

April 25th & 26th
2 & 3 Year Olds



Spring Lesson 8

Bible Passage: Matthew 28:16–20
(The Great Commission)

Jesus Is the Good News

Schedule

1. Gather: Big God Story
2. Respond: Listen to God, Optional Activity
3. Bless: Speaking God's Truth over your child

Supplies

- Paper
- Marker or pencil
- Stuffed animal or puppet
- Bible

GATHER// 25 minutes



Normally we use a hedgehog puppet (Hamilton) to help introduce the Big God Story. Since Hamilton is social distancing to keep others safe, choose a stuffed animal from your home and introduce him as "Hamilton's friend." You might explain, "Hamilton needs to be home with his family right now just like we are staying home so his friend _____ came to help us tell the story today."

Welcome

SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Hamilton's friend- a stuffed animal or puppet
- A piece of paper with Earth drawn on it

© 2018 David C Cook. TruResources are developed in partnership with ROCKHARBOR Church and a national network of family and children's ministry leaders. All rights reserved. Reproducible for church use only.

*see Resources

Ponder Point: Jesus Is the Good News

Hi, family! Welcome!

It's time to hear a part of The Big God Story. Friends, it's time to call Hamilton's friend [insert Hamilton's friend's name] and ask him to join us for The Big God Story! On the count of three, let's call him together. Are you ready? One, two, three. [Insert Hamilton's friend's name], where are you? Encourage kids to call for Hamilton. Hmm ... I wonder what he's doing. Maybe he's playing outside with some of his friends. Let's try again. One, two, three. [insert Hamilton's friend's name], where are you?

Hamilton's friend comes out with the picture of earth. Hi, [insert Hamilton's friend's name]! I'm so glad you've joined us today. What does [insert Hamilton's friend's name] with him? Encourage responses. That's right! It's a picture of the world. What do you think the picture of earth might be for? Invite children to respond. I bet you're right. It probably has something to do with The Big God Story. [insert Hamilton's friend's name], are you ready to hear about Jesus and The Big God Story? Hamilton's friend nods excitedly. Friends, are you ready to hear about Jesus and The Big God Story? Children will answer. Me too! Where can we find The Big God Story? Hamilton's friend nods his head toward the Bible. That's right. We can find The Big God Story in the Bible! God gave us the Bible so we can learn about Him. It's full of things that help us know God. I know how much you love to dig, dig, dig right into God's Word. Hamilton's friend nods his head. Let's all stand up and sing our Bible Song together.

Bible Song (sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

*Now it's time to hear God's Word
Hear God's Word
Hear God's Word
Now it's time to hear God's Word
So let's look in the Bible*

The Big God Story

This is the "meat" of the lesson where we open up the Bible to see how God moved in people's lives. The Big God Story is written for a three-year-old audience. It can be told in its entirety or shortened if your child is on the younger side.

The Great Commission
Jesus Is the Good News
Matthew 28:16–20

SUPPLIES

- The Big God Story images #1–5
- Hamilton's friend stuffed animal/puppet
- Picture of earth drawn on a piece of paper

RELATE

Before we go any further, let's all pray together and ask God to teach us more about Him. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

I have some pictures to help tell us this part of The Big God Story. [Show image 1.](#)



© 2018 David C. Cook. TruResources are developed in partnership with ROCK HARBOR Church and a national network of family and children's ministry leaders. All rights reserved.

TB 3.8

Reproducible for church use only.

What do you see in this picture? Interact with children and their observations. **That's right. There's a boat and water.** Hamilton's friend pretends to fish. **What do you think [insert Hamilton's friend's name] is doing right now?** Invite children to respond. **He's fishing!** **What else do you see in the picture?** Invite responses. **People. Good job! We've heard this part of The Big God Story before. This is the part of the story when Jesus told His friends, the disciples, to throw their nets into the water to catch fish. The men listened to Jesus' words and threw their nets in the water. When they pulled their nets out of the water, what do you think was inside? Allow responses. Lots and lots of fish!**

[Show image #2.](#)



IMAGE #2



© 2018 David C Cook. TruResources are developed in partnership with ROCK HARBOR Church and a national network of family and children's ministry leaders. All rights reserved. TB 3.8

Reproducible for church use only.

Let's take a look at our next picture. What do you see? Interact with kids and their responses. **It's a picture of Jesus and Peter. What is Peter doing?** Children will answer. **That's right. He's walking on the water. Jesus told him to get out of the boat and walk to Him. Did Peter listen to Jesus?** Wait for responses. **Yes, he did. Was Jesus with Peter?** Invite responses. **Yes, Jesus was with Peter the entire time!**

[Show image #3.](#)



IMAGE #3



© 2018 David C Cook. TruResources are developed in partnership with **ROCK HARBOR** Church and a national network of family and children's ministry leaders. All rights reserved. TB 3.8

Reproducible for church use only.

Oh, I remember this part of The Big God Story. The people who gathered together to be near Jesus were hungry. Hamilton's friend rubs his tummy as if he's hungry. It looks like someone else might be hungry too! They only had two fish and five loaves of bread. That wasn't enough food to feed all of the people. So Jesus performed a miracle. He turned the two fish and five loaves of bread into enough food for everyone who was hungry.

[Show image #4.](#)

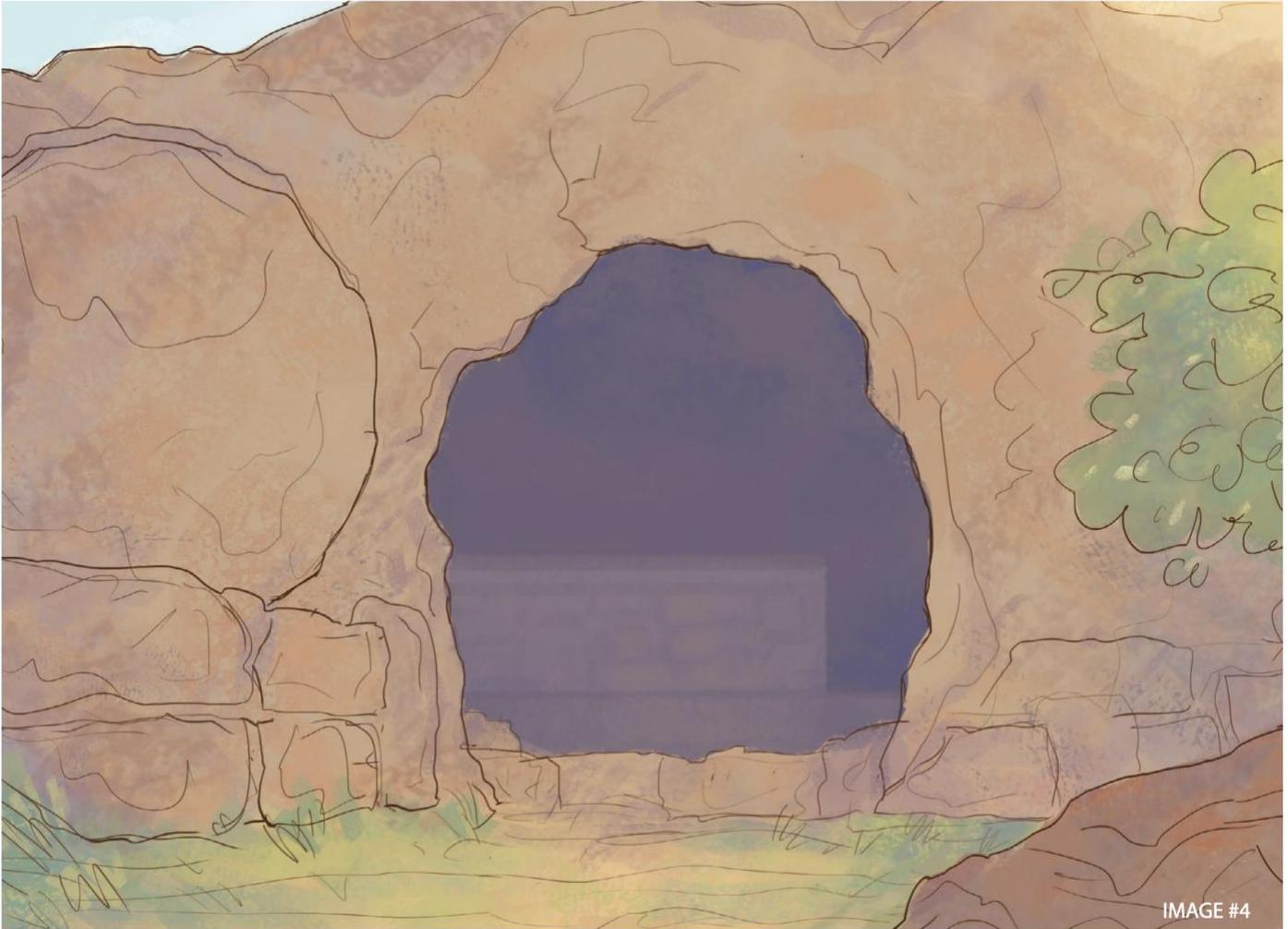


IMAGE #4



© 2018 David C Cook. TruResources are developed in partnership with ROCK HARBOR Church and a national network of family and children's ministry leaders. All rights reserved.

TB 3.8

Reproducible for church use only.

What do you see in this picture? Interact with kids and their responses. **It's a picture of the tomb where Jesus lay after He died on the cross.** Hamilton lies down. **How many days did he lay inside the tomb?** Wait for responses. **Three days.** **Can you show me three fingers?** Model holding up three fingers while the children imitate you. **Good job.** **On the third day, Jesus rose from the grave. He's alive, just as He said He would be.**

[Show image #5.](#)



© 2018 David C Cook. TruResources are developed in partnership with ROCK-HARBOR Church and a national network of family and children's ministry leaders. All rights reserved.

TB 3.8

Reproducible for church use only.

Who's in this picture? What are the people doing in this picture? Interact with kids and their responses. This picture shows us a part of The Big God Story when Jesus told His friends to meet Him at the mountain after He came back to life. The mountain was in the city of Galilee.

When we look at these pictures, they remind us of all the things Jesus taught His friends, the disciples. He was getting them ready for a very important job. Jesus wanted His disciples to go and tell everyone all of the things He had told them.

Jesus wanted everyone to know how He'd died for their sins so they could know God. What happened after Jesus died? Invite responses. That's right—He came back to life so everyone could know God and be with Him forever and ever. That's good news!

Jesus wanted His friends to go into the world, all over the place, and tell other people the good news. Hamilton's friend shows the picture of the earth for children to see. That's why [insert Hamilton's friend's name] has a globe. Because God wanted His disciples to share the good news of Jesus all over the world! And that's just what they did. They went all over the world and told people about God's love. They told people how Jesus died for their sins and how He came back from the dead. Because Jesus is the Good News, all people can know God and be with Him forever.

Have children say good-bye to Hamilton's friend as he goes back into his house.

RESPOND//15 minutes



Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through worship, creative activities, and games.

//Listen to God//

Have the children sit quietly or lay down without touching anyone. **We just were talking about how Jesus is the Good News. Can you say that with me quietly? “Jesus is the Good News.” Let’s listen to God. Does He want to tell you anything? Sometimes we hear Him in our heart or in our brain. He usually doesn’t say things out loud. Listen quietly and see what He wants to tell you.** Let the children listen for 30 seconds to 1 minute. **All right. Let’s sit up. Did you hear God say anything?** Give them a chance to tell you what God said to them.

//Optional Activity//

Bubbles to the World

Children blow bubbles and pretend they’re floating all around the world, just like they can take the good news of Jesus all around the world.

SUPPLIES

- Bubbles

RELATE

Gather the children together in one area. **I love blowing bubbles, don’t you? When we blow bubbles, they fly all over the place. We can pretend they’re floating all around the world—just like we can take the good news of Jesus around the world! I’m going to blow bubbles, and we can watch them float around.** Start blowing bubbles and encourage children to pop them. After a while, give one child at a time a chance to blow some bubbles.

BLESS//5 minutes



This is where YOU get to speak God’s word over your child. It’s powerful! Even if it feels awkward at first, give it a shot. You won’t regret speaking TRUTH over your child.

SUPPLIES

- Bible

RELATE

Gather the children around you and encourage them to shout with you: **Good news! Jesus is the Good News!** Repeat the cheer several times. Then pray this prayer of blessing over them:

Children, may you know that Jesus is the Good News!

Open a Bible and read Isaiah 6:3b:

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.