

A BRIEF review of the 2013-2014 sessions and the stories in them

Session 1: Getting to know Samuel the prophet

- God talks to a young Samuel in the middle of the night, Samuel doesn't know it is God, eventually Eli helps Samuel figure it out.
- Israelites want a king, now that Samuel is old. Samuel feels bad about the Israelites' choice – God reminds Samuel that the Israelites are not rejecting Samuel, but God.
- Samuel anoints King David – God helps Samuel know who to anoint as the second king.

Session 2: Getting to know Elijah the prophet

- Elijah has a competition with 450 Baal Prophets – Elijah wins and the prophets of Baal all die
- Queen Jezebel wants to kill Elijah after his victory, and Elijah wants to die. God then speaks to Elijah in the stillness after crazy storms. Tells him to get a student, Elisha.
- At the end of his life, Elijah does not die but is carried off by a chariot of fire. Elisha wants a double helping of Elijah's spirit and seems to get it. This story is very much like the ascension story of Jesus in combination with Pentecost.

Session 3: Jesus and John the Baptist

- John's soon-to-be father (Zechariah) is told that he will be a father by a messenger from God. Zachariah doesn't believe the messenger...and goes mute.
- Joseph is planning to break up with Mary because he thinks she's cheated on him. In a dream, a messenger of God tells Joseph to not do that. Joseph listens. Jesus is born into a much better situation than if Joseph had left Mary like he was originally planning.
- John baptizes Jesus. God's Holy Spirit descends on Jesus – just like Pentecost where the spirit descends on the disciples.

What three groups surround Jesus? (Crowd, Pharisees and Disciples – and so... we did a session on each)

Session 4: Jesus and the Crowd

- Jesus leaves the needs of the crowd to go pray
- Jesus preaches in his hometown...and they try to throw him off a cliff
- The crowd is so busy wanting to be entertained by Jesus, that they are incapable of paying attention to anything else and become an obstacle that four friends must get around in order to get their paralytic friend to Jesus. They do this by digging a hole thru Jesus' roof...and Jesus isn't even mad.

Session 5: Jesus and the Pharisees

- Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath and the Pharisees start plotting to kill Jesus.
- Jesus talks to one Pharisee, in the middle of the night, about starting over (i.e. being born again). The Pharisee's name is Nicodemus.
- Pharisees try to trick Jesus with a question about taxes. Jesus' awesome answer is: Give unto Caesar's what is Caesars and give unto God's what is God's.

Session 6: Jesus and his Disciples

- Jesus teaches the disciples about prayer and the Holy Spirit (i.e. the Lord's Prayer)

- Jesus calls Peter “Satan” because Peter has his mind on human things, not divine things. The “human” thing Peter has his mind on, btw, is trying to get Jesus to not go to Jerusalem where Jesus says he’ll be killed.
- Jesus sends out 70 of his disciples and they do what he does and they return to Jesus after some time and they are very excited about what happened.

Session 7: Holy Week

- Jesus tells the parable of the vineyard – he tells it *to* the Pharisees and it’s *about* the Pharisees. The Pharisees do their usual response of plotting to kill Jesus.
- Jesus has been arrested and brought to Pontius Pilate (the Roman governor of the Jerusalem area) who finds Jesus not guilty, but is afraid of the crowd. Pilate eventually proclaims *himself* innocent and hands Jesus over to be crucified.
- Jesus is crucified.

After Resurrection

- After Jesus’ resurrection, Thomas, a disciple, does not hang out with the rest of the disciples and misses the first visit by Resurrected Jesus. But, Thomas gets a second chance – when he does what he’s supposed to do by staying with the other disciples, then he sees Resurrected Jesus.
- Jesus floats away (the Ascension) just before the thing that Jesus has been teaching and preparing the disciples for all throughout his ministry. Jesus does this because the disciples have to see that what Jesus has taught them lives *inside* of them, and not *just* inside of Jesus.
- Pentecost arrives. FINALLY. After all this time of learning with Jesus and all these adventures during his ministry including his arrest, trial, death, resurrection and ascension, the disciples are finally ready for God’s Holy Spirit. By receiving God’s Holy Spirit, the disciples begin the same process that Jesus took them through, only this time, the disciples are the teachers and they have students.