



Easter Weekend: March 26-27, 2016

****Click to play intro music***

Hi, everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. I'm (name). I'm really excited to be here today, and talk to you about my *favorite* part of God's story.

If you've never heard of God's story, we can find out all about it in a book called the Bible (hold up the **Bible**). It's really a story about how much God loves us and wants to be close to us! In fact, God's story starts in the beginning of time, when God first created the world to be a perfect home for us to live in ...*with God!* But the world's not perfect anymore, is it? (Pause) Definitely not. So in the Bible, we also find out what went wrong...basically, how we got separated from God. But the best part is, we also find out how God brought us close to him again!

So let's start at the beginning. See, God created the whole world (**picture of earth from God's Story: The Fall**). Everything was perfect and he wanted people to live in it with him forever, happy and free (**show a picture from God's Story: The Fall**). But we all know the world isn't perfect anymore (**show a picture from God's Story: The Fall**). We've all been sick or sad or hurt. We might have broken something or spilled our drinks--even accidentally--because we make mistakes. In fact, most of us can't even balance an egg on a spoon, can we?! Nope.

Not only do we have imperfect bodies but we do imperfect things. I mean, we've all said something rude ...or talked badly about a friend...or told a lie...or disobeyed a parent or teacher.....or something else. And everybody *e/se* is imperfect, so people have treated us badly or unfairly, too.

To understand why the world isn't perfect anymore, we're going to watch a video. As you watch, see if you can figure out what went wrong.

Video: KBS / The Fall

So God created this perfect world, but something went wrong. God wanted people to CHOOSE to love him, since forcing us to love him isn't really love. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve made the choice to disobey God. When they did that, all the wrong things in the world began. From then on, everybody had to live in a world filled things like disease and death and loneliness.

BUT--remember, there's a BUT!--there's good news too. And that's what we're going to hear about today...anOTHER part of the story.

Before we do, let's talk about wrong things--which are also called sins-- for a second. Look at the sticker you're wearing. (*Pause; presenter should be wearing a sticker on back of hand, too.*) If you haven't gotten one yet, you can pretend you're wearing one and get it later. But let's pretend that everybody who ever did something wrong gets a sticker. We'd all be wearing one, wouldn't we? Including me. It doesn't matter if we did one teeny tiny wrong thing or a million big wrong things. We haven't been *perfect*, like God.

So look at your sticker (or mine) and think about one time you've disobeyed God by choosing to hurt someone else... or tell a lie...or be afraid instead of trusting God... or do something else you shouldn't have done. (*Pause.*) OK, hopefully you all thought of something! Now we're going to break into small groups for a few minutes. I'll be back soon with the GOOD NEWS of what God did to rescue us from all these wrong things!

--STOP AND DO LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY IN LESSON TEMPLATE--

Hi again! It's good to be back. Hopefully you all got a chance to write down something you've done wrong. If not, just remember it in your head. Here's what I wrote: (*Presenter could hold up their own piece of paper and read something, like lied to a friend, was mean when someone hurt me.*) I disobeyed God when I did that. It was wrong.

And you know what? This one thing is enough to separate me from God forever. He can't pretend it's OK to (lie, act rudely), because he's perfect. But God loves me—and you—WAY too much to leave us separated from him and stuck with our wrong things forever. So he sent his very own son, named Jesus, to this imperfect earth, to rescue us. Let's take a look at what happened. As you watch, see if you can figure out how Jesus rescued us!

Video: God's Story: Jesus' Rescue

Pretty incredible, huh? Jesus came to take the punishment for all the wrong things WE'VE done! He was perfect - he didn't deserve to get punished at all! But he died...for us.

Let's look at this another way: See those stickers? (**show hand**) Remember, these stickers represent all the wrong things we've done.

You should also have a **paper cross** in your room. Somewhere in the room where you are, there's a cross. Everybody, look for it. (Pause.) When I say "go," everyone should come up and put your sticker on the cross. While you do that, I'm going to play a countdown video – see if you can all put your stickers on the cross in 2 minutes and then go back to where you were sitting. Ready? Set? Go!

(Countdown video – with music to create sense of urgency)

Great job! Now have a seat back where you were. And look at the cross in your room. All *your* wrong things are up there. Jesus wouldn't have had a sticker, because he didn't do anything wrong! But even though he didn't deserve it, he died ...for us. And because he came BACK to life, he proved that death can't keep us from God anymore! One day, we'll get to live forever in a perfect home with God.

Now, remember how God gave Adam and Eve a choice in the garden? They got to choose to obey him... or not. And he gives us a choice now, too. That way, if we follow him, it's because we love him. So we can keep on believing our wrong things aren't that big of a deal or that we don't really need to follow God...**OR** we can choose to believe that even though we messed up, God loves us enough to send Jesus to pay for our sin.. Then we can love God back by obeying him. Of course, we'll still sin sometimes, but he always forgives us.

The best part is, we don't have to DO anything to accept Jesus' rescue. We just have to admit that we've done wrong things and believe Jesus died for us. Then we can choose to follow God!

And you know what's really cool? The verse John 1:15 in the Bible that tells us exactly what Jesus did for us:

John 1:15 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

Did you hear that!? When we believe Jesus rescued us and we make the choice to follow him, we become part of God's family... which means we're part of his story. And we can invite others to be part of God's story too!

RESPOND

This is a really big deal, so let's take a few minutes to talk to God about it by praying. He wants to listen to us...and talk to us. So tell him what you think about Jesus' rescue or even ask him questions about it! As this next song plays, just talk to God in your head.

SONG: Take a Minute loop music with Listen slide

Now, I'll pray for all of us: God, thank you for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to rescue us! Thanks for making it possible for everyone to be a part of your family, and a part of your story. Help us to know you more this week--to talk to you about everything and to listen to what you have to say to us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Before we go back to small groups, let's get up and worship together. Stand up and let's sing a song about loving God!

SONG: Dance Laugh Love

Thanks, guys! It was great to be with you today. Hope you have a wonderful Easter and remember the great news that Jesus died and came back to life...for you!

(show BRAVE picture) And did you know there's some pretty wild things in God's story that we didn't have time to talk about today? There's a ton of men and women who followed God bravely, even when it meant risking everything. Come back the next few weeks for our Kids' Club BRAVE Journey. You'll hear about a guy who got so upset that God sent an angel to bake him a cake, a woman who won a beauty contest and saved a whole country, and a man who walked around in a fire without getting burnt. And more! God's story is pretty amazing, so come back to find out more about it!

Hope to see you again soon! And if you've got extra time, here's one more song:

SONG: You Are