

# Back Through the Bible

## Lesson 7



**Scripture:** Summary of Bible Chronology










**Bible Memory:** John 3:16, 17

**Focus:** ♥ God's plan of salvation includes you!

### Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

How wonderful that we serve a personal God! Just think—the creator of the universe takes time to listen to us, loves us, and wants a relationship with each of us. You can be confident that ♥ God's plan of salvation includes you! Every preteen in your class, every person in the neighborhood, every family member, every individual—all are included in God's plan of salvation. May God help us see people through His eyes, and may we continue to study the Word of God so we can share His offer of salvation with them.

## Lesson 7 at a Glance

<p><b>1 FOCUS IN</b> Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>review and sequence the three stages of God's plan of salvation and the eight eras of Bible history.</i></p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Name That Stage and Era</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Hold It High!</p>	<p><b>HeartShaper Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4</li> </ul>	<p><b>Other Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• whiteboard, dry-erase marker</li> <li>• whiteboard, dry-erase marker, scrap paper, markers</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD</b> Use these activities to help students <i>summarize the overview of Bible chronology, using the three stages of God's plan of salvation.</i></p>	<p> <b>Bible Exploration</b> Summary of Bible Chronology</p> <p> <b>Bible Memory</b> John 3:16, 17</p> <p> <b>Optional Bible Skill Builder</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4, <i>Activities</i> for lesson 7</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 6</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> CD Optional Bible Skills 7 printable file</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible, pencils</li> <li>• Bibles, ball of yarn</li> <li>• various Bible translations and paraphrases, paper, pencils</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 MAKE IT REAL</b> Use one of these activities to help students <i>understand that God's plan of salvation includes everyone.</i></p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Salvation for All</p> <p> <b>Option</b> It's for Everyone!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Activities</i> for lesson 7</li> <li>• none</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pencils, Bibles</li> <li>• roll paper, markers, scissors, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 LIVE IT OUT</b> Use one of these activities to help students <i>discover their part in God's plan of salvation.</i></p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> What's My Part?</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Do Your Part</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4, <i>Activities</i> for lesson 7</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> CD Do Your Part printable file, <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pencils</li> <li>• reusable adhesive, colored pencils</li> </ul>

## Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one or more of these activities to help students **review and sequence the three stages of God's plan of salvation and the eight eras of Bible history.**

### Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

### Quick Step Name That Stage and Era

Divide the class into two teams. Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **I'm going to call out a person or event pictured on the Bible time lines. Working as a team, you'll get 5 points by naming the stage during which that person lived or the event happened. You'll get 10 points by naming the era. We'll alternate between the teams.** Give each team the opportunity to name the three stages of God's plan of salvation and the eight eras of Bible history, and award bonus points. Choose a spokesperson for each team. Continue playing as time permits.

SAY: **From the beginning of time, God had a plan—a plan for our salvation. The eras of Bible history each played a significant role in God's preparing, sending, and offering salvation. Let's be thankful that ♥ God's plan of salvation includes you and me!**

### Option Hold It High!

Before class, write on the board the three stages of God's plan of salvation: God prepares for salvation. God sends salvation. God offers salvation. Also write the eight eras of Bible history: Creation & the Fall, Patriarchs, Exodus & Conquest, Judges, Kings & Prophets, Exile & Return, Jesus' Life, Early Church.

Let preteens pair up to do this activity. Give each pair of students several sheets of scrap paper. Tell them to tear the papers into 11 pieces. They should use markers to write each stage and era on separate pieces of paper. Then draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **I'm going to call out a person or event pictured on the Bible time lines. Quickly decide which stage of salvation that person lived during or when that event took place, and hold that paper high.** Call out a person or event. Check to make sure everyone held up the right paper. Continue as time permits. **Next, when I call out a person or event, decide which era of Bible history that person lived during or when that event took place, and hold that paper high.** Call out a person or event. Check to make sure everyone held up the right paper. Continue as time permits.

ASK: **What are the three stages of God's plan of salvation?  
What are the eight eras of Bible history?**

SAY: **From the beginning of time, God had a plan—a plan for our salvation. The eras of Bible history each played a significant role in God's preparing, sending, and offering salvation. Let's be thankful that ♥ God's plan of salvation includes you and me!**

## Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation includes you!

### Materials

*Resources* sheets 1-4, whiteboard, dry-erase marker



### Teaching Tip

Choose new spokespersons after every few rounds.

### Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, scrap paper, markers, *Resources* sheets 1-4



Be sure that the pairs are carefully chosen so this is a good experience for everyone.

## Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation includes you!

# Explore His Word (25 minutes)

**2** Use these activities to help students **summarize the overview of Bible chronology, using the three stages of God's plan of salvation.**

## Bible Background for the Teacher

Adam and Eve were created sinless, but they could choose to do right or wrong. When Adam and Eve chose to do wrong, the friendship between God and people was broken. People needed a Savior in order to fix what had been broken. So God promised a Savior.

From that time forward, God prepared for the coming of Jesus to earth. God chose to send the Savior through a nation of people, and He began to prepare that nation for Jesus. Though God called the nation of Israel to be His people, they were not always faithful. Israel became caught in a cycle of disobedience, repentance, and deliverance. Each time God delivered Israel from its enemies, Israel grew toward faithfulness, and the people learned about God's faithfulness. Despite their failures, God was always with them.

God provided Jesus with a nation, a family within that nation, and a homeland. It was very important to God's plan that Jesus would come to earth as a human. In order to do that, Jesus gave up His heavenly position and power. The relationship between man and God had been broken. God paid the price to fix what sin had broken. He did that through the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus. There is no other way to be saved. The early church reached out to everyone with the good news about salvation through Jesus. Believers in the early church also focused on growing strong in their relationships with God. When we accept God's offer of salvation, we begin a loving relationship with God—a relationship that can last forever!

## Materials

Bible, *Resources* sheets 1-4, *Activities* for lesson 7, pencils



## Bible Exploration Summary of Bible Chronology

Hold up your Bible. SAY: **History is His story, God's story.** Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. **God's story begins with creation and continues throughout eternity.** Distribute the leaflets and have students look at the activity God's Plan.

ASK: **What are the three stages of God's plan of salvation?** (God prepares for salvation. God sends salvation. God offers salvation.)

Tell students to fill in the blanks in their leaflets. Remind preteens of the sign language they did in lesson 1 for these words: *prepare*, *send*, *offer*. *Prepare*—Hold both hands flat, palms up, hands about a foot apart. Both hands make one small circle. *Send*—Left hand is flat, palm up. With right hand, use the fingertips to brush something off the left hand. *Offer*—Hold both hands flat, palms out, lifting them upward. Practice these signs with the students.

SAY: **When I call out a person or event pictured on the Bible time lines, do the sign for the word that describes which stage of God's plan that person lived during or when the event happened.** Call out a few; then let volunteers take turns calling out people and events.

ASK: **Who are some of your favorite people in the God prepares stage? God sends stage? God offers stage?** Accept responses.  
**What are some of your favorite events in the God prepares stage? God sends stage? God offers stage?**  
**What happened during the stage of God preparing for salvation?** (God prepared a nation and a family through which Jesus the

Savior would come.)

**What happened during the stage of God sending salvation?** (God sent Jesus to earth to die for our sins.)

**What happened during the stage of God offering salvation?** (God used the early church to offer His salvation to all people, and that continues with the church today.)

Tell students to look in their leaflets at the last time line. SAY: **Look between the “John’s revelation” icon and the “Jesus will return” icon. This is the time period that we’re living in. We have the great privilege of seeing the big picture of God’s plan, of how He worked through history to prepare, send, and offer salvation.**

ASK: **What do you think is happening today about God’s plan of salvation?** (The church continues to tell people about God’s plan of salvation.)

SAY: **Thank God that He had such a wonderful plan, and that ♥ God’s plan of salvation includes you and me!**

### **Bible Memory** John 3:16, 17

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

Continue to display the John 3:16, 17 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Ask students to turn in their Bibles to John 3:16, 17, and have a volunteer read the verses aloud. Then ask students to say the Bible Memory together.

Ask students to stand and form a circle. Holding on to one end of the yarn, say the first word of the Bible Memory as you pass the yarn to a student standing next to you. That student says the next word and then passes the yarn to the next person. Keep going until the Bible Memory has been said. Tell students they can refer to the poster if they need to. When finished, let students try it again. Ask them to say the Bible Memory a little faster and pass the ball of yarn faster.

SAY: **Like a circle, God’s love is never-ending. Because God’s love is never-ending, He desires everyone to accept His gift of salvation. ♥ God’s plan of salvation includes you and me, our friends, our families, everyone we know, and everyone we don’t know.**

#### **Materials**

*Resources* sheet 6,  
Bibles, ball of yarn



#### **Note**

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources* CD.

#### **Optional Bible Skill Builder**

Print and use the *Resources* CD Optional Bible Skills 7 printable file.



## Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation includes you!

# Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

**3** Use one of these activities to help students **understand that God's plan of salvation includes everyone.**

### Materials

Activities for lesson 7,  
pencils, Bibles



## Quick Step Salvation for All

Ask all those who have blue eyes to stand. SAY: **Congratulations! God offers salvation to those with blue eyes.** Pause as students may start to complain. **That's not right; have a seat.** Ask all those who were born in January, February, and March to stand. **Congratulations! God offers salvation to those born in January, February, and March.** Pause. **That's not right; have a seat.** Ask all those wearing blue to stand. **Congratulations! God offers salvation to those wearing blue.** Pause; then ask everyone to sit down. **That was pretty ridiculous, wasn't it? We'd never believe that God's salvation was only for a select group of people, would we?**

Ask students to turn in their leaflets to the activity Salvation for All. Read the instructions. Let preteens pair up to do this activity. Encourage them to also include the names of some people they don't get along with very well or don't like very much. When everyone is done, have volunteers read the sentences, filling in the blanks with the words from the Scriptures. (Answers: 1=the world, whoever, the world, the world; 2=us, we, us; 3=we, us, our; 4=you, anyone, everyone) SAY: **On your own, go back through the Scriptures and read the verses with the names of those you wrote below the lines.** Pause as preteens do this. ♥ **God's plan of salvation includes you, your friends, your family, the bully in your class, the wealthy, the homeless, the smart, the not-so-smart . . . the list goes on and on and on!**

### Materials

roll paper, markers,  
scissors, whiteboard,  
dry-erase marker, Bibles  
(optional: clear tape)



## Option It's for Everyone!



Before class, draw a large heart on roll paper. Write on the heart "God's plan of salvation includes everyone." Cut out the heart, and cut the heart into enough puzzle pieces for each student to have two or three pieces. Be sure that at least a little of the text is on each puzzle piece. Write these Scripture references on the board: John 3:16, 17; Romans 5:8; 1 Timothy 2:3, 4; 1 John 4:10; 2 Peter 3:9.

Have students get into pairs (or trios). Assign each pair one of the Scripture passages to look up. Have students read the Bible verses aloud.

ASK: **To whom does God offer salvation?** (the world, sinners, everyone) **Does that include friends and family? people you don't know very well? kids who laugh at you and are mean to you? people who are very different than you? kids you don't like?** (yes!)

Give each preteen two or three puzzle pieces. SAY: **Write on each puzzle piece the names of a few people to whom God offers salvation. Of course, that's everyone, so include your friends, family, kids at school and the neighborhood, other people you know, bullies, kids who are mean . . . you get the idea.** When preteens are done, have them work together to put the puzzle together. **The good news is that ♥ God's plan of salvation includes you and everyone in the world.**

### Teaching Tip

You could have students tape the puzzle pieces to a sheet of roll paper and display it in your room.

# Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help students **discover their part in God's plan of salvation.**

## Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation includes you!

### Quick Step What's My Part?

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan. And that plan was all about our salvation. People like Abraham, Moses, Ruth, David, Elijah, Daniel, Esther, Peter, and Paul all had their place in God's plan of salvation. Now it's our turn. We who are Christians are to continue offering salvation to others. And each of us has a part in that. Let's think about what part each of us might play in telling others about God's plan of salvation.** Have preteens turn in their leaflets to the activity What's My Part? Read the instructions. Encourage preteens to mark the things they could be doing to be a part of God's plan of salvation. **Most, if not all, of these are things that we all can do. I may do them differently than you do, but that's OK. God needs each of us to do our part. ♥ God's plan of salvation includes you, doing your part—in your own unique way—in offering God's salvation to others.**

Close with a time of prayer. Invite volunteers to pray. Encourage them to thank God for the salvation He offers to everyone, and for His help in doing their part in offering salvation to others.

### Option Do Your Part

Before class, display the Do Your Part posters on different walls in your room.

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan. And that plan was all about our salvation. People like Abraham, Moses, Ruth, David, Elijah, Daniel, Esther, Peter, and Paul all had their place in God's plan of salvation. Now it's our turn. We who are Christians are to continue offering salvation to others. And each of us has a part in that. Let's think about what part each of us might play in telling others about God's plan of salvation.** Draw students' attention to the Do Your Part posters you've displayed in your room. Have volunteers read what each poster says. **Most, if not all, of these are things that we all can do. ♥ God's plan of salvation includes you, doing your part—in your own unique way—in offering God's salvation to others.** Tell preteens to get a colored pencil and go to each poster. If they will try to do what's listed on a poster, they should sign their names. If they know of specific ways they will do something, they can write it on the posters. Give preteens time to do this. Tell them to be seated when they're done.

When everyone is done, close with a time of prayer. Tell preteens that you'll lead them in directed prayer. You will pray and then pause as they silently pray what you've just prayed. PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for offering salvation to us. Pause. Help us to pray for others to get to know You. Pause. Help us to do good things and help those in need. Pause. Help us to talk about your love and Your offer of salvation. Pause. Help us to give money to those who are going and telling about Jesus. Pause. Help us invite others to church services and Bible studies. Pause. Help us to do everything in Jesus' name. Pause. In Jesus' name, amen.**

### Materials

Resources sheets 1-4, Activities for lesson 7, pencils



Offer support and help with reading and writing as necessary.

### Materials

Resources CD Do Your Part printable file, reusable adhesive, Resources sheets 1-4, colored pencils



Offer support and help with reading and writing as necessary.

### Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com).

