

# God's Plan: 4 Us 2 KNOW Him!

## Bible Story

### The Personification Revelation

John 1:1–2,14; 5:1–9; 6:16–21; 11:57; 14:1–7

What is  
God like?

When you read  
about Jesus in  
the Bible, you  
know more  
about God.

## Bible Verse

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father also.'" John 14:6–7

## Session Goals

1. PARTICIPATE in telling the story of Jesus' life.
2. IDENTIFY words that describe Jesus.
3. THANK God for His Word, the Bible, and that we can know Him by reading about Jesus.
4. CHOOSE to become a member of God's family, as the Holy Spirit leads.

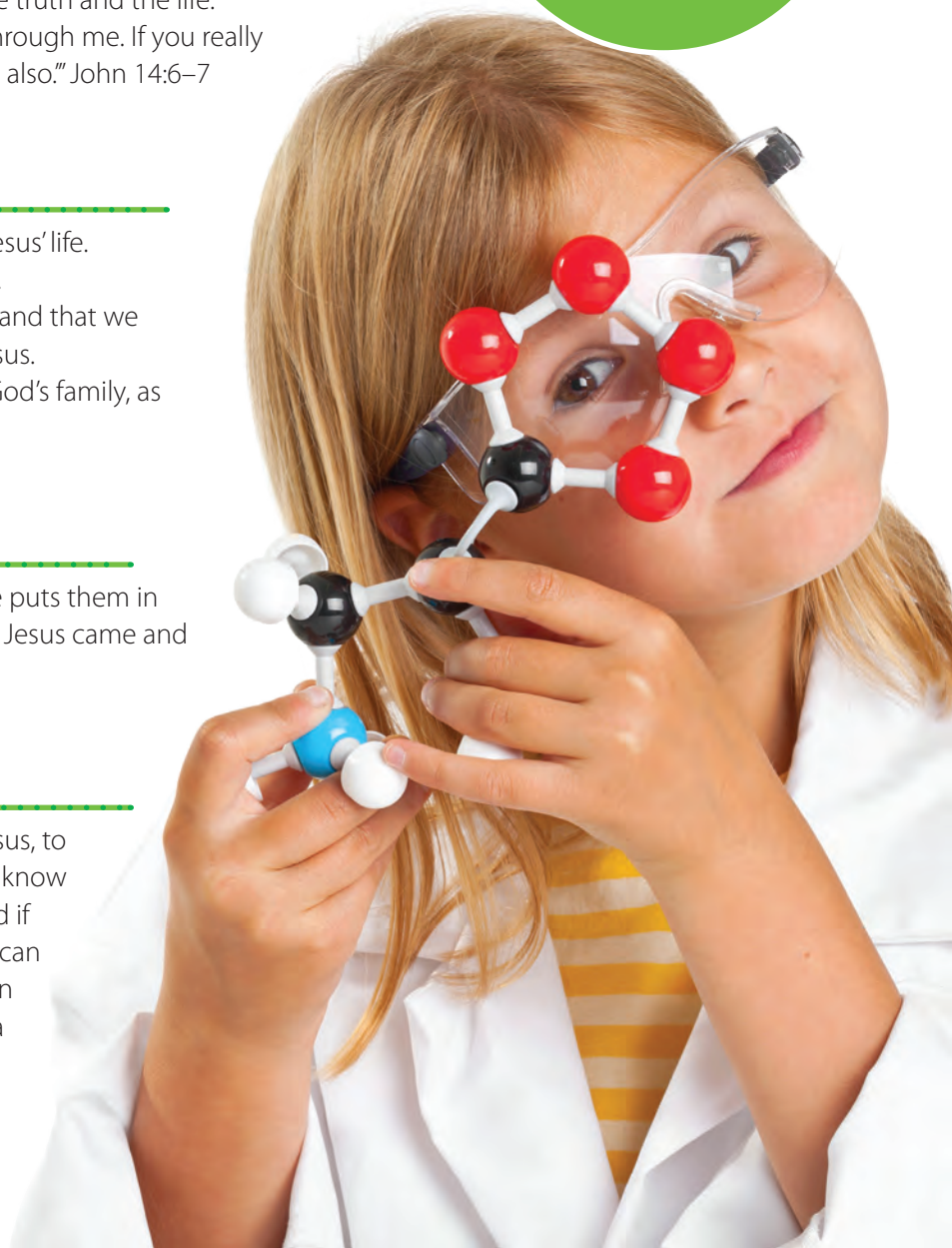
## Spark Principle—Motion

Objects at rest stay at rest until a force puts them in motion. People were stuck in sin until Jesus came and put God's plan in motion.



## Bible

God sent His Son, Jesus, to Earth so that we can know God better. Jesus said if we know Him, we will know God. We can know Jesus by reading about His life in God's Word, the Bible. When you see a Bible, you can remember that God wants us to know Him.



## Heart Prep by Henrietta Mears

What is God like? The question has been asked through the ages. Many answers have been given. Some are false. All were incomplete until the Lord Jesus Christ came and explained, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).

The account of Christ’s life in the Bible is limited. This is one of the proofs of the Word. Had someone invented a history of the life of Christ, how exaggerated would have been the tales, like the ancients told of their gods. Jesus spoke as no other person spoke—this we know; but He also did what no other person did. Crowds kept coming after Him, seeking a sign to prove who He was. What signs did He furnish? He said, “Blind people receive sight. Disabled people walk. Those who have skin diseases are healed. Deaf people hear. Those who are dead are raised to life. And the good news is preached to those who are poor” (Matthew 11:5). He never catered to the demands of idle curiosity, nor was any work ever done selfishly. He only desired to show that He was sufficient for the needs of the body and the spirit.

He did want all people to know that He is the Christ. He not only called Himself the Son of God, but He also allowed Peter to make it a public confession. Every other thing in Jesus’ character that we know to be true would have compelled Him to quickly deny such a statement if it had been untrue.

Some say that Jesus is the greatest of all teachers; yes, the best man who ever lived. But this is not enough, for this man was to be our Savior; and if He is not God, then He cannot redeem a lost world.

## Daily Recap

At the end of each session, take time to reflect on what happened. Use these questions as a guide:

- What worked well today? What truth did you discover from God’s Word?
- Did the kids take away their need to read God’s Word to know more about Jesus?
- Be prepared to briefly tell about the time when you became a member of God’s family.

## Materials

Optional Bible Story materials listed on page 24.

Bibles



Lab Journal



Session 3 Daily Plan Pennant



Session 3 Bible Story Poster from Bible Teaching Poster Pack



water in a clear glass



metal pie pan



empty toilet-paper tube



large egg



markers



# Tell the Bible Story

*Preparation:* Mark John 1 and John 14:6–7 in your Bible. (Optional: Use Post-it Notes to mark Bible.)

Place a table where you will be leading the Story Starter activity. Set a clear glass of water on table. Center pie pan on the top of the glass of water. Place the toilet-paper tube in the center of the pie pan. Set the egg on top of tube (see photo). Practice a few times the directions below for smacking the pie plate, and make sure you are comfortable with the demonstration before doing it in front of the kids!

## Story Starter

**So glad to see you again! Are you ready for another experiment? This experiment demonstrates one of the laws of motion. The goal here is to get the egg in the glass. BUT . . . I cannot touch the egg, the tube or the glass. How am I going to do it?** Allow a few moments for responses. Then place your hand flat a few inches away from the pie pan. Keeping your hand flat, swing it back a few inches and then smack pie pan forcefully. The pie pan will slide off the glass, the rim of the pan will knock the tube away and the egg will drop into the glass.

**Basically, this law of motion states that an ob-**



**ject at rest will stay at rest until an outside force sets it in motion.**

Similarly, an object in motion will stay in motion unless an outside force causes it to slow or stop. So, once I got the pie pan in motion, it caused the tube to move. Once the tube was gone, the egg momentarily stayed still, but then another force caused it to drop. What force caused the egg to drop? Hint: We learned about it in Session 1! (Gravity.)

Session 3  
Grades 1 and 2

## Bring the Bible Story to Life!

Dress in a Bible-times costume and pretend to be Jesus' disciple John. It doesn't matter if you're female! Kids will join in the fun of pretending you are this person from the Bible. Tell the story in first-person point of view, as if you were there—because John WAS there and wrote the Scriptures that form the basis of today's story!

Bring additional Bible-times costumes for volunteers to wear as they pantomime the story action as you tell the story.

Begin story, **Hello! My name is John. I am a follower of Jesus of Nazareth. You want to know what God is like? You couldn't have come at a better time! I've just finished writing my own eyewitness account of some of the things Jesus did while He was here on Earth. You can find this story in the Bible. There were so MANY things, I couldn't write about them all! But everything I DID write shows who Jesus is.**





Yesterday we heard about Adam and Eve and how their sin separated them from God. At the end of that story in the Bible, we read a promise from God to send a Savior (Genesis 3:15). God's people waited for hundreds of years for this Savior to come. In a way, they were stuck, and like an object at rest, they weren't going anywhere. Hold up Bible and open to John 1 bookmark. In today's true story from the Bible, we're going to hear about that Savior—the force that caused God's plan to move into motion . . . FAST!

## The Personification Revelation

John 1:1–2,14; 5:1–9; 6:16–21; 11:57; 14:1–7

### Back to the Beginning

Let's see . . . **What do you know about the beginning of everything?** (God created the heavens and the earth.) Jesus' friend John described that same beginning this way . . . *Open Bible and read John 1:1.* "The Word" is another name for Jesus. Jesus was there with God when everything was created. He was there because He, too, is God.

**What happened to Adam and Eve, the man and woman God created in the beginning?** (They sinned. They were separated from God.) Sin came between people and God. As time went on, people thought less and less about God. So sin became more and more common.

### Jesus Becomes a Man

After hundreds of years had passed, God did the most incredible thing! The Word—Jesus, the Son of God—became flesh. That means Jesus became a human being with skin and bones and hands and feet and hair and eyes! And He came to Earth to LIVE with people, not just VISIT with them! **What do you know about how Jesus came to Earth?** *Volunteers tell about Jesus' birth.* We celebrate when Jesus came to Earth every year at Christmas!



### Jesus Teaches His Disciples

Jesus grew up and became a man. John, who wrote the Bible book we're reading today, met Jesus and began to follow Him when Jesus was about 30 years old. Eventually, there were 12 friends of Jesus. These friends traveled with Jesus from village to village telling people about God. They got to know Jesus as their Teacher and their Friend. And they got to see Jesus do some AMAZING things!

### Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

Once, Jesus and His friends were walking past the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem. Its porches were filled with people who were sick. Some were blind. Some were lame. Some were paralyzed. They were all waiting for a miracle—they wanted to be healed. Everyone wanted to hurry past them, but not Jesus! **What do you think Jesus did?** Jesus stopped and began to talk with a man who had been paralyzed for 38 years! Jesus' friends couldn't believe their eyes! And they couldn't believe their ears! Jesus said to the man, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." And just like that . . . *snap fingers* . . . the man stood on his feet, picked up his mat and walked away!

## Jesus Calms the Storm

Another time, Jesus' friends were rowing a boat across the Sea of Galilee when a big storm came up!

Strong winds and big waves began to rock the boat. Jesus' friends were rowing as hard as they could, trying to keep from drowning. Suddenly, they saw someone walking toward them ON THE WATER. They screamed in fear! And then they heard a familiar voice. "Don't be afraid! It is I!" It was Jesus! The minute He got into the boat, the wind died down and they landed, safe on the other shore.

### Skit Option

As a fun alternative or supplement to this Bible story, ask leaders, youth helpers or other volunteers to perform "It's a Miracle" Bible story skit in *ShowTime! Assemblies*.

## Jesus Tells About the Father

One night Jesus told His friends He had to go away. He was going to prepare a place where they could be with Him and His Father forever.

Jesus told His friends, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

How do we know what God is like? Look at Jesus! Reading about Jesus' life in the Bible is one way we can know about Jesus. And when we know what Jesus is like, we know what God is like. It's as simple and as amazing as that!

## Conclusion

Today's Daily Plan is "God's Plan: 4 Us 2 KNOW Him!" God carefully and purposefully created Earth as a perfect home for people who would know Him and love Him. YOU are here because God loves you and wants you to love Him, too.

Our Bible verse for today is John 14:6-7, "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father also.'" God wants us to know Him. That's why He sent His Son, Jesus. When we read about Jesus in the Bible, we learn what God is like.



**Knowing God begins when we become members of God's family.** Invite children

interested in knowing more about becoming members of God's family to talk with you or another leader after class. See "Leading a Child to Christ" (p.1).

## Prayer

Invite volunteers to complete the sentence prayer **Dear God, thank You that You . . .** by naming things they know about God and for which they are thankful. Conclude prayer by thanking God for sending Jesus to Earth and for giving us His Word so that we can read about Jesus and know more about Him.



# Apply the Bible Story

## Bible Story Review

To review the Bible Story, lead children to complete “What Is God Like?” activity on page 10 of the *Lab Journal*. As children work, ask these questions to guide conversation:

- **On which holiday do we celebrate Jesus’ coming to Earth?** (Christmas.)
- **How can we know what God is like?** (By knowing what Jesus is like. By reading the Bible.)
- **We can look at Jesus! What was Jesus like when He healed the lame man? When He calmed the storm?** (Loving. Kind. Powerful.)

The question in today’s Q&A is “What is God like?” After hearing our story, how would you answer that question? Volunteers respond. The Q&A answer is that “When you read about Jesus in the Bible, you know more about God.” God wants us to know Him. God sent Jesus to Earth so that we could know Him better. That’s also why God gave us His Word, the Bible. When we read about Jesus in the Bible, we get to know Jesus. And when we know Jesus, we know God.

## Active Review

Children stand in a circle while you close your eyes. Ask a helper to guide several children to switch positions while you slowly count to three. Keeping your eyes closed, call out one child’s name. The child standing to the right of the one whose name you called answers one of the questions above or chooses a volunteer to answer. Repeat, swapping places, calling names and asking different questions.

## God’s Plan for Me (Life Application)

**Today’s Bible verse is John 14:6–7.** Read verse aloud from Bible. **How is Jesus “the Way”?** (We can only know God by going through Jesus.) **How is Jesus “the Truth”?** (Jesus always speaks the truth. Jesus is the one true Savior.) **How is Jesus “the Life”?** (Because Jesus made a way for us to become members of God’s family, we can live with Him forever in heaven.)

Children complete “Jesus Is . . .” activity on page 12 of the *Lab Journal*. Ask questions such as these:

- **What is a reason we ALL need Jesus?** (Jesus provided a way for us to become members of God’s family. We all sin and we all need Jesus to forgive us.)
- **What is one thing a kid your age might need to know about Jesus?** (Jesus is the only way to join God’s family. Jesus is with us when we’re scared. Jesus listens to our prayers. Jesus helps us have courage or strength to do good things.)
- **Why is following Jesus important to our lives?** (Jesus helps us. He gives us what we need. Jesus guides us. He helps us know and do what God has planned for us. Jesus shows us how to live in the very best way.)

**What part of God’s plan are we talking about today?** Pause for children to respond, “4 Us 2 KNOW Him!” **God gave us the Bible so that we can read about Jesus’ life and learn about Him. Jesus makes it possible for us to know God, because Jesus tells us that when we know Him, we know God the Father as well.**

Hold up Session 3 Daily Plan Pennant. **The Bible we see reminds us that God wants us to know Him. God already knows us and loves us! He wants us to know and love Him, too.**

Knowing who God is by knowing Jesus is part of God’s plan—GP4U = J! Tomorrow we’re going to hear about the most important part of God’s plan.