



# **unfoldingWord® Open Bible Stories Study Notes**

**Version 4**

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## **unfoldingWord® Open Bible Stories Study Notes**

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## **Open Bible Stories Study Notes**

## 1. The Creation

A Bible story from: Genesis 1-2

### 01:01

This is how **God** made everything in **the beginning**. He **created** the universe and everything in it in six days. After God created the earth it was dark and empty because he had not yet formed anything in it. But **God's Spirit** was there over the water.

#### God

The term **God** refers to the eternal being who created the universe out of nothing. God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God's personal name is 'Yahweh.'

#### the beginning

This refers to the time before anything except God existed.

#### created

This term here means that God made it from nothing.

#### God's Spirit

This is the Holy Spirit (See: 24:08, 42:10).

---

### 01:02

Then God said, "Let there be **light!**" And there was light. God saw that the light was **good** and called it "day." He separated it from the darkness, which he called "night." God created the light on the first day of **creation**.

#### light

This light was different than the sun. God did not create the sun until the fourth day (See: 01:06).

#### good

Each time God created something, it was good. When he finished creating everything, it was very good (See: 01:15).

#### creation

This refers to the six-day period when God created everything.

---

### 01:03

On the second day of creation, God said, "Let there be an expanse above the waters." And there was an expanse. God called this expanse "**sky.**"

**sky**

This refers to all the space above the earth including, the air we breathe and the heavens. God did not create the sun, moon, and stars until the fourth day (See: 01:06).

---

**01:04**

On the third day, God said, "Let the water come together in one place and the dry land appear." He called the dry land "earth," and he called the water "seas." God saw that what he had created was good.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**01:05**

Then God said, "Let the earth produce all kinds of trees and plants." And that is what happened. God saw that what he had created was good.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**01:06**

On the fourth day of creation, God said, "Let there be lights in the sky." And **the sun, the moon, and the stars** appeared. God made them to give light to the earth and to mark day and night, seasons and years. God saw that what he had created was good.

**the sun, the moon, and the stars**

God created these and placed them in the empty sky that he had created on the second day (See: 01:03).

---

**01:07**

On the fifth day, God said, "Let living things fill the waters, and birds fly in the sky." This is how he made everything that swims in the water and all the birds. God saw that it was good, and he blessed them.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**01:08**

On the sixth day of creation, God said, "Let there be all kinds of land animals!" And it happened just like God said. Some were farm animals, some crawled on the ground, and some were wild. And God saw that it was good.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**01:09**

Then God said, "Let **us** make human beings **in our image** to be **like us**. They will rule over the earth and all the animals."

**us...our...us**

God used plural words to speak about himself. Kings sometimes speak about themselves in that way. However, God the Father may have been speaking to the Son and the Spirit, who are all God.

**in our image**

People are similar to God in many ways, but they are not equal to him, or the same as he is.

**like us**

Perhaps God was saying that people are like God in ways that animals are not.

---

**01:10**

So God **took some soil, formed it** into a man, and **breathed life into him**. This man's name was Adam. God planted a large garden where Adam could live, and put him there to care for it.

**took some soil, formed it**

When God created all the other things, he simply spoke and they appeared. But God formed the man from the soil.

**breathed life into him**

When God breathed into the man, he became alive.

---

**01:11**

In the middle of the garden, God planted two special trees—the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If he ate from this tree, he would die.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**01:12**

Then God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." But none of the animals could be **Adam's helper**.

**Adam's helper**

None of the animals was similar enough to Adam to be able to help Adam do what God wanted him to do.

---



**01:13**

So God made Adam fall into a deep sleep. Then God took **one of Adam's ribs** and made it into a woman and brought her to him.

**one of Adam's ribs**

God made the woman from a part of Adam, rather than making her from the soil.

---

**01:14**

When Adam saw her, he said, "**At last!** This one is **like me!** Let her be called '**Woman,**' for she was made from Man." This is why a man leaves his father and mother and becomes one with his wife.

**At last!**

Adam knew there was no one like him. He had been waiting for her.

**like me**

The woman was the same kind of being as Adam, even though she was not exactly the same as he was.

**Woman**

This is the feminine form of the word 'man.'

---

**01:15**

God made man and woman **in his own image**. He blessed them and told them, "Have many children and grandchildren and fill the earth!" And God saw that everything he had made was **very good**, and he was very pleased with all of it. This all happened on the sixth day of creation.

**in his own image**

God made people to show some of his qualities, but not to be equal to him.

**very good**

As God made each thing, it was good. But, together, everything he created was very good because it was complete.

---

**01:16**

When **the seventh day** came, God had **finished all the work that he had been doing**. He blessed the seventh day and made it **holy** because on this day he stopped creating things. This is how God created the universe and everything in it.

**the seventh day**

In modern calendars, the seventh day is Saturday.

**finished all the work that he had been doing**

God finished creating the earth and everything in it. He continues to do other work.

**holy**

God set the seventh day apart from the other days. He did not want people to use it the same way as the other six days of the week.

## 2. Sin Enters the World

A Bible story from: Genesis 3

### 02:01

Adam and his wife were very happy living in the beautiful garden God had made for them. Neither of them wore clothes, but this did not cause them to feel any shame because there was no sin in the world. They often walked in the garden and talked with God.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 02:02

But there was **a snake** in the garden. He was very crafty. He asked the woman, "**Did God really tell you not to eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?**"

#### **a snake**

Some scholars think the snake represents Satan. Other scholars think the snake was a real snake, and that Satan was the one who was speaking through it.

#### **Did God really tell you not to eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?**

The snake asked this question to cause the woman to think about the things that God told her not to do, instead of the things he said she could do.

---

### 02:03

The woman answered, "God told us we could eat the fruit of any tree except from the tree of the knowledge of **good** and **evil**. God told us, 'If you eat that fruit **or even touch it**, you will die.'"

#### **good**

Something is **good** if it fits with God's character, purposes, and will. Good is the opposite of evil.

#### **evil**

Something is **evil** if it is opposed to God's holy character and will. Evil is the opposite of good.

#### **or even touch it**

God told the man and the woman not to eat the fruit of that tree, but he did not tell them not to touch it.

---

**02:04**

The snake responded to the woman, "**That is not true!** You will not die. God just knows that as soon as you eat it, you will be like God and **will understand good and evil like he does.**"

**That is not true!**

The snake now plainly implied that God was a liar.

**will understand good and evil like he does**

They already understood **good** from what God had done for them. Now the snake says they will also understand evil. The snake spoke as if this was good for them. Instead, understanding evil would cause them to die.

---

**02:05**

**The woman saw** that the fruit was beautiful and looked delicious. She also wanted to be wise, so she picked some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and **he ate it too.**

**The woman saw**

The woman decide to eat the fruit because of what she saw, instead of rejecting it because of what God had said.

**he ate it too**

The man also decided to eat the fruit, even though he knew that God had told him not to do that.

---

**02:06**

Suddenly, their eyes were opened and they realized they were naked. **They tried to cover their bodies** by sewing leaves together to make clothes.

**They tried to cover their bodies**

Before this time, people were not ashamed, and did not have any reason to be ashamed. Their shame began when they disobeyed God.

---

**02:07**

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of God walking through the garden. **They both hid from God.** Then God called to the man, "**Where are you?**" Adam replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked. So I hid."

**Where are you?**

God knew where Adam was. He asked this question to make Adam say that he had disobeyed God.

**They both hid from God**

When people sin, they feel shame. They know that they have done wrong and that God is angry with them.

---

**02:08**

Then God asked, "Who told you that you were naked? **Did you eat the fruit I told you not to eat?**" The man answered, "You gave me this woman, and she gave me the fruit." Then God asked the woman, "**What have you done?**" The woman replied, "The snake tricked me."

**Did you eat the fruit I told you not to eat?**

Adam did not answer the question, but instead blamed the woman. He also meant to blame God who gave the woman to him.

**What have you done?**

The woman also refused to answer God. Instead, she blamed the snake.

---

**02:09**

God said to the snake, "**You are cursed!** You will slide on your belly and eat soil. **You and the woman will hate each other, and your children and her children will hate each other too. The woman's descendant will crush your head, and you will wound his heel.**"

**You are cursed!**

This means that God will cause bad things to happen to the snake because he deceived the woman.

**You and the woman will hate each other, and your children and her children will hate each other too.**

People and snakes became enemies at this time, and still hate each other.

**The woman's descendant**

Most scholars think this refers to the Messiah who would later rescue people from Satan.

**will crush your head**

Most scholars think this means the woman's descendant will fatally wound Satan.

**will wound his heel**

Most scholars think this means Satan will wound the Messiah.

---

**02:10**

God then said to the woman, "I will make childbirth very painful for you. You will desire your husband, and **he will rule over you.**"

**he will rule over you**

God will punish the woman by giving her husband power over her.

---

**02:11**

God said to the man, "You listened to your wife and disobeyed me. Now the ground is cursed, and you will need to **work hard to grow food**. Then you will die, and **your body will return to soil.**" The man named his wife **Eve, which means "life-giver,"** because she would become the mother of all people. And **God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skins.**

**work hard to grow food**

Because the man ate the fruit his wife gave him, God would make it hard for him to grow food to eat.

**your body will return to soil**

Adam was made from soil (See: 01:10). When he died, his body would become soil again.

**Eve, which means "life-giver,"**

The name **Eve** sounds like the Hebrew word that means 'living.'

**God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skins**

Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with leaves (See: 02:06). God did not accept that. Instead, he covered them with the skins of animals. This is the first instance of animals being sacrificed in order to cover the sins of people.

---

**02:12**

Then God said, "Now that the human beings have become like us by knowing good and evil, **they must not be allowed to eat the fruit of the tree of life and live forever.**" So God sent Adam and Eve away from the garden. God placed powerful **angels** at the entrance to the garden to keep anyone from eating the fruit of the tree of life.

**they must not be allowed to eat the fruit of the tree of life and live forever**

Adam and Eve were now sinners and ashamed. God did not want them to live forever in that condition. Therefore, he did not allow them to eat from the tree of life.

**the tree of life**

This is the same tree God planted in the garden (See: 01:11).

**angels**

An angel is a powerful spirit being whom God created. Angels exist to serve God by doing whatever he tells them to do.

### 3. The Flood

A Bible story from: Genesis 6-8

#### 03:01

After a long time, many people were living in the world. They had become very wicked and violent. It became so bad that God decided to destroy the whole world with a huge flood.

(No study notes for this frame)

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#### 03:02

But **God was pleased with Noah**. He was a **righteous man** living among wicked people. God told Noah that he was going to make a big flood. Therefore, he told Noah to build a huge boat.

#### God was pleased with Noah

God was pleased with the way that Noah lived. Therefore, God decided to tell Noah to build a boat to protect him and his family from the flood.

#### a righteous man

The term **righteous** describes a person who obeys God and is morally good. However, because all people have sinned, no one except God is completely righteous.

---

#### 03:03

God told Noah to make **the boat** about 140 meters long, 23 meters wide, and 13.5 meters high. Noah was to build it with wood and to make three levels, many rooms, a roof, and a window. The boat would keep Noah, his family, and every kind of land animal safe during the flood.

#### the boat

The boat needed to be big enough to hold eight people, two of every kind of animal, and food for them to eat for about a year.

---

#### 03:04

Noah obeyed God. He and his three sons built the boat just the way God had told them. It took many years to build the boat because it was so big. Noah warned the people about the flood that was coming and told them to turn to God, but they did not believe him.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**03:05**

God also commanded Noah and his family to gather enough food for themselves and the animals. When everything was ready, God told Noah it was time for him, his wife, his three sons, and their wives to get into the boat—eight people in all.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**03:06**

God sent a male and a female of **every kind of animal and bird** to Noah so they could go into the boat and be kept safe during the flood. God sent seven males and seven females of every kind of animal that could be used for sacrifices. When they were all in the boat, God himself closed the door.

**every kind of animal and bird**

Only the animals and birds who could not live on the water came to Noah. Animals that lived in the sea did not need to come to the boat.

---

**03:07**

Then it began to rain, and rain, and rain. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights without stopping! Water also came gushing up out of the earth. Everything in the whole world was covered with water, even the highest mountains.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**03:08**

**Everything that lived on the dry land died** except the people and animals that were in the boat. The boat floated on the water and kept everything inside the boat safe from drowning.

**Everything that lived on the dry land died**

The other people and animals could not enter the boat because God had shut the door before the rain started.

---

**03:09**

After the rains stopped, the boat floated on the water for five months, and during this time the water started going down. Then, one day, **the boat rested on the top of a mountain**, but the world was still covered with water. After three more months, the tops of the mountains were visible.

**the boat rested on the top of a mountain**

The boat was stuck on the top of the mountain that was still under the water.

---

**03:10**

After 40 more days, Noah sent out a bird called a raven to see if the water had dried up. The raven flew back and forth looking for dry land, but **it could not find any**.

**it could not find any**

Perhaps the dove was not able to fly far enough to find dry ground, although the tops of the mountains were visible far away.

---

**03:11**

Later Noah sent out a bird called a dove. But it also **could not find any dry land**, so it came back to Noah. A week later he sent the dove out again, and it came back with **an olive branch** in its beak! The water was going down, and the plants were growing again!

**could not find any dry land**

Perhaps the dry land on the mountain tops were too far away for the dove to fly there.

**an olive branch**

Plants were beginning to grow in the wet ground.

---

**03:12**

Noah waited another week and sent out the dove a third time. This time, it found a place to rest and did not come back. The water was drying up!

(No study notes for this frame)

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**03:13**

**Two months later**, God said to Noah, "You and your family and all the animals may leave the boat now. Have many children and grandchildren and fill the earth." So Noah and his family came out of the boat.

**Two months later**

The land was already dry enough for the dove to live. But it took two more months until there was enough dry land for Noah's family and all of the animals to be able to leave the boat.

---

**03:14**

After Noah got off the boat, he built an altar and **sacrificed some of each kind of animal that could be used for a sacrifice**. God was happy with the sacrifice and blessed Noah and his family.

**sacrificed some of each kind of animal**

People offered animals as special gifts to God as a way of worshiping him. They normally killed the animals and then burned them in a fire on an altar.

**each kind of animal that could be used for a sacrifice**

These were seven males and females of these animals in the boat (See: 03:06). After Noah sacrificed some of them, there were still enough left to fill the earth again.

---

**03:15**

God said, "I promise I will never again curse the ground because of the evil things that people do, or destroy the world by causing a flood, even though people are sinful from the time they are children."

(No study notes for this frame)

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**03:16**

God then made the first rainbow as a sign of **his promise**. Every time the rainbow appeared in the sky, God would remember what he promised and so would his people.

**his promise**

This refers to God's promise not to destroy the earth with a flood again (See: 03:15).

## 4. God's Covenant with Abraham

A Bible story from: Genesis 11-15

### 04:01

Many years after the flood, there were again many people in the world, and they still sinned against God and each other. Because they all spoke the same language, they gathered together and built a city instead of **spreading out over the earth as God had commanded.**

#### **spreading out over the earth as God had commanded**

God told Noah and his family to spread out over the earth after the flood (See: 03:13).

---

### 04:02

They were very proud, and they did not want to obey God's commands about how they should live. They even began building a tall tower that would reach heaven. God saw that, if they all kept working together to do evil, they could do many more sinful things.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 04:03

So God changed their language into many different languages and **spread the people out all over the world.** The city they had begun to build was called Babel, which means "**confused.**"

#### **spread the people out all over the world**

The people did not stay together because they could no longer speak to each other in the same language.

#### **confused**

The people were confused by what other people said. They were confused because God changed their language so they could not understand each other.

---

### 04:04

Hundreds of years later, God spoke to a man named **Abram.** God told him, "**Leave your country and family** and go to the land I will show you. I will **bless you** and make you a great nation. I will make your name great. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. **All families on earth will be blessed because of you.**"

#### **Abram**

God would later change Abram's name to Abraham.

**Leave your country and family**

God told Abram to leave his relatives and the place he lived, but not to leave his wife.

**bless you**

To **bless** someone or something means to cause good and beneficial things to happen to the person or thing that is being blessed.

**All families on earth will be blessed because of you**

When Abram obeyed God, God used him to bless every people group.

---

**04:05**

So Abram obeyed God. He took his wife, Sarai, together with all of his servants and everything he owned and went to the land God showed him, the land of Canaan.

(No study notes for this frame)

---

**04:06**

When Abram arrived in **Canaan**, God said, "Look all around you. I will give to you all this land, and **your descendants will always possess it.**" Then Abram settled in the land.

**Canaan**

This is the land that is called 'Israel' in modern times.

**your descendants will always possess it**

God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abram and his descendants in the same way a father gives his land to his children.

---

**04:07**

There was a man named Melchizedek who was a priest of God Most High. One day, after Abram had been in a battle, he and Abram met. Melchizedek blessed Abram and said, "May God Most High who owns heaven and earth bless Abram." Then **Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything he had won in the battle.**

**Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything he had won in the battle**

Abram gave this gift to Melchizedek to honor God. Melchizedek was a representative of God in Canaan.

---

**04:08**

Many years went by, but **Abram and Sarai still did not have a son**. God spoke to Abram and promised again that he would have a son and as many descendants as the stars in the sky. Abram believed God's promise. **God declared that Abram was righteous** because he believed in God's promise.

**Abram and Sarai still did not have a son**

Abram needed to have a son because God had promised to make him a great nation (See: 04:04). God also said he would give the land of Canaan to Abram's descendants (See: 04:06).

**Sarai**

God would later change Sarai's name to Sarah.

**God declared that Abram was righteous**

Because Abram believed God, God decided to treat Abram as if he had fully obeyed God in everything he had done.

---

**04:09**

Then **God made a covenant with Abram**. Normally, a covenant is an agreement between two parties to do things for each other. But in this case, God made a promise to Abram while Abram was in a deep sleep, but he could still hear God. God said, "I will give you a son from your own body. I give the land of Canaan to your descendants." But Abram still did not have a son.

**God made a covenant with Abram**

God had already said he would give Canaan to Abram's descendants (See: 04:06). Now God stated the same thing again to Abram as an official promise.

## 5. The Son of Promise

A Bible story from: Genesis 16-22

### 05:01

Ten years after Abram and Sarai arrived in Canaan, they still did not have a child. So Abram's wife, Sarai, said to him, "Since God has not allowed me to have children, and now **I am too old to have children**, here is my servant, Hagar. **Marry her also** so she can **have a child for me.**"

#### **I am too old to have children**

Sarai did not believe God could cause her to have a child when she was very old. She decided she should find a way to help God keep his promise.

#### **Marry her also**

The custom of that time allowed a man to have more than one wife.

#### **have a child for me**

Because Hagar was Sarai's servant, she did not have the same rights as Sarai. Sarai would treat any children she had as if they were Sarai's children.

---

### 05:02

So Abram married Hagar. Hagar had a baby boy, and Abram named him Ishmael. But **Sarai became jealous of Hagar**. When Ishmael was thirteen years old, God again spoke to Abram.

#### **Sarai became jealous of Hagar**

Even though Sarai told Abram to take Hagar as his wife, she was jealous that Hagar was able to have a child when Sarai was not able.

---

### 05:03

God said, "I am God Almighty. **I will make a covenant with you.**" Then Abram bowed to the ground. God also told Abram, "You will be the father of many nations. I will give you and your descendants the land of Canaan as their possession, and I will be their God forever. You must **circumcise every male** in your family."

#### **I will make a covenant with you**

God had already made this covenant with Abram (See: 04:09). Now, God added to that covenant by telling Abram to circumcise the males in his family.

**circumcise every male**

The term **circumcise** means to cut off the foreskin of a man or male child. A circumcision ceremony may be performed in connection with this.

---

**05:04**

“Your wife, Sarai, will have a son—he will be **the son of promise**. Name him Isaac. I will make my covenant with him, and he will become a great nation. I will make Ishmael a great nation, too, but **my covenant will be with Isaac**.” Then God changed Abram’s name to Abraham, which means “father of many.” God also changed Sarai’s name to Sarah, which means “princess.”

**the son of promise**

Through Isaac, God would keep his promise to make Abram a great nation and to give the land of Canaan to his descendants.

**my covenant will be with Isaac**

God would bless Abram’s son, Ishmael. However, God would cause Abram’s other son, Isaac, and his descendants to receive the blessings of God’s covenant with Abram.

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**05:05**

That day Abraham circumcised all the males in his household. About a year later, when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90, **Sarah gave birth to Abraham’s son**. They named him Isaac, as God had told them to do.

**Sarah gave birth to Abraham’s son**

Sarai had been wrong to believe that God could not give her a son when she was very old (See: 05:01).

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**05:06**

When Isaac was a young man, **God tested Abraham’s faith** by saying, “Take Isaac, your only son, and kill him as a sacrifice to me.” Again, Abraham obeyed God. He prepared to sacrifice his son.

**God tested Abraham’s faith**

God wanted to show that Abram would obey God in whatever he asked. He did not want Abraham to actually kill Isaac. However, Abraham did not yet know that he would not have to kill Isaac.

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**05:07**

As Abraham and Isaac walked to the place of sacrifice, Isaac asked, "Father, we have **wood for the sacrifice**, but where is **the lamb**?" Abraham replied, "God will provide the lamb for the sacrifice, my son."

**wood for the sacrifice**

Abraham planned to kill Isaac and offer him as a burnt offering. He brought the wood to make the fire.

**the lamb**

A lamb was the normal sacrifice to God in that day.

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**05:08**

When they reached the place of sacrifice, Abraham tied up his son Isaac and laid him on an altar. **He was about to kill his son** when God said, "**Stop! Do not hurt the boy!** Now I know that you fear me because you did not keep your only son from me."

**He was about to kill his son**

Abraham showed that he was willing even to kill Isaac if God told him to do that.

**Stop! Do not hurt the boy!**

God did not want Abraham to kill Isaac. He only told Abraham to do that so that he could test Abraham's faith (See: 05:06).

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**05:09**

Nearby, Abraham saw **a ram that was stuck in a bush**. God had provided the ram to be the sacrifice instead of Isaac. Abraham happily offered the ram as a sacrifice.

**a ram that was stuck in a bush**

God provided this ram. It would be very unusual for a ram to be stuck in a bush.

---

**05:10**

Then God said to Abraham, "Because you were willing to give me everything, even your only son, I promise to bless you. Your descendants will be more than the stars in the sky. Because you have obeyed me, I will bless **all the families of the world** through **your family**."

**all the families of the world**

This refers to the other people groups who are not descendants of Abraham.

**your family**

This refers to the Jews, because they are the descendants of Abraham.

## 6. God Provides for Isaac

A Bible story from: Genesis 24:1-25:26

### 06:01

When Abraham was very old, his son Isaac had grown to be a man. So Abraham sent one of his servants back to the land where his relatives lived to bring back **a wife for his son**, Isaac.

#### **a wife for his son**

The people of Canaan did not worship God. Therefore, Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a woman from Canaan. Instead, he sent his servant to bring a wife for Isaac from Abraham's relatives where Abraham lived before coming to Canaan.

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### 06:02

After a very long journey to the land where Abraham's relatives lived, God led the servant to Rebekah. She was the granddaughter of Abraham's brother.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 06:03

**Rebekah agreed to leave her family** and go back with the servant to Isaac's home. Isaac married her as soon as she arrived.

#### **Rebekah agreed to leave her family**

Although parents arranged marriages in that day, they apparently asked Rebekah if she was willing to go to Canaan and marry Isaac.

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### 06:04

After a long time, Abraham died. **God then blessed Abraham's son Isaac** because of the covenant he had made with Abraham. One of God's promises in that covenant was that Abraham would have countless descendants. But Isaac's wife, Rebekah, could not have children.

#### **God then blessed Abraham's son Isaac**

God chose to give to Isaac and his descendants the things he promised in his covenant with Abraham (See: 05:04). Ishmael did not receive those blessings, even though he was a son of Abraham.

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**06:05**

Isaac prayed for Rebekah, and God allowed her to get pregnant with twins. The two babies struggled with each other while they were still in Rebekah's womb, so Rebekah asked God what was happening.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**06:06**

God told Rebekah, "You will give birth to two sons. **Their descendants will become two different nations.** They will struggle with each other. But the nation coming from your older son will have to obey the nation coming from your younger son."

**Their descendants will become two different nations**

The descendants of Jacob, the younger son, were the Israelites. The descendants of Esau, the older son, were the Edomites. The Israelites and the Edomites often fought against each other, but the Israelites would eventually become stronger than the Edomites.

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**06:07**

When Rebekah's babies were born, the older son came out red and hairy, and they named him Esau. Then the younger son came out holding on to Esau's heel, and **they named him Jacob.**

**they named him Jacob**

The name, **Jacob** means "the one who grabs the heel." They named him Jacob because he was holding Esau's heel when he was born.

## 7. God Blesses Jacob

A Bible story from: Genesis 25:27-35:29

### 07:01

As the boys grew up, Jacob loved to stay at home, but Esau loved to hunt animals. Rebekah loved Jacob, but Isaac loved Esau.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 07:02

One day when Esau came back from hunting, he was very hungry. Esau said to Jacob, "Give me some of the food you have made." Jacob responded, "First, promise me that **everything you should receive because you were born first**, you will give it all to me." So Esau promised to give to Jacob all those things. Then Jacob gave him some food.

#### **everything you should receive because you were born first**

The older son always inherited twice as much of his father's possessions as the younger son. These things belonged to Esau, but Jacob wanted Esau to trade them to him for food.

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### 07:03

Isaac wanted to **give his blessing** to Esau. But before he did, Rebekah and Jacob tricked him by having Jacob pretend to be Esau. Isaac was old and could no longer see. So Jacob put on Esau's clothes and put goatskins on his neck and hands.

#### **give his blessing**

Isaac loved Esau more than he loved Jacob. Therefore, before he died, Isaac wanted to formally ask God to bless and provide for Esau more than for Jacob. Isaac was following the normal custom of giving the best blessing to the oldest son.

---

### 07:04

Jacob came to Isaac and said, "I am Esau. I have come so that you can bless me." When Isaac felt the goat hair and smelled the clothes, he thought it was Esau and blessed him.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 07:05

Esau hated Jacob because Jacob **had stolen his rights as oldest son** and also his blessing. So he planned to kill Jacob after their father died.

**had stolen his rights as oldest son**

Jacob did not steal Esau's rights as the older son. Esau traded them to Jacob for food (See: 07:02). But Esau hated Jacob as if Jacob had stolen what belonged to him.

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**07:06**

But Rebekah heard of Esau's plan. So she and Isaac sent Jacob **far away to live with her relatives.**

**far away to live with her relatives**

Rebekah's relatives were Abram's family. They lived in the land that Abram left when he came to Canaan (See: 04:04, 06:01, 06:02).

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**07:07**

Jacob lived with Rebekah's relatives for many years. During that time he married and had 12 sons and a daughter. God made him very wealthy.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**07:08**

After 20 years away from his home in Canaan, Jacob returned there with his family, his servants, and all his flocks and herds of animals.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**07:09**

Jacob was very afraid because he thought Esau still wanted to kill him. So he sent many of his animals to Esau as a gift. The servants who brought the animals said to Esau, "Your servant, Jacob, is giving you these animals. He is coming soon."

(No study notes for this frame)

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**07:10**

But Esau no longer wanted to harm Jacob. Instead, he was very happy to see him again, so the brothers lived peacefully in Canaan. Then Isaac died, and Jacob and Esau buried him. **The covenant promises God had made to Abraham now passed on from Isaac to Jacob.**

**The covenant promises God had made to Abraham now passed on from Isaac to Jacob**

The descendants of Jacob would receive the land and blessings that God promised to Abraham and Isaac (See: 05:03, 06:04). Esau did not receive those blessings even though he was a son of Isaac.

## 8. God Saves Joseph and His Family

A Bible story from: Genesis 37-50

### 08:01

Many years later, when Jacob was an old man, he sent **his favorite son, Joseph**, to check on his brothers who were **taking care of the flocks**.

#### his favorite son, Joseph

Jacob had four wives and 12 sons. Joseph was the son of Rachel, whom Jacob loved more than his other wives. Therefore, Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons.

#### taking care of the flocks

People at that time allowed their animals to go wherever they could find grass to eat. Someone traveled along with the animals to protect them.

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### 08:02

Joseph's brothers hated him because their father loved him most, and because Joseph had dreamed that he would be their ruler. When Joseph came to his brothers, they took him captive and sold him to some **slave traders**.

#### slave traders

Slave traders bought people to be used as slaves. They then sold them to other people for a profit. They often traveled very far to buy and sell slaves.

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### 08:03

Before Joseph's brothers returned home, they tore Joseph's robe and **dipped it in goat's blood**. Then they showed the robe to their father so he would think that a wild animal had killed Joseph. Jacob was very sad.

#### dipped it in goat's blood

Joseph's brothers wanted their father to think the blood on the robe was Joseph's blood.

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### 08:04

The slave traders took Joseph to Egypt. Egypt was a large, powerful country located along the Nile River. The slave traders sold Joseph as a slave to a wealthy government official. Joseph served his master well, and God blessed Joseph.

(No study notes for this frame)

**08:05**

His master's wife tried to sleep with Joseph, but Joseph refused to sin against God in this way. **She became angry** and falsely accused Joseph so that he was arrested and sent to prison. Even in prison, Joseph remained faithful to God, and God blessed him.

**She became angry**

The wife of the government official who bought Joseph was angry that Joseph would not sleep with her. She lied about Joseph to her husband so he would be angry with Joseph and put him in prison.

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**08:06**

After two years, Joseph was still in prison even though he was innocent. One night the Pharaoh, which is what the Egyptians called their kings, had two dreams that disturbed him greatly. None of his advisors could tell him **the meaning of the dreams**.

**the meaning of the dreams**

The Egyptians believed that God spoke to the Pharaoh through his dreams. Pharaoh's advisors normally helped him understand what his dreams meant.

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**08:07**

God had given Joseph the ability to interpret dreams, so Pharaoh had Joseph brought to him from the prison. Joseph interpreted the dreams for him and said, "God is going to send seven years of plentiful harvests followed by seven years of famine."

(No study notes for this frame)

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**08:08**

**Pharaoh was so impressed with Joseph** that he appointed him to be the second most powerful man in all of Egypt!

**Pharaoh was so impressed with Joseph**

Pharaoh was impressed with Joseph because Joseph was the only person who was able to tell Pharaoh what God was saying through Pharaoh's dreams.

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**08:09**

Joseph told the people to store up large amounts of food during the seven years of good harvests. When the seven years of famine came, Joseph sold the food to the people so they would have enough to eat.



(No study notes for this frame)

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### 08:10

**The famine** was severe not only in Egypt, but also in Canaan where Jacob and his family lived.

#### The famine

The famine began seven years later, after the seven years of good harvests (See: 08:07).

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### 08:11

So, Jacob sent his older sons to Egypt to buy food. **The brothers did not recognize Joseph** when they stood before him to buy food. But Joseph recognized them.

#### The brothers did not recognize Joseph

The brothers came to Egypt at least ten years after they sold Joseph into slavery. They did not recognize Joseph because he was ten years older and was dressed as an Egyptian official.

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### 08:12

After testing his brothers to see **if they had changed**, Joseph said to them, "I am your brother, Joseph! Do not be afraid. You tried to do evil when you sold me as a slave, but **God used the evil for good!** Come and live in Egypt so I can provide for you and your families."

#### if they had changed

Joseph's brothers did evil when they sold him as a slave (See: 08:02). He now wanted to know if his brothers would still treat people badly.

#### God used the evil for good

Joseph was willing to forgive his brothers because he believed that God had caused their evil action to result in a good thing. By going to Egypt as a slave, Joseph gained the power to save his whole family from the famine.

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### 08:13

When **Joseph's brothers returned home** and told their father, Jacob, that Joseph was still alive, he was very happy.

#### Joseph's brothers returned home

The brothers returned home in order to bring their father and their families from Canaan to Egypt so they would survive the famine.

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**08:14**

Even though Jacob was an old man, he moved to Egypt with all of his family, and they all lived there. Before Jacob died, he blessed each of his sons.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**08:15**

**The covenant promises that God gave to Abraham were passed on to Isaac, then to Jacob, and then to Jacob's 12 sons and their families.** The descendants of the 12 sons became **the 12 tribes of Israel.**

**The covenant promises that God gave to Abraham were passed on to Isaac, then to Jacob, and then to Jacob's 12 sons and their families**

All the descendants of Jacob would receive the land and blessings that God promised to Abraham and Isaac (See: 05:03, 06:04, 07:10).

**the 12 tribes of Israel**

God changed Jacob's name to Israel. Therefore, the descendants of his 12 sons were called the 12 tribes of Israel.

## 9. God Calls Moses

A Bible story from: Exodus 1-4

### 09:01

After Joseph died, all of his relatives stayed in Egypt. They and their descendants continued to live there for many years and had many children. They were called **the Israelites**.

#### the Israelites

God changed Jacob's name to Israel. Therefore, Jacob's descendants were called the Israelites.

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### 09:02

After hundreds of years, the number of Israelites had become very large. The Egyptians were no longer grateful that **Joseph had done so much to help them**. They became afraid of the Israelites because there were so many of them. So the Pharaoh who was ruling Egypt at that time made the Israelites slaves to the Egyptians.

#### Joseph had done so much to help them

Joseph warned the Egyptians about the famine so they could store up grain in advance (See: 08:08). In this way, he saved the Egyptians.

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### 09:03

The Egyptians forced the Israelites to build many buildings and even whole cities. The hard work made their lives miserable, but **God blessed them**, and they had even more children.

#### God blessed them

The Egyptians made the Israelites slaves so they would become weaker. But God blessed the Israelites so they became stronger instead.

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### 09:04

Pharaoh saw that the Israelites were having many babies, so he ordered his people to kill all Israelite baby boys by throwing them into the Nile River.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 09:05

A certain Israelite woman gave birth to a baby boy. She hid the baby for as long as she could.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**09:06**

When the boy's mother could no longer hide him, she put him in a floating basket among the reeds along the edge of the Nile River in order to save him from being killed. His older sister watched to see what would happen to him.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**09:07**

A daughter of Pharaoh saw the basket and looked inside. When she saw the baby, **she took him as her own son**. She hired an Israelite woman to nurse him without realizing the woman was the baby's own mother. When the child was old enough that he no longer needed his mother's milk, his mother returned him to Pharaoh's daughter, who named him Moses.

**she took him as her own son**

Pharaoh's daughter treated Moses as if he were her own Egyptian son. For that reason, the Egyptians did not kill him as they killed the other Israelite baby boys (See: 09:04).

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**09:08**

One day, when Moses had grown up, he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite slave. Moses tried to save his fellow Israelite.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**09:09**

When Moses thought nobody would see, he killed the Egyptian and **buried his body**. But someone saw what Moses had done.

**buried his body**

Moses buried the Egyptian's body to hide it. Moses did not want anyone to know that he had killed an Egyptian.

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**09:10**

Pharaoh learned what Moses had done. **He tried to kill him**, but Moses fled from Egypt into **the wilderness**. Pharaoh's soldiers could not find him there.

**He tried to kill him**

Pharaoh realized that Moses was helping the Israelites and was against the Egyptians. That is why he wanted to kill Moses.

**the wilderness**

The wilderness where Moses fled was a desert area that was east of Egypt. This area today is called the Sinai.

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**09:11**

Moses became a shepherd in the wilderness far away from Egypt. He married a woman from that place and had two sons.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**09:12**

Moses was taking care of his father-in-law's flock of sheep. One day he saw a bush on fire, burning without being destroyed. He went close to the bush to look at it. When he was very close, God spoke to him and said, "Moses, **take off your shoes**. You are standing on **holy ground**."

**take off your shoes**

God told Moses to take off his shoes to show his respect for God. The ground around the burning bush was a special place because God was there.

**holy ground**

The term **holy** refers to the character of God. He is totally set apart and separated from everything that is sinful and imperfect. The place where Moses stood was also set apart for God.

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**09:13**

Then God said, "I have seen the suffering of **my people**. I will send you to Pharaoh so that you can bring the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt. **I will give them the land of Canaan**, the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

**my people**

God said the descendants of Abraham were his people. God wanted to say that the Israelites were special to him. He would treat them better than other people because Abraham honored him (See: 05:10).

**I will give them the land of Canaan**

God was going to keep his promise to give the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants, even though they were slaves at that time (See: 08:15, 09:02).

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**09:14**

Moses asked, "What if the people want to know who sent me, what should I say?" God said, "**I AM WHO I AM**. Tell them, 'I AM has sent me to you.' Also tell them, 'I am **Yahweh**, the God of your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' This is my name forever."

**I AM WHO I AM**

God wanted to say that he has always existed as God, and was not created by anyone else.

**Yahweh**

This is the name that God has chosen for himself. Hebrew was originally written without vowels, so the letters written for this name were YHWH, which would be spoken as **Yahweh**.

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**09:15**

Moses was afraid and **did not want to go to Pharaoh** because **he thought he could not speak well**, so God sent Moses' brother, Aaron, to help him.

**did not want to go to Pharaoh**

Moses knew that Pharaoh wanted to kill him (See: 09:10).

**he thought he could not speak well**

Moses said this was why he did not want to go to Pharaoh, but the real reason was that Moses was afraid of Pharaoh.

## 10. The Ten Plagues

A Bible story from: Exodus 5-10

### 10:01

God warned Moses and Aaron that Pharaoh would be stubborn. When they went to Pharaoh, they said, "This is what **the God of Israel** says, '**Let my people go!**'" But **Pharaoh did not listen to them**. Instead of letting the Israelites go free, **he forced them to work even harder!**

#### **the God of Israel**

Pharaoh may have thought that this **God of Israel** only ruled over the Israelites. He did not yet understand that the God who ruled over Israel also ruled over the entire world.

#### **Let my people go!**

God told Moses to bring the Israelites out of Egypt (See: 09:13).

#### **Pharaoh did not listen to them**

Pharaoh heard what Moses and Aaron said, but did not do what they told him to do.

#### **he forced them to work even harder**

Pharaoh was angry that the Israelites wanted to leave Egypt. He made them work harder as a way to punish them for that desire.

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### 10:02

Pharaoh kept refusing to let the people go, so God sent **ten terrible plagues** on Egypt. Through these plagues, God showed Pharaoh that **he is more powerful than Pharaoh and all of Egypt's gods**.

#### **ten terrible plagues**

Plagues are events which cause suffering or death to a large number of people. Often a plague is a disease that spreads quickly and causes many people to die before it can be stopped.

#### **he is more powerful than Pharaoh and all of Egypt's gods**

Pharaoh asked the false gods of Egypt to stop the plagues, but the plagues continued. This proved to Pharaoh and the Egyptians that the God of Israel also ruled over Egypt.

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### 10:03

God turned the Nile River into blood, but Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites go.

(No study notes for this frame)

**10:04**

God sent frogs all over Egypt. Pharaoh begged Moses to take away the frogs. But after all the frogs died, **Pharaoh hardened his heart** and would not let the Israelites leave Egypt.

**Pharaoh hardened his heart**

Pharaoh became stubborn and decided not to believe and obey God. Pharaoh did this after most of the plagues.

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**10:05**

So God sent a plague of gnats. Then he sent a plague of flies. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and told them that if they stopped the plague, the Israelites could leave Egypt. When Moses prayed, God removed all the flies from Egypt. But Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go free.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**10:06**

Next, God caused all the farm animals that belonged to the Egyptians to get sick and die. But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not let the Israelites go.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**10:07**

Then God told Moses to throw ashes into the air in front of Pharaoh. When he did, painful skin sores appeared on the Egyptians, **but not on the Israelites**. God hardened Pharaoh's heart, and Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go free.

**but not on the Israelites**

God caused the sores to affect only the Egyptians in order to show that he was against the Egyptians, but not against the Israelites.

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**10:08**

After that, God sent **hail** that destroyed most of the crops in Egypt and killed anybody who went outside. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and told them, "**I have sinned**. You may go." So Moses prayed, and the hail stopped falling from the sky.

**hail**

Hail is chunks of ice that fall from the sky. These chunks are often large enough to destroy plants, and can even kill people or animals.



**I have sinned**

Pharaoh finally realized that he had disobeyed God and that the plagues were God's punishment for not letting the Israelites leave Egypt.

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**10:09**

But Pharaoh sinned again and hardened his heart. He would not let the Israelites go free.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**10:10**

So God caused swarms of locusts to come over Egypt. These locusts ate all the crops that the hail had not destroyed.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**10:11**

Then God sent darkness that lasted for three days. It was so dark that the Egyptians could not leave their houses. But **there was light where the Israelites lived.**

**there was light where the Israelites lived**

This was not a normal darkness. The parts of Egypt where the Egyptians lived was completely dark even during the daytime. But the places in Egypt where the Israelites lived had sunshine in the daytime as they normally did.

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**10:12**

Even after these nine plagues, Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites go free. Since Pharaoh would not listen, God planned to send **one last plague.** This would change Pharaoh's mind.

**one last plague**

This final plague would be much worse than the previous ones. It would be so terrible that it would force Pharaoh to finally agree to let the Israelites leave Egypt.

## 11. The Passover

A Bible story from: Exodus 11:1-12:32

### 11:01

God sent Moses and Aaron to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. They warned him that, if he did not let them go, God would kill all the firstborn males of Egypt's people and animals. When Pharaoh heard this, he still refused to believe and obey God.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 11:02

God provided a way to save the firstborn son of anyone who believed in him. **Each family** had to choose a perfect lamb and kill it.

#### Each family

Every Egyptian and Israelite family had to select and kill a lamb in the way that God told them to do it. If any family obeyed and did this, God would not kill their firstborn son.

---

### 11:03

God told the Israelites **to put the blood of this lamb around the door of their houses**. They should roast the meat. Then they should quickly eat it, along with **unleavened bread**. He also told them to be ready to leave Egypt immediately after they ate this meal.

#### to put the blood of this lamb around the door of their houses

The Israelites put the blood on the frame of the door of their houses to show that they had killed the lamb just as God told them to do.

#### unleavened bread

Unleavened bread is bread that is prepared without yeast. People can make unleavened bread very quickly because they do not need to wait for the dough to rise before they bake it. The unleavened bread shows that this meal was urgent and the people needed to do it quickly.

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### 11:04

The Israelites did everything just as God had commanded them to do. In the middle of the night, God went throughout Egypt killing every firstborn son.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**11:05**

All the houses of the Israelites had blood around the doors, so **God passed over those houses**. Everybody inside them was safe. They were saved because of the lamb's blood.

**God passed over those houses**

God did not enter into the houses with blood on the doors to kill the firstborn sons in those houses.

**passed over**

God later told the Israelites to remember this day in a festival called the Passover. In this way, they would always remember that he passed over their houses on that day and did not kill their firstborn sons.

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**11:06**

But the Egyptians **did not believe God or obey his commands**. So God did not pass over their houses. God killed every one of the Egyptians' firstborn sons.

**did not believe God or obey his commands**

The Egyptians did not believe God would kill their firstborn sons, and therefore did not obey his commands to kill a lamb and put its blood around their doors.

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**11:07**

Every Egyptian firstborn male died, from the firstborn of the prisoner in jail to the firstborn of Pharaoh. Many people in Egypt were crying and wailing because of their deep sadness.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**11:08**

That same night, Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Take the Israelites and **leave Egypt immediately!**" The Egyptian people also urged the Israelites to leave right away.

**leave Egypt immediately**

God had promised that he would send one last plague to Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave Egypt (See: 04:09). After God killed every firstborn son of the Egyptians in this final, terrible plague, Pharaoh and all the Egyptians urged the Israelites to leave Egypt.

## 12. The Exodus

A Bible story from: Exodus 12:33-15:21

### 12:01

The Israelites were very happy to leave Egypt. They were no longer slaves, and they were going to **the Promised Land! The Egyptians gave the Israelites whatever they asked for**, even gold and silver and other valuable things. **Some people from other nations believed in God** and went along with the Israelites as they left Egypt.

#### the Promised Land

God had promised Abraham to give the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants. The Israelites were finally going there to possess that land.

#### The Egyptians gave the Israelites whatever they asked for

The Egyptian had suffered greatly during the plagues. They very much wanted the Israelites to leave Egypt and the plagues to stop. Therefore, they gave the Israelites anything they asked for in order to encourage them to leave Egypt quickly.

#### Some people from other nations believed in God

God chose the descendants of Abraham for his own people, but he was always willing to accept people from other nations if they would believe in him and obey him.

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### 12:02

**A tall pillar** of cloud went ahead of them during the day. It became a tall pillar of fire at night. God, who was in the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, was always with them and guided them as they traveled. All they had to do was follow him.

#### A tall pillar

The people could not see God, but they could see the pillar and know that he was going before them as they traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land.

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### 12:03

After a short time, Pharaoh and his people changed their minds. They wanted to make the Israelites their slaves again. So they chased after the Israelites. **It was God who made them change their minds.** He did this because he wanted everyone to know that he, Yahweh, is more powerful than Pharaoh and all the gods of the Egyptians.

**It was God who made them change their minds**

Pharaoh and the Egyptians had already learned that God was powerful. However, God also wanted the other nations to know that he is the only God who rules the earth. Therefore, God caused Pharaoh to chase after the Israelites so that God could destroy the Egyptian army. This would show the other nations how powerful God is.

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**12:04**

When the Israelites saw the Egyptian army coming, they realized **they were trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea**. They were very afraid and cried out, "Why did we leave Egypt? **We are going to die!**"

**they were trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea**

God had led the Israelites to the shore of the Red Sea without a way to cross the deep water of the sea. God also allowed the Egyptians to catch up with the Israelites there. He did this so that he could show the Israelites the he could protect them even in that hopeless situation.

**We are going to die!**

The Israelites thought they would either be killed by the Egyptian army or would go into the sea and drown.

---

**12:05**

Moses told the Israelites, "Stop being afraid! God will fight for you today and save you." Then God told Moses, "Tell the people to move toward the Red Sea."

(No study notes for this frame)

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**12:06**

Then the pillar of cloud moved between the Israelites and the Egyptians and became a pillar of fire at night. **The Egyptians were not able to come near the Israelites all night.**

**The Egyptians were not able to come near the Israelites all night**

The Egyptians were not able to go through the pillar. In this way, God protected the Israelites from the Egyptians.

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**12:07**

God told Moses to raise his hand over the sea. Then God caused the wind to push the water in the sea to the left and the right, so that there was a path through the sea.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**12:08**

The Israelites marched through the sea **on dry ground** with a wall of water on either side of them.

**on dry ground**

God not only moved the water away from the path of the Israelites, but also dried up the ground at the bottom of the sea so they could walk on it.

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**12:09**

Then the Egyptians saw that the Israelites were escaping. The Egyptians started chasing after them again.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**12:10**

So they followed the Israelites onto the path through the sea, but God caused the Egyptians to panic and **caused their chariots to get stuck**. They shouted, "**Run away!** God is fighting for the Israelites!"

**caused their chariots to get stuck**

God made the ground at the bottom of the sea to be dry for the Israelites. But when the Egyptians followed them, God caused the bottom of the sea to become muddy again so the heavy chariots of the Egyptian became stuck in it and could not move.

**Run away!**

The Egyptians realized they were in danger, and tried to escape from the path through the sea.

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**12:11**

The Israelites all arrived at the other side of the sea. Then God told Moses to stretch out his hand again over the water. When Moses did that, **the water fell on the Egyptian army** and returned to its normal place. The whole Egyptian army drowned.

**the water fell on the Egyptian army**

The Red Sea is very wide. The Egyptians had followed the Israelites too far into the sea and were not able to escape before the water closed back over them and they drowned.

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**12:12**

When the Israelites saw that the Egyptians were dead, they trusted in God. **They believed that Moses was a prophet of God.**

**They believed that Moses was a prophet of God**

God had told Moses to stretch out his arm over the sea when God made a path through it, and when he closed the water again over the Egyptians. In this way, God showed the Israelites that he was speaking to them through Moses.

**a prophet of God**

A prophet is a person through whom God speaks to the people.

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**12:13**

The Israelites also rejoiced very much because God had saved them from dying and from being slaves. Now they were free to worship God and obey him. The Israelites sang many songs to celebrate their new freedom and to praise God because he saved them from the Egyptian army.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**12:14**

God commanded the Israelites to celebrate a festival every year in order to remember how God had defeated the Egyptians and freed them from being slaves. This festival was called **the Passover**. In it, they had to celebrate by killing a healthy lamb, roasting it, and eating it with **bread made without yeast**.

**the Passover**

The festival was called the Passover because God “passed over” the houses of the Israelites that had the blood of a lamb around their doors. He did not enter into those houses to kill their firstborn sons. God told the Israelites to celebrate this festival every year so they would remember how he had save them.

**bread made without yeast**

**Yeast** is a specific kind of leaven. **Yeast** is a general term for a substance that causes bread dough to expand and rise.

## 13. God's Covenant with Israel

A Bible story from: Exodus 19-34

### 13:01

After God led the Israelites through the Red Sea, he led them through the wilderness to **a mountain called Sinai**. This was the same mountain **where Moses had seen the burning bush**. The people **set up their tents** at the base of the mountain.

#### **a mountain called Sinai**

Mount Sinai is a mountain that was probably located in the southern part of what is now called the Sinai Peninsula. It was also known as 'Mount Horeb.'

#### **where Moses had seen the burning bush**

God spoke to Moses from a bush that was on fire, but did not burn up (See: 09:12).

#### **set up their tents**

The Israelites had to travel a great distance from Egypt to the Promised Land. So they took tents with them so that they could set them up as shelters and sleep in them along the way.

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### 13:02

God said to Moses and all the people of Israel, "You must always obey me and keep **the covenant I am making with you**. If you do this, you will be **my prized possession, a kingdom of priests**, and a holy nation."

#### **the covenant I am making with you**

God was going to make a new covenant with the Israelites (See: 13:04).

#### **my prized possession**

The Israelites would belong to God and he would value them more than any other people group.

#### **a kingdom of priests**

The Israelites were supposed to teach the other nations about God and be a mediator between God and the nations just as there were priests in the nation of Israel to go between God and the Israelites.

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### 13:03

For three days **the people made themselves ready** for God to come near to them. Then God came down to the top of Mount Sinai. When he came, there was thunder, lightning, smoke, and sounds of loud trumpets. Then Moses went by himself up the mountain.



**the people made themselves ready**

The Israelites did three days of ceremonial cleansing in preparation to meet with God.

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**13:04**

Then **God made a covenant with the people**. He said, "I am Yahweh, your God. It is I who saved you from being slaves in Egypt. Do not worship any other god."

**God made a covenant with the people**

This was a new covenant between God and the Israelites. This covenant told the Israelites how they should worship God. This covenant was in addition to the covenant that God made with Abraham, the ancestor of the Israelites (See: 04:09).

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**13:05**

"Do not make idols and do not worship them, because I, Yahweh, must be your only God. Do not use my name in a disrespectful way. Be sure to keep **the Sabbath day** holy. In other words, do all your work in six days, for the seventh day is **a day for you to rest and to remember me.**"

**the Sabbath day**

The Sabbath day was the seventh day of the week. This is Saturday in a modern calendar. God had said that the Sabbath should be holy because that was the day that he finished creating the earth and everything in it (See: 01:16).

**a day for you to rest and to remember me**

The two reasons for the Sabbath were for people to rest from their work and to think about God and what he had done for them.

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**13:06**

"Honor your father and your mother. Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not desire to have your neighbor's wife, his house, or anything that belongs to him."

(No study notes for this frame)

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**13:07**

The people all agreed to obey the laws that God had given them. They agreed to belong to God alone and to worship only him.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**13:08**

God also told the Israelites to make a large tent—**the Tent of Meeting**. He told them exactly how to make this tent and what things to put in it. He told them to make a large curtain to separate the tent into two rooms. **God would come into the room behind the curtain** and stay there. Only **the high priest** was allowed to go into that room where God was.

**the Tent of Meeting**

The **Tent of Meeting** was called by that name because it was the place where God would come to meet with Moses or the high priest of the Israelites.

**God would come into the room behind the curtain**

God is spirit and is everywhere, all the time. However, he appeared to Moses in a special way in the Tent of Meeting.

**the high priest**

The term **high priest** refers to a special priest who was appointed to serve for one year as the leader of all the other Israelite priests.

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**13:09**

The people must also make an altar in front of the Tent of Meeting. Anyone who had **disobeyed God's law** should bring an animal to that altar. A priest would then kill it and burn it on the altar as a sacrifice to God. God said that **the animal's blood would cover that person's sin**. In this way, **God would not see that sin any longer**. That person would become clean in God's sight. God chose Moses' brother, Aaron, and Aaron's descendants to be his priests.

**disobeyed God's law**

This refers to all of the laws that God gave to the Israelites—not only to the Ten Commandments.

**the animal's blood would cover that person's sin**

The sin of the person would still exist, but the blood would cover it. This is like hiding something that is ugly or dirty by covering it.

**God would not see that sin any longer**

This does not mean that God was not able to see the person's sin. Rather, it means that God would choose not to look at the person's sin. Because that person had offered the sacrifice, God would not punish them for that sin. In this way, they would be clean.

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**13:10**

God wrote **these Ten Commandments** on **two stone tablets** and gave them to Moses. God also gave the people many other laws and rules to follow. God promised to bless the people

and protect them if they obeyed these laws. But he said he would punish them if they did not obey them.

### these Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments were main commands that God gave to Moses for the Israelites to obey. They are listed in 13:05 and 13:06.

### two stone tablets

The stone tablets were two flat pieces of stone on which God wrote the Ten Commandments.

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### 13:11

For many days, Moses remained on top of Mount Sinai. He was talking with God. But the people became tired of waiting for him to return to them. So they brought gold to Aaron and asked him to make an idol that they could worship instead of God. In this way, they sinned terribly against God.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 13:12

Aaron made a golden idol in the shape of a calf. The people began **to wildly worship the idol** and make sacrifices to it! **God was very angry with them** because of their sin. God told Moses he wanted to destroy them. But Moses asked God not to kill them. God listened to his prayer and did not destroy them.

### to wildly worship the idol

The people were sinning by worshiping the idol and also by doing sinful things as they worshiped it.

### God was very angry with them

God knew what the people had done and told Moses about it while Moses was still the mountain with God. Moses prayed for the people before he came down from the mountain.

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### 13:13

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, he was carrying the two stone tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments. When Moses saw the idol, he was so angry that **he smashed the tablets**.

### he smashed the tablets

Moses threw the stone tablets down on the ground and they broke into little pieces. Moses did that to show that the Israelites had broken the Ten Commandments that God had written on the tablets.

**13:14**

Then **Moses burned the idol and ground it into powder**. He threw the powder into a stream and **made the people drink the water**. **God sent a plague on the people** and many of them died.

**Moses burned the idol and ground it into powder**

Moses was so angry that they had made the idol that he ground it into fine particles.

**made the people drink the water**

Moses made the people drink the water with the particles of the idol in it as a symbol that they were guilty for making that idol.

**God sent a plague on the people**

God sent ten plagues on the Egyptians to force Pharaoh to set the people free from being slaves in Egypt. But now, the Israelites sinned so terribly that God sent a plague on them to punish them.

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**13:15**

Moses made new stone tablets for the Ten Commandments to replace the ones that he had broken. Then he climbed the mountain again and prayed that God would forgive the people. God listened to Moses and forgave them. Moses came back down the mountain with the Ten Commandments on the new tablets. Then God led the Israelites away from Mount Sinai toward the Promised Land.

(No study notes for this frame)

## 14. Wandering in the Wilderness

A Bible story from: Exodus 16-17; Numbers 10-14; 20; 27; Deuteronomy 34

### 14:01

God finished telling the Israelites about **all the laws** that they must obey because of his covenant with them. Then he led them away from Mount Sinai. He wanted to take them to the Promised Land. This land was also called Canaan. God went ahead of them in **the pillar of cloud**, and they followed him.

#### **all the laws**

These laws included many more commands in addition to the Ten Commandments. (See: 13:07).

#### **the pillar of cloud**

This was the same pillar of cloud which led the Israelites out of Egypt. (See: 12:02).

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### 14:02

**God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give the Promised Land to their descendants**, but now there were many people groups living there. They were called Canaanites. The Canaanites did not worship or obey God. They worshiped false gods and did many evil things.

#### **God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give the Promised Land to their descendants**

God made this promise to Abraham (See: 04:06). That promise was later passed on to Isaac and Jacob.

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### 14:03

God told the Israelites, "After you go into the Promised Land, you must get rid of all the Canaanites there. Do not make peace with them and do not marry them. You must completely destroy all of their idols. If you do not obey me, **you will end up worshiping their idols** instead of me."

#### **you will end up worshiping their idols**

God wanted the Israelites to be completely separate from the other people groups who worshiped idols. Otherwise, the Israelites might also start worshiping the false gods of the Canaanites.

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**14:04**

When the Israelites reached the border of Canaan, Moses chose 12 men, one from each tribe of Israel. He gave the men instructions to go and spy on the land to see what it was like. They were also to spy on the Canaanites **to see if they were strong or weak.**

**to see if they were strong or weak**

Moses wanted to know how difficult it would be to defeat the Canaanites and to take their land. He also wanted to know the best way to attack the Canaanites.

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**14:05**

The 12 men traveled through Canaan for 40 days, and then they came back. They told the people, "The land is very fertile and the crops are plentiful!" But ten of the spies said, "The cities are very strong and the people are giants! If we attack them, they will certainly defeat us and kill us!"

(No study notes for this frame)

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**14:06**

Immediately, **Caleb and Joshua, the other two spies**, said, "It is true that the people of Canaan are tall and strong, but we can certainly defeat them! **God will fight for us!**"

**Caleb and Joshua, the other two spies**

Moses sent 12 men to spy on the Canaanites. Ten of those men said the Israelites could not defeat them. Only Caleb and Joshua believed that God was powerful enough to help them defeat the Canaanites. The 12 men saw the same things, but Caleb and Joshua were not afraid as the other ten men were.

**God will fight for us!**

Caleb and Joshua knew that the Israelites alone could not defeat the Canaanites, but with God's help, they could win against them.

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**14:07**

But the people did not listen to Caleb and Joshua. They became angry with Moses and Aaron and said, "Why did you bring us to this horrible place? We should have stayed in Egypt. If we go into the land, we will die in battle, and the Canaanites will make our wives and children to be slaves." The people wanted to choose a different leader to take them back to Egypt.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**14:08**

When the people said this, God was very angry. He came to the Tent of Meeting and said, "You have rebelled against me, so all of **you will have to wander in the wilderness. Everyone who is 20 years or older will die** there and never enter the land I am giving you. Only Joshua and Caleb will enter it."

**you will have to wander in the wilderness**

God would lead the people around in the wilderness with no specific destination until all of the adults who rebelled against him died.

**Everyone who is 20 years or older will die**

God would allow only the children to enter the Promised Land after their parents had died.

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**14:09**

When the people heard God say this, they were sorry they had sinned. So they decided to attack the people of Canaan. Moses warned them not to go because God would not go with them, but they did not listen to him.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**14:10**

God did not go with them into this battle, so the Canaanites defeated them and killed many of them. Then the Israelites turned back from Canaan. For the next 40 years, **they would wander through the wilderness.**

**they would wander through the wilderness**

They lived in the wilderness, and together they moved from place to place in that large, dry land, looking for food and water for themselves and their animals.

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**14:11**

During the 40 years that the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness, God provided for them. He gave them **bread from heaven, called manna**. He also sent flocks of quail (which are medium-sized birds) into **their camp** so they could have meat to eat. During all that time, God kept their clothes and sandals from wearing out.

**bread from heaven, called manna**

Overnight, this thin, bread-like food fell onto the grass like dew from the sky. They called it **manna**. Almost every day the people gathered this manna and cooked it as their food.

**their camp**

The place where the Israelites set up their tents to sleep in was called a **camp**. It was like a city with tents instead of buildings, and it could be moved around.

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**14:12**

To provide them with water to drink, God miraculously made it come out of a rock. But despite all this, **the people of Israel complained and grumbled against God and against Moses**. Even so, **God was still faithful**. He did what he promised that he would do for the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**the people of Israel complained and grumbled against God and against Moses**

The people had refused to go into the Promised Land. Now they continued to complain against God and Moses until they died in the wilderness.

**God was still faithful**

Even though all of the adult Israelites disobeyed God and complained against him, God did not forget his promise to Abraham. He continued to take care of the people in the wilderness so that he could lead their children into the Promised Land.

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**14:13**

Another time when the people did not have any water, God told Moses, "Speak to the rock, and water will come out of it." But Moses did not speak to the rock. Instead, he hit the rock twice with a stick. In this way, **he dishonored God**. Water came out of the rock for everyone to drink, but God was angry with Moses. He said, "Because you did this, you will not enter the Promised Land."

**he dishonored God**

God had a specific way He wanted Moses to show the people God's power to provide for them. When Moses disobeyed God by doing it in a different way, he showed a lack of respect for God. Because of that, Moses would die before the Israelites would enter the Promised Land.

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**14:14**

After the Israelites had wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, **all of those who had rebelled against God** were dead. Then God led the people to the edge of the Promised Land again. Moses was now very old, so God chose Joshua to lead the people. God also promised Moses that one day he would send to the people **another prophet like Moses**.



**all of those who had rebelled against God**

The people who died were the ones who were over 20 years old at the time when they rebelled (See: 14:08). Their children lived and entered the Promised Land.

**another prophet like Moses**

Like Moses, this man would be an Israelite, he would speak God's words to the people, and he would lead the people.

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**14:15**

Then God told Moses to go to the top of a mountain so **he could see the Promised Land**. Moses saw the Promised Land but God did not permit him to enter it. Then Moses died, and the Israelites mourned for 30 days. **Joshua became their new leader**. Joshua was a good leader because he trusted and obeyed God.

**he could see the Promised Land**

The mountain was just across the Jordan River from Canaan. Moses was able to see the land from that high place.

**Joshua became their new leader**

This was the same Joshua who was one of the 12 who spied on the land when Israel first arrived at Canaan (See: 14:06). Joshua and Caleb wanted the people to go into the land at that time. Because they trusted God, he said they would enter the land after the other people died (See: 14:08).

## 15. The Promised Land

A Bible story from: Joshua 1-24

### 15:01

At last it was time for the Israelites to enter Canaan, the Promised Land. In that land was a city called Jericho. It had strong walls around it to protect it. **Joshua sent two spies to that city.** In that city lived a prostitute named Rahab. She hid these spies, and later she helped them to escape from the city. She did this because she believed God. The spies promised to protect Rahab and her family when the Israelites would destroy Jericho.

### Joshua sent two spies to that city

Joseph sent the spies to find out information about the city so the Israelites could attack it.

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### 15:02

The Israelites had to cross **the Jordan River** to enter into the Promised Land. God told Joshua, "Have the priests go first." When the priests started to step into the Jordan River, the water upstream stopped flowing so the Israelites could cross over to the other side of the river **on dry ground.**

### the Jordan River

The Jordan River is a river that flows from north to south, and forms the eastern boundary of the land that was called Canaan. It flows through the Sea of Galilee and then empties into the Dead Sea.

### on dry ground

God not only stopped the river from flowing, but also dried up the ground on the bottom of the river so the people could walk across it easily.

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### 15:03

After the people crossed the Jordan River, God told Joshua to get ready to attack the city of Jericho, even though it was very strong. God told the people that their priests and soldiers must march around the city once a day for six days. So the priests and the soldiers did this.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 15:04

God also said that on the seventh day the Israelites must march around the city seven times. Then the priests must blow their trumpets and all the people must shout loudly. So they did this.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**15:05**

Then **the walls around Jericho fell down!** The Israelites destroyed everything in the city, as God had commanded. They only spared Rahab and her family, who became part of the Israelites. When the other people living in Canaan heard that the Israelites had destroyed Jericho, they were terrified that the Israelites would attack them also.

**the walls around Jericho fell down**

The walls around Jericho were made of stone and were very strong. They did not fall down on their own. God caused them to fall down when the Israelites shouted and blew the trumpets as he told them to do.

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**15:06**

God had commanded the Israelites not to make a peace treaty with any of the people groups in Canaan. But one of the Canaanite people groups, called the Gibeonites, lied to Joshua and said they were from a place far from Canaan. They asked Joshua to make a peace treaty with them. **Joshua and the other leaders of the Israelites did not ask God what they should do.** Instead, they made a peace treaty with the Gibeonites.

**Joshua and the other leaders of the Israelites did not ask God what they should do.**

Joshua and the other leaders acted very foolishly. The peace treaty was a very important decision. They should have asked God what to do, but they did not think they needed to do that.

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**15:07**

Three days later, the Israelites found out that the Gibeonites really did live in Canaan. They were angry because the Gibeonites had deceived them. But they kept the peace treaty they had made with them because it was a promise before God. Then, some time later, the kings of another people group in Canaan, the Amorites, heard that the Gibeonites had made a peace treaty with the Israelites, so **they combined their armies into one large army and attacked Gibeon.** The Gibeonites sent a message to Joshua asking for help.

**they combined their armies into one large army and attacked Gibeon**

The Amorites were angry with the Gibeonites because they made a peace treaty with the Israelites instead of helping the Amorites to fight against them. They may also have been afraid that the Gibeonites would help Israel fight against the Amorites. Therefore, they decided to destroy the Gibeonites.

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**15:08**

So Joshua gathered the Israelite army. They marched all night to reach the Gibeonites. In the early morning, they surprised the Amorite armies and attacked them.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**15:09**

God fought for Israel that day. He caused the Amorites to be confused and **he sent large hailstones that killed many of the Amorites.**

**he sent large hailstones that killed many of the Amorites**

The hailstones were large balls of ice that fell from the sky. God also killed many Egyptians with hail during one of the plagues in Egypt (See: 10:10).

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**15:10**

God also **caused the sun to stay in one place in the sky** so that Israel would have enough time to completely defeat the Amorites. On that day, God won a great victory for Israel.

**caused the sun to stay in one place in the sky**

God caused the sun to stay in one place in order to make the day longer. That gave the Israelites more time to defeat the Amorites before nighttime when they might escape in the dark.

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**15:11**

After God defeated those armies, many of the other Canaanite people groups gathered together to attack Israel. Joshua and the Israelites attacked and destroyed them.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**15:12**

After these battles, God gave each tribe of Israel its own section of the Promised Land. Then God gave Israel peace along all its borders.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**15:13**

When **Joshua was an old man**, he called all the people of Israel together. Then Joshua reminded the people that they had promised to obey **the covenant** that God had made with the Israelites at Mount Sinai. The people promised to be faithful to God and obey his laws.

**Joshua was an old man**

Joshua was over 100 years old when the Israelites finished taking control of the land.

**the covenant**

This was the covenant that God made with the Israelites through Moses after they left Egypt (See: 13:04).

## 16. The Deliverers

A Bible story from: Judges 1-3; 6-8; 1 Samuel 1-10

### 16:01

**After Joshua died, the Israelites disobeyed God.** They did not obey God's laws, and **they did not drive out the rest of the Canaanites** from the Promised Land. **The Israelites began to worship the Canaanite gods** instead of Yahweh, the true God. The Israelites had no king, so **everyone did what they thought was right for themselves.**

#### After Joshua died, the Israelites disobeyed God

Joshua led the people well, so they obeyed God as Joshua did until he died. But when he was no longer alive to lead them, they began to disobey God.

#### they did not drive out the rest of the Canaanites

While Joshua was alive, the Israelites defeated all the large Canaanite armies. However, many Canaanite people and cities remained in the land. The Israelites did not finish driving them out of the Promised Land.

#### The Israelites began to worship the Canaanite gods

Before the Israelites came to the Promised Land, God had warned them that they would begin to worship false gods if they did not drive out the Canaanites (See: 14:03).

#### everyone did what they thought was right for themselves

The people did what they thought was right, instead of doing what God told them was right. Unfortunately, many of the things that they wanted to do were actually sinful.

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### 16:02

By disobeying God, the Israelites started **a pattern that repeated many times.** The pattern went like this: the Israelites would disobey God for several years, then he would punish them by allowing their enemies to defeat them. These enemies would steal things from the Israelites, destroy their property, and kill many of them. Then after Israel's enemies oppressed them for many years, the Israelites would repent of their sin and ask God to rescue them.

#### a pattern that repeated many times

Each time the Israelites asked God to help them, he rescued them from their enemies. But their children would not remember that God had saved their parents. So they would sin against God just as their parents had done. This same thing happened with every generation.

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### 16:03

Each time the Israelites repented, God would rescue them. He did this by providing **a deliverer**—a person who would fight against their enemies and defeat them. Then there would be peace

in the land and the deliverer would rule over them well. God sent many deliverers to rescue the people. God did this again after he allowed the Midianites, a nearby enemy people group, to defeat the Israelites.

### **a deliverer**

God sent many of these deliverers. After each one defeated Israel's enemies, the deliverer ruled over Israel until they died.

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### **16:04**

The Midianites took all of the Israelites' crops for seven years. The Israelites were so scared, they hid in caves so the Midianites would not find them. Finally, they cried out to God to save them.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### **16:05**

There was an Israelite man name Gideon. One day, he was **threshing grain in a hidden place** so the Midianites would not steal it. The angel of Yahweh came to Gideon and said, "God is with you, mighty warrior. Go and save Israel from the Midianites."

### **threshing grain**

The grain was wheat, which has a head of many small grains, or seeds, on the top of a thin stalk. **Grain** is separating the seeds of the plant from the stalks by beating the heads of grain. The seeds are food, but the stalks are not.

### **in a hidden place**

People normally thresh grain on a high, open place where the wind can blow away the chaff of the wheat that people cannot eat. However, Gideon was so afraid of the Midianites that he was in a secluded place where it would be difficult to separate out the grain.

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### **16:06**

**Gideon's father had an altar dedicated to an idol. The first thing God told Gideon to do was to tear down that altar.** But **Gideon was afraid of the people, so he waited until nighttime.** Then he tore down the altar and smashed it to pieces. **He built a new altar to God** nearby and made a sacrifice to God on it.

### **Gideon's father had an altar dedicated to an idol**

Gideon's own father worshiped false gods rather than Yahweh, the true God.

**The first thing God told Gideon to do was to tear down that altar**

God would not help Gideon rescue Israel until he destroyed the altar of the idol that his family worshiped.

**Gideon was afraid of the people**

The Israelites who lived around Gideon also worshiped idols. Gideon was afraid that they would be angry with him if he destroyed the altar where his father worshiped idols.

**he waited until nighttime**

Because Gideon was afraid of the people, he tore the altar down at night when no one would see him do it and try to stop him.

**He built a new altar to God**

Gideon not only destroyed his father's altar so he could not worship the false gods, but he also built an altar to God and worshiped God by sacrificing an animal on it.

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**16:07**

The next morning the people saw that someone had torn down and destroyed the altar, and they were very angry. They went to Gideon's house to kill him, but Gideon's father said, "Why are you trying to help your god? If he is a god, let him protect himself!" Because he said this, the people did not kill Gideon.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**16:08**

Then the Midianites **came again to steal from the Israelites**. There were so many of them that they could not be counted. Gideon called the Israelites together to fight them. Gideon asked God for two signs so he could be sure that God was really telling him to save Israel.

**came again to steal from the Israelites**

The Midianites would come to Israel at harvest time when there would be a lot of food for them to steal.

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**16:09**

For the first sign, Gideon laid **a sheepskin** on the ground and asked God to let the morning dew fall only on the sheepskin and not on the ground. God did that. The next night, he asked that **the ground be wet but the sheepskin dry**. God did that, too. Because of these two signs, Gideon believed that God really wanted him to save Israel from the Midianites.

**a sheepskin**

This is the skin of a sheep that has all of the wool on it. Wool is a very thick and curly hair that would hold a lot of water.



**the ground be wet but the sheepskin dry**

Gideon did not yet trust God enough to believe the first sign. So he asked God to do the opposite thing—make the ground wet instead of the skin, and the skin dry instead of the ground. He wanted to be sure that the first sign did not happen by itself.

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**16:10**

Then Gideon called for soldiers to come to him, and 32,000 men came. But **God told him this was too many**. So Gideon sent home 22,000 men, all who were afraid to fight. God told Gideon that he still had too many men. So Gideon sent all of them home except for **300 soldiers**.

**God told him this was too many**

This was more soldiers than God wanted for this fight. If that many soldiers fought and won, they would think that they won the battle with their own strength, and they would not know that God did it.

**300 soldiers**

The Midianite army was **so many of them that they could not be counted** (See: 16:08). God planned to cause Gideon to defeat all of them with only 300 soldiers.

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**16:11**

That night God told Gideon, “Go down to the Midianite camp and listen to them talk. When you hear what they say, **you will no longer be afraid to attack them**.” So that night, **Gideon went down to the camp** and heard a Midianite soldier telling his friend about **something he had dreamed**. The man’s friend said, “This dream means that Gideon’s army will defeat us, the Midianite army!” When Gideon heard this, he worshiped God.

**you will no longer be afraid to attack them**

Even after God gave Gideon the two miraculous signs, he was still afraid of the Midianites.

**Gideon went down to the camp**

Gideon secretly went down near the enemy camp in the dark. He found a place where he could hear them, but they could not see him.

**something he had dreamed**

God had caused one of the Midianites to have a strange dream. He also caused another Midianite soldier to understand that the dream meant that Gideon would defeat them. God did this so that Gideon would hear them and trust God enough to attack the Midianites.

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**16:12**

Then Gideon returned to his soldiers and gave each of them a horn, a clay pot, and a burning torch. They surrounded the camp where the Midianite soldiers were sleeping. Gideon's 300 soldiers had the torches in the pots so the Midianites could not see the light of the torches.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**16:13**

Then, all of Gideon's soldiers broke their pots at the same moment, suddenly revealing the fire of the torches. They blew their horns and shouted, "**A sword for Yahweh and for Gideon!**"

**A sword for Yahweh and for Gideon!**

This was the battle cry of Gideon's soldiers. This means: 'We fight for Yahweh and for Gideon!' They yelled this out to encourage themselves, and to scare the Midianites.

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**16:14**

God confused the Midianites so that **they started attacking and killing each other**. Immediately, Gideon sent messengers to call **many other Israelites** to come from their homes and help chase the Midianites. They killed many of them and chased the rest of them out of the Israelites' land. God caused 120,000 Midianites to die that day. This is how God saved Israel.

**they started attacking and killing each other**

The Midianites wanted to attack the Israelites, but because God caused them to be confused, they attacked each other instead.

**many other Israelites**

This refers to the other Israelite soldiers that Gideon previously sent home (See: 16:10).

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**16:15**

The people **wanted to make Gideon their king**. Gideon did not allow them to do this, but he asked them for some of the gold rings that each of them had taken from the Midianites. The people gave Gideon **a large amount of gold**.

**wanted to make Gideon their king**

The Israelites had not yet had a king. Instead, God was their king. Gideon knew that they should not have a human king.

**a large amount of gold**

Even though each person gave Gideon only a small piece of gold, there were so many Israelites that the total amount of gold was very large.

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**16:16**

Then Gideon used the gold to make a special garment like the high priest used to wear. But **the people started worshipping it as if it were an idol**. So God punished Israel again because they worshiped idols. God allowed their enemies to defeat them. They finally asked God for help again, and God sent them another deliverer to rescue them.

**the people started worshipping it as if it were an idol**

Gideon made the garment to honor God, but it became a problem for him. He and the people soon began to worship the garment as an idol. In this way, the Israelites followed the same pattern as before. They worshiped idols instead of God, and God, therefore, allowed their enemies to defeat them.

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**16:17**

This same thing happened many times: the Israelites would sin, God would punish them, they would repent, and God would send someone to rescue them. Over many years, God sent many deliverers who saved the Israelites from their enemies.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**16:18**

Finally, the people asked God for **a king like all the other nations had**. They wanted a king who was tall and strong, and who could lead them into battle. **God did not like this request**, but he gave them a king just as they had asked.

**a king like all the other nations had**

Other nations had a king. Israel wanted to be like them and have a king too.

**God did not like this request**

God knew that they were rejecting him as their ruler and were choosing to follow a human leader instead.

## 17. God's Covenant with David

A Bible story from: 1 Samuel 10; 15-19; 24; 31; 2 Samuel 5; 7; 11-12

### 17:01

Saul was the first king of Israel. He was tall and handsome, just like the people wanted. Saul was a good king for the first few years that he ruled over Israel. But then he became a wicked man who did not obey God, so God chose a different man who **would one day be king in his place**.

#### would one day be king in his place

God did not immediately remove Saul from being king. Instead, he allowed Saul to continue to rule for several more years while God prepared a man to replace him as king.

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### 17:02

God chose a young Israelite named David and began to prepare him to one day become king after Saul. David was a shepherd from the town of Bethlehem. At different times, David killed both a lion and a bear that attacked his father's sheep while David was watching them. David was a humble and righteous man. He trusted and obeyed God.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 17:03

When David was still a young man, he fought against **a giant named Goliath**. Goliath was a very good soldier. He was very strong and about three meters tall! But God helped David kill Goliath and save Israel. After that, David won many victories over Israel's enemies. David became a great soldier, and **he led Israel's army** in many battles. The people praised him very much.

#### a giant named Goliath

The word **giant** here describes a person who is unusually tall and powerful. Goliath was a huge soldier in an army that was fighting against Israel.

#### he led Israel's army

David led the army, but Saul was still the king of Israel at this time.

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### 17:04

The people loved David so much that King Saul became jealous of him. Finally Saul wanted to kill him, so David ran away into the wilderness to hide from him and his soldiers. One day when Saul and his soldiers were looking for him, Saul went into a cave. It was the same cave that David was hiding in, but Saul did not see him. David went up very close behind Saul and cut off

a piece of his clothing. Later, after Saul left the cave, **David shouted to him to look at the cloth he was holding**. In this way, Saul knew that **David refused to kill him** to become king.

#### **David shouted to him to look at the cloth he was holding**

David cut off the piece of Saul's clothing to show Saul that David was close enough to kill Saul, but did not do it. In this way, David wanted to prove to Saul that he, David, was not trying to kill him.

#### **David refused to kill him**

David would not dishonor God by killing Saul, whom God had placed as king over Israel. Instead, he waited until God was ready to make David king.

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#### **17:05**

Some time later, Saul died in battle, and David became king of Israel. He was a good king, and the people loved him. God blessed David and made him successful. David fought many battles, and God helped him defeat Israel's enemies. David conquered the city of Jerusalem and made it his capital city, where he lived and ruled. David was king for 40 years. During this time, Israel became powerful and wealthy.

(No study notes for this frame)

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#### **17:06**

David wanted **to build a temple** where all the Israelites could worship God and offer him sacrifices. For about 400 years, the people had been worshiping God and offering sacrifices to him at the Tent of Meeting that Moses had made.

#### **to build a temple**

David wanted to construct a permanent building for worshiping God that would replace the portable Tent of Meeting (See: 13:08).

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#### **17:07**

But there was a prophet named Nathan. God sent him to tell David this: "You have fought in many wars, so you will not build this Temple for me. Your son will build it. But still, I will greatly bless you. One of your descendants will rule as king over my people forever!" **The only descendant of David who could rule forever was the Messiah**. The Messiah was God's Chosen One who would save the people of the world from their sin.

#### **The only descendant of David who could rule forever was the Messiah**

All of the normal descendants of David eventually died. The Messiah, however, would live forever and continue to rule.

**the Messiah**

The term **Messiah** means 'Anointed One.' It refers to the person that God would send to save his people and to rule over his kingdom forever. In the New Testament, **Messiah** is translated as 'Christ.'

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**17:08**

When David heard Nathan's message, he thanked God and praised him. God was honoring him and giving him many blessings. Of course, David did not know when God would do these things. We know now that the Israelites would have to wait a long time before the Messiah came, almost 1,000 years.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**17:09**

David ruled his people justly for many years. He obeyed God faithfully, and God blessed him. However, in his later years, he sinned greatly against God.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**17:10**

One day, David looked out from his palace and **saw a beautiful woman bathing**. He did not know her, but he found out that her name was Bathsheba.

**saw a beautiful woman bathing**

Bathsheba may have been bathing at her own house, but David's palace was very high and he was able to see over walls that were lower.

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**17:11**

Instead of looking away, David sent someone to bring her to him. **He slept with her** and sent her back home. A short time later, Bathsheba sent a message to David saying that she was pregnant.

**He slept with her**

This is a polite way to say that David had sexual relations with Bathsheba. David was married and so was Bathsheba. Therefore, when he slept with her, he not only sinned against God, but also against his wives and her husband.

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**17:12**

Bathsheba's husband was a man named Uriah. **He was one of David's best soldiers**. He was away fighting in a war at this time. David called Uriah back from the battle and **told him to go**

**be with his wife.** But Uriah refused to go home while the rest of the soldiers were in battle. So David sent Uriah back to the battle and told the general to place him where the enemy was strongest **so that he would be killed.** This is what happened: Uriah died in battle.

#### **He was one of David's best soldiers**

David knew Uriah well, because he was one of the best soldiers in Israel. For that reason, it was especially evil that David slept with Uriah's wife.

#### **told him to go be with his wife**

This could mean 'go home to be intimate with his wife.' David wanted people, especially Uriah, to believe that Bathsheba was pregnant with Uriah's child.

#### **so that he would be killed**

When David told his general to place Uriah where the enemies would kill him, David became guilty of murdering Uriah.

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### **17:13**

After Uriah died in the war, David married Bathsheba. Later, she gave birth to David's son. God was very angry about what David had done, so he sent the prophet Nathan to tell David how evil his sin was. David repented of his sin and God forgave him. For the rest of his life, David followed and obeyed God, even in difficult times.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### **17:14**

But David's baby boy died. This is how **God punished David.** Also, until David died, some members of his own family rebelled against him, and David lost much power. But God was faithful and still did what he had promised David he would do for him, even though David had disobeyed him. Later, David and Bathsheba had another son, and they named him Solomon.

#### **God punished David**

When David repented about sleeping with Bathsheba and murdering Uriah, God forgave him and was no longer angry with him. However, God still needed to punish David so that the Israelites would know that they should not disobey God. Therefore, God caused David's baby to die, and also caused David's children to fight against him and against each other.

## 18. The Divided Kingdom

A Bible story from: 1 Kings 1-6; 11-12

### 18:01

King David ruled for 40 years. Then he died, and his son Solomon began to rule over Israel. God spoke to Solomon and asked him what he wanted most that God should do for him. Solomon asked that God would make him very wise. This pleased God, so he made Solomon the wisest man in the world. Solomon learned many things and was a very wise ruler. God also made him very wealthy.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 18:02

In Jerusalem, Solomon built the Temple for which his father, David, had planned and gathered materials. People now worshiped God and offered sacrifices to him at the Temple instead of at the Tent of Meeting. God came and **was present in the Temple**, and he lived there with his people.

#### **was present in the Temple**

This could mean 'was present in the Temple in a special way.' Even though God was also present everywhere else at the same time, he made himself especially available to the people at the Temple.

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### 18:03

But Solomon loved women from other countries. He disobeyed God by marrying many women, almost 1,000 of them! Many of these women came from foreign countries and **brought their gods with them** and continued to worship them. When Solomon was old, he also worshiped their gods.

#### **brought their gods with them**

His wives brought their idols and their methods of worshiping idols with them to Israel. As a result, Solomon himself also began to worship those idols.

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### 18:04

God was angry with Solomon **because of this**. He said that he would punish him by dividing the nation of Israel into two kingdoms. He would do this after Solomon died.

#### **because of this**

God was angry with Solomon for worshiping idols.



**18:05**

After Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. All the people of the nation of Israel came together to accept him as their king. They complained to Rehoboam that Solomon had made them do a lot of hard work and pay a lot of taxes. They asked Rehoboam to make them work less.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**18:06**

But Rehoboam answered them in a very foolish way. He said, "You say that my father, Solomon, made you work hard. But I will make you work harder than he did, and **I will make you suffer worse** than he did."

**I will make you suffer worse**

Rehoboam was a very selfish person. The people asked him to treat them better than Solomon treated them, but he said he would treat them even worse.

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**18:07**

When the people heard him say this, most of them rebelled against him. Ten **tribes** left him; only two tribes remained with him. These two tribes called themselves **the kingdom of Judah**.

**tribes**

The descendants of each of Jacob's 12 sons had become a **tribe** or very large family group in the nation of Israel. Everyone in Israel belonged to one of the 12 tribes.

**the kingdom of Judah**

The tribe of Judah was the largest of the 12 tribes of Israel. The kingdom of Judah was made up of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. They were called by the name of Judah, a larger tribe than Benjamin.

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**18:08**

The other ten tribes made a man named Jeroboam to be their king. These tribes were in the northern part of the land. They called themselves **the kingdom of Israel**.

**the kingdom of Israel**

The ten tribes were the majority of Israel. Therefore, they called themselves the kingdom of Israel.

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**18:09**

Jeroboam rebelled against God and caused the people to sin. He built two idols for his people to worship. **They no longer went to Jerusalem** in the kingdom of Judah to worship God at the Temple.

**They no longer went to Jerusalem**

Jeroboam placed his two idols in two temples in Dan and Bethel. The people in the kingdom of Israel went there to worship instead of going to Jerusalem.

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**18:10**

The kingdoms of Judah and Israel became enemies and often fought against each other.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**18:11**

In the new kingdom of Israel, all the kings were evil. Many of these kings were killed by other Israelites who wanted to become king in their place.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**18:12**

All of the kings and most of the people of the kingdom of Israel worshiped idols. When they did this, they often **slept with prostitutes** and sometimes even sacrificed children to the idols.

**slept with prostitutes**

They slept with prostitutes as an evil form of worship of their idols.

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### **18:13**

The kings of **Judah** were descendants of David. Some of these kings were good men who ruled justly and worshiped God. But most of Judah's kings were evil. They ruled badly, and they worshiped idols. Some of these kings even sacrificed their children to false gods. Most of **the people of Judah also rebelled against God** and worshiped other gods.

### **Judah**

The kingdom of Judah was often called "Judah."

### **the people of Judah also rebelled against God**

The people of Judah usually did whatever their kings did. If the kings worshiped God, the people did that also. But if the kings worshiped idols, the people also worshiped those false gods.

## 19. The Prophets

A Bible story from: 1 Kings 16-18; 2 Kings 5; Jeremiah 38

### 19:01

God was always sending prophets to the Israelites. The prophets heard messages from God and then told them to the people.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 19:02

Elijah was a prophet when Ahab was king over the kingdom of Israel. Ahab was an evil man. He tried to make the people worship a false god named Baal. So Elijah told King Ahab that God was going to punish the people. He said to him, "There will be no rain or dew in the kingdom of Israel until I say it will rain again." This made Ahab so angry that he decided to kill Elijah.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 19:03

So God told Elijah to go into the wilderness to hide from Ahab. Elijah went into the wilderness to a certain stream where God directed him. Every morning and every evening, **birds would bring Elijah bread and meat**. During this time, Ahab and his army looked for Elijah, but they could not find him.

#### **birds would bring Elijah bread and meat**

God sent the birds to bring food to Elijah so that Elijah could eat. Elijah drank water from the stream.

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### 19:04

Because there was no rain, after some time the stream dried up. So Elijah went to **another country close by**. In that country lived a poor widow and her son. They had almost run out of food because there was no harvest. But still, as the woman **took care of Elijah**, God provided for her and her son. Her **jar of flour** and her **bottle of oil** never became empty. They had food during the whole famine. Elijah stayed there for about three years.

#### **another country close by**

Elijah would be safe in this country, because Ahab would not go there to look for him to kill him.

#### **took care of Elijah**

The widow and her son gave Elijah a place to stay in their house and provided food for him.

**jar of flour**

This refers to a clay jar in which the widow kept her supply of flour.

**bottle of oil**

In Israel, olive oil is used for cooking. The widow used the flour and the oil for making bread.

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**19:05**

After three and a half years, God told Elijah that he would make it rain again. He told Elijah to return to the kingdom of Israel and speak with Ahab. So Elijah went to Ahab. When Ahab saw him, he said, "There you are, **you troublemaker!**" Elijah replied to him, "It is you who are the troublemaker! **You have abandoned Yahweh.** He is the true God, but you are worshiping Baal. Now you must bring all the people of the kingdom of Israel to **Mount Carmel.**"

**you troublemaker!**

This means: 'You are a troublemaker!' Ahab was accusing Elijah of causing trouble by telling the king that he was doing wrong and also by stopping the rain.

**You have abandoned Yahweh**

That is, Ahab had led Israel to stop worshiping and obeying Yahweh.

**Mount Carmel**

Mount Carmel is the name of a mountain located in northern Israel. It is over 500 meters high.

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**19:06**

So all the people of Israel went to Mount Carmel. The men who said they spoke messages for Baal also came. These were Baal's prophets. There were 450 of them. Elijah said to the people, "How long will you keep changing your mind? **If Yahweh is God, worship him! But if Baal is God, worship him!**"

**If Yahweh is God, worship him! But if Baal is God, worship him!**

This does not mean that Elijah was undecided. He knew that Yahweh is the real God. He wanted the people to understand that when they worship false gods, they are rejecting Yahweh as the only true God.

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**19:07**

Then Elijah said to Baal's prophets, "Kill a bull, divide the meat into pieces, and put it on an altar for a sacrifice, but do not light the fire. I will do the same later, and I will put the meat on a different altar. Then if God sends fire on the altar, you will know that he is the real God." So the prophets of Baal prepared a sacrifice but did not light the fire.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**19:08**

Then the prophets of Baal **prayed to Baal**, "Hear us, Baal!" All day long they prayed and shouted and even **cut themselves with knives**, but Baal did not answer, and he did not send any fire.

**prayed to Baal**

The prophets of Baal asked Baal to send fire onto the bull they prepared as a sacrifice.

**cut themselves with knives**

They injured themselves with knives as an extreme way to show their devotion to Baal, hoping that this would persuade him to listen to them.

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**19:09**

Baal's prophets spent almost the whole day praying to Baal. They finally stopped praying. Then Elijah put the meat of another bull on an altar for God. After that, **he told the people to pour 12 huge pots of water on top of the sacrifice** until the meat, the wood, and even the ground around the altar were completely wet.

**he told the people to pour 12 huge pots of water on top of the sacrifice**

Elijah told the people to pour the water on the sacrifice so that it would be more difficult to burn. In this way, the people would know for certain that God had answered when he sent fire onto the sacrifice.

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**19:10**

Then Elijah prayed, "Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, show us today that you are the God of Israel and that I am your servant. Answer me so that these people will know that you are the true God."

(No study notes for this frame)

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**19:11**

Immediately, fire fell from the sky. It burned up the meat, the wood, **the rocks, the soil**, and even the water that was around the altar. When the people saw this, they prostrated themselves to the ground and said, "Yahweh is God! Yahweh is God!"

**the rocks, the soil**

Rocks and dirt do not burn. But God sent fire that was so hot that it even melted the rocks of the altar and the dirt underneath it. This showed the people that Yahweh is God, because only the true God could send fire that hot.

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**19:12**

Then Elijah said, "Do not let any of the prophets of Baal escape!" So the people captured the prophets of Baal and took them away from there and killed them.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**19:13**

Then Elijah said to King Ahab, "Return immediately to your home, because the rain is coming." Soon the sky became black, and a heavy rain began. **Yahweh was ending the drought.** This also showed that he is the true God.

**Yahweh was ending the drought**

God caused it not to rain for about three years in order to punish the people for worshiping Baal. Now, however, the people had rejected Baal and killed his prophets. Therefore, God was going to send rain on the kingdom of Israel again.

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**19:14**

When **Elijah finished his work**, God chose a man named Elisha to be his prophet. God did many miracles through Elisha. One of the miracles happened to Naaman. He was the commander of an enemy army, but he had a bad skin disease. **Naaman heard about Elisha**, so **he went to Elisha** and asked him to heal him. Elisha told Naaman to go the Jordan River and dip himself in the water seven times.

**Elijah finished his work**

By that time, Elijah was very old. He had done everything that God told him to do.

**Naaman heard about Elisha**

This means that people had told Naaman that Elisha was able to perform miracles.

**he went to Elisha**

Naaman had to go into Israel to find Elisha and ask him to do this.

---

**19:15**

Naaman became angry. He refused to do this because **it seemed foolish**. But later he changed his mind. He went to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times into the water. When he came up from the water the last time, God healed him.

**it seemed foolish**

Naaman would not do what Elisha said because he knew that washing alone could not heal his disease.

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**19:16**

God also sent many other prophets to the people of Israel. They all told the people to stop worshiping idols. Instead, people should act justly with each other and have mercy on each other. The prophets warned the people that they must stop doing evil and obey God instead. If the people did not do this, then God would judge them as guilty, and he would punish them.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**19:17**

Most of the time, the people did not obey God. They often mistreated the prophets and sometimes even killed them. Once, they put the prophet Jeremiah into **a dry well** and left him there to die. He sank down into the mud in the bottom of the well. But then the king had mercy on him and ordered his servants to pull Jeremiah out of the well before he died.

**a dry well**

The well had water in it, but there was still mud in the bottom.

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**19:18**

The prophets continued to speak for God even though the people hated them. They warned people that God would destroy them if they did not repent. They also reminded people that God promised to send them the Messiah.

(No study notes for this frame)



## 20. The Exile and Return

A Bible story from: 2 Kings 17; 24-25; 2 Chronicles 36; Ezra 1-10; Nehemiah 1-13

### 20:01

The kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah both sinned against God. They **broke the covenant** that God had made with them at Sinai. God sent his prophets to warn them to repent and worship him again, but they refused to obey.

#### **broke the covenant**

The people disobeyed the commands God had given them in his covenant with them at Mount Sinai (See: 13:04).

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### 20:02

So God punished both kingdoms by allowing their enemies to destroy them. Assyria was another nation that became very powerful. The Assyrians were also very cruel to other nations. They came and destroyed the kingdom of Israel. The Assyrians killed many people in the kingdom of Israel, took away everything they wanted, and burned much of the country.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 20:03

The Assyrians gathered together all the leaders, the rich people, and the people who could make valuable things. They took them to Assyria. Only some very poor Israelites remained in Israel.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 20:04

Then the Assyrians brought **foreigners** to live in the land. The foreigners rebuilt the cities. They intermarried with the Israelites who were left there. The descendants of these people were called **Samaritans**.

#### **foreigners**

This refers to people who were not Israelites.

#### **Samaritans**

When the foreigners married the Israelites, their children were neither foreigners nor Israelites. They were a mixed race. These children were called Samaritans.

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**20:05**

**The people in the kingdom of Judah saw how God had punished the people of the kingdom of Israel** for not believing and obeying him. But they still worshiped idols, including the gods of the Canaanites. God sent prophets to warn them, but they refused to listen.

**The people in the kingdom of Judah saw how God had punished the people of the kingdom of Israel**

God punished the kingdom of Israel first by sending the Assyrians to defeat them. The people in the kingdom of Judah saw this happen, and had time to repent. Instead, they continued to worship idols rather than worship God.

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**20:06**

About 100 years after the Assyrians destroyed the kingdom of Israel, God sent Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Babylonians, to attack the kingdom of Judah. Babylon was a powerful nation. The king of Judah **agreed to be** Nebuchadnezzar's servant and pay him a lot of money every year.

**agreed to be**

The king of Judah was forced to either serve the Babylonian king or be destroyed.

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**20:07**

But after a few years, the king of Judah rebelled against Babylon. So, **the Babylonians came back and attacked the kingdom of Judah**. They captured the city of Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and took away all the treasures of the city and the Temple.

**the Babylonians came back and attacked the kingdom of Judah**

This was the second time that the Babylonians attacked the kingdom of Judah. The first time, they forced the king of Judah to serve them. This second time, they destroyed Jerusalem.

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**20:08**

To punish the king of Judah for rebelling, Nebuchadnezzar's soldiers killed the king's sons in front of him and **then made him blind**. After that, they took the king away so he would die in prison in Babylon.

**then made him blind**

The Babylonians were very cruel. They made the king blind to punish him, but also so that the last thing he would remember seeing was them killing his sons.

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**20:09**

Nebuchadnezzar and his army took almost all of the people of the kingdom of Judah to Babylon, leaving only the poorest people behind to plant the fields. This period of time when God's people were forced to leave the Promised Land is called **the Exile**.

**the Exile**

The word **exile** means someone is removed from their country by force. The **Exile** is the term for this 70-year period when the Israelites were forced to live in Babylon.

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**20:10**

Even though God punished his people for their sin by taking them away into exile, he did not forget them or his promises. God continued to watch over his people and speak to them through his prophets. He promised that, after 70 years, they would return to the Promised Land again.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**20:11**

About 70 years later, Cyrus, the king of Persia, defeated Babylonia. So, instead of the Babylonian Empire, **the Persian Empire** now ruled over many nations. The Israelites were now called Jews. Most of them had lived their whole lives in Babylon. Only a few very old Jews even remembered **the land of Judah**.

**the Persian Empire**

The Persian Empire grew to cover the area from central Asia to Egypt. It was located in the region of what is Iran today.

**the land of Judah**

That is, the area where the kingdom of Judah was located before the Exile. Jerusalem was the capital city of Judah.

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**20:12**

The Persians were very strong, but they had mercy on the people they conquered. Shortly after Cyrus became king of the Persians, he gave an order that any Jew who wanted to return to Judah could leave Persia and **go back to Judah**. He even gave them money to rebuild the Temple! So, after 70 years in exile, a small group of Jews returned to the city of Jerusalem in Judah.

**go back to Judah**

Since most of these Jews were the children and grandchildren of those who left Judah, they had never lived in Judah before.

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**20:13**

When **the people** arrived in Jerusalem, they rebuilt the Temple and **the wall** around the city. The Persians still ruled over them, but once again the Jews were living in the Promised Land and worshiping at the Temple.

**the people**

That is, the Israelites, the descendants of Jacob, who were now called the Jews.

**the wall**

This wall was very thick (2.5 meters) and was built to protect the city from attackers.

## 21. God Promises the Messiah

A Bible story from: Genesis 3; 12; Deuteronomy 18:15; 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 16; 22; 35; 69; 41; Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7; 61; 53; 50:6; 59:16; Jeremiah 31; Daniel 7; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 11:12-13; Malachi 4:5

### 21:01

Even when God created the world, he knew that he would send the Messiah at some time far later. He promised Adam and Eve that he would do this. He said that a descendant of Eve would be born who would **crush the snake's head**. Of course, **Satan appeared as a snake in order to deceive Eve**. God meant that the Messiah would defeat Satan completely.

#### crush the snake's head

A venomous snake cannot hurt anyone after its head has been crushed. To crush the snake's head is to completely destroy the snake.

#### Satan appeared as a snake in order to deceive Eve

Satan spoke to Eve in the form of a snake. This does not mean that he is a snake now.

#### to deceive Eve

The snake deceived Eve by making her doubt what God had said and tricking her into disobeying God.

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### 21:02

God promised Abraham that **through him** all people groups of the world would receive a blessing. God would fulfill this promise by sending the Messiah at some later time. The Messiah would save people from their sin out of every people group in the world.

#### through him

The blessing that would come to all the people groups would be through Abraham because it would come through one of Abraham's descendants.

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### 21:03

God promised Moses that in the future he would send another **prophet like Moses**. This prophet would be the Messiah. In this way, God promised again that he would send the Messiah.

#### prophet like Moses

To be like Moses, the future prophet would need to have great authority from God to lead and rescue his people.

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**21:04**

God promised King David that one of his own descendants would be the Messiah. He would be king and rule over God's people forever.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**21:05**

God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah and told him that he would make **a New Covenant** one day. The New Covenant would not be like the old covenant God made with Israel at Sinai. When he would make his New Covenant with people, he would make them to know him personally. Each person would love him and want to obey his laws. God said this would be like **writing his law on their hearts**. They would be his people, and God would forgive their sins. It is the Messiah who would make the New Covenant with them.

**a New Covenant**

The New Covenant would be truly effective. People really would know God. They would truly live as his people. And God would forgive their sins completely. God would make this New Covenant because the Messiah would die as a sacrifice for all who would believe in him.

**writing his law on their hearts**

This is in contrast with the way God had written his law on stone tablets for the Israelites.

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**21:06**

God's prophets also said that the Messiah would be a prophet, a priest, and a king. A prophet is a person who hears the words of God and then proclaims God's messages to the people. The Messiah that God promised to send would be the perfect prophet. That is, the Messiah would hear God's messages perfectly, he would understand them perfectly, and he would teach them to people perfectly.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**21:07**

Israelite priests kept on making sacrifices to God for the people. These sacrifices were **in place of God punishing the people** for their sins. Priests also prayed to God for the people. However, the Messiah would be **the perfect high priest** who would **offer himself as a perfect sacrifice** to God. That is, he would never sin, and when he would give himself to be the sacrifice, no other sacrifice for sin would ever be necessary.

**in place of God punishing the people**

The people sin, but God would punish the Messiah for their sins. In this way, God would not need to punish anyone who believes in the Messiah.

**the perfect high priest**

The sacrifices the Israelite priests kept making were never good enough because the priests sinned. The Messiah would never sin. Therefore, his sacrifice was perfect and would satisfy God completely.

**the perfect high priest**

The sacrifices the Israelite priests kept making were never good enough because the priests sinned. The Messiah would never sin. Therefore, his sacrifice was perfect and would satisfy God completely.

**offer himself**

The Messiah would offer himself as a sacrifice by allowing himself to be killed.

**a perfect sacrifice**

There was no fault or imperfection in the Messiah's sacrifice.

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**21:08**

Kings and chiefs rule over groups of people, and sometimes they make mistakes. King David ruled over only the Israelites. But the Messiah, a descendant of David's, will rule over the whole world, and he will rule forever. Also, he will always rule justly and make the right decisions.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**21:09**

God's prophets said many other things about the Messiah. For example, **Malachi** said that another prophet would come before the Messiah came. That prophet would be very important. Also, the prophet Isaiah wrote that the Messiah would be born of a virgin. And the prophet **Micah** said that the Messiah would be born in the town of Bethlehem.

**Malachi**

Malachi was the last prophet in the Old Testament.

**Micah**

Micah was an Old Testament prophet of God who, like Isaiah, spoke his messages from God almost 800 years before the Messiah came.

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**21:10**

The prophet Isaiah said the Messiah would live in the region of Galilee. The Messiah would comfort people who were very sad. He would also **set prisoners free**. The Messiah would also heal sick people and those who could not hear, see, speak, or walk.

**set prisoners free**

This means he would set free those who have unjustly been put into prison. This could also refer to setting people free from the bondage of sin.

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**21:11**

The prophet Isaiah also said that people would hate the Messiah and refuse to accept him. Other prophets said that a friend of the Messiah would turn against him. The prophet **Zechariah** said that this friend would receive **30 silver coins** from other people for doing this. Also, some prophets said that people would kill the Messiah, and that they would gamble for his clothes.

**Zechariah**

Zechariah was an Old Testament prophet who spoke to God's people after they returned to the Promised Land from the Exile in Babylon. This was about 500 years before the Messiah came.

**30 silver coins**

At the time, each of these coins was worth the amount of money a person could earn in four days.

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**21:12**

The prophets also told about how the Messiah would die. Isaiah prophesied that people would spit on, mock, and beat the Messiah. They would pierce him, and he would die in great suffering and agony even though he had not done anything wrong.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**21:13**

The prophets also said that the Messiah would not sin. He would be perfect. But he would die because God would punish him for other people's sins. When he died, people would be able to have peace with God. This is why, in God's plan, the Messiah had to die.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**21:14**

The prophets also said that God would raise the Messiah from the dead. This shows that Jesus' death and resurrection was all God's plan to make the New Covenant, so he could save people who had sinned against him.

(No study notes for this frame)

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## **21:15**

God revealed to the prophets many things about the Messiah, but the Messiah did not come during the time of any of those prophets. More than 400 years after the last of these prophecies was given, **at exactly the right time**, God sent the Messiah into the world.

### **at exactly the right time**

God decided that he would send the Messiah at a specific time in history. God prepared everything so that the events his prophets spoke about would happen at that time.

## 22. The Birth of John

A Bible story from: Luke 1

### 22:01

In the past, God had spoken to his prophets so they could speak to **his people**. **Then came 400 years of silence** in which he did not speak to men. Then God sent an angel to a priest named **Zechariah**. Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, honored God. They were very old, and she had never born any children.

#### his people

This refers to the Israelites.

#### Then came 400 years of silence

The last Old Testament prophet, Malachi, has prophesied 400 years before.

#### Zechariah

This was not the same person as the Old Testament prophet by that name.

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### 22:02

**The angel** said to Zechariah, "Your wife will have a son. You will name him John. God will **fill him with the Holy Spirit**, and John will get the people ready to accept the Messiah!" Zechariah responded, "My wife and I are too old to have children! How can I know you are telling me the truth?"

#### The angel

This refers to the angel that came to Zechariah in 22:01.

#### fill him with the Holy Spirit

That is, God will give him wisdom and power through the Holy Spirit.

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### 22:03

The angel responded to Zechariah, "I was sent by God to bring you this good news. Because you did not believe me, you will not be able to speak until the child is born." Immediately, Zechariah was unable to speak. Then the angel left Zechariah. After this, Zechariah returned home and his wife became pregnant.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**22:04**

When **Elizabeth** was six months pregnant, the same angel suddenly appeared to **Elizabeth's relative**, whose name was Mary. She was a virgin and was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. The angel said, "You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You are to name him Jesus. He will be the Son of the Most High God and will rule forever."

**Elizabeth**

She was Zechariah's wife.

**Elizabeth's relative**

Mary may have been Elizabeth's cousin, but we don't know exactly how these two women were related.

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**22:05**

Mary replied, "**How can this be**, since I am a virgin?" The angel explained, "The **Holy Spirit will come to you, and the power of God will come to you**. So **the baby will be holy**, and he will be the Son of God." Mary believed what the angel said.

**How can this be**

Mary was not doubting the truth of the angel's words, but was asking how it would happen.

**Holy Spirit will come to you, and the power of God will come to you**

By the power of God, the Holy Spirit miraculously caused Mary to become pregnant. This was not a physical act. This was a miracle.

**the baby will be holy**

The word **holy** here means the baby will belong to God.

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**22:06**

Soon after this happened, Mary went and visited Elizabeth. As soon as Mary greeted her, Elizabeth's **baby jumped inside her**. The women rejoiced together about **what God had done for them**. After Mary visited Elizabeth for three months, Mary returned home.

**baby jumped inside her**

The baby moved suddenly inside Elizabeth's womb in response to Mary's greeting to Elizabeth.

**what God had done for them**

This refers to the fact that both women were pregnant through God's supernatural intervention. Mary had conceived without a man, and Elizabeth had conceived with Zechariah after she was too old to have a child.

**22:07**

After this, Elizabeth gave birth to her baby boy. Zechariah and Elizabeth named the baby John, as the angel had commanded. Then God made Zechariah able to speak again. Zechariah said, "Praise God, because he has remembered to help his people! You, my son, will be **the prophet of the Most High God**. You will tell the people how they can receive forgiveness for their sins!"

**the prophet**

John would be the prophet that the Old Testament prophets had predicted would come before the Messiah.

**the Most High God**

This title refers to the fact that God rules over everything.

## 23. The Birth of Jesus

A Bible story from: Matthew 1-2; Luke 2

### 23:01

Mary was engaged to a righteous man named Joseph. When he heard that Mary was pregnant, **he knew it was not his baby**. However, he did not want **to shame Mary**, so he decided to have mercy on her and to **divorce her** quietly. But before he could do that, an angel came to him in a dream and spoke to him.

#### **he knew it was not his baby**

Joseph knew that he was not the one who had caused Mary to be pregnant.

#### **to shame Mary**

Joseph was merciful to Mary, even though it seemed like she was an adulteress.

#### **divorce her**

In Jewish culture, an engagement was binding. The only way to end the engagement was to divorce the woman.

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### 23:02

The angel said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby that is in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. Name him Jesus (which means 'Yahweh saves'), because he will save the people from their sins."

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 23:03

So Joseph married Mary and took her home as his wife, but **he did not sleep with her** until she had given birth.

#### **he did not sleep with her**

Joseph kept Mary a virgin until after the baby was born.

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### 23:04

**When the time was near for Mary to give birth**, she and Joseph made a long journey to the town of Bethlehem. They had to go there because **the Roman officials** wanted **to count all the people** in the land of Israel. They wanted everyone to go to where their ancestors had lived. King David had been born in Bethlehem, and he was the ancestor of both Mary and Joseph.

**When the time was near for Mary to give birth**

This could mean 'When it was near the end of Mary's pregnancy.'

**the Roman officials**

Rome had conquered and ruled over Israel at this time.

**to count all the people**

The Romans probably counted the people so they could tax them.

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**23:05**

Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem, but there was **no place for them to stay** except for **where some animals were kept**. It was there that Mary gave birth to her baby. She laid him in **a feeding trough** since there was no bed for him. They named him Jesus.

**no place for them to stay**

Because Bethlehem was so crowded at that time, the usual rooms for guests were already full of people.

**where some animals were kept**

This was a place for sheltering animals, not a place where people lived.

**a feeding trough**

This refers to an animal feed box. The box could have been filled with hay to provide a padded surface for the baby to lie on.

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**23:06**

That night, there were some shepherds in a nearby field **guarding their flocks**. Suddenly, a shining angel appeared to them, and **they were terrified**. The angel said, "Do not be afraid, because I have some good news for you. The Messiah, the Master, has been born in Bethlehem!"

**guarding their flocks**

A **flock** is a group of sheep. The shepherds were caring for their sheep, and protecting them from harm or theft.

**they were terrified**

The shepherds were very afraid when a supernatural angel appeared.

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**23:07**

“Go search for the baby, and you will find him **wrapped in pieces of cloth** and lying in a feeding trough.” Suddenly, the skies were filled with angels. They were praising God. They said, “May all honor be to God in heaven. May there be peace on earth to the people he favors!”

**wrapped in pieces of cloth**

The custom of that time was to tightly wrap newborn babies in long strips of cloth.

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**23:08**

Then the angels left. The shepherds left their sheep to look for the baby. They soon arrived at the place where Jesus was and they found him lying in a feeding trough, just as the angel had told them. They were very excited. Then the shepherds returned to the fields where their sheep were. They were praising God for **everything they had heard and seen**.

**everything they had heard and seen**

This included the glorious angels and their amazing message, as well as seeing the newborn Messiah himself.

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**23:09**

There were some men in **a country far to the east**. **They studied the stars** and were very wise. They saw **an unusual star** in the sky. They said that it meant that a new king of the Jews had been born. So they decided to travel from their country to see **the child**. After a long journey, they came to Bethlehem and found **the house** where Jesus and his parents were staying.

**a country far to the east**

This country was to the east of Israel. Many scholars think it was near Persia, which is modern-day Iran or Iraq.

**They studied the stars**

These men may also have had access to the Old Testament prophets' writings that predicted the birth of the Messiah.

**an unusual star**

The star that they noticed was not a normal star. It was something that appeared at the time of Jesus' birth.

**the child**

As much as a year or two passed before the men arrived in Bethlehem. Jesus was no longer a baby.

**the house**

They were no longer staying in the place for animals where he was born.

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**23:10**

When these men saw Jesus with his mother, they **bowled down** and worshiped him. They gave Jesus expensive gifts. Then they returned home.

**bowled down**

At that time, this was the customary way of showing great respect or reverence.



## 24. John Baptizes Jesus

A Bible story from: Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1:15-37

### 24:01

John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, grew up and became a prophet. He lived in the wilderness, ate **wild honey** and **locusts**, and wore **clothes made from camel hair**.

#### wild honey

This honey was the natural product of bees in the wilderness; it was not cultivated by people.

#### locusts

These were large, hopping insects with wings, like very large grasshoppers. Some people who live in the desert eat them.

#### clothes made from camel hair

The hair of a camel is very coarse and strong. Clothes made of camel hair would not quickly wear out in the wilderness as other clothes would.

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### 24:02

Many people came out to the wilderness to listen to John. He preached to them, saying, "**Repent, for the kingdom of God is near!**"

#### Repent

To repent means to begin to think and act differently about something. In this case, it means to decide to change your behavior because it was wrong to sin.

#### the kingdom of God is near

That means the kingdom of God is ready to appear.

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### 24:03

When people heard John's message, many of them repented from their sins, and John baptized them. Many religious leaders also came to see John, but they **did not repent** or **confess their sins**.

#### did not repent

That is, they did not turn away from their sins.

**confess their sins**

To confess is to acknowledge that something is true. These leaders did not want to acknowledge that they had sinned.

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**24:04**

John said to the religious leaders, "**You poisonous snakes!** Repent and change your behavior. **God will cut down every tree that does not bear good fruit, and he will throw them into the fire.**" John fulfilled what the prophets had said, "**See,** I will soon send my messenger **ahead of you,** who will **prepare your way.**"

**You poisonous snakes**

John was calling the religious leaders poisonous snakes because they were dangerous and deceptive.

**every tree that does not bear good fruit**

John is not really talking about trees. This is an expression that compares good fruit to good actions and attitudes that come from God.

**God will cut down every tree that does not bear good fruit, and he will throw them into the fire**

These phrases mean God will judge them and punish them.

**See**

This word means that what follows is very important, and the one who hears should pay close attention to it.

**ahead of you**

In this phrase, the word **you** refers to the Messiah.

**prepare your way**

The prophets said that God's messenger will prepare the people to listen to the Messiah.

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**24:05**

Some religious leaders asked John if he was the Messiah. John replied, "I am not the Messiah, but he is coming after me. He is so great that I am **not even worthy to untie his sandals.**"

**not even worthy to untie his sandals**

John meant that, compared to the Messiah, John was not important enough to do even the most menial task for him. Untying sandals was a very low job, something a slave would do.

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**24:06**

The next day, Jesus came for John to baptize him. When John saw him, he said, "Look! There is **the Lamb of God** who **will take away** the sin of the world."

**the Lamb of God**

Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin that God promised to provide. He fulfilled the image that was presented by the sacrifice of lambs in the Old Testament.

**will take away**

The sacrifice of Jesus causes God to look at our sin as if it never existed.

---

**24:07**

John said to Jesus, "I am not worthy to baptize you. You should baptize me instead." But Jesus said, "You should baptize me, because it is the right thing to do." So John baptized him even though Jesus had never sinned.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**24:08**

When Jesus came up out of the water after being baptized, the Spirit of God appeared in the form of a dove and came down and rested on him. At the same time, God spoke from heaven. He said, "**This is my Son**. I love him, and I am very pleased with him."

**This is my Son**

God the Father called Jesus **my Son**.

---

**24:09**

**God had told John**, "The Holy Spirit will come down and stay on someone you baptize. That person is the Son of God." There is only one God. But when John baptized Jesus, he heard God the Father speak, saw God the Son, who is Jesus, and he saw the Holy Spirit.

**God had told John**

God had told John this before Jesus came to be baptized.

## 25. Satan Tempts Jesus

A Bible story from: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

### 25:01

Immediately after Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led him out into the wilderness. Jesus was there for 40 days and 40 nights. **During that time he fasted**, and Satan came to Jesus and **tempted him to sin**.

#### During that time he fasted

Most scholars believe Jesus fasted during the entire 40 days and 40 nights.

#### tempted him to sin

Satan tried to convince Jesus to sin.

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### 25:02

First, Satan said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, **turn these rocks into bread** so you can eat!"

#### turn these rocks into bread

Satan was reminding Jesus that, as the Son of God, Jesus had the power to supernaturally change the rocks into bread.

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### 25:03

But Jesus said to Satan, "**It is written in God's word, 'People do not only need bread in order to live, but they need everything that God tells them!'**"

#### It is written in God's word

Jesus speaks the words that are written in Deuteronomy 8:3.

#### People do not only need bread in order to live

Jesus knew that God had led him into the wilderness to fast. Therefore it would be wrong for Jesus to change the rocks into bread for him to eat.

#### they need everything that God tells them

Jesus knew that hearing from God and obeying him was more important than eating food. By quoting this verse, Jesus showed that he was willing to follow it.

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**25:04**

Then Satan took Jesus to **the highest point on the Temple**. He said to him, "If you are the Son of God, jump off to the ground, because **it is written**, 'God will command his angels to carry you so your foot does not hit a stone.'"

**the highest point on the Temple**

This part of the Temple in Jerusalem would have been about 150 meters from the ground.

**it is written**

Satan spoke words from Psalm 91:11-12.

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**25:05**

But Jesus did not do what Satan asked him to do. Instead, he said, "God tells everyone, '**Do not test the Lord your God.**'"

**Do not test the Lord your God**

Jesus speaks the words that are written in Deuteronomy 6:16. Jesus wanted to say that it would be wrong to challenge God to take care of him while doing something that God did not want him to do.

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**25:06**

Then Satan showed Jesus **all the kingdoms of the world**. He showed him how powerful they were, and how wealthy they were. He said to Jesus, "**I will give you all this** if you bow down and worship me."

**all the kingdoms of the world**

This refers to all the greatest cities, countries, and other territories of the world.

**I will give you all this**

It appears that Satan is able to give things of this world to people who obey him.

---

**25:07**

Jesus replied, "Get away from me, Satan! In God's word he commands his people, '**Worship only the Lord your God. Honor only him as God.**'"

**Worship only the Lord your God. Honor only him as God**

Jesus speaks the words that are written in Deuteronomy 6:16. We must worship and honor only the Lord God.

**25:08**

Jesus **did not give in to** Satan's temptations, so Satan left him. Then angels came and took care of Jesus.

**did not give in to**

Jesus did not do the things that Satan was tempting him to do. He did not sin.

## 26. Jesus Starts His Ministry

A Bible story from: Matthew 4:12-25; Mark 1-3; Luke 4

### 26:01

**After Jesus refused Satan's temptations**, he returned to the region of Galilee. This is where he lived. The Holy Spirit was giving him much power, and Jesus went from place to place and taught people. Everyone said good things about him.

#### After Jesus refused Satan's temptations

Jesus did not do the wrong things Satan tried to get him to do, so Jesus defeated him.

---

### 26:02

Jesus went to the town of Nazareth. This is **the village where he had lived when he was a child**. On the Sabbath, he went to **the place of worship**. The leaders handed him **a scroll with the messages of the prophet Isaiah**. They wanted him to read from it. So Jesus opened up the scroll and read part of it to the people.

#### the village where he had lived when he was a child

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but Joseph and Mary were from Nazareth. They moved back to Nazareth when Jesus was a young boy and lived there after that.

#### the place of worship

This was not the main Temple in Jerusalem where the Jews offered sacrifices. There were smaller buildings in many towns where the Jews worshiped and prayed together every week. This was one of those places.

#### a scroll

A scroll was a long sheet of paper or leather that was rolled up and had writing on it.

#### a scroll with the messages of the prophet Isaiah

This was a copy of the scroll that Isaiah had written hundreds of years before.

---

### 26:03

Jesus read, "God has given me his Spirit so that I can **proclaim good news to the poor**. He has sent me **to set prisoners free**, to make the blind people see again, and to free those whom others are oppressing. This is the time when the Lord will be merciful to us and help us."

#### proclaim good news to the poor

This means to tell poor and needy people the good message that God will help them.

**to set prisoners free**

This means to tell people who are wrongfully in prison that they will be released.

---

**26:04**

Then Jesus sat down. Everybody was watching him closely. They knew the passage of scripture that he had just read was about the Messiah. Jesus said, "**The things I just read to you, they are happening right now.**" All the people were amazed. "**Isn't this the son of Joseph?**" they said.

**The things I just read to you, they are happening right now**

Jesus wanted to say that God was causing this passage about the Messiah to happen at that time. This meant that Jesus was the Messiah.

**Isn't this the son of Joseph?**

The people were not asking if he was Joseph's son or not. They were wondering how he could be the Messiah since they thought he was only the son of an ordinary man.

---

**26:05**

Then Jesus said, "It is true that **people never accept a prophet in the town he grew up in.** During the time of the prophet Elijah, there were many widows in Israel. But when it did not rain for three and a half years, God did not send Elijah to help a widow from Israel. Instead, **he sent Elijah to a widow in a different nation.**"

**people never accept a prophet in the town he grew up in**

Jesus was perhaps speaking a Jewish proverb. This proverb meant that people do not recognize the authority of a prophet who has grown up among them. Since Jesus grew up in Nazareth, the people there would not believe he was the Messiah.

**he sent Elijah to a widow in a different nation**

Jesus is referring to a story in the Old Testament about the prophet Elijah. God provided food for that widow during a famine so she could take care of Elijah.

---

**26:06**

Jesus continued, saying, "And during the time of the prophet **Elisha**, there were many people in Israel with skin diseases. But Elisha did not heal any of them. **He only healed the skin disease of Naaman**, a commander of Israel's enemies." But the people who were listening to Jesus were Jews. So when they heard him say this, **they were furious at him.**



**Elisha**

Elisha was God's prophet who came after Elijah. Like Elijah, Elisha confronted Israelite kings who were sinning against God and he did miracles that God gave him power to do.

**He only healed the skin disease of Naaman**

Jesus is again referring to a story in the Old Testament. God healed Naaman because he obeyed what Elisha told him to do.

**they were furious at him**

The Jews did not want to hear that God had blessed any people besides themselves, so they were very angry at what Jesus said.

---

**26:07**

The people of Nazareth seized Jesus and dragged him out of the place of worship. They took him to the edge of a cliff to throw him off of it in order to kill him. But **Jesus walked through the crowd** and left the town of Nazareth.

**Jesus walked through the crowd**

The crowd was trying to seize and kill Jesus. We do not know how Jesus was able to walk through the middle of them. Perhaps God confused them or prevented them from seeing Jesus. As a result, they were not able to do to Jesus what they had planned to do.

---

**26:08**

Then Jesus went throughout the region of Galilee, and large crowds came to him. They brought many people who were sick or disabled. There were some who were blind, others who were crippled, deaf, or mute, and Jesus healed them.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**26:09**

Also, many people **who had demons in them** were brought to Jesus. Jesus commanded the demons to come out of them, so the demons came out. The demons often shouted, "**You are the Son of God!**" The crowds of people were amazed, and they praised God.

**who had demons in them**

These people were controlled by evil spirits.

**You are the Son of God!**

Even the demons knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

---

**26:10**

Then Jesus chose 12 men from among his disciples to be his special representatives. He called them "**apostles.**" These apostles traveled with Jesus and learned from him.

**apostles**

Jesus chose these 12 men from among his many disciples to be apostles. They spent more time with Jesus than his other disciples. And he later gave the apostles more authority than he gave his other disciples.

## 27. The Story of the Good Samaritan

A Bible story from: Luke 10:25-37

### 27:01

One day, **an expert in the Jewish law** came to Jesus. He wanted to show everyone that Jesus was teaching wrongly. So he said, "Teacher, what must I do **to inherit eternal life**?" Jesus answered, "**What is written in God's law?**"

#### **an expert in the Jewish law**

This man studied and taught the laws God had given the Israelites, as well as other Jewish laws.

#### **to inherit eternal life**

The law expert was asking how he could be worthy to receive eternal life as an inheritance from God the Father.

#### **eternal life**

This refers to life forever with God after the mortal body dies.

#### **What is written in God's law?**

Jesus asked this question because he wanted the man to think about what God's law really teaches.

### 27:02

The man said, "It says, '**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.** And **love your neighbor as yourself.**'" Jesus answered, "You are correct! If you do this, you will have eternal life."

#### **Love the Lord your God**

Jesus is quoting what God's law commands people to do in Deuteronomy 6:5.

#### **with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind**

This could mean 'with your whole self' or 'with every part of yourself.'

#### **heart**

The heart refers to the part of a person that has desires and emotions.

#### **soul**

The soul refers to the nonphysical, spiritual part of a person.

#### **strength**

Here **strength** refers to the physical body and all of its abilities.

**mind**

Here **mind** refers to the part of a person that thinks, plans, and has ideas.

**neighbor**

Although the word **neighbor** normally refers to a person who lives near us, the Jews applied the term to everyone except close relatives, foreigners, and enemies.

**love your neighbor as yourself**

This could mean 'love your neighbor to the same extent that you love yourself.'

---

**27:03**

But the law expert wanted to show the people that his way of living was correct. So he asked Jesus, "Well then, **who is my neighbor?**"

**who is my neighbor?**

The law expert knew that he did not love everyone, and was asking which people he needed to love.

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**27:04**

Jesus answered the law expert by telling a story. "There was a Jewish man who was traveling along the road from Jerusalem to Jericho."

(No study notes for this frame)

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**27:05**

"But some robbers saw him and attacked him. They took everything he had and beat him until he was almost dead. Then they went away."

(No study notes for this frame)

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**27:06**

“Soon after that, a Jewish priest **happened to walk down** that same road. This priest saw that man lying in the road. When he saw him, he moved to the other side of the road and kept on going. He completely **ignored that man.**”

**happened to walk down**

The priest was not just walking on the road, but was traveling to get to another city.

**ignored that man**

The priest did not help that man or show any concern for him.

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**27:07**

“Not long after that, a Levite came down the road. (**Levites were a tribe of Jews** who helped the priests at the Temple.) The Levite also crossed over to the other side of the road. He also **ignored that man.**”

**Levites were a tribe of Jews**

The Levites were from the Israelite tribe of Levi.

**ignored**

This means he did not help the man.

---

**27:08**

“The next person to walk down that road was a man from Samaria. (Samaritans and Jews hated each other.) The Samaritan saw the man in the road. He saw he was Jewish, but he still had very strong compassion for him. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds.”

(No study notes for this frame)

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**27:09**

“Then the Samaritan lifted the man onto his own donkey. He took him to **an inn by the road.** There he continued to take care of him.”

**an inn by the road**

This was a place where travelers could get food and stay overnight.

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**27:10**

“The next day, the Samaritan needed to continue his journey. He gave some money to the person in charge of the inn. He said to him, ‘Take care of this man. If you spend any more money than this, I will repay those expenses when I return.’”

(No study notes for this frame)

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**27:11**

Then Jesus asked the law expert, “What do you think? Which one of **the three men** was a **neighbor** to the man who was robbed and beaten?” He replied, “The one who was merciful to him.” Jesus told him, “You go and **do the same.**”

**the three men**

The three men were the priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan.

**neighbor**

Jesus is using the word **neighbor** in a broader sense than in 27:02. **Neighbor** here refers to anyone that we meet who needs our help.

**do the same**

This could mean ‘love others, even your enemies.’

## 28. The Rich Young Ruler

A Bible story from: Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30

### 28:01

One day, **a rich young ruler** came up to Jesus and asked him, "**Good teacher**, what must I do **to have eternal life?**" Jesus said to him, "**Why do you call me 'good'?** There is only one who is good, and that is God. But if you want to have eternal life, obey God's laws."

#### **a rich young ruler**

This man was already a rich and powerful political official, even though he was still young.

#### **Good teacher**

He meant to say that Jesus was a righteous teacher. He was not saying that Jesus was simply a skilled teacher.

#### **to have eternal life**

This could mean 'to live with God forever.'

#### **Why do you call me 'good'?**

Jesus is not denying that he is good. Rather, he is asking if the ruler understands that Jesus is God.

---

### 28:02

"Which ones do I need to obey?" he asked. Jesus replied, "Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not lie. Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor **as you love yourself.**"

#### **as you love yourself**

This could mean 'as much as you love yourself.'

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### 28:03

But the young man said, "I have obeyed all these laws ever since I was a boy. What do I still need to do in order to live forever?" Jesus looked at him and loved him.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 28:04

Jesus answered, "If you want to be **perfect**, then go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure **in heaven**. Then come and follow me."

**perfect**

This could mean 'completely righteous.'

**in heaven**

Jesus is asking the man to give up wealth now in order to gain it later on when he will be with God.

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**28:05**

When the young man heard what Jesus said, he became very sad because he was very rich and did not want to give away all the things he possessed. He turned and went away from Jesus.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**28:06**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "It is extremely hard for rich people to enter into the kingdom of God! Yes, it is easier for **a camel** to go through **the eye of a needle** than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

**a camel**

Camels are very large animals that are often used to carry heavy loads.

**the eye of a needle**

This refers to the tiny hole in the end of a sewing needle. The idea of something as large as a camel going through the eye of a needle is intended to represent something that is impossible.

---

**28:07**

When the disciples heard what Jesus said, they were shocked. They said, "**If it is like this, who will God save?**"

**If it is like this, who will God save?**

The disciples were surprised because many people believed that being rich was a sign of God's favor.

**save**

This refers to God not judging or condemning them for their sin, and allowing them to be citizens in his kingdom.

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**28:08**

Jesus looked at the disciples and said, "It is impossible for people to save themselves. But nothing is impossible for God to do."

(No study notes for this frame)

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**28:09**

Peter said to Jesus, "We disciples have left everything and followed you. What will be our reward?"

(No study notes for this frame)

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**28:10**

Jesus answered, "Everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or property for my sake will receive **100 times more** and will also receive eternal life. But **many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.**"

**100 times more**

This could mean 'very much more than he had before.'

**many who are first will be last**

This could mean 'many people who are important now, will not be important then.'

**many who are last will be first**

This could mean 'many people who are considered to not be very important on earth will be considered very important in heaven.'

## 29. The Story of the Unmerciful Servant

A Bible story from: Matthew 18:21-35

### 29:01

One day, Peter asked Jesus, "Master, how many times should I forgive **my brother** when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus said, "**Not seven times, but 70 times seven!**" By this, Jesus meant that we should always forgive. Then Jesus told this story.

#### **my brother**

This term sometimes included people who were not actually siblings, but who shared another very strong connection such as religion, ethnic background, etc.

#### **Not seven times, but 70 times seven!**

Jesus was not talking about an exact number. He was saying that we should forgive people every time they sin against us.

---

### 29:02

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like a king who wanted **to settle accounts with his servants**. One of his servants owed a huge debt worth 200,000 years' wages."

#### **to settle accounts with his servants**

That is, to collect the money his servants had borrowed from him.

---

### 29:03

"But the servant could not pay his debt, so the king said, 'Sell this man and his family as slaves to pay his debt.'"

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 29:04

"The servant **fell on his knees** before the king and said, 'Please be patient with me, and I will pay the full amount that I owe you.' The king felt pity for the servant, so he **canceled all of his debt** and let him go."

#### **fell on his knees**

That is, he quickly knelt down on the ground. This was a way to show his humility and his desire for the king to help him.

**canceled all of his debt**

The king said the servant did not need to pay back any of the money that he owed the king.

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**29:05**

“But when the servant went out from the king, he found a fellow servant who owed him a debt worth four months’ wages. The servant grabbed his fellow servant and said, ‘Pay me the money that you owe me!’”

(No study notes for this frame)

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**29:06**

“The fellow servant fell on his knees and said, ‘Please be patient with me, and I will pay the full amount that I owe you.’ But instead, the servant threw his fellow servant into prison until he could pay the debt.”

(No study notes for this frame)

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**29:07**

“Some other servants saw what had happened and were greatly disturbed. They went to the king and told him everything.”

(No study notes for this frame)

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**29:08**

“The king called the servant and said, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave your debt because you begged me. You should have done the same.’ The king was so angry that he threw the wicked servant into prison until he could pay back all of his debt.”

(No study notes for this frame)

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**29:09**

Then Jesus said, “This is what **my heavenly Father** will do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

**my heavenly Father**

Jesus is expressing his unique, personal relationship to God the Father.

## 30. Jesus Feeds Thousands of People

A Bible story from: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:5-15

### 30:01

Jesus sent his apostles to preach and to teach people in many different villages. When they returned to where Jesus was, they told him what they had done. Then Jesus invited them to go with him to a quiet place across **the lake** to rest for a while. So, they got into a boat and went **to the other side of the lake**.

#### **the lake**

This refers to the Sea of Galilee.

#### **to the other side of the lake**

They went across the northern part of the lake. This would have been about 5-8 kilometers by boat.

---

### 30:02

But there were many people who saw Jesus and the disciples leave in the boat. These people ran along the shore of the lake **to get to the other side** ahead of them. So when Jesus and the disciples arrived, a large group of people was already there, waiting for them.

#### **to get to the other side**

The distance around that part of the lake was about 8-10 kilometers.

---

### 30:03

The crowd had **over 5,000 men in it, not counting the women and children**. Jesus felt great compassion towards the people. To Jesus, these people were **like sheep without a shepherd**. So he taught them and healed the people among them who were sick.

#### **over 5,000 men in it, not counting the women and children**

Some scholars think there may have been as many as 10,000 or 15,000 people.

#### **like sheep without a shepherd**

This means the people were vulnerable and lost, just like sheep are when they have no shepherd to take care of them.

---

**30:04**

Late in the day, the disciples told Jesus, "It is late and there are no towns nearby. Send the people away so they can go get something to eat."

(No study notes for this frame)

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**30:05**

But Jesus said to the disciples, "You give them something to eat!" They responded, "**How can we do that?** We only have five loaves of bread and two small fish."

**How can we do that?**

The disciples were not asking an actual question. Rather, they were strongly expressing that they did not think this was possible.

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**30:06**

Jesus told his disciples to tell the people in the crowd to sit down on the grass in groups of 50 people each.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**30:07**

Then Jesus took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, and thanked God for the food.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**30:08**

Then Jesus broke the bread and the fish into pieces. He gave the pieces to his disciples to give to the people. The disciples kept passing out the food, and **it never ran out!** All the people ate and **were satisfied.**

**it never ran out!**

This was a miracle. The small amount of food became enough for thousands of people as Jesus gave it to his disciples.

**were satisfied**

That is, they were no longer hungry.

---

**30:09**

After that, the disciples collected the food that had not been eaten. It was enough to fill 12 baskets! All the food came from the five loaves of bread and two fish.

(No study notes for this frame)

## 31. Jesus Walks on Water

A Bible story from: Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21

### 31:01

After Jesus fed the crowd, he told the disciples to get into a boat. He told them to sail **to the other side of the lake** while he stayed behind for a little while. So the disciples left, and Jesus sent the crowd to their homes. After that Jesus went up on a mountainside to pray. He was there all alone, and he prayed until late at night.

#### to the other side of the lake

They went across the northern part of the Sea of Galilee. This would have been about 5-8 kilometers by boat.

---

### 31:02

During this time, the disciples were **rowing their boat**, but the wind was blowing hard against them. When it was late in the night, they had only reached the middle of the lake.

#### rowing their boat

The boat had a sail, but it would not have helped them much when the wind was against them.

---

### 31:03

At that time, Jesus finished praying and started to go back to meet his disciples. He **walked on top of the water** toward their boat.

#### walked on top of the water

This was a miracle. The average depth of the Sea of Galilee is 25 meters.

---

### 31:04

Then the disciples saw him. They were very afraid because **they thought he was a ghost**. Jesus knew that they were afraid, so he called out to them and said, "Do not be afraid. It is I!"

#### they thought he was a ghost

The disciples thought Jesus was a spirit, because a human being cannot walk on water.

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**31:05**

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Master, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus told Peter, "Come!"

(No study notes for this frame)

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**31:06**

So, Peter got out of the boat and **started walking to Jesus** on the surface of the water. But after walking a short distance, he turned his eyes away from Jesus and began to look at the waves and to feel the strong wind.

**started walking to Jesus**

Jesus enabled Peter to begin to actually walk on top of the water.

---

**31:07**

Then **Peter became afraid and began to sink** in the water. He cried out, "Master, save me!" Right away, Jesus reached out and grabbed him. Then he said to Peter, "You have so little faith! Why did you not trust me to keep you safe?"

**Peter became afraid and began to sink**

Peter sank into the water because he stopped looking at Jesus and became afraid of the waves instead.

---

**31:08**

Then Peter and Jesus got into the boat, and the wind immediately stopped blowing. The water became calm. The disciples were amazed and bowed down to Jesus. **They worshiped him** and said to him, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

**They worshiped him**

The disciples realized that Jesus could only do these miracles because he was the Son of God.



## 32. Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man & a Sick Woman

A Bible story from: Matthew 8:28-34; 9:20-22; Mark 5; Luke 8:26-48

### 32:01

Jesus and his disciples went in their boat to the region where **the Gerasene people** lived. They reached land and got out of their boat.

#### the Gerasene people

The Gerasenes lived in an area along the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. They were descendants of the Jews, but we know few details about them.

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### 32:02

Now there was a man there who **was demon possessed**.

#### was demon possessed

The man was controlled by evil spirits.

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### 32:03

This man was so strong that nobody could control him. Sometimes people even fastened his arms and legs with chains, but he kept breaking them.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 32:04

The man lived among the tombs in the area. This man would scream all day and all night. He did not wear clothes, and he often cut himself with stones.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 32:05

This man ran up to Jesus and **knelt down in front of him**. Then Jesus spoke to the demon in the man and said, "Come out of this man!"

#### knelt down in front of him

The man knelt down before Jesus as a sign of respect. He wanted Jesus to free him from the demons.

---

**32:06**

The demon cried out in a loud voice, “**What do you want with me**, Jesus, Son of **the Most High God**? Please do not torture me!” Then Jesus asked the demon, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is **Legion**, because we are many.”

**What do you want with me**

This expression means ‘What are you going to do to me?’

**the Most High God**

This title means that God is the Supreme God who rules over everything.

**Legion**

This was the name of the group of demons, but it also indicates that the evil spirits were very numerous.

---

**32:07**

The demons begged Jesus, “Please do not send us out of this region!” There was a herd of pigs feeding on a nearby hill. So the demons begged Jesus, “Please send us into the pigs instead!” Jesus said, “Alright, go into them!”

(No study notes for this frame)

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**32:08**

So the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs. The pigs ran down a steep bank into the lake and drowned. There were about 2,000 pigs in the herd.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**32:09**

There were people taking care of those pigs. When they saw what happened, they ran into the town. There they told everyone what Jesus had done. The people from the town came and saw the man who used to have the demons. He was sitting calmly, wearing clothes, and acting like a normal person.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**32:10**

The people were very afraid and asked Jesus to leave. So Jesus got into the boat. The man who used to have the demons **begged to go along with Jesus**.

**begged to go along with Jesus**

The man wanted to become one of Jesus' disciples.

---

**32:11**

But Jesus said to him, "No. **I want you to go home** and tell everyone what God has done for you. Tell them how he has had mercy on you."

**I want you to go home**

Jesus told the man to serve him in his own town instead of traveling with Jesus to other places.

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**32:12**

So the man went away and told everyone about what Jesus had done for him. Everyone who heard his story was amazed.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**32:13**

Jesus returned to the other side of the lake. After he arrived there, a large crowd gathered around him and pressed in on him. In the crowd was a woman who had suffered from a bleeding problem for 12 years. She had paid all of her money to doctors so they would heal her, but she only got worse.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**32:14**

She had heard that Jesus had healed many sick people and thought, 'I'm sure that if I can just touch Jesus' clothes, then I will be healed too!' So she came up behind Jesus and touched his clothes. As soon as she touched them, the bleeding stopped!

(No study notes for this frame)

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**32:15**

Immediately, Jesus realized that **power had gone out from him**. So he turned around and asked, "Who touched me?" The disciples replied, "There are many people crowding around you and bumping into you. Why did you ask, 'Who touched me?'"

**power had gone out from him**

Jesus knew that his power had healed the woman. He asked who touched him because he wanted the woman to testify about what happened to her.

---

**32:16**

The woman fell on her knees before Jesus, **shaking and very afraid**. Then she told him what she had done, and that she had been healed. Jesus said to her, **"Your faith has healed you. Go in peace."**

**shaking and very afraid**

The woman was very afraid because she had tried to be healed secretly. She thought perhaps Jesus was angry with her for doing that.

**Your faith has healed you**

Jesus did not heal the woman because she touched him, but because she believed that he was able to heal her.

**Go in peace**

People spoke this traditional blessing when they left each other. Jesus may also have spoken these words because the woman was afraid. Now, however, she would know that Jesus had accepted her because of her faith in him.

## 33. The Story of the Farmer

A Bible story from: Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15

### 33:01

One day, Jesus was near the shore of **the lake**. He was teaching a very large crowd of people. So many people came to hear him that Jesus did not have enough room to speak to them all. So he got into a boat in the water. There he sat and taught the people.

#### **the lake**

This refers to the Sea of Galilee.

---

### 33:02

Jesus told this story. "A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he was **spreading the seed by hand**, some of the seed happened to fall on **the path**. But birds came and ate all of that seed."

#### **spreading the seed by hand**

Farmers in the ancient Middle East typically planted grain-bearing crops by throwing the seed on the soil.

#### **the path**

The path was packed hard from people walking on it. The seed could not go down into the soil, so it was easy for the birds to eat all of it.

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### 33:03

"Other seed fell on rocky ground, where there was **very little soil**. The seed in the rocky ground sprouted quickly, but its roots were not able to go deep into the soil. When the sun came up and it got hot, the plants withered and died."

#### **very little soil**

The rocky ground had enough soil to hide the seed from the birds, but not enough for the roots to grow well.

---

**33:04**

“Still other seed fell among thorn bushes. This seed began to grow, but the thorns **choked it out**. So the plants that grew from the seed in the thorny ground did not produce any grain.”

**choked it out**

The thorn bushes were so dense that the grain plants could not get enough sunlight to grow well.

---

**33:05**

“Other seed fell into good soil. This seed grew up and produced 30, 60, or even 100 times as much grain as the seed that had been planted. Whoever wants to follow God, let him pay attention to what I am saying!”

(No study notes for this frame)

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**33:06**

**This story confused the disciples.** So Jesus explained, “The seed is the word of God. The path is a person who hears God’s word, but does not understand it. Then the devil takes the word away from him. That is, the devil keeps him from understanding it.”

**This story confused the disciples**

The disciples understood what happened to the seed, but they did not understand what it taught about God.

---

**33:07**

“The rocky ground is a person who hears God’s word and accepts it with joy. But when he suffers hardships, or when other people make him suffer, he falls away from God. That is, he stops trusting in God.”

(No study notes for this frame)

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**33:08**

“The thorny ground is a person who hears God’s word. But he begins to worry about many things, and he tries to make a lot of money, and he tries to get many things. After some time, he is not able to love God any longer. So what he learned from God’s word does not make him able to please God. He is like wheat stalks that **do not produce any grain.**”

**do not produce any grain**

This could mean ‘do not produce spiritual fruit’ or ‘do not behave in a way that shows God’s Spirit is working in him.’

---

**33:09**

“But the seed in the good soil is a person who hears the word of God, believes it, and **produces fruit.**”

**produces fruit**

This means he does the things that God wants him to do.

## 34. Jesus Teaches Other Stories

A Bible story from: Matthew 13:31-46; Mark 4:26-34; Luke 13:18-21; 18:9-14

### 34:01

Jesus told many other **stories** about the kingdom of God. For example, he said, "The kingdom of God is like **a mustard seed** that someone planted in his field. You know that the mustard seed is **the smallest seed of all.**"

#### stories

Jesus used these stories to teach truths about God's kingdom. It is not clear if the events actually happened or not.

#### a mustard seed

This probably refers to the seed of the black mustard plant, which has tiny seeds that rapidly grow into very large plants.

#### the smallest seed of all

That means the smallest of all the seeds that people planted at that time.

---

### 34:02

"But when the mustard seed grows, it becomes the largest of all of the garden plants, big enough that even the birds come and rest in its branches."

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 34:03

Telling another story, Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like **yeast** that a woman mixes into some **bread dough** until **it spreads throughout the dough.**"

#### yeast

Yeast is added to bread dough to make it rise. A little bit of yeast mixed into a large amount of dough makes the whole batch of dough rise.

#### bread dough

This is a mixture of flour and liquid that can be shaped and baked into bread.

#### it spreads throughout the dough

The yeast works its way into every part of the dough and causes it all to rise.

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**34:04**

“The kingdom of God is also like treasure that someone hid in a field. Another man found the treasure and wanted it very much. So he **buried it again**. He was so filled with joy that he went and sold everything he had so he could **buy that field** where the treasure was.”

**buried it again**

He buried the treasure so that no one else would find it before he could buy the field.

**buy that field**

After he bought the field, he could openly search for all of the treasure, and it would all be his.

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**34:05**

“The kingdom of God is also like **a perfect pearl** of great value. When **a pearl merchant** found it, he sold all that he had so he could buy it.”

**a perfect pearl**

This refers to a pearl that does not have any defects, and is therefore very valuable.

**a pearl merchant**

This refers to a person whose business is buying and selling pearls.

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**34:06**

There were some people who thought God would accept them because they were doing good things. These people **despised others** who did not do those good things. So Jesus told them this story: “There were two men, both of whom went to **the Temple** to pray. One of them was a tax collector, and the other was a religious leader.”

**despised others**

This means they considered other people to be inferior to themselves.

**the Temple**

This refers to the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

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**34:07**

“The religious leader prayed like this, ‘Thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like other men—such as robbers, unjust men, adulterers, or even like **that tax collector** over there.’”

**that tax collector**

The Jews considered the tax collectors to be sinners because they worked for the Romans, collecting taxes from fellow Jews.

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**34:08**

“For example, **I fast** two times every week and I give you ten percent of all the money and goods that I receive.”

**I fast**

The religious ruler believed that doing this would earn favor with God.

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**34:09**

“But the tax collector **stood far away** from the religious leader. He **did not even look up to heaven**. Instead, **he pounded on his chest with his fist** and prayed, ‘God, please be merciful to me because I am a sinner.’”

**stood far away**

He did not think he was worthy to come close to the religious leader.

**did not even look up to heaven**

The word **up** indicates that people normally looked up to heaven when praying to God, but that this man did not because he was so ashamed of his sin.

**he pounded on his chest with his fist**

The tax collector pounded on his chest as a sign that he was very sorry that he had sinned.

---

**34:10**

Then Jesus said, “I tell you, God heard the tax collector’s prayer, and **declared him to be righteous rather than the religious leader**. God will dishonor everyone who is proud, but he will honor whoever humbles himself.”

**declared him to be righteous**

Even though the tax collector was a sinner, God was merciful to him because of his humility and repentance.

**rather than the religious leader**

God did not accept the prayer of the religious leader because he prayed in a proud way. The religious leader did not understand that he was also a sinner.

## 35. The Story of the Compassionate Father

A Bible story from: Luke 15

### 35:01

One day, Jesus was teaching many people who had gathered to hear him. These people were **tax collectors** and also other people who did not try to obey the Law of Moses.

#### tax collectors

The tax collectors were Jews who collected taxes for the Romans. The Jews hated them for that, and because they often collected higher taxes than the Romans required, keeping the difference for themselves.

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### 35:02

Some **religious leaders** saw Jesus talking to these people as friends. So they began to tell each other that he was doing wrong. Jesus heard them talk, so he told them this story.

#### religious leaders

This refers to the Jewish religious officials.

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### 35:03

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger son told his father, 'Father, **I want my inheritance now!**' So the father **divided his property** between his two sons."

#### I want my inheritance now!

This was not normal. Sons received their inheritance when their fathers died.

#### divided his property

The father was extremely generous to divide his property while he was still alive. An older son always received twice as much inheritance as a younger son.

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### 35:04

"Soon the younger son gathered all that he had and went far away and wasted his money in sinful living."

(No study notes for this frame)

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**35:05**

“After that, a severe famine occurred in the land where the younger son was, and he had no money to buy food. So he took the only job he could find, **feeding pigs**. He was so miserable and hungry that he wanted to eat the pigs’ food.”

**feeding pigs**

The Law of Moses did not allow Jews to touch pigs. This was a shameful job for a Jewish man.

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**35:06**

“Finally, the younger son said to himself, ‘What am I doing? All my father’s servants have plenty to eat, and yet here I am starving. I will go back to my father and ask to be **one of his servants**.’”

**one of his servants**

The younger son assumed that his father would not accept him as his son, but might let him be a servant.

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**35:07**

“So the younger son started back towards his father’s home. When he was still far away, his father saw him and felt compassion for him. **He ran to his son** and hugged him and kissed him.”

**He ran to his son**

Older men did not run to meet people. The father was so excited to see his son that he ignored the culture and ran to kiss and hug his son.

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**35:08**

“The son said, ‘Father, **I have sinned against God** and against you. **I am not worthy to be your son**.’”

**I have sinned against God**

The son had offended God, as well as his father by doing the things that he did (See: 35:03, 35:04).

**I am not worthy to be your son**

The younger son did not have time to ask to be a servant before his father interrupted him (See: 35:06).

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**35:09**

“But his father told one of his servants, ‘Go quickly and bring the best clothes and put them on my son! **Put a ring on his finger and put sandals on his feet.** Then **kill the best calf** so we can have a feast and celebrate, because my son was dead, but now he is alive! He was lost, but now we have found him!’”

**Put a ring on his finger and put sandals on his feet**

A ring, sandals, and a fine clothes were symbols that showed the son was a member of the family and not a servant.

**kill the best calf**

The Jews of that time often fed one of their calves special food so that it would be especially good to eat at a feast or other special occasion.

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**35:10**

“So the people began to celebrate. Before long, the older son came home from working in the field. He heard the music and dancing and wondered what was happening.”

(No study notes for this frame)

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**35:11**

“When the older son found out that they were celebrating because his brother had come home, he was very angry and would not go into the house. His father came out and begged him to come and celebrate with them, but he refused.”

(No study notes for this frame)

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**35:12**

“The older son said to his father, ‘All these years I have worked faithfully for you! I never disobeyed you, and still **you did not give me even one small goat** so I could celebrate with my friends. But **this son of yours** has wasted your money doing sinful things. When he came home, you killed the best calf to celebrate!’”

**you did not give me even one small goat**

A small goat was much less expensive than the best calf. The older brother was angry, and ignored the fact that his father had already given him twice the inheritance that he gave to the younger brother (See: 35:03).

**this son of yours**

The older son was so angry that he did not speak of the younger son as his own brother.

---

**35:13**

“The father answered, ‘My son, you are always with me, and **everything I have is yours**. But it is right for us to celebrate because **your brother was dead, but now is alive**. He was lost, but now we have found him!’”

**everything I have is yours**

The father reminded his older son that he had already given him all of his possessions as an inheritance (See: 35:03).

**your brother**

The father reminds his older son that his sons are also brothers.

**was dead, but now is alive**

The younger son was so far away and separated from his family that it was as if he were dead. But now that he had returned, it was as if he were alive again (See: 35:09).

## 36. The Transfiguration

A Bible story from: Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

### 36:01

One day, Jesus took three of his disciples, Peter, **James**, and John, with him. (The disciple named John was not the same person who baptized Jesus.) They went up on a high mountain by themselves to pray.

### James

This is a different James than the one who wrote the Book of James in the Bible.

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### 36:02

As Jesus was praying, his face became as bright as the sun. His clothes became as white as light, whiter than anyone on earth could make them.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 36:03

Then **Moses and the prophet Elijah** appeared. These men had lived on the earth hundreds of years before this. They talked with Jesus about his death, because he would soon die in Jerusalem.

### Moses and the prophet Elijah

Moses gave the law to Israel, and Elijah was one of the most important prophets of Israel. These two men represented the way God spoke to Israel in the Old Testament.

---

### 36:04

As Moses and Elijah were talking with Jesus, Peter said to Jesus, "It is good for us to be here. Let us make three **shelters**, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But Peter **did not know what he was saying**.

### shelters

These were the small, individual, temporary shelters the Jews made from tree branches during an annual Jewish holiday.

### did not know what he was saying

Peter spoke without thinking clearly because he was so excited.

---

**36:05**

As Peter was talking, a bright cloud came down and surrounded them. Then they heard **a voice coming from the cloud**. It said, **"This is my Son whom I love**. I am pleased with him. **Listen to him.**" The three disciples were terrified and fell on the ground.

**a voice coming from the cloud**

God spoke to them from the cloud.

**This is my Son whom I love**

This is the same thing that God had said about Jesus after John the Baptist baptized him in 24:08.

**Listen to him**

Moses and the prophets were important, but God told the disciples that Jesus was more important, and that they should honor what he said more than they honored Moses and the prophets.

---

**36:06**

Then Jesus touched them and said, "Do not be afraid. Get up." When they looked around, **the only one still there was Jesus**.

**the only one still there was Jesus**

Moses and Elijah had gone away, leaving only Jesus with the disciples.

---

**36:07**

Jesus and the three disciples went back down the mountain. Then Jesus said to them, **"Do not tell anyone yet** about what happened here. I will soon die and then come back to life. After that, you may tell people."

**Do not tell anyone yet**

Jesus knew that the people would not yet believe who he was, but later, when he came back to life, many people would believe.



## 37. Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

A Bible story from: John 11:1-46

### 37:01

There was a man named Lazarus. He had two sisters named **Mary** and Martha. They were all close friends of Jesus. One day someone told Jesus that Lazarus was very sick. When Jesus heard this, he said, "**This sickness will not end with Lazarus dying.** Instead, it will cause people to honor God."

#### Mary

Jesus' mother was also named Mary. This was a different woman.

#### **This sickness will not end with Lazarus dying**

Jesus' disciples probably thought this meant that Lazarus would not die. But Jesus knew that, although Lazarus would die from his sickness, he would become alive again.

---

### 37:02

Jesus loved his friends, **but he waited where he was for two days.** After those two days he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to **Judea.**" "But Teacher," the disciples answered, "just a short time ago the people there wanted to kill you!" Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus **has fallen asleep, and I must wake him.**"

#### **but he waited where he was for two days**

Jesus stayed where he was for two days, even though they wanted him to go and heal Lazarus. He was waiting for Lazarus to die.

#### Judea

This refers to the southern section of Israel, which was settled by the tribe of Judah.

#### **has fallen asleep, and I must wake him**

When Jesus spoke about sleeping, he was talking about death. However, the disciples did not understand that yet.

---

### 37:03

Jesus' disciples replied, "Master, if Lazarus is sleeping, then **he will get better.**" Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. **I am glad** that I was not there, so that you may believe in me."

#### **he will get better**

The disciples thought there was no reason for them to go to Lazarus now, since he was getting well.

**I am glad**

This did not mean he was happy that Lazarus died, but rather that he was happy that God was going to show how great he is.

---

**37:04**

When Jesus arrived at Lazarus' hometown, Lazarus had already been dead for four days. **Martha** went out to meet Jesus and said, "Master, if only you had been here, **my brother would not have died**. But I believe God will give you whatever you ask from him."

**Martha**

Martha was the sister of Lazarus and Mary (See: 37:01).

**my brother would not have died**

Martha believed that Jesus could have prevented her brother from dying.

---

**37:05**

Jesus replied, "**I am the Resurrection and the Life**. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies. Everyone who believes in me **will never die**. Do you believe this?" Martha answered, "Yes, Master! I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

**I am the Resurrection and the Life**

This is one of several very powerful **I am** statements in which Jesus says something about his essential nature. In this one, Jesus indicates that he is the provider or source of resurrection and life.

**will never die**

That means they will live forever, even if they die for a short time.

---

**37:06**

Then **Mary** arrived. She **fell at the feet of Jesus** and said, "Master, if only you had been here, **my brother would not have died**." Jesus asked them, "Where have you put Lazarus?" They told him, "In the tomb. Come and see." Then Jesus wept.

**Mary**

This was the same woman as in 37:01, not the mother of Jesus.

**fell at the feet of Jesus**

Mary knelt down at Jesus' feet as a sign of respect.

**my brother would not have died**

Like Martha in 37:04, Mary also believed that Jesus could have kept her brother from dying.

---

**37:07**

The tomb was a cave with a stone rolled in front of its opening. When Jesus arrived at the tomb, **he told them**, "Roll the stone away." But **Martha** said, "He has been dead for four days. There will be a bad smell."

**he told them**

He was probably not telling Mary and Martha to roll the large stone away. He was speaking to the men who were with them.

**Martha**

Martha was the sister of Lazarus and Mary (See: 37:01).

---

**37:08**

Jesus answered, "**Did I not tell you** that you would **see God's power** if you believe in me?" So they **rolled the stone away**.

**Did I not tell you**

This could mean 'Remember that I told you.' Jesus is not asking this question in order to get an answer, so some languages should translate this as a command.

**see God's power**

This could mean 'see the power of God displayed' or 'see God show how powerful he is.'

**rolled the stone away**

Some languages should say: "rolled the stone away from the opening of the tomb."

---

**37:09**

Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always listen to me, but I say this in order to help all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me." Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!"

(No study notes for this frame)

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**37:10**

So Lazarus came out! He was still wrapped in **grave clothes**. Jesus told them, "Help him take off those grave clothes and release him!" Many of the Jews believed in Jesus because of this miracle.

**grave clothes**

This refers to the strips of cloth that the Jews wrapped around dead bodies before they buried them.

---

**37:11**

But the religious leaders of the Jews **envied** Jesus, so they gathered together to plan how they could kill Jesus and Lazarus.

**envied**

The religious leaders were jealous that the people were listening to Jesus instead of listening to them.

## 38. Jesus Is Betrayed

A Bible story from: Matthew 26:14-56; Mark 14:10-50; Luke 22:1-53; John 18:1-11

### 38:01

Every year, the Jews celebrated the Passover. This was a celebration of how God had saved their ancestors from slavery in Egypt many centuries earlier. About three years after Jesus first began preaching and teaching publicly, Jesus told his disciples that he wanted to celebrate this Passover with them in Jerusalem, and that he would be killed there.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 38:02

One of Jesus' disciples was a man named Judas. Judas was in charge of the apostles' moneybag, but he often stole money out of the bag. After Jesus and the disciples arrived in Jerusalem, Judas went to the Jewish leaders. He offered to betray Jesus by identifying him to the authorities in exchange for money. He knew that the Jewish leaders did not accept that Jesus was the Messiah. He knew that they wanted to kill him.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 38:03

The Jewish leaders, led by the high priest, paid Judas **30 silver coins** to betray Jesus by handing him over to them. This happened just as the prophets said it would. Judas agreed, took the money, and went away. He began looking for an opportunity to help them arrest Jesus.

#### 30 silver coins

Each of these coins were worth about four days' wages.

---

### 38:04

In Jerusalem, Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples. During the Passover meal, Jesus took some bread and **broke it**. He said, "Take and eat this. **This is my body, which I will give for you**. Do this to remember me." In this way, Jesus said that he would die for them, that he would sacrifice his body for them.

#### broke it

Jesus tore the flat loaf of bread into small pieces in order to share it among the disciples.

#### This is my body, which I will give for you

Jesus was referring to his death, which would happen soon.

---

**38:05**

Then Jesus picked up a cup of wine and said, "Drink this. It is **my blood of the New Covenant** that **I will pour out** so that God will forgive your sins. Do what I am doing now, to **remember me** every time you drink it."

**my blood of the New Covenant**

The shedding of Jesus' blood made the New Covenant possible.

**I will pour out**

Jesus would bleed as he was dying.

**remember me**

When his followers ate this ceremonial meal in the future, it would remind them of how Jesus died for them.

---

**38:06**

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "One of you will betray me." The disciples were shocked, and asked who would do such a thing. Jesus said, "The person to whom I give this piece of bread is the betrayer." Then he gave the bread to Judas.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**38:07**

After Judas took the bread, **Satan entered into him**. Judas left and went to help the Jewish leaders arrest Jesus. It was nighttime.

**Satan entered into him**

At this time, Satan took control of Judas.

---

**38:08**

After the meal, Jesus and his disciples walked to the **Mount of Olives**. Jesus said, "You will all abandon me tonight. **It is written**, 'I will strike **the shepherd and all the sheep** will be scattered.'"

**Mount of Olives**

This is the name of a hill covered with olive trees, just outside the walls of the city of Jerusalem.

**It is written**

Jesus quoted a prophecy in the Old Testament that refers to Jesus' death and his followers' desertion.

**the shepherd and all the sheep**

Jesus is the shepherd in the prophecy, and his disciples who desert him are the sheep.

---

**38:09**

Peter replied, "Even if all the others abandon you, I will not!" Then Jesus said to Peter, "Satan wants **to have all of you**, but I have prayed for you, Peter, **that your faith will not fail**. Even so, tonight, **before the rooster crows**, you will deny three times that you even know me."

**to have all of you**

Satan wanted to cause all of the disciples to be so afraid of being killed that they would abandon Jesus.

**that your faith will not fail**

Jesus prayed that Peter would not completely stop believing in Jesus.

**before the rooster crows**

Roosters normally crow at the first light of the new day.

---

**38:10**

Peter then said to Jesus, "Even if I must die, I will never deny you!" All the other disciples said the same thing.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**38:11**

Then Jesus went with his disciples to **a place called Gethsemane**. Jesus told his disciples to pray that **they would not enter into temptation**. Then Jesus went to pray by himself.

**a place called Gethsemane**

Gethsemane was a garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives.

**they would not enter into temptation**

This could mean 'they would not be tempted' or 'Satan would not tempt them.'

---

**38:12**

Jesus prayed three times, "My Father, if it is possible, please let me not have to **drink this cup of suffering**. But if there is no other way for people's sins to be forgiven, then **let your will be**

**done.**" Jesus was very troubled and **his sweat was like drops of blood.** God sent an angel to strengthen him.

**drink this cup of suffering**

This is a figure of speech that means 'Jesus would endure this suffering.'

**let your will be done**

Jesus did not want to die, but he understood that he must die in order to make a way for God to forgive sinners as God wanted to do.

**his sweat was like drops of blood**

This may mean that Jesus' grief was so intense that he started to bleed, and his blood mingled with his sweat.

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**38:13**

After each time of prayer, Jesus came back to his disciples, but they were asleep. When he returned the third time, Jesus said, "Wake up! My betrayer is here."

(No study notes for this frame)

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**38:14**

Judas came with the Jewish leaders, soldiers, and a large crowd. They were carrying swords and clubs. Judas came to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Teacher," and kissed him. He did this to show the Jewish leaders the man to arrest. Then Jesus said, "Judas, are you betraying me with a kiss?"

(No study notes for this frame)

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### **38:15**

As the soldiers were seizing Jesus, Peter pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of a servant of the high priest. But Jesus said, "Put the sword away! **I could ask the Father for an army of angels to defend me, but I must obey my Father.**" **Jesus healed the man's ear.** Then **all the disciples ran away.**

**I could ask the Father for an army of angels to defend me, but I must obey my Father.**

Jesus could have easily prevented the soldiers from arresting him. However, he allowed it because it was God's will that he die in the place of sinners.

#### **Jesus healed the man's ear**

Jesus was so gracious that he even healed the ear of the man who had come to arrest him.

#### **all the disciples ran away**

The disciples fled as Jesus had said they would in 38:08.

## 39. Jesus Is Put on Trial

A Bible story from: Matthew 26:57-27:26; Mark 14:53-15:15; Luke 22:54-23:25; John 18:12-19:16

### 39:01

It was now the middle of the night. The soldiers led Jesus to **the house of the high priest** because he wanted to question Jesus. Peter was following far behind them. When the soldiers took Jesus into the house, Peter stayed outside and warmed himself by a fire.

#### **the house of the high priest**

The soldiers took Jesus there because the high priest was the one who ordered them to arrest Jesus.

---

### 39:02

Inside the house, the Jewish leaders put Jesus on trial. They brought many false witnesses who lied about him. However, their statements did not agree with each other, so the Jewish leaders could not prove he was guilty of anything. Jesus did not say anything.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 39:03

Finally, the high priest looked directly at Jesus and said, "Tell us, **are you the Messiah, the Son of the living God?**"

#### **are you the Messiah, the Son of the living God?**

The religious leaders could not find any reason to condemn Jesus. Therefore, they asked him to tell them if he was the Son of God. They did not believe he was God's Son. If he said that he was indeed the Messiah, they planned to condemn him for falsely stating that he was God.

---

### 39:04

Jesus said, "**I am**, and you will see me **seated with God** and coming from heaven." The high priest **tore his clothes because he was angry** at what Jesus said. He shouted to the other leaders, "We do not need any more witnesses to tell us what this man has done! You yourselves have heard him say that he is the Son of God. **What is your decision about him?**"

#### **I am**

**I am** is also the name of God (See: 09:14). By saying simply "I am," Jesus was also saying that he is God.

#### **seated with God**

Because God is the ruler over all, people talk about him as sitting on a throne in heaven. By saying that he would be seated with God, Jesus claimed that he had authority to rule with the Father.

**tore his clothes because he was angry**

The Jews would tear their clothes to show grief or anger.

**What is your decision about him?**

The chief priest wanted the religious leaders to condemn Jesus for claiming to be equal with God.

---

**39:05**

The Jewish leaders all answered the high priest, "**He deserves to die!**" Then they blindfolded Jesus, spit on him, hit him, and mocked him.

**He deserves to die!**

The Jewish law said that any person who claimed to be God must be killed. Because the Jews did not believe that Jesus was God, they condemned him to die.

---

**39:06**

As for Peter, he was waiting outside the house. A servant girl saw him. She said to him, "You also were with Jesus!" Peter denied it. Later, another girl said the same thing, and Peter denied it again. Finally, some people said, "We know that you were with Jesus because **you both are from Galilee.**"

**you both are from Galilee**

The people could tell from the way Jesus and Peter talked that they both came from the region of Galilee.

---

**39:07**

Then Peter said, "May God curse me if I know this man!" Immediately after Peter swore like this, **a rooster crowed.** Jesus turned around and looked at Peter.

**a rooster crowed**

**Crowing** is the loud sound that a rooster makes. Jesus had told him in 38:09 that Peter would deny Jesus before the rooster crowed.

---

**39:08**

Peter went away and cried bitterly. At the same time, Judas, the one who had betrayed Jesus, saw that the Jewish leaders had condemned Jesus to die. **Judas became full of sorrow** and went away and killed himself.

**Judas became full of sorrow**

Although Judas was sorry for what he had done, he did not ask God to forgive him. Instead, he killed himself.

---

**39:09**

Now Pilate was the governor of Judea. **He worked for Rome.** The Jewish leaders brought Jesus to him. They wanted Pilate to **condemn Jesus and kill him.** Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

**He worked for Rome**

The Roman government had appointed Pilate to govern the region of Judea in Israel.

**condemn Jesus and kill him**

As governor, Pilate had the authority to condemn Jesus to death and to give approval for his crucifixion, or he could set him free. The Jewish religious leaders did not have the authority to have someone killed.

---

**39:10**

Jesus answered, "You have said the truth. But **my kingdom is not here on earth.** If it were, **my servants would fight for me.** I have come to earth to tell the truth about God. Everyone who loves the truth **listens to me.**" Pilate asked, "**What is truth?**"

**my kingdom is not here on earth**

Jesus' kingdom is not like earthly kingdoms.

**my servants would fight for me**

An earthly king would ask his disciples to fight to protect him. But Jesus was not that kind of king.

**listens to me**

This includes not just hearing Jesus' words, but also doing what he says.

**What is truth?**

Pilate did not believe that anyone could know what is true.

---

**39:11**

After speaking with Jesus, Pilate went out to the crowd and said, "I cannot find any reason that this man deserves to die." But the Jewish leaders and the crowd shouted, "**Crucify him!**" Pilate replied, "He is not guilty of doing anything wrong." But they shouted even louder. Then Pilate said a third time, "**He is not guilty!**"

### **Crucify him!**

The Romans executed the worst criminals by nailing them to a cross and letting them hang on it until they died of exhaustion or asphyxiation.

### **He is not guilty!**

Pilate correctly judged that Jesus was completely innocent. But the people would not accept his judgment.

---

### **39:12**

Pilate became afraid that the crowd would begin to riot, so **he agreed to have** his soldiers crucify Jesus. The Roman soldiers whipped Jesus and put **a royal robe** and **a crown made of thorns** on him. Then they mocked him by saying, "Look, **the King of the Jews!**"

#### **he agreed to have**

Pilate did not want to kill Jesus because he believed that Jesus was innocent. But he was forced to tell his soldiers to crucify Jesus because of his fear of the crowd.

#### **a royal robe**

This robe had a bright color, so it looked like the kind of robe that a king would wear.

#### **a crown made of thorns**

They tied thorn branches into a circle to look like a crown. A crown is an ornament that a king wears on his head to show his authority. But the crown that they put on Jesus' head had sharp, dangerous thorns on it.

#### **the King of the Jews**

The soldiers said this to mock Jesus. They did not believe that he was the King of the Jews.

## 40. Jesus Is Crucified

A Bible story from: Matthew 27:27-61; Mark 15:16-47; Luke 23:26-56; John 19:17-42

### 40:01

After the soldiers mocked Jesus, they led him away **to crucify him**. They made him carry the cross on which he would die.

#### **to crucify him**

The soldiers crucified criminals by nailing them to a large cross and keeping them there until they died.

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### 40:02

The soldiers brought Jesus to a place called '**the Skull**' and nailed his hands and feet to the cross. But Jesus said, "Father, **forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.**" They also put **a sign on the cross above his head**. It said, "King of the Jews." This is what Pilate had told them to write.

#### **the Skull**

This is a small escarpment near Jerusalem with a rocky, white face which looks somewhat like a skull.

#### **forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing**

Jesus knew that the soldiers thought Jesus was only a criminal who deserved to die. They did not understand that he was the Son of God.

#### **a sign on the cross above his head**

The Romans often put a sign on a cross to state the crime that the person had committed.

---

### 40:03

Then the soldiers **gambled for Jesus' clothing**. When they did this, **they fulfilled a prophecy that said**, "They divided my garments among them, and gambled for my clothing."

#### **gambled for Jesus' clothing**

The soldiers played a game of chance to win Jesus' clothes.

#### **they fulfilled a prophecy that said**

King David wrote these words in Psalm 22 hundreds of years before this event.

---

**40:04**

There were also **two robbers** whom the soldiers crucified at the same time, putting them on either side of Jesus. One of the robbers mocked Jesus, but the other said to him, "Do you not fear that God will punish you? We are guilty of doing many bad things, but this man is innocent." Then he said to Jesus, "Please remember me when you become king in your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Today you will be with me in **Paradise**."

**two robbers**

This refers to criminals who used force or violence to steal things.

**Paradise**

This is another name for 'heaven.'

---

**40:05**

The Jewish leaders and the other people in the crowd mocked Jesus. They said to him, "If you are the Son of God, **come down from the cross and save yourself!** Then we will believe you."

**come down from the cross and save yourself!**

These people did not understand that Jesus was able to come down from the cross and to save himself (See: 38:15). However, it was God's plan for him to die so that he could save other people (See: 38:12).

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**40:06**

Then the sky over **the whole region became completely dark**, even though it was the middle of the day. It became dark at noon and stayed dark for three hours.

**the whole region became completely dark**

God caused this darkness. Natural events such as an eclipse only last few minutes. This darkness lasted three hours.

---

**40:07**

Then Jesus cried out, "**It is finished!** Father, I am giving my spirit into your hands." Then he bowed his head and **gave up his spirit**. When he died, there was an earthquake. In the Temple, **the large curtain** that separated the people from the presence of God was torn in two **from the top to the bottom**.

**It is finished!**

This means that Jesus has completed his work to save people who had sinned against God.

**gave up his spirit**

Jesus released his spirit back to God, and he died.

**the large curtain**

This was a large, strong fabric hung in the Temple. It was like a wall separating one room from another.

**from the top to the bottom**

The curtain was torn from the top to indicate that God was opening it from above, rather than men opening it from below.

---

**40:08**

Through his death, Jesus **opened the way for people to come to God**. When a soldier guarding Jesus saw everything that had happened, he said, "Certainly, this man was innocent. **He was the Son of God.**"

**opened the way for people to come to God**

The tearing of the curtain showed that the barrier between God and people had been removed.

**He was the Son of God**

The soldier realized that Jesus did not die like an ordinary man, and that God had done the miraculous things that happened when he died.

---

**40:09**

Then two Jewish leaders named **Joseph** and Nicodemus came and **asked Pilate for Jesus' body**. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah. They wrapped his body in cloth, took it to a tomb cut out of rock and placed it inside. Then they rolled a large stone in front of the tomb to block the opening.

**Joseph**

This was not Mary's husband. It was another man named Joseph.

**asked Pilate for Jesus' body**

The two men asked Pilate to permit them to take Jesus' body down from the cross in order to bury it.



## 41. God Raises Jesus from the Dead

A Bible story from: Matthew 27:62-28:15; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

### 41:01

After the soldiers crucified Jesus, the Jewish leaders said to Pilate, "**That liar, Jesus, said** he would **rise from the dead** after three days. Someone must guard the tomb to make sure that his disciples do not steal the body. If they do, they will say he has risen from the dead."

#### **That liar, Jesus, said**

The Jewish leaders refused to believe that Jesus told the truth about being the Son of God.

#### **rise from the dead**

The Jewish leaders were well aware that Jesus promised to become alive again.

---

### 41:02

Pilate said, "Take some soldiers and guard the tomb as well as you can." So they placed **a seal on the stone** at the entrance of the tomb. They also put soldiers there to make sure no one could steal the body.

#### **a seal on the stone**

They put a soft material like clay or wax between the stone and the tomb and marked it with an official seal. If anyone moved the stone, the material would break and show that someone had entered the tomb.

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### 41:03

The day after Jesus died was a Sabbath day. **No one could work on the Sabbath day**, so no friends of Jesus went to his tomb. But on the day after the Sabbath, very early in the morning, several women got ready to go to Jesus' tomb. They wanted to put more **spices** on his body.

#### **No one could work on the Sabbath day**

The Sabbath day rules did not permit a Jew to walk very far or to do any other kind of work.

#### **spices**

This refers to sweet-smelling spices that were placed on a dead body to cover the bad smell.

---

### 41:04

Before the women arrived, there was a great earthquake at the tomb. An angel came from heaven. He rolled away the stone that was covering the entrance to the tomb and sat on it. This

angel was shining as brightly as lightning. The soldiers at the tomb saw him. They were so terrified that they **fell to the ground like dead men**.

#### **fell to the ground like dead men**

They were not dead, but they did not move, just like dead men do not move. They probably had fainted from fright.

---

#### **41:05**

When the women arrived at the tomb, the angel told them, "**Do not be afraid**. Jesus is not here. He has risen from the dead, just like he said he would! Look in the tomb and see." The women looked into the tomb and saw where Jesus' body had been laid. His body was not there!

#### **Do not be afraid**

The women were frightened because the angel shone like lightning.

---

#### **41:06**

Then the angel told the women, "Go and tell the disciples, 'Jesus has risen from the dead and **he will go to Galilee ahead of you**.'"

#### **he will go to Galilee ahead of you**

Jesus intended to meet his disciples in Galilee.

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#### **41:07**

The women were amazed and very joyful. They ran to tell the disciples the good news.

(No study notes for this frame)

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#### **41:08**

As the women were on their way to tell the disciples the good news, Jesus appeared to them. They bowed down at his feet. Then Jesus said, "**Do not be afraid**. Go and tell my disciples to go to Galilee. They will see me there."

#### **Do not be afraid**

The women perhaps were afraid because they thought that Jesus was a ghost.

## 42. Jesus Returns to Heaven

A Bible story from: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:12-20; Luke 24:13-53; John 20:19-23; Acts 1:1-11

### 42:01

On the day that God raised Jesus from the dead, two of his disciples were going to a nearby town. As they walked, they talked about what had happened to Jesus. They had hoped that he was the Messiah, but then he was killed. Now **the women said he was alive again**. They did not know what to believe.

#### the women said he was alive again

The women told the disciples that Jesus was alive in 41:08.

---

### 42:02

Jesus approached them and started walking with them, but they did not recognize him. He asked what they were talking about. They told him about **all the things that had happened** to Jesus during the previous few days. They thought they were talking to a foreigner who did not know what had happened in Jerusalem.

#### all the things that had happened

This refers to the teaching and miracles of Jesus, his death, and the reports of his resurrection.

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### 42:03

Then Jesus explained to them what God's word said about the Messiah. Long ago, prophets had said that evil men would make the Messiah suffer and die. But the prophets also said he would rise again **on the third day**.

#### on the third day

This refers to the third day after his death.

---

### 42:04

When they arrived at the town where the two men wanted to stay, it was almost evening. They invited Jesus to stay with them, so he went into a house with them. They sat down to eat their evening meal. Jesus picked up a loaf of bread, thanked God for it, and then broke it. Suddenly, they recognized that he was Jesus. But at that moment, he disappeared from their sight.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**42:05**

The two men said to each other, "That was Jesus! That is why we were so excited when he explained God's word to us!" Immediately they left and went back to Jerusalem. When they arrived, they told the disciples, "Jesus is alive! We have seen him!"

(No study notes for this frame)

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**42:06**

As the disciples were talking, Jesus suddenly appeared in the room with them. He said, "**Peace to you!**" The disciples thought he was **a ghost**, but Jesus said, "Why are you afraid? Why do you not think it is really I, Jesus? Look at my hands and feet. Ghosts do not have bodies like I do." To show that he was not a ghost, he asked for something to eat. They gave him a piece of fish, and he ate it.

**Peace to you**

This was a normal greeting among the Jews. However, Jesus may have said this here because the disciples thought he was a ghost and were frightened when he appeared.

**a ghost**

This refers to the spirit of a dead person.

---

**42:07**

Jesus said, "Everything about me that God's word says will happen, I have told you that it must happen." Then **Jesus made them understand God's word better**. He said, "Long ago, prophets wrote that I, the Messiah, would suffer, die, and then rise from the dead on the third day."

**Jesus made them understand God's word better**

Jesus did something that enabled them to better understand the meaning of the scriptures.

---

**42:08**

"The prophets also wrote that my disciples will proclaim God's message. They will tell everyone to repent. If they repent, God will forgive their sins. **My disciples will proclaim this message starting in Jerusalem**. Then they will go to all people groups everywhere. You are witnesses of everything I have said and done, and of everything that happened to me."

**My disciples will proclaim this message starting in Jerusalem**

The disciples would speak first in Jerusalem about Jesus rising from the dead, and then they would speak about it in other places.

---

**42:09**

During the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times. Once, he even appeared to more than 500 people at the same time! In many ways, he proved to his disciples that he was alive, and he taught them about the kingdom of God.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**42:10**

Jesus said to his disciples, "God has given me the right to rule over everyone in heaven and on earth. So I am telling you now: go and **make disciples in all people groups**. In order to do this, you must baptize them **in the name of** the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. You must also teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. Remember, I will always be with you."

**make disciples in all people groups**

The disciples would help people from every people group to also become disciples of Jesus.

**in the name of**

This phrase means both 'by the authority of' and 'under the authority of.'

---

**42:11**

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he told his disciples, "Stay in Jerusalem until my Father gives you power. He will do this by sending the Holy Spirit upon you." Then Jesus went up to heaven, and a cloud hid him from their sight. Jesus sat down in heaven **at the right hand of God** to rule over all things.

**at the right hand of God**

This was the position of the highest authority.

## 43. The Church Begins

A Bible story from: Acts 1:12-14; 2

### 43:01

After Jesus returned to heaven, the disciples **stayed in Jerusalem** as Jesus had commanded them to do. The believers there constantly gathered together to pray.

#### **stayed in Jerusalem**

Jesus had told them to stay in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them (See: 42:11).

---

### 43:02

Every year, 50 days after the Passover, the Jews celebrated an important day called Pentecost. Pentecost was a time when the Jews **celebrated the wheat harvest**. Jews came from all over the world to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost together. **This year** the time for Pentecost came about a week after Jesus had gone back to heaven.

#### **celebrated the wheat harvest**

The Jews would thank God for the wheat harvest by bringing offerings and celebrate by having special meals. This happened in May; other crops were harvested at other times of the year.

#### **This year**

This refers to the year that Jesus died.

---

### 43:03

While the believers were all together, suddenly the house where they had gathered was filled with a sound like a strong wind. Then something that looked like flames of fire appeared over the heads of all the believers. They were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and they praised God in other languages. They did not know these languages, but these were languages that the Holy Spirit enabled them to speak.

#### **filled with the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit entered into them and began to give them power to speak in other languages.

---

### 43:04

When the people in Jerusalem heard **this noise**, they came together in a crowd to see what was happening. They heard the believers proclaiming the great things God had done. They were astonished because they could understand even though they were from many different

countries and spoke many different languages. The disciples were from Israel and spoke Aramaic, Hebrew, or Greek, but the people were each hearing what God had done **in their own native language**.

**this noise**

This refers to the sound like a rushing wind that happened when the Holy Spirit filled the believers.

**in their own native language**

The people in the crowd were from different regions, and spoke different languages. They each heard the disciples speak to them in their own language.

---

**43:05**

Some of these people said that the disciples were drunk. But Peter stood up and said to them, "Listen to me! These people are not drunk! Instead, what you see is what the prophet **Joel** said would happen: God said, 'In **the last days**, I will **pour out my Spirit**.'"

**Joel**

Joel was a prophet in Israel who lived hundreds of years before this happened.

**the last days**

This refers to the final days before the end of the world.

**pour out my Spirit**

This means that God will give his Spirit generously to people.

**my Spirit**

This refers to the Holy Spirit.

---

**43:06**

"Men of Israel, Jesus was a man who did many wonderful things to show who he was. He did many amazing things by God's power. You know this because you saw these things. But **you crucified him!**"

**you crucified him!**

The Jews did not actually nail Jesus to the cross. However, the Jewish leaders caused him to be condemned and many of the people in the crowd had shouted for him to be crucified (See: 39:11).

---

**43:07**

“Jesus died, but God raised him from the dead. This made come true what a prophet wrote: **‘You will not let your Holy One rot in the grave.’** We are witnesses that God raised Jesus to life again.”

**You will not let your**

**You** and **your** refer to God the Father.

**rot in the grave**

This refers to the fact that Jesus did not remain in the tomb very long. It is another way of saying that he did not stay dead, but rather, came back to life again.

---

**43:08**

“God the Father has now honored Jesus by making him sit **at his right hand**. And Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to us just **as he promised he would do**. **The Holy Spirit is causing** the things that you are now seeing and hearing.”

**at his right hand**

This is the place of highest honor.

**as he promised he would do**

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to the disciples in 42:11.

**The Holy Spirit is causing**

The Holy Spirit was the one who enabled the believers to speak the languages of all the people.

---

**43:09**

“You crucified this man, Jesus. But know for certain that God has caused Jesus to become both **the Lord of everything** and the Messiah!”

**the Lord of everything**

By saying this about Jesus, Peter was saying that Jesus is God.

---

**43:10**

The people listening to Peter were deeply moved by the things that he said. So they asked Peter and the disciples, **“Brothers**, what should we do?”



### Brothers

This was a normal way for a Jew to address fellow Jews.

---

### 43:11

Peter answered them, "All of you need God to forgive your sins. So **repent** and be baptized every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ**. Then God will also give you the Holy Spirit as a gift."

### repent

To repent is to change one's way of thinking about God.

### in the name of

This phrase means both 'by the authority of' and 'under the authority of.'

### Christ

This is the same meaning as "Messiah."

---

### 43:12

About 3,000 people believed what Peter said and became disciples of Jesus. They were baptized and became part of the church at Jerusalem.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 43:13

The believers continually listened as the apostles taught them. They often met together and ate together, and they often prayed with each other. They praised God together and they shared everything they had with each other. Everyone in the city thought well of them. Every day, more people became believers.

(No study notes for this frame)

## 44. Peter and John Heal a Beggar

A Bible story from: Acts 3-4:22

### 44:01

One day Peter and John went to **the Temple**. A crippled man was sitting at the gate, begging for money.

#### the Temple

This refers to the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

---

### 44:02

Peter looked at the lame man and said, "I do not have any money to give you. But I will give you what I do have. **In the name of Jesus**, get up and walk!"

#### In the name of Jesus

This expression here means 'by the authority of Jesus.'

---

### 44:03

Immediately, God healed the lame man. He began to walk and jump around, and to praise God. The people in **the courtyard of the Temple** were amazed.

#### the courtyard of the Temple

Only priests could enter the Temple, but ordinary Jews were allowed to come into this area that surrounded the Temple.

---

### 44:04

A crowd of people quickly came to see the man who was healed. Peter said to them, "This man is well, but do not be amazed at this. We did not heal him with our own power or because we honor God. Rather, it is Jesus who healed this man with his power, because we believe in Jesus."

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 44:05

**"You are the ones who told the Roman governor to kill Jesus.** You killed the one who gives life to everybody. But God raised him from the dead. You did not understand what you were doing, but when you did those things, what the prophets said came true. They said that the

Messiah would suffer and die. God made it happen in this way. So now, repent and **turn to God**, so that he will wash away your sins.”

#### **You are the ones who told the Roman governor to kill Jesus**

The Jews did this in 39:11.

#### **turn to God**

Peter is telling the Jews they must begin to obey God.

---

#### **44:06**

When the leaders of the Temple heard Peter and John, **they were very upset**. So they arrested them and put them into prison. But many people believed what Peter said. **The number of men** who believed in Jesus grew to about 5,000.

#### **they were very upset**

The leaders had Jesus killed because they were jealous that people listened to him. They were upset now that people were still talking about him.

#### **The number of men**

This was in addition to the women and children who believed.

---

#### **44:07**

The next day the Jewish leaders brought Peter and John to the high priest and the other religious leaders. They also brought the man who had been crippled. They asked Peter and John, “By what power did you heal this crippled man?”

(No study notes for this frame)

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#### **44:08**

Peter answered them, “This man standing before you has been healed by the power of Jesus the Messiah. You crucified Jesus, but God raised him to life again! You **rejected him, but there is no other way to be saved except through the power of Jesus!**”

#### **rejected him**

That is, they refused to believe that Jesus was the Messiah.

#### **but there is no other way to be saved except through the power of Jesus**

Jesus is the only one who has the power to save people.

**to be saved**

This means God will not condemn them for their sins.

---

**44:09**

The leaders were shocked that Peter and John spoke so boldly. They saw that these men were **ordinary** men **who were uneducated**. But then they remembered that these men **had been with Jesus**. So they said to them, "We will punish you very much if you give any more messages to the people about this man Jesus." After saying many things like this, they let Peter and John go.

**ordinary**

That means Peter and John were simple fishermen.

**who were uneducated**

That means they did not have a formal or religious education.

**had been with Jesus**

The disciples had spent time with Jesus and he had taught them.

## 45. Stephen and Philip

A Bible story from: Acts 6-8

### 45:01

One of the leaders among the first **followers of Jesus** was a man named Stephen. Everyone respected him. The Holy Spirit gave him much power and wisdom. Stephen did many miracles. Many people believed him when he taught them to trust in Jesus.

#### **followers of Jesus**

This title refers to people who believe in Jesus Christ.

---

### 45:02

One day when Stephen was teaching about Jesus, some Jews who did not believe in Jesus came and began to argue with him. They became very angry, so they went to the religious leaders and told lies about him. They said, "We heard Stephen speak evil things about **Moses** and God!" So the religious leaders arrested Stephen and brought him to the high priest and the other leaders of the Jews. More false witnesses came and lied to them about Stephen.

#### **Moses**

God used Moses to free the Israelites from being slaves in Egypt (See: 12:12). God then gave his laws and commandments to Moses to give to the Israelites (See: 13:07).

---

### 45:03

The high priest asked Stephen, "Are these men telling the truth about you?" Stephen began to say many things in order to answer the high priest. He said that God had done many wonderful things for the people of Israel from the time when Abraham lived to the time of Jesus. But the people had always disobeyed God. Stephen said, "You people are stubborn and rebellious against God. You always reject the Holy Spirit, just as our ancestors always rejected God and always killed his prophets. But you did something worse than they did! You killed the Messiah!"

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 45:04

When the religious leaders heard this, they were so angry that they **covered their ears** and yelled loudly. **They dragged Stephen out of the city** and **threw stones at him in order to kill him**.

#### **covered their ears**

They did this to show that they did not want to hear what Stephen said.

**They dragged Stephen out of the city**

They did this as a sign that they did not think Stephen was worthy to live among them.

**threw stones at him in order to kill him**

This was the method that the Jews used to kill people who they believed had offended God.

---

**45:05**

As Stephen was dying, he cried out, "**Jesus, receive my spirit.**" He fell to his knees and cried out again, "Master, **do not hold this sin against them.**" Then he died.

**Jesus, receive my spirit**

Stephen prayed to Jesus, believing that when he died, his spirit would go to heaven, where Jesus is.

**do not hold this sin against them**

Stephen asked God to forgive the Jews for killing him.

---

**45:06**

That day **many people in Jerusalem started persecuting the followers of Jesus**, so the believers fled to other places. **But in spite of opposition**, they preached about Jesus everywhere they went.

**many people in Jerusalem started persecuting the followers of Jesus**

The Jews were not satisfied to kill only Stephen. They also began to attack all of the other followers of Jesus who believed in him the same way Stephen did.

**But in spite of opposition**

The Jewish leaders thought they could stop the spread of Jesus' teaching by persecuting his followers. Instead, this caused them to scatter and spread the message even more widely.

---

**45:07**

There was a believer in Jesus named Philip. He fled from Jerusalem, as did most other believers. He went to the region of **Samaria** where he preached to people about Jesus. Many people believed him and were saved. One day, an angel came from God to Philip and told him to go into the wilderness, and to walk down a certain road. Philip went there. As he was walking on the road, he saw a man riding in his **chariot**. This man was an important official from the land of **Ethiopia**. The Holy Spirit told Philip to go and talk with this man.

**Samaria**

This region was located on the north side of Judea. The Jews hated the Samaritans, and rarely went there.

**chariot**

A chariot was a type of cart with two wheels that was pulled by horses. A chariot had space for a few people to ride in it. It was used by soldiers and important officials.

**Ethiopia**

Ethiopia is a country in Eastern Africa.

---

**45:08**

So Philip went to the chariot. He heard **the Ethiopian** reading God's word. He was reading what **the prophet Isaiah** had written. The man read, "They led him like a lamb to be killed, and **as a lamb is silent**, he did not say a word. They treated him unfairly and did not respect him. They took his life away from him."

**the Ethiopian**

This refers to a person from the country of Ethiopia.

**the prophet Isaiah**

Isaiah lived many hundreds of years before Jesus.

**as a lamb is silent**

Lambs are so afraid that they are often silent when someone kills them.

---

**45:09**

Philip asked the Ethiopian, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The Ethiopian replied, "No. I cannot understand it unless someone explains it to me. Please come and sit next to me. **Was Isaiah writing about himself or someone else?**"

**Was Isaiah writing about himself or someone else?**

The Ethiopian was not able to understand the prophesy of Isaiah. He needed Philip to help him know whom Isaiah was writing about. This is why the Holy Spirit sent Philip to the Ethiopian.

---

**45:10**

Philip got into the chariot and sat down. Then he told the Ethiopian man that Isaiah had written about Jesus. Philip also spoke about many other parts of God's word. In this way, he told the man the good news about Jesus.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 45:11

As Philip and the Ethiopian traveled, they came to **some water**. The Ethiopian said, "Look! There is some water! **May I be baptized?**" And he told the driver to stop the chariot.

#### **some water**

This refers to a larger body of water such as a pond, lake, or stream.

#### **May I be baptized?**

Perhaps Philip told the Ethiopian that the disciples of Jesus were baptized, or perhaps when the Ethiopian was in Jerusalem, he heard that John the Baptist and Jesus baptized their disciples. He now decided that he wanted Philip to baptize him.

---

### 45:12

So they went down into the water, and Philip baptized the Ethiopian. After they came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit suddenly **carried Philip away** to another place. There Philip continued to tell people about Jesus.

#### **carried Philip away**

The Holy Spirit suddenly took Philip to a different place in a miraculous way.

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### 45:13

The Ethiopian continued traveling toward his home. He was happy that he now knew Jesus.

(No study notes for this frame)



## 46. Saul Becomes a Follower of Jesus

A Bible story from: Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-31; 11:19-26; 13-14

### 46:01

There was a man named **Saul** who did not believe in Jesus. When he was a young man, he **guarded the robes of the men who killed Stephen**. Later he persecuted the believers. He went from house to house in Jerusalem to arrest both men and women and to put them in prison. Then the high priest gave Saul permission to go to the city of **Damascus**. He told Saul to arrest followers of Jesus there and to bring them back to Jerusalem.

### Saul

This was not the same man as King Saul in the Old Testament. Saul would later change his name to Paul (See: 47:01).

### guarded the robes of the men who killed Stephen

See 45:06.

### Damascus

Damascus is now the capital of the country of Syria. During Saul's time, it was a city belonging to the Roman Empire. Most of the people there were not Jewish, but there were some Jews and also some followers of Jesus living there.

---

### 46:02

So Saul began to travel to Damascus. Just before he reached the city, a bright light in the sky shone all around him, and he fell to the ground. Saul heard someone say, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" Saul asked, "Who are you, Master?" Jesus replied to him, "I am Jesus. You are persecuting me!"

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 46:03

When Saul got up, he could not see. His friends had to lead him into Damascus. Saul did not eat or drink anything for three days.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### 46:04

There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. God said to him, "Go to the house where Saul is staying. Place your hands on him so that he can see again." **But Ananias said**, "Master, I have heard how this man has persecuted the believers." God answered him, "Go! I have chosen him

**to declare my name** to the Jews and to people from other people groups. He will suffer many things **for my name.**"

**But Ananias said**

Ananias did not want to go to Saul because he was afraid Saul would arrest him.

**to declare my name**

This could mean 'to teach about me' or 'to make me known.'

**for my name**

Saul would suffer because he would be associated with Jesus and serve Jesus.

---

**46:05**

So Ananias went to Saul, **placed his hands on him**, and said, "Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, sent me to you so that you can see again, and so the Holy Spirit will fill you." Immediately Saul was able to see again, and Ananias baptized him. Then Saul ate some food and became strong again.

**placed his hands on him**

This was a symbol that Ananias accepted Saul and gave God's message to him.

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**46:06**

Right away Saul began preaching to the Jews in Damascus. He said, "Jesus is the Son of God!" The Jews were amazed because Saul had tried to kill believers, and now he believed in Jesus! Saul **argued with the Jews**. He showed that Jesus was the Messiah.

**argued with the Jews**

Saul spoke persuasively with the Jews to convince them to believe in Jesus.

---

**46:07**

After many days, the Jews made a plan to kill Saul. They sent people to watch for him at **the city gates** in order to kill him. But Saul heard about the plan, and his friends helped him escape. One night they **lowered him over the city wall in a basket**. After Saul escaped from Damascus, he continued to preach about Jesus.

**the city gates**

The gates were the only normal way into or out of the walled cities.

**lowered him over the city wall in a basket**

The other believers helped Saul get into a large basket and lowered the basket with him in it over the city wall so he could leave the city without going through the gates where the Jews waited to kill him.

---

**46:08**

Saul went to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles, but they were afraid of him. Then a believer named Barnabas took Saul to the apostles. He told them how Saul had preached boldly in Damascus. After that the apostles **accepted Saul**.

**accepted Saul**

Barnabas convinced the apostles that Saul also was a believer in Jesus.

---

**46:09**

Some believers who fled from the persecution in Jerusalem went far away to **the city of Antioch** and preached about Jesus. Most of the people in Antioch were not Jews, but for the first time, people who were not Jews became believers. Barnabas and Saul went there to teach these new believers more about Jesus and **to strengthen the church**. It was at Antioch that believers in Jesus were first called '**Christians**.'

**the city of Antioch**

This was an ancient city located in what is now the southernmost tip of the modern country of Turkey, near its border with Syria and close to the Mediterranean Sea. It was about 450 miles northwest of Jerusalem.

**to strengthen the church**

Barnabas and Saul helped the church to grow strong spiritually by teaching them about God and about Jesus.

**Christians**

They were called Christians because they believe in Jesus Christ.

---

**46:10**

One day, the followers of Jesus at Antioch were fasting and praying. The Holy Spirit said to them, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul to do the work I have called them to do." So the church in Antioch prayed for Barnabas and Saul and **placed their hands on them**. Then they sent them out to preach the good news about Jesus in many other places. Barnabas and Saul taught people in different people groups, and many people believed in Jesus.

**placed their hands on them**

This was a symbol that they were sending Barnabas and Saul out to work for God on behalf of all the followers of Jesus.

## 47. Paul and Silas in Philippi

A Bible story from: Acts 16:11-40

### 47:01

As Saul traveled throughout the Roman Empire, he began to use his Roman name, 'Paul.' One day, Paul and his friend Silas went to the town of **Philippi** to proclaim the good news about Jesus. They went to a place by the river outside the city where people gathered to pray. There they met a woman named Lydia who was a merchant. She loved and worshiped God.

### Philippi

Philippi was a major city and Roman colony located in Macedonia in the northern part of ancient Greece.

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### 47:02

God enabled Lydia to believe the message about Jesus. Paul and Silas baptized her and her family. **She invited Paul and Silas to stay at her house**, so they stayed there.

### She invited Paul and Silas to stay at her house

This was the normal custom of the day for people to provide hospitality to visitors in their homes. There were no immoral motives in this arrangement.

---

### 47:03

Paul and Silas often met with people at the place where Jews prayed. Every day as they walked there, a slave girl possessed by a demon followed them. By means of this demon, she predicted the future for people, so she made a lot of money for her masters **as a fortuneteller**.

### as a fortuneteller

The masters of the slave girl charged people money for her to tell them what would happen to them in the future.

---

### 47:04

The slave girl kept yelling as they walked, "These men are servants of the Most High God. They are telling you the way to be saved!" She did this so often that **Paul became annoyed**.

### Paul became annoyed

Paul and Silas were indeed telling people how to be saved. But the demon who controlled the girl was the one who was actually saying these things. Paul did not want to accept praise from a demon.

---

**47:05**

Finally, one day when the slave girl started yelling, Paul turned to her and said to the demon that was in her, "**In the name of Jesus**, come out of her." Right away the demon left her.

**In the name of Jesus**

Because of Jesus' authority, Paul could command the demon to leave.

---

**47:06**

The men who owned the slave girl became very angry! They realized that, **without the demon**, the slave girl could not tell people the future. This meant that people would no longer pay her owners to have her tell their future.

**without the demon**

The owners of the slave girl knew that a demon gave her the power to tell what would happen in the future. They only thought of their own profit, and were not happy that the girl was now freed from the demon that had controlled her.

---

**47:07**

So the owners of the slave girl took **Paul and Silas to the Roman authorities**, who beat Paul and Silas, and then threw them into jail.

**Paul and Silas to the Roman authorities**

Paul and Silas had done nothing wrong, but they were strangers in Philippi. The Roman authorities believed the false accusations of the owners of the slave girl and punished Paul and Silas.

---

**47:08**

They put Paul and Silas in the part of the prison where there were the most guards. They even attached their feet to large pieces of wood. But in the middle of the night, Paul and Silas were **singing songs of praise to God**.

**singing songs of praise to God**

Paul and Silas were able to trust God even though the authorities beat them and put them in prison. Therefore, they were singing and praising God.

---

**47:09**

Suddenly, there was a violent earthquake! All the prison doors opened wide, and **the chains of all the prisoners fell off.**

**the chains of all the prisoners fell off**

God caused this to happen. A natural earthquake would not release a person from the chains on their hands and feet.

---

**47:10**

Then **the jailer** woke up. He saw that the prison doors were open. He thought that all the prisoners had escaped. He was afraid the Roman authorities would kill him for allowing them to go, so **he got ready to kill himself!** But Paul saw him and shouted, "Stop! Do not hurt yourself. We are all here."

**the jailer**

This could mean 'the official in charge of the jail.'

**he got ready to kill himself!**

The jailer was so afraid, thinking that the prisoners had escaped, that he intended to kill himself rather than be punished for his failure to guard them.

---

**47:11**

The jailer trembled as he came to Paul and Silas and asked, "**What must I do to be saved?**" Paul answered, "**Believe in Jesus, the Master,** and you and your family will be saved." Then the jailer took Paul and Silas into his home and washed their wounds. Paul preached the good news about Jesus to everyone in his house.

**What must I do to be saved?**

The jailer knew that it was God who caused the earthquake and released the prisoners. He wanted to know how he could be saved from being punished by that powerful God.

**Believe in Jesus, the Master**

This was addressed to both the jailer and his family, who all then believed and were baptized.

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**47:12**

The jailer and his whole family believed in Jesus, so Paul and Silas baptized them. Then the jailer gave Paul and Silas a meal, and they rejoiced together.

(No study notes for this frame)

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### **47:13**

The next day the leaders of the city released Paul and Silas from prison and asked them to leave Philippi. Paul and Silas visited Lydia and some other friends and then left the city. **The good news about Jesus kept spreading, and the Church kept growing.**

#### **The good news about Jesus kept spreading**

People in more and more places were hearing the good news about Jesus.

#### **the Church kept growing**

More and more people were becoming part of the Church by believing in Jesus.

---

### **47:14**

Paul and other leaders of the believers traveled to many cities. They preached and taught people the good news about Jesus. They also wrote many letters to encourage and teach the believers in the churches. Some of these letters became books of the Bible.

(No study notes for this frame)



## 48. Jesus Is the Promised Messiah

A Bible story from: Genesis 1-3, 6, 14, 22; Exodus 12, 20; 2 Samuel 7; Hebrews 3:1-6, 4:14-5:10, 7:1-8:13, 9:11-10:18; Revelation 21

### 48:01

When **God created the world**, everything was **perfect**. **There was no sin**. **Adam and Eve** loved each other, and they loved God. There was no sickness or death. This was the way God wanted the world to be.

#### **God created the world**

See 01:01.

#### **perfect**

Everything was exactly as it should have been in order to accomplish all that God intended for it.

#### **Adam and Eve**

See 01:14.

#### **There was no sin**

See 02:01.

---

### 48:02

**Satan** spoke to Eve in **the garden** through the snake because he wanted to **deceive her**. Then she and Adam sinned against God. **Because they sinned, everyone on earth dies**.

#### **Satan**

Satan is a spirit being that God created. He rebelled against God and became God's enemy.

#### **the garden**

This refers to the garden created by God where he placed the first man and woman 01:10.

#### **deceive her**

Satan lied to Eve by leading her to doubt what God had said. By doing this, he tricked her into disobeying God (See: 02:04).

#### **Because they sinned, everyone on earth dies**

See 01:11.

---

**48:03**

Because Adam and Eve sinned, something even worse happened. They became enemies of God. As a result, every person since then has sinned. Every person is an enemy of God from birth. There was no peace between people and God. But God wanted to make peace.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**48:04**

God promised that one of Eve's descendants would **crush Satan's head**, and Satan would **bite his heel**. In other words, Satan would kill the Messiah, but God would raise him to life again. The Messiah would take away Satan's power forever. Many years later, God showed that the Messiah is Jesus.

**crush Satan's head**

God made this promise in 02:09. This (crushing the head) represents a person stepping on the head of a snake. The head is completely crushed, and the snake is dead and therefore harmless.

**bite his heel**

This represents a snake on the ground biting a person's foot. In this case, Satan would cause the Messiah to suffer, but would not destroy him (See: 02:09).

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**48:05**

**God told Noah to build a boat** to save his family from the flood he was going to send. This is how God saved the people who believed in him. In the same way, everyone deserves death from God because they have sinned. But God sent Jesus to save everyone who believes in him.

**God told Noah to build a boat**

See 03:02.

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**48:06**

For hundreds of years, **priests kept on offering sacrifices** to God. This showed people that they committed sin and that they deserved God's punishment. But those sacrifices could not forgive their sins. Jesus did what the priests could not do. **He gave himself** to be the only sacrifice that could take away everyone's sin. He accepted onto himself the punishment that we should have received for our sins. For this reason, Jesus is the Great High Priest.

**priests kept on offering sacrifices**

See 13:09.

**He gave himself**

That is, Jesus allowed himself to be killed.

---

**48:07**

God had told Abraham, "**I will bless all the people groups on the earth** through you." Jesus was a descendant of this Abraham. God blesses all the people groups through Abraham, because God saves from sin everyone who believes in Jesus. When these people believe in Jesus, God considers them to be descendants of Abraham.

**I will bless all the people groups on the earth**

See 04:04.

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**48:08**

God told Abraham to **sacrifice his own son, Isaac**, to him. But then God gave a ram for the sacrifice instead of Isaac. We all deserve to die for our sins! But God gave Jesus to be a sacrifice to die in our place. That is why we call Jesus **the Lamb of God**.

**sacrifice his own son, Isaac**

See 05:06.

**the Lamb of God**

See 24:06.

---

**48:09**

When God **sent the last plague on Egypt**, he told each Israelite family to **kill a lamb**. The lamb must not have any flaws. Then they had to spread its blood on the tops and sides of their door frames. When God saw the blood, he passed over their houses and did not kill their firstborn sons. When this happened, God called this **the Passover**.

**sent the last plague on Egypt**

This was the tenth plague when God caused the firstborn sons of the Egyptians to die (See: 11:07).

**kill a lamb**

See 11:02.

**the Passover**

The Passover is the name of a religious festival that the Jews celebrate every year to remember how God rescued their ancestors, the Israelites, from slavery in Egypt (See: 12:14).

---

**48:10**

Jesus is like a Passover Lamb. He never sinned, so there was nothing wrong with him. He was killed at the time of the Passover festival. When anyone believes in Jesus, the **blood of Jesus** pays for that person's sin. It is as if God passed over that person, because he does not punish him.

**blood of Jesus**

This refers to the sacrifice of himself that Jesus made when he died for sinners.

---

**48:11**

God made **a covenant** with the Israelites because they were the people he had chosen to belong to himself. But God has now made a New Covenant that is for everyone. If anyone in any people group accepts this New Covenant, he joins God's people. He does this because he believes in Jesus.

**a covenant**

A covenant is a formal, binding agreement between two parties that one or both parties must fulfill.

---

**48:12**

Moses was a prophet who proclaimed the word of God with great power. But Jesus is the greatest prophet of all. He is God, so all the things he did and said were the actions and words of God. That is why the Scriptures **call Jesus the Word of God**.

**call Jesus the Word of God**

Jesus reveals God's character. The other prophets preached the message God gave them, but Jesus revealed God in his preaching and his actions.

---

**48:13**

**God promised King David** that one of his descendants would rule as king over God's people forever. Jesus is the Son of God and the Messiah, so he is the descendant of David who can rule forever.

**God promised King David**

See 17:07.

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**48:14**

David was a king of Israel, but Jesus is the king of the entire universe! He will come again and rule his kingdom with justice and peace forever.

(No study notes for this frame)

## 49. God's New Covenant

A Bible story from: Genesis 3; Matthew 13-14; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 2; 10:25-37; 15; John 3:16; Romans 3:21-26, 5:1-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Colossians 1:13-14; 1 John 1:5-10

### 49:01

An angel told Mary, a young woman, that she would give birth to God's Son. She was still a virgin, but **the Holy Spirit came to her and made her become pregnant**. She gave birth to a son and named him Jesus. Therefore, Jesus is both God and human.

#### the Holy Spirit came to her and made her become pregnant

Scholars cannot explain how the Holy Spirit caused Mary to become pregnant. However, the Holy Spirit does not have a physical body, so we know that the Holy Spirit did not have sexual relations with Mary (See: 22:05).

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### 49:02

Jesus did many miracles that show that he is God. **He walked on water** and stopped storms. He healed many sick people and **drove demons out** of many others. **He raised dead people to life**, and he turned five loaves of bread and two small fish into enough food **to feed over 5,000 people**.

#### He walked on water

See 31:03.

#### drove demons out

See 26:09.

#### He raised dead people to life

See 37:10.

#### to feed over 5,000 people

See 30:08.

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### 49:03

Jesus was also **a great teacher**. Everything he taught, he taught correctly. People should do what he told them to do because he is the Son of God. For example, he taught that you need to love other people **the same way** you love yourself.

#### a great teacher

This could mean 'a very important teacher' or 'an excellent teacher.'

**the same way**

This could mean 'as much as' or 'the same amount that' or 'to the same degree that.'

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**49:04**

He also taught that you need to **love God more than you love anything else**, including your possessions.

**love God more than you love anything else**

See 28:04.

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**49:05**

Jesus said that it is **better to be in God's kingdom** than to have anything else in the world. God must save you from your sins in order for you to enter his kingdom.

**better to be in God's kingdom**

See 34:04.

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**49:06**

Jesus said that some people will accept him. God will save these people. However, other people will not accept him. He also said that some people are like **good soil**. Because they accept the good news about Jesus, God saves them. However, other people are like the **hard soil on a path**. God's Word is like seed that falls on the path, but nothing grows there. These people reject the message about Jesus. They refuse to enter into his kingdom.

**good soil**

See 33:09.

**hard soil on a path**

See 33:06.

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**49:07**

Jesus taught that God loves sinners very much. He wants to forgive them and to make them his children.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**49:08**

Jesus also told us that God hates sin. Because **Adam and Eve sinned**, all of their descendants also sin. Every person in the world sins and is far from God. Everyone is an enemy of God.

**Adam and Eve sinned**

See 02:05.

---

**49:09**

But God loved everyone in the world in this way: he **gave his only Son** so that God will not punish those who believe in Jesus. Instead, believers will live with him forever.

**gave his only Son**

That is, he offered his only Son to the world as a sacrifice for sins.

---

**49:10**

You deserve to die because you have sinned. It would be right for God to punish you, but **Jesus took the punishment for sin in our place**. God punished Jesus by **killing him on a cross**.

**Jesus took the punishment for sin in our place**

Jesus willingly took the place of sinners and received the punishment that they deserved.

**killing him on a cross**

See 42:02.

---

**49:11**

Jesus never sinned. He accepted the punishment for sin, including the worst possible death. In this way, he was the perfect sacrifice to **take away** your sins and the sins of every person in the world. Jesus sacrificed himself to God, so God will forgive any sin, even terrible sins, of the people who believe in Jesus.

**take away**

The sacrifice of Jesus causes God to look at our sin as if it never existed.

---



**49:12**

Even if you do many very good things, this will not make God save you. There is nothing you can do on your own to become friends with him. Instead, you should believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that he died on the cross instead of you, and that God raised him to life again. If you believe this, God will forgive you for having sinned.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**49:13**

God will save everyone who believes in Jesus and accepts him as their Master. But he will not save those who do not believe in him. It does not matter if you are rich or poor, man or woman, old or young, or where you live. God loves you and wants you to believe in Jesus so he can be a friend to you.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**49:14**

Jesus is calling you **to believe in him** and **to be baptized**. Do you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the only Son of God? Do you believe that you are a sinner and that you deserve God's punishment for your sin? Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross to take away your sins?

**to believe in him**

That means to believe that he is God and to trust in him to save you.

**to be baptized**

Jesus wants people to be baptized in order to show others that they have believed in him.

---

**49:15**

If you believe in Jesus and confess what he has done for you, you are a follower of Jesus! Satan no longer rules you in his **kingdom of darkness**. God is now ruling over you in his **kingdom of light**. **God has enabled you to no longer sin as you used to do**. He has given you a new, right way of living.

**kingdom of darkness**

**Darkness** is used here to refer to sin and everything that is evil.

**kingdom of light**

**Light** here refers to God's holiness and goodness. The Bible often compares evil to darkness, and goodness to light.

**God has enabled you to no longer sin as you used to do.**

Followers of Jesus still sin sometimes. But because the Holy Spirit lives in them, they can now resist sinning. Therefore, they do not sin easily or often, like they did before God saved them.

---

**49:16**

If you are a follower of Jesus, God has forgiven your sins because of what Jesus did. Now, God considers you to be a close friend instead of an enemy.

(No study notes for this frame)

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**49:17**

If you are a friend of God and a servant of Jesus the Master, you will want to obey what Jesus teaches you. Even though you are a follower of Jesus, Satan will still tempt you to sin. But God always does what he says he will do. He says that if you **confess your sins**, he will forgive you. **He will give you strength to fight against sin.**

**confess your sins**

This could mean 'admit to God what you have done wrong.'

**He will give you strength to fight against sin**

God will give you spiritual strength to refuse to sin.

---

**49:18**

God tells you to pray and to study his word. He also tells you to worship him together with other followers of Jesus. You must also tell other people what he has done for you. If you do all these things, you will become a strong friend of his.

(No study notes for this frame)

## 50. Jesus Returns

A Bible story from: Matthew 13:24-42; 22:13; 24:14; 28:18; John 4:35; 15:20; 16:33; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; James 1:12; Revelation 2:10; 20:10; 21-22

### 50:01

For almost 2,000 years, more and more people around the world have been hearing the good news about Jesus the Messiah. **The Church has been growing.** Jesus promised he would return **at the end of the world.** Though he has not yet come back, he will keep his promise.

#### The Church has been growing

That is, the number of people who have believed in Jesus has been increasing.

#### at the end of the world

This refers to the final days of this world.

### 50:02

As we wait for Jesus to return, God wants us to live in a way that is holy and that honors him. He also wants us to tell others about his kingdom. When Jesus was living on earth, he said, "My disciples will preach the good news about the kingdom of God to people everywhere in the world, and then the end will come."

(No study notes for this frame)

### 50:03

Many people groups still have not heard about Jesus. Before he returned to heaven, Jesus told his followers to proclaim the good news to people who have never heard it. He said, "Go and **make disciples** in all people groups!" and "**The fields are ripe for harvest!**"

#### make disciples

This has the meaning 'help people to become my disciples.'

#### The fields are ripe for harvest

That is, people in many places are ready to be gathered and brought to God like crops that are ripe in fields and ready to be gathered.

#### The fields

In this expression, **The fields** represents the people in the world.

#### ripe

**Ripe** here represents being ready to believe in Jesus.

**harvest**

**Harvest** here represents the work of bringing people to God by teaching them about Jesus.

---

**50:04**

Jesus also said, "A man's servant is not greater than his master. The important people **in this world** have hated me, and they will also torture you and kill you because of me. In this world you will suffer, but be strong, because I have defeated Satan, the one who rules this world. If you **remain faithful to me to the end**, then God **will save you!**"

**in this world**

This could mean 'in this lifetime.'

**remain faithful to me**

This could mean 'Keep obeying me.'

**to the end**

This could mean 'to the end of your life.'

**will save you**

This refers to spiritual salvation rather than physical deliverance from harm. It has already been stated that many believers will be killed or tortured.

---

**50:05**

Jesus told his disciples a story to explain what will happen to people when the world ends. He said, "A man planted **good seed** in his field. While he was sleeping, his enemy came and planted **weed seeds** among the **wheat seeds**, and then he went away."

**good seed**

This seed was wheat grain.

**weed seeds**

The weed seeds that were planted would grow up as tall grass but could not be eaten. They were useless.

**wheat seeds**

Wheat is a kind of grain that grows like a tall grass. It has seeds that people use for food.

---

**50:06**

“When the plants sprouted, the servants of the man said, ‘Master, you planted good seed in that field. So why are there weeds in it?’ The man answered, ‘Only my enemies would want to plant them. It is one of my enemies who did this.’”

(No study notes for this frame)

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**50:07**

“The servants responded to their master, ‘Should we pull out the weeds?’ The master said, ‘No. If you do that, **you will pull out some of the wheat as well**. Wait until the harvest. Then gather the weeds into piles so you can burn them. But bring the wheat into my **barn**.’”

**you will pull out some of the wheat as well**

It would be too difficult to distinguish young wheat from the weeds, and to pull the weeds without uprooting the wheat.

**barn**

This refers to the building where the harvested wheat grain was saved and stored.

---

**50:08**

The disciples did not understand the meaning of the story, so they asked Jesus to explain it to them. Jesus said, “The man who planted the good seed represents the Messiah. The field represents the world. The good seed represents **the people of God’s kingdom**.’”

**the people of God’s kingdom**

This refers to the people whom God has chosen to live in his kingdom.

---

**50:09**

“The weeds represent the people **who belong to the devil, the evil one**. The man’s enemy, the one who planted the weeds, represents the devil. The harvest represents the end of the world, and **the harvesters** represent God’s angels.”

**who belong to the devil**

This refers to the people who are ruled by the devil.

**the devil**

The devil is also called “Satan.”

**the evil one**

This is another title for Satan. It describes his character.

**the harvesters**

This refers to the men who harvest the ripe grain.

---

**50:10**

“When the world ends, the angels will gather together all the people **who belong to the devil**. The angels will throw them into a very hot fire. There those people will cry and grind their teeth in terrible suffering. But **the people who are righteous**, who have followed Jesus, will **shine like the sun** in the kingdom of God their Father.”

**who belong to the devil**

This refers to those who do not believe in Jesus, but follow the evil ways of the devil.

**the people who are righteous**

This refers to the people who belong to the Messiah (See: 50:08).

**shine like the sun**

This means everyone in heaven will see that they are good.

---

**50:11**

Jesus also said that he would return to earth just before the world ends. He will come back the same way that he left. That is, **he will have a real body**, and he **will come on the clouds in the sky**. When Jesus returns, every follower of Jesus who has died will rise from the dead and **meet him in the sky**.

**he will have a real body**

Jesus will still have his physical body, but it will be different than the body he had while he was on earth. He will never be able to die again.

**will come on the clouds in the sky**

The clouds in the sky will surround Jesus as he comes.

**meet him in the sky**

Those who believe in Jesus will go up to be near Jesus while he is in the sky.

---

**50:12**

Then the followers of Jesus who are **still alive** will rise up into the sky and join with the other followers of Jesus who rose from the dead. They will all be with Jesus there. After that, Jesus will live with his people. They will have complete peace forever as they live together.

**still alive**

This refers to followers of Jesus who will still be alive when he returns to earth.

---

**50:13**

Jesus promised to give **a crown** to everyone who believes in him. They will rule with God over everything forever. They will have perfect peace.

**a crown**

This crown represents our reward for believing in Jesus and serving him in this life.

---

**50:14**

But God will judge everyone who does not believe in Jesus. He will throw them into **hell**. There they will **weep and grind their teeth**, and they will suffer forever. A fire that never goes out will **continually burn them**, and worms will never stop eating them.

**hell**

**Hell** is the place where God will punish forever all the people who do not believe in Jesus.

**weep and grind their teeth**

This is a symbol of their intense suffering (See: 50:10).

**continually burn them**

The fire will never completely destroy them. They will continue to suffer forever.

---

**50:15**

When Jesus returns, he will completely destroy Satan and **his kingdom**. He will throw Satan into hell. Satan will burn there forever, along with everyone who chose to follow him rather than to obey God.

**his kingdom**

This refers to all the evil things Satan does and the evil people he controls.

---

**50:16**

Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought sin into this world, **God cursed it** and decided to destroy it. But some day God will create **a new heaven** and **a new earth** that will be perfect.

**God cursed it**

See 02:11.

**a new heaven**

This refers to a new set of stars and everything else in the sky.

**a new earth**

This current earth on which we live will be replaced by a new and improved one.

---

**50:17**

Jesus and his people will live on the new earth, and he will reign forever over everything. He will **wipe away every tear** from people's eyes. No one will suffer or be sad any longer. They will not cry. **They will not be sick or die**. And there will be nothing evil there. Jesus will rule his kingdom justly and with peace. He will be with his people forever.

**wipe away every tear**

This means that Jesus will cause his people to never be sad again.

**They will not be sick or die**

The people in the new earth will no longer suffer the effects of the curse that Adam and Eve brought upon the people of this earth.



# Contributors

## **unfoldingWord® Open Bible Stories Study Notes Contributors**

Larry Sallee, Th.M Dallas Theological Seminary, D.Min. Columbia Biblical Seminary  
Perry Oakes, PhD in Old Testament, MA in Linguistics  
Door43 World Missions Community

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