



Relational – Lesson 4

4K and 5K

Divine Attribute: God is Relational

Heart Response: Follow him

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:27

“God created man in his own image.”

Points of Emphasis:

1. God created us to have a relationship with him.
2. God created us to have relationships with others.
3. Sin breaks our relationship with God.
4. Jesus restores our relationship with God.

CENTER TIME

10-20 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

To help the children transition into class, please use a center format at the beginning of each service. Set up three centers in your classroom to allow children options of activities. Ideas include, but are not limited to:

1. Read books on the floor.
2. Color at the table.
3. Play with blocks on the floor.
4. Play with puzzles at the table.
5. Play with Play-Doh at the table.

OPENING ACTIVITY

10 minutes at the start of service

The following activity is provided to begin engaging the children for the upcoming lesson. As the teacher of your class, you have an important opportunity to come alongside the parents of these children to teach them about God.

Tumbling Tower

Supplies:

Blocks (in room)

See how high the children can make a tower of blocks without it falling. Then, tell them to remove the bottom block. When it topples, talk

about how taking just one block out makes the whole building fall. If time permits, repeat and let each child who would like try to pull the block out have a turn.

BIG GROUP TIME

please check your classroom schedule

Please talk to your class about the purpose of this time—to have fun worshiping God together. Give your class practical ideas of what this means (obey the teachers up on the stage, sing and praise God with a happy heart, keep your hands to yourself, etc.). Teachers, you are crucial in helping create a peaceful, orderly environment to worship God during this time. Thank you for your help!

SMALL GROUP TIME

25-30 minutes

Bible Story

Open your Bible to the book of Genesis so that the children will see that the lesson is from the Bible.

Supplies:

Bible

Picture of a garden (one per bin)

Ephesians 2:10 heart puzzle on white cardstock (one per bin)

Before we begin our story for today, let's say our memory verse together. (Say the verse together 1-2 times before beginning the story.)

“So God created man in his own image” Genesis 1:27

Did you like the Tumbling Tower game? When we took out one block, it all fell down, didn't it? All of the pieces of the tower fell apart, didn't they?

Now look at this puzzle. It's in pieces, isn't it? We can't really see how this will look until it is put back together. Do you remember last week when we talked about Adam and Eve and their broken relationship with God? It was sad. After Adam and Eve chose not to follow God, their relationship with God was broken—just like this puzzle. Let's sit quietly as we hear about this story in the beginning of the Bible.

Do you remember that God created the heavens and the earth? He made day and night, seas and dry land, flowers, trees, all the animals, and even people! And it was good! He also made a beautiful garden called Eden. God put Adam and Eve in the Garden to “work it and watch over it.” It was a perfectly wonderful, easy life! (Show picture of the garden.)

But do you remember the story from last week? There was one rule Adam and Eve were supposed to follow. “You may eat the fruit of every tree in the garden- except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Did Adam and Eve obey God? (Let the children answer.)

No, they ate the fruit. Adam and Eve chose sin. Because of their sin, work became hard and they couldn't live in the Garden of Eden with God anymore.

Because of sin, life is not the way God wanted it to be for us. Adam and Eve could not fix their relationship with God and neither can we.

But there is good news! Everyone say, “good news!” (Let the children cheer.) God loves us so much that he wants us to be in a good relationship with him. He doesn't want our relationship with him to be broken. Even though we choose sin, God chose to make a way to fix our relationship with him.

God sent his son Jesus to take our punishment for us. He is the only person who NEVER disobeyed God. Have you ever disobeyed? (Let the children answer—and then give a few illustrations of disobedience such as not sharing toys, hitting someone, not obeying Mom or Dad

right away, etc.) **We have all disobeyed, and that is sin.**

But, Jesus never sinned. He did not deserve to be punished for sin. But because he loves us, Jesus died on the cross and took all of our sin on himself. He took our punishment instead. If we trust him as the one who paid for our sin and we are sorry we disobeyed, he forgives and forgets all of our sin! Isn't that good news? That is wonderful news! Not only does Jesus fix what we broke, but he makes it even better than before! The Bible says he makes us brand new. Even though we do sin, we can have a relationship with God because of Jesus. He loves us that much!

Let's put this puzzle together the right way and read the message. “For, we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10. Sin is the cause of brokenness, but Jesus makes relationships with God whole again. We can choose to follow Jesus and have our sins forgotten and relationship with him whole again.

Let's pray together and thank him for loving us and making a way to fix our relationship with him and make it whole again.

Prayer

Prayer time may not be appropriate immediately following story time. If this is the case, we ask that you be intentional about praying spontaneously or formally with the children at other times during class.

Dear God, thank you for loving us and sending Jesus to be the One who gives us life. Your love is amazing. Help us to follow you and see that you are the only one who can make us new. Amen.

Jesus Makes All Things New

Supplies:

Blank heart on red paper (one per child)

Ephesians 2:10 heart on white paper (one per child)

Half sheet of black paper (one per child)

Crayons
Glue sticks

Have the children tear the red blank red heart in half and then in half again. Then, have them glue the four torn pieces onto the black construction paper. Talk to them about how sin causes brokenness, but Christ makes relationships with God whole again. Next, have them glue the heart with the verse from Ephesians over the ripped/glued heart. Remind them that Jesus didn't just fix what was broken—he makes it brand new. Let them color their brand new hearts if time allows.

***Have fun and let them do the crafts themselves, as much as possible. This is a hands-on way for them to learn who God is and remember what they learn. It doesn't matter if they place the label or stickers in the wrong spot. What matters is teaching them who God is. ***

SNACK & ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

last 30 minutes

Please wash the children's hands before snack time and say a prayer thanking God for the food. As they are eating their snack, please take time to go over the review questions.

Review Questions

1. **What breaks our relationship with God?** (Sin.)
2. **Who made a way to fix our relationship with God?** (Jesus, God.)
3. **Who does God want a relationship with?** (Us.)
4. **Who lived a perfect life and never sinned?** (Jesus.)
5. **Who took the punishment for our sin?** (Jesus.)
6. **Who should we follow?** (Jesus.)

A Way Back to God

Supplies

Roll of painter's tape (one per bin)
Large vinyl cross banner (one per bin)
"God" sign (one per bin)

Use painter's tape to create two parallel lines six feet apart. Have the children line up shoulder-to-shoulder behind one of the lines. Then place the "God" sign on the other side of the opposite line. [The lines will represent the edges of a deep valley.] Have the children all line up behind the line and then say something along the lines of the following:

Sometimes we do things we shouldn't do. We disobey, and that is called sin. Can anyone give me an example of disobeying? (Allow for answers and provide help if needed.)

When we make wrong choices, no matter how small, it is called sin. Sin separates us from God. Let's pretend these two lines are the edges of a deep valley or hole in the ground. We are on one side, and God is on the other side. Sin separates us from God, and we cannot get across. (Hold up the "God" sign on the other side.) But there is good news!

Jesus died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. (Unroll and lay the big cross banner down to bridge the gap.) **When we tell Jesus we are sorry for disobeying and ask him to be in charge of our lives, Jesus forgives our sins. He loves us so much that he made a way for us to be in a relationship with him. The cross is like a bridge. Because of Jesus paying for our sin on the cross, we have a way to get back to a relationship with God.** (Let the children walk across to the other side to be with God.) **That is GOOD NEWS!**

Teachers/Leaders: If need be, please use a damp paper towel to wipe off the banner and gently/ neatly roll it back up after the activity. These will be used for future lessons and we want to take good care of them!



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