

MD KIDS: SHAPED BY THE TRUE STORY



Week One: Gospel Story

To the Teachers

This month we will remind ourselves of the True Story of the world, from Creation to Restoration, and how we are shaped by it. This week is a retelling of the Story of God to set the foundation for the weeks to come. You may have heard this story before, and perhaps many of the kids have too, but pray that we don't miss the beauty and power of its' truths!

- **Big Idea:** The Bible tells the True Story of the whole world - and we get to be part of the Story!

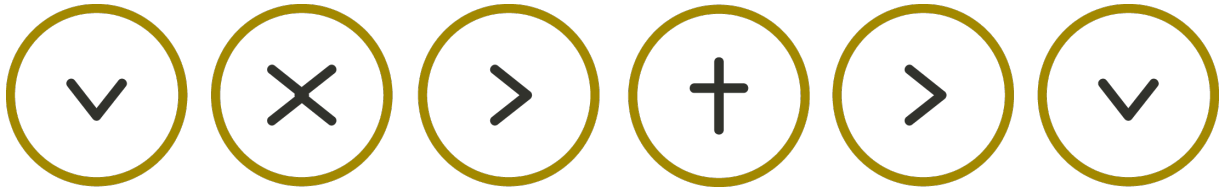
As Kids Enter (15 minutes - Classroom)

- **Question:** What's your favorite story? Do you ever pretend to be the characters in a movie/book/comic?
- **Starter:**
Take some time to rehearse the six symbols from Creation to Restoration.

Sing Together (15 minutes)

STORY (30 minutes - Lead Teacher)**INTRO**

If you could imagine the world the way it should be, what would it be like?
There was a day when the world was perfect... and a day when it will be again. Let me tell you the True Story of the whole world - the world we live in. It's a story found in the Bible, about God.



CREATION REBELLION PROMISE REDEMPTION CHURCH RESTORATION

CREATION

In the beginning, before there was anything, God created everything. He made it all to be good, right, and beautiful. Out of love, He formed people to partner with Him and help care for His creation. People had the job of bringing out the hidden potential of God's creation and enjoyed a life of peace with God, one another, and the world.

REBELLION

But, the first people rebelled against God. They believed a lie from one of the creatures that God was holding back good things from them and they wanted to decide for themselves what was right and wrong. God warned if they didn't trust Him they would die, but they didn't listen. This is called sin, and it brought a curse over all of God's good creation - the creation humans were supposed to care for. Everything in creation began to die.

PROMISE

But God did not leave His people without hope, even though they rebelled. He promised to send rescue for His creation and He continued to pursue humans with His love. Many years after the first humans rebelled, God chose a man named Abram to make a new people out of. His family would grow into a nation, called Israel, and God would bless all the other nations through them. But just like the first people, they rebelled too.

REDEMPTION

When all seemed lost, God was faithful to His promise. The Rescuer finally came in Jesus, who was born to a family of Israel, keeping God's promise to bless all through that nation. But He was also born of the Spirit of God. In fact, He was God's own Son, and He was the only human to perfectly obey His Father. He began reversing the effects of the curse by healing, feeding, teaching, and even bringing the dead to life! This is what God always had in mind - God and humans partnering to bless all creation.

But the people rebelled again and murdered Jesus on a cross. When he died, Jesus took on the full curse of creation and the consequence of people's sin. Then, just as He had been able to bring others to life with God's power, He rose from the dead himself! His resurrection defeated the curse of sin once and for all. Restoration had begun, new creation was here, and Jesus was the true and risen King of all creation!

CHURCH

The risen Jesus went to prepare a home for God to live with humans forever, but before He left, He gave His own Spirit to empower people to follow Him and tell the good news that God is restoring the world! People are now invited to give up their rebellion and partner with God, living according to His Story. Forgiveness, hope, and salvation are possible because of Jesus. This is the Church, the part of the story we find ourselves in today. And we are all invited to be part of it.

RESTORATION

One day, King Jesus will return to finally and fully make the world the way it is supposed to be. He will bring justice, healing, and wholeness. There will be no more tears, pain, sickness, brokenness, or death. Those who have followed Jesus as King and trusted Him by faith to be rescued will forever enjoy His presence, but those who chose to rely on themselves and false saviors will be forever separated from His goodness. We pray for Jesus to come back quickly, and for many to trust in Him!

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Who is this Story mainly about? *(God)*
- What was the job of humans? *(partner w/ God, care for creation)*
- How did humans continually act toward God? *(rebelled)*
- Can you relate to the humans in this Story? Have you ever rebelled?
- Even though they rebelled, how did God treat humans? *(love, pursued)*
- How did God come to rescue His creation? *(through Jesus)*
- How did Jesus help us to live like Him and partner with God? *(His Spirit)*
- We're all invited into this Story! How can we play our part?

In Breakout Classes (30 minutes - Classroom)

- **Prayer:**
God, forgive us for rebelling against You. Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us and Your Spirit to empower us. Help us to trust You and tell Your True Story. Amen!
- **Craft:**
Use the coloring pages attached to create a True Storybook. In class, you can choose to bind the pages together then let them color at home. Or color in class and ask parents to bind the pages at home.
- **BLESS Activity:**
For kids to do during the week
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask the Spirit to help us to *Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath* (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Speak** rhythm. Think about people in your life who may not know this True Story and pray for opportunities to talk to them about it. Use the 6 symbols to help guide you from Creation to Restoration and ask your parents for help.

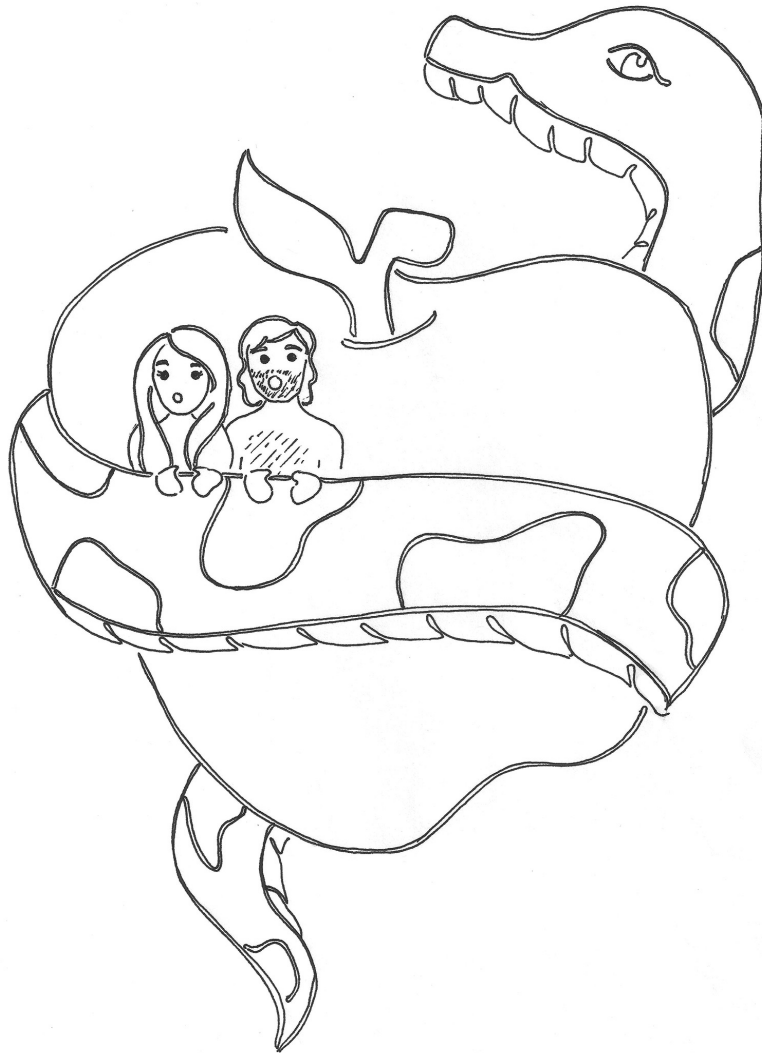
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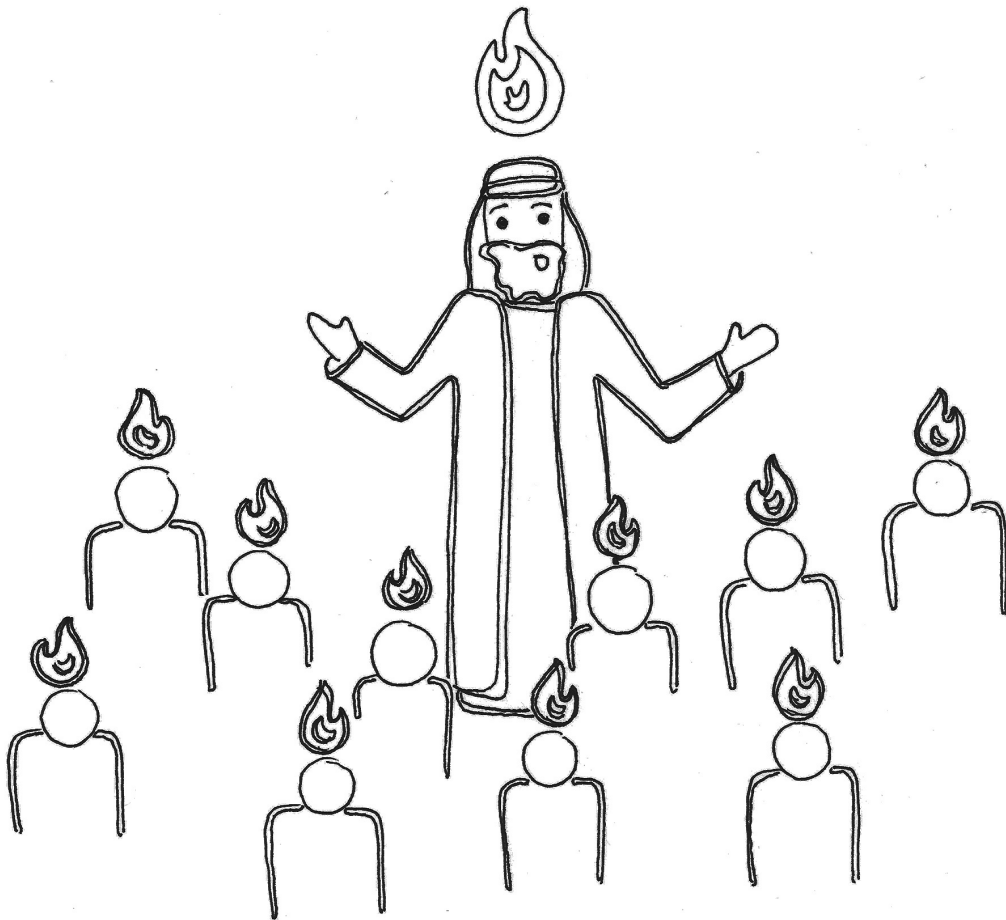
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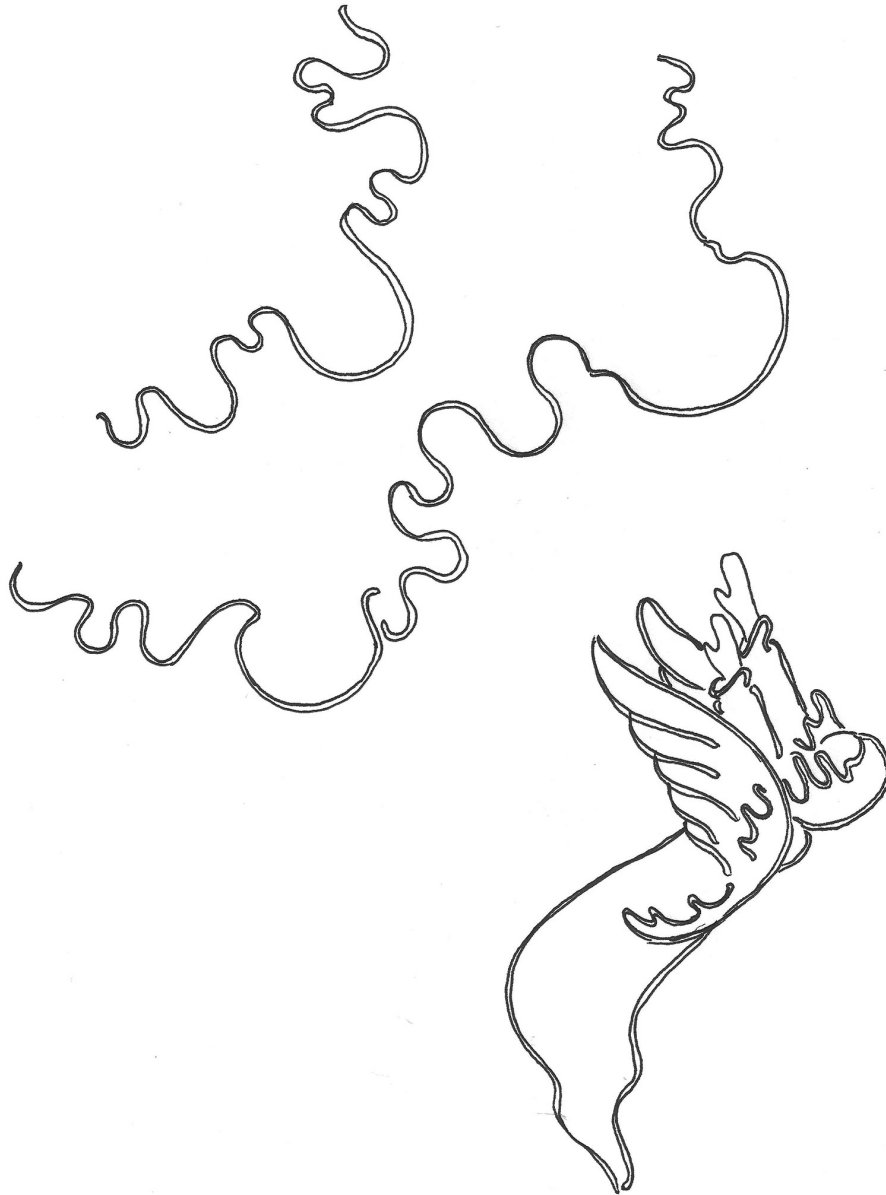


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