

A Biblical Timeline

OLD TESTAMENT

GOD'S BIG STORY

NEW TESTAMENT





Gospel Fingerplay

Jesus came down

Hold both hands up high above your head.

Lower hands while wiggling fingers.

to be born as a little baby.

Hold arms like you are cradling a baby.

He lived a perfect life.

Give two thumbs-up.

He died on the cross for our sins.

Cross one arm over the other to make a cross.

He was buried in a tomb.

Put one hand on top of the other to make a tomb.

On the third day,

Hold up three fingers.

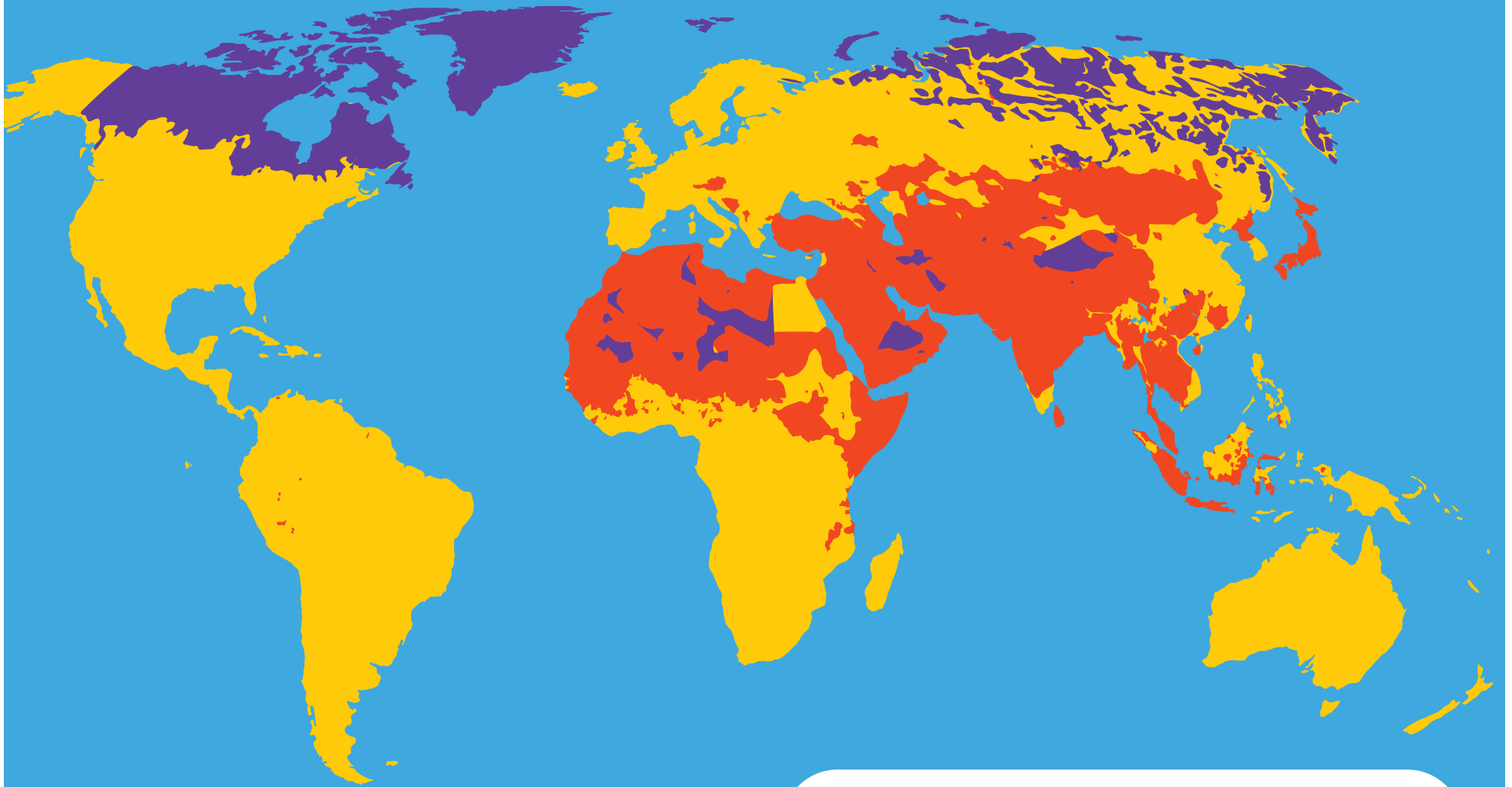
He rose from the dead.

Make three fingers rise into the air.

And that's the gospel truth!

Pound fist on open hand as you say each word.

Have you heard about Jesus?



GLOSSARY

TERMS FOR TEACHING

ANGEL – a mighty messenger and warrior from God

BAPTISM – to dip someone under some water and bring them back up—like Jesus died and was raised to back to life—to show everyone that God has given them a new, healthy heart like Jesus

BIBLE – God’s true Word. It is from God and about God.

A CHURCH – a group of people who love and trust Jesus

THE CHURCH – everyone who loves and trusts Jesus

COMMUNION – when people who love and trust Jesus eat and drink together to remember His death on the cross, how Jesus’ body was broken like bread and His blood was poured out like wine for sin

CRUCIFY – to die on a cross

DESERT – a really hot, dry place with almost no food or water

DISCIPLE – a friend and follower of Jesus

GOD – God the Father is God. Jesus, the Son, is God. The Holy Spirit is God. There is only one God who is three different persons. **God Made Everything. God Is in Charge of Everything. God Is Good!**

GOSPEL – the good news that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** and the whole world from sin

HEAVEN – the place where God lives

IDOL – anything we love and trust more than God

ISRAELITES – God’s special, chosen people

MIRACLE – something amazing and special that shows God’s power

PROMISED LAND – the place God promised to give to the Israelites that was full of good things

PROPHET – someone who speaks for God

SACRIFICE – giving something special and valuable to God to show Him that He is better

SAVES – rescues

SIN (SICK HEART) – anything we do or think that is different from what God wants. Sin starts in our hearts and comes out in our actions. Everyone sins. Sin separates us from God, and we die.

TAX COLLECTOR – someone who collects money and gives it to the people in charge of a city as a job

TEMPLE – the place where God’s people worshiped God together a long time ago

TEMPTATION – when our hearts or other people tell us that sinning is better than obeying God

WORSHIP – how we show that God is most valuable. Only God deserves our worship. We use our voices, minds and bodies to worship God.

GLOSSARY

DEFINITIONS FOR TEACHERS

THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's true Word. It is from God and about God. God the Holy Spirit helped many different men at many different times write all the different books of the Bible, but it's all one, true story about God. **God Wants to Talk With Us** through the Bible.

THE CHURCH

The Church is not a building. The Church is every person who loves and trusts Jesus. There are many people around the world that gather together in buildings to spend time learning about God, worshiping God and remembering the good news that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** together.

FORGIVENESS

God does not give His children the punishment they deserve for sin. Jesus took the punishment for sin by dying on the cross. God forgives sinners because God is love. God loves His children! We can never be good enough to make God forgive us. We have to love and trust Jesus to be forgiven.

GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE

Throughout the Bible, we see an overarching timeline of God's work, sometimes referred to as the metanarrative. Over the course of this curriculum, you can refer back to this timeline to help children gain an understanding of how each narrative fits into God's Big Story. It is our hope that they grow in their understanding of not only when things happened, but also how we are still waiting with hope for the promise of Christ's return to come true.

HATE

It is sin to hate people. God does not want us to sin or hate anyone, even if they aren't easy to love.

LAWS

God's laws and rules are always good. Obeying them is always good for us! We can never obey God's laws perfectly. We all need a Savior to save us from our sin. Laws given to us by God are always good because **God Is Good**, but laws given to us by people are not always good because we are all sinners. We should

never obey laws given to us by people more than laws given to us by God.

PRAYER

We can talk to God through prayer anywhere, anytime, about anything. When we pray, we can tell God how great He is or thank God for everything He does and gives. We can ask God to do something or give something, and we can tell God the truth about our sin. God already knows everything about us, but **God Wants to Talk With Us** because He loves us and wants us to love Him!

SALVATION (HEALTHY HEART)

God rescues and saves people from their sin. Sin separates us from God and we die, but God takes our sick, sinful hearts and gives us a new, healthy heart when we love and trust Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, but Jesus didn't stay dead. Jesus came back to life three days later so that everyone who loves and trust Him can have a healthy heart and live with God forever. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

SICK HEART/HEALTHY HEART

Because Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God, everyone who is born after them (that's us!) is born with a heart that is sick with sin. Our hearts are sick because they love other things more than they love God, but Jesus was born with a perfectly healthy heart that loves God because Jesus is God's Son, not Adam's. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for sins. Then, He came back

to life three days later so that everyone who loves and trusts Jesus can have a new, healthy heart like His that loves God most! **Jesus Came to Save Sinners.**

SLAVERY

Slaves are not in charge of their own lives and have to do whatever their master tells them to do. Most of the time, slaves are treated very, very badly, and their masters are mean to them. They do all of the hard work but don't make any

money. It is terrible to be a slave. God never wants us to treat people the way slaves are treated.

WORSHIP

Worship is telling and showing someone or something that they are most valuable. Only God deserves our worship. We can worship God by singing songs, praying, telling others about Him, and reading God's Word. When we love and trust God our hearts want to worship Him.