

1. My Great Big God Introduction

Teaching point: Introduction to Great Big God Part Two.



Introduction week

For the first week of our new Scripture Course the girls will recap last year's course and be reminded of the characteristics of God they learnt about. If you missed the *Great Big God Part One* course please do not worry, this course has been written so that you can begin on *Part Two*. We have also provided you with a PowerPoint that you can share with your girls that gives an overview of last year's course and what they learnt. This will also be a great introduction for those who are just beginning to think about who God is and what He is like.

Use this week to introduce the girls to the *Great Big God Part Two* Scripture Course where you will explain to them that they will be continuing to learn more characteristics of God, however this time they will learn how they too can reflect Him by displaying these characteristics in their own lives.

Pray as the girls begin this new course that they will continue to be blown away by how amazing God is.

Story

Welcome the girls back to Girls' Brigade Scripture class and spend some time with them sharing what is expected from both them and yourself during the time together eg. How they are to sit/how you want them to listen well/maybe have other leaders look out for the best listeners and give them a sticker.

Explain to the girls that the title for the Scripture Course this year is *Great Big God Part Two*.

For some girls they will have completed part one of the *Great Big God* Scripture class and this will be a good opportunity to recap on what they learnt last year. As mentioned in the introduction of the lesson we have provided you with a PowerPoint for you to download from the leaders' section of the GBNI website. This

PowerPoint uses images from last year and will give a brief overview of the various characteristics the girls learnt about God. Remind them what a characteristic is, it helps to describe who someone is, what qualities they have eg. they are kind, caring or gentle.

If the girls were not able to complete last year you may like to begin your introduction to the theme by using some of our introduction from last year. Begin by asking them what they think God is like? When they think of Him, what words would they use to describe Him? We call these characteristics. So, for example, someone may say you are kind, gentle, or caring. These are characteristics you have. What other characteristics can they think of? Can they think of any they would use to describe God? This will be helpful to give you an indication of what the girls' knowledge is before you begin. We would encourage you to use the PowerPoint provided which will let the girls know some of the truths that were taught about God in the *Great Big God Part One* course.

When you have finished watching the PowerPoint ask the girls which one stood out to them the most, which ones made them think WOW!?

When we hear all of these truths about God, we begin to understand how amazing, incredible, huge He is! He is perfect in every way.

Remind/Explain to the girls that all the things they learnt about God last year (apart from holy), were attributes that only He can have. Only He is all powerful, only He is present everywhere, only He knows everything, only He is mighty to save, only He lasts forever, only He has everything He needs, only He never changes.

Explain that it is really important to know the truth about who God is so we can know who we are worshipping. Remember, we can learn all about Him in the Bible. Explain that what they will find is that the more they learn about Him, the more it will help them grow in their relationship with Him and will help them see just how amazing He is. They will also discover why it is really important to have Him in our lives especially when they learn that there is no-one like Him, He is the one true God. When others tell you about gods they know about or serve, you will be able to know about your God and how He is the one true God and why you worship Him.

Explain to the girls that what they learnt last year or what they have watched in the PowerPoint, these are only some of the truths we know about Him. There are still a lot more to know. This year we are going to learn about characteristics that God shares with us. He wants

us to be more like Him and wants us to take on his characteristics and qualities in our everyday lives.

Explain that God made us, His people, to look a bit like Him. Have they ever heard people say to them that you look like your mummy or your daddy or a brother or sister. Well God made us in His image (Genesis 1:27 'So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them'.) We can look a bit like Him in how we speak, how we think and how we act. But just like when people say we look like someone in our family, we are not our mum or dad or granny or brother, we are us!! It is the same with God, we are not God! But we can become more like Him if we spend time with Him and learn more about Him. That is what we hope to learn this year in GB. We are going to learn even more about our great big God and how He has given us some of His great qualities. How wonderful and amazing is that!! God shares His greatness with us!

However, as we learn about these characteristics of God, we need to remember that God is perfect so He is able to display these characteristics all the time. We are not perfect, but we can strive to be more like Him every day and so we need to practise being like Him. The most important thing to remember is that we have God on our side, He wants us to succeed and He alone has the power to help us do what He is asking.

Activity Book (pages 4 & 5)

The first activity in their activity book is a colour by number picture. They are asked to colour the words 'Great Big God' using the colour code provided. As they colour this activity encourage them to talk to you about all the words they can think of that describe God.

There is one sticker for this week which says 'Great Big God'.

Creative Prayer Idea

Encourage the girls to spend some time praying and asking God to show them more of who He is through this year's course.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that You are our great big God. Help us to learn more about You this year and show us ways that we can be more like You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Notes

Adapt your material

It is not our intention for you to use everything we have provided for each lesson. It is purely a resource for you to use to meet the needs of your girls. The reason we have provided additional resources is to help you reinforce the teaching point for that lesson.

As you prepare for your week's lesson you can highlight the material you want to cover with your girls as each company spends different lengths of time on the Scripture Course.

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Activity Book (pages 6 & 7)

The activity this week is spot the difference. It is an image of the tomb and the cross. The girls are asked to spot the 5 differences between the two pictures. Encourage them to circle the differences when they find them.

There is one sticker for this week which says 'God is loving'.

Game

Wrap it!

Who loves opening presents? Who loves wrapping presents? Did you know that the fastest time to gift wrap a Guinness World Records book is 16.62 seconds achieved by Hamda Abid Karim (Pakistan) in Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan, on 22 February 2019. Who thinks they could beat this?

Instead of wrapping a Guinness World Records book, wrap a Bible instead. Have the paper and sellotape cut for them. You can have a competition all together or time each person. It must be wrapped in an acceptable way.

When they have done this, explain to them that Jesus is God's gift to us and telling those around us about this amazing gift and the stories in the Bible is the best present we could give anyone.

Craft

Love heart box

Download the template from the Leaders' Section of the GBNI website which is the net of a cube. By folding a net to form a 3D cube, this will allow them to make a 'God is love heart box'. Help them to look up the Bible references and write them on to each of the faces of the cube. They can then take the cube home with them and when they roll it, they will be able to read a different verse that talks about God's love.

Prayer

Thank You my great big God that You are love. Thank You that You loved us so much that You send Jesus to pay the price for our sins. Help us to love those around us, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Notes

1 MY GREAT BIG GOD INTRODUCTION



Read and pray

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Use this week to introduce the girls to the *Great Big God Part Two* Scripture Course where you will explain to them that they will be continuing to learn more characteristics of God. However this time they will learn how they too can reflect Him by displaying these characteristics in their own lives.

Pray as the girls begin this new course that they will continue to be blown away by how amazing God is.

Grow as you prepare

When you think of God what characteristics do you think of? How does knowing that He knows everything, is present everywhere, is all powerful, is sovereign and holy etc. change you and your prayer life? If you completed the course last year, was there any characteristic that stood out to you the most?

Imagine if each time you approached the throne room of Heaven to offer your prayers to God you remembered these truths! Would you pray bigger prayers? Would your prayers be bolder?

This week as you prepare for a new year of Bible teaching take some post-its and write the various characteristics of God around your house, your work desk, your car. All the places you will frequent this week. Each time you see the characteristic written down, reflect on who God is and thank Him that He is your God and your King.

Read the Bible

Welcome the girls back to Girls' Brigade Scripture class and spend some time with them sharing what is

expected from both them and yourself during the time together eg. How they are to sit/how you want them to listen well/maybe have other leaders look out for the best listeners and give them a sticker/prize?

Explain to the girls that the title for the Scripture Course this year is *Great Big God* part two.

For some girls they will have completed Part One of the *Great Big God* Scripture class and this will be a good opportunity to recap on what they learnt last year. As mentioned in the introduction of the lesson, we have provided you with a PowerPoint for you to download from the Leaders' section of the GBNI website. This PowerPoint uses images from last year and will give a brief overview of the various characteristics the girls learnt about God. Remind them what a characteristic is, it helps to describe who someone is, what qualities they have eg. they are kind, caring or gentle.

If the girls did not use the course last year, you may like to begin your introduction to the theme by using some of our introduction from last year. Begin by asking them what they think God is like? When they think of Him, what words would they use to describe Him? We call these characteristics. So, for example, someone may say you are kind, gentle or caring. These are characteristics you have. What other characteristics can they think of? Can they think of any they would use to describe God? This will be helpful to give you an indication of what the girls' knowledge is before you begin. We would then encourage you to use the PowerPoint provided which will let the girls know some of the truths that were taught about God in the *Great Big God Part One* course.

When you have finished watching the PowerPoint, ask the girls which one stood out to them the most, which ones made them think WOW?!

When we hear all of these truths about God, we begin to understand how amazing, incredible and majestic He is! He is perfect in every way.

Remind/explain to the girls that all the things they learnt about God last year (apart from holy), were characteristics that only He can have. Only He is all

powerful, only He is present everywhere, only He knows everything, only He is mighty to save, only He lasts forever, only He has everything we need, only He never changes.

Explain that it is really important to know the truth about who God is so we can know who we are worshipping. Remember, we can learn all about Him in the Bible. Explain that what they will find is that the more they learn about Him, the more it will help them grow in their relationship with Him and will help them see just how amazing He is. They will also discover why it is really important to have Him in our lives especially when they learn that there is no-one like Him, He is the one true God. When others tell you about gods they know about or serve, you will be able to know about your God and how He is the one true God and why you worship Him.

Explain to the girls that what they learnt last year or what they have watched in the PowerPoint, these are only some of the truths we know about Him. There are still a lot more to know. This year we are going to learn about characteristics that God shares with us. He wants us to be more like Him and wants us to take on His characteristics and qualities in our everyday lives.

Explain that God made us, His people, to look a bit like Him. Have they ever heard people say to them that you look like your mummy or your daddy or a brother or sister. Well God made us in His image, the Bible says in Genesis 1:27, 'So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.' We can look a bit like Him in how we speak, how we think and how we act. But just like when people say we look like someone in our family, we are not our mum or dad or granny or brother, we are us!! It is the same with God, we are not God. But we can become more like Him if we spend time with Him and learn more about Him. That is what we hope to learn this year in GB. We are going to learn even more about our great big God and how He has given us some of His great qualities. How wonderful and amazing is that!! God shares His greatness with us!

However, as we learn about these characteristics of God, we need to remember that God is perfect so He is able to display these characteristics all the time. We are not perfect, but we can strive to be more like Him every day and so we need to practise being like Him. The most important thing to remember is that we have God on our side, He wants us to succeed and He alone has the power to help us do what He is asking.

Puzzle Book (pages 4 & 5)

What do you think of when you think of God?

In the Puzzle Book there is a picture of a GB girl with speech bubbles beside her mouth. Ask the girls what words they think of when they think of God? How would they describe who He is? Those who have completed the course last year, will maybe remember what they learnt and will use some of those words. For those who are doing this for the first time, they will have their own thoughts.

Colour by number

There is a colour by number activity for them to complete on the second page of the Puzzle Book. Encourage the girls to complete it by using the colour code.

Creative prayer

Encourage the girls to spend some time praying and asking God to show them more of who He is through this year's course.

Scrabble tiles

Provide the girls with scrabble tiles and encourage them to make up words they would use to describe God. As they do this, encourage them to pray and praise God for who He is.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You that You are our great big God. Help us to learn more about You this year and show us ways that we can be more like You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

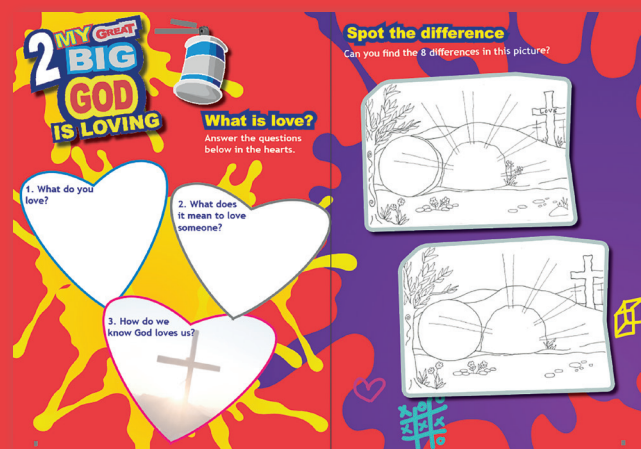
Adapt your material

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Notes

2 MY GREAT BIG GOD IS LOVING



Read and pray

Based on John 19:16-37

God is love, that is at the very core of who He is. This week through the story of the cross, the girls will be learning about God's love and how it is bigger than we could ever grasp. His love is a characteristic that all the girls will more than likely have heard before. As you prepare this week and share the Gospel message, ask God to help them realise the depth of His love, the cost of His love and the great hope we have in our lives because of this amazing love.

Grow as you prepare

Take some time to read and reflect on John 3:16 this week. This is a verse you will have heard many times before, so much so that it most probably rolls off your tongue as soon as you hear the Bible reference. Sometimes we can forget the depth of this verse due to us hearing it many, many times. However, when was the last time you took time to just think and meditate on this verse and what it means to you? Take some time to slowly read through it, maybe even read it in different versions. Write a few sentences of what this means to you or say a prayer in response to this verse. Thank Him for His unfailing, never ending love with no strings attached love. Pray the girls (and you as Leaders) will have a fresh revelation of God's love this week as they hear the story.

Background notes

We are believing and praying for girls to come to know Jesus for the first time this year and we want to make sure we can equip you in whatever way we can to do this. Please find below a reminder of how you can lead a child to faith. As you read over this, use it as an opportunity to pray for each girl in your section by name. For those who you know love Jesus, pray they will be reminded of His great love through this week's story. For those who don't know Him or who you are not sure about, pray they will be amazed by His love and that God would speak to their hearts this week. Pray they would make the important decision to follow Him.

Leading a girl to Christ

Set the girl at ease - Ask some general questions to help her relax as she could be quite nervous.

Make sure she understands the Gospel - Ask questions to find out what she understands about:

God - Who is God?

What God is like? (Christ, holy; pure; loves us.)

Sin

What is sin? - Give some examples.

- Who has sinned?
- Why do we sin?
- Why is sin serious?

The Saviour

- Who can forgive your sin?
- Why is He the only One who can forgive sin?
- What did He do for you on the cross?
- Where is the Lord Jesus now?

Turn from sin and trust Christ-How can you have your sin forgiven?

- Use a Bible verse to explain how to be saved-E.g. *Romans 10:13; Acts 16:31; John 3:16; Romans 6:23*. Explain the verse-what God wants her to do (call/believe/repent) and what God will do (save/give eternal life).
- Help her see being a Christian won't always be easy. The Lord Jesus wants to be first in her life. Remind her the Lord will help her no matter what she faces.
- Give her an option - "Would you like to trust in the Lord Jesus now, or think about it some more?"
- Encourage her to pray audibly - if she seems ready to trust Christ.
- Speak about assurance of Salvation- Go back over the Bible verse you used; help her see what God has done for her. Speak about the change in her life - living for God now, want to please Him.
- Start follow up teaching - You may not have time to do this now, but give her some help as to how she can grow in her faith: Read and obey the Bible each day. Talk to God, your Heavenly Father. Tell others what God has done for you. Ask God to forgive you when you sin. Meet together with other Christians.

- Give her God's promise - "I will never leave you" (*Hebrews 13:5*).
- Pray with her.

Icebreaker

Ask the girls what do they love? What do they really, really love? (Get the girls to share some ideas and be prepared to share some yourself - a warm bath, a good book, a sunny day, winter snow, Christmas, a favourite teddy or doll, a particular movie...).

We can love lots of things in all sorts of ways - we can love someone like our mum or dad, we can love something like cake or a toy or a movie. How do you show that you love someone or something? (take some ideas).

You might hold someone's hand, or give a hug. You might share something you love so that other people might love it too, you might collect something you love... if you love a movie, you might watch it loads. If you love a particular singer, you might listen to them on Spotify all the time.

The Bible tells us that God also loves. It's actually one of the most important parts of who God is - the Bible says that God is love. And God loves you - and me.

The Bible tells us this time and again, but there's one very famous Bible verse that we often remember when it comes to learning about how much God loves us - John 3:16 'God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die' (CEV).

Read the Bible

'Dear God, thank You that You are a great big God. Help us to learn more about You through the Bible story this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.'

This story is based on the passage from John 19:16-37.

A story has been written to help you teach this lesson rather than read the whole passage. You can encourage your girls to go home and read it for themselves.

God loves us so much that He gave us a gift - do you remember what the verse said that gift was? God gave His own Son, Jesus. And Jesus came to give us eternal life - what does that mean? It means life that never ever ends! But Jesus could only give us that gift by doing something very difficult - Jesus had to die. We can read all about it in the story of the very first Easter.

Jesus had always lived a perfect life - He had NEVER done anything wrong, ever. People like you and I can't say that - we do wrong things all the time. We get grumpy, or greedy, or jealous, or lazy - sometimes we do all of those things even before we've had our breakfast! We call these wrong things 'sin' and we know that these things are not the way that God wants us to behave. The

Bible says that these are things that stop us from being God's friends and they mean that we cannot be with Him forever.

BUT remember, God loves us, even when we do wrong things! He wanted a way to take away all of the bad things we've done so that we could be His friends. That's why Jesus took the blame for them all - every grumpy thought or hurtful word or greedy action. To get rid of them once and for ever, He died on the cross... here's how it happened.

Jesus was taken by Roman soldiers and He was beaten and hurt. They put a crown of sharp thorns on His head and made fun of Him. They gave Him a large cross and made Him carry it through the city streets, out through the gates and up a hill called 'The Skull'. Then they put Him on the cross by putting nails through His hands and feet. He hung there for hours and people pointed and laughed.

Finally, when the time was right, when He had taken all of the sins of the world on Himself, He shouted out, 'It is finished'... and then He died.

All of this was done so that He could take away the sins that we've done. He took our punishment, and because He had never done anything wrong, and because He is God's own Son, He came back to life! But that's a story for another day.

For now, remember that God loves you - He loves you so much that He sent His own son to die for you to take away your sins. And that happens when you thank Him and ask Him to do that for you and then choose to follow Him from then on. Your GB Leader will be able to talk to you about what that looks like.

And it's good to remember also that we should be loving to the people around us because Jesus was loving to us first of all - how can we show that we are loving to our family? Our friends? Our teacher? Our church? Our GB? Ask God to help you as you choose to be more like Him (and He will!).

Puzzle Book (Pages 6 & 7)

Hearts

There are 3 heart shapes printed in their Puzzle Books. The girls are asked the following questions and are asked to write their answers in the heart.

1. What do you love?
2. What does it mean to love someone?
3. How do we know God loves us?

Spot the difference

There is a spot the difference activity for them to complete. The image is of the empty tomb and the cross. The girls are asked to find 8 differences. They can colour the picture when they have found them.

Because God is loving

God's love is bigger than we could ever imagine. His love is always there, it lasts forever. There is nothing we can do that will make Him love us anymore and nothing we can do to make Him love us any less. Even when we are naughty He loves us, when we mess up and fail, He loves us. And because He loves us so much He wants the very best for us. Remember He loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to pay for our sin, the wrong things in our lives, so we could go to live with Him forever in Heaven.

So who should we love? We are called to love God first, to put Him first. In fact we are told to love God with all our heart, mind and strength. We should love Him more than anyone or anything else and we can do this by obeying Him, by worshipping Him, by living for Him and telling others about His great love.

Ask the girls do they know God's love? Can they say they love Him with all their heart, soul and mind? If they have never done so before, they can give their lives over to Him. What does this mean? It means asking God to forgive you from your sins and thanking Him for His Son Jesus who came into the world to save you from our sins.

From there, it means being part of God's family and learning more about Him through praying and reading the Bible. It means obeying the Bible and seeking to live each day to be more like Jesus. Explain going to GB, Sunday School and church and being around people who love Him, learning from them and asking them to pray for you and will help you live a life like Jesus. It is important when we are followers of Jesus that we are part of a church family because we can serve and share with those around us that God has been teaching us. Encourage them that if they would like to do this, you would love to talk to them more about it and to come and talk to you after.

If we are already a follower of Jesus, God also wants us to show love to everyone around us. How can we do this? By being kind, by helping those around us and including everyone. By being generous and sharing all that we have. When we do this, we are also showing these people the love of God.

Will it always be easy? Not always. There are some people around us who we may find difficult to love. When we think we can't show them love, we need to remember that God loves us even though we are imperfect and sinners and so we should do the same. So if there is someone in your life, maybe someone in your class, or a neighbour who you are finding really difficult to show love towards, remember that when we know and love Jesus, His Spirit is living inside you and you can ask Him to help you love that person and ask Him to help you see them the way God sees them.

Creative prayer idea

Build the biggest tower/wall type structure you can with mega blocks. Talk about how God's love is higher than any wall that can ever be built. The Bible says in Ephesians 3:18 "And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is".

Stand behind the tower and say that this tower is physically separating you from them. Explain that the Bible tells us in Romans 8:39 that nothing can separate us from God's love. That's how big and wonderful His love is. Ask the girls to help you break the wall down and as they do, say prayers thanking God that nothing can separate us from His love. Depending on how many girls you have, you may like to split them into groups and do this a few times.

Memory verse

"God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die" John 3:16 (CEV).

Prayer

Thank you my great big God that You are love. Thank You that you loved us so much that You sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins. Help us to love those around us, in Jesus' name Amen.



Notes

SAMPLE

