



His Story - Part 1



THE MISSION AIM

The books of the Old Testament present the first part of God's story, and show our need for His plan of salvation.



KEY VERSE

Hebrews 11:39-40: "These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect."



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- Play dough (<https://artfulparent.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/3-Awesome-Homemade-Playdough-Recipes.pdf> - ALLERGY ALERT - do not use the peanut butter recipe) or plasticene
- Bibles – if possible use a children's Bible with lots of pictures
- Paper if desired to write down stories for charades

Directions

DO: Give the recruits a chance to use play dough to create scenes from Old Testament stories. (i.e. lions from Daniel, animals from Noah, creation from creation)

AND/OR

DO: Play a game of charades using some Old Testament stories (Daniel, Creation, Noah, Moses) with recruits either thinking of an idea for themselves or you giving them one. (David and Goliath, Joseph, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego)



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 3 – The Bible Episode 3: His Story - Part 1"

Play "The Bible (S3) Episode 3 (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 TB-Episode_3-His_Story_Part_1pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



Supplies Needed

- Bibles (if you have access to some colourful picture Bibles that would be helpful but if not, regular ones are fine)
- Index cards (about 15 – 20 per group of three or four)
- Pencils



Mission Assignment

SAY: Oh boy!! Kate is sure in a state. I hope that Becki survives this mission! I wouldn't want to be in her shoes. But isn't that the way sometimes? We are so independent; we just want to do it all our way; we don't want help; we want to be the expert. Well, I hope that everyone can get over it so that we can help Kayla out in remembering some of the Old Testament stories, the ones that happened before Jesus was born. I think the team is really going to need our help today if they are starting off with such tension. So let's hear it for Mission # 1 (read mission card from satellite uplink) "We need you to pick your brains to remember some of the stories, people and events of the Old Testament. Remember that's the Law, the History, the Songs and Poems and the Prophets of the Bible. You can do it!"

SAY: I think we're up for the task. It could be tricky, but I'm sure you can do it.

DO: Divide the recruits into groups of about three or four.

SAY: We have you divided into teams. Your task, should you choose to accept it, is to use individual cards to write or draw the stories, people and events of the Old Testament. Each card will represent one story. The team has already given you some examples should you need ideas and I have some Bibles that may help you out. Now, there is one more piece of information I need to give you. You will need to see not only how many stories and so on you can come up with but how many just your team has, just to make it more interesting. Any questions?

DO: Take any questions. Give the recruits three to four minutes. (If no one has any ideas, then give them more time and hint as needed.)

SAY: On your mark, get set, GO!

DO: If you only have three or four recruits and they are independent enough divide them into groups of one or two. If they need support keep them together as one group. If you just have one group, when you have the competition base it on how many events, people they can come up as a team within three minutes and have a leader write down the responses as they hurry to respond.

SAY: Way to go teams! Now as a large group we are going to see if we can put the events in order.

DO: Create a circle with all of the groups. Have each team call out the stories one by one. If there is duplication then no one gets points but if a team has a unique answer, give them a point. As



the stories are called out, have recruits line them up on the floor in order. If this becomes too challenging just leave it but give it a try.

SAY: We've come up with quite a list here, haven't we? There's another great list in the New Testament that tells about a number of the people you have mentioned here and about their faith in God. Let me read some of it to you. It's in Hebrews 11. I'll just read parts of it... "By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death. By faith, Noah in holy fear built an ark. By faith Abraham and Sarah had a baby in their old age. By faith Abraham when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau. By faith Joseph, when his end was near spoke about the exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt. By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born and then he led the people out of Egypt. By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if on dry land. By faith the walls of Jericho fell. By faith people like Gideon, Samuel and David conquered kingdoms." The list could go on and on. God was sure in each of these stories. Anyway, at the end of this great list of people from the Old Testament, Hebrews 11:39-40 says, "These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect." There was something better planned? Sounds intriguing. I wonder what they're talking about. I guess that's another story.

SAY: Well, we sure have a complete list. With our ideas and the list from Hebrews 11 we are set. I think we have enough of a start on our Mission to send it back to the team. I hope it's a bit of a help to them. Let's give three cheers and at the end of all three, we'll yell out "Old Testament, God at work." That should get this Intel back to our friends. I can't wait to get back to the team and see how things are going with Kate and Becki. Could be interesting.



Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "The Bible (S3) Episode 3 (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

- "Clean Up" Game template (see attachment pages 8-10)
- Three or four spray bottles with some water in them with the nozzle turned to "gentle mist" (can often be found at Dollar Stores)
- Towels
- Whiteboard and whiteboard marker(s) or chalkboard and chalk; cloth for cleaning





Mission Assignment

SAY: How cool is that? The prophecies from the Old Testament were pointing to Jesus! I love it! It's all one big huge story isn't it? I do understand though how it could be so confusing for Simon. There is so much to understand. I'm thinking we should get working on our mission. It looks like it could be a tricky one. Let's have a drum roll for Mission # 2 (read mission card from satellite uplink) "Play the "Clean Up" game to find out how God's people behaved and what He did when they weren't doing so well."

DO: Lead the "Clean Up" Game (see template).

SAY: Wow! Those were some great examples of how God's people, real people like you and I messed up, got it all wrong, made bad choices. Then did you catch how God kept coming to their rescue over and over again? They needed His help. They needed His reminders. They needed Him. In the Old Testament God gave the Israelites the Law to keep, basically the Ten Commandments. Unfortunately as you can see, they didn't and couldn't keep that Law. Since they couldn't keep the Law God expected that they would sacrifice animals to help them understand that something had to die and blood had to be shed in order to be forgiven and be right with God (Hebrews 10). It was an example of what was to come. The secret, permanent rescue plan, Jesus! He was way better than judges and kings and He made the ultimate sacrifice.



Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "The Bible (S3) Episode 3 (3/4)". 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

- Whiteboard or chalkboard
- Marker or chalk

Directions

SAY: I don't know about you, but I never mess up. Not!!! We are all messing up all of the time aren't we? We sin, we do things that hurt others, we make poor choices. Judges 17:6 says that "In those days (in the Old Testament times) Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit." I think we tend to do what we want too. What are some things that our world does that we could call messes or wrong choices? (Ideas: fighting, people made fun of because of their skin colour or religion, bullying, cheating, people dying because of accidents that could have been prevented, lying, children disobeying their parents, spending too much money on things we don't need)

DO: As recruits give ideas, write them on a whiteboard or chalkboard.



SAY: Recruits, this is similar to the world that the Israelites lived in. People still are doing their own thing and disobeying God just like Judges 17:6 says. God wants to give us the chance to make right and good choices with His help.

SAY: Dear Lord, our world is in a mess. Just like the world of the past. We are blessed to live in our time because we know that Jesus came. He came to forgive us, to set us free. Oh God, please forgive us as a world, as a country, as individuals for the messes we've made. Forgive us for _____ (fill in with the "messes" listed on the whiteboard and as you say them, erase them.) Thanks so much for being our Saviour. Thanks for letting us live in New Testament times, the time after Jesus came so that we are able to ask for your forgiveness and we don't have to rely on the sacrifices of bulls and goats.

SAY: I'm so glad that the stories of the Old Testament led to the secret rescue plan of Jesus! I'm so grateful for His forgiveness in my life. I know that members of the Recon Team are sure glad that He came. Speaking of the team, I'm wondering how they are all doing. Kate was really having a tough time with Becki still. I guess none of us is perfect! Let's get back and find out what's up. Before we do let's look at our blank board and say, "Clean it Up Please Jesus." That should get the message back to the team.



Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "The Bible (S3) Episode 3 (4/4)". Pause the video when the RTS SHIELD 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 RTS SHIELD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



Field Mission Project



Supplies Needed

- Draw a simple picture of a scene or item. For example a small house with a sun and bird that you will be able to get the recruits to draw without looking at yours (i.e. "Draw a short rectangle in the centre of your page. On top of the rectangle, draw a triangle. On the bottom right of your rectangle draw a small rectangle. On the top right of your page draw a circle. On the top left of your page draw a flat letter "m".") (This would be a simple house with a sun on the one side and a bird on the other.)
- Copy of the story "A Visit to the Cottage" (attachment page 11)
- Paper for each recruit
- Pencils for each recruit
- Pens
- Large sheet of paper



Mission Project

SAY: Oh no! What an ending. Kate's gone off and did who knows what to the system. The team couldn't find her and they couldn't get our mission to us. That's just not good. I wonder what will happen. How's it all going to end up? This is crazy. But it does remind me of a story my friend was telling me the other day. She just started telling me about her friend and then all of a sudden she had to take a phone call and run off to an emergency. I still didn't get the ending. I'll tell you what I heard though.

DO: Tell the story "A Visit to the Cottage".

SAY: Now, what do you think? What might have happened? Do you think Jake was okay? What did his mom do? Suspense can be terrible. I'm known for reading the end of stories once in awhile if I can't stand the suspense. How do you like suspense? Those times when you're not sure how something is going to end.

DO: Give recruits a chance to answer.

SAY: Speaking of suspense, I guess we won't know what our third mission is although I guess we could have a drum roll and see if anything comes up. Drum roll please...Mission # 3 - ?????

SAY: Okay well I guess we're on our own. But that's okay. I have an idea of something we could do. I was just trying out something today.

DO: Pick up the simple picture that you have drawn without letting anyone see it.

SAY: Some of you may not know that I am an artist. I've brought one of my pictures but I don't want to make any of you jealous by showing it off so I thought that I would give you papers and pencils and tell you what I did so that you can draw your own example like my picture.

DO: Give the recruits paper and pencils. Then give instructions as to how you drew your picture. I.e. draw a short rectangle in the centre of your page. On top of the rectangle, draw a triangle. On the bottom right of your rectangle draw a small rectangle. On the top right of your page draw a circle. On the top left of your page draw a flat letter "m". (This would be a simple house with a sun on the one side and a bird on the other.)

SAY: Whoa! Look at the time! We'd better get going. I guess we won't be able to check out my picture until next week.

DO: Collect all of the pictures and keep yours hidden.

SAY: Well, we didn't have a mission but I think we might have learned something even in this last segment. We're in suspense about Jake, about our pictures, about Kate. I wonder if that must have been what it was like for God's people in the Old Testament. There was always some hope for something better, the Scriptures had seemed to show that there was going to be a Saviour but there were only clean ups and no really big rescue plan that they could see. They didn't know what would happen. It was like a suspense story for them and then God was silent for a really long time. They must have thought that there would be no big rescue. That they would keep messing up and sacrificing animals to try to get right with God. What a challenge. Well, I think that's where we'll leave it too. What will happen to Jake? Where is Kate? What does my picture look like? Until next week...



NOTES:

Video you can share with your recruits:

Old Testament Books of the Bible: www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7ZtWRSCH7E

New Testament Books of the Bible: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppxke-s6sCA



The Clean Up Game (Based on Hebrews 11 characters)

1. Have three or four people with spray bottles (clean ones from the Dollar Store) with some water in them and the nozzle turned to a gentle mist. If it's warm out go outside, if not it's fine with the gentle mist on.
2. Call out a "Mess" listed below. As soon as you finish reading yell "Clean Up" and have the people with spray bottles try and spray those who don't have them. Give them just 10 seconds. Then yell "Freeze", on "Freeze" read out God's "Clean Up Plan". If the floor gets too wet then throw a cloth at one of the recruits and say, "Scrub the deck".
3. Have kids with spray bottles give one to those who haven't been "it". Then play again using the next set of text.
4. Continue to play until all the text has been read.

Messes!	Clean Up Plan!
<p>1. Genesis 4: Cain and Abel – Two brothers were born to Adam and Eve. One of them, Cain got jealous and killed His brother. This made God very sad but...</p>	<p>1. Genesis 4: God protected Cain even though he had been wrong in killing his brother. God made sure that no one could harm Cain. Hmm! That sure sounds like how someone I know protected us from death. Jesus came and died in our place so that we could be forgiven.</p>
<p>2. Genesis 6: God still loved his people very much but they were making awful choices. They chose to do evil all of the time so...</p>	<p>2. Genesis 6: God found Noah who was a good man and had him create an ark to save his family and some of the animals. Then God sent a flood to wipe the earth of its wickedness. Hmm! That sure sounds like someone who came to make sure that we were protected from the storms life throws our way. Jesus came and left His Holy Spirit to help us when we feel weak and when life is tough.</p>

<p>3. Genesis 12 – 18: The flood destroyed the earth but then more people were born and they were still not perfect. God was going to use a man named Abraham who wanted to do good but made mistakes. He was given a promise to inherit a ton of land through his and his wife Sarai's son but when he didn't have a son he went and got another woman pregnant. That turned into a real mess. Then he lied about his wife. He was good hearted but he kept messing up but...</p>	<p>3. Genesis 12 – 18: God still gave him a son with his wife Sarai even though they were very old. Then when that son came, God asked him to sacrifice him and Abraham almost did but God stopped him. Hmmm! Sounds like another sacrifice that was made, someone giving up their only son. God did that for us. He gave Jesus to die for our sins.</p>
<p>4. Genesis 37 – 50: Then there was Joseph's family. What a bunch they were. Joseph was a younger brother and his brothers hated him. They ended up throwing Joseph into a big well and sold him to some Egyptians. What a mess. But...</p>	<p>4. Genesis 37- 50: God allowed Joseph to be an important ruler in Egypt and through God's wisdom, Joseph was able to help save many people from starving during a famine, including his brothers. God can sure take things that look like a mess and turn them around. Hmm! I know someone who gave up everything to provide for us. Do you? Jesus came and gave His life on the cross and provided forgiveness for our sins.</p>
<p>5. Exodus 1 – 21: You won't believe it but there were still more messes. After Joseph saved his brothers from famine, they all moved to Egypt but the Egyptians started treating them like garbage. Then a boy named Moses was born and the Pharaoh wanted all Israelite boys killed so Moses' mom put him in the river in a basket. When Moses grew up he killed a man and ran away. But...</p>	<p>5. Exodus 1-21: God was still in the rescuing business. He brought Moses back to Egypt and used him and his brother Aaron to bring the Israelites out of Egypt where they could begin heading to the Promised Land. Hmm! The Promised Land, that sounds familiar? We have the promise of heaven if we believe in Jesus.</p>
<p>6. Judges 2:2: The Israelites were led to the Promised Land by God and they were to get rid of all the people there. But they chose not to and the people living there encouraged them to make bad choices.</p>	<p>6. Judges 2:3: God told them that He wouldn't protect them from their enemies. When He said this, it was like He was helping them because they needed to know the truth. Because He told them the truth they wept and felt guilty. Where else do we find out that the truth hurts, that it's not easy to live life as we should.</p>

7. Judges 2:10 – 15: After Moses, Joshua became the new leader of Israel but then Joshua died and all of the Israelites who knew about God died as well. Their families did not know God so they did evil in God's eyes and worshipped other gods. God was very angry with them. When they went to fight battles, He let them lose. They were in a mess. But...

7. Judges 2: 16: Then God raised up Judges who saved them from their enemies. There were people like Gideon and Deborah and Samson who God used to help protect the Israelites. Do you know of any protectors that might help us even when we've messed up? Jesus died so that we could be forgiven and He sent His Holy Spirit so that we can learn to live for Him each day.

8. Judges 2:17, 19: Even though God had given the Israelites judges to help them. They continued to worship other gods and disobey Him. In fact whenever a judge died, they got worse than they were before. But...

8. Judges 2: 18: Whenever God raised up a judge for the Israelites, he was with the judge and saved them from their enemies as long as the judge lived. Who do you know who can save you? Jesus! By believing in Him and His death for our sins.

9. King of Kings: (Samuel) After the Judges there was a time when the Israelites demanded a King, other than God. This made God very sad but he allowed it. The first king chosen was Saul but he messed up a lot thinking he didn't need God. So then David, son of Jesse was chosen to be King. He wasn't perfect either, in fact, He not only took another man's wife but then had the man killed but...

9. (The Gospels): Then Jesus, the King of Kings arrived. He was the perfect King. He would lead His people perfectly.

10. The Prophets: The Israelites kept making more poor choices, they asked to be led by kings like everyone else was instead of by God, they sinned a lot but...

10. The Prophets: God sent prophets to tell them and show them how to live. He kept trying to get their attention. But then, He stayed silent for a really long time. Hmm! Do you know of anyone who came to break the silence? To make it alright? Jesus came to live among us and to show us how to live rightly. Then He died to forgive us.

A Visit to the Cottage

There was once a very busy little boy named Jake who was off visiting his aunt at the cottage. It was so exciting! Though his parents loved the outdoors and the beautiful view they weren't so sure about what Jake might do. They knew that he was always exploring and getting into things and there was a huge cliff just over the hill and past the trees that made them very nervous.

The second day everyone was sleeping when Jake snuck out of bed. Before anyone knew it they were all awakened with a start when they heard the screen door slam loudly enough to make the whole cottage shudder. It took a second for Jake's mom to look over and see that he was gone.

"Oh no", she groaned as she jumped out of bed in a flash. Without grabbing her shoes she ran out the door of the cottage and down the stairs. As she got to the bottom step she could see Jake's tiny form disappear over the hill as she yelled after him, "Jake, come back here!"