

leader's guide

BIG MESSAGE 'LIVE'



GOD
and
HIS WORD



Big Picture:

GOD AND HIS WORD

Big Idea:

WHAT I BELIEVE

Big Point:

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

Big Word:

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. HE WAS WITH GOD IN THE BEGINNING. THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE; WITHOUT HIM NOTHING WAS MADE THAT HAS BEEN MADE. JOHN 1:1-3 (NIV)

DOCUMENT PURPOSE

This document is the Leader's Guide for BIG Picture 'God and His Word'. It contains a summary of the BIG Message 'LIVE'. The BIG 'Can You Believe It!?' User Guide document contains all the service element information, including the large group segment of your service.

Make sure you read through and prayerfully study this material prior to your service to be fully prepared to minister to your children.

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Big Message 'Live' Outline

BIG IDEA: WHAT I BELIEVE

BIG POINT: I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

BIG WORD: IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. HE WAS WITH GOD IN THE BEGINNING. THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE; WITHOUT HIM NOTHING WAS MADE THAT HAS BEEN MADE. JOHN 1:1-3 (NIV)

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the conclusion of this lesson children will:

- Discover that God exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- Know that God is totally loving and completely holy.
- Learn that it's important to know what we believe.

BUILD YOUR MESSAGE

Use the outline in the following pages to construct a message that works for you and your children's ministry. Pray, read the scripture references and choose which elements best suit your audience. Then, prepare by gathering any supplies needed.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 27:24, John 14:6, 1 John 4:16

MY MESSAGE PLAN:

SUPPLIES NEEDED:



BIG IDEA: WHAT I BELIEVE

BIG POINT: I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

INTRO WHAT WE BELIEVE MATTERS

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Grated chocolate, milk, honey, drinking chocolate powder, blue food dye, blender, plain containers, labels, a glass or clear cup.

Introduce today's lesson by illustrating how what we believe changes how we see and respond to things. Have the children believe you're making a smoothie using disgusting ingredients, they will respond with "ewwww" and "yuck!" when you drink it. Show that it's important to know what we believe.

Before the lesson place the ingredients into plain containers re-naming each ingredient, labelling them:

Milk - Add blue food dye and label as "Blue gloop"

Grated chocolate - label as "Dirt" or "Soil"

Honey - label as "Jellied eels"

Drinking Chocolate Powder- "Powdered fish scales"

Today, we're learning all about what we believe and why it's so important; believing the right things versus believing the wrong things. In this series we will learn all about the main foundations of what we believe as Christians.

Before we get started, it's time for a snack. I'm going to make a beautiful smoothie for us, you'll love it! First off, I've got some yummy blue gloop I found at home in the garage, in it goes... *(Pour in the dyed milk to the blender.)*

And some beautiful dirt, you'll love it's earthy flavour. *(Add in the grated chocolate.)*

Also, I'm going to add some Jellied eels. They're really good for protein and nutrients, plus they'll taste nice...I hope! *(Add the honey.)*

And finally, some grated fish scales. *(Add the chocolate drinking powder and blend all the ingredients together then pour into a glass.)*

Who thinks they'd like some of this smoothie? Yummy right?! Blue goop, jellied eels, dirt, fish scales. Who believes this will be a good drink?! *(Invite a leader to have a sip.)*

Obviously, it wasn't eels or dirt in the smoothie, that would be gross, don't try it home! The ingredients are all real food ingredients used in our smoothie, but at least for some of you, you believed me as I told you the crazy ingredients we were using. Because you believed me, it changed how you felt towards the smoothie right? Who would want a fish scale and dirt smoothie?! It was really chocolate, honey and milk.

What you believe about something changes how you act towards it and how you respond. It's just like that with our relationship to God, what we believe about Him and who He is, changes how we relate to Him and respond to Him and the world around us. Today we're looking at one big idea of what we believe. It's all about who God is, which we call the Trinity. Today's big point is, "I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

REMINDER: THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO PLAY THE 'BIG STORY' VIDEO TO YOUR GROUP. WE FIND IT BREAKS UP YOUR BIG MESSAGE LIVE REALLY WELL AND KEEPS THE CHILDREN FOCUSED.

STORYTELLING FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Screen images supplied with print material files.

There was once a man named John the Baptist. John was Jesus' cousin, and before Jesus was famous and had begun His ministry, John heard the call of God to begin preaching to the people about the soon coming Messiah. John was an unusual man. In fact, he was one of the most unusual people in the Bible! John lived a very simple life, living in the desert, wearing clothes made of camel skin and a leather belt. Not exactly designer gear! He had wild hair and a big beard and ate...wait for it...insects and honey!

(Show screen image 1- John the Baptist.)

Yes, John ate bugs, locusts to be precise! John had an important mission; he was sent by God to prepare the way for the coming Messiah, Jesus. John told anyone who would listen to change their ways and turn back to God. He invited anyone who had decided to change their lives to show their commitment and be baptised, or washed in the river Jordan. Some people loved his preaching, others not so much. The pharisees and teachers of the law didn't like John. He told them they were liars and hypocrites and that they were far from God.

(Show screen image 2- John Preaching.)

John continued preaching anyway. Although he was popular and had many followers, he was really only pointing the way to Jesus saying, "But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am, so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be His slave and carry His sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

One day Jesus himself, now a fully grown man, lined up with the other followers of John, waiting to be baptised. As Jesus appeared at the front of the line, John looked up and saw Jesus, knew He was the promised Messiah, and tried talking Jesus out of it! John said that he should be baptised by Jesus instead. Jesus insisted that John do it, and so, heading into the river, John baptised Jesus.

(Show screen image 3- Jesus in the water.)

Then, breaking through the clouds above them, a loud voice was heard from heaven saying, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." Then descending from the skies came the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove.

(Show screen image 4 - Three in one.)

This amazing story is an incredible picture of who God is - God the Father - the voice from Heaven, God the Son - Jesus in the river and God the Holy Spirit, descending like a dove. This relationship, an eternal relationship is who God is, three in one, different yet the same, separate yet whole.



BIG IDEA: WHAT I BELIEVE

BIG POINT: I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

OBJECT LESSON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Two clear plastic tubs, water and large jug, sand, two lego men, lego base and lego blocks.

What we believe is really important for us as Christians. It's something that has made a big difference across the centuries for Christians all over the world. Knowing what we believe is very important as followers of Jesus. Believing anything we read, or see or hear can lead to some pretty sticky situations in our lives. We've got to understand that believing in Jesus is the only way to live the life God has planned for us.

Let's look at a cool experiment!

(Set up the two plastic tubs next to each other on a table. In the other tub place the sand, and do the same again with the lego 'tower' but place it on top of the sand.)

Invite two volunteers to build a lego tower on a solid foundation using a lego base. When they are done, they can place their tower into a clear plastic tub.

Next invite two more volunteers to build a sandcastle in the other clear tub, making it as solid as they can.

Now we have two towers with two different types of foundations. One is a solid foundation, firm and true. The other is a soft foundation, made with only sand. Let's place a lego man on each foundation and when we pour in some water, we will see which one will stay standing. Here we go!

(Pour the water gently into the tubs. The man on the Lego blocks will stay standing, but the sand in the other tub will collapse, toppling the lego man.)

Jesus told a story just like this experiment to His disciples to illustrate this exact point- it starts in Matthew 27:24 (NLT), "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

What we believe is important, it makes a big difference. We want to build our lives on solid foundations, knowing the truth of what we believe. If we don't build on solid foundations, when storms come, we may not stay standing.

POINTS

1. THREE IN ONE.

Today's Big Point is all about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. At first this may sound a little confusing. We worship one God, but He is three persons in one, which we call the Trinity.

All throughout the history of the Church, no one has been able to completely explain the Trinity, but we can all agree that just because we don't fully understand it doesn't mean it's not true! We believe in one eternal God who is the Creator of all things. Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV), "The Lord our God, the Lord is one." The Bible speaks of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit as One.

There's many ways to try and describe the Trinity. You could think of three in one like water. Water can be in three different forms - steam, running water and ice. They are all water, the same substance but in three distinct forms. You could think of an apple which has seeds, flesh and skin which all make up one piece of fruit. You could even think of a fidget spinner, remember those? Three parts that stick out, each separate and unique, but when it spins, it looks like one complete unit. None of these examples are perfect, but they do help our minds get an idea of God being three in one.

We believe that the Lord our God is One God who is the Creator of all things. He exists in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God is a union of three persons, each person is fully God and united together as One God.

2. LOVING AND HOLY.

God is love. He wasn't sitting in Heaven lonely and needed to create us to have something to love. Before He created us, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit had perfect relationship and community. God has shown us what His love is like through Jesus. 1 John 4:16 (NLT), "We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them."

God is love, His love is expressed through each person of the trinity. God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each person of the trinity is not higher or more important than the others, each are God, completely loving and completely holy.

3. NEED TO KNOW.

All of our examples about the trinity, or the nature of God all fall short of explaining just how big and mysterious God actually is. To be honest, we can never totally understand everything there is to know about God. The fullness of God is mysterious and unexplainable to our human minds. We are in awe and worship our wonderful God. The mysteries of God fill our imagination to wonder how incredible this universe is.

There is lots we need to know, so much that we can never stop learning about God. More important than knowing ABOUT God is for us to come to KNOW God. John 14:6 (NLT), "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" Jesus doesn't just hold the truth, HE IS THE TRUTH. Jesus doesn't just point the way to the truth like other prophets or leaders, HE IS THE WAY.

Jesus was God in the flesh, walking amongst His creation, showing us who God is, working in the power of the Holy Spirit. All three aspects of the Trinity working together, just like they have for all eternity, sent by the Father in the body of the Son, by the power of the Spirit. I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

