

Week of October 17 &
November 3
ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

BIG
AND SMALL

THE BIG IDEA

God sees the big picture.

THE BIBLE

God Answers Job: Job 38:1-7; 34-41
(Isaiah 53:4-12)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

PRETEEN | Pictionary, Supplies needed: 2 White boards/post-it paper, dry erase markers for each board, Pictionary words.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:**
 - Divide up into two teams
 - Meet the people drawing in the middle of the room.
 - Give them each the same word. On your go they must run back to their team's whiteboard and begin to draw. They are not allowed to talk.
 - Once their team guesses what they are drawing the whole team must sit on the floor to signify they have won that round.
 - Each team can then send up a new person to draw and start a new round.
 - The team that wins the most rounds is the winner.
- It's easy to guess the picture when we have the whole picture, right.
- Where there some images that were easier to guess than others?

GRADES 1 - 3 | Zoom IN Game, supplies needed: pptx with game

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As you advance the power point slides, it will automatically play. You will see an image close and it will zoom out. You can hit pause to see if anyone can guess what it is before it reveals what the picture is.*
- What will happen when the picture is tiny?
- Can we see these super tiny images? What would help us?
- Sometimes, we need help with seeing the whole picture.

- When are times when we would want to see something zoomed in?
- When are times when it is better to see something zoomed out?
- Today, we are going to see what God had to say about everything that was happening to Job and how Job was feeling. And we'll also see how Job realized God knew and saw more than he thought!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

BIBLE STORY | God Answers Job, Supplies needed: Bible

- At this point in the story, our friend, Job, has been through a lot! Can you remember some of the things he's been through?
- I bet he's wondering why all of this has happened to him. Have you ever wondered why something was happening to you? Me, too!
- Job asked God this question, and we're about to see how God answered Job.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to join you in reading the Bible passage, Job 38:1-7; 34-41, with their Bibles, if they have them.
- It seems like God is asking Job to answer a bunch of questions . . . Let's try answering some of these questions. Are you ready?
 - Who determined the dimensions of the Earth? God! That's right!
 - Can you shout to the clouds and make it rain? No . . . I can't either. But God can!
- Do you know what I noticed? God doesn't answer Job's question! Why do you think that is?
 - I think by asking Job these questions, God is allowing Job to realize that he may not have the same view as God. Job only sees a small part of the picture. God is big and powerful and makes all the pieces of our lives come together, just like a puzzle.
- Are we allowed to ask God questions? Yes! God listens to us no matter how small the question. But sometimes when God answers our questions, it may be to show us that we are not seeing things the same way God sees them. And that's what God did with Job.
- The most important thing? God has been and will continue to be with Job in every part of Job's story, the hard parts, and the easy parts. And God will do the same for you.

BIG IDEA | God sees the big picture, Supplies needed: BIG idea, magnifying glass

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea in a really small font on a huge piece of paper. Choose a kid to come up to the front and choose a really big magnifying glass or a small one to read the Big Idea with. Have the rest of the kids repeat the Big Idea after you.
- Last week, we had a similar piece of paper and it told us something big about God. What will it say today?
- Let's say the Big Idea together: God sees the big picture!

VIDEO | Big and Small, Episode 3

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Play this week's VIDEO*

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What were some of the questions God asked Job?
- What do those questions reveal to us about God?
- In Isaiah 53:6, what does it mean by we [people] are like sheep?
- Read Isaiah 53:10. What was the result of everything that happened to Jesus?
- Why do you think God only shows us a small part of the big picture?
- How is Jesus a part of God's big picture?
- How are you a part of God's big picture?

BIBLE | Isaiah 53:4-12

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Read Isaiah 53:4-12. We recommend reading the passage in the New Living Translation. After reading, ask the kids to remember some of the things that happened to Job (e.g., poverty, sickness, bad friends, etc.). Lead them through questions comparing Job with the figure in Isaiah 53.*
- Can you remember some things that happened to Job?
- How did Job respond to God while all the bad stuff was happening? Yes! Job asked God why it was all happening. Job couldn't see the big picture.
- Now, what are some of the bad things that happened to the person in Isaiah 53?
 - Who do you think Isaiah 53 is talking about? It's talking about Jesus!
 - If Jesus just saw the hard parts of the picture, Jesus would not have wanted to make the big sacrifice. But Jesus knew God had big plans in store for all people! In other words, Jesus saw the big picture!
- *[Read Isaiah 53:11.]* Jesus made the big sacrifice for you and me. We can be thankful that God — always — sees the big picture!

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

ACTIVITY | Puzzle Scavenger Hunt, Supplies needed: Puzzles

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Hide pieces of the puzzle around your room. Give the kids one minute to find all the pieces.* Have them work together on putting the puzzle together to see the big picture!
- Sometimes, we need help from other people to see things clearly.
- We can always trust that God sees the big picture!
- It might seem strange when grownups don't supply a good enough a reason — in our opinion, anyway — but the people who care about us give us instructions meant to help us and protect us.

- God doesn't tell us, "Because I said so," but sometimes the things that God wants us to do are mysterious. But even when we don't fully understand, we can trust and obey because **God sees the big picture**, when we only see a tiny part!

ACTIVITY | God's Big Picture Frame, Supplies needed: picture frames, markers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have the kids decorate a picture frame. Explain to them that although we don't know what picture will go in the frame, we can prepare for it now.*
- Today, we're decorating some picture frames. We may not have pictures to go in them just yet, but we can still have the frame ready!
- **How is this like getting ready for God's big picture?**
- We may not know what the big picture will be, but we can trust that God will keep us safe and that God's plan for us is the best.
- **How can we be ready to be a part of what God is doing?**

ACTIVITY Seeing the Big Picture Game, Supplies needed: buzzers, pptx.

Instructions:

Divide the group into two teams and line up.

The first person in line stands with the noisemaker.

- Show the video
- When one of them can identify the picture, they ring the bell or push the buzzer.
- Stop the video at this point.
- If they get it right, they get a point.
- If they don't get it right, continue the video and let the other player try to identify it.
- When you get to the countdown for the next picture, switch players.
- The team with the most points at the end wins.

PRAYER

Dear God, please help us to stay encouraged and continue to believe in you when trouble comes. Thank you for having a plan even when we can't see the big picture like you can. Help us learn to trust you more. Amen.

BLESSING

Trace the sign of the cross on each child's forehead and say, "God has a plan and Loves you very much!"