

MY AWESOME ADVENTURE



Adventure

Disciple Guide Sample (Lesson 1)

Awesome God

How to Know What God is Like

Hey kids!
Welcome to Yosemite
National Park. We're
here to discover just
how awesome
God is!

Great question,
Luke! I hope to
answer that during
our hike.

How can Yosemite tell
us about God?

It's so beautiful!

Well, let's
go, then!

Read Genesis 1:1

God _____ the heavens and the
earth. God made the HUGE planet that we live on—
all the beautiful places like Yosemite—
and the entire UNIVERSE!

Read Genesis 1:26-27

God made people to be like Him.
Like a mirror, we reflect what
He is like. You were created
in God's _____!

Join us on
our adventure!
Draw a picture of
yourself ready to hike!

This view is breathtaking!

It's so inspiring!

Well, this is "Inspiration Point"! As we learn more about God and study His Word, we'll be inspired to follow Him every day.

If God made all this, He might be worth following!

Yosemite's splendor shows how GREAT God is! Decode the words to learn five things about God.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

G is for
 ○ ≡ || ≡ □ □ ▯ ○
 God eagerly **gives good things** to people.

God enjoys giving gifts. Discover more in **Acts 17:24-25**.

R is for
 □ ○ ○ ⊖ ⊥ ≡ □ ▯ ○
 God is pure and holy, fair and honest. He's **always right**.

God never sins or makes a mistake. Read **Psalms 145:17-18**.

E is for
 ≡ ⊥ ≡ □ || △ ⊥
 God has always existed and will always **exist**.

God is everlasting and never changes. See **Psalms 90:2**.

A is for
 △ ⊥ || ○ ○ ⊖ ⊥ ⊥
 God has unlimited strength. He's **all-powerful**.

God never needs to rest or recharge. Check out **1 Chronicles 29:11**.

T is for
 ⊥ ○ □ ≡ ≡ ⊖ || □ || ≡
 One God exists in three different Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the **Trinity**.

All three Persons of the Trinity are equally God. See **Matthew 28:18-20**.

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

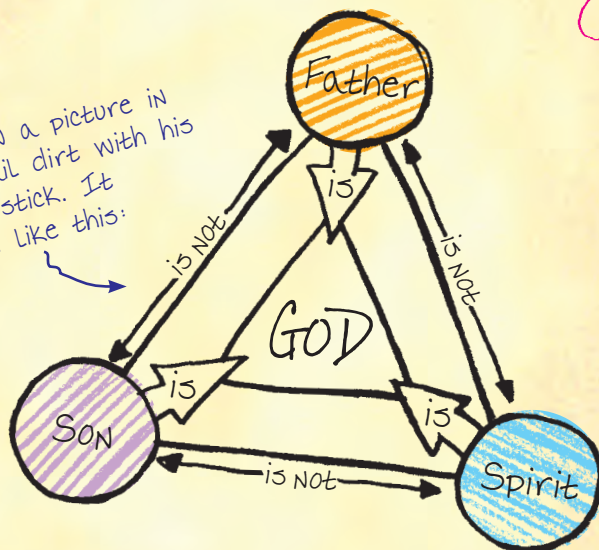


Laura here. Understanding the Trinity is tough! It's a pretty big idea to wrap my head around! Pastor Karl (PK) helped me by comparing the Trinity to water. Water exists in three forms: liquid, gas, or solid—but all three are still water. Just like God is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but all three are still God. (Water can only be one thing at a time, but God is all three at the same time.)



Amazing!

PK drew a picture in the trail dirt with his hiking stick. It looked like this:



Matthew 3:16-17

Matthew 28:19

2 Corinthians 13:14

Isaiah 48:16

1 Peter 1:2

Draw a line from each rock to the member(s) of the Trinity it describes.



Yosemite was named by the Ahwahneechee Indians, who kept the valley a secret from Western settlers for more than 200 years! The native tribes there called it "Uzumati" and "Yohhe'meti."



Cool! You're writing in our group's field journal!



Cy here. I'm excited about this journey.
I'm praying that God will teach me along the way.
Write something that you hope to learn during this Awesome Adventure.

What are three ways you'd like God to help you change?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now pray and
ask God to
help you!

When we stopped
to enjoy the view,
we had fun thinking
of words that
describe God's awe-
some character! How
many can you find in
my word search? Hint:
all twenty words start
with a capital letter.



A	b	U	n	c	h	a	n	g	i	n	g	M
d	l	j	o	q	x	b	G	e	n	t	l	e
S	a	l	u	f	h	t	i	a	F	u	j	r
o	n	t	k	d	y	z	b	y	f	x	b	c
v	r	c	d	n	l	e	u	r	T	p	G	i
e	e	e	j	i	o	x	e	w	s	a	e	f
r	t	f	z	K	h	w	b	x	u	t	n	u
e	E	r	G	o	o	d	l	y	J	i	e	l
i	z	e	b	P	W	x	y	n	z	e	r	b
g	b	P	L	o	v	i	n	g	g	n	o	k
n	A	l	l	p	r	e	s	e	n	t	u	z
b	a	h	R	i	g	h	t	e	o	u	s	x
y	T	h	r	e	e	i	n	o	n	e	z	z

**Awesome
God**
1 Chronicles
29:11

MY AWESOME ADVENTURE



Adventure

Teacher Guide Sample (Lesson 1)

MY AWESOME ADVENTURE

Finding and Following Jesus

Disciple Targets



During this adventure,
your kids will...

Develop Biblical Knowledge

- K** • Because God is great, He deserves their love, respect, and worship
- N** • God gives eternal life to everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ
- O** • The Bible is God's inspired book—different from all other books in the world
- W** • Spending time alone with God is vital to their spiritual lives
- The Church is God's people set apart to serve Him in the world
- God has a plan for every Christian

Display Christlike Character

- F** • Amazed by God's greatness, love, and power
- E** • Confident that they can succeed as Christians
- E** • Excited about making new discoveries in their Bibles
- L** • Honored to be part of God's family and a local church

Demonstrate Faithful Conduct

- D** • Trust Jesus as their personal Savior and receive His new life
- O** • Begin the practice of a daily "quiet time" with God
- Identify ways they can serve in their local church
- Find creative ways to tell their friends about Jesus

1 Awesome God How to Know what God is Like
Christians praise God for His everlasting greatness.

2 Awesome Promise How to Receive New Life
All who trust in Jesus Christ receive eternal life.

3 Awesome Growth How to Live for God
Christians grow in faith by producing good fruit.

4 Awesome Book How to Enjoy Reading the Bible
Christians gain insights from God's inspired Word.

5 Awesome Access How to Talk with God in Prayer
Christians pray directly to God, their loving Father.

6 Awesome Guide How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit
Christians receive direction from God the Holy Spirit.

7 Awesome Family How to Be Part of God's Church
Christians join God's family and serve in a local church.

8 Awesome Worship How to Honor and Respect God
Christians worship God in spirit and in truth.

9 Awesome Abilities How to Discover Spiritual Gifts
Christians use their special gifts to serve people in need.

10 Awesome Mission How to Tell Others about Jesus
Christians tell the world that Jesus is their Savior.

11 Awesome Disciple How to Obey God's Commands
Christians deny themselves and live for God each day.

12 Awesome Future How to Fulfill God's Grand Plan
Christians walk with God and lay up treasures in heaven.

13 Review Lesson

Review the key concepts, skills, and events from the entire adventure.

1 Awesome God

How to Know What God is Like

Big Idea *Christians praise God for His everlasting greatness.*

Lesson Summary

A new believer's life with Christ is anchored upon his or her correct understanding of God. It is critical to help children realize what God is like. Each facet of God's nature gives believers comfort and insight. For example, since God doesn't change, we never have to fear that He will someday decide not to save us. Since God is almighty, we know that no problem is too big for Him to handle. Since God is righteous, we can be assured that He will act with justice and impartiality.

In addition to "divine attributes" like omniscience (all-knowing), omnipotence (all-powerful), and omnipresence (all-present), God has many traits that people can readily understand: loving, good, merciful, joyful, and forgiving.

Most of all, God wants us to know Him as a personal Being. He loves us and is intimately concerned about each of His children.

Teacher Devotional

Pray that God will reveal Himself throughout this lesson and that each student will learn more about what God is like. Pray that children will sense God's presence each day.

Our Adventure...

Pastor Karl and his fellow hikers Dee, Cy, Paul, Laura, and Luke arrive at Yosemite—and this is their first glimpse of this amazing national park! They discover that the beauty of God's creation is a wonderful introduction to God's awesome character. Ask your students what amazing places they have been or what "awesome" things they have seen that God has made. Talk to your children about your response to our creative God.

Throughout the adventure, Pastor Karl will guide the kids through Yosemite's different landmarks, and they will learn more about what it means to live as Christians. Your children will appreciate that walking with Jesus truly is an Awesome Adventure!

Memorize God's Word

Topic: Awesome God

Reference: 1 Chronicles 29:11

Memory Activity—Write phrases of the verse on six small sheets of paper. (Make a set for each child.) Using the sheets, students should try to assemble the verse. Slowly give them clues about which is first and so on. After kids have assembled the puzzle, repeat the verse together several times.



DISCIPLE TARGETS In this lesson, your children will...

KNOWLEDGE (truths)

- K** • God is GREAT—Generous, Righteous, Eternal, Almighty, and Three-in-One (1 Chronicles 29:11)
- N**
- O** • God created everything in the entire universe (Genesis 1:1)
- W** • God created people in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27)
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are equal, but separate Persons of the Trinity (Matthew 28:19)

CHARACTER (emotions)

- F** • Awed by God's greatness and power
- E** • Loved by their Creator and Friend
- E** • Confident that God is Three-in-One
- L**

CONDUCT (actions)

- D** • Explain the words that represent five attributes of God
- O** • Acknowledge themselves as one of God's creations
- Worship God, showing Him love and respect
- Memorize 1 Chronicles 29:11

DISCIPLESHIP

These tips will help you disciple your children. Find the full versions of these articles at DiscipleLand.com/downloads.

D=Develop a Relationship

Christ based His discipleship methods upon relationships. Jesus didn't establish schools, write curriculum, or host seminars. He disciplined those who were close to Him—and those disciples *changed the world* after Jesus left for heaven.

Jesus is our Master, Savior, Creator, and Guide, but best of all He is our Friend. You may be many things to the children in your ministry, but when you become their friend, you begin to truly impact their spiritual walk. Pray about each of the kids in your ministry and *ask God to show you* at least one child with whom you could develop a deeper relationship. Become his or her friend, not just a leader or teacher.

Developing friendships with children is pretty straightforward. It includes:

- Knowing their names
- Knowing about their families
- Praying for them
- Asking relational questions
- Spending time together
- Remembering important dates in their lives
- Loving them unconditionally

Are there one or two kids waiting for your friendship? Pour your life into theirs! Begin discipling them intentionally. The impact you could have on their lives is indescribable!

SUPPLIES

General Supplies

Bibles, Disciple Guides (pages 1-4)
Pencils, markers, crayons
Paper, scissors, tape, glue

Memorize God's Word

No additional supplies

Spark Interest

•ALL ACTIVITIES: no additional supplies

Explore Scripture

No additional supplies

Inspire Action

•ICE, WATER, STEAM: stove or electric kettle, ice cubes
•GOD IS GREAT PICTURE: no additional supplies
•PANTOMIME: none

Spark Interest

Teacher—Choose one or more activities that will involve students and grab their attention.

Age 6-12—Huge Universe

This discussion activity introduces children to the magnitude of God's creation.

Talk about the enormous size of the universe and how great its Creator must be. Use statistics from an encyclopedia or an Internet search.

OR

Age 6-12—Awesome God Acrostic

This word activity encourages children to consider God's different characteristics.

Create an acrostic together using the letters A-W-E-S-O-M-E and G-O-D to describe what He is like. For example: A = awesome, W = wise, E = everywhere, etc.

Age 6-12—Life without God

This discussion activity challenges kids to imagine what the world would be like without God.

Sit together in a closet or dark room. Talk about what life would be like without God.

OR

Age 6-9—God is...

This discussion activity encourages children to brainstorm about God.

As a group, invite children to list things they know about God. Talk about each suggestion. You may also want to make a list of things God created in Genesis 1.

Age 6-9—Nature Scavenger Hunt

This outdoor activity allows kids to encounter God's creation.

Take your children outdoors. Ask them to find five items from God's creation (or ten items if they're paired up or with a small group). Encourage students to look around and see the amazing things that God has created. Afterward, allow each child to show what he or she has brought back and discuss God's hand in every tiny detail of creation, from the smallest veins in a leaf to the intricate patterns of minerals in a rock.

OR

Age 9-12—Great People

This discussion activity compares and contrasts human greatness with God's divine greatness.

Name individuals who are considered to be "great." Talk about what makes each one so great.

OR

Age 9-12—God or People?

This brainstorming activity encourages children to think about the differences between God and people.

Make two lists that show characteristics of God and of people. Discuss the ways God and people are different and similar.

Explore Scripture

Teacher—Guide children as they complete each exercise in their Disciple Guides.

Download answers for Disciple Guide exercises at DiscipleLand.com/downloads

Page 1

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the blanks. Encourage students to use their own Bibles for this exercise.

Talk about God's immense creative power and what it means to be made in "God's image."

Encourage the children to place or draw a picture of themselves in the space provided to personalize their books. Discuss how just as Yosemite is an amazing creation that reflects God's creative ability, so are they!

Page 2

Let your students use Scripture to discover some specific ways that God is G-R-E-A-T. Explain how to use the decoder and encourage children to decode the missing letters. Be sure your kids look up each accompanying verse themselves in their own Bibles.

Discuss how each word in the acronym G-R-E-A-T helps them understand another aspect of God's amazing characteristics.

Page 3

On this page, Laura writes about a discussion Pastor Karl led about the Trinity. Use this opportunity to lead a conversation about this challenging but important topic. Read and explain the analogy about water in three different forms. Note that the limit to this illustration is that while water changes between these forms, God is always Three Persons *at the same time*.

The triangle illustration helps describe the Trinity, but it still may be a difficult concept for kids to understand—let them know that is okay. We are not meant to fully understand God's nature—only what He reveals to us in the Bible.

Look up the Scripture references to see how the Bible shows that the three Members of the Trinity are distinct Persons, yet They work together as One.

Page 4

The final page of each lesson features a group field journal that displays the thoughts of the children on the hike. This HeartBeat serves as a life application page for your children. You may consider letting kids take this page home to work on their own.

Heartbeat—Encourage your disciples to think about how God might want to change areas of their lives. Suggest specific ways to change.

Talk about each of God's character traits (attributes) as you circle them. Help students explain them in their own words.

Bible Memory Verse—Have children work on memorizing the verse at home. This first verse is challenging, but the children will enjoy it for years. Feel free to let them know that future verses will be shorter. Download Memory Verse cairn stones at DiscipleLand.com/downloads.

Yo! Facts

More fascinating information about Yosemite National Park.

Yosemite was named by the Ahwahneechee Indians, who kept the valley a secret from Western settlers for more than 200 years! It was finally "discovered" by a California battalion during the Mariposa War of 1851. The native tribes there called it *Uzumati*, meaning "grizzly bear," and *Yohhe'meti*, the name of one of the valley's tribes. Western ears confused both words and christened the valley "Yosemite."

Inspire Action

Teacher—Choose one activity that will encourage learners to apply the Bible truth to their lives.

Age 6-12—Ice, Water, Steam

This object lesson helps children understand the Trinity.

Supplies: stove or electric kettle, ice cubes

Melt ice cubes on a stove. Watch the water boil and turn to steam. All three (ice, water, and steam) are the same substance (hydrogen and oxygen atoms, H²O) in different states (solid, liquid, gas). This can help them understand the Trinity: God is One, yet He exists in three distinct Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

OR

Age 6-9—God is Great Picture

This drawing activity allows kids to respond to God's greatness.

Have the children each draw a picture to show one way that God is great. Talk about what they chose to draw, and post the pictures around the room.

OR

Age 9-12—Pantomime

This drama activity elaborates on God's GREAT nature.

Choose five students and ask each to act out one attribute of God. Coach them on how to portray each attribute. (For example—Generous: someone giving things away; Righteous: pure as snow; Eternal: someone or something old; Almighty: a weight lifter; Trinity: things in threes or a triangle.) As each student silently acts out an attribute, have the class try to guess what it is. Explain how each relates to God.

Closing Prayer

Conclude your session with conversational prayer. Pray that students will learn to love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. Pray that God will reveal Himself to students and that they will experience Him personally as they read the Scriptures.

Extend Learning

Teacher—These varied activities supplement the lesson.

God's Alphabet—Divide into groups of four to six students. Give groups five to eight minutes to list one word to describe God for each letter of the alphabet. (Only *one* word per letter is allowed.) Bring the groups back together and ask for volunteers to read their lists. Give a group one point for each answer they have that *no other* team matches. (Rules are similar to the Scattergories™ game) While one team reads each answer, the other teams indicate whether or not they had the same answer (confirmed by a leader). If no other team had that answer (example: "Holy" for "H"), then the team circles that letter. Or, if another team had that same word, it would be crossed out on both lists. At the end, teams add their circles to get their scores.

Creation Appreciation—Go on a Creation Appreciation Hike, taking a few moments to be silent before God, listen to His voice and be in His presence. Look around. Spend time thanking God for the wonder and beauty of His creation.

As you observe your surroundings, compare the natural (God-created) world to the artificial (man-made) world. Read Psalm 148:7-13 aloud from your favorite Bible translation as you hike. Say, "Jesus often taught in parables and compared the Kingdom of God to simple, earthly things such as seeds, trees, and soil. Do you see a parable around you? What truths about God are evident in His creation?" End with a prayer of thanks for God and His creative ability!

Bonus Resources—Access free downloads for this lesson at DiscipleLand.com/downloads.

- DISCIPLESHIP articles
- Memory Verse cairn stone
- More activity ideas
- Activity templates