In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 40
A Story for You

Themes:

- God desires to save sinners through what Jesus has done on the cross.
- All people respond to Jesus, either in belief resulting in eternal life, or unbelief resulting in condemnation.
- God has written all people into the story of the Bible—it has a personal message for each of us.

Scripture:

Luke 23:32-33, 39-43; Romans 3:23; John 3:16-18a, 36

Home and Heart:

How many responses are there to Jesus? Read John 3:16-18, 36. What might rejecting Jesus look like? Read and discuss the following five examples. Unbelief and rejection of Jesus takes many different forms:

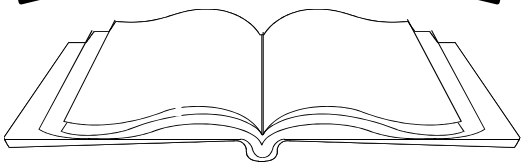
A boy says he is not interested in the Bible—it's boring.
A girl says she will wait until she is older to decide.
A woman says the Bible is just a make-believe story.
A man says Jesus is okay for some people—those who think they need help.
A boy says he is sort of interested in Jesus, but he is interested in other things too, like sports—and those things are really important.

Do any of these examples sound like you? Are you believing in Jesus right now? If you are, how is this shown in your life? Who do you believe Jesus is? Are you depending on Him to forgive all your sins and make you right with God? Do you believe with all your heart that He will give you eternal life in heaven? Do you feel at peace with God, or do you feel as if He is angry at you? Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 5:20-21; 6:1-2.

Read the following verses: Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19; 20:21; Romans 2:4; and 2 Peter 3:9. What is repentance? Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. Explain that repentance is "godly grief." Review the story of the lost son from Luke 15:11-24. Verses 17-20 demonstrate a repentant heart. True repentance involves understanding you are a sinner and deserve God's condemnation. It involves understanding you are completely helpless to save yourself. Do you have a repentant heart? Is your own sin a big deal, or do you believe you are "okay"? Do you think being good, reading your Bible, memorizing verses, and going to church will make your heart right with God?

Read and discuss Ephesians 2:1-9. What does it mean that we were all "children of wrath"? What does it mean to be "made alive"? How does this happen? Is it something we do? Do you need to become good before Jesus saves you? Why are grace and mercy gifts from God? When a person responds in faith to Jesus, what is the result? Do these verses describe you?

THE BIBLE IS A STORY FOR YOU!



For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already... Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Jesus died on the cross to...

In your own words, explain why Jesus died on the cross and what it means for you.
What is your part in the story of the Bible?