



# LESSON 1 | God

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 1–2; Luke 3

**Key Verse:** 2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIV): “May the grace shown by the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. May the love that God has given us be with you. And may the sharing of life brought about by the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

**Key Question:** Who is God?

**Key Idea:** I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Resources:**

- Video 1, “God”
- *Believe for Kids*, chapter 1, “Our Great God”

## Master Supplies List

- Believe for Kids*
- Video 1, “God”
- DVD player
- Lined paper
- Pencils or pens
- Family Page (one per student)

## Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in **STEP 3 | Explore More**:

- OPTION 2:** White construction paper, 12” x 18” (one per student); three small metal rings; hole punch; crayons and/or markers; lined paper; pencils or pens; scissors; glue sticks
- OPTION 3:** Two sets of cards numbered 1–9; whiteboard and dry-erase markers (or chalkboard and chalk, or chart paper and markers); list of the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; see Galatians 5:22–23) numbered 1 through 9; Bibles

## STEP 1 | Come Together (10 min)

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**Supplies:** Paper (one piece per student); pencils (one per student)

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- GATHER the students.
- SAY, I want you to imagine that Jesus is coming here to our town today. You have been given the important task of announcing his arrival. What will you say?
- INSTRUCT the students to write a short message announcing the coming of Jesus. Encourage them to think about what they know about who Jesus is and include that in their writing.
- ALLOW students to share their announcements aloud in their best “official” voice.
- SAY, Jesus did have a messenger to announce his arrival. It was John the Baptist. John did not look or sound like an official messenger. He lived, dressed, and taught differently than what people were used to, but he spoke God’s truth. Eventually, John the Baptist was killed because of his faith in Jesus.

### KEY VERSE

- REVIEW this week’s key verse. You may want to repeat the verse slowly a few times until the students are able to say the verse from memory.

2 Corinthians 13:14: “May the grace shown by the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. May the love that God has given us be with you. And may the sharing of life brought about by the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

## STEP 2 | Hear the Story (15 min)

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**Supplies:** Video 1, “God”; DVD player; *Believe for Kids*

**Teacher Prep:** Have the video set and ready to play.

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### WATCH VIDEO 1 / READ CHAPTER 1

- WATCH video 1, “God,” included with this curriculum.
  - **NOTE:** You may choose to read chapter 1 from *Believe for Kids* in addition to, or instead of, watching the video.

### REVIEW JOHN THE BAPTIST

- ASK, What were some things people believed about John the Baptist? (He was one of the prophets who came back to life; he was the Messiah)

- ASK, Who was John the Baptist? (Speaker, teacher, baptizer, messenger)
- ASK, What were some of the teachings of John the Baptist? (The long-awaited King would arrive soon; turn from your sin, or repent; live God’s way—be kind, generous, and fair; Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world)
- ASK, What does baptism represent? (The decision to follow God’s way of living; a believer’s “death, burial and resurrection,” being buried with Christ and raised to new life)

#### REVIEW THE TRINITY

- ASK, What is the role of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in this chapter? (God the Father says he is pleased with Jesus; God the Son was baptized on earth as a man; God the Holy Spirit came down like a dove on Jesus and gave him power for ministry)
- PRAY with the students, thanking God for brave, faithful believers like John the Baptist, who helped spread the good news of Jesus.

## STEP 3 | Explore More

Choose from these activity options, depending on your available time frame, to help students explore the lesson further.

### Option 1: The Role of Father (10 min)

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**Supplies:** Two hula hoops; three blank letter-size blank papers; markers; scissors

**Teacher Prep:** Ahead of time, on the three blank sheets of paper, write the words “God the Father,” “Earthly Father,” and “Both,” one title per sheet. These are the labels.

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- LAY the two hula hoops on the floor so they overlap slightly, representing a Venn diagram. Place the labels on them so “Both” is above the overlapping section.
- ASK students to name some traits that describe God the Father, an earthly father, or both.
- WRITE students’ answers on a sentence strip with a marker and trim it to size.
- INSTRUCT students to set their idea in the correct section of the Venn diagram.
- LEAD students in a time of prayer for their fathers (or father figures), that their fathers would show the qualities of our loving heavenly Father.

## Option 2: Jesus the Son (20 min)

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**Supplies:** White construction paper, 12" x 18" (one per student); three small metal rings; hole punch; crayons and/or markers; lined paper; pencils or pens; scissors; glue sticks

**Teacher Prep:** Punch three holes along the edge of each paper so they can be fastened together into a book using the rings.

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- **GATHER** the students and hand out the construction paper.
- **INSTRUCT** the students to write the phrase “Jesus is ...” at the top (vertical alignment) of their paper. They can use large, colorful lettering.
- **ASK** the students how they would finish that phrase. Use a chalkboard or whiteboard to brainstorm as a class and generate some discussion. Once you have several ideas, ask the students to choose one of those ideas to expand on their own paper.
- **INSTRUCT** the students to finish the thought by writing on lined paper. Encourage them to write an explanation that is more than one sentence.
- **INSTRUCT** the students to trim around their writing and glue it to the bottom of the construction page, leaving the space in the middle blank.
- **ALLOW** the students to create an illustration in the blank middle section of their page.
- **ASSEMBLE** all the pages into a big book. Schedule a time to have your students read the book aloud to younger classes.
- **NOTE:** Creating a cover for the book is a great task for early finishers.

## Option 3: The Holy Spirit (20 min)

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**Supplies:** Two sets of cards numbered 1–9; whiteboard and dry-erase markers (or chalkboard and chalk, or chart paper and markers); list of the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; see Galatians 5:22–23) numbered 1 through 9; Bibles

**Teacher Prep:** Use index cards to create two sets of cards numbered 1–9, using a red marker for one set and a blue marker for the other (18 cards total); write the numbers 1–9 on the whiteboard in a vertical line.

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- **CHOOSE** a student to read Galatians 5:22–23 aloud to the class.
- **EXPLAIN,** Just like orange trees produce oranges and lemon trees grow lemons, the Holy Spirit produces “fruit” in our lives. This fruit is basically ways of acting that reflect God. The Bible calls these the “fruit of the Spirit.”

- GIVE one student the set of numbered cards to draw from (without showing the other students).
- EXPLAIN, The number of the card (1–9) represents one fruit of the Spirit. A red number means “draw,” and a blue number means “act.”
- SAY, You’ll need to have your Bible open to Galatians 5:22–23 so you can count out which fruit of the Spirit corresponds to each number. We’ll go in the order that Galatians says: 1 = love, 2 = joy, etc.
- GATHER the class into a large group and have them do the activity as the whole class. As each new fruit is introduced, have the student write the name of the fruit of the Spirit next to its number on the board.
- INSTRUCT the students to either draw or act out their fruit of the Spirit according to the card so the other students can guess what it is.
- INSTRUCT them to do this in pairs if there’s extra time, or you can have students draw the fruit of the Spirit (similar to Pictionary) instead of acting it out.
- CONTINUE until all students have had at least one turn.

### Option 4: Praise and Worship (15 min)

“Doxology (Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow),”

by David Crowder and Thomas Ken

© 2004 by sixsteps Music, worshiptogether.com songs

CCLI #4255578

“Father I Adore You,” by Terrye Coelho

© 1972 by CCCM Music/Maranatha! Music

CCLI #26557

### Option 5: Act It Out (15 min)

#### Baptism

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Assign roles to students for them to act out. No special props are needed. The “voice from heaven” character can use a rolled-up piece of construction paper to amplify his/her voice.

#### Characters

Alex	} students	Voice from heaven	John the Baptist
Taylor		Pastor	Crowd of people
Sam		Aunt or Uncle	Jesus

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**Sam:** Hey, Alex. Where were you yesterday? I stopped by to hang out and you weren’t home.

**Alex:** My family stayed for a lunch after church. Some people were baptized, and there was a party for them.

**Taylor:** Yeah, and guess who was baptized? My aunt and uncle!

*(PASTOR is baptizing the AUNT and UNCLE on stage right)*

**Uncle:** I confess that Jesus is Lord and I commit to following him faithfully.

**Pastor:** I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Sam:** Was it weird?

**Taylor:** I thought it was really cool. I'm glad my aunt and uncle have decided to follow Jesus.

**Alex:** And people have been getting baptized for thousands of years.

**Voice from heaven:** A man named John began traveling throughout the wilderness in Israel, reminding people of the prophets' promises. People came from all over Israel to hear John speak. He baptized those who decided to return to God's ways by dunking them in a river—this was a symbol of their decision. Because of this, he became known as John the Baptist.

**John the Baptist:** *(speaking from stage left)* Don't forget the words of the prophets. God has promised to send us a king who will rule forever. This king will arrive soon.

**Person in the crowd:** What shall we do to prepare for this king?

**John the Baptist:** Be kind, generous, and fair to one another. Turn away from sin. Turn to God and be baptized.

**Person in the crowd:** Then what will happen?

**John the Baptist:** I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come ... and he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**Taylor:** It's not just Jesus' followers who were baptized.

**Alex:** Even Jesus was baptized!

**Voice from heaven:** The next day, John saw his cousin Jesus coming toward him to be baptized.

**John the Baptist:** *(off to the side, pointing)* Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world! This is the one I was telling you about!

**Jesus:** I'm here to be baptized.

**John the Baptist:** I'm the one who needs to be baptized by you!

**Voice from heaven:** But Jesus insisted. So John agreed to baptize Jesus in the Jordan River.

**Sam:** Wow! It sounds pretty important!

**Taylor:** It is. It's a way for people to show their commitment to God.

**Alex:** It's also when the Holy Spirit first came down from heaven.

**Voice from heaven:** He lowered Jesus into the water, and when Jesus came back up, he saw the Spirit of God coming down from the sky like a dove, and it landed on him. Then he heard a voice from heaven say, "This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him."

**Taylor:** So you can see it was a pretty special day for us to celebrate.

**Alex:** Next time you can come along and see for yourself.

**Sam:** Okay, cool. Come on guys, let's go to your house and hang out!

## STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)

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**Supplies:** Family Page (one per student)

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- **GIVE** each student a copy of this week's Family Page.
- **SAY**, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—or what we call the Trinity.
- **HAVE** students practice telling you about the three parts of our one God.
- **REVIEW** today's story and key idea with the video scripts or *Believe for Kids* as you wait for the students to get picked up.
- **HAVE** students practice saying today's key verse from memory.
- **MAKE** sure each student remembers to take home any activity sheets or craft projects and the Family Page.

# FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 1: God

**Bible Basis:** Luke 3

**Key Verse:** 2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIRV): “May the grace shown by the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. May the love that God has given us be with you. And may the sharing of life brought about by the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

**Key Question:** Who is God?

**Key Idea:** I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Resource:** *Believe for Kids*, chapter 1, “Our Great God”

## How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from *Believe for Kids* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

## Table Talk

1. Have you ever seen someone being baptized? If so, what was it like?
2. What do you think it is that prompts someone’s decision to become baptized?
3. What are some things that you like about God the Father? God the Son? God the Holy Spirit?
4. What’s something you can ask the Holy Spirit to help you with this week?

## Living Faith

### Option 1

Encourage your child to make a music video of Jesus’ baptism. Your child will need to choose an appropriate song (either with lyrics or instrumental) and represent the story artistically, without speaking. Recruit siblings to help act out different parts. Tap your child’s creativity when it comes to elements like

the river or the dove. Record the final performance and share it electronically with friends and family.

### Option 2

Have your child pretend to be a news reporter or journalist and interview family or friends. Have your child ask different people about their baptism (whether they were old enough to remember it, what it means to them, or whether they will get baptized if they haven't been) and then write it into a newspaper article or blog.

### Extra Mile

- Work together to memorize this week's Bible verse. Each day of the week, practice the verse in a different way, such as writing it, typing it, saying it out loud, meditating on it, or learning it in sign language.
- This week, your child learned that John the Baptist taught people to live God's way—and that means being kind, generous, and fair. Celebrate these qualities in your family by having your child create a “brag board.” Use a piece of poster paper to create a three-column chart labeled “Kind,” “Generous,” and “Fair.” Encourage your child's creativity in decorating the board using markers, computer printouts, stickers, family photos, etc. Be on the lookout for examples of this godly behavior in your family that you can post on the board together. The only rule? You can't brag about yourself!
- Create a family baptism scrapbook. Gather photos, certificates, church bulletins, and other keepsakes from the special day. Write or print Bible verses to embellish the pages. If your child has not yet been baptized, you may want to label a page for that day to build anticipation.
- As a family, read together Matthew 14, which recounts the death of John the Baptist. What character traits might John have demonstrated before his death? How did Jesus react to John's death? Discuss how Jesus might have felt after hearing about John's death.