

Digital Bible Time

Intro:

This is to be a faith formation program for kids Pre-K through 5th grade, helping and empowering parents/guardians their kid(s) in leading thinking and wondering about the Story of God.

There will be two or three parts to a session: Bible Story, Wondering Questions, and an (maybe) Activity. Using the *Shine Story Bible*, each Bible story will be read by a different child/student from the congregation, video recorded, and posted on the church's YouTube page.

We will email out the video and curriculum each week to families. The link will also be emailed out for the whole Church on Thursday. We will also collect the sessions so they can be accessed asynchronously, or at the participants' speed, at fultonfirstchristianchurch.org.

Jesus is Baptized - 3/7/2022

Many people heard about John the Baptist. They came to the Jordan River to find out what was happening. They heard John preach. They confessed their sins and were baptized by John in the river.

People talked about John's clothes, woven from camel hair. They talked about the desert foods he ate, locusts and wild honey. Most important, they talked about John's words.

John had told them something new was happening. "The one who is more powerful than I am is coming. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Jesus came to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John said, "You should not be coming to me; I am the one who needs to be baptized by you."

But Jesus said, "No, it is right for you to baptize me now."

So John agreed, and he baptized Jesus in the river.

As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens open. The Holy Spirit descended like a dove and rested upon him, and a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Wonder: I wonder how people felt after they had been baptized by John. How do you think their lives changed?

More Questions:

What is the biggest body of water you've swum in?

What is the weirdest thing you've ever eaten? Weirder than locusts and wild honey?

Why do you think John initially tried to stop Jesus from being baptized?

How did Jesus feel when God told him He was pleased with Jesus? How would you feel?

Activity:

Limbo

1. All contestants must attempt to go under the bar with their backs facing toward the floor.
2. When passing under the bar, players must bend backward. No part of their body is allowed to touch the bar, and no part other than their feet may touch the ground.
3. They must not turn their head or neck to the side.
4. If they can't pass under, they are out.
5. If everyone passes under at that height, the adults lower the rope.
6. The game ends when one person is left.

Jesus Brings Good News - 3/14/2022

When Jesus left the wilderness after being tempted by the devil, he returned to Galilee. He began to teach in the synagogues and everyone praised him. People all over the countryside were talking about him.

Then Jesus came to Nazareth, the town where he had grown up. On the Sabbath, he went to the synagogue. He stood up to read the scripture and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. Jesus unrolled the scroll and read:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back, and sat down. Everyone was watching him. He began to speak to the people, saying, “Today this scripture has come true in your hearing.”

Everyone was amazed at how well he spoke. They asked each other, “Isn’t this the son of Joseph and Mary?”

Jesus continued, “I tell you this, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s own hometown.

“There were many widows in Israel during the prophet Elijah’s time, yet Elijah was not sent to them. Instead he was sent to help a widow in Zarephath in Sidon - a woman who wasn’t an Israelite.

“And during the time of the prophet Elisha, there were many lepers in Israel. Yet Elisha healed only Naaman, who was from the enemy country of Syria.”

As the crowd began to understand that Jesus was criticizing them, they grew angrier and angrier. Finally they drove him out of the synagogue and out of the town. They led him to a hill so they could throw him off a cliff.

But Jesus slipped through the crowd and continued on his way, teaching and healing people.

Wonder: Why were the people so angry with what Jesus said in the synagogue?

More Questions:

Are you scared of public speaking? Why or why not?

What do you do when you’re angry?

Who are some people who need to hear God loves them?

Activity:

Hot Potato -

1. Sit in a circle (or across from each other if there are only two of you) and pass the potato (or something else) to each other

2. When someone drops the potato, or holds onto it longer than 2 seconds without passing, they are out.
3. The last one to remain wins.

Jesus Calls the Disciples - 3/21/2022

One day while Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Simon's brother Andrew fishing. Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Right away, Simon and Andrew stopped fishing and followed Jesus.

Farther on, Jesus saw James and his brother John. They were in their boat fixing fishing nets. Jesus called them, and they left their boat and followed him.

Jesus went to the synagogue in Capernaum and taught. People were amazed. They could tell that Jesus spoke with God's love and power. When a man who was ill began to shout at him, Jesus healed the man.

Then Jesus went to Simon's house, where Simon's mother-in-law was very sick. Jesus took her hand and lifted her up, and she was better right away. That evening the whole city crowded around the door. Jesus healed many people that night.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went to a deserted place to pray. Simon and the other friends came looking for him. When they found Jesus, they told him, "Everyone is searching for you."

Jesus answered, "Let's go to other towns so that I can share my message there too. This is what I came to do." So Jesus continued to travel with his friends, teaching and healing people.

One man with leprosy came to him and said, "I know that you can heal me if you choose." Jesus stretched out his hand and touched the man, saying, "I do choose. Be healed!" And immediately the leprosy left the man. Then Jesus sent him away, saying, "Say nothing to anyone; just go to the temple and show the priests that you are cured."

But the man was too happy and excited to keep quiet. He told everyone he met about what Jesus had done for him. Soon Jesus couldn't go into towns anymore, because when he did, many people crowded around him. So Jesus stayed out in the country, and people came from all over to hear his teaching and to be healed.

Wonder: I wonder what made those fishermen leave their jobs and follow Jesus.

More Questions:

What is your dream job? What do you want to be when you grow up?

What do you think it would feel like to have Jesus heal you?

Where do you like to go when you want to be alone?

Why do you think Jesus was so welcoming to people who crowded around him?

Activity:

Search the web for "fisherman's knot" and see if you can learn to tie one.

Give, Pray, Fast - 3/28/2022

Jesus was always teaching his disciples about how to follow God. He told them again and again that it is important to speak and act honestly and not do things just to impress other people.

He talked to them about giving to others. He said, "It is good to give offerings and share what you have with others. But be careful not to make a show of your giving. If you make a big deal about what you give, people might praise you rather than God. So do your giving quietly; God will know what you have done."

He talked about how to pray. He said, "When you talk to God, keep it simple. Don't try to impress God or anyone else by praying loudly so everyone can hear you. Find a quiet place where you can just focus on God. God will hear your honest words and thoughts.

"Don't try to use lots of words when you pray. Pray like this:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

"When you forgive others, God will forgive you."

He talked about fasting, or giving up something like food, in order to spend time with God.

"If you fast, don't look gloomy and go around with your face all twisted up so everyone notices. Just wash your face and comb your hair as usual. Your fasting should be a private thing. God will know what you have done."

Wonder: I wonder what the disciples prayed about. Do you think some of their prayers might be the same as yours?

More Questions:

When's a time you've noticed someone showing off? What about when you showed off?

What is your favorite way to express your faith: giving, praying, fasting, or something else?

Why do you think Jesus taught us to be simple and not showy?

What would be the hardest food to give up if you had to fast (spiritually abstaining from food to remind us of our need for God)?

Activity:

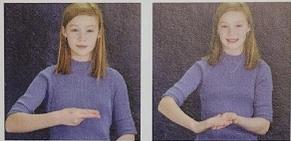
Connect

Read over the prayer Jesus taught his disciples and make up actions to fit with each part of the prayer. Now you can pray using your entire body! Below are some words in American Sign Language.

Heaven



Holy



Kingdom



Bread



Forgiven



Learn these signs together. Then sign each sign as you pray the Lord's prayer together. Pray this prayer each night.

Jesus' Arrest - 4/4/2022

Jesus and the disciples walked across the valley to the garden of Gethsemane where they often met. He told his disciples, "Sit here and stay awake while I go to pray. I feel very sad."

Jesus went a little distance away and he prayed to God for a way out of the terrible things to come. "But I will do what you want me to do," he said.

But the disciples could not stay awake. Three times Jesus asked them to stay awake. Three times they went to sleep instead of waiting for Jesus.

Judas came with a crowd of soldiers and temple police. They came with torches and carried swords and clubs. Jesus asked, "Who are you looking for?" The soldiers answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am Jesus." The soldiers immediately stepped back and fell to the ground.

Once more, Jesus asked who they were looking for. Again, the soldiers said they were looking for Jesus of Nazareth. "I told you that I am Jesus. so if you are looking for me, let my friends go free," said Jesus.

So in the dark of night, they bound Jesus and arrested him. First they took him to Annas, father-in-law of the high priest, and then to the home of Caiaphas, the high priest. Most of the disciples ran away but Peter followed from a distance.

Caiaphas held a sort of trial, where people told lies about Jesus. Jesus was silent until the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?" Jesus answered, "I am." The temple leaders cried angrily, "He deserves to die."

Meanwhile, Peter sat outside the high priest's house. He was afraid and told everyone he did not know Jesus. When a rooster crowed, Peter remembered that earlier that evening Jesus had said to him: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." Peter wept bitterly.

Wonder: Imagine being with the disciples at Gethsemane, sleeping while Jesus prayed. I wonder why Jesus wanted his friends to stay wake while he prayed.

More questions:

When did you stay up the latest at night? How late was it?

How come Jesus wanted his friends to stay awake while he prayed?

Why did the soldiers fall down?

Why do you think Peter denied knowing Jesus?

Activity:

Stations of the Cross Coloring -

The Stations of the Cross is a way to prayerfully enter the story of Jesus' passion. We stop at each station, imagine the scene, and pray for God's guidance.

We will have coloring booklets available for each participant. Invite them to color in the scene. [Click Here to Download](#)

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene - 4/11/2022

Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene walked to the tomb.

When she got there, she saw that the stone had been rolled away from the opening. Mary hurried away and found Simon Peter and another of Jesus' disciples.

"They have taken our Lord from the tomb!" Mary told them. "I don't know where he is!" The two disciples ran to the tomb. They looked inside and saw only the linen cloths lying there. The two disciples went back to their homes but Mary stayed by the tomb, weeping.

She bent over to look into the tomb. Two angels in white were sitting where Jesus' body had been. "Why are you crying?" they asked Mary.

"Someone has taken my Lord away and I don't know where he is." Just then, Mary turned and saw a man behind her. She didn't know that the man was Jesus.

He said to her, "Woman why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Mary thought the man was the gardener. "Have you taken him away? Tell me where you put him and I will take him away."

Then Jesus said, "Mary!"

Mary turned and said, "Jesus! Teacher! It's you! You are alive!"

Jesus said, "Go to my brothers and say that I am going to my Father, to my God and your God."

Mary hurried to find the other disciples. "I have seen our Lord," she said. "Jesus is alive!"

Wonder: I wonder why Mary wasn't able to recognize Jesus?

More questions:

Do you like to garden? What's your favorite thing to grow?

What's your favorite Easter tradition?

Why do you think Mary did not recognize Jesus?

How would you have reacted if Jesus appeared to you?

Activity:

Egg Walk Challenge

1. Give each person a spoon and a hard-boiled egg.
2. Carry the egg on the spoons as far as you can without dropping it.
3. Add obstacles for more of a challenge!

Jesus Heals Two Daughters - 4/18/2022

Jesus took a boat and crossed the sea, and a huge crowd gathered around him on the shore. Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue, knelt down at Jesus' feet. "My daughter is dying," said Jairus. He begged Jesus, "Please come and lay your hands on her so that she will get well." So Jesus went with Jairus.

The crowd surrounded Jesus and followed along. In the crowd there was a woman who had been sick for twelve years. She had gone to many doctors, but instead of getting better, she had gotten worse. She had heard about Jesus and she said to herself, "If I can just touch his clothes, I will be made well." So she came up behind Jesus and touched his cloak. Immediately she felt in her body that she was healed.

Jesus knew that power had gone out from him. He looked around the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" Jesus' disciples said, "How can you ask that? Look at this huge crowd. Lots of people are touching you."

But the woman came forward, even though she was very frightened. She knelt down at Jesus' feet and told him her story. Jesus said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed."

While Jesus was speaking with the woman, some people came from Jairus's house. They said, "Your daughter has died. Don't bother the teacher anymore." But Jesus heard what they said, and told Jairus, "Do not fear, only believe."

Jesus and some of the disciples continued on to the house of Jairus. Jesus went in, took the child by the hand, and said, "*Talitha cum*," which means, "Little girl, get up!" Immediately the girl got up and began to walk around.

All the people there were amazed. Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what he had done. Then he asked them to give the girl something to eat.

Wonder: I wonder why the woman believed that touching Jesus' clothes would heal her.

More Questions:

If you could have one super "power," what would it be and why?

What are some things you're scared to touch?

How do you think Jairus felt once Jesus left his house?

Who are the people considered to be "untouchable" now? How can we reach out and love them?

Activity:

Mystery Bag -

1. Find 5-8 items that feel different (potato, feather, marshmallow, etc.)
2. Put the items in separate bags.
3. Have kids put a hand in the bag to feel the item.

4. After everyone feels the item, make them guess what it is.
5. Reveal the item!
6. Repeat until all items have been revealed.

The Loving Father - 4/25/2022

Jesus told this parable:

Once there was a man who had two sons. The sons knew that when their father died, they would inherit his property.

The older son was a hard worker on his father's farm. The younger son did not want to stay on the farm and work. He said to his father, "Give me my share of your property now."

The father divided his property and gave the younger son his share. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a faraway country. There, he spent all his money. He had to take a job with a farmer who sent him out to the fields to feed pigs. He was so hungry that he would gladly have eaten the pigs' food.

The son said to himself, "My father's workers have more bread than they can eat, and here I am, dying of hunger. I will go to my father and tell him I'm sorry. I'll ask him to hire me as one of his workers."

So the son set off for home. While he was still far off down the road, the father saw him. He ran to his son, hugged him, and kissed him. The son said, "Father, I have done so many bad things. I am not good enough to be called your son anymore."

But the father called out, "Bring out a robe for my son. Bring sandals for his feet, and a ring for his finger. We're going to have a feast!" And everyone began to celebrate.

The older son came in from the fields and heard the noise from the party. When he found out what was going on, he was very angry. He said to his father, "This is not fair. I've worked hard and you've never given me a party. My brother spent all his money and you're giving a feast for him!"

The father replied, "Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. But now we must celebrate. Your brother was lost to us, and now he has been found."

Wonder: How do you feel about what the father did?

More questions:

How do you celebrate with your family?

What are you supposed to do when you feel jealous? What do you actually do?

Why did the Father celebrate so wildly (feasts were and are very expensive)?

What does it feel like when someone forgives you?

Activity:

Pig Snorting Circle

1. Have kids AND adults gather in a circle on hands and knees (if possible).
2. Participants take turns snorting like a pig to the person on their right. They are allowed to act like a pig in other ways too.

3. If a person laughs while snorting or being snorted at they are out.
4. Continue until there is only one person left as time allows.

The Rich Man - 5/2/2022

As Jesus was about to leave on a journey, a man ran up to him.

Kneeling down before Jesus, the man asked, "Good teacher, what must I do to enter the kingdom of God?"

Jesus replied, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God.

"You know the commandments:

You shall not murder.

Be faithful to your husband or wife.

You shall not steal.

You shall not tell lies about your neighbor.

You shall not cheat.

Honor your father and mother."

The man said, "Teacher, I have kept all of these rules since I was a child."

Jesus looked at the man and loved him. He said, "Do one more thing. Go, sell what you own, and give the money to help people who are poor. That will bring you treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me."

The man was shocked. He hung his head and went away sadly, for he owned many things.

Then Jesus said to his followers, "It will be hard for people who own many things to enter God's kingdom." He went on, "It would be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God's kingdom."

The disciples were astounded. "Then who can enter God's kingdom?"

Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings alone, it is impossible. But with God, all things are possible."

Peter spoke up. "Look, we have left everything and followed you.

Jesus replied, "Anyone who leaves home or family or land to follow me will get back even more, even though there will be hard times as well. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Wonder: Why might it have been hard for someone who owned many things to go and sell them?

More questions:

What is your most prized possession?

How might having too many things get in the way of following Jesus?

What are some things we might need to get rid of to follow Jesus better?

How does it make you feel to know God can do for us what we can't?

Activity:

Simon Says

You are Simon, and the other players follow your instructions. Standing in front of the group, tell the players what they must do. The players must obey all commands that begin with the words "Simon says." If you say, "Simon says touch your nose" then all players must touch their nose. However, if you say "jump" without saying "Simon says" first the players must not jump. If they do jump, that player is out until the next game.

The last person remaining is the winner and gets to be Simon for the next game.

The Vine & the Branches - 5/9/2022

Grapevines are strong. They have roots in the soil. Branches grow out of each vine. The branches grow and grow with great green leaves. In a little while, the branches produce sweet grapes. But the branches need to stay attached to the vine. Without the vine, there are no green leaves. Without the vine, there is no fruit.

Jesus told his friends, "I am the vine. You are the branches. My Father is the vinegrower. I have shown you God's strong love. Stay close to my love.

"When vines have branches that don't bear fruit, the branches are removed. When branches do bear fruit, they are trimmed so they can produce even more fruit.

"I am the vine. You are the branches. You live in me and I live in you; we are connected. When you are connected to the vine, you will produce a lot of fruit. If you do not stay connected to the vine, you cannot produce any fruit. So stay connected to me.

"God loves me, and I have loved you. You can live in my love. The way to do this is to obey my commandments.

"Here is what I want you to do: love one another just as I have loved you. We show our greatest love when we can give up our lives for our friends. And you are my friends. I tell you this to make you joyful.

"I do not call you servants anymore. A servant doesn't know what the master is doing. But I have told you what I am doing; so now I call you my friends.

"You did not choose me; I chose you. And now I am sending you out to bear fruit in the world.

"Always remember the most important thing: love one another."

Wonder: How does the vine help the branches to grow fruit?

More questions:

If you could pick a fruit to be, what would you pick?

Where do you think God is causing your "vine" to go?

How does it make you feel to know Jesus calls you his friend?

What are some things on your "vine" or faith that need to be trimmed so you can produce more fruit?

Activity:

If you have it, a game or two of Connect4 would be good. You could play and talk about the questions.

If you don't have the game, work together to gather as many items in 1 minute to make the longest chain possible. Belts, string, clothes, shoelaces. Doesn't matter, the point is try and show how different things can help us stay connected like the vine and branches.

Jesus' Ascension - 5/16/2022

After Jesus rose from the tomb, he showed himself to his disciples in Jerusalem. Sometimes Jesus' friends saw and talked with Jesus. Sometimes they didn't see him.

For forty days he came to his friends and taught them more about the kingdom of God. He said to them, "Stay here in Jerusalem until you receive a sign from God. Soon you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

The disciples asked, "Teacher, are you going to make Israel a kingdom again?"

Jesus answered, "This is not something you need to know. What is important is that soon the Holy Spirit will come to you and give you power. Then you will take my message to all of Judea and Samaria, and even to the very ends of the earth."

Then Jesus lifted up his hands and blessed his friends. As they were watching, he was lifted up into the clouds and they could not see him any longer.

Suddenly, two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Why do you stand looking up toward heaven? Jesus has been taken up into heaven. Someday he will return the same way."

The disciples went joyfully back to Jerusalem. They waited for the gift of God's spirit to come to them, and they went often to the temple to praise God.

Wonder: Why were Jesus' friends joyful after Jesus was lifted up?

More questions:

What sorts of things do you think Jesus continued to teach his friends?

How good are you at waiting?

Where can you take Jesus' message?

Where do you think God took Jesus when his friends couldn't see him anymore?

Activity:

Cloud Parfaits:

Before beginning the session, make some blue jello and whipped cream (or use cool whip). As you're discussing the questions, mix together the jello and cream to make a "cloud scene" in a clear glass. Eat the parfaits as an enjoyable treat!

Pentecost - 5/23/2022

It was the day of Pentecost, or Shavuot. Faithful Jews from every nation came to Jerusalem. They were Parthians, Medes, Elamites. They came from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and Libya. There were visitors from Rome, Crete, and Arabia. They came to Jerusalem from near and far to celebrate the time when God gave the law to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Jesus' friends gathered together, too. While they were in a room praying, they heard a sound like a rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. They looked around and saw what looked like little flames over each other's heads.

Then, God's gift of the Holy Spirit came to them. They were all filled with the Spirit and began to speak in other languages. The people from faraway lands heard these sounds and crowded around. They could all understand what the disciples were saying!

Many people were amazed and said, "How can this be? Aren't all these people from Galilee? How can they be speaking our languages? What does this mean?"

Some people just sneered. "These people are just drunk with wine," they said.

Peter stood up. "No, we are not drunk," he said. "God has given us the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was killed, but he has been raised up by God. He is the Messiah, God's chosen one."

The people were worried. They asked Peter and the others, "What should we do?"

Peter answered, "Turn away from your sins. Be baptized in the name of Jesus. You will be forgiven for the wrong things you have done and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you, for your children, and for people who are far away. This promise is for everyone who is called by God."

That day, about three thousand people believed and were baptized.

Wonder: Imagine people from many nations gathering to worship. What does that sound like?

More questions:

What do you imagine it was like to be in the room when the Holy Spirit came?

If you could speak another language, what would it be and why?

Why do you think people were skeptical of the disciples?

What do you think the people did when they went back to their homes?

Activity:

The story lists a lot of different places. If you have a Bible Atlas, look up all the different cities and places named. If not, go ahead and google them to see where everyone was from on that day.