

Faith Trek: Through the Bible

By Amber Espinosa



On this Faith Trek, you'll learn the story of God's love for a broken world, and God's love for you! You'll read six Bible stories that tell the main events of the whole Bible story. You'll go on some adventures, and create a book to share.

For

Just for Kids

Season

Spring

Needed

Blank scrap book or sheets of paper, markers or crayons

Prepare in Advance

To get you started on your Faith Trek, you'll need to create a book into which you will put pictures and stories that will eventually tell the story of the Bible, the story of God's love. At each stop on your Faith Trek, you'll add part of the story.

To get ready, buy a scrap book or make a booklet using blank sheets of paper. Make a cover page and name your book, **"Faith Trek: Through the Bible."** Put your name on the inside cover.

Activity Plan

When your book is ready, go ahead and get started on your Bible Trek! We suggest you start with **"Creation Station."**

Creation Station

By Amber Espinosa

At this stop on your faith trek, you'll read the creation story in the Bible. Then, you'll take a trip to a special place to remember God's love for the world.

For

Just for Kids

Season

Spring

Needed

- Your Faith Trek: Through the Bible book
- Optional: camera and photo prints

Prepare in Advance

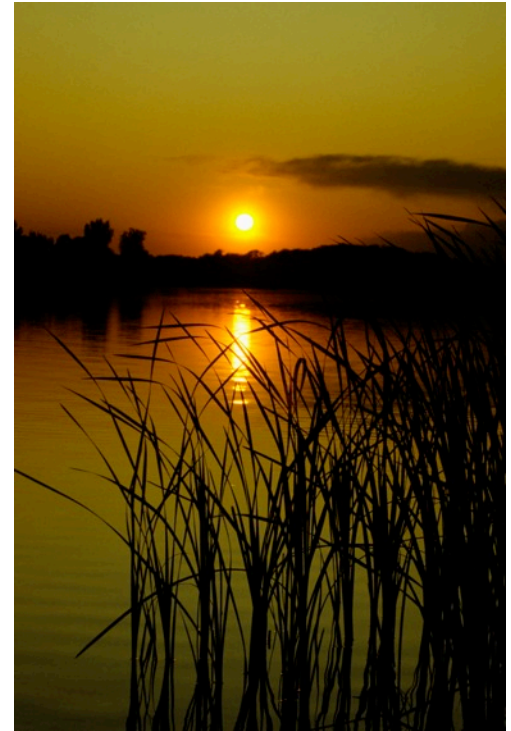
For this stop in your faith trek, you'll need to go to a special place outside and draw or take some pictures. It should be a place that you think is amazing, or a place where you feel God's presence or love. It could be a favorite park, a beach, or even your own back yard.

Talk with a parent to plan a good time and place.

Activity Plan

1. Read the creation story in Genesis 1:1-31 (see last two pages).
2. Read or listen to this commentary for kids.

In this story, we learn that the world is not an accident! Instead, we learn that God is somehow behind the existence of the vast universe. In this story, we learn that God cares for all of the creation, and gives people the responsibility to care for it. People have a very special place in God's heart. God loves each one of us, and wants us to love God and love others.



3. Go to a special place outside. It should be a place that you think is amazing; a place where you feel God's presence or love. It could be a favorite park, a beach, or even your own back yard. Be sure to get permission from a parent before you go.
4. Draw or take pictures to show God's creation.
5. Use your pictures to tell the story of creation for your Faith Trek: Through the Bible book.
6. Show your work to a parent, or a grandparent, friend or neighbor and talk about these questions together. You could even use Skype to talk to someone far away!
 - Which parts of creation do you love most?
 - If you could ask God anything about the world, what would you ask?
 - At the end of each day, God saw that the creation was good.
What are some things that are especially good about you?
7. Pray together by reading Psalm 139:6-16.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.
Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for
darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are
wonderful, I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was
woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your
book before one of them came to be. Amen.

Genesis 1:1-31

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning —the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning —the second day.

And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds. " And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning —the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning —the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning —the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food. " And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning —the sixth day.

The First Sin

By Amber Espinosa



At this stop on your faith trek, you'll read Adam and Eve's story in the Bible. Even though God wanted only good for people, they chose something else.

For

Just for Kids

Season

Spring

Needed

Blank scrap book or sheets of paper, markers or crayons

Activity Plan

1. Read the story of the first sin in Genesis 3:1-22 (See last two pages).
2. Read or listen to this commentary about the story.

In this story, we learn something important about God and people. God loves people, and wants us to love God too. God gave the world to people, and wanted people to live peacefully, knowing only the good gifts that God gives. But, God knows that true love can't be forced, so God gives people the choice. They can learn what it's like to be apart from God, and to experience evil. Adam and Eve, like all people, want to know what happens if they don't live the way God wants. When they choose to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they, like us, choose to separate themselves from God. They want to hide themselves from God, and when they leave the Garden of Eden, they experience pain and hardship.



3. Add the story of the first sin to your **Bible Trek: Through the Bible** book. Write the story in your own words, and add thought bubbles to show what the characters are thinking or feeling.
4. Show your work to a parent, or a grandparent, friend or neighbor and talk about these questions together. You could even use Skype to talk to someone far away!
 - Why do you think Adam and Eve want to know about evil?
 - Why do you think God gives people a choice?
 - Sin is when we do something that hurts or separates us from God or others. Tell about a time when someone hurt your feelings.
 - Tell about a time when you were tempted to do something that could hurt someone else.
 - Why do you think we do things that hurt God or others?
 - What are some evil things that happen in the world?
 - Why does God let such bad things happen?
5. Pray this prayer of confession together:

Help us, God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake (Psalm 79.9).



Genesis 3:1-22

The First Sin

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me —she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.



And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.



The Chosen People

By Amber Espinosa

At this stop on your faith trek, you'll see how God deals with sin and evil in the world. God chose a special people, Israel, so that all people would know God's love for them and share that love with others.

For

Just for Kids

Season

Spring

Needed

Blank scrapbook or sheets of paper, markers or crayons



Prepare in Advance

For this stop on your journey, you'll see what it's like to share God's love with others, as God's chosen people were called to do. Plan a time to do a Random Act of Kindness.

Activity Plan

1. Read some of the big adventures of the chosen people:
 - God chooses Abraham and Sarah to begin a great nation! (Genesis 12:1-8 see last page)
 - After years and years of adventures the people go to the Promised Land, and Israel becomes a great nation! (1 Chronicles 17:21-27 see last page)
 - Will the people remember their purpose? (Deuteronomy 6:6-9 see last page)
2. Read or listen to this commentary about the chosen people.

Even though people choose to live apart from God, and we experience sin and evil, God still loves people. God decides to choose some people, and become their king so that through them all the world will know God's love and

blessings. God makes a great nation, even when it seems impossible. Through every mistake that the people make, God remains faithful to the promise to Abraham.

3. Add the story of God's chosen people to your **Bible Trek: Through the Bible** book. Draw some pictures and tell the story in your own words.
4. Think of a way that you could show God's love to others by doing a Random Act of Kindness.
 - Visit someone in a nursing home, or help someone rake leaves, etc.
5. Talk about it with a grown-up.
 - God keeps God's promises in this story. When have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?
 - Do you think the chosen people will be faithful to God, and show God's love to others?
 - How does it feel to show God's love to others?
 - When have you kept a promise? Broken one?
6. Pray together using Psalm 28:2-6

Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place.

Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts.

Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back on them what they deserve.

Because they have no regard for the deeds of the Lord and what his hands have done, he will tear them down and never build them up again.

Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. Amen.



Genesis 12:1-8

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

1 Chronicles 17:21-27

And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth whose God went out to redeem a people for himself, and to make a name for yourself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? You made your people Israel your very own forever, and you, Lord, have become their God.

"And now, Lord, let the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house be established forever. Do as you promised, so that it will be established and that your name will be great forever. Then people will say, 'The Lord Almighty, the God over Israel, is Israel's God!' And the house of your servant David will be established before you.

"You, my God, have revealed to your servant that you will build a house for him. So your servant has found courage to pray to you. You, Lord, are God! You have promised these good things to your servant. Now you have been pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, Lord, have blessed it, and it will be blessed forever."

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.



Abandoned by God?

By Amber Espinosa

God's chosen people did not share God's love with others, as God intended. Instead, they lived in luxury and ignored the needs of the poor. The people turned against God and worshipped other gods instead. At this stop on your faith trek, you'll find out what happened to the great nation. Were they abandoned by God?



For

Just for Kids

Season

Spring

Needed

Blank scrap book or sheets of paper, markers or crayons

Activity Plan

1. Find out what the chosen people did, and how God felt about it. Read Hosea 11 (see last page).
2. Read or listen to this commentary about the fall of the kingdom.

Just like Adam and Eve, God's chosen people wondered what it would be like to live apart from God. They chose to have a human king and the rich kept God's blessings for themselves while poor people suffered. So, like God allowed Adam and Eve to experience evil, God let the chosen people find out what it's like to live apart from God. The kingdom was divided and conquered. The people were treated horribly and forced away from the Promised Land. And, yet God had not abandoned them. God loved the people and God promised that sin and evil will not have the last word. God promised to send a Savior.

3. Look through old magazines, or find pictures online. Find some pictures that show how Israel turned from God's purpose. Using the pictures, add a page to your book to tell their story in your own words:
 - Living in luxury and ignoring the needs of the poor and vulnerable
 - Making others into slaves to build a temple
 - Worshipping other gods
 - Tell the story of the fall of the kingdom in your own words.
4. Show your work to a parent, grandparent, friend, or neighbor and talk about these questions together. You could even use Skype to talk to someone far away!
 - Tell about a time when you felt abandoned by God.
 - Do we ever do the same things that Israel did . . . live in luxury and ignore those in poverty? Forget to be grateful to God? Worship other gods?
 - When have you been most hopeless?
 - What do you think God should do next?
5. Pray together using Psalm 69:14-18

Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink; deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters.

Do not let the floodwaters engulf me or the depths swallow me up or the pit close its mouth over me.

Answer me, Lord, out of the goodness of your love; in your great mercy turn to me.

Do not hide your face from your servant; answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.

Come near and rescue me; deliver me because of my foes. Amen.

Hosea 11

"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images.

It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them.

I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.

"Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent?

A sword will flash in their cities; it will devour their false prophets and put an end to their plans.

My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them.

"How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused.

I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man — the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities.

They will follow the Lord ; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west.

They will come from Egypt, trembling like sparrows, from Assyria, fluttering like doves. I will settle them in their homes," declares the Lord.

God with Us

By Amber Espinosa



In this story, you'll learn that God did not abandon the people. In fact, people are so important to God that God became human and came to be with us. No matter what happens, God's love for us will never fail!

For

Just for Kids

Season

Spring

Needed

Blank scrapbook or sheets of paper, markers or crayons

Prepare in Advance

For this faith trek, you'll need to spend some quality time with someone you love. Choose a person, and talk with a parent to make the plans.

Activity Plan

1. Read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-7 (See last two pages)
Read the story of Jesus' death in Luke 23:32-49 (See last two pages)
Here's what Jesus' love means for us. Romans 8:38-39 (See last two pages)
2. Read or listen to this commentary about God with Us.

God loves people so much, and wants good things for people. No matter how much we choose to live away from God, no matter what we do, God loves us. The same God who had enough power to create the entire universe, gave up

that power just to be with us. We call him Jesus or Immanuel, which means God with Us. Jesus, our Immanuel, came to live among us, to suffer with and for us, and died on the cross and rose again, so that nothing could ever separate us from God's love.

3. Add the story of God with Us to your **Faith Trek: Through the Bible** book. Tell about Jesus' life in your own words, and draw pictures.

Tell what Jesus' love means for you.

4. People mean so much to God that God came to be with us. Spend some extra time with a close friend or family member. Why is it important to be with those we love?

5. Talk about it with a grown-up.

- Read your story to a grown-up who you love and trust.
- Tell each other—what does God's love mean to you?
- Why is it important to spend time with those you love?
- Why is it so important to God, to be Immanuel, God with us?
- Tell about a time that your faith in Jesus brought you comfort.

6. Pray together by singing, "Jesus Loves Me."

http://www.makingmusicfun.net/html/f_printit_free_printable_sheet_music/jesus-loves-me-sheet-music.htm



Luke 2:1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Luke 23:32-49

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the Jews.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. "

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."



It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



New Creation

By Amber Espinosa



Welcome to the last stop on your Bible trek! The Bible promises a happy ending to the story. Find out how we can live in hope for a new creation!

For

Just for Kids

Season

Spring

Needed

Blank scrapbook or sheets of paper, markers or crayons

Activity Plan

1. Read 2 Peter 3:10-13. Pay special attention to the last sentence.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.



2. Read this commentary about our hope for the new creation.

God promises that one day Jesus will return and there will be a new creation. All things will be made new, and there will be no more pain. There will be no more sorrow. We will live together with God in joy. We can trust God's faithfulness and live with hope in a God that will one day make all things right. Even now God's spirit is among us, and we can experience God's peace and joy.

3. What do you hope the new creation will be like? Add a page to your **Bible Trek: Through the Bible** book, to show your hope for the new creation.

(Add sample here)

4. Talk about it with a grown-up.
 - What do you hope the new creation will be like?
 - What sorrows do you hope will be gone in the new creation?
 - How might your life be different because you know that God will one day make all things new? How can we live with hope even now?

5. Encourage one another to live with hope in God by reading Galatians 5:22:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

