



Guide to 'The Biblical Story' PowerPoint

SLIDE ONE: Title Slide

SLIDE TWO: Creation

SLIDE ORDER

Click one: 'Creation' - our understanding that God is the 'author of Creation', whether through scientific or other means

Click two: 'The kingdom is established' - at the beginning of our Biblical Story, God, the king, establishes his Kingdom on Earth

Click three: 'Genesis 1:26-27' - at the beginning of the Bible (as well as elsewhere (John 1, for instance), we find accounts of how God acts as a Creator

Click four: fade

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Why do you think the verse says 'let US make...'?
- Where do you see evidence of God's created kingdom?

SLIDE THREE: Fall

SLIDE ORDER

Click one: 'Fall' - our understanding that humanity turned away from God - each of us, at some point, has 'fallen' from the highest of our aspirations

Click two: 'There is rebellion in the kingdom' - right from the beginning of our Biblical journey, the citizens of God's kingdom have decided they know better than the king himself, and chosen to rebel.

Click three: 'Genesis 3:6-7' - this ancient account demonstrates the universal experience of making the wrong choice, and then feeling the consequences of our decision. God, earlier in Genesis, has told the man and woman not to eat the fruit.

Click four: fade

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Why is rebelling against God like the graffiti on this slide?
- Is it more important *what* the event is that is described, or *why* the woman and her husband choose to disobey the rule?
- Where else in the Bible do we find people rebelling in God's kingdom? Where in our lives do we choose to rebel against God?

SLIDE FOUR: Redemption Initiated

SLIDE ORDER

Click one: 'Redemption Initiated' - because God loves humanity so much, right from our first 'fall', he reaches out in friendship, offering us a better way than the one we have chosen.

Click two: 'The king chooses Israel' - The king will not give up on establishing his kingdom. He chooses the Jewish people to follow him closely, in order to share the richness of being part of his Kingdom with all other tribes and peoples throughout history.

Click three: 'Genesis 17:5-6' - Abram demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to God, allowing God to use him as the forefather of this kingdom - as demonstrated by this promise to Abram, when God commissions him and changes his name to 'Abraham'

<you might like to pause to discuss here>

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Why might the image used remind us of God's promises to Abraham? (in Genesis 22:17, God promises to make Abraham's descendents as numerous as the sand on the seashore)
- Does the Bible passage suggest that Abraham and the Israelites are the only people God is choosing to bless, or does he want to extend his kingdom as far and wide as possible?
- Have you ever experienced feeling 'chosen' by God? Do you believe God has a purpose for you?

SLIDE ORDER

Click four: fade

Click five: circles appear, followed by 'a people' and 'Exodus' - as part of any kingdom, the culture is formed by their shared experience as a people... God the King wants his people to follow him in a unified way.

Click six: 'Exodus 20:1-2' - As we move through the Biblical story (still right at the beginning), we meet one of the most defining events for the Israelites - their rescue from captivity, and the commandments that they are given to follow - this defines them as a people... notice that this 'rulegiving' - the Law (or 'Torah') extends through the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

<you might like to pause to discuss here>

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Why might the image of footprints demonstrate something about the redemption that God is initiating?
- How do you think the 10 Commandments apply to our society today?
- Do you look back on what God has done previously in your own journey of faith?

SLIDE ORDER

Click seven: fade

Click eight: a circle appears, followed by 'a land' - once their shared identity is shaped by a way of living, the wandering Kingdom is ready to settle in a particular land.

Click nine: 'Joshua 1:3-4' - the people are now ready to move into the land that was promised to them - notice that this will bring the Israelites into conflict with other tribes (the

issue of land rights and sovereign entitlement is still a theological and political hot potato yet to be resolved)

<you might like to pause to discuss here>

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Again, look at the image and consider the relationship between feet and God's promises - where else do we find references to feet? (Isaiah 52:7 - 'How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news' / John 13 - Jesus washes disciples' feet / Ephesians 6:15 - 'feet fitted with readiness to spread the Gospel')
- What would you consider the differences between requiring a 'land' in ancient times and more recently?
- Do you think God wanted Israel to come into conflict with others?

SLIDE ORDER

Click ten: fade

Click eleven: 'heart, followed by 'a relationship', followed by all the remaining books of the Old Testament - The King is not establishing a kingdom simply for the sake of it - he is doing so in order that he might have a caring relationship with his subjects, and that they might have a good relationship with one another. The rest of the Old Testament books, in different ways, express this evolving and shifting relationship in a huge variety of different ways - through song, poetry, prophecy, history, fables and more.

Click twelve: 'Jeremiah 24:7' - in all this variety of literature, books and authors, we can be sure that the main message that comes through is that God longs for his people to have a new heart and to remain in close relationship with him.

Click thirteen: fade

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Who are your heroes (either from the Bible or otherwise) of having a deep relationship with God?
- What, practically, are the steps we can take to offer God our hearts more completely?

SLIDE FIVE: Redemption Accomplished

SLIDE ORDER

Click one: 'Redemption accomplished' - our journey of restoration, demonstrated by the successes and setbacks of the people of Israel, is completed and extended beyond Israel with the mission of Jesus

Click two: 'Coming of the King' - not satisfied with merely instructing his Kingdom how to live, the King decides to live as an ordinary citizen to demonstrate the fullness of life... we read about the coming of the king in the Gospel accounts of Jesus

Click three: 'Matthew 1:22-23' - The New Testament is not an 'add on' to the Old Testament, but instead the two inform each other - here, we can see how God's arrival on earth as a baby child was prophesied by Isaiah

<you might like to pause to discuss here>

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Would you recognise the person in the picture? Was Jesus recognizable in the way he came to Earth - do you think people were expecting him to be a small, humble child?
- When you think of God as King, do you remember that he has experienced the same temptations and difficulties as you?
- When do you find it most easy / difficult to recognise that 'God is with us'?

SLIDE ORDER

Click four: Incarnation image fades, resurrection image appears, 'the Resurrection of the King' - the way in which the King demonstrates to live is so threatening to some of his subjects that they try to destroy him - his reputation, his intellect, and ultimately, his very life. But they haven't counted on the fact that the King *is* God, and even death can't beat him - he is resurrected 3 days later.

Click five: 'Mark 16:5-6' - Jesus' mission didn't stop at the Cross or death... his disciples had expected to find him dead in the tomb, but instead his life had continued beyond the tomb.

Click six: fade

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- What do you think the image of a sunrise might say about Jesus' resurrection?
- Where do you think you need a resurrection experience in your life?

Slide Six: Mission Established

SLIDE ORDER

Click one: 'Mission established' - Following the experience of Christ, his disciples and friends couldn't contain or restrict the joy and new life they had experienced - passing this on to others in 'mission'

Click two: 'Spreading the news of the king' - As we know from the beginning of the story, the kingdom is not just for those who are already citizens, but for everybody - now the kingdom is injected with the new life of the king, the citizens go to other kingdoms to share the good news.

Click three: 'Acts 3:6-7' - In the book of Acts (a continuation of Luke's Gospel), we learn about the ways (acts) that the early disciples shared the good news - not just by talking about Jesus, but by performing miracles and the witness of their lives changing.

<you might like to pause to discuss>

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Would you be willing to stand up at a microphone and share your experience of Jesus? If not, what's stopping you?
- What have you got in your possession (like Peter) to share with other people?
- What else do you think your church or school could do to share the news of the king?

SLIDE ORDER

Click four: sharing news image fades, living image appears, the Letters are listed, 'Living the news of the King' - the ways that the King has shown his subjects to live are so radical that the citizens of the kingdom need new advice to build on the old advice about how to live - which laws are the most important and how to interpret the old laws.

Click five: '1 Corinthians 9:19-20' - St Paul, along with some of the other early church leaders, wrote advice to the early Christians to demonstrate to them how to live as citizens of God's kingdom - notice how here he's talking about becoming a slave to all, meaning he's keen to demonstrate that this new kingdom is available to Jews and non-Jews (you can read further in your Bible to see all the group Paul talks about)

Click six: fade

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- How does the image of a light shining on the Scriptures symbolise the early Christian practice of 'interpretation'?
- Where do you find your guidance in how to live life?
- What might a modern day version of 'becoming a slave to all' look like in our lives?

SLIDE SEVEN: Redemption Completed

SLIDE ORDER:

Click one: 'Redemption completed' - The Bible doesn't stop in the past, but (as it were) we are still living and working in the anticipation of its fulfilment - not just redemption and forgiveness for us as individuals, but a restored, just and balanced global society

Click two: 'The return of the King' - As the citizens work towards sharing and living the news of the Kingdom, the Kingdom is restored to what it was established to be right at the beginning of the story... the King living among the people, with order, peace and love reigning.

Click three: 'Revelation 21:3-5' - Revelation is one of the clearest examples of 'apocalyptic' literature in the Bible, meaning that it looks at the 'hidden things' (other texts include the book of Daniel and others)... its place at the end of our Biblical journey emphasises its role as providing future hope for all Christians - a hope where death, suffering and pain will pass away as Jesus returns.

Click four: fade

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- How might the notion of 'still being in the process of redemption' help explain some of the suffering and pain that we experience?
- What can we do to help restore the Kingdom of God in creation and society around us?
- Do we have hope in Jesus? How often do we pray for hope?

SLIDE EIGHT: Credits