



God's Never-ending Story

The Story of God's Power Through The Ages

This year, we have a series that stretches through the entire school year (and perhaps a little into the summer as well)! While this is great, one entire year on the same theme can wear off, so we've split it into four "sub-themes" (introduction and concluding units don't count).

Introduction to the Series

These thousand hills roll ever on: God's Never-ending Story

Key Lesson: The Bible as God's Never-ending Story

Key Verse: Psalm 119: 105-112

The Beginnings of Faith

This sub-theme begins with the basics of our faith. It's important, because to be filled to overflowing requires us to believe in the Fountain of Life, from whom all things flow. Since this is junior high, we will not assume everyone knows the Gospel, and we will present it in a way that many of the sixth graders (maybe even the 7th) have never heard of before. It will be deeper than the typical VBS presentation of the Gospel. Much deeper.

The Story Begins: The Holy Trinity

Key Lesson: God's story begins with himself.

Key Verses: Genesis 1, John 1:1

Earth: Final Conflict: John Newton

Key Lesson: I am a great sinner, but Christ is the great Savior.

Key Verse: John 3: 1-21

The Holy Spirit, Our Sanctifier and Enabler: The Twelve Disciples on Pentecost

Key Lesson: The Holy Spirit is God with us, and empowers us, at all times.

Key Verse: Acts 2: 1-41

Loving God by Loving Others: Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Key Lesson: You can't love God without loving those created in His image.

Key Verse: Mark 12: 28-34, Micah 6:8

The Spirit of the Impossible: When God Confounds the Laws of the World

Here, we begin talking about the Youth Group theme. Being filled to overflowing can result in things that defy the laws of the universe, since nothing is impossible with God. However, many Christians today put God into a box, forgetting the ancient past when God did miraculous things in front of many. Being effective agents for God, however, requires us to obey Him. All this will be discussed in this sub-theme.

The Dream of the Apostles Fulfilled: Emperor Constantine

Key Lesson: Nothing is too difficult for God!

Key Verse: Luke 18:18-27

Miracles Still Happen: St. Antony of the Desert

Key Lesson: Christ does impossible things through those who believe.

Key Verse: Matthew 17: 14-22

A humility that endures through centuries: Johann Sebastian Bach

Key Lesson: All we have is from God—the only thing we should do is use it for His glory.

Key Verse: Proverbs 15:33

What service is all about: St. John Chrysostom

Key Lesson: The ascension to greatness requires descent to servanthood.

Key Verse: Luke 22: 1-27

The Art and Power of Prayer

One of the areas that the Doulos has identified that we (as a youth group) need work on is prayer. The greatest hours of Christianity coincided with prayers that to this day are still recited

by Christians. Why is prayer so important? Why might we falter in our prayer life? Can our prayers reflect the current state of spirituality? We will answer those questions in this sub-unit. This sub-unit features some of the most famous names in Protestant Christendom.

Hope and Rest in Prayer: Martin Luther

Key Lesson: Prayer is important!

Key Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

When nothing but Christ and His Kingdom is enough: Reverend Billy Graham

Key Lesson: Our prayers move mountains!

Key Verse: Matthew 21: 18-21

A politician with one great calling: William Wilberforce

Key Lesson: When God calls, you obey. He will provide.

Key Verse: 1 Samuel 3

Her prayers moved civilization: St. Monica

Key Lesson: Seeds planted today only sprout in God's timing.

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9

Our Lives As A Testimony of God's Work

In this sub-theme, we begin to dig deeper into slightly more difficult Christian life issues. Here, we address the problem of pain. We also discuss the controversial topic of "Christian hedonism", first coined together by the Rev. Dr. John Piper. This digging deeper serves to remind us that everything we do is a testimony. At the same time, just as prayer can be an effective way to sense where we are in our relationship with God, our testimony is that way too.

Remembering that our life is a confession of God's glory: St. Aurelius Augustine

Key Lesson: The Christian life as a testimony of God's work.

Key Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3: 2-3

The genius whose faith is his foundation and his proof: Leonhard Euler

Key Lesson: When tough times fall, our faith is our only strength and salvation.

Key Verse: Isaiah 33:2

Rising on chariots of fire: Eric Liddell

Key Lesson: God takes us up to where we belong: in the shadow of the Cross.

Key Verse: Isaiah 40

The Dangers of a Comprehensible God: St. Gregory of Nyssa

Key Lesson: God, indescribable.

Key Verse: Isaiah 46

The Bible Never Ends: Concluding Unit

We conclude with two powerful messages. First, God's story has no ending yet—but while we are only minor characters in His grand story, He will bring it to a satisfying close, just like J.K. Rowling did to the Harry Potter series. Secondly, as we grow up, it's easy putting God aside. But how tragic when God is our all in all! Thus (and this might be the climax of the series), we remember Pope John Paul II's most famous quote (see key lesson) and see why Christ cannot play second violin but must be the conductor in our lives.

History as His Story: Reverend Ravi Zacharias

Key Lesson: The Bible does not end... but God will finish the story.

Key Verse: Psalm 119: 105-112

Open wide the doors to Christ: Pope John Paul II

Key Lesson: "Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything!"

Key Verse: Exodus 15:2