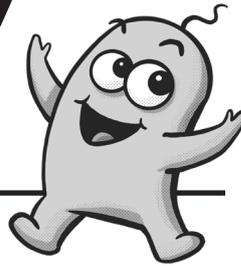


Introductory Lesson



Big Idea

God can be known. God has revealed himself in the Bible and he hears when we pray to him.

Lesson Aim

To introduce yourself to the students and establish boundaries and expectations to create a 'safe space' to learn about God.

Learning Outcomes

The students will:

- Explorers** be introduced to their teacher, the Bible and prayer and share what they know about God.
- Adventurers** share their knowledge of God, the Bible and prayer with the class and the teacher.
- Navigators** mark a line to show how much they know about God and learn what will be included in future lessons.
- Voyagers:** play some class games to assist group cohesion and have a chance to share what they know about God, the Bible and prayer.

Lesson Notes

Don't be tempted to skip this introductory lesson. Relationships and expectations within your group are very important and it's worth dedicating a lesson to these things so that the learning flows later. As you find out what your students already know and believe, they realise that you are interested in them and respect their ideas.

In this lesson you will:

- introduce yourself and state the purpose of the group
- make clear statements about the Bible and prayer
- affirm the rules that will apply
- start to get to know the students and what they already know and believe about God, the Bible and prayer.

Do everything in a spirit of enthusiasm. Show that you, the students, and what you'll be learning together, matters. You'll need to be extremely well prepared and know exactly what you want to accomplish so you can proceed smoothly when there are interruptions. Make the session as active and interactive as the space allows. Pray and get the prayer support of your church. Be attentive to your students as you get to know them, modelling the way you expect them to attend to you.

If you have a group of 20 plus where it is impossible to hear from each child who wants to reply, choose 3 or 4 to quickly come to the front and give their answers. Choose different students each time and ask the larger group 'who else was going to say that?'

A young child's view of God is often shaped by their experience with adults. As you teach them about God, their view of God will be shaped by you. As you show that they matter to you, they will learn that they matter to God. God bless you and your group as you get to know each other and God.

Extra Lesson

Value

Community

Teaching Tip

Groups vary enormously in size but you can still have interaction, even with larger groups.

-Ask yes/no questions and get the group to reply by show of hands.

-Interview a student or two, to give feedback, then say to the larger group 'Who else would say that?'

-Pair and Share where students give their answer to the person next to them.

This is about their learning. Make sure they're not just passive onlookers to your teaching.

Learning Outcome

Explorers will be introduced to their teacher, the Bible and prayer and share what they know about God.

Resources List

- Photo of your household or something important to you (Question)
- Ball (Question)
- Intro_Exp.pdf (Question)
- Intro_Exp.ppt (Question)
- CEV Bible (Explore)
- Song: *My God is So Big* (Discover)
- A4 paper and pencils (optional) (Discover)

Question

- **What's Your Name? (1-3min)**
Introduce yourself and show a photo of the people and/or animals in your household and/or bring something that means a lot to you and share it's significance.
- **Name Game (1-4min)**
Explain that you want to learn their names. Ask the group to stand, form a circle and then sit down. **Pass** a ball slowly around the circle. As each student gets the ball they should say their name and say 'hello'. When everyone has had a turn, all jump up and say 'hello everyone!'
- **Learning About God (2-5min)**
State that you'll be learning about God together.
Ask: Who knows something about God? (*Invite a few to say what they know.*)
Say: Even if you've never heard about God before, the Bible says that God who made the world knows you. And God loves you.
- **Our Group Rules (2min)**  
Affirm the school rules or display and read the poster Intro_Exp.pdf or Intro_Exp.ppt.

Explore

- **The Bible is About God (2-3min)**
Hold up your CEV Bible and explain that the Bible is about God.
Ask: Who has seen a Bible before? Who has a Bible at home? Who can tell us something about the Bible?
Explain that Bibles don't all look the same, but they all tell us about God.
Say: The Bible says that no one can see God. The Bible also says that God loves us. I can't see God but I believe that God is real. I believe that God loves everyone here.
- **God Loves You Name Game (2-5min)**
Look at a student and ask them their name. Say 'God loves you (name)'. They must then look at the person next to them and say 'God loves you (name)'. Finish with everyone saying 'God loves us all!'
- **What is Prayer? (1-2min)**
Say: I can't see God but I often talk with God.
Ask: What do we call that? (*Prayer*)
Say: We can learn prayers and we can make up our own prayers. The Bible says God hears us when we pray. Sometimes people close their eyes to help them think of God when they pray.
Say: Close your eyes now and listen while I pray. 'Dear God, please help these children learn a lot about you this year. Thank you for loving them.' After someone prays, if you agree, you can say 'Amen'. As well as learning about God and the Bible we'll learn to pray.

Discover

- **Activity Options (10min)**
Choose ONE or TWO of these simple activities:
Sing *My God is So Big* or another of the recommended songs. 
Draw their house and who lives there. Draw something they know about God.
Show the Explorers magazine and explain that it is to help the group learn about God.
Learn this rhyme to say together at the start of each lesson.
*Hello everyone, here we are
 Ready to learn and ready to star
 We'll learn about God and the Bible and prayer
 And learn how to love and respect and care.*

Finish Off

Say: The Bible says God loves every one of us. God hears us when we pray. We'll find out more about God next time.



Question

○ Introductions (2-5min)

Display your name written on a card.

Introduce yourself, saying something about your family, pets, or life that would interest the group.

Show relevant photos or an object. Make it interactive. If you talk about a pet, ask the children who have pets to raise their hands.

Say: I am looking forward to getting to know you.

○ Name, Name, Everybody (3-5min)

Say: I'm going to say an action and then call some names. If I call your name, you have to quickly do the action, then sit and fold your hands back in your lap. When I say 'everybody' everyone, including me, has to do it.

Announce actions (*wave arms, stand up, say hello, smile at the person next to you, quack like a duck*) with individual names (*using your class list*), interspersed with 'everybody' actions.

Finish with 'Whisper hello – everybody'.

○ Our Group Rules (2min)

See Navigators Introductory Lesson.

Explore

○ Learning About God and the Bible (2-5min)

Explain that the group will be learning about God.

Ask: How do you think we can find out about God? (*Accept responses*)

Say: People who know God can help us discover God. I'll help you using lessons based on the Bible.

Hold up your CEV Bible and ask: Who can tell us something about God or the Bible? Choose several students to tell what they know.

Explain that God is an important part of your life – you don't just know about God, you know God like a friend. You hope that they will come to know God too.

Say: The Bible contains words that can help us remember that God is with us. They can remind us that God loves us. They can give us words to thank God and respond to tough situations. They can help us be more resilient. Part of the lessons will be learning verses from the Bible.

○ Learning About Prayer (1-5min)

Say: The Bible says we can talk to God anytime and God listens.

Ask: What do we call it when we talk to God? (*Prayer*)

Say: I talk with God often about all sorts of things – what I'm doing, people I love, things that bother me, things I'm very happy about. I believe God hears me and God loves me.

Ask: Who else here prays? (*Accept responses, inviting them to say how and when.*)

Say: We'll be praying in this group too. Sometimes I'll pray and if you want to, you can pray too.

Discover

○ Activity Options (10min)

Choose one or more depending on the time available and the size and make up of your group.

Singing: *Our God is a Great Big God.* 

Pair and Share: What do you know about God? What would you like to know?

Drawing: Invite students to put their name on an A4 sheet and draw something they know about God or the Bible OR something they would like to tell God. Talk with individuals as they draw. Collect the pictures to get to know the group. Refer to some next lesson.

Play Name, Name, Everybody again.

Show the Adventurers magazine and explain that these have fun things to read and do to help the group learn about God.

Question Time: Allow students to ask one thing they'd like to know about you or about God.

Learning about God: See Navigators Introductory lesson.

Finish Off

Say: I'm really looking forward to getting to know you and discovering more about God and the Bible together. I believe that God loves every one of us and that we can talk with God anytime and God hears us.

Learning Outcome

Adventurers will share their knowledge of God, the Bible and prayer with the class and the teacher.

Resources List

- Photo or interesting object (Question)
- Intro_Adv.pdf (Question)
- Intro_Adv.ppt (Question)
- CEV Bible (Explore)
- Song: *Our God is a Great Big God* (Discover)
- A4 paper and pencils (Discover)



Learning Outcome

Navigators will mark a line to show how much they know about God, and learn what will be included in future lessons.

Resources List

- Numbers List (Question)
- Intro_Nav.pdf (Question)
- Intro_Nav.ppt (Question)
- CEV Bible (Explore)
- A4 paper (Discover)
- Stickers and pictures (Discover)

Question

○ Introductions

Introduce yourself. How you do this will depend on the size of your group and how well you know them. It may be as simple as introducing yourself to anyone you don't know and asking their name.

○ Getting to Know You (3-5min)

Prepare a list of things about yourself around numbers. Announce the number and have the group guess what about you it refers to.

(Use Pets, people in your household, total of your fingers and toes, hairs on our head, teeth, books in your home, birthdays you've had.)

○ Our Group Rules (2-5min)

Explain that this group will be learning about God using the GodSpace curriculum. The job of each student is to be a responsible learner.

Ask: What rules are in place (or what rules do we need, if you are not in a school situation) to make the most of the learning situation?

Reaffirm the school rules or display the *Our Group Rules* sheet from Intro_Nav.pdf or Intro_Nav.ppt.

○ Learning About God (5-10min)

Draw a line with 1 at one end and 10 at the other. (With a large group, get students to draw their own line on a piece of paper with their name on. Collect the papers before the end of the lesson.)

Say: On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is hardly anything and 10 is absolutely everything, imagine a cross in the place that represents how much you know about God.

Mark a cross yourself and tell the class why you chose that place.

Invite others to say where their cross would go and why.

Say: Now here's a different question: How much would you say you know God? Where would you put a cross? This year we'll have the chance to discover more about God. We'll also have the chance to talk with God and get to know God better.

Explore

○ Learning About the Bible (5-6min)

Show your CEV Bible and ask for volunteers to say something about the Bible.

Explain that the Bible is: the most popular book in the world, read by many people every day, in every country of the world, in many different languages.

Ask: After printing machines were invented more than 600 years ago, guess what book they printed first? (*The Bible*)

Say: This year we'll be exploring the Bible to discover more about God. We'll discover more about Jesus and the Holy Spirit too.

○ Learning About Prayer (1min)

Ask: What do you know about prayer? (*Accept responses.*)

Say: We'll learn more about prayer too. Sometimes I'll pray and if you agree with what I'm saying to God, say Amen when I finish. If you want, you'll get a chance to pray too.

Discover

○ Activity Options (10min)

(Choose one or more of these activities depending on your group and the time available.)

Show the Navigators magazine. Ask them to write their name on the front, then turn to the *Comments and Questions* page and explain how to use it.

Name Tag: Hand out A4 paper and get students to fold one sheet in half crossways, then in half again crossways. Unfold it and bend one fold back the other way to make a triangle with a double base. Ask students to write their name in large thick letters on one side, then decorate it with pictures of their favourite things or stickers that you've brought.

Word Association: Ask volunteers to say the first word they think of when you say these words – dog, food, Bible, warm, God, happy, bird, song, church, game, space.

Finish Off

Say: I'll pray and if you agree with what I'm saying to God, say Amen when I finish. 'Dear God, please help this group respect each other and learn well together and discover much about you this year.' Amen

Question

○ Last One Standing (4-5min)

Ask the group to stand, then sit as you read a statement that applies to them. I can sew on a button, I often go to church, I learn a musical instrument, I love sports, I have a blue toothbrush, I speak a language other than English, I enjoy documentaries about animals, I can recite part of the Bible, I have seen under the bonnet of a car, I have made someone a cup of tea, right now my room is tidy, I have been a patient in hospital, I have been fishing, I can draw well.

○ Class Survey (5-10min)

Give each student a copy of the Class survey to fill in from Intro_Voy.pdf. See folder.

Collate them and discuss the results, or for a large group, say you'll have the results next week.

○ Learning About God (5-10min)

See Navigators Introductory Lesson.

○ Introduce Rules and Expectations (1-5min)

Rules to Learn By

If you are in a school situation, ask the class to state the school rules and say that this group operates under the same rules. If your group doesn't already have established rules, display *Our Group Rules* from Intro_Voy.ppt or the PDF chart with the rules the class agrees on. 

Explore

○ Introduce the Bible (1-2min)

Explain that the aim of the group is to discover God, using curriculum lessons based on the Bible.

Ask: Why the Bible? (*Accept responses. Christians believe that God has revealed himself through the Bible.*)

Say: The Bible is the most popular book in the world. According to the Guinness Book of Records 2020, over 5 billion copies have been printed. China's book of Chairman Mao's quotations is second with 820 million copies. The Harry Potter books have sold about 500 million copies.

○ Introduce Prayer (1-3min)

Ask: What's the first thing you think of when I say the word PRAYER? (*Accept responses.*)

Say: Talking with a person helps us get to know them; praying can help us get to know God. I talk with God a lot. Some people see prayer as a very private thing. They pray silently, in their spirit. Others are happy for those around to hear their prayers. Sometimes I'll invite you to write a prayer. At other times volunteers might pray for the class. It will be up to you, but it's a good skill to have. Knowing we can share with God by praying can make us a more resilient person. In fact, worldwide studies show that people who believe in God and practice their faith are happier people.

Discover

○ Word Association (4min)

See Navigators Introductory Lesson.

○ Choose Your Name (5min)

Invite the students to think of a positive appropriate adjective that goes with their name like happy Hilary or sensational Sam. Choose one for yourself too. Go around the room with each person saying those that have already been stated, then adding their own.

Say: The Bible says that God knows not just what we know about ourselves or what others think, but God knows all about us. God also knows our potential and who we can become, with God helping us. Each one of us matters to God.

○ Lines (6min)

Ask the group to line up according to:

- Height
- Birthday month
- Date of their birthday
- House Number.

Finish Off

Say: This group is a chance to explore the Bible and prayer, to discover more about God, no matter how little or how much you feel you know now.

Learning Outcome

Voyagers will play some class games to assist group cohesion and have a chance to share what they know about God, the Bible and prayer.

Resources List

- Intro_Voy.pdf. (Question)
- Intro_Voy.ppt. (Question)
- Pens and pencils (Question)
- CEV Bible (Explore)



Learning Outcome

Students will play some group games to assist cohesion and have an opportunity to share what they know about God, the Bible and prayer.

Resources List

- Photos or object important to you (Question)
- Intro_Multi.pdf (Question)
- Intro_Multi.ppt (Question)
- CEV Bible (Explore)
- Song: *Our God is a Great Big God* (Discover)

Question

Introductions

How you do this will depend on the size of your group and how well you know them. It may be as simple as introducing yourself to anyone you don't know and asking their name.

○ Introductions (2-5min)

Display your name written on a card.

Introduce yourself, saying something about your family, pets, or life that would interest the group.

Show relevant photos or an object. Make it interactive. If you talk about a pet, ask the children who have pets to raise their hands.

Say: I am looking forward to getting to know you.

○ Name, Name, Everybody (3-5min)

See Adventurers Introductory Lesson.

○ Last One Standing (4-5min)

Ask the group to stand, then sit as you read a statement that applies to them.

I can tie a tie, I often go to church, I learn a musical instrument, I love sports, I have a blue toothbrush, I speak a language other than English, I have a pet canary, there is a Bible in my house, I have seen under the bonnet of a car, right now my room is tidy, I have been a patient in hospital, I have been fishing, I can draw well.

○ Rules to Learn By (2-5min)

Explain that this group will be learning about God using the *GodSpace* curriculum. The job of each student is to be a responsible learner.

Ask: What rules are in place (or what rules do we need, if you are not in a school situation) to make the most of the learning situation?

Reaffirm the school rules or display the Our Group Rules sheet from Intro_Multi.pdf or Intro_Multi.ppt.

Explore

○ Learning About God and the Bible (2-5min)

Explain that the group will be learning about God.

Ask: How do you think we can find out about God? (*Accept responses*)

Say: People who know God can help us discover God. I'll help you using lessons based on the Bible.

Hold up your Bible.

Ask: Who can tell us something about God or the Bible? Choose several students to tell what they know.

Explain that God is an important part of your life – you don't just know about God, you know God like a friend. You hope that they will come to know God too.

Say: The Bible contains words that can help us remember that God is with us. They can remind us that God loves us. They can give us words to thank God and respond to tough situations. They can help us be more resilient. Part of the lessons will be memorising verses from the Bible.

○ Learning About Prayer (1-5min)

See Adventurers Introductory Lesson.

Discover

○ Activity Options (10min)

Choose one or more depending on the time available and the size and make up of your group.

Word Association

Ask volunteers to say the first word they think of when you say these words – dog, food, Bible, warm, God, happy, bird, song, church, game, space

Singing: *Our God is a Great Big God* 

Question Time: Allow students to ask one thing they'd like to know about God.

Lines: Get the group to line up according to: height, age, house number.

Finish Off

Say: I'll pray and if you agree with what I'm saying to God, say Amen when I finish. 'Dear God, please help this group respect each other and learn well together and discover much about you this year.'
Amen