

Introduction to the series:

Stories They Don't Teach In Sunday School



Many Bible stories are “not rated for family viewing.” That is because God never attempts to cover up the realities of the human condition. On the contrary, He makes a point of focusing on them. The Bible isn't just a history book; every word preserved in its pages is meant to teach us something. And as the saying goes, “mistakes are often the best teachers.”

There are many aspects of the Bible that are not supposed to be a feel-good bedtime story. It's supposed to make us question who we are and what choices we are making. It should cause us to ask: How could they have handled this better? What might I do in a similar position? What darker aspects of human nature this is asking me to face, and what should I do about that?

We can't fight evil unless we are willing to stare it in the face, and the first place we need to look for it is in the mirror.

Pastor Stephen

*Stories They Don't Teach In
Sunday School*

Week 6

Calvary Baptist Church
Stories They Don't Teach In Sunday School
4G Series 2021
www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html

Introduction To The 4G Guide

GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE

It's important that we *GATHER* each week as a church family. Still, God has so much more for us! He wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. These guides are written to encourage you in your personal *GOD TIME* and in your small *GROUPS*. They are designed to help you understand what God is teaching and apply it to your daily life. Understanding and application allows you to then take what God is teaching and *GIVE* it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture references are from the *English Standard Version* (ESV Text Edition: 2016) Bible.



How To Use The 4G Guide

Each week is divided into four sections:

Gathering Time



God calls us to corporate worship. On Sunday mornings we gather (in person or online) to worship, hear God’s message, and be challenged to apply His word. This booklet includes weekly sermon guides.

God Time



Personal worship is vital to the Christian walk, so we have written five daily devotionals for each weekly topic. This is your time to meet with God one-on-one in a guided devotional format. Once the devotional time is finished, we encourage you to pray, seeking direction for the day.

Group Time



We learn from one another! Each week, either on Sundays or at various other times, 4G Groups meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. This booklet features weekly lesson outlines in a “three-thirds” discipleship format. In addition, links to short video guides, sermon recaps, and other helpful resources are posted on our 4G web page. *

Family Time



Family worship glorifies God. To help, we have created simple, once-a-week devotionals just for families. In addition to the weekly outline, video or story guide links may be posted on our 4G web page* to help get the conversations flowing.

* 4G Groups, video links, resources, and 4G Guides are posted weekly on our 4G web page: www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html.



The 4G Group Time 3-Step Encouragement Process

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:23-25

1. Participants partner-up to ask five short and simple questions. Partners should be of the same gender. If there is an odd number, triplets are OK but need to work swiftly.
2. Partners ask each other these five questions:

	“Did you spend specific personal time in the BIBLE <u>each day</u> this past week?”	These are “Yes” or “No” questions.
	“Did you spend specific time in PRAYER <u>each day</u> this past week? – not just for meals”	Any hesitations or “Well...” responses are circled “No.”
	“Did you do something specific to show Godly LOVE to someone this past week?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they showed love to, shared the Gospel with, or disciplined. • If not, leave the line blank.
	“Did you intentionally share the GOSPEL with anyone this past week?”	
	“Did you DISCIPLE anyone this past week?” (E.g.: Sharing any of the God, Group, or Family Times)	

3. To finish, each partner prays for the other. No matter how or what the partner has done over the past week, this is an intentional prayer of **encouragement** for the coming week!



Gathering Time (Sermon Notes)

Gathering Notes

Date: _____

Stories They Don't Teach
In Sunday School

God Uses The _____ To _____

Judges 3:15-23

Our _____ Becomes A _____

In The _____ Of God

• Stop Making _____

• Take A _____

_____ For Your _____

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

WEEK 6 - EHUD KILLS THE KING OF MOAB

God Time: Day 1 – God Uses the Unlikely



We all have our reasons. Write one good reason why you don't feel qualified or able to do what God is calling you to do:



The whole book of Judges tells us of a time in Israel's history with a repeated cycle of falling away from God, leading to enemy oppression, and then crying out for forgiveness, followed by God raising up a leader to rescue them. Many of these leaders had plenty of shortcomings. The story of Ehud highlights how God often uses the unlikely to accomplish His purposes.



Read Judges 3:15

Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord, and the Lord raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man.

Underline that last description of Ehud.

Not only were left-handed people considered less respectable (the left hand was reserved then for what toilet paper is used for today – not really a Sunday School subject), but the right hand has always been used as a symbol of strength and confidence. Consider the modern English phrase “He’s my right-hand man.”



Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.



Read Jesus's statement from John 15:16a

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.

Your “reason” at the top of this page is just an excuse!



Cross it out and commit to begin following God's calling today.

On a separate piece of paper, write a prayer of repentance and commitment, asking God to guide you, and to help you seek assistance from other Believers.



If you are sincere, prepare to be used by God in a BIG way.

God Time: Day 2 – God's Message to the Enemy



Read Judges 3:20-22

²⁰And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, “I have a message from God for you.” And he arose from his seat. ²¹And Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. ²²And the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not pull the sword out of his belly; and the dung came out.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words; the message Ehud delivered from God to the enemy king was very explicit. God has no tolerance for those who will persecute His people and will even use “a left-handed man” to accomplish His purposes.

Ehud's story is a clear reminder that God will do incredible things with unlikely people to fight evil and exact His will.



Read Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Underline the words and phrases which stand out to you in this verse. How are the forces of evil described?



Read Romans 8:31, 37

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.



Write a prayer of thanks for God's promise of deliverance and for power against the challenges we face:

WEEK 6 - EHUD KILLS THE KING OF MOAB

God Time: Day 3 – Our Weakness is God’s Strength



Read 2 Corinthians 12:9
But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Underline where we can see the perfection of God’s power.



Rewrite this verse in your own words, as if God said them to you.



Give an example of your weakness for which His grace is more than sufficient.

God Time: Day 4 – Stop Making Excuses



Read Exodus 4:10-13
¹⁰But Moses said to the LORD, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” ¹¹Then the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹²Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.” ¹³But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.”

This passage is just part of the longer scene where Moses keeps coming up with excuses why He cannot do what God is telling him to do – and God answers each of his excuses.

Underline Moses’ last plea in verse 13.



Like Moses, we all have our reasons, but as we learned on Day 1, they are just excuses. So, we’ll ask again, what “reasons” (excuses) have you been giving for why you cannot do what God has been calling you to do for Him?

God Time: Day 5 – Step Out in Faith/Take a Chance



Read Matthew 14:28-31
²⁸And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”



In this famous Sunday School story, where was Peter’s focus in verse 28?

This focus on the object of our faith reminds us of the lesson from Week 4: it is the power of Jesus which caused the fig tree to wither, not some “magical” faith power.

In verse 30, underline the change in Peter’s focus which led him to give way to fear.

When we focus on our problems, our weaknesses, and the obstacles we face, they take over our thinking and obscure our faith from the One who is far greater than our struggles.



Read Psalm 18:6, 9, 13-14, 32-34 (NIV)
⁶In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.

⁹He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet.

¹³The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded.

¹⁴He shot his arrows and scattered the enemy, with great bolts of lightning he routed them.

³²It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure. ³³He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights. ³⁴He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.



What step of faith will you take today? How will you rely on God’s strength for the battle?

Group Time



Leaders win when everyone participates.

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1

Y / N	Y / N	_____
_____	_____	

LOOK BACK:

Point: Your sin will always catch up with you. Deal with it now, before it's too late!

- Review last week's lesson. Share the memorization verse with one another. Be as transparent as possible and share any victories regarding last week's assignment.

Question: How many of you, secretly or openly, enjoy vengeful tales like *The Equalizer*? Why?

LOOK UP: Watch this week's Group Guide video on our 4G web page.

Recap: Ehud was an unlikely hero for the Israelites, but he deposed the oppressive Moabite king, putting into motion the defeat of the Moabites. Other than being an awesome story, it shows that weakness can become a strength in the hand of a mighty God.

Neither our past nor our present will define our future unless we allow it to. So, stop making excuses. Maybe there's failure in our past, maybe we don't feel we have anything to offer, maybe we're afraid of what people think. Take a chance! We need to listen to God, start serving in a ministry, share our story, start that business, deepen that relationship. We have two families, our home and our church. Fight for their best and lead them closer to Jesus.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- What excuses do people (you know, other people) make for not doing what God commands us to do?
- Are there legitimate weaknesses that give us a pass?
- Share an example of how God used a weakness in a BIG way in yourself or someone you know.

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: We are all broken. God specializes in using the broken. Every person in the Bible – except one – was broken!

Our Weakness Becomes A Strength In The Hand Of God

- STOP MAKING EXCUSES! Neither your past nor your present will define your future - unless you allow it to.

What excuses have you been using not to be fully engaged in the work of God? What are your greatest weaknesses?

- TAKE A CHANCE! Start serving in a ministry, share your story, start that business, deepen that relationship. Fight for and lead your family (and your church) closer to Jesus.

What is God calling to you to DO? What is your plan?

- Your group and your church are here to help! ASK!

Pray for the members of your group as each of you plans for this!



Family Time

Main Idea: Our weaknesses become strengths in the hand of God.



Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 2:19

[Jesus said]...“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Set it Up:

So many people feel that God cannot use their lives because of something they're not good at or some kind of difficulty they experience. This video about a man born without any arms or legs will blow you away! You won't believe what God is using him to do!



Watch: Week 6 Video

This week's video is on the playlist of the CBC YouTube channel or go to cbcfamily.net and click on 4G Guides for the video link under the Family Guide section.



Ask:

- The man in the video's name is Nick Vujicic. How long did he say he wondered why God allowed him to be born without arms or legs? (7 years)
- Have you ever asked God why? Why am I sick, or sad, or not able to do something, or look a certain way?



Encourage:

- God wants to use every one of us to do great things in this world. So if He's allowed for anything in your life that you're questioning, then it's because He has big plans to use what you think is a weakness to show Himself strong!

- How many people have come to know Jesus because of the evangelism Nick Vujicic has done? (500,000)
- Did you ever think he had any idea that his weakness could reach so many people? No way! But God's power was made perfect through Nick's weakness.



Challenge:

What is the one thing you're questioning God about yourself? Take a piece of paper and write it down. Write down the weakness that you think is going to keep you from doing something great for God. Don't show anyone, just write it and put it in your pocket.



Family Activity:

As a family, now take some time to lift each other up.

- Write each child or teen's name at the top of a piece of paper, one paper for each person.
- Pass the paper around and have everyone write down one thing they think is a strong quality about the person on the paper.
- Once everyone has written on each person's paper, hand them to a parent to be read out loud. It's time to be each other's cheerleader!
- Give each person their page of wonderful things written about them.
- When you feel weak, look at what your family members have said makes you seem strong.
- If you need to, tape your weakness paper to the back of your strength paper, and let it encourage you. Many things in your life are strong, and even what you think is weak can be made powerful by God.