

# CHAIN REACTION



## **POWER PHRASE**

God promised to send a Savior!

## **MEMORY VERSE**

1 John 4:9b, “God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.”

## **SUPPORTING DOCTRINES**

For supporting doctrines, see our Statement of Faith at [novoministries.org/statement-of-faith](http://novoministries.org/statement-of-faith).

## **GOALS**

The child will...

- Realize that everyone has sinned and needs a Savior!
- Understand that Jesus is the only One who can pay the price for his sins!
- Know that God had a plan from the beginning to send Jesus!

## **REMINDERS**

God knew before the creation of the world that He would have to send Jesus to be the Savior. In this series the children will learn the significance of several prophecies in Scripture and how they were fulfilled. The children will see how God used a chain of people and events to fulfill His prophecies. Each story has meaning on its own, but it is important to make sure the children also see how all the lessons connect. The children also will realize that they are a part of this amazing chain of events!

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We want to express our gratitude to the volunteers who contributed ideas toward the development of this lesson. All of our contributors are knowledgeable and have worked extensively with at-risk children. We thank them for the time they have invested in these children.

## **A SPECIAL THANKS**

A special thanks to Jasmine Rogers for her willingness to impact thousands of children with the Gospel by sharing part of her story of how God has worked in her life.

The stories and photos shared in the Gospel Presentation activities are used by permission of the individuals.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

All Large Group or Small Group activity visuals or supply items followed by an asterisk ( \* ) may be downloaded for printing at [www.novoministries.org/resource](http://www.novoministries.org/resource).

## **THE CREATION AND FALL OF MAN** (BIBLE STORY - GENESIS 2-3)

### **Visuals**

- Bible Story Visuals\*

### **Supplies**

- Bible, Bible Insert for Large Group\*, “Press” badge or card, hat, toy microphone

### **Captivate #1 - News Flash!**

- Recruit a child or leader to be the reporter covering a news report on the Bible Story. Give the volunteer a microphone, play microphone, or hair brush to use as a microphone. You also could have the volunteer wear a hat with a “Press” card tucked in it or wear a “Press” badge. This activity will work best if the volunteer is given time to practice in advance.

### **Captivate #2 - Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down!**

- Stop at different points during the story and ask the children a question that has a “yes” or “no” answer. Ask them to show their answer by putting their thumbs up for “yes” and their thumbs down for “no.”

### **Introduction**

- In the beginning, there was nothing! God created the heavens and the earth and everything on the earth. He created light and darkness, land and sea animals. He created trees and plants. Everything God created was good.

### **Story**

- Retell the story from Genesis 2-3.
- See Bible Story Script.

### **Conclusion**

- Adam and Eve sinned. They would have to live with the consequences of their sins, but God’s love was so great that He promised to send a Savior. Through a chain of people starting with Adam, one day Jesus would come and pay the price for all humankind’s sins!

## **TESTIMONY**

- Share how you came to realize that you were a sinner.
- Show how you asked Jesus to forgive your sins and become the Lord of your life.

## CHALLENGE

### Visuals

- Key Point Visuals\*, Power Phrase Visual\*, Memory Verse Visual\*

### Supplies

- Bible, Bible Insert for Large Group

### Introduction

- In our Bible Story, we learned how God created the whole world, including Adam and Eve. God created them so He could have a relationship with them, for His glory. Adam and Eve sinned, and the consequences of their sin was separation from God. But God's love was so great that He promised to send a Savior Who would pay the price for their and our sins. Through an incredible chain of people, one day Jesus would be born as the Savior!

### Key Points

#### God created us in His image!

- God created us in His image and for His glory. He created us to know Him and have a relationship with Him.
- Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in His own image."
- Isaiah 43:7, "Everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made."

#### Sin separates us from God!

- God created man with a free will, the freedom to make choices. If we didn't have a free will, we would be robots! We wouldn't be able to have a genuine relationship with God.
- Joshua 24:15a, "And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve."
- Galatians 5:13, "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

#### God promised to send a Savior!

- God is all-knowing. From the very beginning He knew the choices Adam and Eve would make. He knows the choices we will make!
- He had a plan from the very beginning to send Jesus to pay the price for sin, to right the wrong that began with Adam and Eve, and to again have a relationship with the people He created.
- Titus 1:2, "In hope of eternal life, which God, Who never lies, promised before the ages began."
- Ephesians 3:11, "This was according to the eternal purpose that He has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- 1 John 4:9b, "God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him."

## CHALLENGE (CONTINUED)

### Conclusion

God created humans to be in relationship with Him. He knew they would sin, so He promised to send a Savior to make a way for them to have a restored relationship with Him. We each must choose though whether we ask for forgiveness and receive this gift of salvation.

### Invitation

#### For the unsaved child:

- Do you know that the greatest gift we can ever receive is forgiveness for our sin? Have you made the choice to ask Jesus to forgive your sins and be the Lord of your life?
- God sent His Son to die on the cross so you could receive forgiveness for your sins. We have all sinned, and sin separates us from God (Romans 6:23a). Sin is anything we think, say, or do that breaks God's Law. Jesus paid the price for our sin; He became our Substitute (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Invite the children to stay behind and talk to a leader if they have any questions or would like to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and be the Lord of their lives.

#### For the saved child:

- The Bible teaches us to be like Jesus. How can you be more like Jesus and keep your promises? How can you tell others about Jesus and how He wants to save them from their sin?
- Encourage children to stay behind and talk to a leader if they have any questions.



## **THE BEGINNING** (ARRIVING ACTIVITY)

### **Visuals**

- Timeline Visual\*

### **Supplies**

- Small papers, writing tools, Timeline Puzzle Pieces\*

### **Instruction and Application**

- As the children arrive, explain that over the next ten lessons we are going to put together an incredible puzzle. We will see how each of the pieces connect to each other and what that means for us. Show the children the first piece of the puzzle. Have them describe what they see on the puzzle piece. Explain that today we will learn why God created the world and what happened when Adam and Eve sinned. From the very beginning, God had a plan and promised to send a Savior!
- Review the Memory Verse with the children. 1 John 4:9b, “God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.”

## **SACRIFICE** (MEMORY VERSE)

### **Visuals**

- Memory Verse Visual\*, Illustrated Memory Verse Visual\*, Picture of a train on a bridge\*

### **Supplies**

- Ball

### **A.G.A.I.N. Acrostic**

**A — Attention Grabber** (Grab their attention with an interesting introduction and don't let go!)

Ask the children if they have ever seen a train going over a bridge. Tell them that there was a story once told about a train conductor who worked by a bridge. Just as the train was approaching the bridge, he saw his son playing on the tracks. There was no time for him to move his son off the tracks to safety. In that instant, he had to decide whether he would let his son die or reroute the train to an abandoned track and let everyone on the train die instead. He made the ultimate sacrifice; his son died so that others would live. This isn't a true story, but today we will learn about a real Father who allowed His own Son to die so that others might live. God sent His only Son Jesus into the world to pay the price for our sins. Jesus died and rose again so that we could receive forgiveness for our sins and spend eternity with God in Heaven.

**G — God's Word** (Show them that the concept you are teaching them comes from the Bible.)

1 John 4:9b, "God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him."

**A — Awareness** (Make them "aware" of the words and concepts.)

Only Son — Jesus

Live through Him — receive forgiveness and everlasting life through Jesus' paying the price for our sins

**I — In Their Lives** (Teach them to apply the lesson "in their lives.")

**Unsaved child** (questions to ask an unsaved child)

Have you asked Jesus to be the Lord of your life? Have you asked Him to forgive your sins so you can spend eternity with Him in Heaven?

**Saved child** (questions to ask a saved child)

Have you told others about Jesus? Have you helped them realize that the only way to receive forgiveness and spend eternity with God in Heaven is through Jesus?

**N — Number of Times** (Repeat the content again and again until the children understand it.)

Read from Scripture. Repeat after me. Play the Memory Game three or four times.

### **Memory Game**

Play Hot Potato. Have the children sit in a circle or around a table. Each child will say a word of the Memory Verse while passing a ball around the group. If a child misses a word, have him start the verse over.

## **HURTS** (GOSPEL PRESENTATION)

### **Visuals**

- “Who Is God?” and “What to Do Now?” Foundational Gospel Truths Visuals\*, Picture of Jasmine Rogers\*

### **Supplies**

- Bible, paper, writing tools

### **Instruction and Application**

- Jasmine Rogers grew up in a family who loved each other and loved God. She asked Jesus to forgive her sins and be the Lord of her life at a young age. Her faith and relationship with God deepened as she got older.
- When Jasmine was 17, she moved to Los Angeles to pursue an acting and modeling career. However, she soon became uncomfortable with the lifestyle there and how women were seen as objects. One night she was out with a friend who got drunk and took advantage of her. Although she said no and didn't do anything wrong, she felt ashamed and didn't tell anyone what had happened. Jasmine struggled with understanding how God could let something bad like that happen to her.
- A couple of months later she was in a serious car accident. Although her body began to heal, emotionally she was still in great pain from the abuse. She became fearful and anxious. She even came close to taking her own life.
- Jasmine soon began to read her Bible more and more. She spoke honestly with God about her thoughts and feelings, even though He already knew them. Jasmine believed again that God was still God, and she trusted and loved Him.
- Jasmine shares her story now with other young girls. She wants them to know that it is never their fault when someone hurts them like that, that they shouldn't be ashamed, and that they should tell someone who cares about them what has happened. Most importantly, she tells them that God loves them and is there for them.
- Just like Jasmine, we can know that God loves us and is always there for us. Use the “Who Is God?” Visual to review.
- All the things Jasmine learned as a child about God helped her overcome the difficult times in her life. We also need to grow in our faith. Use the “What to Do Now?” Visual to review.

### **Discussion**

- Older Team: Have the children share if they have ever questioned why God allowed bad things to happen in their lives.
- Younger Team: Have the children talk about who God is and how much He loves them.
- Quiet Team: Have the children pick one of the verses from the Foundational Gospel Truths Visuals, write it down, and explain what it means.
- Active Team: Have the children sit in a circle and toss the ball to someone in the group, each time spelling a letter in the word love. The child to say the letter e should share a way God shows His love to him.

## FLASHBACK (REVIEW QUESTIONS)

### Supplies

- Review Questions\*

### Large Group Story Review Questions

- Who created everything? (God)
- What was there in the beginning? (Nothing)
- Name some things God created? (Heavens, earth, plants, animals, trees, people)
- How did God create man? (From the dust, in His image)
- How did God create woman? (From Adam's rib)
- Why did God create woman? (To be a helper for Adam, so he would not be alone)
- What tree could they not eat from? (The tree of the knowledge of good and evil)
- Who tempted Eve to eat from the tree? (The serpent)
- Why did Eve want to eat from the tree? (So she would be as wise as God)
- Did Eve make Adam eat the fruit? (No)
- Were there consequences for their sin? (Yes)
- Did God promise to send a Savior? (Yes)

### Discussion Questions

- What wrong choices do you struggle with?
- What would the world be like if we never had the ability to choose things for ourselves?



## **GOD'S IMAGE** (CRAFT)

### **Visuals**

- Craft sample\*

### **Supplies**

- Picture Frame Template\*, tinfoil (large square per child), scissors, glue, coloring tools

### **Instruction and Application**

- Give each of the children a Picture Frame Template and a piece of tinfoil that is larger than their face. Have the children press the tinfoil over their faces to create a replica. Next have them trim around the edges of the tinfoil mold, leaving enough space to glue it to the Picture Frame. Then have them glue the edges of the mask and stick it to the picture frame. Finally, have the children color the picture frame. Encourage the children to write "Made in God's image" on the edge of the picture frame.
- Remind the children that today we learned how God created everything, including them. He created people so that He could have a relationship with them, but sin separated them from God. He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins so that we once again could have a relationship with God and spend eternity with Him.
- God loved us so much that He promised to send a Savior!
- Review the Memory Verse with the children. 1 John 4:9b, "God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him."

## **WHAT'S THE POINT?** (APPLICATION ACTIVITIES)

### **Supplies**

- “What’s the Point?” card\*, paper, writing tools

### **Activity #1**

- Give each child a “What’s the Point?” card. Have the children write what it means for them that God promised to send a Savior. What action can they take this week in light of that fact? Have they asked Jesus to forgive their sins and be the Lord of their lives? Who do they know that doesn’t know Jesus? How can they tell them about Jesus?

### **Activity #2**

- Have the children act out ways they can tell others about how God promised to send a Savior. If you have a group that is more quiet, you could have them draw a picture instead.

## **NOW WHAT?** (ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY)

### **Supplies**

- Additional Activity #1: Coloring Page\*
- Additional Activity #2: Spot-the-Difference Activity Page\*
- Additional Activity #3: Crossword Activity Page\*
- Additional Activity #4: The Big Take Away Key Chain\*

### **Instruction and Application**

- These activities are to be used with your team as time allows to reinforce the lesson concepts. The children may take these home each week or do them while they are listening to you teach during Small Group. These activities require little to no explanation and can be great for moments when you are transitioning or don’t have time to start another activity.

