

GLOSSARY

FOR THE

FAMILY



PRESCHOOL

TERMS FOR TEACHING

ANGEL – a mighty messenger and warrior from God
BAPTISM – to dip someone under some water and bring them back up—like Jesus died and was raised to back to life—to show everyone that God has given them a new, healthy heart like Jesus
BIBLE – God's true Word. It is from God and about God.
A CHURCH – a group of people who love and trust Jesus
THE CHURCH – everyone who loves and trusts Jesus
COMMUNION – when people who love and trust Jesus eat and drink together to remember His death on the cross, how Jesus' body was broken like bread and His blood was poured out like wine for sin
COVENANT – A promise between God and His people
CRUCIFY – to die on a cross
DESERT – a hot, dry place with almost no food or water
DISCIPLE – a friend and follower of Jesus
GOD – God the Father is God. Jesus the Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. There is only one God who is three different persons. **God Made Everything. God Is in Charge of Everything. God Is Good!**
GOSPEL – the good news that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** and the whole world from sin
HEAVEN – the place where God lives

IDOL – anything we love and trust more than God
ISRAELITES – God's special, chosen people
MIRACLE – something amazing and special that shows God's power
PROMISED LAND – the place God promised to give to the Israelites that was full of good things
PROPHET – someone who speaks for God
SACRIFICE – giving something special and valuable to God to show Him that He is better
SAVES – rescues
SIN (SICK HEART) – anything we do or think that is different from what God wants. Sin starts in our hearts and comes out in our actions. Everyone sins. Sin separates us from God, and we die.
TAX COLLECTOR – someone who collects money and gives it to the people in charge of a city as a job
TEMPLE – the place where God's people worshiped God together a long time ago
TEMPTATION – when our hearts or other people tell us that sinning is better than obeying God
WORSHIP – how we show that God is most valuable. Only God deserves our worship. We use our voices, minds, and bodies to worship God.

DEFINITIONS FOR TEACHING

THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's true Word. It is from God and about God. God the Holy Spirit helped many different men at many different times write all the different books of the Bible, but it's all one, true story about God. **God Wants to Talk With Us** through the Bible.

THE CHURCH

The Church is not a building. The Church is every person who loves and trusts Jesus. There are many people around the world who gather together in buildings to spend time learning about God, worshiping God, and remembering the good news that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** together.

FORGIVENESS

God does not give His children the punishment they deserve for sin. Jesus took the punishment for sin by dying on the cross. God forgives sinners because God is love. God loves His children! We can never be good enough to make God forgive us. We have to love and trust Jesus to be forgiven.

FIVE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

As we read the Bible, we can look for what is true about God. We can often see one of these five truths: **God Made Everything, God Is in Charge of Everything, God Is Good, Jesus Came to Save Sinners, or God Wants to Talk With Us.** When we look for this, it helps us keep the focus of every lesson on the main point of the story: God!

GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE

Throughout the Bible, we see an overarching timeline of God's work, sometimes referred to as the metanarrative. Refer back to this timeline to help children gain an understanding of how each narrative fits into God's Big Story. It is our hope that they grow in their understanding of not only when things happened, but also how we are still waiting with hope for the promise of Christ's return to come true.

HATE

It is sin to hate people. God does not want us to sin or hate anyone, even if they aren't easy to love.

LAWS

God's laws and rules are always good. Obeying them is always good for us! We can never obey God's laws perfectly. We all need a Savior to save us from our sin. Laws given to us by God are always good because **God Is Good**, but laws given to us by people are not always good because we are all sinners. We should never obey laws given to us by people more than laws given to us by God.

PRAYER

We can talk to God through prayer anywhere, anytime, about anything. When we pray, we can tell God how great He is or thank God for everything He does and gives. We can ask God to do something or give something, and we can tell God the truth about our sin. God already knows everything about us, but **God Wants to Talk With Us** because He loves us and wants us to love Him!

SALVATION (HEALTHY HEART)

God rescues and saves people from their sin. Sin separates us from God and we die, but God takes our sick, sinful hearts and gives us a new, healthy heart when we love and trust Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, but Jesus didn't stay dead. Jesus came back to life three days later so that everyone who loves and trusts Him can have a healthy heart and live with God forever. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

SICK HEART/HEALTHY HEART

Because Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God, everyone who is born after them (that's us!) is born with a heart that is sick with sin. Our hearts are sick because they love other things more than they love God, but Jesus was born with a perfectly healthy heart that loves God because Jesus is God's Son, not Adam's. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for sins. Then, He came back to life three days later so that everyone who loves and trusts Jesus can have a new, healthy heart like His that loves God most! **Jesus Came to Save Sinners.**

SLAVERY

Slaves are not in charge of their own lives and have to do whatever their master tells them to do. Most of the time, slaves are treated very, very badly, and their masters are

mean to them. They do all of the hard work but don't make any money. It is terrible to be a slave. God never wants us to treat people the way slaves are treated.

WORSHIP

Worship is telling and showing someone or something that they are most valuable. Only God deserves our worship. We can worship God by singing songs, praying, telling others about Him, and reading God's Word. When we love and trust God, our hearts want to worship Him.

ELEMENTARY

TERMS FOR TEACHING

ADOPTION – when God chooses to bring those who love and trust Jesus into His family as His children. God's children can never be kicked out of His family.

AUTHORITY – the right to be in charge

COMPASSION – to see, care, and act when others are in need

CONFESSTION – telling the truth about your sin

CONFIDENCE – sure and firm hope; belief and relying on God

DAILY BREAD – everything we need to gladly glorify the Father

DELIGHT – hearts are happy because God is in the highest place

DISCIPLE – a friend and follower of Jesus

DISCIPLINE – God training His children to be more like Jesus by letting them go through hard times, which He is willing and able to help them through

ETERNITY – without beginning or end

FAITH – having full confidence in the goodness of God, even though we do not see Him

FORGIVENESS – to release someone from their wrong. God forgives fully, freely, and forever.

GENTLENESS – expressing compassion in words and actions

GLORIFY – to show, honor, and enjoy God as most valuable

GOD'S CHILDREN – those who turn away from their sin to love, trust, and follow Jesus

GOODNESS – doing the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason

GRACE – when God gives what is undeserved. God freely gives His children what they don't deserve.

GRATITUDE – a heart that is thankful

HEART – where belief lives; not the heart that beats in your chest but rather the one you feel with

HOLY – God is completely perfect and separate from sin.

HUMILITY – happy to take the lowest place

JOY – delighting in things that honor God

KINDNESS – being generous with your possessions, your words, and your actions

LOVE – a caring commitment to God and others over yourself

OBEDIENCE – doing what you're told – right away and with a great attitude. We obey when we know, love and trust the one who has given commands.

PATIENCE – being slow to anger, waiting kindly and quietly

PEACE – a calm confidence in God's goodness and power

PRAYER – talking with God. God's children pray to God the Father because of Jesus the Son with the help of the Holy Spirit.

PRIDE – to show, honor and enjoy myself as most valuable

RECONCILE – to make peace and remove separation

REDEMPTION – to be purchased back

RELATIONAL CREDIBILITY – having favor and credit because of consistency in relationship

REPENTANCE – confessing your sin and turning away from it to follow Jesus

RIGHTEOUSNESS – right action; to be free from guilt or sin

SELF-CONTROL – freedom from obedience to our sinful thoughts and emotions

SIN – more than just the “bad things” we think, feel, do, and say; it’s why we do them. Our hearts are sick with sin. We are born guilty, deserving of punishment, and are separated from God.

SINFUL NATURE – All people are slaves of sin; we both choose it and have no choice.

TEMPTATION – when sin looks good even though it isn’t; temptation tests our confidence in God

WORSHIP – the right response to the goodness of God

DEFINITIONS FOR TEACHING

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

- The Bible is God's true word. It is from God and about God.
- Testaments: There are two, the Old and the New.
- Books have all the names, like Genesis, Job, and James.
- Chapter is the big number.
- Verse is the little number.

WHO ARE GOD'S CHILDREN?

God's children are those who turn from their sin to love and trust Jesus. God adopts into His family those who love and trust Jesus.

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God” (John 1:12–13).

WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus is the fullness of God poured into human skin. When we look at Jesus, we see what God is like because Jesus is God: His divinity, His character, and His authority. He lived a perfect life, though He was tempted to sin just like we are. Through His suffering and death, He absorbed God's wrath toward sin so that sinners could be brought to God.

WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is not just bad things we do; it is why we do them. It is the wicked nature that all humans are born with. Our hearts are sick with sin, and sin separates us from God. God is angry at sin. Jesus came to save and heal the spiritually sick by absorbing all of God's anger toward sin and sinners.

MORE KEY IDEAS

- The kingdom of heaven is where Jesus is honored as the highest and best King.
- Heaven is good because God is there.
- There are two ways we know what is true. We can know with our minds—this is understanding. We can know with our hearts—this is belief.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

WISE — God knows what is best.

GENEROUS — God gives what is best.

LOVING — God does what is best.

GOOD — God is what is best.

UNCHANGING — God never changes.

CREATOR — God made everything.

HOLY — God is completely perfect and separate from sin.

JUST — God is right to punish sin.

FAITHFUL — God always does what He says He will do.

PROVIDER — God meets the needs of His children.

MERCIFUL — God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

ATTENTIVE — God hears and responds to the prayers of His children.

SOVEREIGN — God has the right, wisdom, and power to do all that He pleases.

ALMIGHTY — Nothing is too hard for God.

COMPASSIONATE — God sees, cares, and acts when His children are in need.

GLORIOUS — God shows His greatness and worth.

WORTHY — Only God deserves all glory.

REFUGE — God is a place of safety and protection for His children.

DELIVERER — God rescues His children.

All of God's attributes are important, but we focus on these four:

- **Wise** — God knows what is best.
- **Generous** — God gives what is best for His children.
- **Loving** — God does what is best for His children.
- **Good** — God is what is best for His children; He is their greatest good.

PRAYER

MECHANICS OF PRAYER

We pray to the Father because of Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit. Although it is not wrong to pray to Jesus or the Holy Spirit, we want to align with what is most common in Scripture by praying to God the Father. When we are born, we all have hearts sick with sin, and because of this, we are separated from God and are not in relationship with Him. That means we cannot talk with Him. Because God is merciful, He sent Jesus to die. When Jesus died, He hung the line and connected God with His children. It is because of Jesus, God's children can talk with their Father. God also gave us the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit takes our weak prayers and makes them strong and effective. Summary: God's children pray to God the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit because Jesus made them able to be in relationship with God.

FOUR TYPES OF PRAYER SEEN IN SCRIPTURE

- **Praise and adoration** — telling God how good He is (“*God you are...*”)
- **Thanksgiving** — thanking God for what He has done and what He gives (“*God thank you for...*”)
- **Confession** — telling God the truth about your sin and asking for forgiveness (“*God, I'm sorry for... Please forgive me.*”)
- **Request** — asking God to do or give something (“*God, please give/do...*”)

HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The gospel is the good news that Jesus died to bring sinners to God. By dying in their place and rising again, Jesus made a way for all who love and trust Him to be forgiven for sin and adopted into God's family forever.

God is good: *He is what is best.* In love, God created the world and everything in it. He created people to know Him, enjoy Him and glorify Him forever. What God created was pleasing to Him, and He called all things good (*Gen. 1-2; Ps. 19:1; Rom. 5:12; Rev. 21:1-5; Rev. 22:1-5*).

God is holy: *He is completely perfect and separate from sin.* Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They did not trust Him, believing the lies of the serpent instead of what God had said. Because God is holy, completely perfect, and separate from sin, Adam and Eve were separated from God. Like Adam and Eve, we are all guilty of sin and separated from God. We are born with sin in our hearts, loving other things more than God. Sin is not just the bad things we do, say, and think. Sin is a sickness of the heart and the reason we do those things (*Gen. 3-4, Gen. 6; Isa. 63; Rom. 1-2, Rom. 6-8; Col. 1*).

God is just: *He is right to punish sin.* Sin separates all of us from God, and that separation is bad. God is angry at sin, and because sin is in us, that means God is angry at us. It is good and right for God to punish sin, and the punishment all sinners deserve is death and separation from God forever (*Gen. 6:7; Num. 16:20-21; Isa. 63:3; Ezek. 16:30-58; Rom. 3:23, Rom. 6:23; Gal. 3:13*).

God is loving: *He does what is best.* In love and for His glory, God sent Jesus to die and take the punishment deserved by sinners—that includes you and me. When Jesus died, He absorbed all of God's anger toward sin and sinners. He defeated the power of sin by dying on the cross and taking the punishment we deserved for sin. He defeated the power of death by rising three days later (*Matt. 1:21; Mark 1:15; John 2:13-22; Rom. 3-5; 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 2:6-11; 1 Pet. 1:8-9, 1 Pet. 3:18*).

God is merciful: *He does not give sinners the punishment they deserve but rather adopts into His family those who love and trust Jesus.* We are forgiven for our sin and adopted as children of God when God opens our hearts to love and trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior (*John 1:12*) and turn away from sin to follow Him forever.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE AND TRUST JESUS? TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

By faith, God has helped you to believe and trust God. You see God for who He is, believe that He is what is best, love Him more than anything, and value Him as most valuable.

By faith, you understand that you are guilty of sin, separated from God, and deserve His just punishment.

By faith, you have full confidence that God forgives your sin because of what Jesus has done, not because of anything you have done.

By faith, you repent. Confess your sin and turn away from it to follow Jesus because He is most valuable.

By faith, you have full confidence that God counts you as righteous (not guilty, clean from sin) because of Jesus' perfect life and righteousness, not because of your obedience.

And by faith, you trust that He not only calls you to walk as Jesus did, in love for God and neighbor, but He gives you the power to do it by the Holy Spirit, who lives in you.