

Providence Methodist Church's Family Bible School 2022
God's Great Story - Family Challenge Guide

Week 1: An Introduction

Welcome to Family Bible School! All hands are on deck this summer so that families at PMC can collaborate to learn God's Great Story.

The Bible is a very big book. It is actually a collection of books, which God gave us so that we can know His thoughts, nature, words, work, promises, and plans for us and all creation.

There are 66 books in the Bible! They are divided into 2 parts:

1. The Old Testament, and
2. The New Testament.

Both parts of the Bible are important for Christians today because the Bible, although made up of 66 books, actually tells one story-God's Great Story.

Christians (people who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives) are God's people. This means that they live their lives to please God.

To please God Christians must know His thoughts, nature, words, work, promises, and plans for people and all creation! Therefore, it is very important that Christians commit to learning God's Great Story or reading and studying their Bibles.

During Family Bible School 2022, your family will have the opportunity to learn God's Great Story TOGETHER. This means that your family will have the opportunity to know God in a deeper way that helps them to live as God's people.

This guide has been created as an accompanying resource to support congregations in building biblical literacy through an introduction to the Big Story of Scripture, cultivating awareness in all participants of their unique role in God's Great Story and building a sense of intergenerational community through the collective study of God's Word. Its creator and author, Carolyn Sinclair McCalla, reserves all rights due to her as its creator and author. This version of the guide has been adapted for the Providence Methodist Church congregation of 132 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6, Jamaica, Caribbean for the administration of its 2022 VBS program. Requests to the author and publisher for permission should be addressed to the following email: carolynsinclairmccalla@gmail.com.

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GET READY FOR FAMILY BIBLE SCHOOL 2022

The Big Challenge: Your family will create a story box mapping out all 6 parts of God's Great Story.

Getting Ready to Make Your Story Box

Step 1: Identify a standard cardboard box in your home or recover one from your local supermarket!

- Ensure that your box is strong. No dents. No tears.
- Make sure that your box has plain faces (are without print).
 - If you can't find a box with plain faces, you can cover each face with plain paper to create your own plain face.

Step 2: Gather coloring utensils, i.e. crayons, colored pencils, markers, or even paints!

- Put your coloring utensils in a place where everyone can have access to them. You'll use them to illustrate each key part of God's Great Story.
 - **Note:** your box has 6 faces and God's Great Story has 6 key parts, so you will use a face for each key part.

Step 3: Watch the weekly lessons. The weekly lessons will be posted every Sunday at 11 am (from July 10, 2022 - August 23, 2022) on our [YouTube Channel](#).

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Step 4: Take notes based on the weekly lessons.

OPTION 1

- Grab a notebook and a pen or pencil you can use for each lesson.
- Get a headstart on your notetaking by setting up your notebook. You'll need
 - Page #1: A page for the beginning.
 - Page #2: A page for the problem.
 - Page #3: A page for the rising action.
 - Page #4: A page for the climax.
 - Page #5: A page for the falling action.
 - Page #6: A page for the resolution.
- Write detailed notes to help you draw each key part of God's Great Story TOGETHER as a family.
- Write legibly so you can actually read your notes to help you draw each key part of God's Great Story TOGETHER as a family.

OPTION 2

- Use the space and prompts provided in this guide for you and your family to take notes DURING and AFTER viewing the weekly lesson.
- Download and type directly into the guide or print it at home!

Step 5: Draw the key parts of God's Great Story as you learn about them.

- Ensure EACH drawing includes the following:
 - Relevant quotations from the focus Scriptures for the key part of the Story you are drawing.
 - You will know the quotations are relevant if they help you to answer the key questions for the key part of the story you are drawing.
 - Images to represent and describe the key figures in the part of the Story you are drawing.

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- Images to represent the key understandings God wants us to have about Him, us, and the world from the part of the Story you are drawing.

Step 6: Share your story box with the church family!

- Post images or video footage of you explaining your story box to our [Facebook page](#) and [Instagram account](#).
- Email images or video footage of you explaining your story box to the Media Team at providencemethodistsocmed@gmail.com.

AN EXAMPLE OF A STORY BOX: [“GOD’S STORY: JOSHUA AND THE BATTLE OF JERICHO”](#)

Other Challenges: Your family will be invited to participate in mini-adventures together based on the weekly teaching. They are noted in the section of your notebook entitled, “Family Challenge”. We’d love to see your photos and videos of your family participating in the challenges.

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The Music

Finally, we want to thank the Grandson and Grandma duo, **Jerome Milord and Gloria Barrett-Sobers**, who collaborated to create enjoyable, gospel-centered, and intergenerational playlists for each week of Family Bible School!



Jerome Milord (Grandson) and Gloria Barrett-Sobers (Grandma)

Their carefully curated playlists are included on each week's note page. **You may also access them here:**

Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
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Week 2: The Beginning
Focus Scriptures:
Genesis 1 & 2
Guiding Question(s):
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● What timeframe are these first two chapters of the Bible set in?● Where is the opening action of the Story taking place?● Who is or are the characters carrying out the action of the Story?
Your Answers:

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Family Challenge:

THIS WEEK'S FAMILY CHALLENGE: TOGETHER, explore the world God created so long ago, and enjoy the people God has given you! Here are some ideas to start:

- **Heavens:** Go stargazing.
- **Water:** Go for a swim in a natural body of water with your family or go fishing!
- **Land:** Explore a hiking trail in a public park.
- **Plant Life:** Plant a herb garden in your home or a tree in your neighborhood.
- **Animal Life:** Go to the Jamaica Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and adopt a rescued animal.
- **People:** Speak kindly to your family members. Try to catch them being like Jesus and then put them on blast!

Share your adventure with the PMC family by sending your photos or videos to the PMC Media Team: providencemethodistsocmed@gmail.com.

SONGS OF THE WEEK

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4cDonz2Er3WVhcSbood86W#login>

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Family Challenge:

THIS WEEK'S FAMILY CHALLENGE: TOGETHER...

1. **Read Galatians 5: 13 - 16.**
 - a. Note the effects of sin that the Holy Spirit moves the Apostle Paul to identify.

2. **Use the descriptions in Galatian 5: 13 - 16** to note the effects of sin (our big problem) in the different elements of the world God has created, i.e. the heavens, waters, land, plant life, animal life, and people.

Share your reflections and insights with the PMC family by emailing the PMC Media Team: providencemethodistsocmed@gmail.com.

SONGS OF THE WEEK

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3H4pVEAreYDVdYFi1DnShT>

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Family Challenge:

THIS WEEK'S FAMILY CHALLENGE: TOGETHER gather to share personal stories (testimonies) about how you've tried all three of the approaches in today's readings, i.e. hiding, self-reliance, and trust in Jesus Christ.

1. **Hiding**
 - a. Share a personal story (testimony) of a time when you tried to hide your sin or pretend it didn't exist.

2. **Self- Reliance**
 - a. Share a personal story (testimony) of a time you tried self-help (to fix your own sin problem).

3. **Jesus Christ**
 - a. Share a personal story (testimony) of a time you relied on the finished work and person of Jesus Christ to resolve your sin problem.

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SONGS OF THE WEEK

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6amQIBmAAdgl8i06oMRuSg>

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Week 5: The Falling Action & Resolution
Focus Scriptures:
John 3:16, Ephesians 2: 8 - 9, Galatians 5, Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 10: 13 - 15; 2 Corinthians 5: 20 & Matthew 5: 13 - 16
Guiding Questions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● What is the falling action of the Story?● What is the resolution of the Story?
Your Answers:

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Family Challenge:

THIS WEEK'S FAMILY CHALLENGE: TOGETHER gather to assess your responses to the key revelation that God alone saves, and that He has chosen to do this through Jesus Christ. There are three affirmative Scriptural responses to this truth:

1. **Accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.**
 - a. Have you accepted God's solution to your sin problem?
 - b. If yes, share how you came to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
 - c. If not, what has stopped you from accepting God's solution to your sin problem?
 - d. If not, would you like to give your life to Jesus Christ today?

2. **Collaborating with the Holy Spirit to live a victorious life.**
 - a. If you have given your life to Jesus Christ you have the Holy Spirit living inside you! How does the thought of having The Holy Spirit (God himself) living inside you make you feel?
 - b. How do you collaborate with the Holy Spirit to overcome the power of sin in your life and please God?

3. **Telling the Good News**
 - a. When was the last time you shared the Good News with your family, on the job, via your social media platforms, or with the wider community?
 - b. How do you share God's solution to all of humanity's sin problem with your family, on the job, via your social media platforms, and with the wider community?
 - c. If you haven't shared the Good News, what has gotten in your way?

4. **Discipling the Nations**
 - a. How are you discipling or teaching and leading those in your household to be and live like Jesus Christ?

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<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0Rl3cy0cxey1rcFiixRYf>

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Week 6: Summary of God's Great Story

Focus Scriptures:

[Listen](#) and [watch](#) the [video](#) closely.

Write a summary of God's story.

- The beginning
- The middle
 - The problem
 - The rising action
 - The climax
- The end
 - The falling action
 - The resolution

Your Summary:

Answer, "How can you become a part of God's story?"

Family Challenge:

1. **Refine** your answer to this week's guiding question by exploring the opportunities for service at PMC.
2. **Identify** ONE specific invitation to service that you will take.
3. **Email** or speak to the responsible ministry leaders to see how you can solidify your commitment to serve!
4. **Serve**.

Opportunity Feature: If you and your family would love to partner with the Family Bible School to develop learning materials and experiences to build up the families in our local church, please email, Sister Carolyn Sinclair McCalla at carolynsinclairmccalla@gmail.com.

SONGS OF THE WEEK

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7fbEq7DMjxdBc2mldoDpul>

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The following is an overview of the engagement we anticipate for week 7 of Family Bible School. It is subject to change, yet is sufficient for you to prepare for what's ahead! We hope to have in-person/during service and online engagement options for all willing participants.

Week 7: Opportunities to Respond Affirmatively to the Key Revelation of Scripture [HYBRID]
Telling the Good News
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adults share their personal testimonies about how and why they came to Jesus Christ, followed by Q & A. [IN PERSON]• People are led in practices to support them in crafting and sharing their testimonies. [ON DEMAND VIDEO]• Youth develop a social media campaign to share the Good News through PMC's website and social media channels. [IN PERSON WORKSHOP]
Accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior & Collaborating with the Holy Spirit to Live a Victorious Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the Gospel for Kids, emphasizing the role of the Holy Spirit, with Q & A. [IN PERSON]
Discipling the Nations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents are led in practices to develop a weekly devotional rhythm for their families. [ON DEMAND VIDEO]• Grandparents are led in structured practices to support consistent, specific, and effective prayer over their children and grandchildren as a way to leave an inheritance that will not perish. [ON DEMAND VIDEO]• Foster care and adoption as pathways to love God, love others, and carry out the great commission. [IN PERSON]
SONGS OF THE WEEK
https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4FKAnJKertss5oIA1Cseko

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