



God's Plan



THE MISSION AIM

God knew sin would come, but He had a plan to rescue His people.



KEY VERSE

John 3:16 (NIV): "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- Sheet of paper with the word "SIN" written in the middle
- Markers
- Knapsack filled with rocks from last week - Empty some of the rocks out ahead of time if the bag is too heavy for the recruits to lift.

Directions

DO: Do one or both of the following activities.

SAY: Welcome my friends. I hope you had a great week. It's time to test your memories. Last week we talked about sin. I have the word SIN written out on this sheet of paper. Using the markers provided, write or draw what you remember as being the definition of sin and/or write down some sins typical of kids your age. Let's see how many things we can write down or draw in the next five minutes.

AND/OR

SAY: Last week you will remember that we filled a knapsack with a heavy load of "SIN". It just so happens that we still have it. Oh dear. Our task right now is to remember how heavy it is and to think about how much guilt we carry around because of our sin. So, let's get into a circle. We are going to see how quickly we can pass the bag around the whole circle. We'll set a timer and go as quickly as we can. Then we'll try it again trying to beat our time. So, you just pass the bag to the person beside you. Are you ready? "Go"

DO: Give the recruits a chance to try to beat their time at least two times if not more.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 1 - In the Beginning Episode 5: God's Plan"

Play "In the Beginning (S1) Episode 5 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have ITB-Episode_5-Gods_Plan.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



Supplies Needed

- Knapsack filled with rocks from last week's lesson
- Definition of sin from last week (don't put it up until after you have discussed the definition)
- Bible
- Seven sheets of paper – Using the template "Review of Sin and Old Testament Prophecies" write down number one of the "Review of Sin" on one side of a sheet of paper and "Old Testament Prophecies" on the other side choose a different ink colour for each side (all of the Review will be one colour and all of the Prophecies another); once you have done number one, continue with the other six items on the other sheets of paper: Do not include the answers from the template on the sheets of paper. (See attachment on page 9)
- Phone for sending mission to the team



Mission Assignment

DO: Have a leader come in right after the episode has finished carrying the knapsack full of rocks. (Try to have the same leader from last week carry the knapsack).

SAY: (Leader with knapsack) **Oh my goodness. This is crazy. Carrying around all of these sins in my knapsack is brutal, I'm so tired. I can't seem to let it go. Please tell me there is a plan to get rid of all of this sin this week. I just can't keep carrying it anymore.**

SAY: (Another leader) **You remind us of what Kate just said. Not even five minutes ago she mentioned that the guilt of sin is like carrying a heavy knapsack around all of the time. But take heart, Michael just reminded us of a great verse. It's John 3:16.**

DO: Look up John 3:16 and read it aloud. Encourage any recruits who know it to say it with you.

SAY: So you see, God had a plan and still does. In fact, because God knew we would sin and because His plan was so important to Him He had some of the people called prophets in the Old Testament write down the plan before it even happened. The Old Testament tells us about life before Jesus even came. How cool is that? Now, I think we'd best get to our mission and help you start unloading that burden of yours. Let's have a drum roll please... (reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Mission # 1 – Recruits, find out what the Old Testament says about God's plan for sin."



SAY: Ok then, recruits let's get started. I think that even in this mission we can help _____ (person carrying knapsack) begin to unload some of his/her sin. _____ (person carrying knapsack) please give two of your stones to _____ (one or two recruits – there will be seven opportunities to participate so choose the number of recruits to help so that all will have a turn). Now, _____ (recruit(s)) run your stones to the other side of the room and trade them in for a piece of paper. Let's get rid of these burdens.

DO: Have a leader at the other side of the room with your sheets of paper reviewing last week's lesson and the Old Testament prophecies.

SAY: Okay now come on back and read what the "red" side of the paper says (or whatever colour you have chosen for the review of sin).

DO: Have the recruits read their paper. If there is a question on the paper then take a moment to discuss it. If it is a statement then just have them read.

DO: Continue to send recruits to drop off stones until all seven sheets of paper are picked up. (Depending on your class size some recruits will only take one stone as there are 13 stones).

SAY: That was a very helpful review but still a bit depressing don't you think? I did however notice something. As some of you were reading I realized that there is something on the back of your sheet of paper. Let's read those now and find out what they say.

DO: Have the recruits go through the pages in the same order that they were first read, reading the "blue" side of the paper (or whatever colour you have chosen for the Old Testament prophecies). Take the time to look up any references and follow along with the discussion. As each sheet is used, begin to tape them on the wall or place them on the floor to create a cross. Place them with the prophecy side facing up.

SAY: Wow! How amazing. Before Jesus even came to earth God had a plan for our sin. _____ (leader who was carrying the knapsack), do you feel any lighter knowing that there is a plan?

SAY: (leader with the knapsack) I do feel a lot lighter but I look forward to finding out what I can do about it.

SAY: (Leader) I hope that we find that out pretty soon but I'm not even sure it will happen this week. You might need to stay tuned for another whole week!

SAY: (leader with knapsack) – (Groan!!) Oh well, I guess I can wait but maybe we should send this information back to the team and then get back to them to see if there are any more details so that I can be fully rid of this load.

SAY: (Leader) That sounds great. I'll take a quick photo with my phone and send it off.





Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "In the Beginning (S1) Episode 5 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission #2.



Mission #2



Supplies Needed

- Leader chosen to do Bible readings
- The following references written out on three pieces of paper: 1 – Luke 2:8-20; 2 - Matthew 2:1-12; 3 - Luke 2:25-32 AND Luke 2:36-38
- Two Large sheets of paper, markers – One of them should have the title What steps did God take to reunite us with Him?
- Bibles (at least four)



Mission Assignment

SAY: Recruits, you have worked hard to find out that God is merciful, that from the very beginning He was not going to leave us living in guilt caused by our own sin but He had a plan for us. Let's find out a little bit about God's plan. We'll think of it as a first step. Drum roll please for Mission # 2... (reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Find out what God had planned so that people would not need to live in the guilt of their sin. Discover what STEP 1 of God's plan to bring people back into relationship with Him was and how the people involved knew it was happening."

SAY: We're going to play a game shortly but we will need to get prepared to do so. First off, I need you to listen to two situations from the Bible. You will need to answer two questions for me afterwards so listen very carefully. If there is something that is read that you don't understand please put your hand up while we read and ask.

DO: Have a leader read Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:20-23 as expressively as possible.

SAY: Now that you have heard these stories I have my questions for you. Who was God going to send to earth to put His plan into action? (*Jesus*) And question number two, who told Mary and Joseph that Jesus was going to come? (*An angel*) So, it looks to me like the first part of God's plan was to send His son Jesus. Let's write that down.

DO: On the large sheet of paper titled "What steps did God take to reunite us with Him?"
STEP ONE: Send His son to earth."



SAY: Now, you need to remember the next part for our game. Angels brought the message to Mary and Joseph so they knew what was going to happen. We need an action to show the angels. I need everyone to stand tall, make a trumpet with your hands and make a trumpet sound. Great. Stay tuned for what's next on that one.

SAY: We know that Jesus was born as part of God's plan but the crazy thing is that He was born in a little stable where no one would have expected a King to be born. So God introduced Him in different ways, letting people know that He had come. I'm going to put you into three groups. Each group will read the reference I give you. You then need to be prepared to tell us who saw Jesus AND have an action that will remind us of who they were (i.e. Shepherds – make a shepherd's staff, wise men– ride a camel, Simeon and Anna – show praying hands)

DO: Divide the recruits into three groups with a leader or older recruit. Hand out the references for each of these people. 1 – Luke 2:8-20; 2 - Matthew 2:1-12; 3 - Luke 2:25-32 AND Luke 2:36-38. Give the groups five minutes to do their task.

SAY: Now that you have read your references tell us who confirmed that Jesus was born and show us the action that you have chosen to represent them.

DO: Give each group a chance to share.

SAY: Now, let's do a little moving before we move on. Let's quickly make the actions for each of our characters: Angel, shepherd, wise men, Simeon and Anna. Now that you've reviewed those I will tell you how to move around the room (i.e. walk, skip, run, slither, take giant steps). When I yell the name of a character, stop and perform the action of that character.

DO: Play just for a few minutes but give the recruits a chance to move around.

SAY: Now that we know God sent Jesus to earth. And now that we know who saw Jesus as a young baby and now it's time to discuss what Jesus did while He was here on earth. There are four books of the Bible called the Gospels and they are filled with the life of Jesus but we don't have time to read them all right now. So we are going to try to use our memories to figure out what He did while He was here on earth. I'm going to write down our question in the middle of this blank sheet of paper here, "What did Jesus do when He was here on earth?" Take a moment to think about this question. Now, turn to the person closest to you and discuss the question. Okay, let's write down some ideas, what did Jesus do when He was here on earth? *(showed us how to love others, took care of those whom no one else liked, helped us to understand God, taught the people and disciples, healed people, cast out demons, showed kindness and grace)*

DO: Have someone write down responses as the recruits give them.

SAY: Super work recruits. I just need to quickly send off your information to the team so please give me a second while I take a picture of our chart here. Now give me a quick pose of one of the folks who were in our game (angel, wiseman, shepherd, Simeon and Anna). Great...off this goes. Now let's find out what's next.





Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "In the Beginning (S1) Episode 5 (3/4)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



Field Mission Project



Supplies Needed

- Copy of Doctrine 6 from The Salvation Army Song Book
- Crosses cut out of Bristol board or card stock, one for each recruit; on the back write John 3:16 out (make sure the crosses are large enough to draw or write on)
- Pencils, markers, pencil crayons
- Bibles
- Easter Story template (see attachment on page 10)
- Chart from Mission #2 (How did God fulfill His plan to reconcile mankind to Himself?)

Mission Project

SAY: We are still not quite done! All this information is just leading us to the final plan. How exciting to remember that God loves us and is merciful to us. We really do need to find out more about God's plan for us. So let's do that. What is Mission # 3? Drum roll please, (reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Recruits, find out what STEP 2 of the plan is and how we can be forgiven."

SAY: Now, that sounds more like it. I can't wait to find out what we can do about all of this. I'm reminded of the sixth doctrine of The Salvation Army here. It says "We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, has by His suffering and death, made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved." In a nutshell I believe that doctrine six is the story of Easter. Let's recap that story now. As we do, write or draw what you think are the important parts of that story on the cross that we are going to give you.

DO: Hand out crosses and have pencils, pencil crayons or markers available to the recruits. Read the Easter story attached.

SAY: I'll give you a moment to finish up your pictures or words.

DO: Give the recruits two to three minutes to finish up.

SAY: How do you think God must have felt about letting Jesus die like that? What do you think it cost Him? (*pain, separation, horror*) Why do you think Jesus/God did it?



DO: Give the recruits a moment to answer.

SAY: Why do you think Jesus/God died? Let's review John 3:16. Can we say it together? So, why did Jesus die? (Because God loved the world so much that He gave Jesus so that whoever would believe in Him would not die in their sin but live with Him forever.) You will notice this verse written on the back of your cross. If you don't have this verse memorized this would be a good week to do that.

SAY: Let's continue to answer that question, why did Jesus die? Listen to Romans 5:6-8 and let's think about why God allowed Jesus to die.

DO: Read aloud Romans 5:6-8.

SAY: Why did Jesus die for us? (Jesus died for us who are ungodly sinners to show His love for us.) Wow! Isn't that incredible? Jesus came to earth as a tiny baby, he grew up into a man and then chose to go to the cross for OUR sins so that we didn't have to. And this because God in His mercy knew we would sin and wanted to be sure there was a plan for us. I think we have discovered STEP 2 of the plan..."Jesus died on a cross for us so that we could be forgiven of our sins."



Squad leader remind recruits this week to memorize John 3:16.

DO: Write STEP 2 on the large sheet of paper posted with number 1.

SAY: We have a lot to think about my friends. The plan is all starting to come together. We have hope. Next week I'm hoping that we will be able to pull all of what we have learned together and make a commitment to follow God's plan of salvation. In the mean time, it has become very clear to me that we have a whole lot to be thankful for. So we are going to pray prayers of thanksgiving today before we head home.



Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "In the Beginning (S1) Episode 5 (4/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



Supplies Needed

- Sticky notes
- Pens or pencils

Directions

SAY: We have learned a lot this week about God's amazing plan. We are so imperfect. We often make mistakes. But God is perfect. Today, we are going to take the time to really celebrate this amazing God. It is time for us to say thanks to Him for all that He has done for



us. Let's all think of at least three things to thank God for. They could be related to what we have learned today, they could be related to your family, your school, your neighbourhood, or your friends. I'm going to give you a sticky note and on that note I want you to write or draw out your prayers of thanks to God. They can just be one word, like LOVE, FAMILY and so on. When you have filled up your sticky note, come and stick it on the wall around our chart, How did God fulfill His plan to reconcile mankind to Himself?

DO: Give the recruits a few moments to write or draw their prayers out.

SAY: I am going to point to each of your sticky notes of thanks and when I point I want all of you to say, "Lord hear our prayer."

DO: Close in prayer.

SAY: Well my friends, this has been an incredibly challenging but exciting week. We know that despite our sin, before we were even born, God had a plan to bring us back to Him, to send Jesus and allow Him to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven. Awesome! This week, let's really think about this. Take home your cross, review the Easter story and memorize John 3:16 because God so loves you. Have a great week and we'll see you next week to find out what we can do with the amazing plan that God has brought to us.

NOTES



REVIEW OF SIN

1. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

2. What is sin? (*"It says in Matthew 15:16-20 - that sin comes from the depths of our heart. Sin is anything that keeps us from God and brings trouble to us, our family, our friends, and our world. It can be an action, a thought, or even not doing something that we know we should. - You could pull this out from last week and post in now)*)

3. Did knowing what sin is change your behaviour this week?

4. What does it feel like when we sin?

5. How does God feel about sin? (*He hates it, especially because it separates us from Him)*)

6. What happens to our relationship with God when we sin? (*We are separated from Him, we lose fellowship with Him, we treat His people, our friends and family poorly and cause trouble)*)

7. Does God want us to be separated from Him? (NO!)

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES AND GOD'S PLAN

1. We know that God hates sin and loves us. Right from the beginning. He had a plan.

2. Read Genesis 3:14 - 15 to discover some of God's plan.

3. Okay so that Bible reference sounds like a mouthful but basically it's saying that though Satan will be involved in helping us to sin like he did with Eve, he and all his plans to keep us from God will be crushed by Jesus!!!

4. Read Isaiah 43:25 to discover more of the plan.

5. It says right there that God will blot out our sins (transgressions) and remember our sins no more. Yeah God!

6. Lastly read Isaiah 9:6.

7. This is the promise of Jesus. He will come, God's Son, and He will be the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. Hallelujah!

The Story of Easter

There is so much to the Easter story but let's start with Jesus having supper with His closest friends, the disciples. It was during that supper that Judas, one of his trusted friends went out into the night to tell the leaders of the time that he would give Jesus over to them so that they could kill Him. Imagine that, Jesus' own friend giving Him up to be killed!

Jesus knows that the time has come for Him to be killed so He goes to a garden where He often prays. He just desperately needs to spend time with His Father, God. He takes His disciples with Him. It is there that He cries out to God to keep Him from His suffering. And it is there that His disciples, His closest friends just fall asleep while He prays the most difficult prayer of His life.

While in the garden Judas brings the troops who take Jesus to be beaten and eventually to be nailed to a cross. It was when this happened that God couldn't look at Jesus at all because Jesus took all of our sin and sorrow on Himself. Jesus, a perfect man became a sin-bearer so that we wouldn't have to die. God turned away from His Son Jesus so that we could be forgiven.

Three days after His death, Jesus would rise again and be seen by many people.

That is what our sixth doctrine means, that Jesus in all that suffering paid the price for our sins. It says in Romans 6:23 that the price for sin is death BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. In other words we should have died for our sins but Jesus did instead. WOW!