

Youth Connect – Garden to Glory – Bible Overview

Week	Episode	Reading	Big Idea	Key Question & Key Verse	Movements in the church talk (these are not all necessary for the youth talk but could be helpful)	Activity
1 21/4/17 YNET next week	BROKEN	Bible Genesis 3:1-19 Other Chapters to draw on Gen 1 Matt 4:1-4	The tragedy of humanity's rebellion against God sets the scene for the rest of the Bible story. Sin destroyed the perfect relationship between God and us (and each other). The blessed world is now cursed and the people are scattered.	What went wrong with the world? Genesis 3:17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.	WORLD STORY/YOUR STORY: Scams, scandals and Tsunamis this world is far from... THE BIBLE STORY SO FAR: perfect/blessed (last wk) The real reason is SIN. Starting in the event we call the FALL. SIN IS: not believing God (3:4), grasping to be God (3:5-6). Revolution. Not just breaking rules, breaking relationship... more like breaking God's heart (3:9 "Where are you?") SIN BRINGS: everything is upside down (animal rules us!) and conflicted (relationships, creation itself) ...stories here: weeds in our lawns, in our relationships. v17 "cursed is...". Selfish graspers. Shame (fig leaves). Banished...we are no longer God's people in God's place under God's rule. JESUS' STORY: Matthew 4:1-4 (Jesus' temptation). Jesus is the answer to sin. "Blessed" x9 in Matt 5. The hint was there in Gen 3:15 – serpent crusher, curse crusher. At Calvary, Satan struck the heel: he killed Jesus, but in doing it he was crushed & defeated. OUR STORY/YOUR STORY: what fig leaves are you using to cover shame? there's only one grasp-ender, shame-remover, serpent-crusher, hope... start believing/trusting God again... come to Jesus as your hope.	Broken vases/gnomes or the like. Whole vases /gnomes/etc. are broken in front of the youth on a tarp. Their job is to get the right pieces for their thing and hot glue it back together. The best reconstruction wins a prize.
2 5/5/17	HOPE	Bible Genesis 12:1-9 Other Chapters to draw on Gen 13:14-17 Gen 15:4-5 Matt 8:5-13	God's promises to Abraham show he will deal with the problem of our sin, and bring blessing back to the world; God's people in God's place, under God rule.	Is there hope for this world? Key Verse: Genesis 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all	WORLD STORY/YOUR STORY: story about the decision to renovate or demolish. Have you ever considered that Qn from God's point of view? THE BIBLE STORY SO FAR: Gen 1&2 bless. Gen 3 curse, but hint of serpent crusher. Tension: Gen 4 Cain's wandering v protection. Gen 6: flood judgement v salvation. Gen 11: curse seems last word. GOD'S PEOPLE IN GOD'S PLACE UNDER GOD'S RULE (AGAIN): God speaks again.	A visit to the Hope St Café to hear stories of hope among brokenness. We all have hope beyond the brokenness we saw last week – God's has promised it to Abraham and delivered it in Jesus.

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				peoples on earth will be blessed through you."	<p>Speaks blessing again. Curse-crushing promise. God will renovate. 3 things: land 12:1 people 12:2 blessing 12:3</p> <p>READ THE STORY/FOLLOW THE PROMISE: Adam> Abraham's descendants. Eden> Canaan. Creator >Rescuer. Abraham's lies, Lot's deceit, Joseph's near murder, Moses' weakness. God's faithfulness!</p> <p>EXODUS: blessing and curses as a case study in Genesis 12:3. More next week.</p> <p>JESUS' STORY: Matthew 8:5-13 (faith of centurion) ...v11 "...many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham..." Also, Matt 3:9 "God can raise up children for Abraham." Note also Matt 1:1 <i>the descendant who raises many descendants.</i> Mt 28:19 "all nations." Gal 3:29 "heirs"</p> <p>OUR STORY/YOUR STORY: see it from God's point of view: amazing grace and patience. What false promises/rescuers are you clinging to? All but God's promises in Jesus fall to the ground.</p>	
<p>3 12/5/17</p> <p>GG week next week</p>	<p>SHAME</p>	<p>Bible 2 Sam 7:1-17 2 Sam 11</p> <p>Other Chapters to draw on 1 Kings 11:1-10 Matt 12:38-42</p>	<p>We glimpse fulfilment of God's promises to Abraham as Israel experiences blessing under David. Unfortunately hope turns to shame, with David & his son Solomon both ignoring God's Word.</p>	<p>Why does history repeat itself?</p> <p>1 Kings 11:2 They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love.</p>	<p>WORLD STORY/YOUR STORY: disaster stories make good movies! Life can feel like a disaster. We can relate to the OT then: it's a disaster story. Heroes? Yes. But a disaster, awaiting the real hero.</p> <p>THE BIBLE STORY SO FAR: creation!! Fall? Promises looking for fulfilment. Rule? God's King? power/subtlety of sin...constant, slow drift...not listening to God...</p> <p>DAVID'S STORY? 2 Sam 7: David's name great, great king, but curse. 2 Sam 11: parallels Eve, Gen 3; Achan, Joshua 7. "Saw, coveted, took, hid" cover-up leads to murder (Genesis 3-4)... Ex 20:10Cs!</p> <p>SOLOMON'S STORY? 2 Sam 7 son of David...temple builder = rule/blessing. All eyes on Solomon, Time Magazine's man of the</p>	<p>The bedroom ninja returns! The bedroom ninja visits bedrooms of a number of youth. A video is made and we see the shameful state of different bedrooms. He steals a shameful item that is returned on the night.</p> <p>Requires a lot of pre-planning, filming, editing. Pick the right youth to do it to who won't be too embarrassed.</p>

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					<p>year. 1 Kings 3: wise. 1 Kings 4: New Adam: naming animals. 1 Kings 8 builds temple. 1 Kings 10: all nations (Abraham). BUT... Deut 17 avoid these three things... (i) 1 kings 10:27, silver & gold: 666 talents per year (ii) 1 kings 10:26 & 28, horses (iii) 1 kings 11:1-8, many wives disobedience, not listening: really is Adam all over, sin included! 3 strikes & you're out = exile</p> <p>JESUS' STORY: Matthew 12:38-42 (one greater than Solomon) Also, Matt 4:8 "all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour". 6:29 "Solomon in all his splendour" ...comes after "treasure in heaven, two masters." The new Adam, without sin. The son of David, who dies for his people.</p> <p>OUR STORY/YOUR STORY: David didn't wake up one day, "I'm not going to listen to God" ... Solomon also. Money, sex, power... temptation... slow drift. 2 Tim 3:15-16... be wise, listen to God.</p>	
4 26/5/17	SCATTERED	<p>Bible 2 Kings 24:8-20a</p> <p>Other Chapters to draw on Matthew 3:1-12</p>	<p>Israel's kings should have led God's people to blessing, but their rebellion leads to curse: the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of God's people into Babylon. God's people have again been scattered from God's place. We wonder how the blessing God promised to Abraham will ever come.</p>	<p>Is God serious about sin?</p> <p>2 Kings 24:20 It was because of the LORD's anger that all this happened to Jerusalem and Judah, and in the end he thrust them from his presence. Now Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.</p>	<p>WORLD STORY/YOUR STORY: there are times we wonder if God is really in control. Really there. After close elections – limbo – who's ruling?... life can feel like that. Late 60s, Time Mag, "Is God Dead?" comm/nuke/race riots/mlk – Memphis/ jfk – dallas/robert f kennedy – LA... your story?</p> <p>THE BIBLE STORY SO FAR: creation...then fall. Hints of new start/creation...exile (3 strikes & out).</p> <p>IN THE END: 2 Kings 24:20 "in the end he thrust them from his presence." 1&2 kings= downhill slide civil war... split...exile. (i) Nth tribes carted off, why? 17:7-8 sin!! v18a: removed from his presence; (ii) Sth...Judah... got David's line! Temple!! 2 Ki 17:19. Deut: blessing/curse... ch22 – law "found"!! ...23:32,37. Ch25 total disaster, worst chapter alongside Gen 3! v30? Israel's king on pocket money.</p>	<p>Seniors/SF Blindfold teams and take away their mobile phones (apart from a leader's phone for emergencies). Drop them all equidistant from the centre. They must find their way back. First back wins.</p> <p>Juniors Blindfold teams and take them to the end of an obstacle course. Time or race them to see who can make it through fastest.</p>

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					<p>Ask for life without God, this is what you get. Lamentations: symbols gone! reality? Promises?</p> <p>A NEW BEGINNING: Ezekiel... a new act of God – rebuild/fulfil; Jeremiah: new Covenant— sin will be dealt with; Isaiah: a king... a servant ... Jesus breaks the merry-go-round of human failure...</p> <p>JESUS' STORY: Matthew 3:1-12 John baptising – inviting Israel to end the exile. Afflicted. Servant King (Is). New Covt in blood (Jer). Pours out God's Spirit (Ezek).</p> <p>OUR STORY/YOUR STORY: is god dead? Jesus is risen and ruling from heaven. The kings are dead, long live the king! Which Kings/gods need to die for you to live, with Jesus as your king?</p>	
<p>5 2/6/17</p> <p>GG week next week</p>	<p>GATHERED</p>	<p>Bible Acts 2:22-47</p> <p>Other Chapters to draw on Matt 27:27-28:10</p>	<p>King Jesus crushed death, rose to life, and now, as he pours out his Spirit, he is building his church; gathering people all over the world.</p>	<p>Who is stronger than death?</p> <p>Acts 13:30-31 But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he was seen by those who had travelled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.</p>	<p>WORLD STORY/YOUR STORY: stories of not recognising royalty (e.g. little girl rejecting lift home from Queen Mother). Embarrassment! Are you recognising Jesus? ...removes shame, brings joy!</p> <p>STORY SO FAR: Bible in 10 =search for king...Matt 1:1 he's here. What if didn't recognise?</p> <p>RECOGNISING JESUS Acts 2:22-23 Recognise Jesus? You crucified him! v32 this king is stronger than death/curse (Ps16 is sign) v37 we've blown it ... what will we do?! v38 shame lifted! v42-43 joy! v41 thousands recognise Jesus that day... but not everyone will...</p> <p>NOT RECOGNISING JESUS Acts 13... = bible in 10 theme = long standing recognition problem! v27 did not recognise Jesus! v35 Ps16 again! v38 forgiveness of sins again! v46 they reject it still! v48 Gentiles believe. v52 JOY!</p> <p>JESUS' STORY: Matthew 28:1-10 (resurrection) ...recognise = WORSHIP.... "filled with joy"</p>	<p>Seniors/SF Go out to a local shopping centre (Carindale/Cannon Hill/Orion) and get groups to try and get as many selfies with strangers as they can.</p> <p>Juniors Lots of small figurines (army men?) scattered around the facility. Teams have to find as many as they can in a scavenger hunt in the dark. Maybe have a number order or puzzle to solve with them once gathered.</p>

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					<p>OUR STORY/YOUR STORY: Recognising or not recognising? True or false worship? Shame or joy? Don't scoff (Acts 13: 45-46). Truly believe and find true joy. God loves you, delights in you!</p> <p>Explore Acts 2:42-47 as great picture of living together the joyful life – the true story of Jesus. The baptism of the Spirit is an echo of Jesus' baptism, and where we become new creations (Jesus' baptism = an echo of creation, but also he is the one JtB promised who would baptise with the Spirit).</p> <p>Explore Acts 2:42-47 as great picture of living together the joyful life – the true story of Jesus. Galatians: The real miracle of the Spirit is the fruit of the Spirit (ch5). "Be fruitful..." Traffic jam reversed! Gathering and scattering. Fruitful and multiply</p> <p>Ephesians 2</p> <p>Old story/new story = getting eschatology right. Joy starts now.</p>	
6 16/6/17	PERFECTION	<p>Bible Rev 21:1-8 & Rev 22:1-6</p> <p>Other Chapters to draw on Matt 28:16-20</p>	<p>The Bible ends with a new beginning; God's people gathered in God's place under God's King – Jesus. The blessing of Eden is eclipsed by the new heavens and new earth and there is no more curse.</p>	<p>What is certain about the future?</p> <p>Revelation 22:3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.</p>	<p>WORLD STORY/YOUR STORY: stories about hope? Dystopia/Utopia?</p> <p>STORY SO FAR: Remember Eden? Return? God's People in God's Place under God's Rule/King?</p> <p>THE SAME: Rev 21-22 déjà vu: 21:2 wedding...a bride for god's son (eve...church), 21:3 God's presence; 21:7 sons of God; jewels; river; trees... 22:2 tree of life...22:9 worship</p> <p>BUT DIFFERENT: 21:4 no more tears (wiped)... no more death (wiped) gen3! 21:22 no more temple... lamb = sin dealt with! 21:23 no sun.... lamb = <i>better</i> than Eden [we know God now not just as Creator but also as Redeemer] 22:3 no curse... "worthy is the lamb" Rev4/5 = serve, no serpent, no</p>	<p>Oddly satisfying video/image where things line up perfectly.</p> <p>Go and create your own in groups.</p>

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					temptation, no origin of opposition, no tree of knowledge... Thirsty. Leaves aren't covering anymore, but healing. Shame is replaced with life. JESUS' STORY: Matthew 28:16-20 (Great Commission a new call to be fruitful and multiply – see fruitful multiplication in Acts) Rev 21:27 lamb's book of life OUR STORY/YOUR STORY: How to read the Bible e.g. (i) fruitful and multiply now about growing disciples; (ii) sacrifices/worship fulfilled in Jesus; (iii) prosperity (treasure in heaven... Ephesians 1, 1 Peter 1, Revelation 21-22). How to be a friend...Lamb's Book of Life.	

Overall/up front:

- Would I lie to you. Leaders up on stage. The teams compete as each player reveals unusual facts and embarrassing personal tales for the evaluation of the opposing team. Some of these are true; some are not, and panellists' task is to decide which is which.
- Bad joke telling. First one to laugh loses. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqxBFY-M1KM>
- Maybe confession – true/false stories.