



Teaching *for*
TRANSFORMATION

The True Biblical Story of Jesus and Israel's History

6th Grade FLEx Project





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My Deep Hope and Storyline

**MY DEEP HOPE IS THAT WE
REMEMBER THE CHARACTER AND
SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD
THROUGHOUT HISTORY WHICH
COMPELS US TO RESPOND BY
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S
RESTORATION WORK.**





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Our Goals

- God is active all throughout history. This was abundantly clear when we studied the history of Ancient Israel. We quickly noticed that the way our history text portrayed the events missed the essential connections to Jesus found throughout the pages of Scripture.
- As a class we decided that looking into Israel's history from its primary source found in the pages of Scripture would be exceedingly informative and beneficial.
- We sought to write our own accurate historical account that better reflects the gospel story and the purpose of the Bible's narrative of Israel's history.



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Real, Real, Real

Real needs:

- A true, Jesus-centered, biblical history of ancient Israel

Real people:

- For our class, our families, as well as something we can share with future sixth grade students

Real work:

- Create a children's Bible that covers Israel's history and connects to Jesus and the redemptive storyline then and now



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FLEX Curricular Outcomes

State Standards

SS.6.3. Gather relevant information from primary and secondary sources using the origin and authority of the source to guide the selection.

SS.6.4. With teacher direction, evaluate the credibility of primary and secondary sources by determining their relevance and intended use.

SS.6.10. With teacher direction, analyze the disciplinary arguments of peers' for credibility.

SS.6.22. Explain multiple causes and effects of events and developments in the past.

Common Core

6.3 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the Ancient Hebrews.



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Curricular Areas to Consider

This project has cross-curricular potential that must be considered.

- Social Studies - the FLEx stems from our evaluation of the history unit on Ancient Israel's history
- ELA - significant writing, editing, and storytelling are key elements of this project
- Art - considering the elements of artistic design (including graphic design) must be considered
- Math - evaluating the most cost effective methods of printing



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Throughlines

Throughline #1: Truth Seeking

- Students embraced the truth of God's Word and sought to bring an authentic story that reflected this truth through our project.

Throughline #2: Community Building

- Students engaged with a truly collaborative project, giving meaningful feedback, making revisions, and striving for beautiful work.

Throughline #3: Beauty Creating

- Students encouraged each other in creating story, art, and a final product that was truly excellent and something to be proud of.



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Storyline



Remember:

- The project not only covered the diverse storyline of Israel's history, it saw God's character portrayed throughout.

Respond:

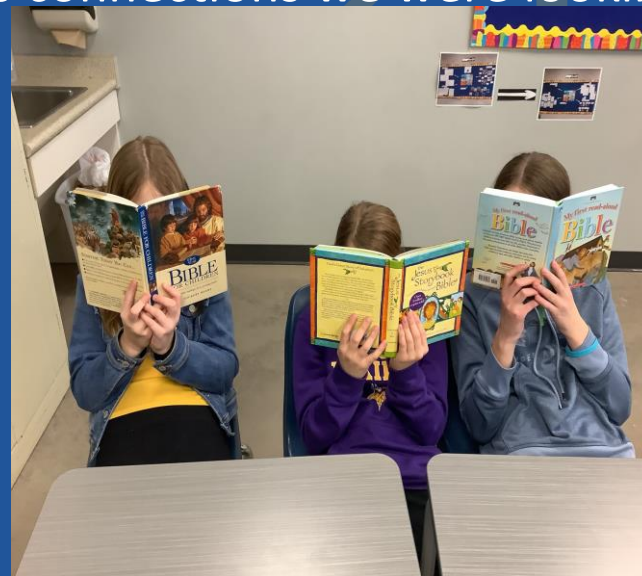
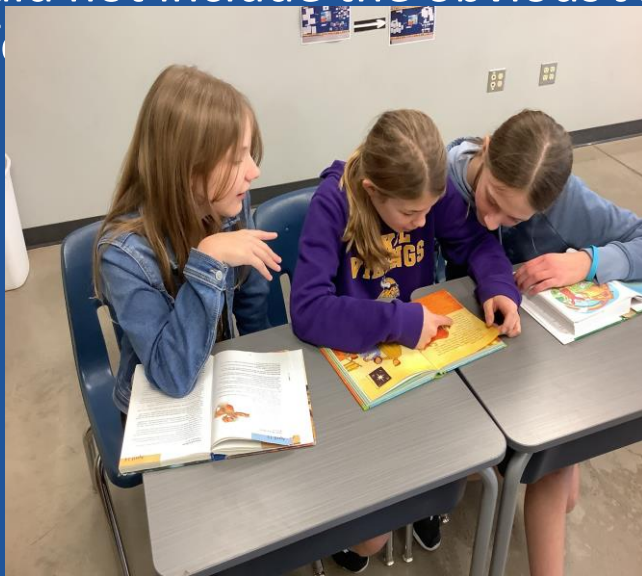
- We included a "Jesus thread" within each story in our project.
- We saw the thread continue beyond Israel's recorded history into our contemporary world today.



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The Journey

To begin, we decided to explore children's Bibles to see how they handled the storyline of Israel's history. Many of these did not include the obvious Jesus connections we were looking for





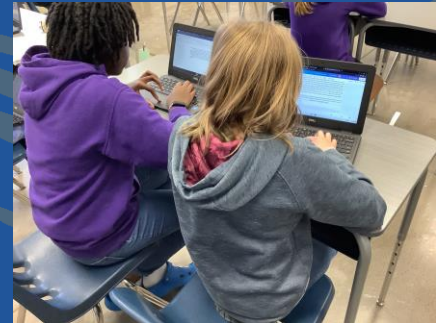
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The Journey

The class generated the list of essential topics we wanted to include to accurately tell the scope of the era of history we wanted to cover.

Students chose topics and wrote their first drafts.

These were peer reviewed and edits were made.





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The Journey

We then signed up for areas to progress the project based on my student's personal skills, including the following:

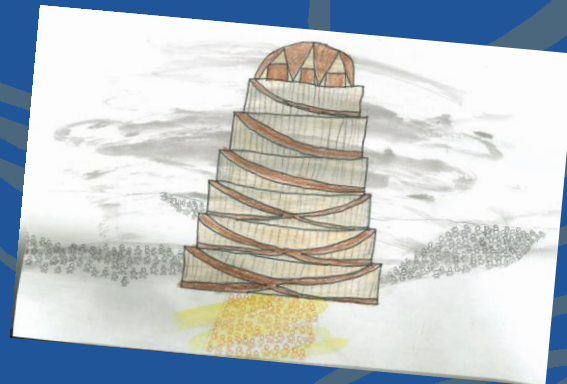
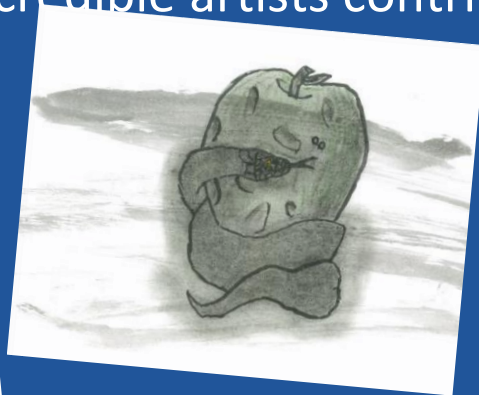
- General Editors to check for cohesiveness between the topics and overall professionalism
- Artists
- Index: Scripture verse references for each topic
- Cover design
- Title page/author bio/purpose of text
- Research how to publish a picture book (check the cost and what we need to add our pages)



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We had some incredible artists contribute to this project.

The Art





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Connecting to our World

One important aspect of this project was to not only cover the biblical story of Israel's history, but also to connect it to our own story. Here is what the class came up with as the last page in our book.

The Story Continues . . .

Two thousand years later, the true story of Jesus lives on through his followers. Through the great story of Creation, Fall, and Jesus' rescue we are responsible for inviting others in. We can bring the good color of Jesus' story into our friendships, our work, and our play. We can restore what has been broken and return it to the way God intended it to be. We must continue to tell the story.

Here is the chance to tell your part of this grand story. Use the blank space to write how you are carrying the colorful light of Jesus throughout the places God had placed you.

Where do you fit in the story? Here is your chance to tell it.

A blank, lined page from a notebook, intended for students to write their part of the story. The page is cream-colored with light blue horizontal ruling. It has a spiral binding on the left side.



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The Results

Once we were finished, we had a professionally printed hard-cover book covering Israel's history in twenty-three Christ-centered stories that tell the grand story of Christ's redemptive work.



Creation



In the beginning, there was only God.

One day, He decided to make everything. On the first day, He made light and day, darkness and night, and on the second day, He created the skies. On the third day, He made the land and all of its plants. On the fourth day, He made space and all the seasons that exist today. On the fifth and sixth days, He made all living creatures including Mankind.

Mankind was God's most important creation because they wore His image. Therefore, they were told to rule the Earth and take care of it. On the seventh day, God rested because He was satisfied with his creation. While He rested, He declared that His creation was very good. It was all good.

However, this didn't last.

The Fall



After God made man and woman, he made one rule: to never eat the tree in the center of the garden. He said that they would die if they ate the fruit. For a while, this rule lasted for a little while, but Satan, the Devil, took the form of a snake. Satan went to a garden and tried to tempt Adam and Eve. Satan convinced Eve that God didn't want her to be like him, even though they already were. Satan also told them that they would not die if they ate the fruit off of the tree that God said not to eat from and they would be like God. Eve took the fruit and convinced Adam to eat the fruit too. Right after they ate the fruit that God had forbidden them to eat, sin came into the world. They were forced to leave the garden and could never come back.

Although they sinned, God made a promise to send someone to save them. "He shall crush his head, but he shall bruise his heel." Not all hope is lost. The great rescue had begun.



The text culminated in the birth, ministry, and sacrifice of Jesus.

The Results

Jesus' Birth



Many years later, a young virgin named Mary was in her house and an angel of the Lord came to her. The angel said that she was going to have a baby. Mary was scared, but the angel said that God would be with her.

Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph. They had to travel to another town in order to be counted in a census. They went to Bethlehem and they could not find a place to stay. Mary had to have her baby in a stable where the animals were. She named her baby Jesus.

Jesus! In a stable!? He was the king of the world and he was born in a stable?! When this had happened there were shepherds out in the fields watching their sheep. An angel came to them and told them to go see where the baby was. The shepherds went to where the angel had told them and they saw baby Jesus. There were three men who saw a star in the east and they went to explore. It took them two years before they actually saw Jesus. They brought gifts for Jesus, frankincense, myrrh, and gold. The promised one had arrived. The great rescue had begun!

Jesus' Life



Jesus, the promised one, was a smart, young boy whose wisdom was increased by the fact that he was the Son of God. Once, he went to the temple without his parents. Mary and Joseph were so worried when they realized that he was nowhere to be seen! They searched everywhere, calling his name and looking in every building in the city. Finally, they found him, talking with the wise men in the temple. They were quite upset. He asked them, "Why would you search for me anywhere but here? For I am in my Father's house."

As Jesus grew up, he selected twelve men to help Him with his mission on earth. He would use these men to create the church and continue His ministry after he was gone. What was Jesus' mission? Jesus taught the people about God and His great rescue plan. One day he was on a mountainside with a large crowd of people from all over the countryside. There was no food, and the people were starting to become very hungry. There was a little boy who brought lunch and the disciples asked him if he would share it with Jesus and the crowd of people. Jesus took the lunch, lifted up to heaven, blessed it, and told his disciples to give the people the food. It kept on multiplying and multiplying until all the people had eaten and were satisfied. Jesus had come to fill the needs of His people. He will not only fill them with food or water but with His Spirit. He will rescue them in their greatest area of need, by giving them a new heart, one that will be able to love God and truly live.



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The text culminated in the birth, ministry, and sacrifice of Jesus.

The Results

Jesus' Death



It was finally time. Time to rescue all of God's people once and for all. Jesus told his disciples to get a donkey. When they did, Jesus rode on the donkey and went to Jerusalem. When he got there, there was a great crowd waving palm trees and singing "Hosanna!" which means "save us."

Jesus took some time to pray before his death and everything was coming against him. He didn't want to go to the cross but he knew that he had to fulfill God's will. After Jesus prayed, a big crowd with swords and spears approached Jesus. He was arrested.

Jesus went before the Sanhedrin, and Peter followed him but kept a safe distance. In secret, the priest wanted false evidence for Jesus, but they didn't find any. One more person came up and said, "I heard that you were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days," but Jesus said nothing. They were mad and started to punch, hit, and mock Jesus. Then the crowd began to shout, "Crucify him, crucify him!"

They took Jesus to a place called The Skull. And the soldiers were mocking Jesus. From noon until 3 pm, it was very dark. A little while later, Jesus gave up his spirit and died. The ground started to shake, rocks split, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom, and dead bodies were raised. After seeing these things, even the main guard in charge believed that Jesus was the Son of God. The soldiers buried Jesus in a tomb. They sealed it with a huge stone.

All along, God's people have been waiting for the better priest, the better king, and the better judge to come. What people thought was the end of the promise in Jesus' death was actually only the beginning. All of God's promises are coming true. Jesus' death accomplished all that was promised.

Jesus' Resurrection



For three days all was quiet. But the quiet never lasts long. On the morning of the third day, some women went to Jesus' tomb to put spices on Jesus' body. Suddenly an earthquake shook the ground. An angel appeared on top of the tombstone with the guards unconscious on the ground. "Do not be afraid. Jesus is alive," said the angel. The women went to tell everyone the magnificent news. Even Peter and John ran to the tomb, only to see that it was, in fact, empty.

During the Fall, after Adam and Eve sinned, God promised that a descendant of Eve would crush Satan, sin, and death. Jesus fulfilled this promise when He rose from the dead and defeated death. Sin was paid for. The great rescue was complete.



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All the topics are Scripturally connected for further reading from the Bible's primary source.

The Results

Paul and the Church

The news of Jesus' resurrection spread all over. Some believed, but some did not. A man named Saul had heard the news. He decided it was not true, and made it his mission to make sure everyone else knew it. While he was traveling north to stop the news from spreading, he encountered a burst of blinding light. A voice asked, "Why are you going against me?" Saul asked, "Who are you?" The voice said, "I am Jesus!"

Saul was surprised that Jesus was really God, risen from the dead. The light went away and Saul found that he was blind from it. Saul was brought into town, and he went there into the house of a man named Ananias. This man prayed to God and healed Saul from being blind. Not only could he see, but he could truly see the truth of Who Jesus is as well. Saul changed his name to Paul and, from then on, he became one of Jesus' servants. Paul started many churches to worship Jesus, the true God.

People, like Saul, are blind to their sin. God has rescued the world. The church is there to help followers of Jesus, now called Christians, to continue sharing God's rescue plan with the whole world. God's rescue gives sight to the blind and changes hearts to follow Him.

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Student Reflections

How does this project connect the our classes Deep Hope of remembering God's character?

He says that God wants us to help him with His restoration work. We do that by telling people about God by the book and how it has helped people.

We remember what God did for the people of Israel, and his sovereignty. We made this book to tell people the history and connection it has to Jesus. That is our restoration work

We made a book to the Glory of God.

How can we respond to God's character in creating this project?

We can respond with happiness because we are learning about God in a fun but addictive way meaning we always wanted to learn more about it and keep learning and have it never end.

We can respond by using God's word for good and we used it to make a book to show our love for God.

We can follow his lead and create this with an eager heart, and share his message and story with others.

We can, in creating the book, see things about God we didn't see before, and put them in the book.

Was this project a success?

100% YES!



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Teacher Reflections

This project grew from a simple idea and the ultimate pursuit of God's truth. The class continuously impressed me with their heart for the truth as they worked toward a God honoring result.

This book is a recognition of the need to tell God's good story because it affects our own lives directly.

I am very proud of the collaboration that went into this book. This is truly my student's work from the planning stages to the final product. I pray that this experience would help shape the stories of each one of my students as they live into the Great Story of God and His love for each one of them.



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Resources

Graphic Design - Canva.com

-We printed our pages as jpeg files and imported them into Shutterfly

Book Publishing - Shutterfly

-We imported our jpeg pictures into full page photo spreads for each page
-I also ordered these books with bulk shipping which saved a bit on the cost and helped with free shipping

Helpful Children's Bibles -

The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones

The Biggest Story Bible Storybook by Kevin DeYoung