

# Comprehension Kids Biblical Connections

These Biblical Connections may be used to help your children develop a Christian worldview. You may include them as your child practices each comprehension strategy. Select one or more activities that are appropriate for your child and discuss the concept and accompanying Scripture verses. All Scripture references are taken from the English Standard Version of the Bible.

Metacognition

Sequence of Events

Story Structure and Retelling

Character

Setting

Problem

Compare and Contrast

Cause and Effect

Clarifying

Questioning

Prediction

Inference or Drawing Conclusions

Description

Problem and Solution

Question and Answer

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## METACOGNITION *(thinking about your thinking)*



**God is truth** and has given us information to think about. What He says is truth and He gave us sound minds to follow His truth.

### Scripture:

Matthew 22:37 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all you mind.

Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."



Philippians 2:5-8 "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

### Activities:

\*Who do you think like? Mom and Dad? Friends?

Why do you think like them? Why did Jesus think like he thought?

\*What kind of things did Jesus think about? (His Father - God, others, Heaven) How could you learn to think like him?

\*How did Jesus think? Who did he think about? How was he different in the way that he thought about himself or others? Brainstorm ways that you could have "the mind of Christ."

\*Brainstorm ways that you might love God with all of your mind. How can we be intentional (decide to think about God) in the way that we think about loving God?



# SEQUENCE



**God is eternal** but works in time according to His plan and has a time-based process for everything. He is a planning God, based on His eternal nature and does things in order because of His ability to see and know the process perfectly.

## Scripture:



Ecclesiastes 3:1 "For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."

1 Corinthians 14:40 "All things should be done decently and in order."

## Activities:



\*(Draw or write) Using an Interactive Graphic Organizer, sequence the days of creation found in *Genesis 1- 2:3*

\*Sequence God's instructions for the battle of Jericho found in *Joshua 6:1-5* on an Interactive Graphic Organizer.

\*Sequence the death and raising of Lazarus found in *John 11* on an Interactive Graphic Organizer.

# RETELLING AND STORY STRUCTURE



**God is love**, and has a story for each person He loves. His stories in the Bible tell us about His love and those stories are to be shared with everyone.

## Scripture:



Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down, and when you rise."

## Activities:



\* Read the birth of Jesus found in Luke 2:1-21. Do an Interactive Graphic Organizer.

\*Read the Resurrection account in Luke 24:1-12. Do an Interactive Graphic Organizer.

\*Sing the hymn "I Love to Tell the Story" draw attention to the third verse.

# CHARACTER



**God is a Spirit**, and does not have a body like men. What that means is that we in His image, having a spirit as well as a body and are made for spiritual connections. The Bible talks about our inner self as hearts. What we think, what we propose to do and say, and what we love comes from the heart. Our heart determines our character.



## **Scripture:**

1 Samuel 16:7 "Man looks on the outward appearance but the LORD looks on the heart."

Acts 15:8 "God knows the heart."

## **Activities:**



\*Sing "O Be Careful Little Eyes What You See." How can we look for Jesus in what we see; hear; do? (Use internet access for lyrics.)

\*Since we are to be like Jesus, do an Interactive Graphic Organizer of Jesus' character. (*It includes actions, dialogue, thoughts*)

\*Do an Interactive Graphic Organizer of someone from the Bible.

# SETTING



**God is sovereign**, that is, He is in charge of all things and watches over us.



## Scripture:

Ephesians 1:4-5 "...He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love, he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved."

## Activities:



\* Draw a picture of the setting where God has placed you. Thank Him for your home and family.

\*List the different settings in your day. Think about how God is in each place.

\*List three settings where the Apostle Paul ministered. Name one thing in each setting that happened. How did God use him in each setting? How did the setting influence what he taught?

\*Read Acts 16:6-10. How do you know that God had a specific place for Paul to minister?

# PROBLEM



**God is present** and is near us even when something goes wrong. His presence helps us to know that problems are not the biggest thing in our lives. He is bigger and is near us.



## Scripture:

Matthew 28:20 "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Hebrews 13:5 "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

## Activities:



\*Read or tell the account of the fiery furnace from Daniel 3:-30. Identify the problem and discuss how God was with them.

\*Read or tell the story of Daniel and the lion's den found in Daniel 6. Identify the problem and discuss how God was with him.

\*Read or tell the story of Jonah in Jonah chapters 1 and 2. Identify the problem and discuss how God was with him.

# COMPARE AND CONTRAST



**God is unchangeable** and is Himself the standard for right and wrong. When we measure anything we measure it against a standard, like a ruler measuring distance. God's nature is our standard for truth, righteousness and justice.

## Scripture:



Psalm 40:5 "You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you!"

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

## Activities:

\*Compare and contrast Adam and Eve before and after the Fall on an Interactive Graphic Organizer. (Before - They looked the same on the outside. They were made in the image of God. After -...Instead of being holy and happy, they were sinful and miserable.)

\*Compare and contrast Paul before and after his conversion on an Interactive Graphic Organizer. Acts 8:1-3 and Acts 9 (Both times he looked the same and he was passionate about his beliefs. Before - arrested and even killed Christians. After - loved Christians and told everyone about Jesus.)

\*Compare and contrast Peter before and after he received the gift of the Holy Spirit on an Interactive Graphic Organizer. John 18:15-18, 25-27 and Acts 2:14-41 (He loved Jesus during both times in his life. Before - He denied Christ 3 times because he was afraid of what people thought. After - He told thousands of people about Jesus and was not afraid.)





# CAUSE AND EFFECT



**God is just.** God's justice implies that actions always have consequences in our lives and in the life of those around us. That also means that God will fix all the unfair things of this world in the end, because sin also has consequences.

## Scripture:



Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

## Activities:

\*Read Matthew 7:24-27 or sing the song "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock". Complete an Interactive Graphic Organizer.



Read Daniel 2 about Nebuchadnezzar's Dream. Parent/Teacher should summarize. Find several cause and effect relationships. (i.e. Because Nebuchadnezzar had a bad dream - he called for his wise men to explain the dream. Because he would not tell the wise men the dream - they could not tell him what the dream meant. Because the king was angry - he said he would have the wise men killed. Because Daniel and his friends prayed - God explained the dream. Because Daniel interpreted the dream- Nebuchadnezzar made him a ruler.)

\*Complete these sentences: Because Adam sinned,

\_\_\_\_\_.

Because God loves me, \_\_\_\_\_. Because I love God,

\_\_\_\_\_.

\*Because Pharaoh hardened his heart when Moses said to "Let my people go," \_\_\_\_\_ (list plagues - found in Exodus 7-12. One cause may cause more than one effect.)

# CLARIFY



**God is faithful** and fulfills His promises to guide us, help us, and keep us. Jesus was faithful to send us a Helper, the Holy Spirit, who faithfully teaches us and helps us understand the world around us.



## Scripture:

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

## Activities:



\*Show the optical illusion. Look at it far away. Look at it close up. When is it clearer? (James 4:8 - Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.)

\*Read 1 Corinthians 13:12 "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known." Compare this Scripture to what you did in the Kindergarten Reality Check.

\*Retell the story of Pentecost in Acts 2. How was the Gospel clarified to many people?



# QUESTIONING



**God is patient** and loves His children. He is patient when we ask questions, knowing that we are frail and young.



## **Scripture:**

Isaiah 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways declares the LORD.

## **Activities:**

\*Use the book Would You Like to Know about God? or similar resources. Three of the question stems from the literacy lessons can be found in the book. Have your child locate those questions. Have your child try to create additional questions about God using the remaining question stems [When, Where, Why, and Which]

\* Use the question stems from the literacy lessons and have your child create questions they would like to ask Jesus. Sing the song to remember the question stems.

\* Read the book What is God Like? After reading the book have your child locate the questions about God in the book.



# PREDICTION



**God is all knowing/omniscient** and, like the Sequence concept, knows the future, but even knows me so well that He has laid out a race to be run just for me.

## Scripture:

Hebrews 12:1-2 "...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus..."



Matthew 6:8 "...Your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Luke 24:44 "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

## Activities:

\*Show your child (or let them look up) fulfilled prophecies in Scripture. We can look at the prophecies of God as secure predictions because they are always true. - Here are some to get you started:



<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>Fulfillment</u>
Isaiah 9:6-7	Luke 1:31-33; Luke 2:11
Isaiah 42:6-7	Luke 1:79, Luke 2:32, Luke 18:35-43
Psalms 22:1, 7, 14, 16, 18 Hebrews 2:12	Matthew 27:35, 39, 43, 46; John 19:23, 24, 28;

Ask: Who has to guess about what is going to happen - God or me? Who can make a secure prediction /prophecy - God or me? (God has a plan and knows everything. Nothing surprises God. I can rest in his goodness. Jeremiah 29:11)

# INFERENCE/DRAWING CONCLUSIONS



**God is wise**, that is, not only does He know, but He uses that knowledge He has to act righteously. We not only must know facts, but how to use them to draw conclusions and make good decisions.



## Scripture:

Matthew 13:1-23 The purpose of parables and The Parable of the Sower

## Activities:

\*Read Matthew 13:1-23 together and teacher/parent summarize. Do an Interactive Graphic Organizer with the Scripture as teacher/parent "thinks out loud" with the child. (What did Jesus say about the seeds? Verses 1-9 What did Jesus say was the purpose of the parables? Verses 10-16. How did Jesus explain the parable? Verses 18-23)

\*Read Luke 10:25-37 together and teacher/parent summarize. What was Jesus teaching? Verses 25-28. How does the story of the Good Samaritan teach us who our neighbor is?

\*Read John 3:16. What can you draw a conclusion (infer) what this verse means about you? Does God love you? (Yes) How do you know? (If God so loved the world, that means ME too!)

<https://ministry-to-children.com/why-parables-lesson/> reference for further study





## DESCRIPTION



**God is all powerful** and is able to do things beyond what we can imagine. He created the world and the whole world shows us things about Him. The Bible describes the creation, His care, and His salvation for us and in us.

### Scripture:



Isaiah 55:12 " For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." (This is a word picture of how God delivers His people from their sins. Creation rejoices in God's act of redemption.)

### Activities:

\*Kindergarten - Using the Creation account found in Genesis 1, choose an animal that God created, (Gen 1:20-25) research it and complete an Interactive Graphic Organizer. Use 44 Animals of the Bible by Nancy Pelander Johnson (ISBN 978-0-89051-843-4) and/or My Bible Animals Storybook by Dandi Daley Mackall (ISBN 978-1-4143-8353-8) as resources about animals in the Bible. 44 Animals of the Bible provides detailed information about animals that can easily be used to complete the Interactive Graphic Organizer. My Bible Animals Storybook has a limited amount of information about individual animals but gives Bible story connections to the animals found throughout the Bible.



\*1<sup>st</sup> Grade -Research the life of Moses as told in Exodus or a favorite Bible Story book and do an Interactive Graphic Organizer. You will not know what he looked like but you should be able to complete the rest. (Childhood - hidden as a baby in a basket; raised by Pharaoh's daughter)

Oh, no! - (Killed an Egyptian and ran away to Midian where he met God in the burning bush)

Goals - (With God's help, convince Pharaoh to free the Israelites from slavery.)

Surprising - (How God used Moses to free the Israelites. - May enumerate the plagues and/or describe the miracle of the Red Sea.)

\*2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Choose any favorite Bible story (i.e. Creation, Crossing the Red Sea, Daniel in the lion's den, Raising of Lazarus, Triumphal Entry, etc.) and complete an Interactive Graphic Organizer.



# PROBLEM AND SOLUTION



**God is holy** and that becomes a problem for us, because we are not. We sin and are separated from God unless we can find a solution to fix it. God's solution is Jesus, who fixes the biggest problem we have, sin, its power, its pull, and its penalty.

## Scripture:

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



Romans 5:8 "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

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

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God

## Activities:



\*On an Interactive Graphic Organizer, draw a picture or write a problem you might have. Draw or write how/what you would pray to ask Jesus for a solution.

\*Read Luke 4:1-12. What was Jesus' problem? (He was being tempted by the devil) How did he solve the problem? (He used Scripture to fight the devil.) Write or draw it on an IGO. So how can we fight sin?

\*Read Mark 4:30-34. What was the disciples' problem? (They were afraid during a storm.) What did Jesus do to solve their problem? (He calmed the storm.) Draw or write it on an Interactive Graphic Organizer.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



**God is sufficient** and has given us all the answers we need in the sufficient Bible but is always sufficient for us when we cannot find answers.

## Scripture:



John 20:31 "but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

## Activities

\*Read Acts 16:30-31. Identify the question and the answer.

\*Read John 14:5-6. Identify the question and the answer.

\*Read John 12:25-27. Identify the question that Jesus asked and Martha's answer. How would you answer Jesus' question?

Use any of the following books to locate the questions and answers for children learning about their faith:

What did the Fishermen Catch? By Sally Ann Wright

ISBN 0-8091-6732-8

Who Was Jesus? By Kathleen Long Bostrom

ISBN 978-1-4143-6763-7

Who Built the Ark? And other Questions By Sally Ann Wright

ISBN 0809167301

