Beginners' Stories
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Extra Activities
Dear Parents,

Thank you for sharing your child with me as we learn about God's Word together. Your child is going to enjoy learning the lessons for this quarter.

The study this quarter focuses on justice.

Unit I, "God Requires Justice," is a five-lesson study from four of the minor prophets. The prophets communicated God's call for repentance and justice in the conduct of human affairs. Amos and Habakkuk convey that the laws of God require justice for the poor and the oppressed. In lesson 3 (for children), Psalm 37 is used to emphasize the reward for those who practice justice. The last two lessons from the books of Micah and Malachi are a study of the responsibilities of leaders for practicing justice.

Unit II, "God's Just Kingdom," is a four-lesson continuation of God's justice. The lessons for Palm Sunday and Easter examine the promised Messiah as the defender of justice. In lesson 8, Esther's triumph is reviewed as demonstrating the prevailing of God's justice. The unit concludes with the narrative from Solomon as an example of God's justice.

Unit III, "Called to God's Work of Justice," has five lessons that explore ways that people are called to demonstrate justice. Zephaniah presents both a judgment against the wickedness and injustice of Jerusalem and a vision of restoration. Zechariah calls for a return to God's ways of justice. In the book of Jeremiah, God's rigorous standards for justice are defined and God's people are given a choice either to execute justice or to face destruction. Hosea uses early history to call the people to love and justice.

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Your Child's Teacher
Key Verse:

“Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.”

(Amos 5:23)
Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard prophet Amos’s warning to the Israelites. The Israelites were being unkind and unjust to poor Israelites. Yet, they longed for God’s help. As a result of their unjust actions, God refused to receive their treasures and praise. As you review today’s lesson with your child, emphasize the importance of being fair and hospitable to everyone. Talk about why we all should obey God’s rules.

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Your Child’s Teacher

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Empty Treasures
(Amos 5:18-24)

The Israelite people pretended to worship God. They gave offerings and treasures to God. They praised God with songs and harps. But the Israelite people were not treating everyone fairly. They were not being kind to poor people. Yet, they wanted God to help them!

Oh no! God was not pleased with their unfairness. So, God did not accept their treasures. And God did not listen to the music of their harps.

God wanted the Israelite people to truly want to be kind and fair to others. God wanted them to be friendly and help poor people. That is how you live right!

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For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard prophet Amos’s warning to the Israelites. The Israelites were being unkind and unjust to poor Israelites. Yet, they longed for God’s help. As a result of their unjust actions, God refused to receive their treasures and praise. As you review today’s lesson with your child, emphasize the importance of being fair and hospitable to everyone. Talk about why we all should obey God’s rules.

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Your Child’s Teacher
Lesson Scripture: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 12-14

Key Verse:
Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.
(Habakkuk 1:13a)
Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard Habakkuk’s pleas and questions to God concerning the unfairness, injustice, and cruelty he witnessed. He wanted God to step in and change things for the better right away. He did not want God to wait. When reviewing this lesson with your child, talk about impatience. Recall times when your child wanted something right away. Talk about what happened and why he or she had to wait. Relate that experience to this lesson.

Your Child’s Teacher
Lesson Scripture: Psalm 37:1-6, 12-13, 27-28, 34

Key Verse:
Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. (Psalm 37:3)
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today, your child heard that God honors and rewards those who patiently follow His commands. He or she also heard that God is not pleased with those who are wicked and wants us to turn away from such behavior. As you review today’s lesson with your child, discuss ways that he or she can show more fairness in your home to other family members. Recognize your child when you witness any acts of fairness.

Your Child’s Teacher

Rewarding Patience (and Trust)?
(Psalm 37:1-6, 12-13, 27-28, 34)

Do not fuss when you see people doing wrong. And do not wish to be like them! Do not worry. These things will not last. Instead, trust God. Enjoy staying in God’s presence. And God will give you what you want. God will make things right.

Unfair people make plans to hurt others. But their time of punishment is coming.

Turn away from wrong. Do good instead. You will be rewarded. God loves it when people are fair. God looks out for those who are faithful to Him. So, be patient and trust God. Then He will reward you. Just wait and see!

God rewards fairness and kindness!
Key Verse:
What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)
Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard a message presented by the prophet Micah. The Israelites had forgotten how God had brought them out of slavery and into the Promised Land. What God required of them was that they act justly, show mercy, and live a humble life. As you review today’s lesson with your child, emphasize the importance of sharing, letting others go first, and serving others. Recognize your child’s efforts to show kindness and fairness.

Loyal and Obedient
(Micah 6:1-8)

Court was in session! The leaders of Israel were on trial. The prophet Micah shared a message from God.

God asked, “My people, what have I done to you?” No one answered. They had forgotten that God brought them out of slavery in Egypt. God had sent leaders to help them. God was with them as they travelled to the Promised Land.

The Israelites tried to please God with offerings. But God said they must act fairly. They must show mercy or kindness. And they must live a humble life by sharing with others and serving others.

For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard a message presented by the prophet Micah. The Israelites had forgotten how God had brought them out of slavery and into the Promised Land. What God required of them was that they act justly, show mercy, and live a humble life. As you review today’s lesson with your child, emphasize the importance of sharing, letting others go first, and serving others. Recognize your child’s efforts to show kindness and fairness.

Your Child’s Teacher
Key Verse:

“I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.”
(Malachi 3:6)
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today, your child heard about the coming of the Messenger of the Covenant, Jesus Christ. The Israelites were having difficulties because they chose to rob God of tithes and offerings. But God is forgiving and faithful. He promised to pour out abundant blessings if they would return and obey His commands. When reviewing this lesson, encourage your child to be a good example to others. Demonstrate how to be just, honest, and obedient to God’s Word.

Challenging the Leader
(Malachi 3:1-4, 6-12)

The prophet Malachi shared a message from the Lord God. Jesus Christ was coming! Jesus Christ’s presence would be as bright as fire. His brightness would make the Levite leaders pure and clean. Then God would accept their offerings.

The people were in trouble for robbing God. They did not obey God’s command to bring their tithes and offerings to the Temple. But God does not change. God loves His people. The people should trust and obey God again. Then He would pour out blessings so big they would not have room enough for it. Everyone would call them blessed.

For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today, your child heard about the coming of the Messenger of the Covenant, Jesus Christ. The Israelites were having difficulties because they chose to rob God of tithes and offerings. But God is forgiving and faithful. He promised to pour out abundant blessings if they would return and obey His commands. When reviewing this lesson, encourage your child to be a good example to others. Demonstrate how to be just, honest, and obedient to God’s Word.

Your Child’s Teacher
Lesson Scripture: Matthew 21:1-2, 6-8, 12-17

Key Verse:
The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. (Matthew 21:6)
Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard about Jesus riding into Jerusalem to the Temple on a donkey while the crowd gives Him praise. As Jesus enters the Temple, He sees money changers cheating people. Jesus brings order to the Temple by turning over the money changers’ tables. Then healing and worship begin. As you review this lesson, encourage your child to and demonstrate for him or her how to stand up for what is right.

Your Child’s Teacher

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**Doing What Is Just!**

((Matthew 21:1-2, 6-8, 12-17))

**Jesus:** Disciples, go to the village and bring me a donkey and her colt.

**Narrator:** The disciples obeyed. They placed their cloaks (coats) on the animals. And a large crowd spread their cloaks and tree branches on the road. Jesus rode on the donkey to the Temple. There, He saw money changers cheating people.

**Jesus:** It is written, “My house will be called a house of prayer, not a den of robbers.”

**Children:** Hosanna to the Son of David!

**Chief Priests:** Do you hear the children?

**Jesus:** Yes. From the lips of children and infants You, God, accept praise.

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**For the Parents**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard about Jesus riding into Jerusalem to the Temple on a donkey while the crowd gives Him praise. As Jesus enters the Temple, He sees money changers cheating people. Jesus brings order to the Temple by turning over the money changers’ tables. Then healing and worship begin. As you review this lesson, encourage your child to and demonstrate for him or her how to stand up for what is right.
Key Verse:
"Don't be alarmed," [the young man] said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen!" (Mark 16:6)
Alive!
(Mark 16:1-9)

Jesus died on the Cross. Then early Sunday morning after Jesus’ burial, three women went to Jesus’ tomb. They wanted to place spices on Jesus’ body. The women wondered who would roll away the stone that sealed the tomb.

When they arrived, the stone had already been rolled away! Inside the tomb, they saw a man dressed in white. The women were frightened! The man told them not to be afraid.

He said, “He has risen! He is not here!” They would see Jesus in Galilee just like Jesus had said.

Jesus appeared first to one of the women named Mary Magdalene. Jesus was alive!

For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today, your child heard about what happened soon after Jesus arose. The stone was rolled away from the tomb and Jesus’ friends were surprised and afraid when they saw a young man sitting inside. But he had good news: Jesus had risen from the dead! When reviewing this lesson, help your child recall times when he or she was afraid, surprised, and very happy. Compare this to the feelings of the people in today’s lesson.

Your Child’s Teacher
Lesson Scripture: Esther 7:1-10

Key Verse:
King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?" (Esther 7:5)
Queen Esther learned that Haman had planned to destroy all the Jews. So, at a banquet, Queen Esther asked the king to spare (save) her and the Jews. She told the king that Haman planned to kill them.

The king was so angry that he left the banquet. Haman stayed to beg Queen Esther for his life. When King Xerxes returned, he saw Haman leaning on the couch where Queen Esther sat. The king became angrier.

The king’s men punished Haman for his wrongdoing. They hung Haman on a pole planned for a Jew named Mordecai. Then the king’s anger went away.

**For the Parents**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard about how Haman’s plan to kill the Jews was stopped by the bravery of Queen Esther. Queen Esther asked King Xerxes to spare her life and the lives of her fellow Jews. He granted her request. He also punished Haman. As you review today’s lesson with your child, emphasize that hurting others is always wrong—and wrong is eventually found out and punished. Encourage your child to be kind.

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Your Child’s Teacher
Lesson Scripture: 1 Kings 3:16-28

Key Verse:
When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice. (1 Kings 3:28)
Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard about an argument brought before King Solomon. Each of two women declared that she was the mother of one baby boy. King Solomon—full of wisdom from God—determined who the real mother was. King Solomon made things right for the mother of the child. Review the story with your child, encouraging him or her to make wise choices that please God. Tell your child to ask God for wisdom when making a choice.

Justice Is Done!
(1 Kings 3:16-28)

Two women argued that one baby boy was their son. King Solomon listened to their argument. Then he ordered that the baby be cut in half!

One of the women said, “No, don’t kill him!” But the other woman said, “Cut him in two!” King Solomon then knew who the real mother was. It was the woman who did not want the baby to be harmed. She loved him.

King Solomon decided not to kill the baby. He gave the baby to the woman who showed concern and love for the baby. People were amazed by King Solomon’s wisdom from God!

For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard about an argument brought before King Solomon. Each of two women declared that she was the mother of one baby boy. King Solomon—full of wisdom from God—determined who the real mother was. King Solomon made things right for the mother of the child. Review the story with your child, encouraging him or her to make wise choices that please God. Tell your child to ask God for wisdom when making a choice.

Your Child’s Teacher
Key Verse:
The Lord . . . is righteous; he does no wrong. Morning by morning he dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail. (Zephaniah 3:5)
Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard a message from God spoken by the prophet Zephaniah. The disobedient people of Jerusalem refused to obey and trust God. They would be removed. But those who obeyed and trusted God would remain. This week and always, teach your child to be courageous. Help him or her learn to do what is right—even when others do wrong. Equip your child to be ready to speak the truth and enforce justice.

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Your Child’s Teacher
Key Verses:

[God said,] “I will save my people . . . . I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be . . . their God.” (Zechariah 8:7, 8a)
Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard from Zechariah that God was concerned about the people of Jerusalem. They were being mistreated by their enemies. And God promised to bring peace and blessings to His people. As you review the lesson, talk about the reality of unkind people in the world. Then encourage your child and model how to please God by being kind and fair and living peaceably with everyone.

Better Days Are Coming
(Zechariah 8:1-8, 11-17)

The prophet Zechariah shared a message from God. Enemies had harmed the people of Jerusalem. So, God was returning to make things right. Then Jerusalem would be called the Faithful City and the Holy Mountain.

God would bring peace and blessings. God would bring His people back to Jerusalem. The streets would be filled with older people and children playing.

God is faithful. He would make it rain. Then seeds would grow, and vines would make lots of fruit. Yes! Better days were coming!

But the people must do some things: They must tell the truth, be fair, be peaceful, and not harm others.

For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard from Zechariah that God was concerned about the people of Jerusalem. They were being mistreated by their enemies. And God promised to bring peace and blessings to His people. As you review the lesson, talk about the reality of unkind people in the world. Then encourage your child and model how to please God by being kind and fair and living peaceably with everyone.

Your Child’s Teacher
Lesson Scripture: Jeremiah 21:8-14

Key Verse:

"'This is what the LORD says: See, I am setting before you the way of life and the way of death.'" (Jeremiah 21:8)
Choosing Life
(Jeremiah 21:8-14)

God loved the people of Judah. But He was angry about their disobedience. Jeremiah shared God’s message with them: “You can choose the way of life or death. The city will be destroyed. If you stay in the city, you will die. If you surrender to the enemy, you will be taken prisoner. But you will live.

“Listen up! There is something God wants you to do. Every morning, you must rescue people from their enemies. If you don’t, God will be very angry. You won’t get away with harming others. God will punish you. Listen and choose to live!”

For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard a message that God was angry at the disobedience of Judah. As a result, the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed. However, God is merciful, so He gave the people an opportunity to choose life. As you review the lesson with your child, emphasize that God will punish wrongdoing, but He still loves us. Relate the lesson to when you punish your child for his or her wrongdoing.

Your Child’s Teacher
Key Verse:

"This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. . . . Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood." (Jeremiah 22:3)
Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard that God was giving the king and the people of Judah a chance to change their ways. God wanted them to treat foreigners, orphans, widows, and innocent people with fairness and kindness. If they did not, then Jerusalem would be destroyed. As you review this lesson with your child, discuss some behaviors you would like for him or her to change. Work out a plan together to help with these efforts.

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Your Child’s Teacher

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**Changing Our Ways**
*(Jeremiah 22:1-10)*

Jeremiah told the king and the people of Judah to listen closely. God wanted them to do what is right and fair. They must protect people from robbers. They must not hurt foreigners and innocent people. They must not harm orphans and widows. If they obeyed, then kings would continue to live in the palace. But if they did not obey, then the palace would be destroyed. It would become empty like a desert.

People from other nations would wonder what happened to the great city of Jerusalem. This is what happened: The people stopped following God. They worshipped other gods. They would not change their ways.

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**For the Parents**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard that God was giving the king and the people of Judah a chance to change their ways. God wanted them to treat foreigners, orphans, widows, and innocent people with fairness and kindness. If they did not, then Jerusalem would be destroyed. As you review this lesson with your child, discuss some behaviors you would like for him or her to change. Work out a plan together to help with these efforts.

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Your Child’s Teacher
Key Verse:
You must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always. (Hosea 12:6)
Hold On to Love
(Hosea 11:1-2, 7-10; 12:1-2, 6-14)

Hosea shared a message from God. God loved Israel like a father loves his son. But Israel turned away from God. God was angry with Israel. But God is kind and forgiving. So, God decided not to destroy all of Israel.

The Israelite people lied, cheated, and fought. They made deals with their enemies. They thought that because they were rich, they could do no wrong. No! God would make them live in tents again. They would be punished for their wrongdoing.

Hosea told the Israelite people that they must return to God. They must love and be fair to others. They must wait on God.

For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In today’s lesson, your child heard that the Israelites were reminded of God’s love and compassion, although they had turned away from God to worship idols—for which they would be punished. God desired that His people trust and wait on Him and that they love others and treat them fairly. Review today’s story with your child. Encourage your child to show his or her love for God with a prayer of thanksgiving. Lead that prayer.

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Your Child’s Teacher
Extra Activity 3

What Is Different?
The two pictures below from lesson 8 are the same scene—but there are some differences. Circle what is different in the second picture.
Extra Activity 4

Do you remember what happened in lesson 9? Review the Bible story and then draw a picture of what you think happened in the story.
Extra Activity 5

Trace the “Justice” Sign

Trace the letters in the word *justice* and color the sign. You may also color the stars. Then read the message together as a class.

GOD PROMISES

JUSTICE
Extra Activity 6

Love and Fairness Rule!
Color the heart below. Then read the message together as a class.

Let Love and Fairness Rule Your Heart!
A Picture Prayer
Using the Picture Key to read the picture prayer below.

Lord, thank you for love/loving You too pray

Dear thank you for love/loving You too pray

Lord, thank you for love/loving You too pray

We love You 2.

In Jesus’ name we . Amen.
God Wants Our Love and Trust
Color the Bible picture from today's lesson.
Fill in the Missing Letters

God wants us to change any bad behavior we have to be pleasing to Him. Fill in the missing letter of each word from today's Bible story. Choose from the letters in the Letter Bank below. Then read the message together as a class.

We must change our way.
The People Must Live Better Lives

Color the Bible picture from today's lesson.
Who Is Making the Right Choice?

God is happy when we make good choices. Look at each picture below. Next to each picture is a happy face 😊 and a frowny face 😞. Circle the happy face if the picture shows an action that would please God. Circle the frowny face if the picture shows an action that would not please God.

1. 🎨
   - Happy face 🎨
   - Frowny face 😞

2. 🧼
   - Happy face 😊
   - Frowny face 😞

3. 🎵
   - Happy face 😊
   - Frowny face 😞

4. 🛍️
   - Happy face 😊
   - Frowny face 😞
Make the Right Choice to Live!

Color the Bible picture from today’s lesson.
A “Happy Day” Drawing

In this lesson, we hear about how God will make things better. When this happens, people will be happy. In the space below, draw a picture of you having a happy day with your friends or family.
A Brighter Future for God's People
Color the Bible picture from today’s lesson.
The Flag of Justice

Today’s lesson talked about God’s fairness and justice. Trace and color the flag of justice below. Then read the message on the flag together as a class.

Justice
Wins the Day!
Being Fair and Peaceful
Color the Bible picture from today’s lesson.
Make Wise Choices

We can make wise choices when we ask God to help us to do so. Look at the pictures below. Then draw a line from the “Make Wise Choices” sign to the pictures showing children who are making good choices.
Solomon Shows Wisdom and Justice
Color the Bible picture from today’s lesson.
Decode the Message

You must decode, or figure out, the message from today's lesson. To do this, write the first letter of each thing pictured on the line below it. Then read the message together as a class.

Be Hip

Igno

Are Too

Owl a Lot

Dog
Haman Is Punished!
Color the Bible picture from today’s lesson.
A Path to the Tomb

With a crayon, trace the path from the women to the empty tomb where Jesus once lay.
Jesus Has Risen!
Color the Bible picture from today's lesson.
Tracing a Palm Leaf

Below is a palm leaf like the ones talked about in today’s lesson. Trace the palm leaf and color it. Then color the message and read it together as a class.

HOSANNA to the Son of David!
Jesus Drives Wrongdoers Out of the Temple

Color the Bible picture from today’s lesson.
Searching for Words

We hear about the goodness of the Lord God in today’s lesson. Find each word from the Word Box on each line of the puzzle. Each word has a tracing line around it. Trace each line circle to discover an important message.

**WORD BOX**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE 1</th>
<th>LINE 2</th>
<th>LINE 3</th>
<th>LINE 4</th>
<th>LINE 5</th>
<th>LINE 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THE</td>
<td>LORD</td>
<td>GOD</td>
<td>DOES</td>
<td>NOT</td>
<td>CHANGE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


1. A B C T H E D

2. L O R D P J O

3. E F G O D G I

4. A D O E S E H

5. N O T D Q W S

6. A C H A N G E
God Gives Us Good Leaders

Color the Bible picture from today’s lesson.
A Picture Bible Message

Use the pictures in the Picture Box to read the Bible message below. The message is related to today’s lesson.

PICTURE BOX

Be fair humble kind

and
God Desires Obedience from His People

Color the Bible picture from today’s lesson.
God is pleased and honored when we show fairness to others. Trace the ribbon outline below and then read the Key Verse and message together as a class. You may color the ribbon.

**Ribbon Trace**

God Rewards Fairness!

Psalm 37:3

Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
Good Things Come with Patience
Color the Bible picture from today’s lesson.
A “Be Fair” Drawing

Draw a picture of yourself being kind and fair to someone. Then color it.

BE FAIR TO EVERYONE!
The People Must Wait on God

Color the Bible picture from today's lesson.
Who Is Showing Kindness?

Circle the pictures of children who are showing kindness and fairness. Put an X on the picture of the child who is not showing kindness and fairness.
The People Fail to Honor God
Color the Bible picture from today’s lesson.
Extra Activity 1
What Is Different?
The two pictures below from lesson 2 are the same scene—but there are some differences. Circle what is different in the second picture.
Extra Activity 2
Do you remember what happened in lesson 7? Review the Bible story and then draw a picture of what you think happened in the story.