



MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

The Story of God's Kingdom: Session 1

The King of All

Key Statement: God is to be praised 1) in the heavens, 2) on the earth, and 3) among all creation.

::CONNECT::

Activity 1: Scavenger Hunt

- For this activity, students will need access to the internet.
- Break students into three groups, one for each section of the lesson:
 - Praise from heaven
 - Praise from earth
 - Praise from creation (science/design)
- Each group is to find one to three things (could be pictures or facts) about their realm that would inspire us to praise God. These facts or pictures should show His significance, might, wisdom, or majesty.
 - For instance, the heaven group might find cool pictures of distant nebulae, the earth group might talk about some extremophile organisms found in the deep of the ocean, and the science group might talk about some intricate design (e.g., the bird of paradise) or some other cosmic law.
- Allow students a few minutes to do their scavenger hunt, and then guide them to discuss their findings. You could end the whole session or activity by praising God for the specific things the students found.

Activity 2: Hymn-Writing.

- Play a short rendition of the hymn "How Great Thou Art."
- Guide students to write their own hymns. It should be three verses long: one verse for each of the three sections (praise from heaven/earth/creation). Remind them that the goal of the hymn is to move people to praise God and enjoy Him.
 - If some of the students really don't like writing hymns, you could assign them to be illustrators for the hymn. They should either draw pictures to go along with the verses, or they could find pictures from the internet.

- Allow them time to finish their hymns, and then let them share. Point out strengths in each one. You might close the session by having the students take turns praying one of their verses so that they become true and genuine praises.

Note: For either activity, a great encouragement post-activity would be to exhort the kids to share their praise to God via Twitter, Facebook, text, or face-to-face with someone. Praise is, after all, meant to be shared and corporate.

:: CONVEY ::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider only covering points one and two of the lesson.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

:: COLLIDE ::

See Leader Guide