



Date: _____

Series: God is Our Rescuer
Summer Year 2, Lesson 14

Everyone Has a Story to Tell— Tell Yours

Primary Scripture: Acts 26:1-29

Key Verse: Acts 26:29, “I wish to God that you and everyone listening to me today would quickly and completely become as I am...”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Sometimes kids get the wrong idea about experiencing a relationship with Jesus Christ. They think it is something only older kids or adults can experience. The truth is God desires a relationship with even small children and he invites them into his kingdom. God is working in children's lives every bit as much as he is in the lives of adults. He makes a promise to them in their baptism. God helps them understand one step at a time what it means to be one of his children. He hears their prayers and answers them. He works through their witness. Today's lesson helps children identify some of the real experiences that have given them a faith story. They are encouraged to share their faith story with others so they might meet Jesus as their Savior and Lord, as well.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: HIS STORY. Jesus has a story to tell me. He gave his life for me so I might be able to have his life in me and through me.

Jesus in us: MY STORY. Through faith, Jesus' story becomes my own. He gave his life for me, not only to pay the price of my sin but also so he would live in me through his Holy Spirit.

Jesus through us: YOUR STORY. I can listen to others and identify with their stories. That gives me an opportunity to share my story that has points in common with theirs. Then I can share the story of how Jesus has helped me and can help you as well.

Kids Church Year 2 – Lesson 14 - 1

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Point out several of the stories written in a newspaper.

Next hold up a Bible.

What is the main story of the Bible? God wants a friendship with us so much that he gave us his Son, Jesus, to die and rise again. He paid the price of our sins so we could have a perfect friendship with God.

Does anyone know what the word "gospel" means? It means "good news." It is God's story of good news for us.

In fact, the good news of HIS STORY is the most important story in HISTORY.

Today we are going to find that we, too, have a story. In a way, we are like this newspaper or even like this Bible. God writes his story about our lives when we know Jesus as our Savior. Then other people can hear about *our* story and get to know *God's* story. That way, it might become *their* story, as well. If you love Jesus, that means you have a story to tell. Let's continue to tell his story by singing our songs of praise to him so the whole world might know his story.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Use a magazine for this presentation. Replace the front cover with a sheet of paper that reads, "The Story of (your name)'s Life." In the middle of the magazine have two clean sheets of paper, one with a cross drawn on it. Glue these into the magazine and show them to the group at the appropriate times.

Show the cover of the magazine as you say:

If your life were a book, what would people read? Would they read that, because Jesus is part of your life, you are kind and sharing? Would they see how you say only kind things about other people? Would they see how you help other people and even obey your mom and dad? What would they read if your life was a book?

When I think about my life as a book, I know there might be certain pages I wouldn't want people to read. Those are the things that I have done wrong against God and against other people.

Show kids the blank sheet in the middle.

Let's write some of the things that you or I might have done (the wrong things we have done) that might appear on this page of our lives.

Use a large marker to write the things kids suggest.

Now let's read from 1 John 1:8-9 what God says about sins like these.

"If we say, 'We aren't sinful,' we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. God is faithful and reliable. If we confess our sins, he forgives them and cleanses us from everything we've done wrong."

God tells us that, if we are sorry for our sin and tell him about it, he will rip those pages right out. If there is something in the book of your life from this last week that you did that you wish you hadn't, let's stop and pray about that now.

Prayer.

Now that we have told God about it, he has ripped out that page.

Without letting kids see the page with the cross on it, tear out the sin page, crumple it into a ball and throw it in a trashcan.

Look what he has given us instead—this clean page with a cross on it. Show kids the cross page. This reminds us that, through Jesus, God has removed our sin and given us a new start. What kinds of attitudes and actions do you think we should write on this page?

Write kids' responses on the cross page.

Isn't it wonderful that God gives us a new beginning every day? Let's praise him for his grace and kindness!

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies: craft sticks

Large quantities of craft sticks (or any other item which might be laid on the floor to spell out words) are needed for this game. Set up a configuration of craft sticks before kids arrive, then cover the arrangement so the kids can't see it when they come into the room. Begin by spelling out the complete name of Jesus with the sticks. Lift off some sticks from each letter so that the arrangement of sticks does not make any logical sense.

To play the game, divide the kids into groups of 8-10 maximum. Give each group a set of their own craft sticks. At your direction, each group sends a special ambassador to look at the hidden specially arranged sticks. That child goes back and tries to explain to his group how to arrange the sticks so they can try to make an exact copy. The ambassador cannot touch or arrange the sticks. After one child has been an ambassador, a second child may go. Keep going until all kids have participated.

At the end of the game, go around and judge the various groups' efforts. Then invite all to come look together at the coded sticks. Pull from your pocket the missing sticks and fill in the vacant spaces. Kids will probably shout out the name of Jesus before you've finished filling in the blank spaces. Now the name makes sense. Explain that with the help of *your* sticks it becomes much more clear.

The same is true about the story of Jesus. When we tell our part of how Jesus has helped us, then it is much easier for other people to really understand who Jesus is and what he has done.

Conclude by letting the kids rearrange their sticks so their diagrams also spell Jesus.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Using the video, *The Visual Bible: Acts*, by Visual Bible International, Vol. 3, 1997, present Acts 26:1-29.

Order from http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=364.

Draw some conclusions from this Bible event.

Paul told his story of how Jesus rescued him from killing Christians. Paul then wanted to share his story with lots of others so they, too, could meet Jesus. The same is true for us. We have a story to share, and we need to share it with other people so they can meet Jesus.

Application:

Display three posters with the titles “His Story,” “My Story,” and “Your Story.” (A cross might be placed prominently in the center of the poster with the title “His Story.”) Say the following to describe how these posters fit together.

You can see a cross on the “His Story” poster. This means the most important part of Jesus’ life was that he died on the cross for your sins and for mine and that we will live forever in heaven with him because of his forgiveness and eternal life.

Point to the second poster.

Now, what should go on this “My Story” poster? Jesus died on the cross 2,000 years ago, and most of us are not going to die today, tomorrow, or the next day. So it feels like Jesus’ story (point to “His Story” poster) is not very directly connected to my story (point to “My Story” poster). Let me show you how his story (point to “His Story” poster) can be very directly connected to my life (point to “My Story” poster) and to your life and to the lives of your friends (point to “Your Story” poster).

The following booklets will need to be made prior to Kids Church according to the following directions:

Cut sheets of 8 ½ x 11-inch paper in half. Use two half sheets for each booklet. Fold the two half-sheets down the middle to make a small booklet and staple it in the center. Place a label (see appendix) on the top of each page as follows.

Front Cover: My Life Story by _____

Page 2: A time God helped my family...

Page 3: A time God helped me when I was sad...

Page 4: A time God helped me when I was scared...

Page 5: A time God helped me when I did something wrong...

Page 6: A time God helped me to trust him...

Page 7: A time God used me to help others...

Also before Kids Church, you will need to have completed your own copy of the booklet.

Use your personalized booklet to talk about how God has touched your life in important and wonderful ways. Open your life storybook and display the first page that is titled “A time God helped my family...” Tell about a time when God helped your family. Then go to the next page and tell about a time when God helped you when you were sad.

Show the kids the categories that are on the remaining pages of your storybook, without sharing all the details. Now give a copy of a blank “My Life Story” booklet to each child. As you distribute the booklets, tell the kids they are now going to get a chance to write about or draw how God has helped them and blessed them.

Just like God was a part of the apostle Paul’s life, he is a part of your life as well. The storybook you are receiving is going to give you a chance to think about how God has been a part of your life. Then you can share your story with your friends. Your friends can then begin to see how God might be a part of their lives, too.

Once the kids understand what you expect of them, hand out pencils, markers, and crayons for them to write or draw with. Tell the children you realize they probably will not finish their booklets today. That’s just fine because they can also work on the booklets at home with a parent.

As kids are working on their project, you might go around the room asking kids to tell the rest of the group what they are doing for one page or another. This will affirm these kids while also helping give ideas to the others.

If you have time, you could discuss one or both “Pretend Moments” below.

Pretend #1

Pretend a friend of yours came to you and said, “I can’t come out and play any more after school. My mom is very sick in the hospital and I have to go see her. I’m really worried about her, and I don’t know what to do.” What would you do? You can think about what you wrote in your book and you could answer, “One time something really bad happened to me and God helped me. This is what it was...”

Pretend #2

You invite your friend to church but he doesn’t want to go because he doesn’t believe in all that junk. He believes he can do just enough good things at home so he will go to Heaven. You would tell him...



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

NOTE: At the end of the worship hour be sure to hand out to each child a copy of the attached instruction page for the parents.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- newspaper
- Bible

The Power of the Cross:

- magazine with two clean sheets of paper glued into it. The first sheet should be blank. The second sheet has a cross drawn on it. Replace the front cover with a sheet of paper that reads, “The Story of (large group leader’s name)’s Life.”
- marker
- trash can (optional)

Learning Game:

- craft sticks (many)
- room dividers or some other way to hide the displayed sticks

Bible Reading:

- video: *The Visual Bible: Acts* cued to Acts (26:1-29)—order from http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=364

Application:

- three posters:



- a booklet for each child entitled *My Life Story* by _____
- cut sheets of 8 ½ x 11-inch paper in half
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- your personalized copy of the above booklet
- a copy of the note home to parents for each child

“I Have a Story To Tell”

Parents,

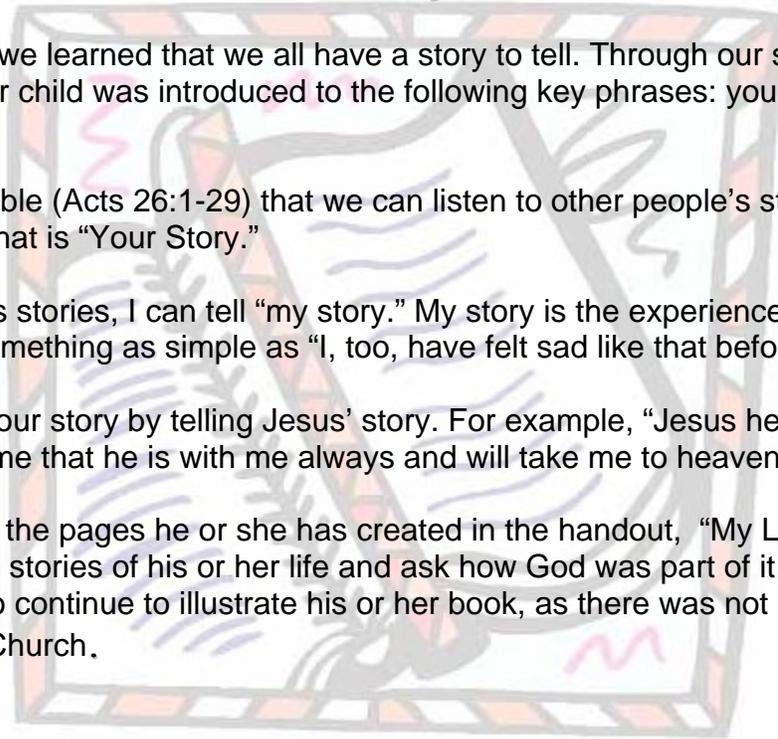
Today in Kids Church, we learned that we all have a story to tell. Through our stories we can tell the story of Jesus. Your child was introduced to the following key phrases: your story, my story, and Jesus' story.

We learned from the Bible (Acts 26:1-29) that we can listen to other people's stories and find out how they met Jesus. That is “Your Story.”

After listening to other's stories, I can tell “my story.” My story is the experience I have in common with you. It might be something as simple as “I, too, have felt sad like that before.”

Then we can continue our story by telling Jesus' story. For example, “Jesus helps me not feel sad because he promised me that he is with me always and will take me to heaven.”

Discuss with your child the pages he or she has created in the handout, “My Life Story.” Let your child tell you significant stories of his or her life and ask how God was part of it. You can encourage your child to continue to illustrate his or her book, as there was not enough time to finish this during Kids Church.



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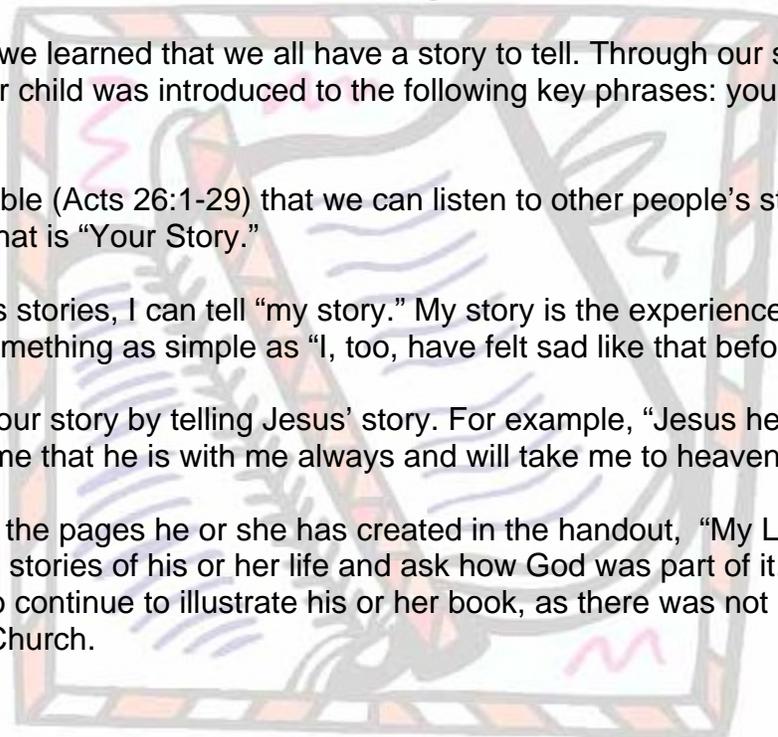
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<i>A time God helped me to trust him...</i>	<i>A time God helped me to trust him...</i>	<i>A time God helped me to trust him...</i>
<i>A time God used me to help others...</i>	<i>A time God used me to help others...</i>	<i>A time God used me to help others...</i>