2 or 3 times.)*

STORY TIME RULES

Wow—nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

Video: play “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video

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SNEAK-A-PEEK INTRO

I love reading books. Do you love reading books too? *(Children respond.)* I'm going to show you some of my favorite picture books. If you've read this book, I want you to reach your hand as high as you can. *(Show a popular picture book and read the title. Some children will raise hand. Give a brief 1-2 sentence synopsis of the book.)* Do you think this book is a true story or *not* a true story? *(Children respond.)* That's right—it's NOT a true story. That means it didn't really happen. *(Repeat for 2 more books.)*

I have one more book to show you. *(Show the children a Bible.)* Who knows what book this is? *(Children respond.)* It's the Bible! The Bible has lots and lots of stories in it. The stories tell us how God loves us and that He wants to be our friend forever and ever. Are the stories in the Bible true or *not* true? *(Children respond.)* You're right—the stories in the Bible are TRUE! That means they really happened.

Today, we're going to hear another true story from the Bible. *(Set Bible down.)* If you're ready to hear that Bible story, wiggle your fingers in the air. *(Children wiggle fingers.)* Great! First, let's get our other Bible out of the super-duper Bible box. *(Move to the Bible Box.)* I need your help getting it out, though. We need to say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It's true, it's true, the Bible is true!

(Repeat the words with the children, then turn on the Bible Box light so that the Bible is revealed. Optional: play the Bible Box sound effect when you turn the light on.)

Sound: (optional) play the "Bible Box" sound effect

(After the Bible is revealed, open the box and take it out. Hold the open Bible in front of you.)

Slide: show the "King Josiah Finds God's Word" slide

BIG BIBLE STORY—KING JOSIAH FINDS GOD'S WORD

(During the story, when indicated, hold up the appropriate mystery picture. Each picture will be covered by 4 strips of paper. Each strip is numbered 1-4. Ask the children which strip they would like for you to remove, then fold the strip back to reveal a portion of the picture. Allow the children to guess what the picture is. Repeat the previous step until the children can guess the picture correctly.)

In the Bible, in the Book of 2nd Kings, there was a young boy named Josiah who became king of God's people. Give yourself a BIG hug! *(Hug yourself with children.)* King Josiah loved God very much and wanted to do something special for Him. Let's see what he did. *(Hold up mystery picture #1. Fold back the paper strips one at a time until the children guess what the picture is.)* You got it—it's a hammer and saw!

King Josiah told his workers to fix the Temple. The Temple was God's special house, but it was getting old and broken. So the workers hammered on nails. Let's pretend to hammer on nails. *(Pretend with children.)* The workers sawed on wood. Let's pretend to saw on wood. *(Pretend with children.)* While the workers worked away, a man named Hilkiah found something special in the Temple. Let's see what it was. *(Hold up mystery picture #2. Fold back the paper strips one at a time until the children guess what the picture is.)* You're right—it's a Bible.

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Hilkiah found a special book called the Book of Law. It was the very first part of the Bible, but it had been lost in the Temple and no one had read it for a very long time. When Hilkiah found the lost Bible, he sent it to the king right away. Let's see what King Josiah did when he heard what the Bible said. *(Hold up mystery picture #3. Fold back the paper strips one at a time until the children guess what the picture is.)* You got it—it's a king's robe!

When King Josiah heard the words from the Bible, he tore his robe in half. *(Tear picture of robe in half.)* A long time ago, that was a way someone showed they were sad. Let's pretend to tear our robes together. *(Pretend to tear robe with children.)* King Josiah was sad because he realized his people had been disobeying the Bible. They had been worshipping pretend gods instead of worshipping the one true God. So King Josiah gathered all of his people together. Let's see what he did next. *(Hold up mystery picture #4. Fold back the paper strips one at a time until the children guess what the picture is.)* You got it—the king is reading!

King Josiah read the Bible to all of his people for the first time ever. Then together, King Josiah and all the people made a promise to obey God's Word and to worship Him only. Hey—speaking of worshipping God, let's worship God right now by singing a song.

MUSIC AND CLOSING

(Lead the children in a worship song. Following the song, use the rhyme from earlier to help the children sit down again.)

Music: play one worship song

In our story for today, King Josiah and his people learned how to worship and obey God by reading the Bible together. But here's the great news—we can read the Bible too!

Let's think of some times and places where you can read the Bible. *(Appear to be thinking.)* Hmm...I know! Let's pretend like we're sleeping. *(Pretend with children.)* Now wake up! *(Children wake up.)* We can read our Bible in bed when we go to sleep and when we wake up. Now let's pretend like we're driving a car. *(Pretend with children.)* We can read our Bible in the car when our mommies and daddies are driving. Now let's pretend to be eating dinner. *(Pretend with children.)* We can read our Bible at dinner time while we're eating with our family. Can you think of some times or places where you can read the Bible? *(Take answers. If possible, act them out.)* You know what? Now that I think of it, you can read the Bible *anytime* and *anywhere*.

When we read the Bible, it teaches us how to worship and obey God. Best of all, it teaches us about God's love—a love so BIG that He gave us His only Son, Jesus, so that we could live with Him forever in Heaven. The Bible is so, so special because it's filled with God's words. And all of God's words are true. **It's true, it's true! The Bible is true!**

Hey—that's our Big Idea for today! I think we should tell it to our parents when we see them. Maybe we should practice first. *(Appear to be thinking.)* Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

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Video: play “Topher’s Big Idea Video 1”

(Whisper.) Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **It’s true, it’s true! The Bible is true!** On the count of 3, let’s all yell, “Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!” *(Count to 3 and yell with kids. Then play “Topher’s Big Idea Video 2” or hold up card #2.)*

Video: play “Topher’s Big Idea Video 2”

Topher: Hey, what’s the Big Idea?

Children and Large Group Leader: **It’s true, it’s true! The Bible is true!** *(Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play “Topher’s Big Idea Video 3” or hold up card #3.)*

Video: play “Topher’s Big Idea Video 3”

Topher: Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye kids. *(Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.)*

Large Group Leader: Let’s say a prayer together and tell God “thanks” for giving us the Bible. *(Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.)*

Dear God,
Thank you for giving us the Bible.
It’s filled with Your words.
And all Your words are true!
We love you so much!
Amen.