

Parents Connect

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.



God's Unfolding Story



1. God created everything.



2. People disobeyed God.



3. God chose a special people.



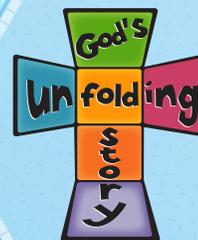
4. God sent Jesus to help us.



5. Jesus began the Church.



6. Jesus is preparing heaven for us.



Unfolding God's Story for Parents

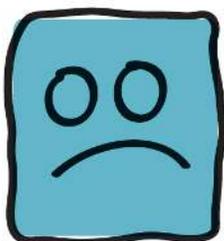
We sometimes find it difficult to disengage from our lives in the present to remember the past or look forward to the future. In reality, it is beneficial to step back and look at life as a whole and to assess where one is in relation to the broad sweep of his or her experience.

The big picture is important. Often we will look at a small segment from the Bible and gain guidance and comfort from it—but we tend to lose sight of the greater story that began before creation and continues throughout eternity. Each of us is a part of that unfolding story. God is still at work in our world today, just as He was in biblical times. Each of us is a real person in this continuing story just as Noah, David, Lydia, and Timothy were, even though we aren't Bible characters.

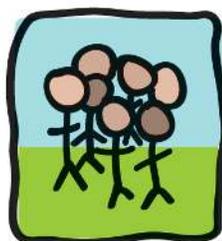
This Bible study for preschoolers is longer than some other preschool stories used in this curriculum, but it is important for teachers, preschoolers, and parents to understand the big picture. Talk with your preschooler about the story and use the activity to interact with him or her. Help your child know God—and take time to get to know where you are in your own spiritual journey. After all, God's unfolding story continues from generation to generation.



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.

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

God's story begins at 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 spending time with them every day.

God had only one rule for His garden. He asked Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit from a certain tree. **However, one day they chose to disobey God.** They ate fruit from the tree. God was so sad they had disobeyed Him. He told Adam and Eve they must leave the beautiful garden.

So Adam and Eve left the garden. Still, God still cared for them. He helped Adam and Eve grow food for them to eat. Later, Adam and Eve had children. When their children grew up, they also had children. In time, there were lots of people living on the earth. As the years passed, very few people knew the one God who had created the world. People believed in many different gods.

God chose a special people to help the world know He was the only God. He also wanted people to know of His love and power. God spoke to a man named Abraham and said, "Abraham, you will be the father of many nations" (Gen. 17:4). So, God gave Abraham a large family. Abraham's family became God's special people. They were called Israelites.



God did many amazing and wonderful things to help the Israelites and the rest of the world know about Him. God also sent preachers and prophets to teach the people about God. Sometimes the people listened and obeyed God, but other times they disobeyed. God still loved and cared for His special people. He wanted them to love and obey Him. God told the prophets to tell His people that one day He would send His Son.

After a very long time, a very special baby was born. His earthly parents named him Jesus, just as God had told them to. Jesus was God's Son. **God sent Jesus to help people know more about God and to know how much God loved the world.** While Jesus was on earth, He taught people about God's love. He healed sick people and fed people who were hungry. Many people loved and followed Jesus. Others grew angry at Him because they did not think Jesus was God's Son. These angry people allowed Jesus to die, but God caused Jesus to live again! Now, Jesus lives with God in heaven and in the hearts of those who love and believe in Him.

Before Jesus went back 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 to tell the world about God's love. God's story is not finished. God wants everyone to know of His love for them. We also are part of God's story.

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 believes in God and follows Jesus. **God is preparing a wonderful and beautiful heaven, where we will live with God and Jesus forever!**

Activity Suggestion

Draw your own stories

Use two or three sheets of paper taped together at the ends for each child. Use the same for parents. Across the top of the first sheet, write, "Daddy's Story" or "Mommy's Story" and repeat for each child (for example, Wesley's Story). Let's assume this is your story. Make a dot at the left side and draw a line across the length of your chart. Write your birth date at the first dot. Continue on the line, noting significant life events.

Do the same for each child. Note that their lines are not long yet. Each family member will draw pictures to represent the points of each person's story. As each one draws, tell stories about life events. Conclude by saying, "Just as we have a story, God has a story, too! We will be learning from God's story as we read and study the Bible."

