

Stories They Don't Teach In Sunday School

Week 4

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

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

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/4q.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 each day 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."
0	"Did you do something specific to show Godly LOVE to someone this past week?"	• If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and,
D	"Did you intentionally share the GOSPEL with anyone this past week?"	on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they
忿	"Did you DISCIPLE anyone this past week?" (E.g.: Sharing any of the God, Group, or Family Times)	showed love to, shared the Gospel with, or discipled. If not, leave the line blank.

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!

WEEK 4 - JESUS IS HANGRY



Gathering Time (Sermon Notes)	Gathering Notes
Date:	
Stories They Don't Teach	
In Sunday School	, ,
·	
Jesus	
Matthew 21:18-22	
From To	
Faith Is The	
• Faith That	
Faith That Produces	
. Faith That Has	
Faith That Has	
Giving	
Giving	

God Time: Day 1 – Why Curse a Fig Tree?



Read Matthew 21:18-22

¹⁸In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry. ¹⁹And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once. ²⁰When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" ²¹And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. ²²And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

This passage has raised a lot of questions over the years that we might not try to debate in Sunday School. But what we do know for sure is that Jesus uses the opportunity of His hunger to teach the disciples some important lessons.

<u>Underline</u> both times Jesus says, "if you have faith" in verses 21 & 22.

Too often we hear people talk about faith as if it is a magical force of its own — the kind of thinking which led the disciples to focus on HOW the fig tree was withered instead of Jesus' will. That kind of faith (faith IN the power of faith) is not the kind of faith Jesus is talking about. Instead, He is pointing us to focus on where our faith rests: in Jesus Himself.

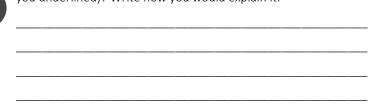


Read John 11:25-26

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

)	Circle both	times	Jesus says,	"believes	in me."
/					

Re-look at Matthew 21:21-22 above. Does your understanding of faith change if you add "in me" to where Jesus says, "if you have faith" (the part you underlined)? Write how you would explain it.



God Time: Day 2 – From Ritual to Relationship

True faith is not about how, but Who – not ritual, but relationship.



Read John 4:19-21, 23-24

 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. . . . 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

<u>Underline</u> what Jesus says is the right <u>place</u> to worship.

Circle how God wants true worshipers to worship.



Describe one way you have seen people fixate on how-to worship (ritual) rather than on who-to worship (relationship).

God Time: Day 3 – Focus on Faith



Read Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

<u>Underline</u> what is impossible "without faith."



Read John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



Circle the reward Jesus says is given to those who believe in Him.

Have you put your faith in Jesus?

- $\circ \quad \text{ If not, talk to someone who follows Jesus; they can help you.} \\$
- o If you have, what evidence do others see in you of this faith?

	WEEK 4 - JESU	S IS HANG	iry .
God Tin	ne: Day 4 – Faith Produces Fruit	God Ti	me: Day 5 – Transformative Faith
T	Read James 2:14,17 14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have	—	Look back to Week 2, Day 5 (page 19). Re-look at what it means to "abide in" Jesus from John 15.
	works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.	Ţ	Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
	<u>Underline</u> the phrase "but does not have works."		Underline the two words meaning the same as "abide in."
	Look back at Matthew 21:18-22 from Day 1. What did Jesus find on the tree? What did He not find on the tree?		Circle the result of someone being "in Christ."
	Someone who is truly a follower of Jesus will have more than just pretty leaves – they will bear fruit. Fruit is food that feeds others. What fruitful evidence of your faith is there in your life? How are you feeding	T	Re-Read Matthew 21:21-22 ²¹ And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. ²² And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."
?	others with your faith?	?	In this passage, what kind of results can faith in Jesus produce?
	Read Galatians 5:22-23 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,		Circle the word in verse 22 which describes how we should "ask".
	faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. List the fruitful evidence of the Holy Spirit in your life:		Prayer is another evidence of our relationship with Jesus - the One who holds the power.
			Our responses to the following questions reveal if we really have a relationship with Jesus:
(1)	Read 2 Corinthians 4:13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak.	?	How has Jesus transformed you? How is he transforming you?
2	List ways you can speak to others about what God has done in your life. Or do you need training? (See promo on page 29)		
			How are you making an eternal difference in this world?
	Who can you share the Good News with today?	?	

WEEK 4 - JESUS IS HANGRY

Gro	up Time
Lead	ders win when everyone participates.
ENCOURAGEM	IENT 1-on-1
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LOOK BACK:

Point: Born-again, new creations are ambassadors with a command!

• Review last week's lesson. Are you a churchgoer or a disciple? What did you do this past week to "make" a disciple?

Question: What is the definition of *faith*? Look it up. Drill down past the "religious" definitions. How can we measure faith?

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

Recap: In Matthew 21, we begin reading about Jesus' final week before the cross. Just outside Jerusalem He is hailed as God's prophet and Savior. Upon entering the city, He turns over the tables of the money changers in the temple. It's going to be a very difficult week; He will preach and heal, but He will also be challenged and accused. And the cross is coming. The next morning Jesus is "hangry" (hungry & angry). But what He comes upon is a fig tree with no fruit. He uses it as a symbol of the fruitless Jews and so commands it to wither — and it does. Like those in the temple, we need to ask, do our tables need overturning?

Like the fig tree, we need to ask, will we be found unfruitful? Will we be surprised by Jesus' reaction?

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- Read Matthew 21:18-21 and John 15:1-8. How is *faith* in Matthew 21 like *abiding* in John 15?
- Compare and contrast Matthew 21:18-19 with John 15:2a & 6.
 - o In what ways are Jesus' expectations for us like his expectations of the fig tree or the vine branches?
 - o How might His reaction to us be similar or different?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: True saving faith brings life that produces fruit bearing the power to bring a little heaven on earth!

If You Do Not Have Faith, You Are Spiritually Dead

 What as	surance(s) do you	have th	at you	came to	o faith?	
What as	surance(s) do you	have th	at you	came to	o faith?	
What as	surance(s) do you	have th	at you	came to	o faith?	
		s) do you				o faith?	
						o faith?	
						o faith?	
						o faith?	
Give son	ne examţ		e fruit yo	ou have	e born:		



Family Time

Main Idea: If you want to change your fruit, change your root!



Key Verse: Matthew 21:21

And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.

Set it Up:

What are you rooted in right now? What is shaping your decisions in life? Is your life producing the fruit that God wants in your life? Check out this quick clip on the importance of being rooted in the right place.



Watch: Week 4 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.



Discuss:

Where are your roots growing from right now? The decisions you make are a direct result of what you have faith in.

- Do you have a faith that saves? Read Romans 5:8-9 and write a summary:
- Do you have a faith that produces fruit? Read Galatians 5:22 and write a summary:
- Do you have a faith that has power? Read Isaiah 55:10-11 and write a summary:



Encourage:

The video said that the ultimate fruit in life comes from being rooted in Jesus. According to the verses we read in Galatians, that fruit includes joy, peace, love and many other attributes.

- If you're not showing those fruits on a consistent basis, it's time for you to change your roots!
- Jesus spoke in John 8:12 saying, "I am the light of the world.
 Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." He makes having faith in Him worthwhile you won't be left alone in darkness anymore!
- You can't expect to have different fruit if you're connected to the old roots. Is it time to root completely in Jesus?



Challenge:

What are you struggling with that shows you are rooting yourself in something other than faith in Jesus? Take a look at the fruits listed in Galatians - which one is the most difficult for you to show each day? Let's change your root!

- Search the fruit you want to re-root by pulling up a Bible concordance here are two:
 - o Biblestudytools.com Study Concordances.
 - o Download the Blue Letter Bible App
- Perform a search based on the fruit you want to work on.
- Many verses will be shown for you write out the one that gives you the most direction and encouragement and keep it with you at all times.
- Use that verse to get God's word into your heart and mind.

You are changing your root and refocusing your faith!