



LESSON 1 | God

Bible Basis: Genesis 1–2; Luke 3

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14: “May the love that God has given us be with you.”

Key Question: Who is God?

Key Idea: I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Resources:

- ☐ Video 1, “God”
- ☐ *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 1, “God”

Master Supplies List

- ☐ *Believe Kids’ Edition*
- ☐ Video 1, “God”
- ☐ DVD player
- ☐ Lined paper
- ☐ Pencils or pens
- ☐ Family Page (one per student)

Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in **STEP 3 | Explore More:**

- ☐ **OPTION 1:** Two hula hoops, three blank letter-size papers, markers, strips of paper
- ☐ **OPTION 2:** White construction paper, 12” x 18” (one per student); three small metal rings; hole punch; crayons and/or markers; lined paper; pencils or pens; scissors; glue sticks
- ☐ **OPTION 3:** Eighteen index cards, red and blue markers, white-board and dry-erase markers, list of the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; see Galatians 5:22–23) numbered 1 through 9, Bibles
- ☐ **OPTION 5:** Copies of the Baptism script (one per student actor)

STEP 1 | Come Together (10 min)

Supplies: Lined paper (one piece per student), pencils or pens (one per student)

- GATHER the students.
- SAY, I want you to imagine that Jesus is coming here to our town today. You have been given the important task of announcing his arrival. What will you say?
- INSTRUCT the students to write a short message announcing the coming of Jesus. Encourage them to think about what they know about who Jesus is and include that in their writing.
- ALLOW students to share their announcements aloud in their best “official” voice.
- SAY, Jesus did have a messenger to announce his arrival. It was John the Baptist. John did not look or sound like an official messenger. He lived, dressed, and taught differently than what people were used to, but he spoke God’s truth. Eventually John the Baptist was killed because of his faith in Jesus.

KEY VERSE

- REVIEW this week’s Key Verse. You may want to repeat the verse slowly a few times until the students are able to say it from memory.

2 Corinthians 13:14: “May the love that God has given us be with you.”

STEP 2 | Hear the Story (15 min)

Supplies: Video 1, “God”; DVD player; *Believe Kids’ Edition*

Teacher Prep: Have the video set and ready to play.

WATCH VIDEO 1 / READ CHAPTER 1

- WATCH video 1, “God,” included with this curriculum.
- Read “The Trinity Is There at Creation” (Genesis 1:1–26) from *Believe Kids’ Edition*.

REVIEW CREATION

- ASK, In the story of Creation, what does God do? (God creates and he speaks)

- ASK, Where is the Holy Spirit during Creation? (Hovering over the waters)
- ASK, Why does God say, “Let US make human beings ...”? (God is a plural being; “Us” refers to the Trinity)
- ASK, Why did God want human beings to be like the Trinity? (God wanted humans to experience the fellowship with each other that he experienced within the Trinity)

REVIEW JESUS’ BAPTISM

- ASK, What do the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit do in this story? (God the Father says he is pleased with Jesus; God the Son was baptized on earth as a man; God the Holy Spirit came down like a dove on Jesus and gave him power for ministry)
- ASK, What is the Trinity? (God in three persons; three parts to one God)
- PRAY, Dear God, we thank you for creating our world, and for wanting us to experience the joy of community with each other like the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit enjoy. Thank you for being our heavenly Father. Thank you that Jesus showed you to us by living on earth. And thank you that the Holy Spirit helps us. Amen.

STEP 3 | Explore More

Choose from these activity options, depending on your available time frame, to help students explore the lesson further.

Option 1: The Role of Father (10 min)

Supplies: Two hula hoops, three blank letter-size papers, markers, strips of paper

Teacher Prep: Label the three blank sheets of paper “God the Father,” “Earthly Father,” and “Both,” one label per sheet.

- LAY the two hula hoops on the floor so they overlap slightly, representing a Venn diagram. Place the labels on them so “Both” is above the overlapping section.
- ASK students to name some traits that describe God the Father, an earthly father, or both.
- WRITE students’ answers on strips of paper with a marker.
- INSTRUCT students to set their idea in the correct section of the Venn diagram.

- LEAD students in a time of prayer for their fathers (or father figures), that their fathers would show the qualities of our loving heavenly Father.

Option 2: Jesus the Son (20 min)

Supplies: White construction paper, 12" x 18" (one per student); three small metal rings; hole punch; crayons and/or markers; lined paper; pencils or pens; scissors; glue sticks

Teacher Prep: Punch three holes along the edge of each paper so they can be fastened together into a book using the rings.

- GATHER the students and hand out the construction paper.
- INSTRUCT the students to write the phrase "Jesus is ..." at the top (vertical alignment) of their paper. They can use large, colorful lettering.
- ASK the students how they would finish that phrase. Use a chalkboard or whiteboard to brainstorm as a class and generate some discussion. Once you have several ideas, ask the students to choose one of those ideas to expand on their own paper.
- INSTRUCT the students to finish the thought by writing on lined paper. Encourage them to write an explanation that is more than one sentence.
- INSTRUCT the students to trim around their writing and glue it to the bottom of the construction paper, leaving the space in the middle blank.
- ALLOW the students to create an illustration in the blank middle section of their page.
- ASSEMBLE all the pages into a big book. Schedule a time to have your students read the book aloud to younger classes.
- **NOTE:** Creating a cover for the book is a great task for early finishers.

Option 3: The Holy Spirit (20 min)

Supplies: Eighteen index cards, red and blue markers, whiteboard and dry-erase markers, list of the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; see Galatians 5:22–23) numbered 1 through 9, Bibles

Teacher Prep: Use index cards to create two sets of cards numbered 1–9, using a red marker for one set and a blue marker for the other (eighteen cards total).

- CHOOSE a student to read Galatians 5:22–23 aloud to the class.
- HAVE the students keep their Bibles open to that passage.

- **EXPLAIN**, Just like orange trees produce oranges and lemon trees grow lemons, the Holy Spirit produces “fruit” in our lives. This fruit is basically ways of acting that reflect God. The Bible calls these the “fruit of the Spirit.”
- **GIVE** one student the set of numbered cards to draw from (without showing the other students).
- **EXPLAIN**, The cards in this deck are numbered 1–9 to represent the fruit of the Spirit. Following the list in Galatians, 1 = love, 2 = joy, etc.
- **SAY**, You will each have a turn to draw a card and have your classmates guess the fruit of the Spirit. If you draw a red card, you’ll have to draw the idea for them to guess. If you draw a blue card, you’ll have to act out the idea without using words.
- **INSTRUCT** the first student to draw a card and then draw or act out that fruit of the Spirit for the others to guess.
- **CONTINUE** until all students have had at least one turn.

Option 4: Praise and Worship (15 min)

“Doxology (Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow),”

by David Crowder and Thomas Ken

© 2004 by sixsteps Music, worshiptogether.com songs

CCLI #4255578

“Father I Adore You,” by Terrye Coelho

© 1972 by CCCM Music/Maranatha! Music

CCLI #26557

Option 5: Act It Out (15 min)

Baptism

Teacher Prep: Assign roles to students to act out. Print and photocopy nine copies of the Baptism script.

Characters

Alex	} students	Voice from heaven	John the Baptist
Taylor		Pastor	Crowd of people
Sam		Aunt	Jesus

No special props are needed. The “voice from heaven” character can use a rolled-up piece of construction paper to amplify his/her voice if needed.

Sam: Hey, Alex. Where were you yesterday? I stopped by to hang out and you weren't home.

Alex: My family stayed for a lunch after church. Some people were baptized, and there was a party for them.

Taylor: Yeah, and guess who was baptized? My aunt!

(PASTOR is baptizing the AUNT on stage right)

Aunt: I confess that Jesus is Lord, and I commit to following him faithfully.

Pastor: I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Sam: Was it weird?

Taylor: I thought it was really cool. I'm glad my aunt and uncle have decided to follow Jesus.

Alex: And people have been getting baptized for thousands of years.

Voice from heaven: A man named John began traveling throughout the wilderness in Israel, reminding people of the prophets' promises. People came from all over Israel to hear John speak. He baptized those who decided to return to God's ways by dunking them in a river — this was a symbol of their decision. Because of this, he became known as John the Baptist.

John the Baptist: *(speaking from stage left)* Don't forget the words of the prophets. God has promised to send us a king who will rule forever. This king will arrive soon.

Person in the crowd: What shall we do to prepare for this king?

John the Baptist: Be kind, generous, and fair to one another. Turn away from sin. Turn to God and be baptized.

Person in the crowd: Then what will happen?

John the Baptist: I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come ... and he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Taylor: It's not just Jesus' followers who were baptized.

Alex: Even Jesus was baptized!

Voice from heaven: The next day, John saw his cousin Jesus coming toward him to be baptized.

John the Baptist: *(off to the side, pointing)* Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world! This is the one I was telling you about!

Jesus: I'm here to be baptized.

John the Baptist: I'm the one who needs to be baptized by you!

Voice from heaven: But Jesus insisted. So John agreed to baptize Jesus in the Jordan River.

Sam: Wow! It sounds pretty important!

Taylor: It is. It's a way for people to show their commitment to God.

Alex: It's also when the Holy Spirit first came down from heaven.

Voice from heaven: He lowered Jesus into the water, and when Jesus came back up, he saw the Spirit of God coming down from the sky like a dove, and it landed on him. Then he heard a voice from heaven say, "This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him."

Taylor: So you can see it was a pretty special day for us to celebrate.

Alex: Next time you can come along and see for yourself.

Sam: Okay, cool. Come on guys, let's go to your house and hang out!

STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)

Supplies: Family Page (one per student)

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Family Page (one per student).

- **GIVE** each student a copy of this week's Family Page.
- **SAY**, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—or what we call the Trinity.
- **HAVE** students practice telling you about the three parts of our one God.
- **REVIEW** this week's Key Verse as well as today's story and Key Idea as you wait for the students to get picked up.
- **MAKE** sure each student remembers to take home any activity sheets or craft projects and the Family Page.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 1: God

Bible Basis: Genesis 1–2; Luke 3

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14: “May the love that God has given us be with you.”

Key Question: Who is God?

Key Idea: I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Resource: *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 1, “God”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from *Believe Kids’ Edition* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. We can’t see the Holy Spirit or the molecules of hydrogen and oxygen in our water, but we know they’re there. What are some other things we know are real even though we can’t see them? (The wind, the feeling of being loved, etc.)
2. What are some things that you like about God the Father? God the Son? God the Holy Spirit?
3. What can we do to take good care of God’s creation? (Recycle, throw trash away, etc.)
4. What’s something you can ask the Holy Spirit to help you with this week?

Living Faith

Option 1

Encourage your child to make a music video of Jesus’ baptism. Your child will need to choose an appropriate song (either with lyrics or instrumental) and

represent the story artistically, without speaking. Recruit siblings to help act out different parts. Tap your child's creativity when it comes to elements like the river or the dove. Record the final performance and share it electronically with friends and family.

Option 2

Have your child pretend to be a news reporter or journalist and interview family or friends. Have your child ask different people about their baptism (whether they were old enough to remember it, what it means to them, or whether they will get baptized if they haven't been) and then write it into a newspaper article or blog.

Extra Mile

- Work together to memorize this week's Bible verse. Each day of the week, practice the verse in a different way, such as writing it, typing it, saying it out loud, meditating on it, or learning it in sign language.
- This week your child learned that John the Baptist taught people to live God's way—and that means being kind, generous, and fair. Celebrate these qualities in your family by having your child create a "brag board." Use a sheet/board of poster to create a three-column chart labeled "Kind," "Generous," and "Fair." Encourage your child's creativity in decorating the board using markers, computer printouts, stickers, family photos, etc. Be on the lookout for examples of this godly behavior in your family that you can post on the board together. The only rule? You can't brag about yourself!
- Create a family baptism scrapbook. Gather photos, certificates, church bulletins, and other keepsakes from the special day. Write or print Bible verses to embellish the pages. If your child has not yet been baptized, you may want to label a page for that day to build anticipation.
- As a family, read together Matthew 14, which recounts the death of John the Baptist. What character traits might John have demonstrated before his death? How did Jesus react to John's death? Discuss how Jesus might have felt after hearing about John's death.

Baptism Script

Sam: Hey, Alex. Where were you yesterday? I stopped by to hang out and you weren't home.

Alex: My family stayed for a lunch after church. Some people were baptized, and there was a party for them.

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