

## The Adventures of Jeremiah & Mikayla

### *A New Beginning — We Are Created*

Well, the last time we saw Jeremiah and Mikayla was near the end of Summer Street Reach Bible Club last year. Jeremiah and Mikayla live in the Heights area. Since then, school started, and Jeremiah and Mikayla are going to Treadwell Elementary. Jeremiah is in the 4th grade this year, and Mikayla is in the 5th grade. They are doing very well in school this year.

March is upon us, and it is time for Spring Street Reach Bible Club. The kids are happy about that as they both really enjoy Bible Club. Jeremiah and Mikayla went to church with their mamas and, of course, Grandpa Joe and Grandma Kate. On Sundays, they usually all eat together at Jeremiah's house after church and then just enjoy the rest of the day. After lunch, the kids went outside to see what was going on in the neighborhood. They ran into next-door neighbors, Cobie and Michael. Soon, they had enough kids rounded up to start a game of kickball. Cobie and Michael are brothers who live next door to Jeremiah. Cobie is in the 4th grade, and Michael is in the 3rd grade. They all had a great time playing kickball, stopping for a short time when Grandma Kate came outside with popsicles for a snack!

About supper time, Grandpa Joe called Jeremiah and Mikayla in for supper and to get ready for Monday. One thing that is different for Spring Bible Club is that the kids are in school, so Bible Club is in the afternoon. That means getting homework done and getting up early for school – school starts at 8:15.

Everyone had leftovers for supper. Mikayla went home with her mom to get ready for Monday. Jeremiah showered and gathered his stuff for the next day in his backpack.

Monday came way too fast! But the kids got ready and went to their bus stop. All ready for another day – except this week they would have Bible Club after school!

We next see Jeremiah and Mikayla after school. They are home and waiting for the church people to come for them. Grandma Kate gave them each a banana as a snack. Soon, they saw the church people coming down the street; they waved bye to Grandma Kate and went off to their Bible Club Site. Cobie and Michael also came with them.

Once at the site, they settled into their circle and listened to the church leader, who began by asking, "Where did you come from?" The kids looked a little puzzled and offered few thoughts. The church leader then asked them, "How do you think the earth got here? And everything on it? Well, that's what we will be talking about today."

And our story goes something like this....

In the beginning, there was no earth or sky or sea or animals. And then God spoke in the darkness: "Let there be light!" And right away, there was light, scattering the darkness and showing the infinite space. "That's good!" said God. "From now on, when it's dark, it will be 'night' and when it's light, it will be 'day'."

The evening came, and the night passed, and then the light returned. That was the first day.

On the second day, God made the earth, and over it He carefully hung a vast blue sky. He stood back and admired His creation. "That's good too!" said God, and the second day was over.

The next morning, God looked around and thought, "The earth needs to be a bit more organized." So, He put all the water in one place and all the dry land in another. That's how we got oceans, lakes, and rivers. When He

had finished that, God made plants to cover the land. Dandelions and daffodils appeared. All sorts of trees and grasses began to grow. Can you imagine God giving names to all the plants in the world? "It's looking great", said God, and that was the end of the third day.

On the fourth day, God looked around and thought, "The daylight still needs a bit more work, and the night is just too dark." So, He made the sun to light the sky during the day and the moon and stars to add a bit of sparkle to the night. He hung them in the sky and stepped back to look at his work. "This is coming along very well," said God.

The next day, God turned his attention to the water he had collected in the oceans. "I want these waters teeming with life!" As soon as He said it, it was so. In no time, there were millions of small fish darting through the shallow water and huge fish swimming in the ocean. God made birds, too. He sent them soaring through the air. "Ahh, that IS good," said God. The dusk fell over the water, and the sky grew dark, and that was the end of the fifth day.

On the sixth day, God added creatures to the land. He made lions, tigers, and bears. He made rabbits, sheep, and cows. He added everything from ants to zebras to the land. Then, of course, He had to name ALL of those creatures too! But he still felt something was missing. So, God added Mankind to enjoy and take care of all that He had created. God looked around and was happy with all He had made.

After six days, the whole universe was completed. On the seventh day, God had a nice, long rest and enjoyed looking at all He had made.

Mikayla has heard the story of creation before, but she still has questions about it. Many of the kids there were curious about how God thought up the names for all the plants and animals. Others were curious as to how God made the oceans, rivers, and lakes.

Everyone finished their rotations, and soon it was time to start home. By the time Jeremiah and Mikayla got home, Grandma Kate was sitting on

the front porch peeling some potatoes for supper. The church leader waved to her and gave her a thumbs-up for today. Grandma just smiled and waved back. Jeremiah hopped onto the porch and asked Grandma what the potatoes were going to be for. She smiled and asked him what he would like to go with the meatloaf? Of course, Jeremiah told her mashed potatoes! He and Mikayla went inside to get a snack and get their homework done before supper. They knew there wouldn't be much time afterwards.

**Group Discussion Questions:**

How many days did it take God to create the world?

On what day did God create man?

What was the first thing God created?

---

**Bible Verse:**

**"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."**

**Genesis 1:1**

---

**Word of the Day: *Creation***

The act of bringing the world into ordered existence

---

## The Adventures of Jeremiah & Mikayla

*A New Beginning — Noah: A Rainbow of Promise*

Last night, Jeremiah and Mikayla finished their homework and then helped Mama set the table for supper. Grandma Kate made mashed potatoes to go with the meatloaf, and they had some of the corn Grandma had frozen last summer. It sure was good. Grandpa Joe asked Grandma how the Bible Club report was on Monday. Grandma said it was a thumbs-up day! Jeremiah was getting excited. It was sounding like Grandpa was leading up to something. Sure enough, Grandpa said, "Well, I know the Memphis 901FC have a home game this Saturday at Autozone Park. If your kids get a good report all week, would you like to go?"

"Yah!" said Jeremiah. He loves to go to a soccer game. Even Mikayla likes to go to the games. Grandma and Mama said they'd probably like to just stay home. So, it was decided. Soccer on Saturday (provided the kids had a good week!)

After supper, Jeremiah had a little more homework to do, but Mikayla was finished, so she helped to clean up before going home. Her mama had just returned from work, so Mikayla took a plate to her for her supper.

On Tuesday morning, the kids all met outside early to get to the bus stop. Cobie and Michael walked with them to the bus stop. After school, they all got changed and waited on the front porch for the church people to pick them up. Soon they arrived and the kids waved by to Grandma and headed to their Bible Club site.

At the site, they all formed a circle to hear the church leader. "Today, we will continue to talk about a New Beginning. Does anyone know where in the Bible we see a rainbow? **(Allow the kids to offer thoughts on this)** Well, remember the story of Noah and the Ark? There is a rainbow at the end of that story, so let's hear all about it."

And the story goes something like this....

The story of Noah is amazing! It includes a family, all the animals of the earth, a huge boar, a flood, and why we have rainbows. The hero of our story is a dude named Noah. And when God called him to action, he was an old, old dude! He was nearly 600 years old! **(Did you know people lived many years in the early bible times?)**

Well, one day as God was thinking about the people on earth, His heart became very sad. He could see that everyone had become very bad, so bad that they had stopped thinking of anything good. God was so sad and hurt that he wanted to get rid of every person and all the creatures that He had made. He wanted all the evil to stop. I guess you could say, He was going to just start all over!

The thing about God is that He gets very angry at our sin **(Do you know what Sin is?)** and all the bad stuff in the world, but we also know that God still loves us. That's why He remembered Noah. Noah was the only one who was righteous (which means he did things right). He was a good guy who walked with God.

So, God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all the people because the earth is full of fighting because of them. I am going to destroy them and the earth." God then gave Noah instructions for building the boat. He told him what kind of wood and how big to make it. He also told him to put a door in the side of the ark (that's what they called the boat) and to make it with three floors. The ark was humongous! More on that later.

The Bible says that next God told Noah that He would make a covenant with him. A covenant is an agreement or promise. He would save Noah, his wife, and his three sons and their wives. They would be safe in the ark because God was going to flood the whole earth, and everything else would die. There's one big piece still missing – the animals! Two of all living creatures, male and female (boy and girl of each). Plus, two of every

kind of bird and every creature that moves along the ground (yes, even the snakes!) Then, there was food for each of them for as long as they were on the boat. Yikes! That's a lot of animals and a lot of Purina animal chow! Think of what a noisy and stinky place to be, but they would all be safe.

It's hard to describe how big the ark actually was, but if you think of some of the biggest animals you know (elephant, moose, buffalo, giraffe, rhino, gorilla) and make sure you have 2 of each of those plus all the other little animals that couldn't be stepped on.....well, they needed a lot of room! Some people think it took over 100 years to build the ark, and the Bible says that Noah was 600 years old when the flood waters came.

Now, keep in mind that Noah was building a big ark because God told him to. Noah was teased and bullied by a lot of the evil people. He stood up to them because he was loyal to God. That's how he comes to be our hero today.

When the ark was done, God gave Noah 7 days' warning before the flood to get all the animals and food on board and told him that He would send rain for 40 days and 40 nights. When everyone was in the ark, God shut the door.

Then the rain started. The floods kept coming for 40 whole days! The ark floated on the water, and all the high mountains were completely submerged. Every living thing died on the earth that wasn't in the ark. So, the rain came for 40 days and nights, but when it stopped, Noah and the animals couldn't just leave the ark. There was too much water and no land for them to walk on; everything was covered.

God remembered Noah and all that was in the ark, so he sent a wind to help dry the earth. Finally, in the seventh month after the floods had stopped, the ark rested on top of a mountain. A little while after that (40 days), Noah opened a window he had made for the ark and probably let in some fresh air! Ha! He also let out a raven, but it would just fly back and forth to the ark until the water had dried.

Then he sent out a dove, but the dove couldn't find any place to go. After a week, he sent the dove out again, and this time it came back with a live leaf, which meant the waters had gone down. He waited one more week and let the dove out again – this time it didn't return.

When the earth had dried up enough, God told Noah that everyone could get out of the ark. That probably was a very happy day! Maybe a little scary as well. There would be no one but them on the earth, and they would have to start all over, building a house, collecting food....there wasn't a Walmart nearby!

Then Noah built an altar to thank God for keeping them safe. When God saw what Noah had done, he told Noah that he would never again curse the ground, even if the people became very bad. Then he gave them a sign for everyone to see this promise. He put a rainbow in the sky to remind us of the promise God made to Noah, the animals, and us today! So, whenever you see a rainbow, say a little prayer and thank God that he loves us and that He keeps His promises.

So Mikayla asked their story leader, "Does God make rainbows?" She wondered if all rainbows are signs of promises? So many questions! All the kids were wondering this. **(What do you all think?)**

After much discussion, they finished their rotations and finally started the journey home. There sat Grandma Kate on the porch. The church leader waved, smiled, and gave her a thumbs-up. Jeremiah was happy! While he really enjoyed Bible Club, he also looked forward to that soccer game on Saturday!

The kids went inside to get a snack and do their homework. At least today, Jeremiah didn't have too much. After he finished his homework, he went out back to help Grandpa Joe. They are preparing part of the backyard for a spring garden. Jeremiah likes working with Grandpa outside. It was a fun way to end his busy day.

**Group Discussion Questions:**

What is an Ark?

What was God's promise in the rainbow?

Do you think Noah was scared?

Why did God cause the flood?

---

**Bible Verse:**

**"I set my rainbow in the clouds, and it shall be for the sign of covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9:13**

---

**Word of the Day: *Covenant***

A two-way promise where God promises us certain blessings in return for our keeping our end of the agreement.

---

## The Adventures of Jeremiah & Mikayla

*A New Beginning — Jesus Offers Another New Beginning*

Last night at supper, Jeremiah and Mikayla listened while Grandma and Grandpa talked about what to put in the garden. Of course, there would be green beans, squash, and corn. Grandpa wants some hot peppers as well as bell peppers. Jeremiah had enjoyed preparing the soil for the planting. They were enjoying a supper of spaghetti and garlic bread. Mikayla just loves garlic bread. Her mama had just come home from work and was joining them for supper. Mikayla was telling her how much fun they had at Bible Club. Mikayla's mama likes it when the kids have Bible club in March. It gives them a good activity. Grandpa reminded them of the soccer game on Saturday. "Another good day was reported by Grandma," he said. "Just a few more days to go!"

The next day, the kids all met on the front porch and went to the bus stop. After school, they got an apple from Grandma and went out to meet the church people. Soon they were happily skipping down the street to the bible club site. The kids all got into their circle to hear what the church leader had to say.

"Well, kids. Today, we continue with 'A New Beginning'. Today, we will explore how Jesus offered another new beginning. Does anyone have an idea of what that could be?" the church leader asked. (What do you all think it could be?) After a few kids offered ideas, the church leader said, "Let me tell you a story of Jesus and I'll bet you know about this story!"

And the story goes something like this....

A long time ago, in the town of Nazareth, lived a young woman named Mary. Mary did her chores, was kind to others, and loved God very much. She was engaged to be married to Joseph, who was a carpenter.

One day, while Mary was at home cleaning her room, an angel suddenly appeared. Before Mary could say anything, the angel told her that she was favored by God and that God was with her.

Mary was surprised. She was trying not to be afraid, but she had never seen an angel before. After all, Mary was just a regular lady like you or me. Why was this angel visiting her? What did the angel want?

The angel quickly tried to reassure Mary. "Do not be afraid!" the angel said. "God has found favor with you. You will have a baby boy, and are to give him the name Jesus."

Mary was confused; she was not yet married to Joseph, so how could she have a baby? The angel thought that this might concern Mary, so he said, "The Holy Spirit will perform a miracle, and because of this, your baby will be called the Son of God."

To Mary's surprise, the angel had more exciting news: "Even your cousin Elizabeth is going to have a son in her old age. Many thought that she couldn't have children, but she is already pregnant. Nothing is impossible with God."

Mary couldn't believe what she was hearing; she didn't know what to say. She realized that she was trembling and knelt down. When she was finally able to speak, she said, "I am the Lord's servant, and I hope everything you have said will come true."

Then the angel disappeared, leaving Mary alone.

Soon after, Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby. Joseph was confused and upset by this, but an angel came to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The child Mary is going to have is God's son, and you are to give him the name Jesus."

When Joseph woke up, he remembered what the angel had said. He knew that everything was okay, and he wasn't upset anymore.

In those days, the government decided to count everyone living in that area of the world. So Joseph had to take Mary to his town of Bethlehem to register.

It took Mary and Joseph a long time to get to Bethlehem. They didn't have cars back then, so it probably took them a lot longer to get there. This was very tiring for Mary because she was soon going to have a baby. When they reached the town, all the hotels were full, and there was nowhere to stay. Finally, someone felt bad for them and offered them a place to stay.

The Bible doesn't say for sure where they stayed, but most people think that they stayed in a small barn where animals were kept. In any case, doesn't it seem strange that Jesus, the King of the Jews, wasn't born in a fancy palace or even a hospital? Mary and Joseph were thankful that they at least had a place to lie down. It was warm, and there was plenty of straw to lie on.

That night, an exciting, wonderful thing happened: Mary and Joseph had a baby! But this wasn't just any baby; he was Baby Jesus! The creator of the whole world, the King of Kings, and the one who would save the world. The little baby boy fell asleep in Mary's arms. She wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger on some clean straw. Mary and Joseph soon fell asleep; they were so glad to have this special baby join their family.

Some shepherds who lived near Bethlehem were out at night in their fields watching over their sheep. They were worried that a larger animal might come and hurt the sheep, so they sat on a hill, visiting and watching their sheep together.

Suddenly, a bright light appeared. Now this wasn't just any bright light. The light was so bright that they had to close their eyes for a minute because the light hurt their eyes.

When they opened their eyes to see what was going on, a beautiful angel stood in the air just above them, his arms open wide. The shepherds looked at each other in disbelief, but realized it must be real, because they were all seeing the same thing. All at once, they were very afraid, but they didn't run because they were too stunned.

Then the angel spoke to them. "Do not be afraid. I'm here to bring you good news for all people. Today in Bethlehem, a baby has been born. He is the one who will save the world. You will know the baby because He will be wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."

Suddenly, just as quickly as the first angel came, a large group of angels appeared, and they said together, "Glory to God, and peace to all people on earth." After they spoke, they floated away.

The shepherds were amazed and excited. Did everyone know this news, or just them? They had to go see this baby the angels were talking about. They ran as fast as they could, and soon found Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. The shepherds fell to their knees when they saw Jesus; they were filled with joy at having found the Lord.

When Jesus was born, there was a very mean king who ruled the land. His name was King Herod. Remember his name, because we will talk about him later.

Soon after Jesus

was born, wise men were traveling on their camels. One night, they noticed a very strange star in the sky. They knew that this star meant that the King of the Jews, the One who would save the world, had been born. When the mean King... (What was his name again?) Herod heard this and became very worried.

He called a meeting with all the other important people in the area and asked them where this special baby had been born. The people replied, "In Bethlehem." They knew this because they heard that one day a special person would come from there and take care of all the people.

Then King Herod called the wise men to a secret meeting and learned exactly where they had seen the star. He then told them, "Go and find this child. As soon as you find him, tell me, so that I can go and worship him." After they had spoken to the King, the wise men left to find the baby. They didn't know exactly where the baby was, but at night they followed the star in the east. They followed the star until it hung right over the very place where Jesus was.

Since it took the wise men a while to get to baby Jesus, they probably didn't arrive the day Jesus was born, but sometime later. When they finally arrived, they were very excited and happy. They found Jesus lying in Mary's arms and bowed down to worship him.

They opened the gifts they had brought to Jesus. The gifts were gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were very expensive gifts. Gifts that you would give to a King, not to a baby.

The story of Christmas is special, full of miracles and strange visitors, all coming to visit a King and, someday, the Savior of the world.

Mikayla knew this story well, but had never thought of it as another new beginning. It set her thinking. Jeremiah was also thoughtful about this. They finished their rotations and finally started the walk home with the church people. It doesn't take too long to get there. There was Grandma Kate waiting for the kids and the report from the church leader. A thumbs up! Grandpa Joe will be happy to hear that. The kids didn't have any homework today, so when they got home, they were allowed to go outside and play a game of stickball until supper was ready. Cobie and Michael were also out there playing. The weather was nice and cool, so the game was especially fun.

**Group Discussion Questions:**

What was your favorite part of this story?

Why would the birth of Jesus be considered a “new beginning”?

How come Jesus was born in a barn full of animals?

---

**Bible Verse:**

**“For there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.” Luke 2:11**

---

**Word of the Day: *Manger***

A feeding trough or food box for farm animals such as hay for horses, donkeys, or cattle.

---

## The Adventures of Jeremiah & Mikayla

*A New Beginning — Adam and Eve: God had to Start Somewhere!*

After a few games of kickball, Grandma Kate called out to Mikayla to come in and help with supper. The boys stayed outside a while longer. Grandma was making chicken and dumplings and needed Mikayla to make a salad to go with. Mikayla is also learning how to make dumplings, so she eagerly went in to get some lessons there.

It wasn't very long before Mikayla's mama came home from work. She changed and came over to Jeremiah's house, where Mikayla was. Mikayla helped her set the supper table and told her all about school and bible club that day. She enjoys spending time with her mama.

A while later, Grandpa Joe called Jeremiah in and sent Cobie and Michael home. Jeremiah got washed up, and they all sat down for supper. Grandma Kate had also made a batch of biscuits to go with supper. While eating, Grandpa and Grandma settled on what to plant in the garden. Grandpa would be going to the feed store on Friday to get seeds and baby plants. Planting the garden would be this weekend's project – except for the soccer game, that is!

After supper, Mikayla and her mama went home to get ready for bed. Jeremiah did the same, getting a shower and setting his backpack by the door for the next day.

Soon, Thursday arrives. Jeremiah knows that during spring bible club, it runs just Monday through Thursday, so today is the last day with this church group. He is just a little curious about what the story of a new beginning could be today.

After breakfast, Jeremiah went out front and joined Mikayla, Cobie, and Michael. They walked to the bus stop to catch the school bus.

After school, the kids ran home from the bus stop to grab an apple and wait for the church people. And soon, they could see them coming down the street. Waving bye to Grandma, the kids joined the group as it walked to the club site.

Now they're in the circle and the church leader starts to speak, "Kids, it's been lots of fun being with ya'll this week. Today is our last day looking at New Beginnings. If you remember, God offered the biggest beginning when He created the world and everything in it. But there were just one or two more things that needed to be done. God had to start somewhere, so He started with us! Does anyone know who I mean? **(allow responses from kids)** Yep, I'm talking about Adam and Eve. Let's hear their story.

And it goes something like this....

God took some clay from the ground and made the shape of a man. Then he breathed gently into the shape. The man's eyes opened, and he began to live. God called him Adam.

The Lord made a beautiful garden for him to live in. The garden, called Eden, was full of many wonderful things. Beautiful flowers grew everywhere. Birds sang in the trees, streams flowed through the valley, and animals roamed across the fields. God had made the man in His image to keep Him company and look after the world. God brought all the animals to Adam, one at a time, to give them names. "Elephant", he would say, or "Tiger", or "Porcupine".

But God felt sorry for Adam. "None of these animals is really like him," thought God, "he needs someone to share his life. Someone who cares for him and who he can care for."

That night, God took a rib from Adam's side and made a woman. When Adam awoke the following morning, he found a wife, Eve, lying asleep beside him. Adam was so happy. He took her hand, and she woke up. She looked up at him and smiled. God told the man and woman that it was

their job to take care of their new home. God blessed them, saying, "All this is for you. Help yourself to anything you like. But never touch the tree in the middle of the Garden. That tree gives knowledge of good and evil. The day you eat its fruit, you will die." God did not mean that Adam and Eve would drop dead the moment they ate the fruit from the tree. He meant that in time they would die without His Spirit dwelling in them. One day, Adam and Eve were gathering berries for dinner when she heard a silky voice behind her.

"Has God told you that you can eat the fruit from all the trees?" the voice asked softly. Eve turned around to see a snake talking to her.

"God has told us we can eat all the fruit except for what grows on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil," Eve told the serpent. "Oh, come now, that's silly! I hardly think such a lovely fruit would do you any harm," the serpent lied. "God knows that if you eat from The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you'll become just like God, and will be able to decide for yourself what is right and what is wrong." The woman looked at the fruit and thought it looked tasty. She thought about how wonderful it would be to be as wise and powerful as God. She believed the serpent's lie, ate the fruit, and gave some to Adam, who was with her; he also took a bite. She felt a strange feeling in the pit of her stomach. She fidgeted, wondering what was wrong with her. Suddenly, she realized she felt guilty — she had disobeyed God and knew she'd done something wrong.

As soon as they ate the fruit, a change came over Adam and Eve. They became unhappy and fearful of God. Adam and Eve heard God calling them. Without thinking, they dived into the bushes, but God knew where they were. When God asked them if they had eaten from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that He had told them not to touch, they blamed each other for their sins. God was sad that Adam and Eve had disobeyed them. He told them that they had to leave the Garden of Eden, "From now on, you'll have to scratch a living from the soil. You'll need to make clothes and grow food. Nothing will come easily — not even childbirth. And one day, you will die."

So, you see, Adam and Eve represented a new beginning – from the real beginning! Even though the story didn't end as God might have liked, it was a beginning for all people. Everything in the Bible flows from this beginning.

Mikayla had not thought that she came from Adam and Eve. It sure would be fun to get to talk to them! Oh well, she'll just have to read about them and everyone who came after. They finished their rotations and then started home. It was a cloudy and cool day, so the walk was easy. The church people told them how much fun they'd had. Mikayla knew that come Monday, there would be a new group – that's always exciting.

Soon they were home. The church leader waved to Grandma Kate and gave her a thumbs-up. Jeremiah jumped up and down – now he knew there would be a trip to Autozone Park on Saturday evening for that soccer game.

**Group Discussion Questions:**

Why do you think Eve ate the fruit?

Do you think you would have eaten the fruit if you were there?

What was the one thing God requested of Adam and Eve?

Who do you think the serpent represented?

---

**Bible Verse:**

**"I will seek You with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands." Psalm 119:10**

---