

God's Unfolding Story

Bible Story:
God's Unfolding Story
(Genesis - Revelation)

Bible Phrase: "God's Word
is true" (John 17:17).

Bible Truth: Everything
I read in the
Bible is true.

-  1. God created everything.
-  2. People disobeyed God.
-  3. God chose a special people.
-  4. God sent Jesus to help us.
-  5. Jesus began the Church.
-  6. Jesus is preparing heaven for us.

Suggested Schedule:

- Arrival**
- Centers – 25 minutes
 - Clean-up Time – 5 minutes
 - Bible Story Time – 15 minutes
 - Craft Time – 10 minutes
 - Snack Time – 10 minutes
 - Game Time/Dismissal



Unfolding God's Story for Teachers

For our last lesson in this New Testament series we will review God's Unfolding Story. This story is unique in that the focus is not one biblical story, but God's whole story—the big picture. God has chosen to speak to us through the Bible. At its core, the Bible is a story. It's a true story of, among other things, love, failure, hope, faith, and redemption. Yes, the Bible is a collection of stories, but it's clear that collectively these stories—all true—also form the overarching story that we are calling God's Unfolding Story.

From Genesis to Revelation, God's plan of redemption through a Savior has been revealed. The Old Testament foreshadowed Christ's coming and presented a picture of the Redeemer who was to come. God established the nation of Israel as His people. Even though they were rebellious, the events in their history reveal God's amazing grace toward them. That kind of grace is ours, as well, through God's own Son, Jesus Christ. His coming foretold by Old Testament prophets, Jesus came into this world and offered mercy, compassion, and, best of all, eternal life to those who repent of their sins and believe in Him. Each of us is a part of God's story by virtue of our existence, but receiving God's grace makes each one a special part of it.

Reflect for a moment on your part in God's Unfolding Story. One of your roles is that of teaching preschoolers. Their understanding is limited, but their ability to grasp spiritual truths is developing. You may feel your role is not all that significant. Please be reminded of the value Jesus places on these little ones (see Mark 10:13-16). May you be encouraged to understand that you are a part of each of their own stories.

We have come to the end of the New Testament series, and we pray you have gained a better grasp of God's Unfolding Story. As you continue to grow in Christ by reading and studying His Word, you continue to be a special part of that story. We pray as Paul, "...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of

Him." We pray also "that the perception of your mind may be enlightened so you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the glorious riches of His inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power to us who believe, according of the working of His vast strength" (Eph. 1:17-19).

We trust that on a regular basis, you are using the God's Unfolding Story Cube to review with your preschoolers the six elements of His amazing story. This may at times seem unnecessarily repetitious, but repetition helps preschoolers learn. The more they hear the elements of the story, the more likely they will be to understand the big picture. We are laying foundations God can use to write their own stories with His grace.

Lesson Plan

Arrival

- Greet children at eye level and express how happy you are to see them.
- Be sure each child has a name tag and the security measures of your church are followed.
- Label all coats and personal belongings. Strongly encourage children who have brought items from home, such as toys and books, to place them on a shelf while they are working with other materials. Assure children their items will be safe and they can take them home at the end of the session.
- Help each child make a choice where he or she would like to begin his or her Center Time.

Center Time



Block Center:

Build with Blocks

Supplies:

- Wooden blocks
- Transportation toys

What to Do: Provide a small carpet if possible. Blocks are best located in a corner of the room away from the traffic flow.

Link to the Bible Story: As children build, listen for opportunities to share the Bible Phrase or to tell a part of the Bible story.

Home Living Center:

Role Play

Supplies:

- Small rocking chair, sink and stove unit, small table and chairs; plastic dishes, child pots and pans, plastic food items; and doll items such as baby doll, doll bed, doll bag, blanket, clothes, bottles, and diapers.

What to Do: Provide home living items. These will encourage children to role play home activities such as cooking, cleaning, and caring for the baby.

Link to the Bible Story: As children play, look for opportunities to engage in conversations about the Bible story, Bible Phrase, or Bible truth.

Art Center:

Finger Print Pictures

Supplies:

- White construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- Washable stamp pads
- Washable markers

What to Do: Print today's Bible Phrase on each paper. Invite children to use the stamp pads to make fingerprints on their papers. Show children how to make insects, flowers, or animals from their fingerprints by adding features with the markers. Children can draw grass and other nature items on their pictures.

Link to the Bible Story: As children work, call attention to the Bible Phrase. Express that every story we hear and every verse we read in the Bible is true. State, "The very first verse in the Bible says, 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.' That verse tells us that God made everything, and God made you!"

Bible Learning Center

Supplies:

- Copies of Activity Page: Self Portrait, (Reproducible)
- Crayons or washable markers

What to Do: Invite each child to use a marker or crayon to finish the outline of the child and to draw himself or herself.

Link to the Bible Story: Express to the boys and girls the Bible is God's message to us—His story. Explain that God is still writing a story, and we are a special part of that story when we choose to follow and obey Jesus.

Puzzle Center:

Work Puzzles

Supplies:

- Offer a variety of non-fantasy wooden or cardboard puzzles for the children to work.

What to Do: Encourage each child to finish a puzzle before leaving the center. Offer guidance rather than working the puzzle for the child.

Link to the Bible Story: As children work, take advantage of opportunities to say the Bible Phrase or to briefly tell the Bible story.

Clean-up Time

Encourage preschoolers to help at clean-up time. Assign specific tasks for preschoolers to do such as placing all the crayons in the basket, throwing away the trash, gathering all the glue sticks, etc. Guide children to the Bible Story Time area.



Bible Story Time

Supplies:

- Bible
- Teaching Picture "God's Unfolding Story" (Reproducible)
- God's Unfolding Story Cube (Reproducible/Cardstock)

Introduction

- Express the following in your own words: "The Bible is a special book. The Bible is God's story to us and everything we read in the Bible is true. The Bible contains many different stories that fit together to help us learn about God and Jesus and how we ought to live. In other words, the stories in the Bible tell us one big story, a story we are calling God's Unfolding Story."
- Show the God's Unfolding Story Cube. Tell children that each symbol picture stands for a part of God's Unfolding Story, and you will use it as you tell today's Bible story.

Bible Story

God's Unfolding Story (Genesis 1–Revelation 22)

God's story begins with the very first verse in the Bible, which reads, "In the beginning **God created the heavens and the earth**" (Gen. 1:1). God created everything, including a beautiful garden. Then He created a man and a woman to live in and care for the garden. Their names were Adam and Eve. God enjoyed talking to Adam and Eve, and He spent time with them each day.

God had only one rule for His garden. He asked Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit from a certain tree. But one day they choose to disobey Him, and they ate from that tree. God was sad they had disobeyed Him. He told Adam and Eve they must leave the beautiful garden. They left it, but God still cared for them. He helped the first man and woman grow food and find clothes to wear. After a while there were many people living on the earth. But **they disobeyed God** too. They did not live in ways that pleased God. Because the people were so disobedient, God sent a flood that covered the world. Only Noah and his family were saved.

Years passed, and the earth was again full of people. God spoke to a man named Abraham and said, "Abraham, you will become the father of many nations" (Gen. 17:4). **God choose** Abraham and his family to be **a special people** to help the world know He was the only God. He also wanted people to know of His love and power. Abraham's family became God's special people called the Israelites. God did many amazing and wonderful things to help the

Israelites and the rest of the world know about Him. God showed His love and power through people like Moses, Joshua, and David. He also sent preachers and prophets to guide people to follow His commands. Sometimes the people listened and obeyed God, but many times they disobeyed. God still loved and cared for His special people. God told the prophets to tell His people that one day He would send His Son.

After a very long time, God's Son, Jesus, was born. **God sent Jesus to help people** know more about His love for the world. Jesus grew to be a man, and He chose a group of men to follow Him closely and be His helpers. Jesus taught people about God's love. He healed sick people and fed the hungry. Many people loved and followed Jesus, but many others were angry with Him because they did not think He was God's Son. Their anger led them to put Jesus to death, but God caused Jesus to live again!

Before Jesus went home to heaven, He asked His helpers to tell everyone about Him. His helpers went out into the world and told people about Jesus. Those who chose to follow Jesus became the church. **Jesus began the church** so the world would know about His love. The church still tells people about Jesus today. God's story is not finished. God wants all people to know of His love for them.

When Jesus was on this earth, He told His helpers not to worry or be afraid because He was going to heaven to prepare a place for anyone who would believe in God and follow Him. **Jesus is preparing a wonderful and beautiful heaven** where we will live with God and Jesus forever!

Talk Time

1. Show the teaching picture for today's Bible story. Here are some suggested questions. "Who created the world? What made God sad? What was the name of God's special people? Whom did God send to help us? Who began the church? What is Jesus preparing for us?"
2. Say today's Bible Phrase together: "God's Word is true" (John 17:17). Express to the boys and girls that "God's Word," means the words in our Bible, and everything we read in the Bible is true.
3. Close the Bible Story Time in prayer, asking God to help each person believe His Word and live in ways that please Him.
4. Direct children to Craft Time.

Craft Time

Bible Phrase Sun Catcher

Supplies:

- Regular-sized paper plates – (1 per child)
- Crayons or washable markers
- Glue, hole punch, yarn
- Clear self adhesive paper or waxed paper
- Variety of colors of tissue paper or construction paper

What to Do: Cut tissue paper or construction paper into small squares. Cut out the center section of each paper plate. Print the Bible Phrase, "God's Word is true" (John 17:17), around the edge of each plate. Tape a piece of waxed paper or press a piece of adhesive paper to the back of the plate to cover the hole. Ask children to glue or stick tissue paper or construction paper squares to the paper in the middle of the plate. When children have finished their designs, cover each one with adhesive paper or waxed paper. Punch holes in the top of each plate and tie strings for hanging the sun catchers.

Link to Bible Story: As children work, say the Bible Phrase and review the points of God's Unfolding Story.

Snack Time

Be sure to wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Say a thank-you prayer to God for the snack. When snack time has ended, encourage preschoolers to help with cleaning up.

Game Time/Dismissal

Bible Story Review

Supplies:

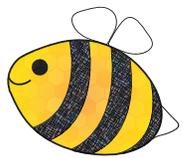
- God's Unfolding Story Cube

What to Do:

Ask children to join you in a circle in the game time area. Begin passing the cube around the circle as the teacher counts to 5. When the number 5 is called, the child holding the cube is asked to toss the cube on the floor. Discuss the main theme of the picture that is showing on top. Continue to pass and roll the cube until all points of the story have been covered.

At the close of the activity, remind boys and girls that our Bible—God's Word—is true, and from it we learn how to live.

Dismiss children when parents arrive. Be sure to follow your church's security guidelines.





Resources and Supplies

New Testament Unit 12: John Told About the Future
Lesson 4: God's Unfolding Story

Standard Art Supplies

(Supplies that are generally in the room)

- Washable markers
- Crayons
- Child scissors
- Playdough and accessories
- Drawing paper
- Easel (optional)
- Glue/glue sticks
- Tempera paint, 4 colors
- Tape/masking tape
- Pencils/colored pencils
- Hole punch
- Teacher scissors
- Stapler/staples
- Permanent markers
- Watercolors
- Paintbrushes
- Yarn

Standard Equipment

(Equipment that is generally in the room)

- Small beanbag for Bible Story Time
- Assorted wooden/cardboard puzzles
- Set of wooden blocks
- Small cars and trucks
- Doll bed
- Baby doll (soft plastic)
- Stove/sink unit
- Play dishes/pots and pans
- Small table and chairs
- Small carpet for block area
- Play food items
- Storage shelf for blocks
- Tables and chairs for art, puzzles, and Bible Learning Center
- CD player/Children's Worship CDs

Reproducibles

(Included with the lesson plan downloads)

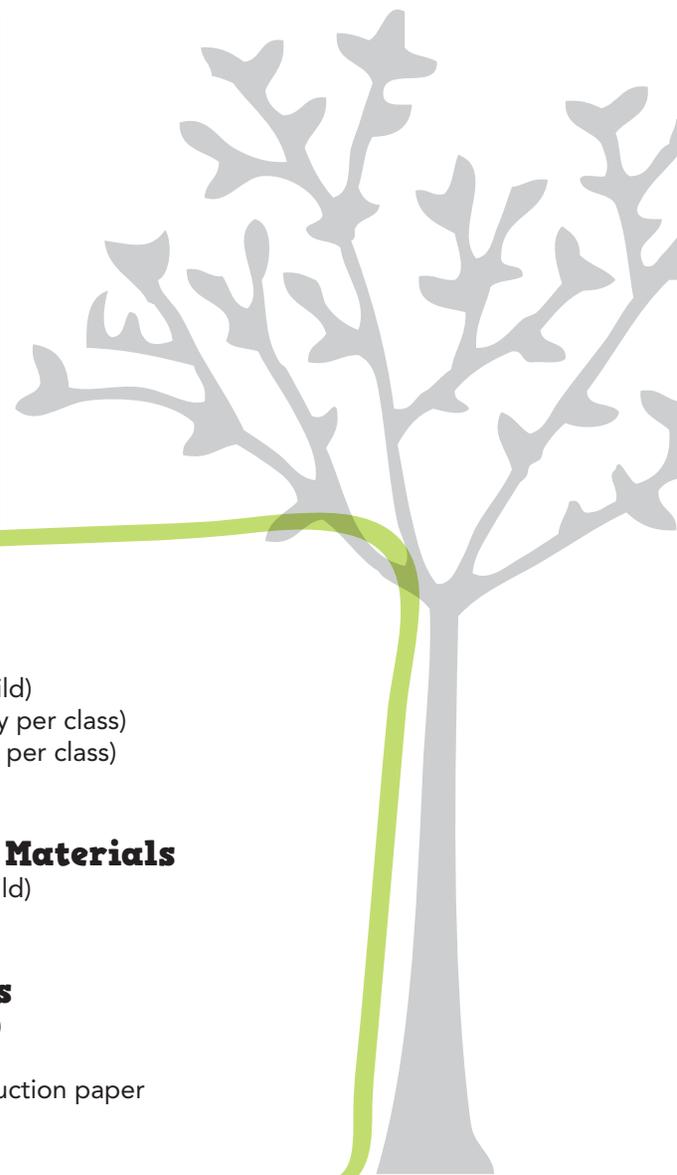
- Activity Page: Self Portrait (1 copy per child)
- Teaching Picture: "God's Unfolding Story" (1 copy per class)
- God's Unfolding Story Cube (Cardstock—1 copy per class)
- Parent Page (1 copy per child)

Additional Art and Bible Learning Materials

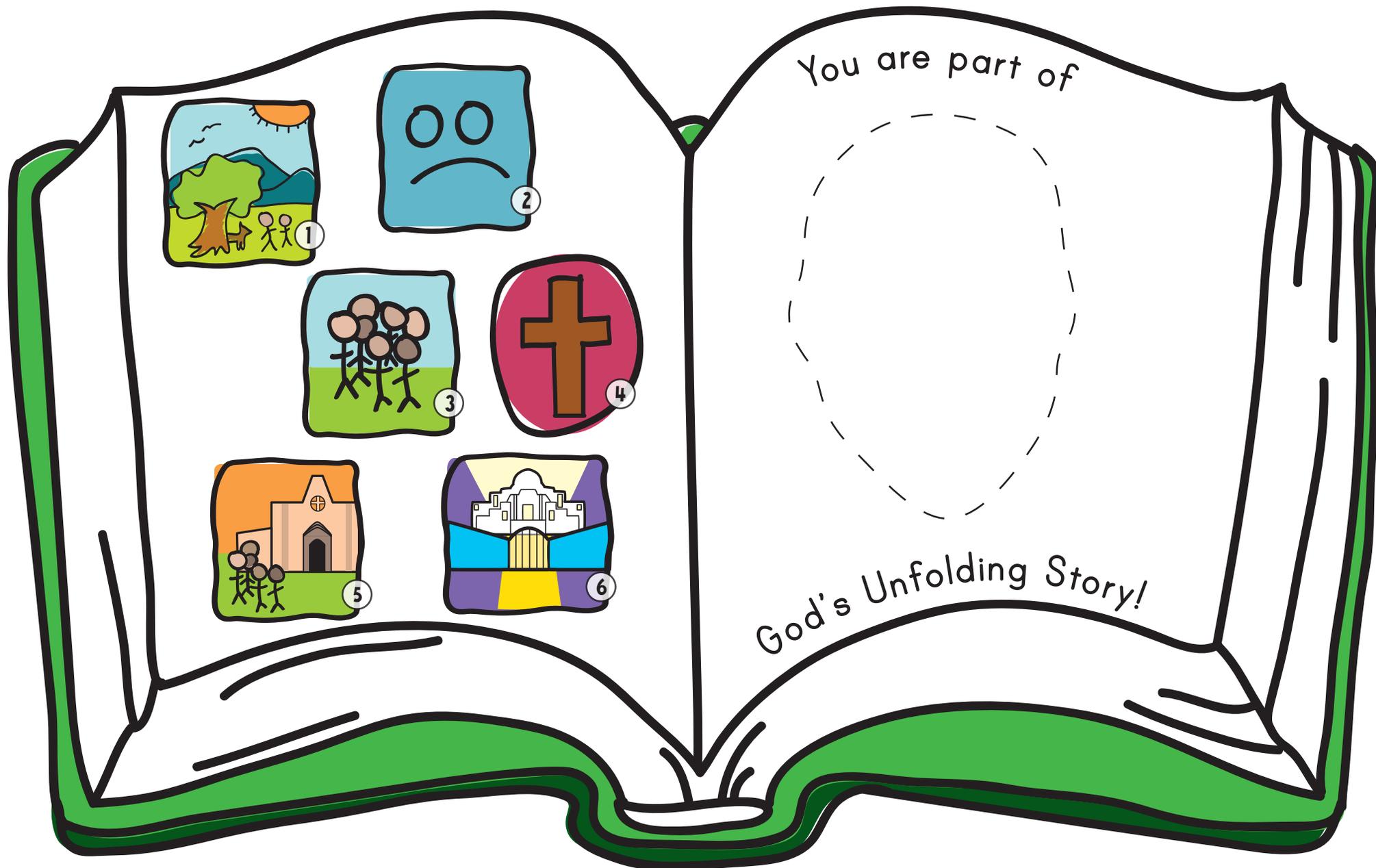
- White construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- Stamp pads

Additional Craft Materials

- Regular-sized paper plates (1 per child)
- Clear adhesive paper or waxed paper
- Variety of colors of tissue paper or colors of construction paper

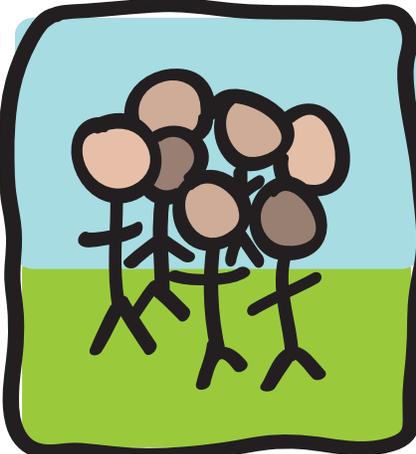
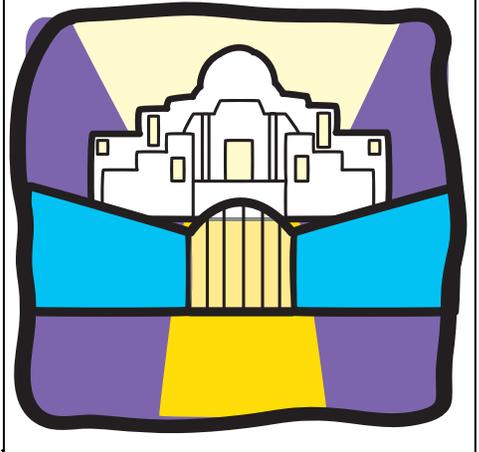
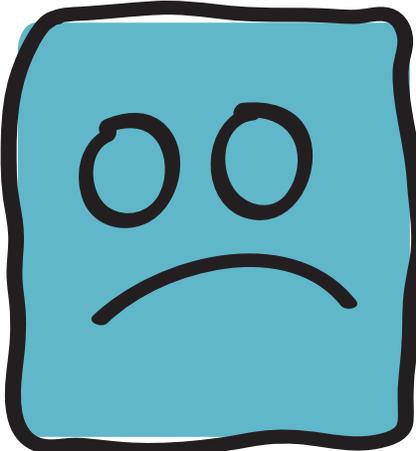
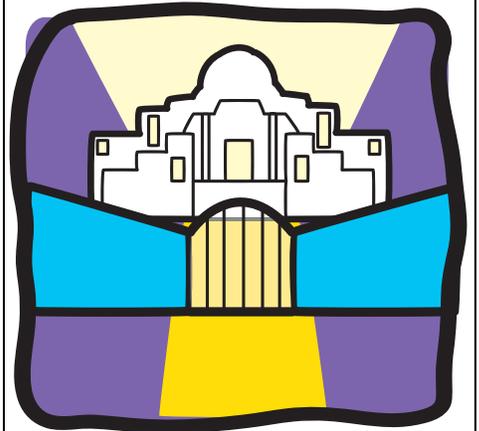


Self Portrait



Activity Page: Self Portrait

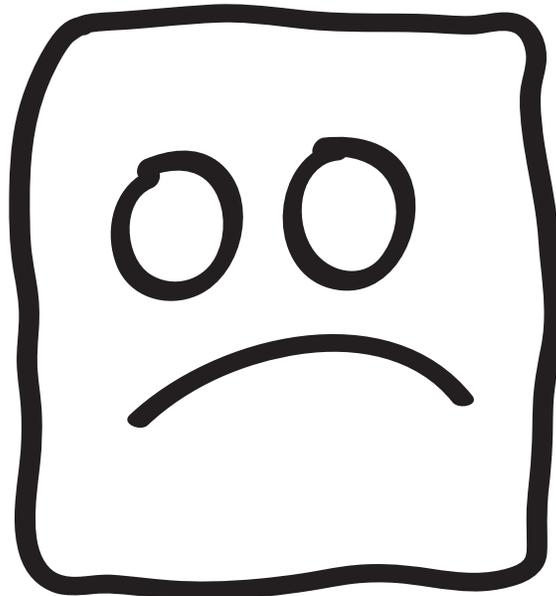
Instructions: Copy one sheet per child. Trace the outline of the face and add facial features.



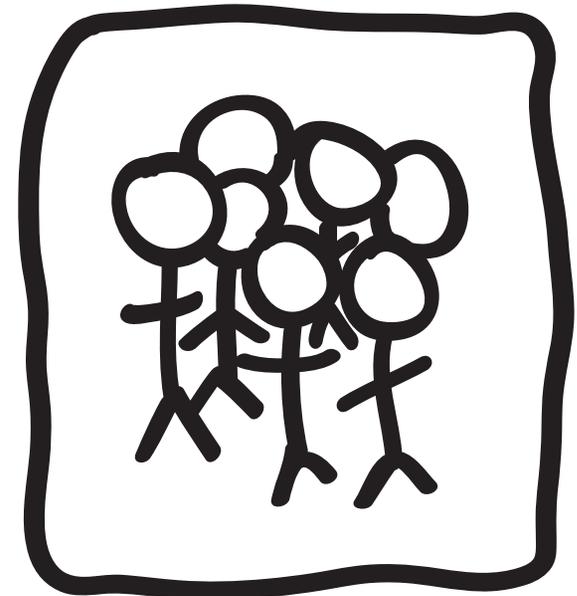
God's Unfolding Story Cube
Instructions: Cut out on dotted lines, fold on solid lines. Glue or tape to form a cube.



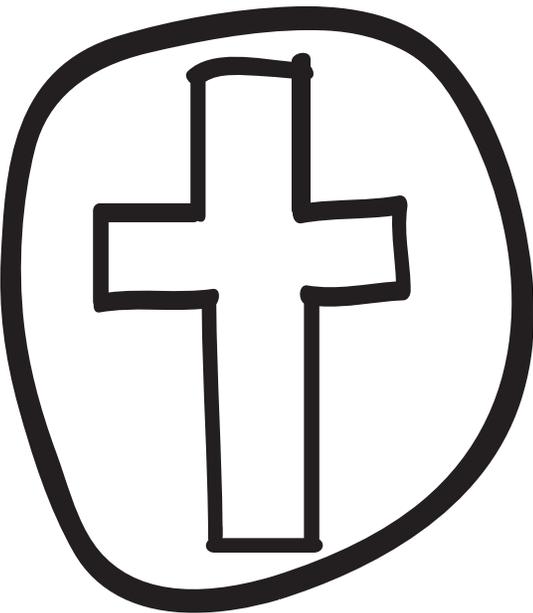
God created everything.



People disobeyed God.



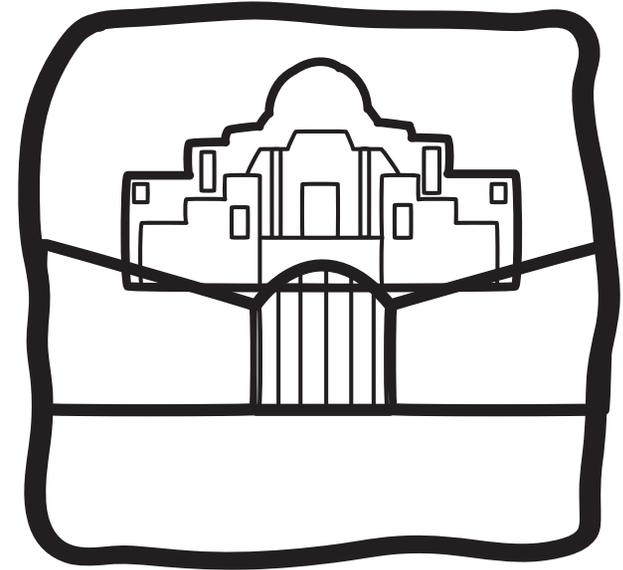
God chose a special people.



God sent Jesus to help us.



Jesus began the Church.



Jesus is preparing heaven for us.

God's Word is true. John 17:17