

September
Week One
First -Third Grade

Topic: God the Creator
Thematic Statement: God is sovereign over everything He created, therefore we should fear and reverence Him.
Objective: That children will understand who God is and why He is sovereign over the universe. That children and parents will fall deeper in love with God as they together learn about His character and plan before the foundation of the world.
Teacher Background: God is sovereign for three main reasons: 1. He is the only God, 2. He created everything, and 3. He is righteous, holy, and good. God is sovereign because there is only one God, therefore He gets to be in charge. He is sovereign because he created everything and therefore has a right to rule it and best understands how everything works together. He also has the right to make the rules because He is holy, righteous and just, therefore, whatever He says is right – is RIGHT. Eternity Past- God has always existed as a perfect unity-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created time, but He is outside of time and is not ruled by it. God is omniscient and sees the beginning before it exists. He knew man would sin before He created him, therefore His plan of salvation was written before the world began. Jesus knew He would have to make the ultimate sacrifice before He created man. Fear of the Lord - Parents are children’s first teachers. They are to model the truth of God’s Word by loving God with all their soul and might and then teach their children by example (Deuteronomy 6). Since the fear of the Lord is the main part of knowledge and wisdom (Proverbs 1:7), instruction regularly focuses on building a healthy fear of the Lord.
Key Definitions: Sovereign - 1. Supreme in power; possessing supreme dominion; as a <i>sovereign</i> ruler of the universe. 2. Supreme; superior to all others; chief. God is the <i>sovereign</i> good of all who love and obey him. [Webster’s 1828 Dictionary of the American Language] Fear of the Lord – A holy fear; in the Old Testament used as a designation of true piety (Prov. 1:7; Job 28:28; Psalm 19:9). It is a fear with love and hope, a filial reverence. [Easton’s Bible Dictionary].
Resources: <i>The New City Catechism for Kids</i> , (2018, Crossway Wheaton, IL) <i>A Practical Guide to Kingdom Education</i> (Hameloth, 2019) <i>The Jesus Storybook Bible</i> by Sally-Lloyd-Jones. (Zonderkidz) <i>Pray & Play Bible 2</i> (Group Publishing Inc.)
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Opening: Take time to greet each family. Knowing your children's name establishes a sense of love and concern for the individuals God is entrusting you with each week. Have a craft or game to help connect with the children. (Choose activity from <i>Pray & Play Bible 2</i> pages 15-17.	
Prayer: Open your lesson with prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to be the teacher and guide you into all truth.	
Catechism: The whole curriculum is developed around the catechism questions. Practice asking the question and teaching the answer. Repeat this throughout the lesson so the children will master the basic truths of the faith.	
Guiding Question: 1.What is our only hope in life and death?	Answer: 1. That we are not our own but belong to God.
Introductory Activity: Have some playdough or clay for your children. Let them make something out of it. As they do talk about the difference between creating something from nothing verses making something from the playdough. Ask – who has the ability to change your creation? [You do] Why? [Because you made it and it belongs to you.] In the same way, God has control over His creation because He made it and it belongs to Him. That is why we say God is sovereign .	
Bible Story: Use <i>The Jesus Storybook Bible</i> . Read pages 12-17 “The Story and the Song”	
Christ Connection: Who do you think is the hero of the story? [Jesus] Have you ever thought about the Bible as a love story? [Let children share why or why not] Let's recite one of the most famous verses in the Bible: John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”	
Timeline: Eternity Past [<i>Have children make a timeline and hang it in a prominent place</i>] One idea is to make a triangle and put Father, Son, and Holy Spirit on each corner with the word GOD in the center. Discuss with your children how God has always existed. He has no beginning and will have no ending.	
Student Memorization: John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Write the Scripture on the board. Practice reading it together. Use your timeline picture to show that God always existed as God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Explain that the “Word” is another name for Jesus, the Son. Try substituting the word “Jesus” for “the Word.” In the beginning was Jesus, and Jesus was with God, and Jesus was God. Once children understand the concept, try erasing parts and repeating the verse until the children have memorized it together.	
Culminating Activity: Have children draw a picture of what they learned today. Review guiding question and answer: What is our only hope in life and death? That we are not our own but belong to God. Remind children of God's great love for them.	
Assess Learning: Ask your children: What is something you really enjoyed doing today? Is there anything you would like to see us change?	