



Sample Curriculum Packet

WHITE THREAD – GOD IS HOLY

Theme: God is the holy, just and gracious creator of all things.

Color Theme: white

Key Scriptures:

- Isaiah 43:15
- Proverbs 17:15
- Titus 2:11

White Thread Memory Verse:

I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.
Isaiah 43:15

Items you will need:

- A white item such as a bandana, balloon, piece of card stock, pom pom, etc.
- White item to give to each student such as a marshmallow, white gum ball or sticker
- Foam poster board prepared with the Gospel Threads presentation (link below)
- Appropriate items to create board

Introduction:

During the Bible teaching time, you will create the Gospel Threads outline on a poster board. As the week progresses, you will add a portion of the story to this illustration in a different color each day.

Ask the students if they have ever heard an adult tell a child, “You ask too many questions.” Why do adults say that? – because kids are naturally curious and inquisitive. They are growing and learning and want to know why things happen and how things work. Encourage the students that today you **want** them to ask questions. You **want** them to be curious. But you want them to be curious about certain questions. Questions such as:

- Who is God?
- Who am I?
- Who is Jesus?
- What does it mean to follow Jesus?
- Why is this important?

These may not be questions that children naturally think about. But tell them that these are very important questions to consider, and that the answers to these questions will affect how they live their lives and what happens to them when they die. Explain to the students that this week you will address each of these questions, why they are important, and why they need to be able to answer these questions.

Begin by holding up your white item (white bandana, balloon, etc.). Ask the students to tell you what they think of when they see the color white. What qualities do they think the color white represents?

Allow students to respond. Answers should include the ideas of clean, holy, pure, righteous, without stain or blemish. While you are having this dialogue, give each child the predetermined white item to remind them of the theme color.

The color white will be used to represent the character of God.

Add in the "GOD" portion of the Gospel Threads presentation as you talk through the information below.

God is holy.

Add the word "holy" inside the white line. Add Isaiah 43:15 under the word "holy" if desired.

Ask someone to read **Isaiah 43:15**:

I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.

Ask the students what they think the word holy means? What does it mean when we say God is holy?

It means that God is without sin and absolutely pure. He is without blemish, impurity, or imperfection.

God is just.

Write or add the word "just" under the word "holy". Add Proverbs 17:15 if desired.

Explain that justice is a legal word that means that an action is right and fair. Ask for two volunteers that will represent and act out two examples of unfair justice:

- 1) the guilty that go unpunished
- 2) the innocent accused of wrong

Have child #1 act out a scenario such as pretending to hit or hurt someone or be unkind in some way. Ask children if they would want to see justice - the child being disciplined for this bad behavior? Guide children to say that they would want the child to receive consequences for his/her behavior, but explain that you are not going to do anything about it. Next, act out with child #2 a scenario of something being stolen. You take the item and put it in your back pocket, but then point the finger at child #2 in an accusatory way. Ask the child to respond in innocence - not knowing anything about the situation. Pretend to arrest or find guilty the innocent child.

Help the students understand that we all want justice. We want the guilty punished (point to the first student) and we want the innocent to be free (point to the second student).

Because God is just, He also wants to see the guilty punished and the innocent set free. This truth can be seen in **Proverbs 17:15**:

**He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the innocent
are both alike, an abomination to the Lord.**

Tell students that because God is holy, he cannot dwell with sin.

And because God is just he must punish sin.

But the Bible also teaches that God is gracious and wants to forgive sin.

God is gracious.

Write or add the word "gracious" under the word "just". Add the reference Titus 2:11.

Read the Scripture: **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people...**

Explain to your students the definition of the word **grace**: it comes from the Greek word "**charis**" which means the **blessing or favor of God, but carries with it the idea that we have done nothing to earn or deserve it.**

So God is gracious and loving to us and shows us favor even though we have not done anything to deserve it or earn it.

End by holding up your white item and reminding students of the character of God: **holy** (without sin, perfect, blameless), **just** (punishment for the guilty and freedom for the innocent) and **gracious** (shows us unmerited grace and favor).

Finally, tell the children that tomorrow they will see a tension between the character of God and the character of man and the problem this creates.

Black Thread: Man is Sinful

Theme: We are each created by God, but we are all corrupted by sin.

Color Theme: black

Key Scriptures:

- Romans 3:12
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23

Black Thread Memory Verse:

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

Items you will need:

For Teaching Time:

- A black item such as a bandana, balloon, piece of card stock, etc.
- Heart stamp and black stamp pad or other small black item
- Poster board with Gospel illustration used from Day 1
- Play money

Bible Lesson:

During the Bible teaching time, you will add to the drawing of the Gospel Threads outline on the poster board.

Begin by reviewing the character of God. Ask students if they remember what we talked about yesterday? Remind them that we talked about God's characteristics and attributes. We learned that God is holy, just, gracious, and loving. Ask students what the theme color was that represented these attributes? That's right, white.

Today, we're going to talk about the fact that man is sinful. So although **...we are each created by God, we are all corrupted by sin.**

What is sin exactly?

Sin is anything we do that does not please God. It can be an action or an attitude. Unfortunately, our sin causes us to rebel against God, be separated from him, and be dead without him

The color black will be used to represent the sinfulness of man.

Hold up your black item.

Ask students to name some ideas that the color black often represents?

Allow students to respond. Answers should include the ideas of sin, darkness, evil.

Add in the "MAN" section of your poster board illustration as you walk through the lesson.

We have each rebelled against God.

Add the word "rebelled" inside the left line. Add the Scripture reference of Romans 3:12 under the word "rebelled" if desired.

Read or ask someone to read **Romans 3:12:**

All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.

Ask the students what the word "rebelled" means? --To rebel means to resist or oppose authority. This verse means that we all rebel and turn aside or away from God and towards ourselves. We have rebelled by doing what we want to do instead of what God wants us to do.

Also, ask the children to notice who turns aside or rebels against God. The verse we just read says ALL. No one does good, not even one.

We are separated from God.

Write the word "separated" under the word "rebelled". Add Romans 3:23 if desired.

Romans 3:23 - "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

Yesterday we talked about the holiness of God. By definition, God's holiness means that He cannot dwell with sin. Since we are sinners, our sin causes us to be separated from God and His glory.

Point out to students that because our sin separates us from God, two lines are drawn on the board that show a big gap or chasm. Reinforce the idea that these lines represent a separation between God and man.

We are dead without God.

Write the word "dead" under the word "separated". Add Romans 6:23 if desired.

Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If time permits act out an illustration to demonstrate the principle of wage earning. Ask for a student volunteer. Tell the student that you want to "hire" him to work for you. Tell him you have a ditch that needs to be dug and agree to pay that student an agreed upon amount of money when the pretend ditch is dug. Let your volunteer "work" at digging the ditch for a few minutes. When finished, give "worker" his wage in pretend money. Have student sit back down.

Following the demonstration, ask the students to explain what wages are? Wages are payment we receive for work we've done, right? Wages are something we've earned.

In this case, the Bible says that the wages, or payment, that we've earned for our sin is death. The death that we earned is not only a physical death, but also an eternal, spiritual death.

Review:

So we have **rebelled** against God by putting what we want before what God wants, we are **separated** from God due to our sin, and we are **dead** without God because the punishment for our sin is death.

Hand out the small black item or stamp each student's hand with the black stamp to remind them of the theme color. Review the idea that the black color stands for the fact that "Man is sinful."

Finally, conclude by asking if there a solution for our problem? Yes! God didn't leave us to die; Hallelujah! He did something to fix our sin problem! Tomorrow we will talk about God's sin solution!

Red Thread: Christ is Enough

Theme: Jesus alone is able to remove our sin and restore us to God.

Color Theme: RED

Key Scriptures:

- I John 3:5
- I Peter 2:24
- Revelation 1:18

Red Thread Memory Verse:

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

Items you will need:

- A red item such as a bandana, balloon, piece of card stock, etc.
- A small red item such as a stamp, sticker or gum ball
- Poster board with Gospel Threads illustration used from Days 1 and 2
- Small, smooth black rocks - one per child; or if you have too many students, have 1 or 2 representative rocks
- Small bag with handles for holding the rocks
- Cross (1-2 feet in height)

Bible Lesson:

During the Bible teaching time, you will add to the drawing of the Gospel Threads outline on the poster board.

Ask students if they remember the previous color themes and what they represent. White Thread - God is Holy. Black Thread - Man is sinful.

Hold up the red item you have that represents today's color theme. Tell students that **RED** is the theme color for the day, and you want them to listen and see if they can figure out why.

Review the dilemma established from Day 1 and Day 2 teaching: *Refer to the presentation board as you go through the following points.*

- God is holy, just and gracious
- Man is sinful and rebellious
- Man's sin has created a barrier between man and God
- Because of man's sin, man cannot get to God
- And because of God's holiness, God cannot dwell with man
- We need a bridge (point to illustration) - a way across the gap

Is there a solution?

Tell the children you are going to look in the Bible, God's true Word, to see if God has a solution for our sin problem.

Read the following verse aloud:

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, **Christ died for the **ungodly**.”**

Rom. 5:6

Ask the students who the ungodly are? The answer is **us**. We know this from the verses we read yesterday: we are ALL sinners and we all have turned aside from God.

This verse says that **Christ** died for the ungodly. Why Christ? Let's see why He is the one that could die for us.

He lived the life we could not live.

Add the word "Life" in the middle portion of the illustration and write the Scripture reference I John 3:5 if desired.

You know that he appeared to take away sin, and in him there is no sin.

I John 3:5

Who is the “he” in this verse? Jesus

Was Jesus a sinner? Did He have sins? No, this verse says that in him there is no sin. **Jesus lived a perfect life.** This verse also says He appeared to take away sin. So whose sins did he take away? Ours!

But how does Jesus take away our sins?

The next verse we're going to read answers that question for us.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

I Peter 2:24

WE should have been on that cross, because they are OUR sins, but HE died instead of us.

So, not only did Jesus live the life we could not live (a perfect and sinless life), but the Bible also says that

He died the death we deserved to die.

Add the word "Death" to the illustration. Add the reference I Peter 2:24 if desired.

Optional Illustration:

Tell students that you are going to illustrate what Jesus did for us another way.

At this time, hand out the small black stones - one stone per child.

Ask students to look at the stones they are holding and think about a sin they have committed. We are going to let the black stones represent our sins.

Now ask students to place their black rock - representing their sin - in the bag you have.

As you pick up the stones, you might mention different types of sins that Jesus died for: lack of love, unkindness, selfishness, pride, jealousy, apathy, etc. Also, make it personal. "(Student name) - Jesus died for your sins." Make sure students understand that the rocks represent OUR various sins.

So the black rocks in this bag represent my sins and your sins. The verses we read said that Jesus took our sins on Himself when he died on the cross so that we could live and be healed or forgiven of our sins.

Place the bag of rocks on the cross while saying this.

The verse we read a few minutes ago ended with this line: "By His wounds you have been healed." Ask the students now if they can guess why the **color for today is red**? It represents His blood that was shed for us.

Explain to the children, however, that many people have died, so why is Jesus' death more important than anyone else's?

Because of all of the people that have ever died, Jesus is the only one that didn't stay dead!!

Add the word "Resurrection" on the illustration under the word "death". Add the reference Rev. 1:18 if desired.

I died, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Rev. 1:18

Jesus rose from the dead and conquered sin and death. He is resurrected and He is alive!

In other words,

He conquered the enemy we cannot conquer.

No other religion in this world is founded on a risen Savior. And this is a very important point.

Christianity is the ONLY faith in which God came to earth in the form of a man - a man who lived a perfect, sinless life. (*Point to the word "LIFE" on the board.*) He then sacrificed and substituted His life for ours. That means we should have been on the cross, but He took our place. (*Point to the word "DEATH*). But three days later he rose from the grave and conquered sin and death. He is resurrected! (*Point to the word "RESURRECTION".*) Today, He is in Heaven praying for us to the Father.

For all these reasons.....

Jesus ALONE is able to remove our sin and restore us to God.

So the cross became the bridge!!! It is the way God came to us!

Place the cross on the board and point from the "GOD" side to the "MAN" side.

When Jesus took our sin on himself and died on the cross, he satisfied the wrath of God and paid the punishment for our sin.

And the cross is also the bridge for us to come to God!!! *Point from the "MAN" side to the "GOD" side.*

John 14:6 says:

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father **except through me.**

Jesus, through the cross, is the ONLY way we can be reconciled to God.

So **here you are** (*Add "person" next to the word "MAN" on the presentation board.*) on this side.

What can you do to cross to the other side?

If you're standing at the edge of a river by a bridge and want to get to the other side, what are you going to do?

Walk across the bridge, right?

So the question is, HOW do we cross the bridge to God?

Tomorrow we are going to talk about HOW to cross the bridge from death to life.

End by handing out the small red item you have for each student. While you do this, reinforce the idea that red stands for Jesus' shed blood on the cross. Jesus is enough! He alone is able to remove our sin and restore us to God by living the life we could not live, dying the death we deserved to die, and conquering the enemy we cannot conquer.

Green Thread: Faith is Necessary

Theme: We can be restored to God only through faith in Jesus.

Color Theme: Green

Key Scriptures:

- Mark 1:15
- Romans 10:9

Green Thread Memory Verse:

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.
Mark 1:15

Items you will need:

- A green item such as a bandana, balloon, piece of card stock, etc.
- A small green item such as a stamp, sticker or gum ball
- Poster board with Gospel Threads illustration used from Days 1-3

Bible Lesson:

During the Bible teaching time, you will add to the drawing of the Gospel Threads outline on the poster board.

Hold up the green item you have that represents today's color theme. Begin by reminding students that yesterday we ended the lesson with our "person" standing at the edge of the gap. We talked about the fact that the only way to get to God was to cross over the bridge - the cross bridge - that God built. But we asked the question, "How do we cross that bridge? That's what we're going to talk about today:

That we can be restored to God only through faith in Jesus.

So again, let's get our answers from God's true Word for how we walk across that bridge:

“the time has come... The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Mark 1:15

So the first step to crossing the cross bridge to God is to repent of our sins. But what does it mean to repent?

Repent means to turn from our sin and ourselves.

Add the word "Turn" to the Gospel Presentation outline.

Explain to students that turning from our sins means we 1) recognize that we are sinners and 2) feel sorrow or sadness over our sin and 3) ask God, through His Spirit, to help us turn from our sin and our self.

To illustrate:

Everyone stand up. We're going to pretend like we're driving a car. Get in your car and turn around with your back to me. Where does it look like you're headed? Toward the wall/door/window/tree? But wait! You want to get to ME, so what do you need to do? STOP! TURN your car around! You're going the wrong way!

Now, drive toward me.

This is a picture of how it is with our sin. We may think we're headed in the right direction - toward things that satisfy us, but when we read His Word we realize that our sins are actually keeping us from God. We need to STOP, turn from those sins and turn to God.

That's what it means to repent and turn to God.

Now we're going to add a second word to our board: TRUST

Add the word "Trust" to the outline.

So what about trust? What does that mean?

We trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

To illustrate:

Who trusts me? Raise your hand if you think you trust me to do what I say.

Now keep your hand up if you want to PROVE to me that you trust me.

Choose a volunteer to participate in a "trust fall". Although you will do this from standing on ground level only (no chairs or ladders!), it is probably still best to have a second person help you with this. A "trust fall" is a when a person keeps their body straight and falls backward without trying to catch themselves. Practice this technique beforehand with different sized people and make sure you have gained accuracy in catching people with a trust fall.

Bring the person up to the front and tell him/her to turn their back to you.

When you say, "fall," tell your volunteer to fall **backward** and TRUST that you will catch them. (BE SURE YOU DO!!!)

In this illustration, you were trusting that someone would catch you when they said they would. But what are we trusting God for? What are we trusting Him to do?

1) We are trusting Him to be our Savior. It means we believe that He created us, loves us, died to forgive our sins and wants a relationship with us that will last forever! Trusting Him is believing all these things even though we can't see him.

2) We are trusting Him to be our Lord. This means we each have a decision to make. We can each choose to keep "driving" toward a life focused on sin and self or we can each turn our car around and go toward God. How do we do this?

I can sum this up with one word: **OBEY**

This means we **gladly submit our lives to Him**. This is agreeing to come under His authority and make choices and decisions about our lives based on what pleases God. It means we do whatever He wants us to do, not what we want to do.

Let's see if we can think of an example.

Think of your favorite thing – a toy, a pet, a shirt, something to eat....

Would you be willing to give that up if God told you to? I'm not saying He'll want you to give that up, but **WOULD YOU?** Truly stop and think for a moment.

If you would, that's saying He's the most important thing in your life. And God deserves to be the most important!!

So will you walk across the bridge that God sent and trust Him with your life?

How do we do that? The Bible says,

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

This means you pray. You simply tell God you're sorry for your sin and that you believe He died to pay the penalty for your sins. Ask Him to help you trust Him and obey Him. If you do this - truly believing - you will be saved. And you will cross over from death to life.

Move the “person” on the presentation board over from the “MAN” side to the “GOD” side.

That's what the **green represents**? That **faith is necessary** to have **new life in Christ** – like the new green leaves on a tree. If you repent and trust in Jesus you have new life!

End with a prayer of commitment to Christ, inviting students to respond by faith to God's call. Follow up with students as appropriate for your group and your context. After the prayer, give each student the small green item you planned as a reminder of the day's teaching.

Remind them that Faith is necessary for new life in Christ.

YELLOW THREAD: ETERNITY IS URGENT

Theme: Our eternal destiny hinges on our response to Jesus.

Color Theme: Yellow

Key Scriptures:

- 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9
- Philippians 3:20

Yellow Thread Memory Verse:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Items you will need:

- An item representing each previous Gospel color "thread": white, black, red and green
- A yellow item such as a bandana, balloon, piece of card stock, etc.
- A small yellow item such as a stamp, sticker or gum ball
- Poster board with Gospel Threads illustration used from Days 1-4

Bible Lesson:

During the Bible teaching time, you will add to the drawing of the Gospel Threads outline on the poster board. For instructions on the Gospel Threads presentation board, go [HERE](#).

This lesson is intentionally short. Many BYBC or VBS opportunities often only have four days planned for teaching. As a result, this lesson is intended to be a review day with an opportunity to respond at the conclusion.

This lesson can be taught in one of two ways:

- 1) If you only have four teaching days, add on the response section of this lesson to the end of the Day 4 teaching.
- 2) If you have a fifth day of teaching available, use this lesson as a stand-alone lesson by adding the new content on to the end of a review time.

The following are two suggestions for how to review the Gospel Threads.

- 1) Review from the presentation board used previously throughout the week. Be sure and hold up the representative colored item for each point as

you teach through the main tenants of the Gospel. Download a summary of these points [HERE](#).

2) Use the [Sewing Gospel Threads Worksheet](#) as a form of review. The goal at the end of the review is for students to be able to at least recite the Gospel colors and their corresponding points.

Short version:

- White: God is holy
- **Black: Man is sinful**
- **Red: Jesus is enough**
- **Green: Faith is necessary**
- **Yellow: Eternity is urgent**

If possible:

- White: God is the holy, just and gracious Creator of all things.
- **Black: We are each created by God, but we are all corrupted by sin.**
- **Red: Jesus alone is able to remove our sin and restore us to God.**
- **Green: We can be restored to God only through faith in Jesus.**
- **Yellow: Our eternal destiny hinges on our response to Jesus.**

When you reach the yellow section of the presentation, hold up the yellow item you have that represents this day's color theme.

Begin by praying that the words spoken and the Scripture that is read would penetrate hearts. Pray for the Spirit to work through the story of Lazarus to help children realize the urgency of eternity.

Read Luke 16:19-28.

The Rich Man and Lazarus

19 “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. **20** And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, **21** who desired to be

fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side.[f] The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.24 And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' 27 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— 28 for I have five brothers[g]—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.'

Tell children that this story is why you are here. To inform them - maybe even warn them - that there is an eternal destiny for all of us. And that

Our eternal destiny hinges on our response to Jesus.

Add the word "eternity" to the Gospel Threads presentation board.

Tell students that the passage you just read to them teaches, along with other passages in the Bible, that we are each faced with two possible eternal destinies.

1) Hell is a dreadful reality for those who turn from Jesus.

Read I Thessalonians 1:8-9

8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord

Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might

Help students understand that part of the suffering of hell is that we will be eternally separated from God. Also tell students that you do not give them this information to make them afraid, but simply because you want them to know the truth and have an opportunity to respond to the truth. Help children understand that our decisions have consequences. However, God offers us another option.

2) Heaven is a glorious reality for those who trust in Jesus.

Read **Philippians 3:20**.

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

This verse tells us that our citizenship - where we live and belong - is in heaven. Other places in the Bible give us more information about heaven. They tell us that in heaven we will have no more suffering. There are no tears there because there is no pain or sorrow. There is no sickness because our bodies will all be healed. But the most wonderful thing about eternity is that we will spend it in the presence of Christ and God! It is a peaceful, perfect place. So,

Will you TURN FROM Jesus or will you TRUST IN Jesus?

Add response card to board.

Remind students that the way to trust in Jesus is to believe in Him as Savior and commit to Him as Lord. Lead students in prayer of commitment if the context is appropriate.

Conclude by handing out a small yellow item and reminding students that eternity is urgent and requires a response from each of them.