

# DRAW NEAR POSITION

## BIG PICTURE:

POSITION

## BIG IDEA:

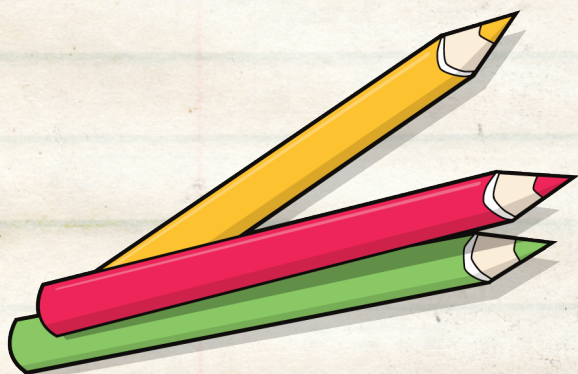
DRAW NEAR

## BIG POINT:

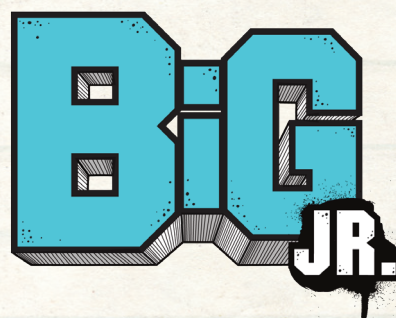
GOD CREATED US TO BE CLOSE TO HIM

## BIG WORD:

BUT IT IS GOOD FOR ME TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD; I HAVE PUT MY TRUST IN THE LORD GOD, THAT I MAY DECLARE ALL YOUR WORKS. PSALM 73:28 (NKJV)



# LEADER'S GUIDE BIG JR BIG MESSAGE 'LIVE'



## DOCUMENT PURPOSE

This document is the Leader's Guide for BIG Picture 'POSITION'. It contains a summary of the BIG Message 'LIVE'. The BIG JR 'Draw Near' User Guide document contains all the service element information, including the large group segment of your service.

Make sure you read through and prayerfully study this material prior to your service to be fully prepared to minister to your children.

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## BIG MESSAGE 'LIVE' OUTLINE

**BIG IDEA:** DRAW NEAR

**BIG POINT:** GOD CREATED US TO BE CLOSE TO HIM

**BIG WORD:** BUT IT IS GOOD FOR ME TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD; I HAVE PUT MY TRUST IN THE LORD GOD, THAT I MAY DECLARE ALL YOUR WORKS. PSALM 73:28 (NKJV)

### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the conclusion of this lesson children will:

- Learn that God created us to be in a close relationship with Him but sin separated us.
- Discover that God longs to draw near to us as we draw near to Him.
- Know that Jesus died and rose again for our sin, so we could be in relationship with God.

## BUILD YOUR MESSAGE

Use the outline in the following pages to construct a message that works for you and your children's ministry. Pray, read the scripture references and choose which elements best suit your audience. Then, prepare by gathering any supplies needed.

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:** Exodus 34:14, Psalm 73:28, Psalm 145:18-20, Isaiah 53:6, Jeremiah 30:21, Romans 3:23, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, Ephesians 5:8, James 4:5, James 4:8

### MY MESSAGE PLAN:

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### SUPPLIES NEEDED:



**BIG IDEA: DRAW NEAR****BIG POINT: GOD CREATED US TO BE CLOSE TO HIM****TRANSITION**

If you can hear me, spin around  
 If you can see me, sit right down  
 Hands in laps, you're doing great  
 It's Big Message time so sit up straight!

**INTRO** MAGNETS

**SUPPLIES NEEDED:** Children's magnet set and small metal objects, e.g. paper clips.

*Leader's Tip: Ensure children are always supervised when playing with magnets and paper clips.*

Here I have a big magnet, watch what happens when I draw the magnet near to the metal objects. They draw near to the magnet. Allow a few children to move the magnet themselves and see how the two objects come close to one another and draw near.

You and I can draw near to God, The Bible says that when we do, He draws near to us. James 4:8 (NKJV), "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

Everyone hold your hands up and let's pretend they are two magnets being drawn near to each other. Hold one hand still and move the other towards it, as you say with me, "Draw near to God." Then move both hands together and clap as you say with me, "And He will draw near to you."

Practice this a few times with the children, and repeat this again during and at the conclusion of your message.

**STORYTELLING** CREATED TO BE CLOSE

**SUPPLIES NEEDED:** Easel, flip chart paper and a large marker.

Share the story of Adam and Eve in the garden by drawing elements of the story for the children to guess what you're drawing.

We're learning to draw near to God, so for today's story I'll need some help from everyone as I draw parts of the story. You have to guess what it is I'm drawing a picture of.

Picture one: Land (or ground/grass/dirt).

To keep the story moving children don't need to guess exactly what you're drawing, close enough is good enough. ☺

This story starts at the very beginning of the Bible, well actually, at the very beginning of everything.

God created the entire universe. With the power of His words, He created the day and the night. He said "Let there be light." And there it was, evening and morning. He set the stars into place, the sun to shine and the moon to glow. God separated the seas and the land and filled them with every living creature.

Let's draw another picture for you to guess what it is.

Picture two: People.

When God looked at all He had made, He saw that it was good. Then God made His most wonderful creation yet. From the dust of the ground God made people. God breathed His very life into them and He blessed them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and rule over the creatures of the land, the fish of the sea and the birds of the air." God looked at all He had made and now with people, creation wasn't just good, it was VERY good! God created people to be close to Him.

Let's draw another picture for you to guess what it is.

Picture four: Garden of Eden (or garden).

God planted a special garden in Eden for the man and woman who He named Adam and Eve. There in this beautiful garden God walked with them amongst the trees. God created every wild animal and bird, bringing them one by one to Adam to see what name he would give each one, "Elephant!", "Tiger!", "Hippopotamus!" Imagine this beautiful garden, full of the best tasting fruits and vegetables, colourful sweet smelling flowers and rivers teeming with fish. It was perfect.

There in the garden, nothing separated Adam and Eve from God. They were in perfect relationship, just as God created them to be. God would walk with them in the garden, never apart from one another. God would talk with them and they could talk to Him anytime they wanted. I wonder what they talked about? "Hey God, why do elephants have such big ears?"

"Well Adam, that's so they can hear other animals coming from miles away," God might say. Adam and Eve were the closest of friends with God. This is how it all started, but things were about to take a turn for the worse.



**BIG IDEA: DRAW NEAR****BIG POINT: GOD CREATED US TO BE CLOSE TO HIM****STORYTELLING CONTINUED...**

Let's draw another picture for you to guess what it is.

Picture five: Snake.

There was one tree in the centre of the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God gave Adam and Eve one rule, they could eat from any tree in the garden except this one.

One day Eve was tempted by a crafty serpent, "Did God really say you couldn't eat from this tree?" Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree, they disobeyed God. Their sin separated them from God, they were ashamed and hid. What a change, walking with God one day, to fear and hiding the next. Adam and Eve had to leave the garden that God had created for them. From this moment every person since has been separated from God's glorious presence. People could no longer know God like those days in the garden.

Let's draw one last picture for you to guess what it is.

Picture six: Jesus.

But God longs to be with us and He loves His children so much, that He made a way for us to be rescued from sin and separation. God sent His one and only Son Jesus for us. Jesus lived a perfect life. Jesus healed the sick, restored sight to the blind and showed the world what God's love is. Jesus took the punishment for the sin that separated us from God. Jesus died on the cross and rose again for every person who has ever lived and every person who will ever live. Through Jesus we can be in close relationship with God. We can draw close to God and He draws close to us. God loves us and longs for us to be close to Him.

**MY FAVOURITE VERSE**

I have a favourite verse about drawing near. It reminds me that God wants us to be close to Him. Would you like me to share this very amazing Bible verse with you?

This is from James 4:8 (NKJV), "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." As we draw closer to God, He draws closer to us. Through Jesus we can be close with God. And that is my favourite verse about coming closer to God, I think it might become one of your favourites as well.

**SUMMARY**

Imagine what it would have been like in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve walking with God through the trees, together like the best of friends. God created us to be that close with Him. Sin separated people from God but God longs to be close with us, so through Jesus He has made a way.

Drawing near to God means turning towards Him and making a decision to follow Him. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for sin, so that we could be forgiven. Through Jesus we are positioned to approach God with boldness. We can position ourselves in His word. We draw near to Him through prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit. We draw near to God as we praise and worship Him. God created us to be close to Him, if we draw near to God He will draw near to us.

**PRAYER**

Dear God,

We want to draw near to You. Thank you that You created us to be close to You. Help us to know You more and more.

In Jesus name, Amen

