God's Story Part 2: Where do I fit in God's Story Script

Before you begin, take the world map, and the bag with purple dots out of the resource bag.

Pray together that God will sink this truth deep into your hearts. You may choose to split this conversation into several parts if attention spans are short.

Parents, we want you to watch the Bible Project video before you show it to your children. You may decide it is not age-appropriate for them. Watch the first minute and a half to see how Adam responds to leaving the garden. We want you to watch it so you can visualize and then explain how God's Kingdom and Earth were separated in the garden and how they overlap.

<u>Learn Where Heaven and Earth Overlap</u> (6:43 minutes) Bible Project Video.

The main theme of the video is they were with God in the garden but separated because of sin. Only Jesus, God's son could bring the two kingdoms back together. As Jesus' followers, we are given the power of the Holy Spirit to help us share the good news about God's Kingdom. We continue the same work that Paul and the disciples started. We help bring heaven to earth. Even a child can find how they fit into God's big story and find their purpose in life. As storykeepers, we share God's Story and invite others to be a part of it. We do that in our actions too, acting like Jesus, feeding the poor, visiting the sick, inviting strangers and friends into our homes for meals, and taking care of God's creation. In this Bible Project video, they show the kingdom of God is like a blue circle and the world's kingdom is like a red circle, when you put them together, the part that connects is now purple. We are the intersection of God's kingdom and the world.

In the video, you see purple dots that represent the places where God's kingdom has appeared on earth when Christians carry Jesus within them.

Your family has now told God's story starting from creation through the story of Jesus on earth and finishing with how his friends and followers shared the good news of Jesus' death on the cross, how he rose again, and is now alive with his Father in Heaven. They are waiting for Heaven and Earth to come together again as it was in the Garden of Eden. For 2000 years God's people have been telling this same story.

Please watch the 3-minute video to see a visual of God's story spreading around the world. People who had never heard of can now follow Jesus. It moves very fast so pause it if you need to. You can watch where God's story goes next and even watch it several times if you missed parts of it. This is exciting to watch! The children's formation class watched this video multiple times and cheered when God's Story reached each of their countries! Let your children know that the good news is still spreading to this day, even when it is against the law and Christians are persecuted for sharing.

Parents: watch "The Spread of Christianity" with the children.

The Spread of Christianity 1:47 minutes

After watching this, discuss the topic of sharing the good news of God's Kingdom. Ask your family how each of you fits into God's story.

Your beautiful feet (allow several children to read the scripture passages) You could ask everyone to take off their shoes and socks and look at their feet. Ask everyone to describe their feet, and enjoy their silly responses! Explain that the Bible often talks about beautiful feet. Why do you think that is?

In the Old Testament, Isaiah 52:7 talks about a herald (an official representative of the King) who brings good news to the people from the king himself, and they have beautiful feet!

In Romans 10:13-15 Paul wants to tell your family, "For 'Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.' But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?"

That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" Paul quotes that first passage in Isaiah and reminds us we are official messengers of King Jesus when we tell people about God's Story.

Look at each other and tell someone in your family, "You are God's messenger and you have beautiful feet!"

Peter tells us in 1 Peter 3:15-16, "If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this gently and respectfully." We can share God's story and be gentle and respectful to the listening person.

Discuss how you have shared the good news about God's story with people. Did you use words or actions?

The purple dots in your resource bag will represent the places where your family has brought God's kingdom to earth.

Take out the world map from your Resource Bag, and find the peg people representing your family. (you received these in August) Use purple dots.

Where have your feet taken you to tell the good news of God's Story? Move your peg people to those areas of the world/city/state/or country and place them in that section. While you are there, leave a purple dot on the map to represent your sharing about God's Kingdom. Mom's and Dad's feet may have taken them to places even before they were your parents. Move their peg people around to where they shared the good news and leave a purple dot there too. Everywhere our feet take us, we bring God's kingdom with us.

God asked Paul and others to write letters to the people with whom they shared God's story. Is he calling you to go somewhere to share his story? Or maybe he is asking you to pray for someone who is sharing now in another country.

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Once you have placed all your purple dots on the map, take a photo of your family with the map. Please send us a photo! Pray for the places and people to whom you have brought the good news. Because of your faithfulness, the kingdom of God is growing.

- Ask God where he wants you to share his story next. Listen to where he may send you today, this month, or this year then place a new purple dot on your map.
- Go back to your purple dot map often this month and tell about your experience sharing God's Story with others. How did you spread God's Kingdom, with words or actions?

Families, you are part of God's story! Next month we will tell the final events in God's Story. Here is a hint about the last part of the story:

"The world, as it is, is not how it was meant to be. But the new creation that God is bringing will be glorious beyond our imagination."

N.T. Wright