

Kids Doctrinal Training

A Series of Activities Built Around the Book by Paul I. Brown



Teaching Points

Week by Week

1: Word of God

- Overview of the Bible.
- The Bible won't change and it will always be right and true because God is the author.
- We should learn from the Bible (all of it!).
- The Bible will never contradict itself.
- The Bible is a spiritual weapon to give victory.
- The Word is living and works on hearts when it goes forth. It has the power to save.
- Read the Bible to understand it
- Study the Bible as a good student.

2: Sin: The Problem

- Sin is any disobedience to God or His will; it separates us from God
- We can sin with thoughts, words or actions.
- Our eternal destination and kind of life we have will be determined by choices we make.
- Man was originally created without sin or a knowledge of it.
- Adam & Eve chose to do wrong and this brought sin into human lives.
- The worst part: their sin resulted in physical, spiritual and eternal death.
- Because all were corrupted with sin after Adam & Eve, we were hopeless without a savior.

3: Jesus: the Solution

- God has a unique ability to see both the past and future, so He not only knew sin would enter the world, but He also knew that He would appear as Savior.
- God knew He would have to come and die for us someday. Yet He created us anyway! Amazing love!
- God's law can only be satisfied & sin absolved through death.
- Because Jesus was born and lived without sin, His blood didn't have to cover His own sins; instead, it covered ours!
- Why would He do this?? John 3:16
- When we obey the Gospel, we take advantage of what Jesus has done for us! You just have to apply it!

4: Repentance

- Since the Gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, we must follow the pattern that He set up by experiencing a type of death, burial and resurrection. The "death" part comes through repentance.
- Before anyone can obey the Gospel, they must have faith. Faith in who God is and what He did.
- Repentance means to change your ways, to decide to live a new way. There are four parts: feeling sorrow, confessing your sins, making a decision to change and acting different

5: Baptism

- Baptism is a type of burial
- Jesus told the disciples to baptize all nations just before He ascended, so it must be necessary
- In repentance, sins are forgiven, but in baptism, they are remitted or forever erased from the record
- Baptism means you are covered completely with water, because that's what it's like to be physically buried AND because that's what the word "baptize" means
- We are to be baptized in the NAME of Jesus because only Jesus has power to wash away sin; everyone in the New Testament was baptized in Jesus' name, not in the titles.
- Those baptized incorrectly should be baptized again - correctly!

6: Holy Ghost

- The Holy Ghost is the "resurrection" part of the Gospel.
- The Holy Ghost is literally Jesus' spirit living inside of us.
- The Holy Ghost is not just an added blessing; it is essential to your salvation.
- You become part of the church when you get the Holy Ghost, and the church is the group of people that will go in the rapture.
- The sign that you have received the Holy Ghost is always speaking in tongues.
- Sinful flesh gets killed and separated from us in repentance and baptism; the Holy Ghost allows a spiritual resurrection.
- The Holy Ghost will change you.
- The Holy Ghost will keep you rested, comforted - and it will give you power to live for Him.
- It is a gift God *wants* to give you.

7: Truth About God (1)

- There is only one God.
- This one God has chosen to reveal Himself in different ways throughout history. His relationship with humanity has changed over time.
- Jehovah of the Old Testament made Himself visible in a human body in the New Testament.
- Since Jesus had two natures (human and divine), sometimes He spoke as God and other times as man. The term "Son" refers to the human nature, and the term "Father" refers to the divine nature.
- It's like air being inside a balloon and outside a balloon, all at the same time. It's all air. And the Spirit inside God was the same as the God who is omnipresent.

8: Truth About God (2)

- God is not a trinity. He has three ways He has appeared, but He is one person. Your pastor is a pastor, husband and father, but he is one person.
- When God says "Let us..." in Genesis, it is because in the original Hebrew, the word Elohiym is used. It speaks to the God with many attributes - bigger than we could ever imagine.
- When it seems that God is "split" and in different places (i.e. Jesus' baptism), we must remember that as the Father (the divine nature), He could be anywhere at any time.
- If Jesus were part of a trinity, He wouldn't pray to another part (they're equal, remember). When He prays to the Father it is the divine VS human nature again. Flesh submits to deity.

9: Biblical Holiness

- Holy means set apart or separated.
- Dedicating yourself to God will distinguish you from the world.
- Holiness begins when you are filled with God's spirit.
- God commands inward and outward holiness. Both will distinguish us from the world around us, like earthly royalty would stand out from commoners.
- Marks of devotion from Scripture include wearing appropriate clothing, keeping hair cut/uncut, not adorning oneself outwardly, etc.
- God commands holiness because He is holy. Also, if we actively disobey what we know to do, we will "not see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14)

10: Apostolic Worship

- We all have a built-in desire to worship something.
- Worship is to express adoration, love, respect, reverence, to magnify God.
- It is helpful to think of it this way: start by being thankful, move onto praising God for who He is, and then worship Him and enjoy His presence.
- You can worship God with your lifestyle, actions, voice, musical instruments, etc. You can lift your hands, clap your hands, sing and use instruments in church.
- We worship God because He commands it and He loves it!
- Worship brings great blessings.

11: Prayer

- Prayer is two way communication between God and man.
- Asking, praising and repenting are important parts of prayer, but so is listening. God speaks through His word, inside of us or through the preacher.
- We pray because the Bible commands us to, and because it helps us stay close to God.
- We should (and often do!) desire to do God's will. But we can only do it if we know what it is - we find out through prayer.
- It edifies, strengthens and builds us.
- Prayer is a powerful weapon.
- We must have faith when we pray and believe that God hears and knows what's best for us.
- We should pray in Jesus' name!
- There are six steps to prayer.

12: In the End

- The world will someday come to an end and eternity will begin.
- Those who died saved will rise to meet Jesus in the air, followed by those who are alive and saved. Our bodies will be changed into glorified bodies.
- There are signs that tell us Jesus will return soon, though we don't know the day or the hour. We must be "rapture-ready" always!
- After we leave, the world will go through the Tribulation and the Anti-Christ will rise to power.
- God will pour out great wrath before establishing a kingdom of peace for 1000 years (the Devil is captive until the end).
- The final judgment ushers in eternity.

Scripture Verses

Topic by Topic

1: Word of God

- Psalm 119:89
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- John 17:17
- Hebrews 4:12
- Romans 1:16
- 2 Timothy 2:15

2: Sin: The Problem

- Romans 3:23
- Genesis 1:27
- Genesis 2:17
- James 1:15
- Romans 3:10

3: Jesus: the Solution

- Romans 3:23
- Revelation 13:8
- Leviticus 17:11
- 1 Peter 1:18-19
- John 3:16
- Exodus 12:7, 13

4: Repentance

- 2 Peter 3:9
- Acts 16:31
- Luke 5:8
- 2 Corinthians 7:10
- 1 John 1:9
- Proverbs 28:13
- Matthew 3:8
- 2 Peter 3:9

5: Baptism

- Acts 2:38
- Mark 16:16
- Matthew 28:19
- Acts 22:16
- Colossians 2:12
- Romans 6:4
- Acts 4:10-12
- Acts 8:16
- Acts 10:48
- Acts 19:5

6: Holy Ghost

- Acts 2:38
- Joel 2:28
- Matthew 3:11
- Acts 2:4
- Colossians 1:27
- John 14:17-18
- John 3:5
- Romans 8:9
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
- Isaiah 28:11
- Acts 10:46
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
- Isaiah 28:12
- John 14:26
- Acts 1:8
- Luke 11:13

7: Truth About God (1)

- Deuteronomy 6:4
- Deuteronomy 4:35
- Isaiah 43:10-11
- James 2:19
- Genesis 17:1
- Exodus 6:2-3
- Matthew 1:23-25
- 1 Timothy 3:16
- John 1:1, 14
- John 14:9-10
- 2 Corinthians 5:19

8: Truth About God (2)

- Deuteronomy 6:4
- Genesis 1:26
- Matthew 3:16-17
- John 3:13
- Matthew 26:39
- Matthew 26:41
- Isaiah 9:6
- Psalms 24:10
- 1 Corinthians 2:8
- Acts 9:4-5
- Zechariah 14:9
- Colossians 2:8-10

9: Biblical Holiness

- 1 Peter 1:16
- 1 John 1:5
- 2 Corinthians 6:17
- 2 Corinthians 7:1
- 1 Samuel 16:7
- Deuteronomy 22:5
- 1 Corinthians 11:6, 14-15
- 1 Timothy 2:9
- Hebrews 12:14
- Revelation 21:27
- 1 Peter 1:14-16

10: Apostolic Worship

- Psalm 34:3
- Luke 4:8
- Psalm 100:4
- John 4:23
- Psalm 134:2
- Psalm 47:1
- Psalm 66:4
- Psalm 150:3-5
- Psalm 95:6
- Psalm 103:1
- Psalm 16:11
- Acts 16:25-26

11: Prayer

- Luke 11:2-4
- Acts 17:27
- John 10:27
- Luke 18:1
- Psalm 40:8
- 1 Corinthians 14:4
- 2 Corinthians 10:4
- Mark 11:24
- 1 John 5:14
- John 14:14

12: In the End

- Revelation 22:5
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
- Matthew 24:36, 42
- Romans 13:11
- Matthew 24:21
- Revelation 13:16-17
- Revelation 20:1-2, 6
- Zechariah 14:9
- Revelation 20:9-10
- Revelation 20:11-12, 15
- Revelation 22:5
- Revelation 20:10

Lesson One

The Word of God

Welcome Activity

When kids are all seated and ready to begin, bring out a bag that hold several objects (which they cannot see). Explain that the object of this game is to make up a story using the objects in the bag. One person will draw an object, make up part of the story, pass the bag and let the story continue with the next person (and object!).

Include amusing items (a pacifier, Hawaiian lei, carpenter's glue, etc.) and have a good laugh.

Another good opener is to have children guess whether certain stories/people belong in the OT or NT.

Opening Activity

Explain that the last activity was totally for fun. The story was crazy, totally random and made up on the spot. It twisted and turned depending on what you picked out of the bag.

God's Word, the topic for today, is not so. It was pre-planned, designed by God and contains no problems that God couldn't solve. It is perfect, has no errors, doesn't contradict itself and always tells the truth. Discuss how irrefutable God's Word is (teacher's manual) and His authorship even though others wrote.

Discuss 2 Timothy 3:16, what "all scripture" means, and what "inspiration of God means." Discuss what doctrine (what TO believe), reproof (what NOT to believe), correction (what NOT to do) and instruction in righteousness (what TO do).

Main Activity One

It is important to know what the Bible says. We have to read to know what the Bible says.

Explore the reality of science backing up (not contradicting) the Bible. Show students some images of Biblical locations that still exist (<http://www.ebibleteacher.com/images.html>). If students are older or interested in archaeology, talk about archaeology a bit, and show them this image of Mt. Ararat (<http://www.prevailmagazine.org/how-archaeology-proves-the-bible/>), where the remains of Noah's Ark still exist!

Main Activity Two

Have kids try out writing in Hebrew and Greek (use black paint and a thin brush for an "authentic" experience), and speaking some of the letters (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_alphabet for the Hebrew alphabet and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_alphabet for the Greek alphabet). Discuss that these two languages are the original languages of the Bible and that when we are studying something tricky, sometimes we look up Hebrew or Greek words to clarify meaning (older students may find this intriguing).

You may also show them how to say Deut. 6:4 in Hebrew, or show them a Hebrew Bible.

Wrap Up

The Word of God is like a recipe. Have children parse out what they *think* is in chocolate chip cookies from ingredients you provide. Let them choose the amounts.

Then bring out a tray with the *real* amounts/ingredients and discuss the difference.

Talk about how we must know and follow the "recipe" to living right - we can find it in the Bible, but we have to read to know!

Closing

Play Mad Gab (the Bible Edition) to end the class (while eating cookies!). You can play in teams, but usually kids find it more fun to ALL guess at the same card. When they guess the correct phrase, ask them if they have heard of that before. Do they know what book of the Bible that comes from?

Or, play a Bible quiz game like "General Bible Trivia Countdown" (youtube and saved on computer) to show kids how much they don't know. How do gain understanding of the Bible and "study to show ourselves approved?"

There's a lot more in the Bible that we have yet to learn about! That's why we need to read and study God's Word!

Lesson Two

Sin: The Problem

Welcome Activity

Play Musical Dots with a Twister Mat. Play music and have kids roam around the mat in any way they like, stepping on only dots. When the music stops, they may take ONE step to another dot in any direction. Spin the Twister spinner. Children who are standing on the colour it lands on are “out.”

Did you think this game was fair or not fair? This game gave you no choice. If you were unlucky, you were out.

Main Activity

Mix up a large tub of dirt (potting soil) with a little bit of water (you want to make it the consistency of thick mud). Tell kids today’s lesson is about sin and what it does to humans. Ask one child to come up and one hand dirty. The dirt on their hand is like sin. They can try to wipe it off with their other hand, but that only makes them *more* dirty!

Ask kids how they would go about getting the dirt off. Some may suggest a towel or rag, but that ultimately doesn’t get EVERYTHING off. Some may suggest water, but remind them that without soap, little tiny bits of dirt are still left behind. The only thing that really works is soap and water. Allow the volunteer to clean his or her hands.

Explain that we all are born with sin in our hearts as dirty and problematic as that dirt in the bucket. You can’t see it like you see the dirt in the bucket, but it’s still there. And we have to make a choice to get rid of it. Talk to kids about what would happen if they filled a bucket with water and soap but just looked at it. Getting rid of the dirt and getting clean involves making a *choice*. So does getting rid of sin.

Main Activity

Beforehand, choose a few scripture verses that describe what sin is/does, etc. Divide class into pairs or small groups and give each a verse, a piece of paper, a Bible and a pen or pencil.

Have them look up the verse and read it several times. Have them discuss it with their group (you’ll probably need to roam and help with this) and then write down what they learned from the verse on the piece of paper. Then have them write it in their own words on the same sheet.

Come back together as a large group and have each small group present their findings and their verse. Discuss as a class.

Ultimately, show kids that human beings were created without sin. When Adam & Eve disobeyed, they brought sin into the entire human race. They couldn’t get rid of it on their own (just like the dirt on hands). They needed a saviour. We still need a saviour today. We can make a *choice* to be saved.

Main Activity Two

Using a ball of yarn, make a spider web. Stand children in a circle and begin throwing the ball back and forth, naming a sin each time you throw. Have children try and put their sins on others (blaming) by passing what’s in their hands to another person.

Talk about how sin entangles us in a mess that we can’t fix without God’s help.

Wrap Up

Play a game of “This or That.” Give kids choices in scenarios you present (you can have them hold up cards that say “A” or “B,” or vote with their feet, etc.). Make some weird, some serious, some silly.

Discuss how choosing to do wrong is disobedience to God and separates us from Him. We cannot go to heaven (a perfect place) if we continually choose to do wrong and do nothing about it.

Closing

Split children into at least two teams and give them a variety of random objects (you, knowing the activity, should choose objects you think would be useful, but throw some random ones in there too). Ask the teams to come up with a way to describe or present sin that is creative and accurate, using all of the objects you’ve provided.

You can also play a tag-like game that will show children what they need to do when they see sin. Each teacher should have a “SIN” sign in his/her hand. Take children to a wide open area and play music; have them run around or mingle. When the music is paused, all children must freeze and a teacher should hold up a sign (vary the teacher so kids don’t expect it). Everyone should RUN from that teacher (run from sin). When the sign goes down, the music can resume and another round can begin. To make it harder, make the student closest to the teacher who holds up the sign sit down for one round (sin takes us down).

Lesson Three

Jesus Christ: The Solution

Welcome Activity

Explore what happens when you mix oil and water. Review last week's lesson.

Who has sinned (everyone)? Why (it's in our nature now)? What does sin do to us (death)?

How is the oil and water like God and sin?

Opening Activity

We had no way to remove the sin on our own. It would be as impossible as trying to remove this oil from the water with your bare hands. We needed a saviour.

Did you know God **KNEW** we would sin? He created us anyway and had a plan to help us.

Play a game called "Guess the Price" (you can use Price is Right music if you have it). Use common items and have children guess within a range, or make a choice between two figures (they can vote with their feet if they are antsy). There is **always** a price to be paid for things!

Main Activity One

The Bible says the price to pay for sin is death, and that souls that sin will die. So the only way to pay for sins is through death. "Shedding of blood" is death, (Lev. 17:11, the life of the flesh is in the blood), and therefore the shedding of blood makes atonement (pays) for sin. Blood covers sin from God's sight. But the blood can't be just any blood; it has to be pure, innocent blood that is sinless. Are any of us like that? Oh no! So even if we died to pay for our sins, it still doesn't help us because we are full of sin already. We really needed a saviour - we had no hope.

In the Old Testament it was animals, but they had to repeat the sacrifice every year. But God had a better plan and came Himself to die - because he was sinless - and pay for our sins. Because He was so much greater than any lamb, He covered sins forever! And He didn't have to die for His own sins (He was perfect), so He could die for ours instead.

Why? John 3:16, 2 Peter 3:9

Discuss what "begotten son" means ("body") and how Jesus put on a "robe of flesh."

Main Activity Two

Tell a sad story of a person who was dying. Then the doctor found a pill that would cure him. The man was so excited, took it home, and never took it. He still died. Kids will think he was crazy.

Now tell the story of the Israelites last night in Egypt (the death angel) and what they had to do to keep the angel out (put blood on the door).

Just like the Israelites, we have to apply the blood (for us it is 3 steps) or we are as crazy as that man and we will die lost.

Wrap Up

Memorize Romans 6:23 using a relay. Split into two teams and give each team a marker. On the signal, they must run to their respective whiteboards (ideally they are running in opposite directions so they can't cheat) and write 1 (or 2, or 3) word of the verse. They run back and hand the marker off to the next player, who writes the next word. First team done wins.

You can make it easier by allowing the team to help, or harder by requiring silence. If a person can't think of the next word, they must run up and back before passing the marker to the next person, eating up time.

Closing

Play a fun game to close today!

Lesson Four

Repentance

Welcome Activity

Play a short game of Jeopardy (with sticky notes to indicate point values) to test kids' knowledge of The Word of God, The Problem (Sin) and The Solution (Jesus).

Opening Activity

Discuss repentance. It's an old word. What does it mean? It actually has four parts: sorrow, confessing your sin, making a decision to change, and acting differently.

Tell the story of what happened to Judas during the betrayal of Jesus, and after. Use unique phrases the kids can holler when you say different characters' names (i.e. Judas: Boo!, Jesus: Yay!, Soldier: sword motion).

Talk about what the difference between "worldly sorrow" and "godly sorrow" is (2 Corinthians 7:10). Godly sorrow (conviction, comes from God) makes us want to change and do better and do what God says. Worldly sorrow (condemnation, comes from the devil) just makes us feel bad like a failure and we don't try to get closer to God.

Main Activity One

Confessing our sins means not only do we feel bad, but we admit to God that we have done wrong and that we need forgiveness. Some people are too prideful to ask for forgiveness, or they make excuses for bad behaviour. If God's Word asks us to do something and we don't obey, that is something we need forgiveness for.

1 John 1:9 - have two groups make up actions to this verse, and then compare the two displays. Notice the Bible says "IF we confess...." Every time you repent (which should be often), ask God to forgive things you KNOW you have done wrong, and then like Israel's King David, ask God to forgive your hidden and secret faults, too, because everyone forgets things they do wrong.

Main Activity Two

We know that repentance means to feel sorrow and to confess our sins, but we have to make a decision to change.

Pair as many children as you can up with a ball for each pair. One child represents "sin," and the other, themselves. You can turn without letting go of the ball (sin), and you might even be able to take a step while hanging onto it a little, but eventually we are held back by sin. We have to go away from it, not just keep it at "arm's length."

Wrap Up

To illustrate the need to act differently, give each child a piece of packing/clear tape. Tell them you cleaned the room thoroughly and that you don't think they'll be able to find any dirt. They will!

That's what it's like to decide to change and never actually do it. We look alright, but we're not really different.

Closing

Play the hand game (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHMxfA2OivI>) and talk about how easy it is to make mistakes. They just happen sometimes. This is why we need to repent again and again. Once we are baptized, it's like that washing away of sins can be activated as many times as we need. We should try to be good Christians, but we will all make mistakes, and repentance is how we deal with them. God will always forgive us.

Lesson Five

Baptism

Welcome Activity

Play "Switch Sides If." Divide the room in two and have children choose a side. Then tell them to switch if they have done a particular scary thing you describe (i.e. gone on a roller coaster).

Many children are scared of baptism because it is unknown or because they go underwater. Ask how many are fearful of being baptized and why.

Opening Activity

Watch baptism videos (videos of teachers or older siblings/youth being baptized are really cool) and then discuss.

Main Activity One

Does the Bible say you have to be baptized? Is it really part of the plan of salvation?

Write the words of Mark 16:16 on the board, but leave out "believes," "baptized." Ask the kids to guess the words. Scramble the letters to help them guess.

Explain why we don't believe in infant baptism. For baptism to count, the person must first believe in God and repent of their sins.

True or false: Jesus was baptized. True! Why was He baptized? To show us that we needed to be. Also, when Jesus rose again, just before He went to heaven, He said "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them...." Does it sound like "If you want to...." or "If you feel like it...."? No! It was a command! It's that important!

Main Activity Two

Use sticky notes and have all the kids write sins. They can stick them to anyone they want. Even if we have not committed those exact sins, it's like we have, because all sin is bad sin to God. When we repent, they get covered over (use a Bingo stamper to illustrate on a few), but they are still there. Baptism is getting them all removed, and that's why it's called being "born again" - we are clean and new like a little baby. Your sins are gone forever. You can remember them, and God isn't stupid - He can too - but He chooses to never think about them again.

Wrap Up

Why do we go under water? Because the original Greek word "baptizo" means to immerse.

Why do we say Jesus name? Because only Jesus has the power to clean off our sins. We have to actually use His name, not His titles (Father, Son, Holy Ghost). Use the illustration of trying cash a cheque without actually signing your name. It won't work. Only a name has the authority to do anything.

Closing

Play Jeopardy or Snakes and Ladders to review the lesson's content.

Lesson Six

Holy Ghost

Welcome Activity

Review the proper way to be baptized with kids: have them teach one of the illustrations from last week, or draw on their own paper the way to be baptized, or answer true/false questions by “voting with their feet.”

Opening Activity

Print the following verses in LARGE PRINT on large sheets of paper (i.e. 11X14). Fold them and tuck them inside Bibles, marking the Bibles 1 through 7 with sticky notes. Hide the Bibles around the room/area. Send children out on a hunt for the hidden Bibles. When they have found one they return to class. Once all Bibles have been found, everyone returns. As you go through the lesson, the children will be called upon to find the folded paper in their Bible and read the scripture reference. Instead of having one child read the verse alone, read it all together.

The verses are: 1) Joel 2:28, 2) Matt. 3:11, 3) Acts 2:4, 4) Col. 1:27, 5) John 14:17-18, 6) John 3:5, 7) Rom. 8:9, 8) Is. 28:11, 9) 1 Thess. 4:16-17, 10) Is. 28:12, 11) Acts 1:8

Main Activity One

Start by explaining that the HG was talked about throughout the Bible (V1 & 2). It was first given to people just after Jesus rose from the dead and went back to heaven (V3).

What is the HG? It is not a separate thing from God - it IS God coming to live in your heart (V4 & 5). It is not just something you should want; it is essential to salvation - that means we have to have it to be saved and go to heaven (V6 & 7).

So how do you know if you have it in you? Is it enough to just ask Jesus into your heart? Is there a sign? Yes! When you get the HG you will speak in another language; it doesn't matter where you are or who's receiving it - this is always the sign (V8). If someone thinks they have the HG but they don't speak in tongues (regularly), they are either confused, or lying.

Main Activity Two

Read “I Am A Frog” or play a guessing game where children reach into a bag or box and have to guess what the object is they're touching. You can also play this game by using recordings of different sounds - what is the object making that sound?

Discuss the concept of “if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck...it's a duck!” When we receive the HG, God lives in us. We WILL act different, talk different. (V9) If we're not, we're just pretending, and that's not good! No wonder God calls it being “born again.”

Wrap Up

Give all the children a small gift today; explain that the HG is a free gift. Just like they have received something from you, God desires to give them the HG; they don't have to beg for it.

Ask them what they will do with their gift (from you). In all likelihood, it is not that useful. But the HG can give us rest when we're weary (V10), comfort when we're sad, and power to live for God (V11).

Closing

Review repentance, baptism and the HG today using an object lesson or review questions, and ask if there are children who are ready to take any of these steps. Pray with children to conclude.

Lesson Seven

The Truth About God (Part 1)

Welcome Activity

Show a Hebrew Bible and allow kids to see Deut. 6:4 written in Hebrew. Have them try to write it (remember, it's "backwards").

Explain that this was Jesus' answer to "what is the greatest commandment?" Our most important "job" is to know who Jesus is!

Opening Activity

Five things about God:

Have students break into 5 groups and create five stations around the room with a few Bibles, paper with an outline of a person (gingerbread man) and pens.

Each group is responsible to look up the verse at the station, and each member must take a turn writing a truth about God on the outline on their paper.

The verses they should look up are:

1. John 4:24 (God is invisible)
2. Rev. 19:6 (He is all powerful, can do anything/everything)
3. Jer. 23:24 (God's spirit fills all of heaven and earth, He is everywhere)
4. Rom. 11:33 (God knows everything)
5. 1 Tim. 1:17 (God is eternal, always has existed, always will)

When all stations have been visited by all groups, bring students back together and write these five truths on a whiteboard version of the "gingerbread man."

Main Activity

Have each teacher write down 10 things about themselves, some students know, but most they do not. At random, have teachers reveal various facts, and have students guess whether it is one teacher or the other.

Have students write down all the things they could call themselves. For example, they are all a son or daughter, grandchild, and most would be a sibling. Are they a cousin? A student? A piano player? A Canadian?

Just because we are one thing does not mean we cannot also be something else, and it is the same with God. When He says He is "Almighty" to Abraham, He is telling the truth. When He calls Himself "Eternal" to Moses, that doesn't mean He stopped being "Almighty." And when He puts His spirit in a physical body like ours in Matthew 1:23-25, it doesn't mean He has stopped being the Almighty, Eternal God! He is still the same God, and His name is Jesus!

Main Activity Two

Give each child a paper with 3 scriptures on it, spaced well and printed in large print (Deut. 4:35, Is. 43:10-11, James 2:19).

Have them, on their own, circle words in the verse that give clues as to how many gods there are.

Choose volunteers to share the keywords when you come back together.

Wrap Up

To explain the dual nature of God (how He was both human and divine), write "Jesus..." on the top of the board and then give students examples of things He did, and ask them whether that is His "human" part, or "divine" part.

For example, the Bible tells us Jesus wept, slept, and became hungry. It also tells us He turned water to wine, walked on water, raised a man from the dead and stopped a storm.

Closing

Next week we will talk more about God, and another area where many people get confused: why does the Bible say "Father, Son and Holy Ghost" if there is only one God? Is it possible there are three?

Even for students who have grown up in church, it is important to understand why we believe what we do, so we are able to teach others. The Bible tells US to go and make disciples!

Lesson Eight

The Truth About God (Part 2)

Welcome Activity

Many get confused by the “trinity,” believing that instead of one God working in different ways (the Father in creation, the Son in redemption, the Holy Ghost when He fills us), there are 3 equal parts to God, separate beings who do different things.

To review last week and begin this one, discuss how one person can have many titles. Take the pastor, for example. He is a husband, son, etc.

Opening Activity

Use a Venn diagram to explain “deity” and “humanity” (in the middle we will write “Jesus,” but not yet). Have students give you characteristics of deity (God is a deity - what did we learn about God last time? He is everywhere, all powerful, wise, all knowing, always existed), then of humanity (specifically, ways in which humans are “mortal:” we have to eat, we are born, we die, we have to sleep, we can only be in one place at a time).

Explain the small slice in the middle. There is only one person in all of history who was both divine and human AT THE SAME TIME. His name is Jesus. God Himself put on a body (use a robe or coat as an illustration of this point if possible) and came to earth so He would be able to understand what it was like to be human, and more importantly, to die and take the place for our sins. Because He is the ONLY perfect human, He was the only one who could do that. God was 100% human. He was also 100% divine. He had all of *this* (one side of the diagram) and all of *that* (other side). He was God in flesh!

Main Activity One

Have kids examine oneness by using an egg as an object lesson. Crack the egg and put the three parts (yolk, shell, white) in three separate bowls (clear if possible). Ask kids how many eggs they see. One! There are three manifestations of God, but they are all the same!

Alternatively, you may blow up a balloon and discuss how the air inside is the same as the air outside. Tell kids “The air is in the balloon and the balloon is in the air just like Jesus was in God (the Spirit) and God was in Jesus.” Make balloons that read “Jesus is God!” for kids to take home at the end of class (they can use the balloon to explain the lesson to their parents).

Main Activity Two

From Matthew 26:39, tell the story of Jesus praying to the Father, asking that if it be possible, His death on the cross be avoided. Ask children if this sounds like one person praying to another. It does, at the outset. But like with anything in the Bible we don’t understand, if we dig a little deeper, we see what’s really going on. This verse shows Jesus’ human nature praying to the divine nature. It was the will of God for Him to die, but the will of the flesh to live, and the human part had to submit to the God part.

We can have the same problem. When we’re at church, our spirit (the eternal, “God” part) says “YEAH! I’m going to pray every day this week!” Then we get home and our human part wants to play video games.

Just like Jesus the human part submitted to God the deity, we must submit our flesh to God.

Wrap Up

Read Is. 9:6 together and go through the verse piece by piece to discuss what it is saying. Who is the child? How could a “government” be on the shoulders of a child? How could a child possibly be called “The mighty God,” “the everlasting Father” or “The Prince of Peace?”

Answer: only if He was actually God!

Closing

Have children take turns explaining one thing they learned today. Give points or small treats for answers if you want.

Lesson Nine

Biblical Holiness

Welcome Activity

Play "Pencil Pointers." Each child should get a pencil and paper. Read a list of ways they can get points. For example, add 10 points if you came to church last Sunday. Subtract 10 points if you are wearing white socks. Add 10 if you helped make dinner this week. Tell children we are talking about something this week that many think is just about getting points with God, but it is really about so much more.

Opening Activity

The word "holy" is used to describe God more than any other word. God said "You must be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:14-16), and to be "holy" means to be set apart or separated. Think of darkness and light. That is how we should think of God. He is light, so perfect and holy that there is not even one little bit of "darkness" in Him (1 John 1:5). Just like God doesn't mix with darkness or evil, that is what He has commanded us to do. He wants us to be separate from the world and any evil around us, and He gets to tell us what is evil and what is not. What kinds of things do you think are evil? And what kinds of things are good? The world is naturally dark, because people who don't live for God naturally follow their own paths and desires. Humans naturally tend to do wrong, not right. But when we start to live for God, we start to walk in the light. We start to live for something greater than ourselves. So, we will appear, talk, act, think and BE different from the world around us. Give children different sources of light: a light switch, a lamp, a candle, a flashlight. Discuss which is easier: to darken a light room, or to lighten a dark room. It is the latter, because a little bit of darkness doesn't bother anyone too much (think of how we forget to turn on a light as the sun goes down). But a little bit of light can illuminate a whole lot of darkness.

Main Activity One

What does it mean to be holy? It means to be filled with light instead of darkness, from the inside out. Where do you think the light comes from? Hint: the word FILLED! Holiness starts with the Holy Ghost!

2 Cor. 7:1 says that we should cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh *and* the spirit. That means that we must be holy on both the outside (flesh) and inside (spirit). Some people believe that one or the other is good enough, but this isn't true. You must have both to truly be holy. Get an opaque bowl (preferably tall), and draw a face on him with dry erase marker. Name him. Explain that when we see evil things, evil enters through our eyes. Pour a bit of mud, sludge or garbage into your bowl. When we listen to evil things, evil enters through our ears. When we lie or swear, evil enters through our mouths. Evil can enter our mind by thinking bad thoughts or having a bad attitude. 1 Sam. 16:7 says that man sees our outside appearance (the bowl looks fine on the outside - he's even still smiling), but God looks on the heart (inside, this bowl is a mess). Sometimes we can be just like this bowl. Coming to church and looking like we're fine, but on the inside we've been doing things God doesn't approve of all week. This fills us with darkness.

Main Activity Two

Outward holiness is easier to see, because it's on the outside. This is one way people in the world can recognize the church, so we should not get upset when God asks us to appear a certain way - it is a high honour, and people notice! This is a way we are a light to the world!

Think of the Queen, or a princess. Or think of a soldier in the army. Could you recognize them in a crowd? Yes, mostly because of the way they appear! They look a certain way, and act a certain way. We are children of a King, and soldiers in the army of the Lord, so it makes sense that we would stand out in the same way.

One thing that most people notice is how our women always wear skirts, and we always have sleeves on our shirts (men and women). Have you ever wondered why? It is because, when God created clothes for Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden, he created a garment just like that. Furthermore, He instructed that only men could wear garments with a separation between the legs. That is why we still, to this day, only wear skirts and dresses. God's original garment also had sleeves, covered the knees, and came up to the neck. That is why our clothes still do that. This is what God considers appropriate to wear.

God also asked men to have short hair and women to have uncut hair. God said a woman has more power in her prayers when her hair is uncut. God also asked us not to decorate ourselves with jewelry or paint (makeup/nail polish).

Does this mean we dislike people who do these things? No! They don't know what God requires! The first thing they need to understand is how to get the Holy Ghost inside. It will then teach them what they should know, with help from pastors. And if we did some of these things in our past, that is ok. We are new creatures when we obey the plan of salvation.

Deut. 22:5, 1 Cor. 11:6, 14-15, 1 Tim. 2:9

Wrap Up

Sometimes it's hard to do something when we don't understand why. But we have to put God first and do what He asks. If we do, everything else in our lives will fit into place. Using rice (unspiritual things) and large marbles or rocks (spiritual things), try to fill a mason jar with rice, then marbles. The marbles won't fit. But if you put spiritual things first, everything will fit perfectly in your life. God is not just making a "suggestion" to live holy. He says "without holiness, we cannot see the Lord." If we know we need to be holy and we choose to disobey, we are risking missing heaven!

Closing

Sometimes people argue about this topic, so we have to remember one important thing as we close today. The Bible expects us to love God, and to love one another. It is good to learn about the right way to live and what God requires, but if someone doesn't agree, you need to let God and their pastors help them from that point.

Lesson Ten

Apostolic Worship

Welcome Activity

Show kids a cell phone. If you have data enabled on this phone, it means it will continually try and connect with a tower in order to offer you access to the internet. Did you know humans are built with a desire to connect with something. We are always searching until we find something perfect to connect with. What do you think that perfect thing is? God! What we really have is the desire to worship something!

Opening Activity

What/who does the Bible say we should worship? (Luke 4:8) Only God! Do you know people worship many other things, even today? The dictionary lists the following synonyms for worship: adore, love, magnify, respect and reverence. Many people feel this way toward God, but we must express it in some way! Look up Psalm 100:4 and think of going to see God in a house. "Enter His gates with thanksgiving" is like going up the walkway. "Enter his courts with praise" is like opening the front door. Worship is the next part, where we are literally in the same room with God, feeling His presence all around us. So, we first thank God for all He has done. Then we praise Him just for who He is. Then we worship Him - there are many different ways to worship.

Main Activity One

God wants to be worshipped "in spirit and in truth."

"In spirit" means to worship Him with everything we have, giving Him our very best. God does not say to worship Him in spirit "when we feel good." Instead, we should give Him our best no matter how we feel. "In truth" means that we understand who God is (we do this mostly by reading His word), and that our motives are correct. We are worshipping because we sincerely love God, not to show off.

The Bible says we can worship with our lifestyle, our actions, our voice, and musical instruments, among other things. Look up Psalm 134:2, 47:1, 66:4, 150:3-5 and see what they say about worship. Which of these things do you see happening at CCC?

Main Activity Two

Why should I worship? The simple answer is because God commands it. We will all worship something. Some people worship "self," giving their admiration, respect to themselves and magnifying themselves by talking most and thinking most about themselves. You can also worship money, another person - whatever you give the best of yourself to!

We should also worship God because He is so good to us. He created us, He made a way for us to go to heaven. He daily gives us so many blessings, and loves us individually.

But, the greatest reason is because worship makes God happy. Our worship can bless the Lord! That is the greatest reason to worship! (Ps. 103:1)

Wrap Up

Lay a large piece of paper on the floor and gather kids around in a circle to tell them a story. Do not let on what the story is about until the end. Tell of a village where no one ever was sad. Even when people sometimes got sick, they were kind and hopeful that they would soon get better. Word spread, and people would come to visit. They instantly felt better - more peaceful, more loving toward their family, more content, and happier. Eventually, the villagers determined that it was a river at the centre of the village that made everyone feel this way. Everyone who came to this river left feeling better than when they came. Draw the story out in map form as you tell it.

Do you know that this river exists in real life? It's not in a place, but in a person. God is the river of life, and when we come to be in His presence by worshipping, we will begin to feel different. We will feel at peace, more loving, more content, happier, courageous to face whatever problems we may have. We will literally leave worship with a happier heart, a mind more at peace about our troubles. This is why we should worship every day.

Closing

Close by spending some time in worship, or give out CDs of the class's favourite worship songs to each child.

Lesson Eleven

Prayer

Welcome Activity

Try using paper or plastic (not styrofoam) cups and a string to make "telephone." Before cell phones, all phones were connected via wires to carry the sounds. Have students experiment with these phones. If the line goes slack, is the phone as effective? If someone touches the middle, will the sound still carry? There are some spiritual connections you can draw from the answers to these questions, but mostly the point is to simply have children remember that talking to God is two-way communication, like a phone.

Opening Activity

Make the point that prayer is both talking *and* listening. Imagine someone calling you on the phone. As soon as you answer, they begin to talk. When they have told you what they wanted to say, they hang up. You haven't said one word. Perhaps this is how God feels sometimes when we pray. John 10:27 says "My sheep know my voice...." Although asking, repenting and praising are all important parts of prayer, so is hearing God's voice. Sometimes He speaks to us through His Word, sometimes a preacher, sometimes on the inside, but He does speak if we are listening. Friends talk to and spend time with each other; it's part of what makes friends, friends! The more time you spend with a friend, the closer you will become and the better you will understand each other; it's the same with God!

Main Activity One

Why do we pray? Examine four verses at four different stations and together, prepare a summary of what we learn about prayer from them:

1. Luke 18:1 (God expects us to pray. "When" you pray, not "if" you pray)
2. Psalm 40:8 (we should desire to do God's will, and hear from Him - part of how we do this is through prayer)
3. 1 Cor. 14:4 (speaking in tongues strengthens our spiritual life and builds us up. Trying to be a Christian without praying is like trying to use a cell phone without ever recharging the battery)
4. 2 Cor. 10:4 (prayer is a WEAPON - it can destroy the plans and works of the enemy)

Main Activity Two

How do we pray?

There is no right way to pray. Some like lists, some pray for what is on their mind. The principles that should guide every prayer are:

1. Faith (Mark 11:24) - you must believe God will answer
2. God's Will (1 John 5:14) - ask God to do what He thinks is best
3. Jesus' Name (John 14:14) - everything we pray, we pray in Jesus' name!

Discuss the 6 parts of prayer; let students create their own prayer hand:

1. Praise - tell God thanks, and praise Him - you can use scriptures that describe God!
2. Purpose (God's Will) - pray for what matters most to God - including lost people around the world, and around you
3. Provision (Your Needs) - whatever is bothering you, talk to God
4. Pardon (Confession) - ask for forgiveness and ask God to weed out things in you that are contrary to His Word
5. People (Intercession) - when we pray for others, sometimes God will give us a person
6. Protection (Spiritual Warfare) - pray for protection for yourself and others, and against the devil and his kingdom

Wrap Up

Ask seasoned saints (in advance) to give you testimonies of answered prayers that you can read to your class. If possible, have a couple come to tell their stories in person. Build the faith of your students!

Closing

Close in prayer.

Have students write down something they are going to pray about for the next four weeks (or however long you wish), and seal these requests in an envelope in your class, marking the requests with the initials of each child.

Encourage children to sincerely pray over that period of time, bringing this request to God every single day. Remind them when you see them!

When this time has elapsed, be sure to come back to this envelope and see how much God has done.

Lesson Twelve

In the End

Welcome Activity

Begin by telling students what will happen on rapture day. From God's perspective, it is fixed. He knows when it will happen. So tell it that way. "Tomorrow at 7:38...." The dead in Christ will rise first; they will be given glorified bodies that can fly. Next, those who are alive and saved will be given glorified bodies, and will join them. From that moment, those people will forever be with the Lord, never having to leave His presence. This is commonly called the rapture of the church, and it is described in 1 Thess. 4:16-17. Some people alive now will never die!

Opening Activity

Talk about things that are "urgent." Have you ever been to an emergency room? The first step is visiting triage, where a nurse will assess how urgent your condition is. Someone who is having a heart attack requires attention much sooner than someone who cut their hand with a knife. The first situation is much more urgent.

The return of the Lord is an unknown to us. We don't know when it will happen, but we know it will happen, and we know that it is sooner now than it was yesterday (Rom. 13:11). God only told us to be ready (Matt. 24:36, 42) - if He came back today, have you obeyed the plan of salvation? Are you ready to go with Him?

Main Activity One

What happens after the rapture?

Create a chart with students to explain what happens to the church, and the rest of the people left behind.

For the church, they will go immediately to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the Judgment Seat of Christ. They will spend eternity in Heaven/New Jerusalem with Jesus.

For those left behind, they will soon enter into a period of time called the Tribulation. It will last for 7 years, and a man called the "Anti-Christ" will rule the world under a single government. He will force everyone to take a mark in their right hand or forehead; without this you will not be able to buy or sell. If you ever find yourself here after the rapture, do NOT take this mark - it means you will be eternally doomed.

Things will get worse, because God is no longer on the earth. Instead, He will pour out His wrath on the Anti-Christ and those who have taken the mark.

At the end of the Tribulation, the Anti-Christ will gather all the nations of the world at Armageddon to destroy Israel, but God will come and destroy them. He will throw the Anti-Christ and the false prophet into the Lake of Fire, and we (church) will then reign over the earth with the Lord for 1000 years of peace. The devil will be thrown into a bottomless pit, and will be left - constantly falling - for 1000 years.

At the end of the 1000 years, the devil will be released one last time to try and get as many people as possible to follow him. Many will follow him, even after all the love God has shown the earth for 1000 years! People will try to go to war against God, and as they march to Jerusalem, God will consume them, and the devil will finally be thrown into Hell. At this point there will be The Great White Throne Judgment. God will judge every single person who has ever lived to see if they should go to Heaven, or Hell. IF YOU WERE PART OF THE RAPTURED CHURCH, you will not be here (thank You, Jesus!). You were already at your own, different judgment at least 1007 years before, called the Judgment Seat of Christ, and this judgment was not to see if you were saved or not (you were saved when you obeyed the Gospel and were filled with the Holy Ghost!), but rather, to reward you for what you had done for God's Kingdom during your lifetime.

The Great White Throne Judgment will be a horrifying day for most people standing in line (very few will be able to live on the new earth, and no one will be in heaven after the rapture). Their names will not appear on God's list, and they will be sent to eternity without God.

Closing

Allow students to ask questions - no doubt there will be many. Answer what you can and return next week with answers for any question you aren't sure of the answer to.