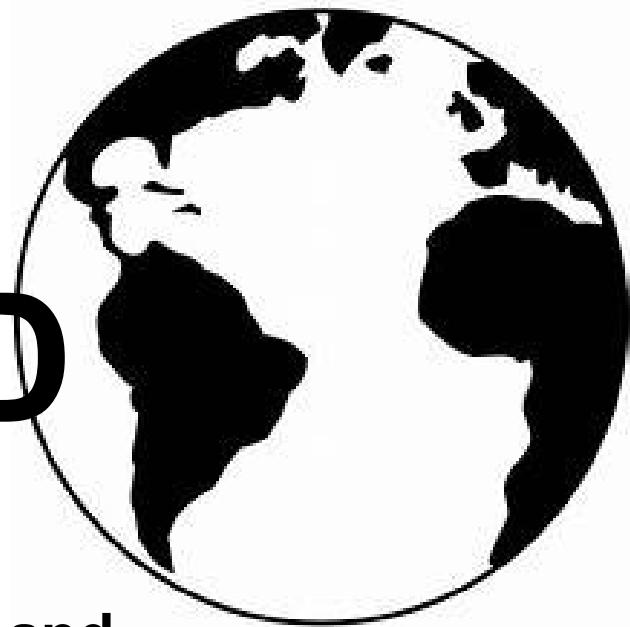


The Story

of

GOD



and

Man

**Narrations from God's Word
for building a solid foundation of faith**

by
Steve and Carol Lyons

These narrations were prepared by: Steve and Carol Lyons
PO Box 63367, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania 2009

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Leadership, Rockville, Virginia

DEDICATION

The actual effectiveness of a believer's ministry is best measured by its impact on building up the body of Christ and its contribution to the advancement of His kingdom to the ends of the earth. By these standards, we owe Carol Lyons (who went to join the Lord she loved and served in February 2025), a debt of gratitude that only He can fully repay.

Even in the title of this book, The Story of God and Man: Narrations of God's Word to Build a Solid Foundation of Faith, we see her heart's desire for discipleship of believers and evangelism of the lost. That heartbeat is even more evident in her prayer that this little book will help believers craft and tell the life-changing story of God and man in desperate need of the Savior.

The stories were first compiled by Carol in the late 1990s, when she was serving alongside her husband, Steve, who taught them in Tanzania, East Africa. They were originally written in Swahili and were later translated into English, and then French, for an even greater global impact. Every day, thousands of people hear these stories for the first time in India, Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, and, yes, even the United States. We are delighted to know that the harvest of her work has only just begun!

Carol's faithful ministry continues to be both an example and a challenge to all believers. May we never tire of doing well, knowing that we, too, will reap in due time, if we do not faint (Galatians 6:9).

R. Moore, October 2025

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Why Chronological Narration?

You hold a book in your hands, white pages with black marks on them. As you read this book, you will observe all these little marks and understand what they symbolize, mentally translating them into the sense that I wanted to convey to you when I wrote them. Hopefully, this process will bring new ideas to your own mind, which you will process and transfer to others. And so goes the literate transfer of knowledge that has prevailed for years in the Western world.

But the latter part of the twentieth century brought changes to our world. The process of oral knowledge transfer that has been dominant in other parts of the world is becoming more prevalent in the Western world. Nearly 70% of the world's population – and 50% of the population of the United States – now want an unwritten approach to learning and decision-making! We who love books, lines and analyses, can receive this news with the sadness of losing a good friend. But don't despair! There are definite advantages to oral learning! Let me tell you about it.

First of all, oral learners revel in the narration. They enter the story and see, hear and feel vicariously what the characters in the story are going through. In doing so, history becomes a part of their history, that is, of their lives and the way they look at the world. Narration lends itself particularly well to the communication of the Word of God, nearly 75% of which is in narrative form.

Second, oral storytelling allows a person to come into contact with the Scriptures both intellectually and in the heart--emotions. As the Holy Spirit moves in the mind and heart, the listener's understanding of himself and the world around him begins to change, and he begins to adopt a biblical worldview. This is what the apostle Paul was referring to when he said: "Be no longer conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Telling God's plan of redemption in the form of a narrative brings deep understanding. By its very nature, storytelling is built around time, a beginning and an end. It is of course no coincidence that God's Word begins with: "In the beginning..." and ends with "... They will reign forever and ever!" Why do we usually begin with the New Testament in our gospel presentations, which is two-thirds of the way through history? The fundamental doctrines of God, sin, and redemption are all found in the first book of the Bible. So, why not start the story there, giving the listener a complete picture? We have found that those who come to Christ by hearing the chronological accounts have much less struggle with inclusion in their Christian walk because their understanding of the whole framework of God's plan is much more complete.

And there are many other advantages to oral communication:

- *Everyone* Enjoy a good story!
- Stories are easy to remember!
- Stories are easy to convey!

You may think that this is an unnecessarily long way to tell people about Jesus. On the contrary! Time is not your adversary, but your friend! First of all, the time spent telling a chain of connected stories builds wonderful relationships between you and your listeners.

And second, it gives the listener enough time to process and undergo a change in worldview, and to fully understand their need for Jesus.

I pray that this book will help you create and tell the story of what changes life! – Carol Lyons

The Basics of Scripture Storytelling How to Use This Book

An oral narration is different from a written narration! This book contains short written versions of the stories you are going to tell. They have been written to include the main points that you will want to include in your narration. But when you tell them, it is up to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to make them "alive". Don't add to what God has given us in His Word; but on the other hand, tell it in a way that allows your listeners to see, taste, and feel what is happening in the history of God and man. To that end, here's how to best use this book:

1. Pray and depend on the Holy Spirit. This method of telling the Gospel is not a "silver bullet"! The Holy Spirit is the only one who changes people's hearts, so ask Him to open doors for you to share the gospel with your friends and family. Ask Him to work in their hearts as they listen to you. The Holy Spirit is also the One who allows God's children to tell others about Jesus, so ask God to give you the ability to tell well.

2. Diligently prepare each narrative by following these steps:

Step #1: Read the theme of the narration.

Step #2: Some narrations will refer you to help guide you in their preparation. Read them! Sometimes this includes a suggestion you read in the appendix, which is called "Help in Understanding the Old Testament." This information is not something you will tell those you are telling to, but it is included to give you a fuller understanding of the Old Testament regarding such things as the Savior, salvation, sacrifices, the nation of Israel, and the Law of Moses.

Step #3: *This is the most important part of your preparation.* Read the passage from your Bible **three or four times, until you have grasped the names, the events, and the course of the story. The temptation will be to simply read the short story that is written in this book, but don't! You need to plan ahead to give yourself enough time to read these passages of Scripture so that you can truly grasp the story.**

Step #4: Read the short version of the narration written in this book. *Again, don't use this as a substitute for reading Scripture passages!* This short version will help you get a main idea of the story as it should be told for evangelistic purposes, but there are many more details in Scripture that will make your narration much more interesting.

Step #5: After you've thoroughly read the narrative, ask yourself the following four questions:

- What attributes (characteristics) of God do I see in this narration?
- What do I see of God's great plan for man and the world in this narration?
- What do I see of Satan in this narration?
- What do I see of the man in this narration?

During your narrative, you will emphasize those you have seen in this narration. Here's a list of attributes and characteristics you'll find along these stories.

About God:

- God is almighty.
- God is above all and governs all.
- God is eternal, both past and future.
- God knows everything.
- God is spirit.
- God is everywhere at once.
- God does not depend on anything. It is autonomous.
- God does not change. He's always the same.
- God is truth. He fulfilled all his promises.
- God is love. He is full of mercy and grace.
- God is holy and just. He cannot tolerate sin. He demands death as payment for sin.
- God communicates with man.

About the state of man:

- Man is a sinner and cannot save himself. He needs a Savior.
- Man can only come to God in the way God chooses.
- Man must have faith to please God and be saved from his sin.

About God's great plan for man and the world:

- Since the beginning of the world, God wanted to fill it with men who would reflect His glory and obey Him.

About Satan:

- Satan opposes God and his will.
- Satan is a liar and a murderer. Its purpose is to deceive and bring death.

About Jesus (in the New Testament):

- Jesus is God. While you will allow your listeners to draw their own conclusions about this, you will show that Jesus has the same attributes as God the Father and claims to be God.
- Jesus is man.
- Jesus is almighty.
- Jesus is holy and righteous.
- Jesus is the only Savior.

In each narration, you will see many of God's attributes. Decide how you're going to highlight them in your storytelling.

Step #6: If you have the freedom to use an open-ended Bible while you are narrating, choose one or two short verses from the scripture passage that can be read as part of your story. Put a pencil or pen mark next to the verse so that your eyes can easily spot

it in your Bible. Many Bibles have ribbon bookmarks so you can easily find your place when you need to read these verses.

For example, if you are telling about Noah, you will explain how God told Noah to build the ark, giving all the details of the size, type of wood, etc. And then you can say, "And do you know how Noah reacted?" — Then look at your Bible and read Genesis 6:22 (already with a little mark next to it so you can easily find it): "*Noah did everything as God commanded him.*"

When you read a verse this way, don't say, "*In Genesis 6:22, but just say, 'We read that...'* *Giving* such references interrupts the story. Just read the words as part of your storytelling. Reading short sentences like this directly from the Bible helps your listener understand that what you are saying to them is really from God's Word.

Step #7: As part of your preparation, look at the questions at the end of each narration. Make sure to cover all of this information in your storytelling so that your listeners are able to answer the questions correctly.

Step #8: If you need a small piece of paper with notes to keep you on track as you tell, write down only the main points of your story. If you plan to read a verse during your narration, mark it in pencil and use a bookmark so you can easily turn to it.

A little parenthesis for those who are preparing narrations in a foreign language: we have found that it is better to tell using the foreign vocabulary that is already "yours", without worrying about a written list of new foreign words. It may take a few more words to say what you're trying to convey, but in the long run, your speech will feel more natural if you use the words you're comfortable with. If you are doing the narration in a foreign language, we suggest that you write all the notes *in your native language* so that you can capture them at a glance. If you have to stop to decipher your foreign language notes, it will interrupt the flow of the story. If there are any absolutely necessary foreign words that you are afraid of forgetting, you can write them down on the same paper as your notes.

Step #9: Rehearse the narration at home. Look for another person, a child or an adult, to listen to your narration. Even doing it alone, but out loud, will be beneficial.

3. Now that you've prepared in the best way possible, tell the story! Tell the story in an accurate and exciting way, emphasizing (not teaching or preaching!) the things that need to be emphasized so that your listener understands both the story itself and what you are telling them through the story.

4. After you have narrated, ask the written questions (which are??) in this book at the end of each narration. This will not only help you know if they've understood the narration, but will also open up opportunities for you to talk more about what they're learning. You can copy the questions and answers to a separate piece of paper, or simply read the questions directly from this book.

5. After you've asked your listeners the questions, see if they have any questions.

- If their questions are about the narrative you just gave, answer them.

- If their questions are answered in a future story, tell them, "That's a good question! Will you keep this question in mind, please, as it will be answered in a later narration. Don't go too far in your story!"
- If you don't know the answer to a question, tell them that you'll do some research and find the correct answer. Ask this question of someone else who is familiar with God's Word, and then be sure to give the answer to the person.

Some other helpful suggestions

- If we talk about the Bible, it is useful to call it "the Word of God". Many other religions have their own holy book. When we talk about the "Word of God" instead of calling it "the Bible," it prevents them from comparing "their book" to "our book."
- If it is culturally appropriate and acceptable, we suggest that you hold a Bible open as you recount. 1) This allows you to easily read a few verses straight from the text as part of your storytelling. 2) This gives you a place to keep a little piece of paper with your basic points written on it. 3) It is a visual reminder to your listeners that what you are telling comes from God's Word.
- We insist, do not use this instructional book during the narration!! We want your listeners to know that the things you say are taken from the Word of God. Having that book open, or referencing it while you're narrating, will be confusing for them.
- Although God's Word is made up of many "books" and has been written by many authors, it is **really a single story!** It is the story of God reaching out to humanity to redeem them from their sinful condition.

There are two points we need to make about this: first, just tell the story! While you may emphasize some things by the way you tell the story, or even make occasional editorial comments (like, "God is so merciful!"), don't stop your story to make a point or to teach, and then go back to the rest of the story. Ban words like, "It shows us that" or "From this, we see that" from your narrator vocabulary!

Think of your story as a bowl that contains meaning. If you stop to teach, you have just "broken your bowl." Your listeners may be able to pick up the threads of your story when you come back to it, but they won't be able to repeat it to others because they won't be able to reproduce what you said. Keep your "bowl" intact by telling the whole story. In the end, you can make the points you want them to make by asking questions and discussing.

Second, the stories you will tell are not just a collection of unrelated stories, but form the story of God's relationship with man, from the creation of the world to the Savior's ascension. It's important that you tell it chronologically, with each consecutive story being "attached" to the previous one so that your listeners understand it as a single story.

Therefore, as you narrate, you will find yourself starting the narrative by saying, "After this" or "So what" or "Many years later" or "Some time after this."

In the same way, you should ask a question or make a comment at the end of each narration that will make listeners wonder what will happen next, and make them want to know more.

- We suggest that you do not pray aloud in the presence of your listeners, either before or after the narration. Also, do everything you can to eliminate "religious terminology" ("Praise the Lord!", "Amen", etc.) from your narratives. People are quick to imitate religious actions and speeches, and often think that this is what makes a person acceptable to God. Of course, as we have said, as you prepare and even tell, you will silently call on the Lord to help you and bring understanding to your listeners.
- Do not discuss religion or other teachings with your listeners. Don't compare their beliefs with yours. Just tell the story of God and man from God's Word. If they insist on a point in their "holy book," acknowledge it by saying, "That's all right; I'm just telling you what the Word of God says."
- The first two lessons in this book are technically not narratives. So let your listeners know that the story part of God's Word is right in front of you. You need to lay the groundwork for storytelling through these two opening lessons:
 1. **The introduction** will help them understand why we call it God's Word, how He gave it to men, what it is for, and how we know we can trust Him, and so on. There is a story included in this lesson that helps explain why we can trust God's Word. Make this introduction as interesting as possible.
 2. **Narrative #1** is about the attributes of God as seen in creation. This one also has no real narrative. Again, let your listeners know that this is from God's Word, and that this is an introduction and a fundamental nature.

1 Introduction: The Word of God

The topic of storytelling: why we can believe in God's Word.

Help in the preparation of this story:

1. In this introduction, we have included many biblical references to help you, the narrator. At the end of each paragraph, you will find the references to the verses to which reference is made. Don't tell your listeners where all this information is in God's Word, because that will distract you. For example, don't say, "*In Deuteronomy chapter eighteen and verse eighteen, we read that ...*" Instead, just say, "*The Word of God says that...*" *If they ask for a reference later, don't hesitate to tell them! Don't divide things with references.*
2. The main points you need to include are 1) the capitalized headings that are underlined below, and 2) each dot under that heading (bulleted). You may want to write them down on a small piece of paper.

The Narrative in Brief: In the days and weeks ahead, I will share God's Word with you. Before I begin these narratives, I want to tell you about this book. Where does it come from? Can we trust him? Let me tell you about this book which is the Word of God.

How did God give us His Word? God has given us His Word in different ways.

- First, **God spoke directly to people**. It seems that Adam and Eve heard God speak audibly. Moses heard God's voice and wrote down what God had said. All the people that Moses led heard God speak the 10 commandments. These people heard God's very words—those words had all authority because they were the words of God Himself.
- **God also spoke to people through dreams and visions** as He did to Jacob and Abraham.
- **He sent angels** to bring messages to the people, and these are recorded in God's Word.
- One of the main ways God gave us His Word was through **people who were called prophets**. God said, "I will put my words in his mouth, and he will speak to them whatever I command him." God said the same thing to the prophet Jeremiah. He said to him, "I have put my words in your mouth."² Anyone who refused to hear God's word from the prophets was held accountable by God. Anyone who claimed to speak in the name of God when he was not really so, was to be severely punished.¹ These words had the authority of God. (*Deuteronomy 18:18-20, Jeremiah 1:7-9*)

God commanded that His Word be put in writing:

- The Ten Commandments were actually written on stone by the finger of God.
- Moses wrote God's words in what is known as "The Law"
- and Joshua added God's words to the book that Moses had written.
- Isaiah was told, "Go and write it down on a tablet, and write it down in a book."
- And it was said to Jeremiah, "Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you."

The prophets spoke and wrote the things that God told them. (Exodus 31:18; Deuteronomy 31:9-12; Joshua 24:26; Isaiah 30:8; Jeremiah 30:2)

Listen to words that were written by some of the men who wrote God's Word. ***Note to narrator:*** *Have these verses marked in your Bible so that you can read them directly from God's Word.*

- "You will do well to heed the word of the prophets." 2 Peter 1:19
- "The words that the prophets wrote are not a matter of their own interpretation." 2 Peter 1:20
- "The Word of God was not born of the will of man, but it spoke of God, carried away by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21
- "Scripture is inspired by God." 2 Timothy 3:16a

It's a bit like a secretary who writes down what her boss tells her. She can't take her boss's letterhead and write her own letter on it! She is only allowed to write what he tells her. And even though she wrote it, those words are her boss's words, not hers. God also gave His word to His chosen people, and they wrote what He wanted them to write.

How was it written?

- A very long time ago, there was no paper like the one we use today. When God's Word was written, writers used **long pieces of skin, or papyri, called scrolls**. These were rolled up at each end, and a person could read it by unrolling one side while wrapping the part in the other hand.
- The Word of God was **written over a period of 1600 years, by more than 40 authors** from various professions: shepherds, kings, fishermen, an army general, a doctor, teachers, and many other professions.
- God's Word was **written in three languages**: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, but it forms a single story from beginning to end.

Three reasons why we know it's true :

1. **God's Word has been copied with great care.** Men called "scribes" counted all the letters and divided them by 2, in order to know the exact letter in the middle of the document. When they made a copy, if the middle or end number of the new document was different from the original, they destroyed the copy and started over.
2. **God's Word has remained the same from the time it was written.** Some people say that God's Word has been changed, but let me tell you a story that assures us that it hasn't. In 1947, a young Arab shepherd was looking for a lost goat. He threw a stone into a cave on a cliff on the west side of the Dead Sea. To his surprise, he heard the sound of broken pottery. He entered the cave and found large jars filled with leather rolls. He collected some and sold them at the market. They were purchased by the archbishop of a monastery in Jerusalem and by a professor at the Hebrew University. They located the young shepherd who took them to the cave. They found many scrolls dating from 100 to 200 BC.

The scrolls, known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, are made up of parts of all the books of the Old Testament, except Esther, and they verify that the most recent manuscripts we have today are the same as those of ancient times. So when people say that God's Word has been changed, I ask, "When was it changed?" No one has an answer, because the very old manuscripts are the same as the newer manuscripts that were used to translate God's Word today.

3. In addition to this, **many prophecies – statements about what would happen in the future – were written by the prophets while God was speaking to them.** The fact that hundreds of them have come true is further proof that God's Word can be considered true. Events were foretold by God's prophets hundreds of years before they were fulfilled. For example, there are more than 300 prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah. All of this was accomplished in one person.

***Note to narrator:** If your listeners belong to religious groups that do not accept Jesus as the Messiah, do not mention his name at this point. Just say that all of these prophecies were fulfilled in one person.*

What is the purpose of Scripture?

God's Word tells us that it is *useful for teaching, convicting, correcting, and instructing in righteousness, that the man of God is adequate, perfectly trained for every good work.*¹ It is a holy book, telling us the things we all need to know in order to live as God would have us live. It's very convenient for all of us. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

How the Word of God is established:

- **The Word of God is divided between the Old and New Testaments.** This does not mean that one is more important than the other. It simply means that the Old Testament tells us about what God did before the promised Savior came, and the New Testament tells us about what God did after the promised Savior came.
- **The Old and New Testaments are composed of 66 books.** *Show them the index of a Bible.*
- **These books are divided into chapters and verses.** Chapters are indicated by large numbers, and verses are indicated by small numbers. The chapters and verses were not put in by the authors, but were added later for our benefit, to help us locate a passage more easily.

The Word of God carries all authority because of who God is. We can trust him completely. In the days to come, I will tell you the story of God and man from the Word of God. We will not talk about religion, but only about what is written in this book, starting with the things that happened before the world began!

After you have narrated, ask these questions:

1. What kind of people did God use to write His Word? -- *Shepherds, kings, fishermen, an army general, a doctor, and many other professions.*
2. Did these people have the right to write whatever they wanted to write? -- *No, they had to write what God told them to write. He "inspired" them to write His Word.*
3. What do we call men who have received the words of God, and then spoken and written them? -- *They are called prophets.*
4. In how many languages was God's Word originally written? -- *Three: Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic.*
5. What are the reasons that help us know that we can trust that God's Word is true? -- *We know that God's Word is trustworthy because of: a) The careful way in which it has been copied over the years. b) The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls which are very old and resemble the scrolls we have been using for hundreds of years. c) Hundreds of prophecies made by the prophets have been fulfilled.*

2 The Beginning

Subject: The Character of God

Scripture: Genesis 1:1 -- "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Help prepare this narrative: *There is no concrete narration for this lesson. The purpose of this lesson is for your listeners to begin to understand the attributes of God and how He revealed Himself through creation. God has many other attributes, but we want your listeners to understand the following seven attributes of God found in the first verse of God's Word:*

1. *God is almighty.*

2. *God is eternal, past, present and future.*
3. *God is one. He is the one and only true God. There's no one like Him.*
4. *God knows everything.*
5. *God is spirit.*
6. *God is everywhere at once.*
7. *God does not depend on anything. It is autonomous.*

The narrative in a nutshell: To help you understand something I'm going to tell you today, I'm going to start with an example. Let's say that after meeting you for the first time, I invite you to my home for a visit. You enter the house, I welcome you, and then I serve you the juice. You look around and you are amazed by what you see. The layout of the house is perfect. The finish is superb. The woodwork is amazing. You ask me: "Who built this house?" Let's say I answer, "I built this house myself with a team of 14 men." What does that tell you about me? What can you understand about me from what I told you in this story?

Narrator: *Let your listeners respond. They should be able to understand the following things about you from your story:*

1. *You are friendly and hospitable.*
2. *You have a lot of money.*
3. *You know how to build.*
4. *You appreciate beautiful things.*
5. *You can work well with other people.*
6. *You finish projects, rather than leaving them half-finished.*

Now, in the same way that you have observed my character from my history, what do you observe about the attributes and character of God from these words which are the very first sentence of God's Word: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Narrator: *Let them answer for themselves! If they can't answer, you may need to help them by asking a few questions. You can write and ask the following questions.*

1. Read Genesis 1:1 and ask them:
 - Do we have the ability and power to create something out of nothing? (*No.*)
 - Who has the ability and power to create the heavens and the earth? (*Only God does.*)
 - What is the power of God? (*God has all power.*)

If they answer correctly, they have discovered the first attribute of God, that is: **God is almighty.**

2. Read Genesis 1:1 again, and ask them: When it says, "In the beginning God..." What does this show us about God? (*This shows us that God was already there before the beginning of the heavens and the earth.*)

If they answer correctly, declare that **God is eternal, at once past, present, and future.** Review the first attribute: **God is almighty.**

3. Read Genesis 1:1 again and ask them:

- Apart from God, who else was there before the beginning? (*There was no one else before the beginning. Only God!*)
- If the eternal God was the only one who existed before everything else was created, what does that tell us about all that exists? (*This tells us that everything else was created by God.*)
- What does this tell us about God in relation to all of creation (people, spirits, and things) – even those who claim to be gods? (*The fact that only God existed eternally before everything else existed means that He is the one and only God. The person/spirit/things created cannot be equal to or superior to the one who created them.*)

If they answer correctly, say that **God is one. He is the one and only true God. There's no one like Him.**

4. Read Genesis 1:1 again, and ask them: Who taught God to create the heavens and the earth? *No one taught it. There was no one to teach him! He just knew how to do it.*

If they answer correctly, they have discovered the third attribute of God. Say it out loud: **God knows everything.** Repeat attributes numbers 1, 2, and 3 as well:

God is almighty. God is eternal, past, present and future. And if God is the one true God, there is no one like Him.

5. Ask them: If God existed before the earth and dust, and before the whole world existed, where was He when He created them? (*There was no room for Him. Then God doesn't have to stand in a place.*)
- Does God have a body to be able to stand on earth? (*God has no body. He is spirit.*)
- If they answer correctly, say that **God is spirit** and **God is everywhere at once.**
- Then review the other attributes they've already discovered:
- God is almighty.
 God is eternal, both past, present and future.
 God is the only true God. There's no one like Him.
 God knows everything.
 God is spirit.
 God is everywhere at the same time.
6. Read Genesis 1:1 again and ask yourself:
- What do we need for life? (*We need sun, food, water, air, etc.*)
 - God existed before all these things existed. What does God need to live? (*God does not depend on anything for life.*) If they answer correctly, declare that **God is not dependent on anything. It is autonomous.** Then review all the attributes they discovered: God is almighty. God is eternal, past, present and future. God is the only true God. There's no one like Him. God knows everything. God is spirit. God is everywhere at once. God does not depend on anything. It is autonomous.

After you have narrated, ask these questions:

1. Who was before the beginning? (*God.*)
2. What does this show us about God? (*This shows us that God has existed for all of the past eternity, and that He will be for all future eternity.*)
3. Who created every thing on earth? (*God.*)

4. What does this tell us about its power? (*God is almighty.*)
5. If God is all-powerful and created everything on earth, who has the right to rule over everything on this earth? (*Only God.*)
6. Can you recite the seven attributes of God that we have seen today? (*God is almighty. God is eternal, past, present and future. God is the only true God. There's no one like Him. "God knows everything. God is spirit. God is everywhere at once. God does not depend on anything. It is autonomous.*)

A note to the narrator: *If you find that the first lesson went quickly, and if you have prepared the second narrative and have time to tell it, you can do so.*

3 Spiritual Beings

Subject of the narration: God created spiritual beings.

Help in preparing this narrative: *The majority of this lesson is not based on a single passage of Scripture, but on several. In this narration, you will explain the creation of the angels, as well as the rebellion of Satan and evil spirits.*

Scripture: Prepare for this lesson by reading the following verses three or four times. As you read, write down what these verses say about angels and Satan.

1. On the creation and existence of angelic beings: Job 38:4-7 Colossians 1:16.
2. About Satan and his demons: Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12b-17; Jude 6; 2 Corinthians 11:14; John 8:44; Revelation 20:10-15; Romans 8:37-39.
3. About God's angels: Hebrews 1:6,7,14; Romans 8:37-39; Revelation 5:11-12, 7:11-12, 12:7-9.
4. Read also 2 Kings 6:8-17.

The narrative in brief: Before God created the world, He created all the angels. He created them as spiritual beings, without bodies, but created as perfect, powerful, and wise beings. God has created so many that they cannot be counted. They have lived in heaven where they have served God. God has given some of them positions of leadership over others. We are given the names of three of these angel leaders: Gabriel, Michael, and the Morning Star, son of the Dawn. When all the angels saw Almighty God creating the world, they rejoiced and glorified God.

As I have said, one of the chief angels was called the Morning Star, son of the Dawn. (Some people also call him Lucifer.) God gave him a high position of leadership among the angels, but even so, this angel became jealous of God's power and authority. He became proud because of his beauty and goodness. In his heart he said, "I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will make myself like the Most High God." He rebelled against God, and many other angels followed him in his rebellion.

God knew exactly what this angel was thinking and planning. He knew all about the other spirits who followed him in his rebellion. God, who is totally holy, cannot tolerate sin. So, he judged this angel and all those who followed him by removing them from their places of direction and service, and driving them out of heaven. God has prepared the lake of fire as the place of future eternal judgment for these spirits.

Today, the angel who led the rebellion against Almighty God is called "Satan" or "The Evil One" or "the devil." The angels who followed him are called "evil spirits." Satan and his evil spirits hate God and do everything they can to oppose God's plan. They no longer live in heaven.

The angelic spirits who *have not* followed Satan are far more numerous than those who have rebelled against God. From their creation until today, they worship and glorify God, and serve Him joyfully in many ways. Because they are spiritual beings, we normally cannot see them. But sometimes God allows them to be seen in a physical form.

Let me tell you about a person who discovered God's angels in an amazing way. God's Word tells us about the king of the nation of Aram who was at war with the nation of Israel. He made various plans to attack this people, but he found that whenever he made a battle plan, the Israelites were warned of what he was going to do. This made the king very angry. He therefore called together all his officers and asked them which of them was betraying his country by telling the enemy about his plans of battle. One of his men spoke up and said, "O king, there is a prophet among the Israelites whose name is Elisha. This prophet warns his king of all your plans. He speaks to his king the same words that you speak in your room!

The king of Aram ordered his men to find the prophet Elisha and kill him. The soldiers returned with the report that the prophet Elisha was living in the city of Dothan, so a large number of Aramaic soldiers with their horses and chariots went to Dothan at night and surrounded the city, ready for an attack the next morning.

Elisha had a servant who got up early the next morning. When he went out, he was terrified to see that the city was surrounded by the enemy army with its horses and chariots. He ran back inside and asked Elisha what they should do.

Elisha said to him, "Do not be afraid. Those who are with us are more numerous than those who are with them." Then Elisha asked God to open the servant's eyes so that he could see what was really there. This is exactly what God did. The servant looked again and saw that the hills that had previously appeared bare were in fact full of horses, flaming chariots, and angelic guards, all around Elisha's house—far more than the enemy king's soldiers—and that they were protecting Elisha from those who wanted to kill him! Because we don't normally see them, we think that God's angels aren't there. But they are there! They always worship and glorify God and act as God's servants in any way He desires. You will hear more about God's angels in the upcoming narrations.

In the same way, Satan and his demons still exist. You might ask yourself, "Is it possible for Satan, God's enemy, to sit quietly?" Or, will we see it more in our future narratives? Come back and see!

After you have narrated, ask these questions:

1. Can you name the various attributes of God's character that we learned in the first lesson? -- *God is almighty. God is eternal. God knows everything. God is spirit. God is everywhere at once. God depends on nothing; It is autonomous.*
2. What attributes of God have you seen in this account? -- *God created all spiritual beings. It shows us that He is all-powerful and knows everything.*
3. What did you learn about Satan's character in this narration? -- *Satan opposes God and His will.*
4. Before God created the earth, who did He create? -- *He created angels, spiritual beings who were created to serve and worship God.*
5. Can a created being be like its Creator, or reign over its Creator? *No. All created creatures are under the dominion of their Creator.*
6. When the angel Morning Star planned to place his throne above the throne of God, was it possible? -- *No, because God is above all creatures He has created. He will never give his authority to another.*
7. When this angel planned his rebellion, did God know? -- *God knew what he was planning and all that he was doing. God knows everything.*
8. When Satan and his followers rebelled against God, what did God do? -- *He removed Satan and all his followers from their position to serve Him in heaven and prepared the lake of fire for them, a place of eternal judgment.*
9. What does this show us about God's authority? -- *It shows us that God is the ruler of all. He rules over Satan and all his evil spirits.*
10. Who has more power, God or Satan? -- *God is the ruler of all. He rules over Satan and all evil spirits.*
11. What about the other spirits, those who have not rebelled against God? What are they doing now? -- *Angels worship and serve God.*

4 The Six Days of Creation

Narrative topic: God created our world in six days.

Help prepare your narrative: *As you share this lesson, illustrate the things God has created by pointing out things that are familiar to your listeners. Explain God's creation so that they understand how amazing the Creator is.*

Scripture: Read Genesis 1:1–25 three or four times.

Narrative in brief: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Here's how it happened: the earth was shapeless and empty. Darkness covered the surface of the waters. God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. He called light "day" and darkness "night." God did all this on the first day.

On the second day, God, by His word alone, separated the waters to be the waters of heaven above and the waters of the earth below the sky. He called the expanse "heaven."

On the third day, God gathered the waters in one place. He called them "the seas". The dry soil He called "earth." Again, God has spoken. He said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation." And it happened! There were seed-bearing plants and trees that produced other plants and trees according to their own kind. God saw that it was good.

On the fourth day, God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to separate day from night, and to mark the time, the seasons, the days, and the years." And it was by His word alone that the sun appeared, and the moon and all the stars. God saw that it was good.

On the fifth day, God said, "Let the waters bring forth living things, and let the birds fly over the earth." This is how He created all the fish and sea creatures, as well as all kinds of birds that flew in the sky. God saw that it was good. He blessed all these creatures and said, "Be fruitful and multiply."

On the sixth day, God said, "Let the earth bring forth living things." And so it was. Cattle and wild animals began to walk and crawl on the land and each produced according to its own kind. And God saw that all this was also good.

God continued in His creative work on this sixth day. But we'll stop there for now. *Everything* that God had created was good, and He was preparing the world for the rest of His creation that day. Do you want to hear what else He has created? Check back for the next narration and we'll continue!

After you have narrated, ask these questions:

1. If a carpenter decides to make a table, he will first need someone to teach him how to make it. Who taught God how to create the heavens and the earth? -- *No one has taught God how to create. God knows everything without being taught.*
2. If a carpenter makes a table, what does he use? -- *He uses boards, plane, saw, screwdriver, screws, etc.*
3. What did God use to create all the things He made? -- *God created by His word*
4. What attributes of God does this show us? -- *It shows us that God is almighty. He knows everything.*
5. Name the things that God created during the six days of creation. -- *Water, light, sky, dry land, sun, moon and stars, plants and trees, fish and birds, and animals.*
6. God created all these things. What does this tell us about God? " *He tells us that God is the one and only, the most important. He is all-powerful; everything comes from Him; God rules over everything.*
7. What did God say about His creation? -- *He said it was good.*
8. If everything God has done was good, what does that say about God's character? -- *He says that God is totally good. There is no evil in Him. He is absolutely holy.*

5 Adam and Eve

Narrative Topic: God Created Adam and Eve

Help in preparing this story: *In this story, you will explain the biblical meaning of "death." The place where you will explain this in your narration is marked with a star ★ in the narration below. It is important for your listeners to know that death affects not only their physical bodies, but also their souls. When God told Adam that if he ate the forbidden fruit, he would die, it involved the following:*

1. The "death" of their relationship with God. God had created them to live in open communion with Himself. But since the first sin, all men have been born separate from God because of their sinful nature. They are God's enemies and in themselves do not have the ability to understand God's things. There is only one answer to this condition, and that is the grace of God as the Holy Spirit works in a person's heart. See Ephesians 2:1–10.
2. Physical death. Since this first sin, the bodies of all men have died, that is, the soul is separated from the body, and the body "returns to dust." Read Hebrews 9:27.
3. The third aspect of "death" is the eternal state of the person. Unless a person has put their faith in Jesus for salvation, they remain under God's condemnation and will be eternally separated from God and punished with eternal death in the lake of fire. **Note:** Do not mention this in the narration yet! God gives eternal life to those who trust in Jesus, eternal life in the joy of his presence. Read John 3:16 and 36.

Scripture: **Link Genesis 1:26 to 2:25 three or four times.**

The Narrative in Brief: In our last account, we heard how God created the heavens and the earth in six days. We have said that there was even more that God created on the sixth day. Here's what happened: God said, "Let us make man in our image." We already know that God has no body. So we know that's not what it means. But man is made in the image of God in the sense that he has an invisible part, a soul and a spirit, with the ability to think, choose and feel emotions. The man was totally good, and without imperfections. It was created to reflect the holiness and glory of God.

God created man from the dust of the earth. He breathed the breath of life into this man, and this creation of God became a living creature. God saw that it was not good for man to be alone. He brought all the animals before man, so that he could give them names. In doing so, man discovered that all other creatures were different from him. None of them were able to help him.

Then God caused a very deep sleep to fall on man. He took a rib from her, and from this rib he created a woman. When the man saw the woman, he was very happy! He said, "This is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh." He saw that God had truly fulfilled his need. These two were called Adam and Eve. They were naked, but were not ashamed to be in this state.

God has blessed them. He said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the soil and subdue it. Rule over fish, birds, and other living things. God gave them seeds, fruits, and vegetation to feed themselves.

God made a beautiful garden and put this couple in it. They didn't care where they would find food, water, or shelter, because God had met all their needs. God had authority over Adam and Eve because He was their Creator and Adam and Eve were His creatures. They lived there in the garden trusting God for everything.

There were two special trees in the garden: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told them that they could eat from any tree in the whole garden, and that they could even eat from the tree of life. But they were not to eat the fruit of the other tree which was called the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God said to them, '*In the day you eat of it, you will die.*'

The punishment for disobeying God was death. ✨ If Adam and Eve ate this fruit, they would die physically, and they would also die spiritually. This meant that their close relationship with God would be broken, and after they died physically, their souls would be separated from God for eternity in the lake of fire that had been prepared by God for Satan and his followers.

During these six days, God completed all of His creation. He saw that everything He had done was **very** good. On the seventh day, God rested from His work of creation. Do you think Adam and Eve continued to live their wonderful lives in the garden, or not? We'll find the answer to this question in the next story!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What did you learn about God's character from this narration?
 - *God created man and woman. This shows that He is all-powerful and knows everything.*
 - *God has given them a beautiful place to live, which shows that He is a God of love.*
 - *God told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God communicates with man.*
 - *God told them that death would be the result of their disobedience. From this, we understand that God has all authority over man. He is holy and does not tolerate sin. He has decreed that death will be the result of sin.*
2. In whose image did God create man and woman? -- *He created man and woman in his own image, in the image of God.*
3. In what ways are we created in the image of God? -- *We have an invisible part called soul and spirit. This means that we have the life of Him. This means that we can think, decide, feel emotions, and respond to God, and more!*
4. God knew Adam's loneliness. How did He satisfy this need of Adam? " *He created Eve.*"
5. God has fulfilled Adam's needs! What does this tell us about God's character and attributes? " *God takes care of us.*" *He is a God of mercy and love.*
6. In His love for them, God has fulfilled all their needs in the garden. In this wonderful situation, how did Adam and Eve behave with God? " *They trusted him cheerfully, and depended on him.*
7. God has given them one law. What was it? He *told them that they should not eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.*
8. What did God tell them would happen if they didn't believe in Him and obey this law? -- *If they ate, they would certainly die.)*
9. If they died, would their death be the only physical death?" *If they ate this fruit, they would die physically, but they would also die spiritually. This meant that their close*

relationship with God would be broken and they would be separated from Him forever in the lake of fire.

10. On the seventh day, God rested from all the work He had done. Was He tired of all the work He had done? " *No! God never tires because He is almighty. He rested on the seventh day because He had fulfilled His entire plan of creation.*

6 The Disobedience of Adam and Eve

Narrative Topic: Adam and Eve Disobeyed God

Help prepare this account: *In this account, you will discuss God's first promise about the Savior. To help you better understand this promise, we suggest that you read "What Do I Need to Understand About the Savior as Seen in the Old Testament?" and also "What Do I Need to Understand About Salvation in the Old Testament?" which are found on pages 86 - 89 of this book. The information you will read is intended to give you a better basis for telling this wonderful promise. It's not up to you to include it in your narrative.*

Scripture: Read these passages three or four times: Genesis 3:1-24; Leviticus 17:11-14;
Hebrews 9:22

The narrative in brief: Adam and Eve lived a wonderful life in the Garden of Eden. They trusted God with everything. God had met all their needs. But do you remember that evil one who opposed God and to this day wants to destroy God's work?

One day, this evil one, who is called Satan, used a snake in the garden to deceive Eve. Through the serpent, he said to him, "Did God really say that you would not eat any fruit from the trees here in the garden?" When Eve told him about God's law, he replied, "You shall not die! God said this because He knows that if you eat this fruit, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God! Satan tempted Eve to doubt God's word and to doubt God's goodness.

Eve looked at the fruit. It was very pretty and looked good. Instead of believing in the one and only true God, she believed Satan's words that it would bring her knowledge and make her be like God. So she plucked the forbidden fruit and ate it. She gave it to Adam and he ate it too.

Immediately, they began to see the results of their sin. Instead of becoming like God, as Satan had promised, their eyes were opened and they would be ashamed because of their nakedness. Instead of depending on God as they had done before, they immediately tried to make clothes for themselves out of leaves.

When they heard the voice of God saying, "Adam. Where are you?" They were afraid and hid from Him. God asked them, "Have you eaten of the fruit that I told you not to eat?" Instead of repenting of his disobedience, Adam replied, "The woman you gave me, she gave me the fruit!" In the same way, the woman replied, "The serpent has deceived me!"

Instead of speaking honestly about their sin, they began to blame each other. Through his questions, God had given them the opportunity to admit what they had done and to repent, but they refused.

God cursed the serpent for what he had done, but even as He was doing this, He said something amazing! He foretold that one of Eve's descendants would crush Satan's head (thus ending Satan's power), and that Satan would strike that Savior's heel (thus bringing him a temporary "wound"). This promise brought hope to Adam and Eve and each subsequent generation of their descendants.

But the results of Adam and Eve's sin had far-reaching consequences. Their sin now affected women, men, the earth, and all living things. From that moment on, the woman would experience great pain during childbirth. The wonderful relationship that Adam and Eve had now been affected by a power struggle between them. The earth would bring them frustration and futility, and man would provide for them through hard work and sweat.

God refused the leaf covers that Adam and Eve had made. In his great mercy, God himself killed some animals and clothed Adam and Eve with their skins. God's Word tells us that *a creature's life is in its blood*. When Adam and Eve saw the blood of these animals coming out of them and then witnessing their death, they understood, perhaps for the first time, that just as these animals had died, they would also die because they had not believed and obeyed what God had said. They realized that they really needed the Savior that God had promised to deliver them from this terrible thing called death.

Because of their sinfulness, God banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. He placed an angel with a flaming sword at the entrance to the garden, so that they would not eat of the tree of life again and would not live forever in their sin.

Adam and Eve are everyone's grandparents. What would their children look like? Would they believe in God or would they follow the path of their parents who did not believe in Him? We will hear about it in our next story.

A note to the narrator: *Don't forget! As you prepare this narration, review the following questions and include these elements in your narration.*

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What attributes of God did we see in this lesson?
 - *We saw God's mercy and grace toward Adam and Eve when He made them a promise instead of killing them immediately for their rebellion.*
 - *God spoke with them. From this we learn that God has communicated with man.*
 - *God gave them the Savior's promise. He clothed them with skins after they had sinned. All of this shows His love, mercy, and grace.*
 - *God only speaks the truth. He does not change. He said they would die, and they did. Their fellowship with God was broken after they sinned, as He had said, and years later they died physically as well. The fact that God brought them death shows us that He is holy and does not tolerate sin.*
2. When Satan came to Eve, did he speak to her face to face so that she could see him and know to whom she was speaking? *He used the snake so that she wouldn't recognize him.*

3. When Satan told Eve that they would not die if they ate the fruit, what was he suggesting about God's character? -- *He was suggesting that God is a liar and cannot be trusted.*
4. What does this tell us about Satan's character and purposes? -- *Satan is a deceiver, and a liar. He doesn't want people to believe what God says. He wants to bring them death, and wants them to die forever in the lake of fire.*
5. God in His grace, what promise did He make to Adam and Eve? -- *God promised that one of Eve's descendants would crush Satan's head.*
6. When you crush the head of a snake, what happens to it? -- *When you crush the head of a snake, it dies.*
7. If this is true, what did God's promise mean to Adam and Eve? -- *The promise meant that He who had been promised would put an end to Satan's power. The Promised One would bring freedom from Satan's "poisonous bite" from slavery to sin and death.*
8. By the grace of God, Adam and Eve did not die the very second they ate the fruit. But God had said, "You will die." What did he mean? **Narrator:** This was covered in Narration #5, on page 17.
 - *First, He meant that their bodies would die and return to dust. This is "physical death". After many years, Adam and Eve both died physically and their souls were separated from their bodies. Their bodies were buried in the ground where they returned to dust.*
 - *Second, He meant that their close fellowship with God was broken. This is "spiritual death". Because God is holy and they were sinners, God could no longer accept and commune with them in the same way He had before.*
 - *Third, after they died physically, their souls would be separated from God for eternity in the lake of fire that was prepared by God for Satan and his demons. God's Word calls this the "second death." But a Savior had been promised! If they repented and believed God's promise of the Savior who would come to crush Satan's head, instead of being eternally separated from God, they would live in God's presence forever and ever. God's Word calls this life "eternal"*
9. Why did God reject the garments that Adam and Eve had made of leaves? -- *God rejected their garments so that they would understand that there was nothing they could do to be accepted by God. They had to depend on what he did for them.*
10. What do people have to do today to be accepted by God? -- **Narrator:** Let your listeners give multiple answers here. They can say things like: *they give to the poor, pray, go to church, temple or mosque, they live a good life, etc.*
11. But if God did not accept the works of Adam and Eve to please Himself, do you think God will accept our works? -- *No. We must depend on what God says and does in order to make ourselves acceptable to Him.*

7 Cain and Abel

Narrative Topic: The Descendants of Adam and Eve

Help in preparing this account: *As part of preparing this account, you may want to read "What Do I Need to Understand About the Old Testament Sacrifices?" on page 86 at the*

end of this book. You won't tell this information to the people you are telling, but it will give you a good basis for understanding what was going on when Cain and Abel offered their sacrifices.

Scripture: Read Genesis 4:1-5:32 three or four times.

The narrative in brief: God had told Adam and Eve to multiply and fill the earth. God is the source of life. He bore two sons to Adam and Eve. The eldest, whose name was Cain, was a farmer. The youngest, whose name was Abel, was a shepherd.

Undoubtedly, God had shown Adam and Eve the way that sinners could approach God, and they, as parents, had taught it to their children. One day, Cain and Abel both went to offer a sacrifice to God. Abel offered an animal as a sacrifice, but Cain tried to approach God in his own way, and offered a sacrifice of the harvest from his garden.

God accepted Abel's animal sacrifice, but he refused Cain's crop sacrifice. This made Cain very angry. In His mercy and grace, God spoke to Cain. He gave him an opportunity to repent by saying, "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?" But Cain's anger and jealousy burned so violently that he refused to listen to God. Then Cain said to his brother, "Let us go to the fields." When they arrived at the field, Cain attacked Abel, killed him, and buried him. Then God spoke to Cain and said, "Where is your brother Abel?" Cain replied, "I don't know! Am I my brother's keeper?"

Cain never repented. Instead of turning to God, Cain stepped out of God's presence to live the way he wanted. He married and had children. These descendants have made the betterment of their lives their priority. They built cities, raised animals, made and played musical instruments such as the harp and flute, and learned to make objects of bronze and iron. They abandoned God's plan that every man should have a wife and began marrying several wives. One of Cain's descendants even boasted that he had killed a young man who had wounded him. Instead of having a heart turned towards God, they thought only of themselves.

Adam and Eve had many other children, one of whom was named Seth. When that child was born, Eve said, "God has given me another child in place of Abel." Seth also grew up, got married, and had children. But God's Word says that Seth's descendants were different from Cain's because his descendants began to call on the Lord's name.

So we see two types of people in the descendants of Cain and Seth. Cain's descendants valued earthly things, but were not interested in God. But Seth's descendants feared God and served Him.

I ask you, what will happen if you put a rotten potato in a bag of good potatoes? All potatoes are going to go bad, right? What do you think will happen between the evil offspring of Cain and the righteous offspring of Seth? We'll see the results of this in the next narration!

After you have narrated, ask them the following questions:

1. What attributes and character of God did you see in today's narration?
 - *When we see how God spoke with Cain and gave him an opportunity to repent after killing his brother, we see that God communicates with man and that He is merciful.*
 - *God already knew what Cain had done to his brother. God knows everything.*

2. What do we see of the character of the man in this narrative?
 - *Cain and Abel did not have the same fellowship with God that their parents had before they sinned. Children had to make sacrifices to God in order to draw near to Him. We also saw Cain's rebellion against God. All of this shows us that the children of Adam and Eve were sinners just like their parents, and that they too were separated from God. Everyone has inherited the sinful nature of Adam and Eve. Everyone needs God and can only approach Him in the way that God Himself says.*
 - *Because God accepted Abel's sacrifice and did not accept Cain's, we see that mankind can only approach God in the way that God specifies. He cannot save himself by choosing his own path.*
 - *Abel believed in God and obeyed Him by bringing his sacrifice. It tells us that we must have faith to please God and be saved from death.*
3. *Why are we all sinners, just like Cain and Abel? -- We are all sinners because Adam is our father, and the father of all, and we have all inherited our sinful nature from him.*
4. *Abel offered an animal sacrifice but Cain brought the fruit of his garden. Can mankind choose how it will come to God? " No." God is the head of everything. We cannot choose our own path to come to Him. We can only come to Him in the way He chooses.*
5. *What were Cain's descendants known for? And Seth's descendants – what were they known for? -- Cain's descendants were known for improving their physical lives, but they did not appreciate the things of God. But Seth's descendants valued and feared God.*
6. *Even today, there are two types of people. What is the character of each group? -- A group believes and depends on God, and obeys Him. The second group depends on themselves and makes their life here on earth their priority.*

8 Noah's Ark

Narrative Topic: God saved Noah and his family, but He judged those who did not believe in Him.

Scripture: Read the following passages three or four times: Genesis chapters 6, 7, and 8, and 9:1-17; 2 Peter 2:5

The narrative in a nutshell: The number of people has increased on earth. As we heard in our last account, there were two types of people: those who believed and loved God, and those who went their own ways. The men of the line of Seth married unbelieving women of the line of Cain. Instead of men teaching God to their wives, women have distanced them from the thought of their Creator. The evil has increased. God saw that every thought and intention of man's heart was nothing but evil. He was saddened that he had created man, and he said that he would destroy the earth. But even in this, God was merciful. He gave these wicked men 120 years to hear His word and repent.

However, God showed His grace to a man named Noah. He told Noah to build an ark because He was going to destroy the earth. He told her the length, height and width of the

arch, the type of wood to be used, the number of floors it should have, and a roof, window and door. Noah believed in God and obeyed Him. He did everything God told him to do.

As Noah was building the ark, he warned the people that God would bring judgment. But they didn't listen. When the ark was completed, God brought Noah a pair of each species of animals and birds (male and female), and seven of each species that would be used for sacrifices. They all entered the ark. Then he told Noah to enter the ark with his wife and three sons, as well as their wives. All of them came in through the one door, and God Himself closed the door.

It started to rain. God opened the fountains from the depths of the earth and the water poured out. For forty days and forty nights, it rained and the water increased until it covered the highest mountains. Everyone who was outside the ark was destroyed because they didn't believe in God. But all who were inside the ark were saved from destruction by God's mercy and grace.

God did not abandon those who were in the ark. The rain stopped and the flood subsided. God told Noah and all those in the ark to go out on dry land. Immediately, as they came out of the ark, Noah offered a sacrifice to worship God and thank Him for saving them in the ark.

God accepted Noah's sacrifice. He blessed Noah and said to him, "Increase in number and fill the earth." God placed a rainbow in the sky as a sign that He would never again destroy the earth by a flood. This is the second time we have heard God say to people, "Multiply and fill the earth." Do you think that Noah's descendants will obey God's command? In our next account, we will see whether they obey God or not.

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What did you see of God's character and attributes in today's narration?
 - *God judged the wicked who did not believe in Him. From this we see that God is holy and righteous. He demands death as punishment for sin.*
 - *God judged the wicked and the unbelieving, but He had mercy and pardoned on Noah. God is above all and the head of all.*
 - *God saved Noah and his family. This shows us that God is merciful, and merciful to sinners.*
2. And what do you see of the condition of man in this story?
 - *All the people were more and more wicked and unbelieving (except those to whom God had given grace). All men are sinners and need a Savior. We cannot save ourselves.*
 - *Noah believed in God and obeyed Him, and he was saved. From this we learn that man can only approach God by the way he has chosen, and that it is only by faith that he can please God and be saved.*
3. What were the people like in Noah's day? -- *They were very wicked.*
4. And Noah? Was he also a sinner? " Yes."
5. How do we know that even Noah was a sinner? -- *We know this because Noah inherited a sinful nature from his ancestor Adam, just like all of us.*
6. What did Noah do to make himself worthy and cared for in the ark? -- *Noah and his family did nothing to deserve to be saved. They have received God's grace to believe and obey.*

7. Why did God destroy others? -- *Because of their wickedness and sinful nature. They refused to believe in God and they did not obey Him.*
8. Did God allow Noah to build the ark the way he wanted? -- *No, God explained to Noah all the details of how the ark was built.*
9. Why did God bring the flood to the earth? -- *It was His judgment on those who did not believe in Him and did not repent. God is holy. He can't stand sin. He said that the consequence of sin is death.*
10. Did God have the authority to destroy all these people and animals? *He has all authority over everything and everyone because He is their creator.*
11. How did those who were saved enter the ark? How many doors were there to enter the ark? *They entered by a single door, in order to be saved.*
12. *Who closed the door? " God has closed it."*
13. Has anyone outside the ark lived? -- *No. All those who were outside the safety of the ark died. Only those who entered at the one door survived.*

9 Tower of Babel

Note to narrator: *Since this narration is quite short, it would be a good time to review all past narrations. Before you tell the story, see if they can tell the story from the beginning. Review some of the important questions.*

Subject of the narrative: God scattered the people from the Tower of Babel
Scripture: Read Genesis 11:1–9 three or four times.

The Narrative in Brief: As we heard last time, God told Noah and his family to be fruitful and fill the earth. Did they obey? Yes, they were fruitful and multiplied, but when they arrived at a large flat plain that seemed like a wonderful place to live, Noah's descendants decided that instead of going all over the earth, they chose to live together in one place. They planned to build a huge city. In addition to disobeying God in these things, they decided to build a great tower that would reach to the heavens. They wanted to reach God in their own strength and make themselves famous.

But God knew exactly what they were thinking and doing! At that time, everyone spoke one language, so God divided their language into several different languages. This meant that they could no longer communicate with each other and therefore could no longer carry out their project. Since they could not communicate, all those who spoke the same language went together to the same place, and so did all those who spoke another language. In this way, God spread the people throughout the world. God has all power over his creation.

You may wonder if after this people began to believe in God and obey Him. Wait for the next narration!

After you have narrated, ask them the following questions:

1. What did you understand about God in today's narration?
 - *God is above and rules over his creation – in this case, he rules over mankind.*

- *God knew exactly what they were thinking and planning. God knows everything.*
 - *God did not destroy them when they did not obey Him. Instead, He divided their tongues to make them fill the earth. God is merciful.*
2. *And what did you see of the character of man in this narration?-- They disobeyed God and wanted to make a name for themselves. This shows us that man is sinful and self-centered. He needs a Savior. We also see that they had planned to reach heaven by building the tower, but man can only come to God in the way God chooses, not in the way man chooses for himself.*
 3. *Why did these people want to build the city and the tower? -- They built a city so that they wouldn't be scattered all over the earth as God had said. By building a tower, they wanted to make their name famous and reach the sky with their own strength.*
 4. *Did God know what they intended to do? God knows everything.*
 5. *What did God do to make them obey His command to fill the earth? -- God confused their tongues so that they could no longer communicate.*
 6. *Finally, what did the people do? -- They went to different places and filled the earth, just as God had told them to do.*

10 The Call of Abraham

Narrative Topic: God Led Abraham and Made Him a Promise

Help in preparing this account: As part of preparing this account, it may be helpful for you to read (or re-read) what is in the appendix at the end of this book: 1) "What do I need to understand about **the Savior** as seen in the Old Testament?" (at page 82) and "What do I need to understand about **the nation of Israel** in the Old Testament?" (page 91) You won't tell this information to the people you're telling to, but it will give you a good basis for understanding what God was doing when He chose Abraham to be the father of the nation of Israel.

Additionally, it will be helpful for you to read God's promise in ★Genesis 15:6 and ★Genesis 18:14 as part of this narrative. Mark these verses in pencil in your Bible and mark the places with a small piece of paper so that you are ready to read them when the time is right. They are included in the brief narrative prefaced by a star ★ so that you can see how they fit into the narrative.

Scripture: Read the following verses three or four times: Genesis 11:10-32; 12:1-7; 15:1-6 and 12-16; 16:1-16; 17:1-5 and 15-19; 18:1-15; and Joshua 24:2-3

The narration in brief: Near the Persian Gulf, there was a city called Ur. Some of the descendants of Shem son of Noah lived there. Many of them had ceased to worship the one and only true God, and had begun to worship other spirits as gods. But one of these men, whose name was Abram, continued to worship the true God. Abram and his wife, Sarai, were elderly, but had no children because Sarai was barren. When Abram was seventy-five years old, the one and only true God called him and told him to go to a land that He would show him.

At that time, God promised Abram that He would make him a great nation. He said He would bless him and make his name great. God said that Abram would become a blessing by which the whole world would be blessed. This promise demonstrates once again that the purpose of the true God since creation was to fill the world with people who would honor and glorify Him as the one and only true God.

Think about it! As an old man, it would have been very difficult for Abram to leave his home. When he heard God say that He would make him a great nation, without a doubt, Abram immediately thought of the fact that he and Sarai were old and not capable of having children. What did Abram do? God's Word tells us that he believed in God and obeyed Him. He and Sarai left their homeland, and God led them to the land of Canaan.

There in Canaan, God appeared to Abram again and promised that He would give him this same land, the land of Canaan, as an inheritance. He said that Abram and Sarai would have a son, and that his descendants would be many, like the sand of the sea and the stars of the sky! God told Abram that his descendants would be slaves in a foreign land for 400 years, but after that, they would leave and return to this land that God had promised them. God's Word tells us that *★ Abram believed in the Lord, and God attributed this to him as righteousness. Because he believed in God, God considered him a righteous person.*

Sarai thought about her seventy-five years and her condition of not being able to have children. She thought of her husband who was now eighty-five years old. They were most certainly past the usual age to have children. So, Sarai suggested to Abram that he sleep with his maidservant, Hagar, and that the child that would result from this union would be just like his own child. Abram agreed. He slept with Hagar, she became pregnant, and the child that was born was named Ishmael. But Ishmael was not the child God had promised him.

God continued to promise that Abram and Sarai would have a child of their own. God changed Abram's name to "Abraham," which means "the father of many nations." And He changed Sarai's name to "Sarah," saying that He would bless her and she would become the mother of many nations, in order to propagate His plan to fill the earth with people who would honor and glorify Him as the one and only true God.

Many years later, God appeared to Abraham and said, "Next year Sarah will bear a son." When Sarah heard this, she laughed in her heart. She couldn't believe that she, a barren old woman, could one day give birth to a child. But God said to her, *★ "Is there anything too difficult for the Lord?"* These are amazing promises that God made to Abraham and Sarah! Do you think God will fulfill His promise? Will they really have a child of their own? Come to the next narration and you'll hear what's going on.

After you have narrated, ask them the following questions:

1. What attributes of God have you discovered in today's account?
 - *We have seen that God communicates with us.*
 - *We have seen that God chose Abram for his special plan to bless all nations. God is a merciful, merciful, and loving God.*
2. And what did you learn about man from this account? -- *Although Abraham was a man like the rest of us, he believed in God just like Noah. Abraham left his country and he believed that God would make him a great nation, even though he and Sarah were old*

and could not have children. He believed in God, and God considered him a righteous person. This helps us understand that:

- *we can only come to God through God's way, and not our own,*
- *that we must believe in God to please Him,*
- *if we know what God asks us to do, and if we believe and act accordingly, God considers us righteous.*

3. *What did Abraham do to merit these wonderful promises of God? -- Abraham did nothing! He was a sinner like everyone else.*
4. *What does this show us about God? -- It was God who chose to show His grace to Abraham. He is a God of grace for people who do not deserve it.*
5. *God promised that he would make Abraham a great nation. Why was this promise impossible for Abraham and Sarah? " Because he and his wife were both over childbearing age, and because Sarah was incapable of having children.*
6. *God says, "In you, Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed." Are you one of the peoples of the world? Narrator: Give each person an opportunity to talk about their ethnic or tribal heritage and agree that they are part of the people of the world.*
7. *As a member of the people of this world, have you received your blessing? Narrator: Ask that question. Some may try to answer, others may not. Say no more at this point. Let them think about it for a few seconds, then move on to the next question.*
8. *God promised Sarah that she would have a son. He said, "Is there anything too difficult for the Lord?" What do you think? Is there anything too difficult for Him? " God is the head of all things." He is Almighty. Nothing is too difficult for Him.*
9. *Do you remember an important promise God made in our early accounts about the good news of someone's descendant who would be a blessing to everyone? What was the promise, and to whom was it made? -- God promised Adam and Eve that one of Eve's descendants would crush Satan's head.*
10. *Why did God accept Abraham and consider him righteous when he was a sinner? -- God received him and judged him righteous because Abraham believed in God. God's Word says, " Without faith, it is impossible to please God."*

11 Abraham and Isaac

Narrative Topic: God fulfilled His promise to Abraham and Sarah. God saved Isaac from death.

Help in the preparation of this story:

1. *God's Word tells us that God told Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice to the Lord. However, there is another religion that teaches that Abraham offered Ishmael, not Isaac. If one of your listeners tells you this, just tell them that you already know this difference, but that you are telling the story as it is written in God's Word. Don't argue about it.*
2. *After you've prepared to tell the story, you might want to reread "What Do I Need to Understand About the Old Testament Sacrifices?" which is on page 86 at the end of this book. It will refresh your mind about what God was doing when He provided the lamb to*

sacrifice in place of Isaac. Again, you won't be explaining all of this to your listeners, but it will just help you tell the story more clearly.

Scripture: Read the following verses three or four times: **Genesis 21:1–3; 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:17-19.**

The narrative in brief: God did exactly what He promised. A year after hearing God's last promise, Sarah gave Abraham a son. They called him "Isaac." He was the child God had promised. When Isaac was just a young man, God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering to God. Even though this commandment was very difficult for him, Abraham remembered and believed in the promises God had made to him, that God would make him a great nation, and that all the families of the earth would be blessed by him.

He told Isaac that they were going to offer a sacrifice to God, and they set out for the place God had pointed out to him. On the way, Isaac said, "Father, we bring fire and wood for a sacrifice. Where is the lamb for the sacrifice? Abraham answered, "God will provide for the lamb, my son."

When Abraham arrived at the place where the sacrifice was to be offered, he built an altar. He took his son, Isaac, tied him up, and laid him on the altar. He took his knife and raised it above his beloved son. As he was doing this, God called him and said, "Abraham! Don't do anything to your son. Now I know that you truly fear God because you did not deny me your only son."

As Abraham was freeing Isaac, he saw a sheep caught by the horns in a nearby bush. Because it was caught by its horns instead of its body, there were no spots on the animal. God had planned a perfect animal to offer in place of Isaac! Immediately, and with great joy, Abraham tied up this sheep, placed it on the altar, killed it, and offered it as a sacrifice to God in place of Isaac.

Abraham called this place "The Lord will provide." Abraham understood and believed that salvation comes only from the hand of God.

So Isaac was saved from death yonder on the mountain. But God had promised that Abraham would become a great nation. A child is not a great nation! Is it possible that, from a single child, the descendants of Abraham grow up like the number of stars in the sky and the sand of the sea? Keep coming and listen to the narrations!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What do you understand about God's attributes from this narration?
 - *God kept His promise to Abraham and Sarah and gave them a baby, even though it was humanly impossible. This shows us that God is Almighty, and also that He keeps all of His promises.*
 - *God has planned a perfect sacrifice to be offered in Isaac's place. This shows us God's power over all of creation.*
2. What did you learn about man from this account? -- *Abraham believed in God and His promises. We too must have faith to please God.*
3. Abraham and Sarah had a child of their own, as God had said. Why did God keep His promise to them? -- *God has fulfilled his promise because he is the truth. If he says something, he always does it. God always keeps his promises.*

4. Did God really have the authority to tell Abraham to offer his child as a sacrifice? *God has all authority over everyone and everything because He is their Creator. He was the one who gave Isaac life, and He had the authority to take it.*
5. Did Isaac deserve to die?" *Isaac deserved to die because he was a sinner, just his father Abraham and just like all of us.*
6. Why did Abraham agree to bind Isaac, and why was he willing to offer him as a sacrifice? -- *Because God had promised that He would make Abraham a great nation. Abraham knew that God cannot lie, and so he had strong faith in God. God's Word tells us that he even believed that God would raise Isaac from the dead if he killed him.*
7. Was it just luck that they found the lamb caught in the bush? Where does lamb come from? " *It wasn't just luck! God himself placed the lamb there so that Abraham and Isaac could find it in the bush.*
8. Apart from God, was there anyone else who could have saved Isaac? *Their only hope was God.*
9. When they left the house, and even when Isaac had been tied to the altar, Abraham's only thought was that Isaac was going to die. But who died instead? " *The lamb died in Isaac's place.*"

12 Jacob and Esau

Narrative Topic: Isaac's Children, Jacob, and Esau

Scripture: Read the following passages three or four times: Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-45; 28:1-15; and 29:1

The narrative in brief: When Isaac became an adult, he married a woman from his parents' home region. Her name was Rebecca. Rebecca became pregnant with twins. Even before the twins were born, God knew all about them. He told Rebekah that there were two nations in her, and that the elder would serve the younger.

When the twins were born, the eldest was named Esau. Esau was a hunter, and his desire was mainly for the things of the world. He did not value God's promises. The youngest twin was named Jacob. He was a quiet person who was busy around their tents. He wanted to receive God's promises. Rebekah loved Jacob more than Esau, and their father, Isaac, loved Esau more than Jacob.

One day, when Esau returned home from the hunt, he found Jacob preparing food. He was very hungry and said, "Give me something to eat! I'm going to die of hunger! Jacob answered, "Give me your birthright first." Esau agreed and ate the food in exchange for his inheritance. He appreciated a full stomach more than the blessing of his birthright.

Some time later, their father Isaac, who was growing old and blind, called Esau. He told Esau to go and get some wild meat and cook it for him. He said to him, "After I have eaten, I will bless you with a special blessing, since I am about to die." So Esau went hunting.

Rebekah heard all of this and told Jacob that this was his chance to receive the blessing in Esau's place. She told him to go get a goat, and then she prepared a special meal that her husband loved. Rebekah tied the goatskin to her arms and neck, so that Jacob would look hairy like Esau. She dressed him in Esau's clothes, and then he went into his father's house with the food that Rebekah had prepared. At first, Isaac did not believe that it was really Esau, but Jacob insisted that he was Esau. As Isaac could not see well, he was therefore deceived by his son. He blessed Jacob with the inheritance of all the promises of God that had been given to Abraham.

Of course, when Esau came back from the hunt and found out all that had happened, he was very angry, so angry that he planned to kill Jacob. With his parents' blessing, Jacob fled to his mother's homeland. One night, while he was on the road, God appeared to him in a dream. In this dream, God Himself gave Jacob the same promises that He had made first to Abraham and then to Isaac.

Is it possible that Jacob's family is reunited? In the following narration, you will hear some amazing things!

After you have narrated, ask them the following questions:

1. What did you understand about God from this narration?
 - *Even before the twins were born, God told Rebekah that the older one would serve the younger one. God knows everything, even before this happens.*
 - *God's promises are true! The promise of a Savior's coming continued through Abraham, then to Isaac, and now to Jacob. God never forgets His promises.*
2. What are your observations of man from this account? -- *Jacob and Esau were both sinners. One did not appreciate God's promises, and the other took advantage of his brother and deceived his father. This confirms that all people are sinners and need a Savior. They cannot save themselves.*
3. How did God know that the elder would serve the younger even before the twins were born? -- *God knew this because He is the Creator of every person, and He knows and plans all things.*
4. What differences did you notice between Esau and Jacob? -- *Esau did not value God's promises. He lived just for each day instead of looking to the future with faith in the promised Deliverer. Jacob was also a sinner, but he appreciated God's promises.*
5. Why hasn't God forgotten the promises He made to Adam, Abraham, and Isaac? -- *He hasn't forgotten His promises because He doesn't change and He will always do what He promised.*

13 Joseph in Egypt

Narrative Topic: God saved Jacob's family through his son, Joseph.

Help in the preparation of this story: What is written here is very brief and only tells the main points of this story. Read all of this scripture narration below. Even if it's very long,

read it three or four times to get the flow and details of the story. You'll need to choose the important details carefully, so that your narration isn't too long.

We suggest that you read an excerpt from ★ Genesis 50:20 as part of this narration. If you decide to do so, mark the spot in advance in your Bible so that you can find it quickly. In addition, the questions that follow the lesson include reading from Genesis 45:7-8 and Genesis 50:20. Again, have them marked and ready to read.

If your listeners are not familiar with the title "Pharaoh," explain that in the land of Egypt in Jacob's day, the ruler of the land was called "Pharaoh." This is similar to our current use of the word "king."

Scripture: Read the following passages three or four times: Genesis 32:27–30; 33:1-12; 37 and 39; 41:1—49; chapters 42, 43, 44 and 45; and 46:1-7

The narrative in brief: You remember that Jacob ran away from Esau. Many years later, he returned to Canaan with his wives and twelve sons. Esau's anger had subsided over the years, and he accepted his brother again. As Jacob returned, God changed Jacob's name to "Israel." From that time on, his family became known as "the children of Israel," and later they became known as "Israelites."

Of his twelve sons, Joseph was Jacob's favorite. Of course, this made his older brothers very jealous. God gave Joseph dreams. One of them presented the sheaves of wheat of his brothers prostrating themselves before Joseph's sheaf. Another was that the sun, the moon, and eleven stars prostrated themselves before him. When Joseph told his brothers about these dreams, they hated him even more. They hated him so much that they wanted to kill him, but instead they sold him into slavery in the land of Egypt.

In Egypt, Joseph was working in the household of a man named Potiphar. One day, Potiphar's wife accused him without reason. Potiphar believed his wife's lies and threw Joseph into prison. Joseph, despite all these problems, continued to trust God.

It was there, in prison, that Joseph met two of Pharaoh's servants. God gave Joseph the ability to explain the dreams of these men. Several years later, when Pharaoh is having disturbing dreams, one of these men tells him how Joseph explained his dream in prison. Pharaoh got Joseph out of prison and told him about his dreams, and God allowed Joseph to explain to him the meaning of these dreams. As a result, Pharaoh made Joseph an important official in his kingdom, and through wise planning, Joseph was able to save the land from a period of severe famine.

Back in Canaan, Jacob's family was also suffering from hunger, so some of Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to look for food. They did not recognize their brother and bowed down to him. After testing them to see if their hearts had changed, Joseph revealed himself to them. At first, the brothers feared that Joseph would take revenge on them for what they had done to him, but Joseph said to his brothers, ★ *"You intended to hurt me, but God willed it for good, to save your lives."*

Joseph invited the whole family to come and live in Egypt where there was plenty of food, so Jacob and his entire family moved to Egypt. Counting the sons of Joseph, they were now seventy persons in all.

The descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had been promised the land of Canaan as their inheritance, but now they all lived in Egypt. Will they continue to live in Egypt? You'll find out in the following narration: Don't miss it!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. Tell me what you have seen of God's character in this account.
 - *God is almighty. He reigns over all circumstances and all men.*
 - *God knows everything.*
 - *God is a merciful and merciful God.*
 - *God is faithful and true.*
2. What are your observations on the man from this account?
 - *The character and actions of Joseph's brothers remind us that we are all sinners and that we need a Savior. We all need God to provide us in his mercy with a means of regaining communion with him.*
 - *Joseph trusted God even when things were going very badly for him. God's Word says, "Without faith, it is impossible to please God."*
3. Explain one of Joseph's dreams and its meaning. **Narrator:** They can tell either of the two dreams. The meaning is unique. -- *Joseph will one day have a position of authority over his parents and brothers.*
4. Who knows future events? -- *Only God knows the future.*
5. Why did Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery in Egypt? -- *They hated him because their father loved him more than he loved them, and because of his dreams. At first, they decided to kill him; Then they sold him into slavery.*
6. If Joseph had not gone to Egypt, what would have happened to Jacob and his family at the time of the great famine?
7. When Joseph revealed himself to them, the brothers were afraid that he would take revenge on them, but what did Joseph think of the harm they had done to him? -- *Joseph said that God had brought him to Egypt before them to save their lives. He said it wasn't the brethren that sent him there, but God.* **Narrator:** After hearing their response, read to them Joseph's words in Genesis 45:7–8 and Genesis 50:19–20.
8. Does God have the power to use the wrong things for good purposes? -- *Yes, God is almighty. He knows everything and has authority over all our lives.*

14 The Call of Moses

Subject of the narrative: God raised up Moses to save his people from slavery.

Scripture: Read the following passages three or four times: Exodus 1:1-22; 2:1-25; 3:1-20; 4:1-20 and verses 27-31.

The narrative in brief: Joseph and all his brothers died, as well as all the people of this generation. The descendants of Israel (i.e., Jacob) continue to multiply in numbers and wealth in Egypt. Many years passed, and a new king began to rule Egypt. He knew neither Joseph nor the history of the people of Israel. The new pharaoh began to fear the numbers

and strength of this people, so he made them his slaves. But God continued to bless them, and they continued to multiply.

Pharaoh ordered the midwives, who helped the Israelite women give birth, to kill all male babies when they were born. When this did not stop the growth of these people, he ordered that all male babies be thrown into the Nile. But even with this terrible opposition, God continued to care for the children of Israel, and they continued to multiply.

A baby boy was born to one of the Israelite couples. They hid it in their house for as long as possible. When they could no longer hide it for so long, the mother made a small basket of reeds and tarred it inside and out. She took her baby, put it in and put the little boat on the Nile. According to God's plan, Pharaoh's daughter was bathing by the river and heard the baby crying. She took him out of the basket and decided to raise him as her own child. At first, she allowed the baby's mother to breastfeed and care for him, but later the child returned to Pharaoh's house where he lived in comfort and received the best education in the land. This child's name was Moses. As an adult, Moses saw how the Egyptians tormented the Israelites. One day, he killed an Egyptian who was beating an Israelite. When this became known, Moses fled to another country where he lived for forty years.

In all this, God had not forgotten His promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all their descendants. One day, while tending the sheep, Moses saw a bush that was burning but not being consumed. God called him from that bush and told him to return to Egypt to lead the people to the land that had been promised to them. Moses, filled with fear at the thought of doing such a thing, said, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and bring the people out of Egypt?" God answered him, "I will be with you."

Moses said, "The Israelites will ask me, 'What is the name of this God who sent you?'" God answered, "Tell them that I AM has sent me to you; Almighty God, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob has sent me to you.

But Moses went on with his apology. He said, "The Israelites will not believe me!" So God gave Moses two signs that would confirm that God had really communicated with him. The first was that Moses' staff turned into a snake and then became a staff again. Second, God told Moses to put his hand in his cloak. When he took it out, it was covered in leprosy and when he put it back in his cloak, his hand returned to normal.

Even with all this, Moses cried out, "God, I cannot speak well." God said, "Go! I'll teach you what to say. But Moses begged, "Send someone else!" God said, "Your Brother Aaron is on his way here right now." You shall tell him whatever I tell you, and he shall speak for you.

Finally, Moses obeyed God. He took his staff and went to meet his brother Aaron. They returned to Egypt where they explained to the Israelites all that God had said. When the Israelites saw the signs Moses was doing with his staff and hand, they believed that God would use Moses to lead them out of slavery to the promised land.

What did Moses and Aaron do so that they could bring the Israelites out of Egypt? In the following narration, you'll hear all of this!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What did you see of God's attributes in this narration?

- *God communicates with man.*
 - *God is a merciful and merciful God.*
 - *God told Moses that his brother Aaron was on his way to meet him. God knows everything.*
 - *God keeps his promises. He still remembered the promises he had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.*
2. *What have you seen of the character and condition of man? -- Moses did not initially believe in God. This confirms that all men are sinners. They have to have faith to come to God.*
 3. *Who do you think led Pharaoh to try to destroy the children of Israel? -- Satan led and directed him.*
 4. *Why did Satan want to destroy them? -- Because God had promised to send the Savior from among the descendants of Eve, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Satan wanted to ruin God's plan.*
 5. *So what does this tell you about Satan's character? -- Satan is fighting against God and His will. He is a liar, a deceiver, and a murderer.*
 6. *Why did God continue to bless the Israelites? -- God blessed them in order to fulfill His promises. He always does what He says.*
 7. *God said His name is I AM. What do you think this name means? This name explains to us that God is dependent on himself. It is! He was before the beginning, He is now, and He will be forever and ever. Because He is the Creator of all things, all things are under His authority and command.*

15 The Plagues in Egypt

Narrative Topic: Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh; God sent the plagues; the first Passover.

Help in the preparation of this story:

- *Since this narration includes the Passover story, it would be a good reminder for you if you wanted to reread "What Do I Need to Understand About the Old Testament Sacrifices?" which is found on page 86 of this book.*
- *This narrative covers a lot of material, so if you don't prepare carefully, it will be too long. On the other hand, the story written below is very brief and does not include many interesting details. Be sure to read the following Bible passages several times to grasp the details. Briefly mention the first 9 plagues, but don't give all the details of each one, lest your narrative become too long.*
- *The 10th plague, however, with the death or life of the firstborn, is a very important part of this narration, with God passing over the houses that had the blood of the lamb marked on the doorposts. Be sure to include all of these details when you tell the story.*

Scripture: Read the following three or four times: Exodus chapter 5; 6:1—8; 7 to 12:30

The Narrative in Brief: Moses and Aaron went before Pharaoh and told him that God had asked him to let the Israelites leave Egypt. But Pharaoh, who was very hard-hearted, only added to their burden of hard work instead of letting them go.

God said to Moses, "I am God Almighty. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I have not forgotten the covenant I made with them to give them the land of Canaan. I heard the cries of the Israelites. Tell them that I will save them from slavery in Egypt. I will make them my own people, and I will be their God. I will take them to the land that I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Moses and Aaron went back to Pharaoh and said, "God said, 'Let my people go!'" Once again, Pharaoh refused. This is how God began to bring "plagues" upon the land of Egypt. These were signs to show Pharaoh and the people of Egypt that there is only one God who is a God of truth and power. God brought these plagues upon the Egyptians but not upon the Israelites: wounds of water turning to blood, plagues of frogs, gnats, and flies, plagues of their cattle, wounds of boils, hail, locusts, and thick darkness. Whenever God sent a plague, Pharaoh would say that he would let them go if Moses made the plague disappear. But when God removed the plague, Pharaoh hardened his heart and changed his mind. He refused to let them go and kept them in slavery. Through Pharaoh's opposition, God wanted to show the Israelites that He was their God, and to show the Egyptians that He alone is the living God.

This happened nine times, each with the same result: Pharaoh refused to allow the Israelites to leave. But then God brought the tenth plague upon the Egyptians. God said that the firstborn of every family would die. God told Moses what he had to do to prevent this terrible thing from affecting the lives of the Israelites.

- Each person had to choose a perfect lamb, kill it, and collect the blood in a bowl. It was important that they didn't break any of the lamb's bones.
- They had to take the blood and paint it on the top and on either side of the door of their house. Then they had to stay inside the house.

God promised that when He passed by that night, if He saw the blood on the doorway, He would go over that house and not bring death to the firstborn of that family.

The Israelites believed in God and obeyed Him that night. But in every house where they failed to put blood on the doorstep as God had commanded, the firstborn died, from the house of the lowest person in prison, to the house of Pharaoh himself. Finally, Pharaoh told the Israelites to leave.

You remember, every time before that, Pharaoh had changed his mind about letting the Israelites go. Will he really let them go this time? Or will he change his mind again? Be sure to move on to the next narration.

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What did you see of God's attributes in this narration?
 - *God is almighty.*
 - *God had promised to bring them back to the promised land. Now, He was going to do it. God is faithful to all his promises.*
 - *God is above everything and rules over all people and all situations.*

- *God communicates with man. He told the Israelites what they should do so that the firstborn would not die.*
2. In this story, what did you learn about man?
 - *Man can only come to God by the means that God chooses.*
 - *Man must have faith to please God and be saved.*
 3. Why did God send the plagues and then let Pharaoh oppose Him as he did by refusing to let the Israelites go? -- *God wanted to show the Israelites that He was their God, and He wanted to show the Egyptians that He is the only true and living God.*
 4. What was the last plague that affected the Egyptians? " *It was the death of the first-born in every family.*"
 5. What are the Israelites to escape this last scourge?
 - *They had to choose a perfect lamb, without blemishes or blemishes.*
 - *They were to kill him and collect the blood in a bowl.*
 - *They were not to break any of the lamb's bones.*
 - *They had to put the blood of the lamb on the top and sides of their doors.*
 - *They had to stay in the house.*
 6. Let's say an Israelite said, "It's a very beautiful lamb and I paid for it with a lot of money. So, instead of killing him, I'm going to tie him to the door of my house so that God can see him when he passes over the house. What would happen in this house? -- *The firstborn would die because the owner of the house had not believed and done what God had said.*
 7. In every Israelite home, who died in the place of the firstborn? -- *The lamb died in the place of the firstborn.*
 8. What evidence did the Israelites give to show that the lamb had died in the place of the firstborn? -- *The blood of the lamb on the doorposts of the house was the proof of his death.*
 9. How do we know that God accepted the death of the lamb instead of the firstborn son? -- *We know that God accepted the death of the lamb because it passed over the house and the firstborn lived.*
 10. Do you remember another similar example where God accepted the death of an animal instead of a dying person? -- *When the lamb died instead of Isaac.*

16 The Exodus from Egypt

Narrative Subject: God brought the people out of Egypt; God met their needs during their journey.

Scripture: Read the following passages three or four times: Exodus 12:31-42; 13:21-22; 14:1-31; 16:1-3, 11-16, and 31-35; 17:1-6

The Narrative in Brief: The Israelites were ready to leave Egypt. God led them out of Pharaoh's city and made them camp for the night. The next day he led them to the shores of the Red Sea. God led them by means of a pillar of fire that preceded them at night, and during the day it became a pillar of cloud.

As he had done before, Pharaoh changed his mind and set out with his army in pursuit of the Israelites to bring them back to Egypt. When the Israelites saw Pharaoh's army coming after them with horses and chariots, they were very frightened. They cried out and blamed Moses, saying, "What have you done? We should never have left!"

But Moses said, "Do not be afraid! Hold on! Today you will see the salvation of the Lord." The cloud of God that was leading them passed behind them, so that Pharaoh's army could not see the Israelites. God told Moses to raise his staff over the sea. In doing so, God divided the sea: a wall of water rose on one side, and a wall of water on the other, and in the middle was dry ground! All the Israelites went over to the other side.

When all were safe, they turned around and saw that Pharaoh and his army were coming right behind them. But God threw the Egyptian army into confusion, and the wheels of their chariots began to come loose. They understood at once that the only true God, the God of the Israelites, was fighting them. They tried to turn back, but it was too late. God put the walls of water back in place and the whole army was drowned. The Israelites began to dance, sing, and praise God for His great salvation.

God continued to lead these people by means of a cloud by day, and by means of a pillar of fire by night. But after traveling for a while, their food was over and they started to get hungry. They complained, saying, "If only we had stayed in Egypt where we would eat meat and bread until we were full!"

Even though they were so ungrateful for all that God had done, God was merciful to them. That evening, many quails appeared so numerous that they covered the camp. In the morning, they found something like bread on the ground. They asked, "What is it?" and Moses replied, "It is the special bread of God." They called this bread "manna". They were satisfied by eating quails and bread. This manna continued to appear for the duration of their journey!

God was so merciful to them, but they complained again, this time that they didn't have enough water to drink. Moses prayed to God and God told him to hit a big rock with his staff. Moses obeyed, and water came out of the rock. It was enough water for everyone!

These people really didn't have the heart to believe in God! Will they change or not? Keep coming to listen to the narrations to get the answer to this question.

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What observations did you make about God and His attributes in this narration?
 - *God has prepared the way for them to leave in an amazing way! God is almighty! He is above all and the leader of all.*
 - *God's attention to them as they travel, even though they were so ungrateful and unbelieving, shows us that God is merciful and gracious.*
 - *God is truth. He told them He would save them from Egypt and He did what He said. God does not change. He is faithful.*
2. In this narrative, what character and condition of man have you seen?
 - *We are sinners and we need a Savior. We cannot save ourselves.*
 - *We must have faith to please God.*
3. While these people were travelling, where were they going? -- *They were going to the land that had been promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that is, to Canaan.*

4. How did they know the way to Canaan? -- *God led them by a cloud by day, and by a pillar of fire by night.*
5. When the Israelites saw the Egyptian army coming in pursuit of them, could they have saved themselves? *They could not save themselves. They could only wait for God to save them.*
6. Instead of complaining, what should they have done? -- *They should have asked God for help and trusted Him.*
7. How did God save them from their life of slavery in Egypt? -- *God opened a dry dirt road for them all to cross the sea.*
8. When they had no food or water, did they remember how God had saved them at the sea crossing, and did they believe that He would provide for them? *Instead of believing in God, they started complaining again.*
9. How did God provide them with food? -- *God sent quails so many, so many that they covered the whole camp. God also sent manna, a special bread that appeared on the ground in the morning.*
10. When they ran out of water, what did God tell Moses to do so that they would have water? -- *He told Moses to strike a rock with his staff.*

17 The Ten Commandments

Subject of the narrative: God made a covenant with Israel; they broke the covenant.

Help prepare this account: To help you understand the Law God gave to Israel, you may find it helpful to read "What Do I Need to Understand About the Law of Moses?" on page 97 of this book. As we have already said, you will not tell all this to your listeners, but it will simply give you a better understanding of the Father.

We suggest that you read two passages of scripture as part of your narrative. The first is ★ Exodus 19:4-6 where God makes his covenant with Israel. The second is the list of God's 10 commandments found in ★ Exodus 20:2-17. These are marked with a star ★ in the following brief narrative. As you have already done, mark them in your Bible so that you can locate them quickly. When reading the 10 commandments, read only the short commandments as written below, without the accompanying instructions (such as verses 5, 6, and 9-11), lest they become too long.

Scripture: Read the following passages three or four times: Exodus 19; 20:1-21; 24:12-8; 31:18; 32:1-20; Rev. 34:1-2.

The narrative in brief: God led the people to Mount Sinai. There he made a covenant with them, saying, ★ "If you listen to my voice and keep my covenant, of all nations you will be my most precious possession. You will be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Moses told the people all that God had said. And they answered, "We will do whatever the Lord says." Then Moses told them to prepare for the presence of God who will come down on the mountain. God spoke to them in thunder and lightning, in the smoke and in a thick

cloud on the mountain, to the sound of trumpets. People were shaking. The mountain shook with lightning and smoke filled the air. People stayed away from the mountain because they were afraid.

So, God began to talk with them, and He gave them His Ten Commandments. He told them:★

1. *I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You will have no other gods before me.*
2. *You shall not make an idol for yourself in the form of anything above in heaven, or below on earth, or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or serve them.*
3. *You shall not speak the name of the Lord your God in vain.*
4. *Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.*
5. *Honor your father and mother.*
6. *You shall not kill.*
7. *You shall not commit adultery.*
8. *You shall not steal.*
9. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
10. *You shall not covet your neighbor's house... or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

God is holy and he demands perfection. The punishment for not obeying any of these commandments is to be separated from God eternally for the place He has prepared for Satan and his rebellious angels, hell.

God told Moses to go up the mountain, and there He gave him two tables of stone with these commands written on them. Moses remained on the mountain for forty days. The Israelites waited for Moses to return to the camp. Finally, they became impatient, saying, "Without a doubt, he died on the mountain." So they asked Aaron to make a god to go before them on their journeys. They gave him their golden jewels, and Aaron made them a golden idol in the shape of a calf. They prostrated themselves before him and offered him offerings. They danced and made a great feast before him, saying, "It is the god who brought us out of Egypt."

Up on the mountain, God told Moses what they were doing. As he was going down to the camp, Moses heard the noise of the people worshipping the idol. He became so angry that he threw the two stone tablets that God had given him on the ground and they broke into pieces. God told Moses that because of their sin, He would destroy the people and start over with them (Moses), but Moses reminded God of His promises and asked for His mercy for the people.

God sent a plague upon the people, but in His great mercy, He did not destroy them all. Moses took the golden calf, burned it in a fire, and ground it into a fine powder, which he then sprinkled on their drinking water.

Only a month and a half has passed since the people said, "We will do whatever the Lord says." They did not understand that they could not perfectly observe God's law because they were slaves to their sinful nature. God had given them these commandments, not only to show them His holiness and character, but also to make them understand that they were sinners and that they could not obey God perfectly in their own strength. God wanted them to believe in Him and depend on His grace to be saved from eternal punishment.

In His grace, God wrote His law on another set of stone tablets so that they would never forget God's holiness, nor their sin.

God's commandments are like a mirror. Just as someone does not see the dirt on their face until they look at themselves in a mirror, in the same way, we will never know the sin of our hearts until God's holy commandments show it to us.

Do you think these people will start keeping God's commandments, or not?

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What attributes of God did you see in this account?
 - *God has the right to tell us how to live because He is our Creator. He is above all and the leader of all.*
 - *God told them what His will was for them. He told them how he wanted them to live. God communicates with us. He does not leave us in ignorance of His will.*
 - *God is holy. The punishment for not keeping His law perfectly is eternal death. This is exactly what He said to Adam and Eve: "When you eat of the fruit, you will die."*
2. What condition and character of man did you see in this narrative?
 - *The people were unable to keep God's commandments, even though they said they would do whatever He commanded. We are all sinners and we need God to open a way for us to come to Him.*
 - *We can only come to Him in the way He chooses. He will not accept our own efforts.*
 - *We must believe and obey God, that is, we must have faith, in order to please Him and be accepted by Him.*
3. What is God's punishment for not keeping even one of His commandments? -- *It is death, separation from God forever in place of the punishment that God has prepared for Satan and his rebellious angels.*
4. Did God think that the Israelites would be able to keep His Ten Commandments? -- *God knew man's sinful heart, and He knows that there is no one who can obey His commandments perfectly.*
5. Why is it difficult to obey God's commandments perfectly? -- *We are all born sinners, people separated from God, and therefore we have neither the ability nor the strength to obey God perfectly.*
6. Why then did God give these Ten Commandments?
 - *God gave these commandments to reveal His holy character*
 - *God gave these commandments to show people their sinful hearts.*
 - *God gave His commandments so that people would not depend on themselves, but would turn to God alone to show His mercy and save them from eternal punishment in the lake of fire.*
7. When people worship or serve someone or something other than God, does God care? -- *Yes, God cares because worshipping someone or something else is a sin. God does not tolerate sin. He is the ruler of everything and everyone and will never give that place to anyone else.*
8. Why didn't God destroy the Israelites when they disobeyed?
 - *Because Moses prayed for God to have mercy on the people.*
 - *Because God is a merciful and merciful God.*
 - *Because God is faithful to the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the people of Israel.*

18 The Tabernacle

Story Topic: God's presence among His people: the tabernacle and the Day of Atonement.

Help in the preparation of this story:

1. We suggest that you read "The Narrative in Brief" this time before reading all of Scripture because there are so many passages of Scripture covered in this narration. This will help you understand how to put that narrative together.
2. To help you get an idea of what the tabernacle looked like, on page 90, there's a diagram of the tabernacle. If possible, when you explain the tabernacle in your account, draw it on a piece of paper or chart to help your listeners understand what the tabernacle looked like.

Scripture: Do not be discouraged by all the verses you have to read to prepare for this narration! Read the following verses faithfully 3 or 4 times. Exodus 25:1-22; 26:1, 15, 26, 30-34; 27:1, 2 and 8; 28:1 and 2 and 40:17, 34-5; Leviticus 1:1-4, 10:1-3, 16:2-30

The narration in brief: When Moses was on the mountain, God said to him, "Make me a sanctuary, and I will dwell among them."

Amazing! Almighty God wanted to live among His people! But how could it be, when they were sinful people? God was going to make it happen. He told Moses exactly how to build this place and all its furniture. This place was called the Tent of Meeting, or the Tabernacle, and it was to be built exactly in the way that God had explained to Moses. It was like this:

- The outer wall was made of **curtains** that surrounded a courtyard. This way, they could easily fold and carry them during their journey.
- There was the high **altar**, a place to offer and burn sacrifices. God explained all the sacrifices that had to be made to enable sinful man to draw near to Him, a holy God. The blood of these sacrifices could not pay for their sin, but the sacrifices were an image that explained the punishment needed to pay for sin. Death, that is, separation from God, is the only way sin can be paid.
- Behind the altar was a **basin**. It was very large and made of bronze, a place where priests could wash themselves so that they would be pure in their service to God, and to symbolize their need to have "pure hearts" before a holy God.
- Behind the pool was a **tent**. Its walls and roof were made of curtains and skins. This tent was divided into two rooms.
- The first room was called the **Holy Place**. There was a table with special bread, a candlestick, and an altar on which to burn incense.
- The second room was called the **Most Holy Place**, or the **Holy of Holies**. This room was reserved for God alone and His presence was evident in a special way.
- At the entrance to this room was a thick **curtain**, so thick and high that it served as a reminder that man is separated from God by his sin.
- Inside the room was a gold-covered box called **the Ark of the Covenant**. The stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them were inside this box, along with other special things to remind us that man depends only on God to save him from the penalty of death for his sin. The lid of the box was called the **mercy seat**, a reminder of how God showed His mercy through the blood sprinkled on it.

- Outside the tent, and just above the Ark of the Covenant, was **the cloud** that guided them on their journey. He filled the Most Holy Place with the presence and glory of God.
- Aaron and his sons were chosen by God to be the **priests** who served as an intermediary between God and the people. They have done God's work and service in the tabernacle. All priests were to follow God's commandments perfectly in their work in the tabernacle. For example, one day, two of Aaron's sons were serving in the tabernacle and burning incense in the holy place. Instead of following God's command, they decided to use "unauthorized" fire. As soon as they did, God, who is quite holy, sent fire, and they were consumed on the spot.

Only Aaron, the High Priest, was allowed to enter the second room of the tabernacle which was filled with the presence of God. He was only allowed to go once a year, on a day called the Day of Atonement. Everyone who entered that room died immediately.

When the work on the tabernacle was completed, they set it up and the presence of God filled the Most Holy Place. It remained there as a reminder that God lived among his people. When it was time for the camp to move, the cloud rose and moved away in front of them, guiding them on their journey.

Because of their sin, the people brought animals every day to offer as a burnt offering to the Lord. These animals were killed so that people would not forget that God's judgment on sin is death. All these animals died in the place of the sinner while the people eagerly awaited the promised Deliverer who would come to destroy Satan's power over sin and death.

On this special day of the year, called **the Day of Atonement**, the high priest first killed an animal to make atonement for his own sins. He took the blood of that animal around the thick curtain, into the presence of God, and sprinkled it on the mercy seat that was on top of the Ark of the Covenant. After that, he did the same thing for the sins of all the people, going around the curtain again and entering into the presence of God. There he sprinkled the blood of the animal on the mercy seat in the name of all the people. God, in His mercy, accepted these surrogate animals as a sign that people were looking forward to the One who would come to deal with their sin problem.

When the high priest had done all this, he stood before all the people at the entrance of the tabernacle. He laid his hands on the head of a goat and in a loud voice confessed all the sins of the people. After he did that, somebody led that goat through the camp, and then outside, way away, until you couldn't see it no more, and then he let the goat loose. It was to show people that God had completely removed their sins from His presence by forgiving them and reconciling them to Himself until the next year when it would have to be done again.

Sin must be completely taken care of, but God has agreed to postpone punishment for their sin until the Savior comes, who would destroy Satan's power, sin, and death. The following year, they resume and so on every year. For about 1,300 years, these people have celebrated this day, year after year, in order to postpone God's judgment on their sin. But one day, they stopped! It was no longer necessary to do so. You'll hear about it in future narratives, so keep coming!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What did you learn about God in this narration?
 - *We see the love of God, because He told them that He wanted to live among them, and He gave them a way for their sin to be covered until the Savior came.*
 - *We see that God is holy and cannot accept sin.*
2. What have you observed about the condition of man? -- *We see that we are sinners and that we are under the judgment of death. It makes us realize that we need a Savior.*
3. Why did God want the Israelites to make the tabernacle? -- *Because He wanted to live among them.*
4. You already know that God is everywhere at once, and that He is spirit, He has no body. Can he really confine himself to living in a tent? -- *God is totally different from people, and a tent cannot hold Him. In doing so, he showed them that he wanted to be among them and to make himself known to them in a special way. Narrator: Read Acts 17:24-25*
5. We have seen that God is holy and cannot accept people because of their sin. What arrangements has God made so that people can draw near to Him and be close to Him? -- *" God told them to kill animals and offer them as sacrifices in the tabernacle."*
6. What did the death of the animal show and mean to the one who killed it? -- *It was an example of the death punishment that all people had to receive because they were sinners. Death, that is, separation from God, is the payment that God requires for sin.*
7. Can the blood of animals pay for the sin of people?"
8. When they made a blood sacrifice in this way, it was a reminder of one of God's promises. What promise was that? -- *The animal's death was a reminder that a Savior had been promised who would save them from their problem of eternal death in the lake of fire.*
9. What was put inside the Ark of the Covenant? -- *The stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments were written.*
10. Is there anyone who can keep all these commandments?"
11. These stone tablets were covered with the lid of the Ark of the Covenant, which was called the "Mercy Seat." Why do people who cannot keep God's commandments need His mercy? -- *People need God's mercy because they have no hope but His mercy. They deserve nothing but death.*
12. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest took the blood of an animal through the thick curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. This curtain acted as an image and a reminder of something. What was it? -- *The curtain was a boundary that prevented people from seeing the glory of God's presence there inside the Most Holy Place. It was a reminder that they were separated from God.*
13. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest placed his hand on the head of a living goat and confessed aloud all the sins of the people of Israel. And the goat was taken into the wilderness, away from the camp, so that they could not see it again. What was it an image of? -- *It was a perfect picture of how God forgave their sin and reconciled them to Him for another year. God set aside the punishment they deserved and instead forgave their sin of the past year.*
14. Why did they have to continue to offer sacrifices and observe the Day of Atonement year after year, instead of doing it only once? -- *They had to do it again and again because the blood of an animal cannot take care of their sin. It was only an image, or an example, that showed their faith in the Savior who would come.*

19 The Twelve Spies

Story Topic: The 12 Spies Spied on the Promised Land

Scripture: Read the following passages 3 or 4 times: Exodus 40:36–38; Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33; 14:1-10 and 26-45

The narrative in brief: God continued to guide the people with the cloud. When they were near the land that had been promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Moses sent twelve spies to spy on the land.

At the end of forty days, the spies returned, saying, "The country is wonderful. It is truly a land of plenty, where milk and honey flow. However, ten of the spies went on to say, "But we can't enter the country because giants live there." The people are very strong, and their cities are fortified and very large. We can't do that! They are stronger than us!"

The other two spies, whose names were Joshua and Caleb, were not afraid of the locals. They knew that God had promised them the earth and believed that He would do as He had said. They said, "No! What they say is not true! Come, let us take the earth and reign over it. There is no doubt that we can do it. If God is pleased with us, He will go with us and give us the land He has promised us.

But the people began to cry and groan. They began to murmur against Moses and Aaron, saying, "We are going to die! It would have been better if we had died in Egypt or on our trip here! They believed the report that had been given by the ten spies and were ready to stone Joshua and Caleb.

Suddenly, the glory of God shone above the tabernacle. God was very angry because they didn't believe in Him. Moses prayed to God not to destroy the people. In response, God sent a plague that killed the 10 unbelieving spies. For His own glory, He allowed all the unbelievers to live, but He told them that they would wander in the wilderness for forty years, a year of wandering for every day that the spies had been in the promised land, until all the adults, except Joshua and Caleb, died in the wilderness.

When the people heard this, they said, "We have done wrong! We will go to the land that God has promised us! But Moses said to them, "It is too late! Even if you try now, you won't succeed! And when they tried to enter the country, the enemy armies attacked them and defeated them.

Forty years is a long time! Will the children of these unbelievers believe in God, or will they forget Him as their parents did? You'll find out more about this in the next story!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What attributes of God have you seen in today's narration? -- *God is holy and righteous. He hates sin and demands death as payment for sin.*
2. Why did the ten spies think that the people of Israel would not be able to enter the promised land? -- *Because the people of the land were very ferocious and they lived in large fortified cities. They did not believe God's promise that He would give them the land as an inheritance.*

3. Why did Joshua and Caleb think that the people of Israel could go into the land? -- *Because God said He would give them the land. Joshua and Caleb believed what God had said.*
4. What was the result for those who did not believe? -- *God said that all the people would wander in the wilderness for forty years, until all the adults, except Joshua and Caleb, died.*
5. Will God accept someone who doesn't believe what He says? *All those who do not believe in what he says will go to eternal judgment.*
6. What happened to the ten spies who didn't believe in God? -- *They all died of a wound.*
7. What happened to the two who believed what God had said? -- *The two spies went into the country with the children of those who did not believe.*

20 Murmurings of the People

Subject of the narration: The water of a rock and the bronze serpent.

Scripture: Be sure to read the following verses 3 or 4 times: Numbers 20:1-13; 23-29; 21:4-9

The Narrative in Brief: While the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness, they became thirsty. As had happened before, there was no water. Instead of remembering how God had provided for them before, and instead of believing in God and asking for His help, they began to murmur and blame Moses and Aaron.

Moses and Aaron asked God what they should do. God told Moses to take his staff and go to a big rock that was standing nearby. He told Moses to speak to the rock and that the water would come out. They gathered all the people before the rock. Maybe they remembered the other time when God told Moses to hit the rock with his staff, and the water came out. Moses was very angry with these people who kept complaining. He said, "Listen now, you rebellious people! Shall we bring you water from this rock? And he struck the rock twice with his cane.

By the grace of God, the water poured out of the rock. But God said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe me, you will not enter the promised land." After a while, Aaron died.

Some time later, the Israelites began to complain again about the difficulties they were facing. God sent poisonous snakes into the camp because they refused to trust Him. Many have died because they have been bitten by these snakes. So the people went to Moses and said to him, "We were wrong. We did wrong. Save us!" Moses went to God and God told him to make a bronze snake and place it high on a pole in the middle of the camp, so that all could see it. If someone looked at the bronze serpent after being bitten, he would live.

It was just as God had said. The people were saved when they believed in what God had said and obeyed by looking at the bronze serpent. You may be wondering if these people will ever enter the land of Canaan that God has promised them. Keep coming to hear about it!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What attributes of God did you see in today's narration?
 - *God is holy. He can't stand sin. We see this in the fact that God judged the people for their unbelief when they complained, and also when Moses and Aaron, who were very special men of God, were judged for their unbelief.)*
 - *We also see that God is very merciful because He has allowed them to live in spite of their sin.*
2. What condition of mankind is evident in this account? -- *We are all sinners, just like the Israelites, and like Moses and Aaron. We are totally dependent on God to find a solution to our inherent unbelief.*
3. Why did God say that Moses and Aaron would not enter the promised land? -- *They could not enter because Moses struck the rock with his staff instead of believing and doing what God told him to do.*
4. Moses and Aaron were God's chosen special leaders. They obeyed him again and again, and performed miracles in the power of God. Is it really possible that they were punished so severely for such a small mistake? " *Yes, because God is holy, and cannot accept even a small sin." Even though Moses and Aaron knew God well, and believed in Him and obeyed Him many times, they were still sinners, deserving of death.*
5. Although Moses and Aaron did not obey God in this case, what did God do for the people? -- *In His grace, He gave them water from the rock.*
6. Once again, in our account today, we saw that people complained and did not believe in God. The first time was not believing that God would give them water. The second time they complained, what punishment did God inflict on them? " *God has sent poisonous serpents among them."*
7. What did God tell Moses to do? -- *God told Moses to make a brazen serpent and set it at the top of the camp where everybody could see it.*
8. God said that if people were bitten by a snake, if they looked at the bronze serpent on the pole, they would be saved. Can a metal object heal and save someone? " *No."*
9. How, then, and why were they saved? -- *They were healed by the power of God. When the people believed what God said, and they obeyed by looking at the brazen serpent, God healed them.*
10. Did they deserve to be cured?" *They were all sinners and deserved death.*
11. Let's say, for example, that a person has been bitten by one of these snakes. If he said, "All right, I'm going to go to my tent and pray out loud, asking God to forgive me and heal me," would he be healed? " *No." He didn't want to be healed because he didn't believe and obey what God said. He would have tried to come to God in his own way, instead of coming to God in the way God had planned.*

21 The Promised Land

Narrative Topic: God led the Israelites into the promised land. After Joshua's death, the judges ruled Israel.

Help me prepare this account: Briefly tell how Joshua was chosen to be the leader of the Israelites, after Moses died, they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, and then God brought them to the promised land. All of this is found in the first three passages of the Bible below and is secondary to the main point of this narrative, which is the time of the Judges. The story of the Judges again emphasizes man's sin in his own way, and his need for a Savior.

Scripture: Read these verses 3 or 4 times before you narrate: Numbers 27:12-23; Deuteronomy 34:1-9; Joshua 1:1-3; 11:23; Judges 2:7-19 and chapters 6 and 7

The narration in brief: As God had said, before the end of the forty years of wandering, all those who were adults when they left Egypt died in the desert. Moses also died. Joshua was chosen to take Moses' place and to lead the new generation into the land that had been promised to Abraham.

Under Joshua's leadership, the Israelites followed God. They made war on the people who dwelt in the land of Canaan, and divided the land among the twelve tribes. They lived in peace and abundance. But after Joshua's death, the people turned away from God to worship foreign gods and idols.

When people stopped believing in God and began to worship idols, God allowed foreign countries to attack and defeat them. God did this to show the people their need to return to Him. The Israelites suffered under the rule of the foreign land, and then, in their despair, they cried out to God for mercy and help. God in His mercy raised up a person called a "judge" who brought them out of bondage. For a while, people trusted in God, but then their hearts were turned away to worship other gods and idols again. Then God would raise up another foreign country to attack them, and the whole process would begin again. This happened many times, over a period of four hundred years.

Let me give you an example. At some point, because of their disobedience, God handed over the Israelites to a nation called Midian. The Midianites oppressed the Israelites until they could barely bear it. Eventually, they called on God for help. God chose a man named Gideon to deliver them from the Midianites.

Gideon gathered the army of 32,000 men, but God told him that if the whole army went to war, they would think they had won by their own strength. God wanted to show them that they could count on Him to save them. Then Gideon said, "All you who are afraid, you may go home." Only 10,000 people stayed at Gédéon! God said, "This is still too much!" So Gideon took the men to a stream. Those who bent down and drank water directly were sent home. Only three hundred men remained.

Gideon gave each man a trumpet and a torch of fire covered with an empty jar. At night, they surrounded the Midianite camp. At Gideon's signal, they all blew their trumpets, broke the clay jars, and cried out, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" God caused such fear

in the hearts of the Midianites that they turned on each other and killed their own people. After this victory at the hand of God, the Israelites followed the Lord for 40 years. But after Gideon's death, they worshipped idols again.

Maybe you have become discouraged and have no hope for these people! Will the Savior really come to change people's hearts? What will happen? Let me encourage you: keep coming to the narrations!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. After Moses, who led Israel? *Joshua led them.*
2. Did God keep His promise to Abraham's descendants to give them the land of Canaan as an inheritance? -- *Yes, God kept His promise and gave them the land.*
3. What happened to the people after Joshua's death? -- *After his death, they forgot God and followed foreign gods and idols.*
4. Who was pushing them to do this? -- *Satan was deceiving them and leading them to worship other gods and idols.*
5. How did God discipline them to turn to other gods? -- *He allowed enemy nations to attack them and be victorious over him.*
6. After many years of servitude to their enemies, what did the Israelites do? -- *They cried out to God to save them, and asked forgiveness for their sin of unbelief.*
7. If a person believes in God and comes to Him in the way that God tells him, will God really show him mercy and grace? *That's God's character, and He doesn't change.*
8. What did God do to save them while they were in bondage to other nations? -- *He raised up a person called a judge. The judge led them in the war against their enemy until they were victorious and at peace again.*
9. After that, did the following generations continue to trust God all their lives? -- *No, after a certain number of years, they turned again to the worship of other gods and idols.*
10. What does this tell us about the heart of man? -- *He tells us that all men are sinners and need a Savior who will change their hearts.*

22 The Kings of Israel

Narrative Topic: God's promise concerning a Savior is repeated to King David.

Help prepare this account: *In this account, God makes a third promise about the Savior, giving us more details about who He will be. As you tell the story, don't forget to mention this promise God made to King David. As you have done in the past, you may want to read ★2 Samuel 7:16 as part of your narrative.*

Writing: Again, there is a lot to read for this narrative. Be patient and read these verses 3 or 4 times. 1 Samuel 8; 10:17-24; 13:1-14; 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 5:1-4; 7:1, 13, and 16; 1 Chronicles 29:26-28; 2 Chronicles 1:1; 2:1; 5:1, 13 and 14; 1 Kings 11:42-43; Rev. 12:1-20.

The Narrative in Brief: Towards the end of the judges' time, there was a man named Samuel. He was not only the last judge of Israel, but he was also a priest and a prophet. One day, a group of people came to him saying that they wanted Israel to have a king, just like the nations that lived around Israel at that time. This made Samuel very sad. He told them that God himself was their king and he warned them about the consequences of having a human king. But people insisted so much on having them.

Samuel prayed and God told him to choose a man named Saul to be the first king of Israel. Saul started his reign very well, but after a while, he decided to go his own way instead of obeying God. Samuel said to him, "*Your reign will not last. The Lord has chosen a man after his own heart to rule this nation, because you have not kept the commandments of the Lord.*"

After a while, David was chosen as king. King David was a sinner like all of us, but unlike Saul, he truly loved God. He led the army in the war against its enemies and brought peace to the nation.

King David wanted to build a beautiful temple so that the Ark of the Covenant would not rest in a simple tent. God told him that he would not be the one who would build the temple, but that his son who would reign after him, would be the one who would build it. God made a wonderful promise to King David, saying, *Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.*

God has kept his word. After King David's death, his son Solomon built a beautiful temple modeled after the tabernacle they had used in the wilderness. Like the tabernacle, the temple had a large altar for sacrifices. There was a central section with two interior rooms, separated by a thick curtain suspended between them, and setting apart the Most Holy Place where the Ark of the Covenant was located, with the presence of God.

Did David's son Solomon fulfill the promise made to him? No. He did not reign forever. He died and was buried. But some people continued to wait for the coming of the Savior, who would be an eternal king.

After Solomon's death, the kingdom of Israel was divided. Over the years, the northern kingdom (called "Israel") has had many kings, but none of them followed God. Instead, they led the people into idolatry. In the southern kingdom, called "Judah," there was also a succession of kings. Some believed in God and some did not. Although all the kings of Judah were descendants of King David, all died. None of them was the eternal king that God had promised.

Do you remember the promises God made about the Savior? What kind of person could this be? Come back! Don't miss the rest of this story!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. How was the first king, King Saul, different from the second king, King David? "*Saul followed his own wishes; David believed in God and loved Him so much that he wanted to obey Him.*"
2. What promise did God make to King David?-- *He said that one of David's descendants would reign over an eternal kingdom forever.*

3. What other promises does this remind you of? -- *It reminds us of the promise God made to Adam and Eve, and the promise he made to Abraham. Both of these promises, as well as the promise made to David, were promises about the Savior coming to save people from Satan's power, from sin, and from death.*
4. David wanted to build a temple. What happened? -- *God said that David would not build it, but that his son would build it. This is exactly what happened; David's son Solomon built the temple.*
5. How did the temple resemble the tabernacle? -- *The temple had two interior rooms. They were separated by a tall, thick curtain. The Ark of the Covenant was located in the second room, that is, in the Most Holy Place, where the high priest went once a year to pour blood on the mercy seat for the atonement of sin.*

23 The Prophet Elijah

Subject of the narration: God sent the prophets to call the people back to Him

Scripture: Read the following verses several times: 2 Kings 17:7–17; 1 Kings 16:29–33, 18:17–39

Important help in preparing this account: *In this account, you will read aloud ★1 Kings 18:21 and 1 Kings 18:36-37. In the short narrative below, these are marked with a star ★. Be sure to mark these verses in your Bible ahead of time, so you can easily find and read them in the right place in your narration.*

The Narrative in Brief: During the days when kings ruled in Israel and Judah, few people accepted God's covenant or were willing to obey Him. Many of them turned away from the one true God to worship false gods and false idols. In His great mercy, God sent His message to the people through the prophets. God gave His words to these prophets, and then the prophets announced it to the people. God's prophets had two main messages:

1. The first message was, "Repent and believe in the one true God, or His judgment will fall upon you."
2. The second message was "Get ready! The promised Savior is coming!"

One of these prophets was called Elijah. He served God at a time when King Ahab had led the people of Israel to worship false gods called Baal and Acherah (Astarte). One day, Elijah told King Ahab to gather all the people of Israel with all the prophets of these false gods. Elijah stood before the people and said to them, ★ *How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.* The people said nothing. They stayed there.

So, Elijah told them to bring two bulls. He asked the prophets of Baal and Achera (Astarte) to choose one of them and prepare him for the sacrifice. He told them to pile wood on the altar of sacrifice, but not to set fire to it. Then he ordered them to call their gods to bring fire to burn the sacrifice. He said he would do the same thing, and call on the name of the one

and only true God to send fire to burn his sacrifice. They would know the true God by seeing who would burn the sacrifice.

The people agreed. The prophets of Baal and Achera (Astarte) prepared the bull for sacrifice. All morning, they called upon their gods to send fire as they danced around the altar. Finally, at noon, Elijah told them that perhaps they should call louder, because perhaps Baal and Achera (Astarte) were busy, or travelling, or sleeping. So, they shouted louder. In doing so, they cut themselves with knives until they bleed profusely. But there was no answer from Baal or Achera (Astarte).

Evening came. Elijah said to everyone, "Come hither." They watched him build an altar. Around the altar he dug a ditch. He laid the bull on the altar, along with wood to burn as a sacrifice. Then he told the people to fill four large jars with water and pour them over the bull and the wood. He told them to do it a second time, and a third time until the gap was full. Then Elijah cried out to the one true God, ✱ *"Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your command. Answer me, Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, Lord, are God, and that you bring back their hearts."*

The fire of the Lord God fell and consumed all the offering, all the wood, all the stones of the altar, and the dust around it. The fire of God even burned all the water in the ditch.

When the people saw him, they threw themselves on their faces against the ground and said: *The Lord is God! The Lord is God!*

Be sure to come next week to learn more about how others have responded to the prophets who have preached God's word to them and about the prophecies concerning the coming of the promised deliverer.

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. The people of Israel had begun to worship false gods again. Who has God sent them to bring them back to His ways? *" He sent the prophets."*
2. God sent the prophets and they announced his message to the people. What does this tell us about God's character? -- *This shows us that he cares deeply about us and wants to communicate his word to us.*
3. The prophets had two main messages. Which ones? First , *"Repent and believe!"* And second, *"Get ready! The promised Savior is coming!"*
4. When Elijah told the people to stop hesitating between serving Baal and serving the one true God, why do you think he didn't say anything? -- *Because even though they knew the one true God, their sinful hearts didn't want to believe in Him. Instead, they wanted to go their own ways.*
5. What happened when the prophets of Baal and Achera (Astarte) prayed for fire to come down and burn their sacrifice? *There was no answer to their prayers.*
6. What differences do we see in this narrative between false gods and the one true God? -- *The one true God is alive and He is almighty. The only true God hears prayer and answers it. He is the only God above all others.*
7. What was the reaction of the people to God's response to Elijah's prayer? -- *They accepted that God alone is Lord. They realized that the others they had worshiped were false gods.*

Narrator: *For this question, read these verses from your Bible rather than this storybook. They are found in ★ Isaiah 45:6-7. Be sure to mark it in your Bible ahead of time so that you can locate it quickly.*

There was another prophet who also lived in the time of kings. He had spoken the word of God to the people, and I want to read these words to you so that you can reflect on them before we meet again. God said, " *I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me, there is no God. I will strengthen you, even if you have not recognized me, so that from sunrise to the place of its setting day men may know that there is no one but me. I am the Lord, and there is no other.*"

Think about it this week!

24 The Warning of the Prophets

Narrative Topic: God sent the prophets to warn the people who did not accept God's covenant or were not willing to obey it.

Scripture: Read the following verses several times: 2 Kings 17:13–15; Jonah 1:1-2:1 and 10; 3:1—10; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Isaiah 9:6-7.

Important help in the preparation of this story:

1. *On page 54, there is a table of prophecies. Before telling the story, copy this board onto a large piece of paper or a black or white board. Make it big enough for everyone to see. You'll use this copy of the painting at the end of this narration.*
2. *In this account, you will read aloud ★ Jeremiah 31:31-33 and ★ Isaiah 9:6-7. Be sure to mark them in advance in your Bible, so you can easily find them as you narrate.*

The Narrative in Brief: At the time when kings ruled in Israel and Judah, very few people accepted God's covenant or were willing to obey Him. God spoke to this rebellious people through the prophets. The prophets had two main messages: (1) The first message was "Repent and believe, or the judgment of God will fall upon you." (2) The second message was "Get ready! The Saviour is coming!"

God not only sent His prophets to the Israelites, but also to other lands. With regard to the prophets' first message, which was "Repent and believe or the judgment of God will fall upon you," let me tell you about a prophet named Jonah. God sent Jonah to the city of Nineveh, a large city in the land of Assyria, which was the declared enemy of Israel. God told Jonah to tell the people of Nineveh that if they did not repent, God's judgment would fall upon them all.

At first, Jonah refused to go to Nineveh. He boarded a boat, thinking he might run away from God. But God knew what Jonah was doing and where he was going. He sent a storm that threatened the ship and the lives of all on board. Eventually, the people in the boat realized that their lives were in danger because of Jonah's disobedience to God, so they threw him out of the boat, but God had prepared a huge fish to swallow him. For three days

and three nights, Jonah remained in the fishy belly. There, inside the fish, Jonah thought about what he had done and he repented. God made the fish vomit on dry land. This time, Jonah obeyed and went to Nineveh. For three days he preached to the people, saying, "Repent, or the judgment of God will fall upon you all! Believe and worship God alone! All the inhabitants of the city repented and believed in God, and God spared them from destruction.

The prophets' second message was about the promised Savior. Since the days of Adam and Eve, Abraham, and then King David, God had promised that He would send the Savior. In the days of the prophets, these promises multiplied, and the prophets foretold many details about the Savior who would be born to save His people from their sin problem. For example, the prophet Jeremiah gave them great hope by saying that God would make a new covenant with them in which He would change their hearts.

★The time is coming, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, although I was their master. This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my law in their minds and write it in their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. (Jeremiah 31:31-33)

In addition, the prophets continued to speak of a child being born to bring people to God. Listen to what the prophet Isaiah prophesied about this child. *★For unto us a child is born, and unto us a son hath been given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and he shall be called a marvelous counselor, a mighty God, an everlasting Father, the Prince of peace. There will be no end to the increase of his government and peace. He will reign over David's throne and his kingdom, establishing and defending it with righteousness and righteousness from that time on and forever. It is the zeal of the Lord Almighty that will achieve this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)*

Many other prophecies have been given. Let me show you a few.

Narrator Note: *At this point in your narration, take the large chart you made and show it to your listeners. Review each prophecy and show them the name of the prophet and what they said about the promised Savior.*

Table of Prophecies

	The Prophet	His message
1.	Isaiah (Isaiah 9:7)	The Savior will come from the family of King David.
2.	Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14)	The Saviour will be born of a virgin.
3.	Micah (Micah 5:2)	The Savior will be born in Bethlehem.
4.	Hosea (Hosea 11:1)	The Savior will come from Egypt.
5.	Zechariah (Zechariah 9:9)	The Saviour will come riding on a donkey.
6.	David (Psalm 41:9)	The Savior will be betrayed by a friend.
7.	Zechariah (Zechariah 11:12-13)	The Savior will be sold for 30 silver.
8.	David (Psalm 27:12)	Lying witnesses confronted him.
9.	Isaiah (Isaiah 53:7)	The Savior does not open His mouth.
10.	Isaiah (Isaiah 50:6)	The Saviour will be beaten and spat on.
11.	Isaiah (Isaiah 53:3)	The Savior will be despised and rejected by His own people.
12.	David (Psalm 22:16)	The hands and feet of the Savior will be pierced.
13.	Isaiah (Isaiah 53:12)	The Saviour will die with the wicked.
14.	David (Psalm 22:18)	They will draw lots for his clothes.
15.	David (Psalm 22:6-8)	They will mock him and curse him.
16.	Isaiah (Isaiah 53:9)	The Saviour will be buried with the rich.
17.	David (Psalm 16:10)	The Savior will come alive again.
18.	David (Psalm 68:18)	The Savior will return to heaven.

After narrating and showing the chart, ask the following questions:

1. Neither the people of Israel nor the peoples of foreign nations believed in God. Who has God sent them to bring them back to His ways? " *He sent the prophets.*"
2. God sent the prophets and they announced His message to the people. What does this tell us about God's character? -- *This shows us that he cares deeply about us and wants to communicate his word to us.*
3. The prophets had two main messages. What was it about? " *First, repent and believe!*"
The second, the coming of the Saviour, is near!
4. When Jonah went to Nineveh, what did he preach to them?
5. What were they doing when Jonah preached in this way? -- *They all repented and believed in the one true God.*

Narrator Note: *See if they remember any of the prophecies in the painting you showed them. Be sure to pick up the painting or cover it before asking them this question! The second message of the prophets was that the Savior was coming. Do you remember some of the things prophets said about the Savior's coming?*

25 The Exile in Babylon

Narrative Topic: God judged Israel and Judah. He saved some of them from exile in Babylon.

Help in preparing this narrative: *This short narrative covers the events of the end of the Old Testament and the timeline of history that unfolded between the Old and New Testaments. There are things in this narrative that come from history, that is, they are not found in any chapter or verse of the Bible, but are necessary to bring the understanding of the context of the New Testament to your listeners. In addition to reading the verses below, be sure to read the following narration carefully in order to prepare your listeners for the upcoming narrations.*

Scripture: Read these verses 3 or 4 times before you tell them. 2 Kings 17:1-8; Ezra 2:1 and 68–70; Nehemiah 2:1-18; Jeremiah 2:11-13, 23:5, 25:11-12, ★31:31-33

The narrative in brief: You remember that after the reign of Solomon, the kingdom of Israel was divided in two. In the northern kingdom, which was called Israel, no one believed that God would allow enemy nations to take their land and take them captive. When the prophets told them to repent and believe in God, the people did not listen. So, God allowed the Assyrians, a large neighboring country, to fight them and take them captive. Then Assyria scattered the Israelites to many lands.

After that, God's discipline came upon the kingdom of Judah, which was the southern kingdom where Jerusalem was the capital. God sent His prophet Jeremiah to Judah with repeated warnings of their impending destruction and captivity if they did not repent of their idolatry and disobedience to His covenant. (Jeremiah 25:11). But, just like those in the northern kingdom, the people of Judah failed to repent and believe.

So, God raised up the Babylonians to attack them. The Babylonian army broke through the great stone wall that surrounded the city of Jerusalem and demolished the palace and other buildings in the city. They destroyed and burned the beautiful temple that King Solomon had built, and they took away all the precious things that were in it. The majority of the people were taken to the land of Babylon as captives.

All of Jeremiah's prophecies, however, weren't just about impending judgment. God also said that when seventy years are completed for Babylon, He will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. (Jeremiah 29:10). The Lord also told Jeremiah that He would establish a New Covenant with His people. ★ Jeremiah 31:31-33.

So, after seventy years had passed, God opened the way for them to return to their own land. There they rebuilt the temple, although it was nowhere near as large as Solomon's. They also rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem. Many times during these years, people heard God's Word and believed it, but as had happened in the past, their love for God cooled again.

This was followed by a period of 400 years during which the Israelites lived in their own land, but during which God sent no prophets to the people. The Israelites began to be called Jews, derived from their country's name "Judah." The Jews continued to worship God, although few did so with their hearts. They went to the temple with their offerings and sacrifices, and kept the laws of Moses, but they didn't really believe that they were sinners who needed the promised Savior.

During this 400-year period, God allowed other nations to rule over Israel. The Greeks took control of the kingdom of Judah and taught everyone to speak Greek. Years later, the Romans made the Jews their servants and taxed them heavily. The Roman king, who lived in the city of Rome, was called Caesar. Caesar appointed representatives to govern in his name in all the countries he had conquered. One of these representatives, who reigned in the land of the Jews, was named Herod.

In Roman times, Jews followed the Jewish religion, but for the most part, their hearts continued to be cold toward God. Herod, wanting the people to be favorable to him, built a new temple in Jerusalem because the temple that had been built after the return from exile had once again been destroyed.

There were, however, some Jews who loved God and believed in Him. They were like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and David in that they knew they were sinners and were waiting for the Savior that the prophets had foretold.

Four hundred years without a king to rule over them or a message from God is a very long time! God had promised through Jeremiah that that the days were coming when He would *raise up from David's seed a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land*. But how will that happen without a king in the land? (Jeremiah 23:5)

Also, how and when will the promised Savior come to save them? We're about to find out, but you will need to come and listen to the next narration to find out. This is very important!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:


1. After the division of the kingdom of Israel, most people did not believe in God. What punishment has God inflicted on them? -- God brought them the punishment of other pagan nations, conquering them and taking the captive people to a foreign land.

2. What do the many warnings by Jeremiah about impending judgment tell us about both God and men? *God is both holy but loving in that He gave His people many opportunities to repent over a long period of time but man in his wickedness simply refused!*
3. What do Jeremiah's prophecies about the 70 years of captivity in Babylon tell us about God? *His forgiveness is as certain as judgement. His keeps His promises.*
4. What happened to the temple that Solomon built, where the presence of God was? -- The temple was destroyed by the people of Babylon. The soldiers carried all the valuables into the city of Babylon. There was no longer a special place for God among his people.
5. The people of the southern kingdom of Judah were in exile in Babylon for 70 years. What happened after these 70 years? -- God has opened the way for them to return to their country.
6. What does this show you about the character of God? -- It shows us that God is merciful and merciful and patient. He is a God of love and forgiveness.
7. After returning to the land of their ancestors, they were no longer called Israelites. What were their names? -- They began to be called Jews.
8. After the Greeks ruled them, what country ruled over the Jews? -- The Romans.

26 The Angel Gabriel


Subject of the narration: God sent His angel to tell the story of the births of John and Jesus.

Important help for the preparation of your narration:


1. In the following lessons, you will see a picture of a book  next to some underlined words. It's placed there to remind you that this fulfills a prophecy about the Savior that's listed in your prophecy chart. The number next to the book image matches the number of the line on the board. After asking the questions at the end of each account, show them the chart of prophecies and review the prophecies fulfilled with them.
2. In this account, you will read: ★ Luke 1:32-33 concerning the angel's message to Mary, and ★ Luke 1:54-55 which is part of Mary's song of praise. You will also read ★ Matthew 1:20-21, the angel's message to Joseph. As you did before, mark these passages in your Bible so that you can easily turn to them.

Scripture: Luke 1:5-55; Matthew 1:18-25. Read them 3 or 4 times.

The narrative in brief: At the time when the Romans ruled Palestine, there was a priest named Zechariah. He and his wife Elizabeth were elderly and had no children because Elizabeth was barren. One day while Zechariah was serving in the temple, burning incense for the Lord, God sent the angel Gabriel to tell him that they would have a son and that they should call him John. Zacharias couldn't believe what he heard! Because he didn't believe it, Gabriel said he would remain mute until the child was born. It happened exactly as the angel had said: Zechariah could not speak until the birth of the child.

- 1  Six months after Gabriel appeared to Zechariah, God sent him to a young woman who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Marie. Gabriel told her that she would have a child and that she should call him by the name of Jesus. He went on to say, ★" He

*will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High." The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His reign will never end. **Narrator:** Read this in Luke 1:32-33. The words that this angel used were exactly the same words of the promise that had been made to King David that one of his descendants would reign forever!*

Mary asked, "How can this be, since I have not had any relations with any man?"  2
The angel replied that the child would not have a human father, but that it would be born by the power of the Holy Spirit, which means that it would be a miracle of God, for nothing is impossible with God. Mary believed in God and was willing to do His will as the mother of the promised Savior. She sang a song of praise to God, saying: ★ *He helped Israel and remembered to be merciful to Abraham and all his descendants forever.* **Narrator:** Read this in Luke 1:54-55.

Now Mary was betrothed to a righteous man named Joseph. Before they got together as male and female, Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant. Knowing that he was not the father of the child, he decided to discreetly break off the engagement. But one night an angel appeared to him and said to him, ★ *"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary into your home, for what is conceived in her comes from the Holy Spirit." She will bear a son, and you will call his name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*

Narrator: Read this in ★ Matthew 1:20–21. And the angel gave him yet another name for the child: "Immanuel," which means "God with us." Joseph obeyed and married Mary, but had no relationship with her until she gave birth to the child.

For years, the Savior had received the promise. It seems that we are getting closer to this place in our narration. So don't miss out on the next one! It will amaze you!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. In today's account, what attributes of God have you seen?
 - *God is almighty. He promised a child to Zacharias and Elizabeth, who had not been able to have children all their married life. It also caused Marie's pregnancy to be totally outside of normal human relationships. It was clearly the power of God's Holy Spirit.*
 - *God keeps his promises. The Savior's promise had been given since the days of Adam and Eve, and in today's account we see that God's promise is about to be fulfilled.*
 - *God knows everything. Many, many years before, God had told King David that one of his descendants would be an eternal king. This is exactly what the angel said to Mary about the child that was about to be born to her.*
2. Who broke the news of the birth of a child, first to Zechariah and then to Mary? -- *An angel named Gabriel brought a message from God about the birth of John to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and secondly about the birth of Jesus to Mary.*
3. What is an angel? -- *Angels are spiritual beings who were created by God before the creation of the earth. Angels are servants of God.*
4. Zacharias did not believe in Gabriel's message. And Marie? Had she believed his message? " *Yes, she believed and praised the Lord for his mercy in the fulfillment of his promises.*"
5. When the angel appeared to Joseph, he said that the child would have two names. What were these names and what did they mean? " *The angel said that the child would*

be called Jesus, because he would save his people from their sin. The second name was Immanuel, which means God with us.

6. Point to the chart of prophecies and ask: Remember, these prophecies were given by God to the prophets hundreds of years before the time I have spoken to you of today. In today's narration, which of these prophecies happened exactly as they were prophesied?
 - *The Savior will be born of the family of King David.*
 - *The Saviour will be born of a virgin.*

27 The Savior Is Born


Narrative Topic: God Has Fulfilled His Promises—The Savior Is Born!

Help in preparing this account: *In this account, you will read ★ Luke 2:11, which are the angel's words to the shepherds. Mark it in your Bible.*

Scripture: Read these passages 3 or 4 times: Luke 1:57-80; 2:1-18; Matthew 2:1-23

The narrative in brief: When the time came, Elizabeth gave birth to a son. As the angel had told them, they gave him the name of John. Immediately, Jean's father, who had been silent during all the months of his wife's pregnancy, began to speak. He praised God for fulfilling His promises to Abraham and the prophets, and prophesied that John would be a prophet who would be used by God to prepare the way for the Savior.


Around this time, the government ordered everyone to return to their hometowns so that a census could be conducted. So, Joseph and Mary set out from Nazareth, where they lived, to Bethlehem, Joseph's hometown.

3  It was there, in Bethlehem, that Mary's child was born in a stable because they could not find a room for the night. Joseph and Mary called the child "Jesus," as the angel had told them.

That night, there were shepherds tending their sheep on the hills outside Bethlehem. An angel appeared to them and said to them, ★ *"This day in the city of David a Saviour is born to you, Christ, the Lord.* ("Christ" means "Messiah" or "The Blessed One"). Suddenly, many angels appeared with him, praising and singing to God. Immediately, the shepherds left their sheep and ran to the city where they found the child with Mary and Joseph. They spread the news of the Savior's birth throughout the city.

Some time later, experts who were studying the stars came to Jerusalem to ask King Herod if there was a new king who had been born. They were called Magi and had followed an unusual star from their country to Jerusalem. When Herod learned that a new king had been born, he was very upset. He gathered all the religious leaders who knew the Old Testament and asked them about this child king. They replied, "The prophet said that the king would be born in Bethlehem." Herod told the Magi to go to Bethlehem and bring him all the news of the new king, if they could find him.

The Magi went to Bethlehem where they found Jesus. They knelt before him, adored him, and gave him very precious gifts, fit for a king. God warned the wise men not to return to King Herod, because Herod wanted to kill the baby.

4  God told Joseph, through a dream, that he had to flee to Egypt where the family would be safe from King Herod. After Herod's death, God told Joseph and Mary that they were to leave Egypt and return to the land of Israel.

I ask you: what will this child look like? What will he do to become the Savior of all peoples? We will return to this in the next narration. Don't miss it!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What attributes of God did you see in today's narration?
 - *God fulfills all of His promises.*
 - *God knows everything even before it happens.*
 - *The fact that God has kept His promise to send a Savior shows us that He cares about and loves mankind. It is God who has made this provision for man, not man who is doing something that causes God to save us.*
2. When the angels appeared to the shepherds, who did they say Jesus was? -- *They said that Jesus was the Saviour.*
3. Do you remember some of the promises God made long before that concerning the Savior? -- *God promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior; He also gave His promise to Abraham and David, and even to other prophets.*
4. What did the Magi do when they found Jesus? (*They adored him and gave him very precious gifts.*)
5. Who do you think gave Herod the idea of killing the baby Jesus? -- *It was Satan who gave the idea.*
6. Why didn't Satan want Jesus to live? (*Satan didn't want Jesus to save people. He is a murderer and will always oppose God's plan to save people.*)
7. To what country did God tell Joseph to take the baby Jesus and his mother? (*God told them to flee to Egypt.*)
8. When they returned to Israel from Egypt, what Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled? -- *The prophecy that the Savior would come out of Egypt.*)
9. What other prophecy has been fulfilled in today's account?—*The prophecy that the Savior would be born in the city of Bethlehem.*

Narrator: Show the chart of prophecies so they can see the prophecies that have already been fulfilled in our narrative so far.

28 John the Baptist

Subject of the narrative: John prepared the way for Jesus, the Savior promised by God.

Help in the preparation of this story:

1. *In this account, you will read an excerpt from ★ Mark 1:7-8. Don't forget to mark it in your Bible.*
2. *Before you begin to narrate, tell your listeners that in this narration, they will hear about John baptizing people in the Jordan River. Explain to them that John's baptism did not take away people's sins, nor did it bring forgiveness of sins. Rather, it was an action that was a public sign of their repentance. Then, without further discussion, begin to tell.*

Scripture: Read these passages several times: Matthew chapter 3; Mark 1:1-8; John 1:29-34.

The narrative in brief: John and Jesus have both reached adulthood. John was a prophet of God to the Jews. He preached in the wilderness, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Many believed and repented, and as a sign of their repentance, John baptized them in the Jordan. John also spoke of the Savior who would soon come. He said, ★*"After me will come one more powerful than I, whose straps I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the straps of his sandals." I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Ghost.* (Narrator: Read this in Mark 1:7-8)

While John was baptizing people in the river, Jesus came and asked John to baptize him. John refused because he knew that Jesus was not a sinner who needed to repent and be baptized. John said that he (John) was the one who was to be baptized by Jesus. But Jesus insisted that this was the proper thing to do to fulfill all righteousness. This is how John agreed to baptize him.

When Jesus came out of the water after being baptized, the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended upon him. And a voice was heard from heaven these words: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Another day, when John was with a group of people, he saw Jesus approaching. He said to them, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." What remarkable things! Many other amazing things have been said about Jesus. I invite you to continue to come and listen to the narrations. Not to be missed!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What message is John preaching? -- *His message was, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand."*
2. What does it mean to repent? -- *To repent means to change the way we think about ourselves, about our sin, and about God. This means that we agree with God that we are sinners, that we have rebelled against God by breaking His law, and that depending on ourselves cannot cause God to accept us.*
3. Whom was John preparing the people to receive? -- *He was preparing the people to receive the Saviour.*
4. What did God say after Jesus' baptism? -- *God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
5. Has God ever said that he was pleased with another man? -- *There is no other person who is pleasing to God as Jesus was, because all other men are sinners.*
6. When John said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world", to what did he compare Jesus? He *said that Jesus was like the lambs that for years had been slain and offered as sacrifices in the place of sinners.*

7. Think back to all the narrations you've heard. What other situations do you remember when people sacrificed lambs to cover their sins so that they could draw near to God?
 - *Abel offered a lamb when he worshipped God.*
 - *Abraham was about to kill his beloved son Isaac when he saw the lamb caught in the bush. God had placed the lamb there so that he could die in Isaac's place.*
 - *In Egypt, God said that the eldest son of every family would die, unless they killed a lamb and put its blood on the doorposts of the house. This lamb died in the place of the firstborn.*
 - *On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest killed animals and brought the blood into the Holy of Holies to atone first for his own sin, and then for all the people.*
8. Did the blood of the animal take away the sin of people? -- *No, the blood of an animal could not take away the sin.*
9. How did these animal sacrifices help sinners to have fellowship with a holy God? -- *The dead animal was a picture of the death that each person deserved because they were all sinners. The people knew that their only hope of being saved from eternal death in the lake of fire was the Savior who had received the promise. When someone believed this, God would agree to move on from their sin until the Savior returned.*
10. So, when John said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," what do you think he meant? " *He said that the lambs that had been sacrificed for so many years were an image of Jesus. John said that God wanted Jesus to die like a lamb to cover our sin once and for all.*

29 The Temptation of Jesus

Subject of the narration: Jesus was victorious over Satan's temptation.

Help preparing this account: *Open your Bible in Matthew 4. In verses 3-10, make a small pencil mark next to Satan's words and another next to Jesus' words. You will have two sets of marks, each of which is Satan's words, and then Jesus' response. Because it would be difficult to remember all of this conversation, read these verses as part of your narration. Read these verses as part of your narration, because it would be difficult to remember the whole conversation. They are marked with a ★ in the brief narration below.*

Scripture: Before you recount, read Matthew 4:1–11 three or four times.

The narration in brief: You remember that after Jesus' baptism, God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." After that, the Holy Spirit led him into the wilderness where he fasted for forty days and forty nights.

God had just said, "This is my beloved Son..." But the first thing Satan said to Jesus was, "★ *If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become breads.*" Satan contradicted God's word, just as he had done in the Garden of Eden when he had tempted Eve.

Jesus was truly the Son of God. He was also fully human. He was hungry and weak after fasting all this time. He had the power to turn stones into bread, but he refused to give in to Satan's temptation. Instead, he said, ★ *"It is written, 'Man does not live by bread alone, but*

by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.' We need food for physical life, but God says there are other more important things. We need God's Word to show us God's truth and the way to eternal life.

Satan took Jesus to the highest point of the temple. He said to Jesus, ★ *"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down."* He even quoted part of God's Word to say that angels would come and guard him if he did that. But Jesus answered, ★ *"It is also written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

In spite of this, Satan returned a third time to tempt him. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, ★ *"I will give you all these if you will bow down and worship me."* Jesus answered him ★ *"Depart from me, Satan!" For it is written, ★ "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone."* So, Satan left Jesus, and angels came to strengthen him.

Following this, Jesus began his wonderful ministry. You'll want to hear about it! Come for the next narration.

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. Why do you think Satan tempted Jesus? -- *He tempted Jesus because if Jesus sinned, he would no longer be the perfect lamb who could save us by dying in our place. Moreover, Satan wanted Jesus to be under his authority, because from the beginning, he wanted to take the place of Almighty God.*
2. Did Satan know the Word of God? *He even quoted God's Word, but he didn't quote it correctly. He quoted a little here and a little there, just to adapt it to his own purposes.*
3. How did Jesus respond to Satan's temptation? -- *He quoted God's Word, but he did it right.*
4. Who was victorious in these temptations: Satan or Jesus? -- *Jesus was victorious over Satan, so much so that Satan went away.*
5. Who Has More Authority and Power: Satan or Jesus? -- *Jesus has authority and power over Satan.*

30 Jesus' Authority over Satan

Narrative Topic: Jesus has complete authority over Satan and his evil spirits.

Help prepare this account: Before you begin this account, explain to your listeners that in Jesus' day, the Jews had a large temple in Jerusalem, but in all the villages they had smaller buildings used for worship and teaching. They were called "synagogues".

Scripture: Read these passages three or four times: Luke 4:31-37; 8:26-39; 9:37-43

The narrative in brief: Jesus began his ministry. He preached God's Word, saying, "The time has come. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the good news. Many people followed him to hear his preaching, but from all of them he chose twelve men to be his helpers in the work he was doing.

One day, Jesus entered a Jewish synagogue to teach. People were amazed at how authoritatively he taught. As he was teaching that day, a man of an evil spirit cried out, "What have we to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the Holy One of God! Jesus spoke to the spirit, "Be silent! Get out of this man! Immediately, the spirit shook the man and came out of him with a loud cry. Everyone was amazed at Jesus' power over evil spirits, and the way He drove them out with a single word. After that, Jesus' reputation began to spread throughout the country.

Some time later, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee with his disciples. When they got off the boat, they were greeted by a man who was tormented by evil spirits. For a long time, he had lived naked in cemeteries and other lonely places. On occasion, people had tried to chain his hands and feet to keep him from wandering, but he had broken the chains and evil spirits had forced him to continue living this way.

As soon as the man saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He cried out, "What do you want from me, Jesus, Son of the Most High?" The evil spirits in him were begging Jesus not to send them to the lake of fire, but to send them to a nearby herd of pigs. Jesus commanded the spirits to come out of man and into the pigs. They did it immediately! The man who had been freed from spirit bondage wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus told him to go home and tell all that God had done for him. So, he went and told everyone all that Jesus had done for him.

One day, when Jesus was in a large crowd, someone cried out, "Master, I beg you to come and see my only son". A spirit attacks him and makes him scream, tremble and foam at the mouth. Jesus told the man to bring his child. As the child approached Jesus, the spirit threw him to the ground and caused him to convulse. But Jesus rebuked the spirit, healed the child, and returned him to his father. Everyone was impressed by Jesus' great power over Satan and his evil spirits. Jesus had incredible power! In our next story, you will find out more about this. Come on!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. Where do evil spirits come from? Who are they? -- *Evil spirits were angelic beings who were created by God to serve Him, but who followed Satan in his rebellion against God. With Satan, they are deceivers and want to prevent people from coming to God.*
2. What was the promise God made to Adam and Eve after they sinned? -- *God promised that He would send a Savior who would destroy Satan and his power over sin and death.*
3. As Jesus was teaching in the synagogue, the evil spirit lifted up its voice and said, "What have we to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? What did this evil spirit understand of the promise that was made to Eve after she sinned in the Garden of Eden? -- *The evil spirit understood that Jesus had come to destroy Satan and his evil spirits, as God had promised Eve when he said that the Savior would crush Satan's head.*
4. What did Jesus use to cast out evil spirits? -- He said, "*Be silent!*" *Get out!*
5. Who has more power, Satan or Jesus? -- *Jesus.*

31 Jesus Heals and Forgives

Narrative topic: Jesus has authority over sickness and sin.

Scripture: Read Mark 1:29-42 and 2:1-12 three or four times.

The narrative in brief: Jesus healed people who had many types of diseases, and he cast out many evil spirits. At that time, one of the most feared diseases was leprosy. It was thought to be highly contagious and to disfigure people by biting their fingers, toes, and even parts of the face. At that time, lepers had to live outside the cities and people were not allowed to approach or touch them.

One day, a leper approached Jesus. He knelt before Jesus, saying, "If you want to, you can cleanse me." Jesus was filled with compassion for this man. He held out his hand to him, touched him, and said, "*I will, be pure!*" Immediately, he was purified and healed. The man, full of joy, told everyone he met what had happened, and people from all over began to come to Jesus.

After a while, Jesus entered a city where many people welcomed him. There were many people in the house to hear Jesus preach, that the door was blocked. Four men arrived, carrying their paralyzed friend on a mat. As the door was full of people, these men climbed onto the flat roof. They made a big hole by removing the roof. Using ropes, they began to lower their friend until he was in front of Jesus.

When Jesus lives their faith, he says, "My son, your sins are forgiven!" When he said this, some people in the room thought in their hearts, "He is blaspheming God! There is no one but God who can forgive sin! But Jesus knew what they were thinking. Turning to the man, he said, "That you may all know that the Son of Man has power to forgive sin, 'Arise!' and 'Take up your carpet and walk!' The man got up, picked up the mat he was lying on, and went home."

There are many more amazing stories about Jesus. Don't miss the next appointment!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What did Jesus use to heal people? -- *By the word He said, "Be clean!" and "Arise," and the people were healed.*
2. What attribute or character of Jesus do we see in His ministry of healing? -- *He was a person of exceptional power, love, compassion, and mercy.*
3. When Jesus healed the paralytic, instead of saying, "Arise," He said, "My son, your sins are forgiven you." Why did the people in the room think in their hearts that Jesus was blaspheming against God? (*They thought this because they knew that no human has the ability to forgive sin – only God has that ability.*)
4. Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said to them, "That you may all know that the Son of Man has power to forgive sin, arise." Which is more difficult: forgiving a person's sin or healing someone who cannot walk? -- *No human can forgive sin or heal someone by saying, "Be healed." Both are impossible for humans.*
5. How did Jesus prove that He had the power to forgive sins? -- *Jesus said, "Arise!" and the paralytic got up and walked away. This proved that he also had the power to forgive sins.*

6. In doing this, what claim was Jesus making of Himself? -- *He claimed to be God. If only God can forgive sin, and if that healing was proof that Jesus had the power to forgive sin, it means that Jesus is God.*

32 Jesus Calms the Storm

Subject of the narration: Jesus has authority over created things.

Scripture: Read these passages three or four times: John 6:1-15; Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 4:35-41

The narrative in brief: As Jesus served the people, more and more people followed him. One day, he was preaching to a crowd of more than 5,000 people. As it was late in the day, Jesus asked his disciples, "Where can we find bread to feed these people?" His disciples replied that the cost of buying such a quantity of bread was completely beyond their means. One of his disciples said to him, "Here is a boy who has five loaves and two fishes." So Jesus tells them to have everyone sit down. He took a loaf of bread, broke it, and gave thanks for it. He began to divide the bread and the fish. He kept cutting and cutting into pieces... until everyone has them. In addition, all these people were eating as much as they could, and there were still 12 baskets of bread left.

When the people saw this miracle, they said, "Surely it is the prophet who was promised." They were all ready to make Jesus the king of their nation, hoping that he would free them from the rule of the Romans! But Jesus knew their hearts. He knew that they were only interested in earthly things like being freed from the Romans, not being freed from Satan's power, sin, and death. So he quietly left them.

That night, the disciples took a boat to cross the lake to the other side. Suddenly, a storm hit them. The wind was violent and the waves were high. They feared for their lives. As they looked into the darkness, they saw the figure of someone coming towards them and walking on the water. They were very fearful, thinking it was a ghost. But then they heard a voice saying, "Do not be afraid! It's me!" It was Jesus! He got into the boat with them, and the wind and the waves ceased. The disciples worshipped him. They said, "Verily, you are the Son of God."

Another time, they were all together in the boat when a storm arose. Again, the wind was so strong and the waves were so high that the boat began to fill with water. Jesus was in the back of the boat, sleeping. The disciples woke him up and said, "Master, don't you care that we are destroyed?" Jesus got up and threatened the wind. He said, "Silence! Shut up! And immediately the wind calmed down and all was quiet. The disciples were seized with great fear, and asked one another, "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

My friends, you have not heard a fraction of the miracles that Jesus performed! And that's not all! Come and listen to the next narration!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. After Jesus had multiplied the bread and the fish, many people followed him. Why did they follow him? " *They followed him because he fed them.*" *They wanted to make him king, hoping that he would provide for them and free them from Roman rule.*
2. Why did Jesus refuse to be their king? -- *Jesus knew that they did not want to be freed from Satan's power, from sin, and from death. They only wanted a king who would give them earthly things.*
3. The night that Jesus was in the boat with his disciples, whom did the storm obey? -- *The storm obeys Jesus.*
4. Many people have said, "Verily, this is the prophet who was promised by God." And Jesus' disciples said to him, "You are certainly the Son of God," and "Who is this, that even the wind and the waves obey him?" You may also have begun to wonder, "Who is this Jesus?" Think about it!

Narrator: *Your listeners don't need to answer this question out loud, but we want them to think about it. If they want to share their thoughts at that time, that would be good.*

33 The Resurrection of Lazarus

Narrative Topic: Jesus Has Authority Over Death

Help prepare this account: *In this account, you will read ★ John 11:25–26, as well as verse 27, which is part of Jesus' conversation with Martha.*

Scripture: Read John 11:1–53 three or four times.

The narrative in brief: Jesus had a good friend named Lazarus. Lazarus lived in the city of Bethany with his two sisters, Mary and Martha. One day, Lazarus fell very ill and his sisters sent a message to Jesus asking him to come and heal him. When Jesus heard this, instead of leaving right away, he deliberately waited two days. Then he told his disciples that they should all go to Bethany because Lazarus was dead. He added that he was glad he had not been there with his friend, because now the others would believe.

When they arrived at Bethany, they discovered that, as Jesus had said, Lazarus was already dead and had been buried four days earlier. Martha, hearing of the arrival of their friend Jesus, rushed to meet him and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died!" Jesus answered, "Your brother will rise." Martha thought that Jesus was talking about the resurrection of the body at the end of time.

But Jesus answered him, ★*"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies. And he who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe that?"* Martha immediately understood that Jesus was not only referring to the future of a person's body, but also to the future of a person's spirit. She answered, ★*"Yes, Lord! I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who was to come into the world.* She believed that Jesus was the promised Savior!

When Mary, Martha's sister, saw Jesus, she fell to the ground in grief. She said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died!" Jesus was filled with grief because of the grief they felt, and he too was weeping. They all went together to the tomb of Lazarus, which was a cave with a huge stone above the opening. Jesus said, "Take away the stone!" Martha was surprised. She said, "Lord, he's been dead for four days! He must have started to smell!". But Jesus insisted, "Take away the stone!" Then they rolled away the stone. In a loud voice, Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus went out! When they came out, their hands, feet, and face were still covered with strips of cloth that they used to bury people. Jesus said, "Take off the garments of the tomb and let it go."

When people saw this, some believed that Jesus was their Savior, just as Martha had. Others, however, refused to believe, especially the religious leaders who began a plan to kill Jesus. They feared that the people would believe and follow Jesus and make him king. If this happened, the Romans would blame the religious leaders and take away their authority.

Jesus did not only raise Lazarus from the dead. There were also other dead people whom he brought back to life.

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. Who has the power to give life and take it back? --- *God alone.*
2. What did Jesus mean when he said, "Whosoever believeth in me, even if he dies, shall live"? *He meant that those who believe in Jesus as their Saviour, even if they die physically, their spirits will live forever.*
3. Why do you think Jesus chose to raise Lazarus from the dead--- *He wanted people to know who He really is. In addition, he loved his friend Lazarus, as well as the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was merciful to them.*
4. Why did the religious leaders want to kill Jesus--- *They feared that the people would believe and follow Jesus, and make him their king. This would mean that the Romans would take away their authority.*

34 Jesus and Nicodemus

Subject of the narration: Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again.

Help in preparing this narrative: *A large part of this narrative is Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. You'll have to read it over and over again a few times to really get it in your mind. You'll want to choose one or two key verses to read as part of your storytelling. Mark them in your Bible as usual. Don't forget to use Jesus' words about the brazen serpent! These will be taken up in later narratives.*

Scripture: Read John 3:1-18 three or four times.

The narration in brief: There was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus. One night, Nicodemus went to see Jesus. He said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by

God, for no one can perform the miracles you do without God being with him." Jesus answered, "I say to you, unless anyone is born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus was surprised. He thought Jesus was talking about physical birth. He asked, "How can a man be born when he is old? Surely, he can't enter his mother's womb a second time! Jesus explained that there are physical things of the body and spiritual things of the spirit. There are things we can see, and things we can't see. Jesus said that we are born physically, but we are also to be born spiritually by listening, believing, and trusting in the Savior who was sent by God.

In order to understand both physical and spiritual things, Jesus reminded Nicodemus of the time when God had sent poisonous serpents to the Israelites because of their murmuring. Many people died. But God told Moses to raise a brazen serpent on a pole in the middle of the camp. He said that if they were bitten by a snake, they should look at that bronze serpent and they would live. It was an example of *physical death and life* that came by believing what God said.

Then Jesus told Nicodemus about a future event, something that would bring *spiritual life* to those who have *died spiritually* because of sin. Jesus said that he himself would be lifted up, just like the brazen serpent, so that all who turn to him and believe, will be spiritually reborn again and have eternal life.

Jesus went on to explain that there are two paths: one leads to life, and the second leads to death. It was because of His great love for us that God sent the Savior. If anyone believes in the Savior, he will be born again and live forever. The way to death is to live for oneself and depend on oneself, just as Adam and Eve did when they rebelled against God. God said to Adam, "If you eat of this fruit, you will die." Eternal death is God's promise for those who trust in themselves.

Let me ask you: Can we trust the Savior for His new birth and for His path to life? Yes! There's no need to wait!

And another question! How do you think Jesus will be raised up as the brazen serpent? You'll find the answer in the following narrations!

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. Why does Nicodemus believe that Jesus is sent from God? " *He believed this because of the miracles that Jesus had done.*"
2. Jesus said, "Unless anyone is born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." What is a person's first birth? -- *A person's first birth is a physical (corporeal) birth by his mother.*
3. But Jesus said that we must be born again. What kind of birth is this second birth? -- *The second birth of a person is a spiritual birth by the Spirit of God. We are spiritually born by hearing about and believing in the Savior who was sent by God.*
4. In what way is the brazen serpent that was lifted up before the Israelites in the wilderness like Jesus? -- *First of all, the serpent was lifted up, and Jesus said that it too would be lifted up. Secondly, anyone who believed what God had said and looked at the bronze serpent, would be healed of the bite of the venomous snake. In the same way, anyone who believes in the Savior Jesus will be saved from the poison of Satan's power, from sin and death.*

35 The Religious Hypocrites

Narrative Topic: Jesus spoke with those who relied on themselves to be accepted by God.

Help in preparing this account: As was the case with the previous account, the majority of this account consists of conversations that Jesus had with various people. There are 3 main sections in this narrative:

1. John 8:31-59, which shows us that no one will be accepted by God because of their ancestors or nationality. This section also includes important teachings about Abraham and Jesus.
2. Mark 7:1-9 and 14-23, which shows us that no one will be accepted by God because of his religion, or because of his faithfulness in observing religious customs or rules, or because of the good things he does.
3. Luke 18:9-14, which shows that God only accepts those who are totally dependent on Him to be saved from their sin problem that separates them from God.

Choose a few key verses to read as part of your narrative and mark them in advance in your Bible.

Writing: Read all these passages several times until you can remember them well: John 8:31–59; Mark 7:1-9 and 14-23; Luke 18:9-14

The narration in brief: One day, Jesus was talking with a group of people who were following him. He said to them, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

People wondered why he said that. They didn't need to be released at all. They said, "We are the descendants of Abraham! We are nobody's slaves!" Jesus told them that they were truly slaves, that they were slaves to sin, and that they could not escape this slavery by relying on their ancestor Abraham.

As they kept saying, "Our father is Abraham," Jesus said, "If you were really children of Abraham, you would do the things that Abraham did. But you intend to kill me. You are doing the deeds of your father the devil, who has been a murderer and a liar from the beginning."

Even though they were Jews who were the offspring of Abraham, Jesus was telling them that having honored ancestors cannot help at all to free a person from the bondage of sin. A person cannot depend on their physical ancestors or ethnicity to be accepted by God.

Jesus continued to speak of Abraham. He said, "Your father, Abraham, rejoiced to see my day!" It really upset these people. They asked him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and you say that you have seen Abraham?" Jesus replied, "I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Immediately, people started picking up rocks to kill him. They wanted to kill him because they were, in fact, children of the devil, as Jesus had said. They wanted to kill him because he said he was alive before Abraham, and because he used the same words that God used when he told Moses who he was: I AM. But Jesus hid himself and went away.

There were other people at that time who depended on carefully following the religious customs of the time in order to be accepted by God. They followed special laws on washing dishes and pots, on clean and unclean food, on special ways of dressing, on observing the religious calendars of festivals, and on fasting and offerings.

Jesus told them that they worship only with their lips, but in their hearts, they did not love God, nor did they believe or obey God's Word. He told them that it is not the things they eat, nor the clothes they wear, nor the festivals they observe that make them pure or acceptable to God. Instead, it is the sin in a person's heart that makes them unclean and separates them from God. Following a religion with its customs will not bring anyone into the kingdom of God, bring forgiveness of sins, or lead to eternal life. Jesus said that they were deceiving themselves by relying on religious customs to be accepted by God, when their hearts were unclean.

To help them understand the only attitude a person must have in order to be accepted by God, Jesus told them the story of two men: one, who was a very religious Pharisee, and the other, a tax collector who was generally despised by his fellow countrymen. The Pharisee was a proud man, believing in his own goodness because he was doing his best to follow God's law. This man went to the temple where he prayed in front of the others, saying, "God, I thank you that I am not like the others. I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of my income," and he listed all the religious things he did.

But the other man, the tax collector, stood some distance from the temple while he prayed. He was so overwhelmed with sorrow for his sin that he kept his head down. He beat his breast in sorrow and said, "O God, have mercy on me, sinner that I am." Jesus said, "I tell you, the tax collector has gone home and has been forgiven by God."

We cannot depend on our ancestry, nor on our ethnicity, nor on following religious traditions, nor on the good things we do, in order to be received and accepted by God. All we can do is humbly come to God and rely on His mercy.

Do you think these religious people believed in Jesus and the things he taught? We'll have the answer in the next few lessons.

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. These Jews were truly dependent on their Father Abraham! Did Jesus agree that a person could be accepted by God because he or she was in the family of a special person? -- *Jesus said that a person could not be accepted by God because of his ancestry.*
2. Jesus told the people that if Abraham were truly their father, they would have done good just as Abraham had done. Who, according to him, was their father really? " *He said the devil was their father.*"
3. How did Jesus describe Satan's character? (*He said that Satan is a murderer and a liar.*)
4. In what way did these people show the character of Satan? -- *They said they were children of Abraham and God, but they didn't do good as Abraham did. By doing this, they were lying as Satan is a liar. They were planning to kill Jesus. In this, they were just like Satan, who has been a murderer from the beginning.*
5. Jesus said that we do not become unclean or sinful by eating certain foods or touching certain things. What does he think makes us impure? " *We are made unclean by the sin that is in our hearts.*"

6. In the example Jesus gave about the Pharisee and the publican, who was accepted by God, the Pharisee, or the publican? " *The publican has been accepted; the Pharisee has not.*
7. Why did God accept the tax collector? -- *The tax collector was accepted by God because he knew the sin that was in his heart. He repented, that is, he said openly that he was a sinner and that he needed God's mercy*
8. When Jesus was speaking with that first group of people, he said, "I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." What did he mean by that? " *He meant that he was alive before Abraham.*" And by this he also said that he was alive before he was born of Mary.
9. Where else – a long time ago – did we hear someone use the name "I AM"? -- *When Moses was at the burning bush, he asked God for his name. God said to him, "I AM."*
10. Why did those who were talking to Jesus get angry to the point of trying to stone Him? -- *They wanted to kill Him because when He said His name was "I AM," they understood that He was saying He was God.*

36 The Good Shepherd

Narrative Topic: Jesus is the only way to eternal life.

Help preparing this account: *In this account, you will read a passage from ★ John 10:11, then ★ John 10:9–10 (note that you will read them in the usual order) and ★ John 14:6. Mark them in your Bible.*

Scripture: Read John 10:1-11 and John 14:6 several times.

The narrative in brief: At the time Jesus lived, many Jews had flocks of sheep. Jesus spoke of this and their customs of caring for the sheep. He compared himself to a shepherd and the people to sheep.

The Jewish shepherds loved their sheep and cared for them by leading them to places where there was plenty of grass and still water. The sheep knew their shepherd so well that they recognized his voice and followed him willingly. Despite this, sometimes a sheep would go astray and the shepherd would risk his life in search of it. Jesus said, ★ *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*"

While pasture was becoming scarce around the cities, shepherds took their animals further and further to find good pasture. It was common at certain times of the year for a shepherd to be so far from home that he slept on the hills with his animals. It was dangerous because there were thieves walking around stealing sheep, and there were also wild animals killing sheep.

Thus, before nightfall, the shepherds built a sheepfold with walls of rocks and thorny branches. When night fell, the shepherds put their sheep in the sheepfold and they themselves lay down to sleep in the doorway. There was, of course, only one place to enter the sheepfold, and that was where the shepherds were lying. Whoever entered the sheep

pen had to pass in front of the shepherds. They themselves served as a door to the sheep pen, so that no thief or wild animal could enter to devour the sheep.

Jesus said, ★ *"Verily I say unto you, I am the door to the sheep. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will go in, go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; I have come that the sheep may have life, and that they may have it abundantly."* Jesus is the door. There is only one door to enter the place of spiritual security and eternal life. There is no other way. In fact, Jesus said very clearly, ★ *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Jesus went on to say that many people come claiming to be a savior sent by God. These, he said, are like thieves who try to scale the walls of the sheepfold at night, or who try to break into it to steal. There is only one true shepherd of the sheep.

Do you remember the story of Noah? How many doors were there in the ark? Who closed the door? Because Noah believed in God and what He said, he, his family, and all the animals, walked through the one door and were saved from God's judgment.

The way to get through the door of eternal life is to believe in the Savior who was promised so long ago. It was he who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. There is no other way to go to God."

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:


1. When Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd," what did he mean?
 - *He meant that he loves those who belong to him as the shepherd loves his sheep;*
 - *He is able and willing to lead those who recognize his voice;*
 - *He was willing to lay down his life to save "his sheep" from enemies who deceive and bring death to the sheep.*
2. In Jesus' day, what did the shepherds do to keep their sheep safe at night? -- *They made a fold with walls of rocks and thorny branches, and with only one door. When night came, the sheep passed safely into the fold through this one door. Then the shepherds themselves lay down in the opening of the enclosure like a door or a gate. The sheep were safe from thieves and wild animals because the shepherds were lying in the doorway.*
3. When Jesus said, "I am the door to the sheep," what did he mean? -- *He meant that the sheepfold is like eternal life, a place of security and life, and that Jesus is like the door through which a person can enter into eternal life and find spiritual security.*
4. In what way did Jesus' words remind us of Noah? -- *There was only one door in the ark through which they could go to shelter themselves from the judgment of the flood. Jesus is the only door to finding spiritual security, eternal life, and salvation from the punishment of eternal death in the lake of fire that has been prepared for Satan and all his angels.*


37 The Betrayal of Jesus


Subject of the narrative: Jesus went to Jerusalem where he celebrated the Passover, where he was betrayed and condemned to death.

Scripture: Read the following verses three or four times: Mark 11:1-10; Mark 14:1-2, 10-26, and 32-65; 15:1-15; Matthew 27:3-5,

The story in brief: Jesus knew that the time had come for him to go to Jerusalem. He sent his disciples before him to fetch a colt. He told them where to go to find this colt, and said that if they were asked, "Why do you take this colt?" they should answer, "The Lord needs it." They went and found everything as Jesus said.

 ⁵ When Jesus entered the city on the colt, a great crowd greeted him with shouts of joy. They made a way for him, spreading their cloaks and palm branches on the road. People walked past him shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed be the coming kingdom of our father David! They were sure that Jesus was going to become the king of their nation, and they were so happy to think that He would save them from the power of the Romans. Very few believed that Jesus had come to save them from God's judgment and Satan's power, from sin and death.

 ⁶ The religious leaders were angry that people had welcomed Jesus in this way. They have intensified their plans to kill him. Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, offered to help them. They promised to give him thirty pieces of silver if he would deliver Jesus into their hands.

 ⁷

All of this happened during the Passover celebration, which commemorated the deliverance of the Jews of Egypt when God passed over their homes saying, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." Jesus wanted to celebrate the feast of the Passover with his disciples. He told two of them to go to the city where they would meet a man carrying a jug of water. He told them to follow this man, and when the man entered his house, they were to tell him that Master was asking for a room to be used to celebrate the Passover. Jesus told them that this man would show them a large upper room, ready for use. The men left, and everything happened as Jesus said.

That evening, as they sat together for the meal, Jesus said, "Whoever of you eats with me will betray me." Everyone denied it, saying, "Certainly not me?"

They continued with the Passover meal. Jesus broke the bread and said, just as he had broken the bread, this is precisely how his body would be broken for them. And then, when he lifted up his cup, he said that the cup of wine they drank together was an image of his blood flowing from his body for the good of all men. Meanwhile, Judas went out.

After finishing their Passover meal, they climbed the hill outside of Jerusalem where there was a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus knelt down, praying and asking his Father to take him away from this suffering, if it were possible. He knew he was about to experience great suffering, but he said, "Not my will, but yours."

Suddenly, they heard a noise and saw Judas coming with a crowd of people armed with swords and clubs. Judas, the traitor, approached Jesus and greeted him with a kiss, which was the sign he had given to the religious leaders to show that this was Jesus. The crowd seized Jesus and took him to the religious council. All of Jesus' disciples fled in fear and left him alone. In the hours that followed, Judas realized the wickedness he had done. He returned to the religious leaders and threw the 30 silver coins on the floor of the temple. Then he went out and hanged himself.

The religious leaders took Jesus to the council of elders. Jesus had lived a perfect life. He had not broken any of their laws, and they were not able to find any fault in him. Since



Judas had already committed suicide, they had no one to testify against Jesus, so they hired people to lie about him. When they lied about him, Jesus



remained silent. He didn't say a word. But when the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the son from heaven?" Jesus replied, "I AM." When the High Priest heard these words, he tore his robe to show his anger over

what Jesus had just said. The religious leaders condemned Jesus to



death. They spat on him, beat him and beat him.

After all this, they brought Jesus to the Roman governor who was named Pilate. A large crowd of people began to gather. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "It is as you say." Pilate told the people that he saw nothing wrong with Jesus. When Pilate saw that the crowd was excited and demanding that Jesus be killed, he was afraid. So he asked them if they wanted Jesus to be released or another prisoner, a murderer named Barabbas. The crowd shouted, "Crucify Jesus ! Free Barabbas! Then Pilate ordered Jesus to be whipped and handed him over to be crucified.



After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. In this account, there were several instances where Jesus knew in advance what was going to happen. How did Jesus know where they would find the colt, that they would meet a man with a pitcher of water, and that Judas would betray him? " *Jesus knows everything.*"
2. What does Jesus compare bread and wine to? -- *He compares bread to his body being broken for the good of the people. He compared wine to his blood that would be shed for the good of the people.*
3. How did Jesus know that suffering awaited Him? -- *Jesus knows everything.*
4. Who led Judas and the religious leaders? -- *Satan led them.*
5. Why did the religious leaders get angry when Jesus said, "I AM -- *They were angry because Almighty God had revealed Himself to Moses through these words. They understood that Jesus was saying that he is God.*
6. What sin did Jesus commit that resulted in him being condemned to death? -- *Jesus committed no sin. He kept all of God's law and always did good. Even Pilate could find no fault in him.*
7. What did we hear about in this account that fulfilled the prophecies made by the prophets hundreds of years before Jesus lived? -- ***Narrator: Show them the chart of prophecies to remind them of these prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus' life.***
 - *The Saviour will come riding on a donkey*
 - *The Savior will be betrayed by a friend.*
 - *The Savior will be sold for 30 silver.*
 - *Lying witnesses confronted him.*

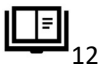
- *The Savior Will Not Open His Mouth*
- *The Saviour will be beaten and spat on.*
- *The Savior will be despised and rejected by His own people.*

38 The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus

Subject of the narrative: Jesus was crucified and buried. He is risen.

Scripture: Read the following passages three or four times: Mark 15:16-47; John 19:17-42; Luke 23:44-47; 24:1 to 12

The narrative in brief: After Pilate handed Jesus over to the soldiers to be crucified, they took him aside. They mocked him by dressing him in a robe of purple, which was the color worn by kings at that time. They made him a crown of thorns and placed it on his head, and then they prostrated themselves before him.



They led Jesus to a hill outside Jerusalem and there they crucified him. Nails were driven into his hands and feet on the wooden cross. Then they raised the cross and Jesus was lifted up before all who were watching him.

Two criminals were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. The soldiers cast lots to see who would get Jesus' robe. As he hung on the cross, people mocked him, saying, "Save yourself! Come down from the cross!" Others have said, "You may have saved others, but you cannot save yourself!"

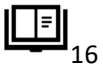


At that time, he was close to death. Jesus had not committed a single sin, and yet he was there, suspended, suffering the death that is the reward for *our* sin. While Jesus was carrying our judgment for sin upon Himself, the sky was darkening because God, who does not bear sin, turned His back on His own Son, leaving Him alone. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*My God! Why have you forsaken me?*" He was separated from God because of our sin, so that God, in His righteousness, could forgive and accept us.

Just before he died, Jesus cried out again in a loud voice. He said, "*It is finished.*" His purpose in coming into the world was accomplished. He said, "*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*" And then, he died. A soldier passed by and saw that he was already dead. He took his spear and thrust it into Jesus' side, and his blood flowed in torrents. As His blood was shed, Jesus took the place of every sinner. He was delivered up to death just as all those sacrificial lambs had been killed in the place of sinners. He was the Lamb of God that took away the sin of the world, as John had said.

At the time of his death, the thick, high curtain that covered the entrance to the Most Holy Place of the temple split in two, from top to bottom. God did this to show that the complete atonement had been made for sin. The cracked curtain showed that the path to God is now

completely open. Those who believe that Jesus took punishment for their sin will never again be separated from God.



That evening, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a member of the religious council, a wealthy man who had believed in Jesus, went to Pilate to ask for Jesus' body. Pilate agreed. So, Joseph bought a piece of funeral cloth and buried Jesus in his own tomb, which had been dug into a rocky hill. They covered the opening with a huge stone and Pilate placed guards around it. Three days later, women who were followers of Jesus went to the tomb. As they approached the tomb, they saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. Two angels stood there and said to them, "He is risen! He is no longer here." See where they dropped it off. They looked into the grave and he wasn't there! The angels told them to go and tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead, and that he would show himself to them as he had said.



After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. Why was Jesus crucified? -- *Jesus, who had no sin, died in our place. He took God's judgment upon us, that is, death, instead of sending us to eternal death in the lake of fire.*
2. What did Jesus mean when he said, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" -- *There, on the cross, Jesus took the place of sinners. Another passage in God's Word says, "He was made sin for us." God does not tolerate sin. As Jesus took our sins upon Himself, God could not bear to look at His Son Jesus. He turned his back on his beloved Son and left him completely alone. This is what each of us deserves.*
3. When Jesus said, "It is finished," what did he mean? -- *He was saying that the purpose of his birth and life in the world was accomplished. God's plan to save mankind from Satan, from sin, and death has been accomplished. There is nothing more to do! Jesus has already done for us all that God requires.*
4. What happened in the temple when Jesus died? -- *The large, thick curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was split from top to bottom.*
5. Why did this happen? -- *The curtain was a picture of the fact that man cannot draw near to God because he is separated from God by his sin. God tore the curtain to show that our sin was "atoned for" by Jesus, the perfect sacrifice. God can now accept those who come to Him through Jesus.*
6. When Jesus rose from the dead, what did he show his power over? Over whom did he show his power? -- *When Jesus rose from the dead, he showed his power over death and over the sin that causes death. In doing so, Jesus showed His power over Satan.*
7. How did Jesus keep that very first promise that was made to Adam and Eve, that one of Eve's descendants would crush Satan's head and Satan would hurt his heel? -- *Satan is the one who deceived Eve and brought death into the world. Thus, when Jesus died and rose again, Satan's power over man through sin and death was destroyed. When Jesus died, it was as if Satan had hurt him. But this was only a temporary wound because Jesus rose from the dead, completely defeating Satan, sin, and death.*
8. What does a person have to do to receive the security and salvation from sin that Jesus offers us? -- *In Jesus' words, we must believe who He is and what He has done for us.*
9. Before he died, Jesus told Nicodemus something about the brazen serpent in the wilderness. What was it, and what did it have to do with Jesus being crucified? -- *Jesus told Nicodemus that he would be lifted up as the brazen serpent was lifted up in the wilderness." He said that just as people looked at the bronze serpent with faith that they*

would be healed of venomous bites, in the same way that people look at Jesus believing what He did for us on the cross, they will be saved from the terrible effects of sin.

10. What prophecies in our board were fulfilled in this narration? -- **Narrator:** Show them the chart of prophecies to help them recognize the prophecies that were fulfilled.
- *The hands and feet of the Savior will be pierced.*
 - *The Saviour will die with the wicked.*
 - *They will draw lots for his clothes.*
 - *They will mock him and curse him.*
 - *The Saviour will be buried with the rich.*
 - *The Savior will come alive again.*

39 Jesus Ascended to Heaven

Subject of the narrative: Jesus appeared to his disciples and ascended into heaven.

Scripture: Read the following verses three or four times: Luke 24:13–48; 1 Corinthians 15:3–7; Acts 1:3-11

The story in brief: A few days after Jesus' crucifixion, two of his disciples left Jerusalem to go to the city of Emmaus. As they walked, they said how disappointed they were that Jesus had been crucified. Suddenly, another traveler started walking with them and asked them why they looked so sad. So, they told him that Jesus was a prophet who had done all kinds of miracles, but that the religious leaders had handed him over to the government and that he had been crucified. Then they told him that some women had gone to the tomb where he had been buried, and did not find him, but that he had risen from the dead and was now alive. However, they had their doubts about it.

The stranger who was walking with them said to him, "Your heart is so slow to believe all that the prophets have written!" Then, beginning with the books of Moses (i.e., Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) and continuing through the writings of the prophets, he explained to them all that had been written about the Savior.

- There is no doubt that he spoke of all **the promises God** had made about the coming of the Savior, the promise made to *Adam and Eve* about the descendant of Eve who would crush Satan's head, and how Jesus had done this by giving his life so that we would no longer be Satan's slaves, of sin and death.
- There was the promise made to *Abraham* that, through his descendant, everyone would be blessed. What greater blessing could there be for everyone than the blessing of eternal life that came through Jesus!
- And there was the promise made to *King David*, that one of his descendants would reign forever. Jesus was, in fact, a descendant of David, who was victorious over death, and is therefore still alive and able to reign forever and ever.
- He must have told them **about the problem of sin** that started with Adam and Eve, then Cain and Abel, and then all men, all have a sinful nature. They are all under God's righteous sentence to death, for God cannot accept sin. All need a Savior.

- He had to tell them how God saved Noah and his family by going through **that one door to enter the safety of the ark**. There was no other way to be saved. Jesus is the door through which we must pass in order to be accepted by God and to have eternal life.
- No doubt, he told them about all the **times when God accepted the death of one in favor of another** – such as the time when Isaac was going to be offered as a sacrifice, but God provided a lamb to die in his place. And that Passover night, when a perfect lamb, without broken bones, was slain, and his blood was laid on the thresholds of their houses. When God saw the blood, a sign that the lamb had been slain, he passed over them instead of killing the firstborn of that house. The lamb died in the place of the firstborn son. The Savior Jesus died in our place, you and I, and now God "passes over" us instead of sending us eternal judgment.
- I'm sure he also told them about the Israelites' deliverance **from slavery in Egypt**, and how God opened a way for them to be saved by crossing the Red Sea on dry land. They did nothing at all to deserve it, nor to cross the Red Sea. It was God's work to free them from slavery. God's way to salvation is not by our own strength or effort, nor by our merit of being saved, for we are all slaves to sin and Satan. By the grace of God alone, we are saved by our Savior Jesus.
- Perhaps he reminded them **of the tabernacle** where God's presence filled the Most Holy Place, and how **the heavy curtain** separated sinners from God's presence. But because Jesus took the death penalty that God's justice required for our sin, the curtain is wide open. God's presence is now open to us, and He can accept us.
- In addition to this, he probably reminded them of all the **sacrifices** that were offered, and the **Day of Atonement** when the blood of an animal was sprinkled on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant. The blood of this animal was an image of the blood of the Savior who has now come, bringing us God's mercy. We no longer need to offer sacrifices! God fully accepted Jesus' death in the place of all those who trust Him to be saved from God's judgment.
- And then there was the goat on whose head the high priest laid his hands, and confessed all the sins of the people. The goat was led far, far away, until they could no longer see him. It was also a picture of how Jesus' death brought us forgiveness of sin. God has accepted the life and death of Jesus on our behalf and no longer looks at our sin. Instead, he sees Jesus and His righteousness in our place.
- There is no doubt that he reviewed many of the **Old Testament prophecies** concerning the Promised Savior, and how they were all fulfilled in Jesus.

Narrator: Review all the prophecies on the board. (page 54)

As they listened to this strange conversation, the two men noticed that it was almost dark. They invited the stranger to eat at their house and spend the night. As they sat down to eat, the stranger took the bread, blessed it, and broke it, and suddenly their eyes opened so that they realized that it was Jesus Himself! Immediately, Jesus disappeared from their sight. That night, these two men ran to Jerusalem to say to the disciples, "It is true! The Lord is risen"!

It was at this moment that Jesus appeared to his disciples. They were surprised, thinking he was a ghost. But Jesus said, "Look at my hands and feet." It is I, Jesus. And he ate with them. Over a period of forty days, Jesus appeared many times to many people—more than five hundred saw him.

Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus was with his disciples on a mountain. Jesus commanded them to be his witnesses, starting in Jerusalem and going out into the whole world. While they were talking about this, Jesus was taken from them into heaven, and a cloud hid him from their eyes.



As they stood there looking at the sky, two angels stood there beside them. They said, "Why are you here looking at the sky? This same Jesus, who was taken from among you into heaven, will return in the same way that you saw him go to heaven."

After you have narrated, ask the following questions:

1. What prophecy was fulfilled in this account?-- *That the Saviour would return to heaven.*
2. God promised David that one of his descendants would be an eternal king. In what way has this promise been fulfilled in this account? " *After the death of Jesus, he rose again.*" *While still alive, he went to heaven where he reigns as our eternal king !*
3. Did God promise Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed? At one point, I asked you if you had received your blessing! Abraham's son was Isaac, and his son was Jacob, and out of Jacob's family came King David, from whom the Savior Jesus came. He came to pay the price of your sin, which is death, and to give you forgiveness of sins, acceptance by God, and eternal life. Think about it. Have you received your blessing?

Narrator: Question! Is this the end of the history of God and man? No! This is not the end! Come back next time to learn about the marvelous finality to God's plan of redemption for mankind!

40 The Return of Jesus

Narrative Topic: The story of God and man does not end with Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven. Jesus promised His return to all who believe in Him so that they may live forever in the presence and glory of God.

Scripture: **Read the following verses three or four times:** 1 Peter 1:3-9 and 2 Peter 3:9, 13-14, 17-18; Revelation 20:11-15 and 21:1-27

The story in brief: You have told the story of God and man, starting with creation, moving through our problem of sin, and how God saved us by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. He died and was buried, but he did not remain in the grave. He rose again and ascended to heaven.

Is this the end of the history of God and man? Certainly not! God's story is eternal. The apostle Peter spoke of this when he said: *In his great mercy [God] has given us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance that can never perish, or spoil, or wither, kept in heaven for you.* (1 Peter 1:3-4)

The apostle John developed this "living hope" in the book of Revelation. He explained that after Jesus' return, God will open His books and judge all the dead, great and small, according to what is written in the books. He will take another book called the Book of Life. All those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire forever and ever. This is called the second death. (Revelation 20:11-15)

However, those whose names are written in the Book of Life will live forever in the presence and glory of God. (See John 3:36.) What will eternal life look like? It will be quite different from our life here in this world, because the old order of things will be gone, and everything will be renewed. Look at this comparison of the "old" with our new and living hope. I'm going to pull several verses from God's Word.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1) *After Jesus' return, there will be new heavens and a new earth. (Revelation 21:1)*

At the time of creation, God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of heaven... God has made two great lights: the greater to rule the day and the smaller to rule the night. (Genesis 1:14-15) *But in the new heavens and on the new earth there is no need of the sun or the moon, for the glory of God gives him light, and the Lamb is his lamp. (Revelation 21:23)*

In the beginning, God saw that the light was good. He separated the night from the darkness. He called darkness the night. (Genesis 1:4-5) *But in the new heavens and on the new earth, there will be no more night. (Revelation 21:25)*

In the beginning, God said, "Let the water under heaven be gathered together in one place, and let the dry earth appear. And so it was. God called the arid land "earth" and the accumulated waters he called them "seas." *But in the new heavens and on the new earth there was no sea. (Revelation 21:1)*

God created man in His image, but sin has spoiled God's image (Genesis 1:26; Romans 3:23). *But when Jesus appears, we will be like Him again! (1 John 3:2-3)*

In the Garden of Eden, God has placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 2:9) *But in the "new Jerusalem" of the new heavens and the new earth is the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. On either side of the river stands the tree of life, bearing twelve times of fruit, bearing fruit every month. (Revelation 22:1-2)*

In the garden, God said to Adam, "If you eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you will die." And after 930 years, Adam died. Since this first death, all have died. (Genesis 2:17; 5:5; Hebrews 9:27). *But in the new heavens and on the new earth, there will be no death. (Revelation 21:4)*

After the first sin, pain and bitterness entered the lives of men. The earth has been cursed. In painful labor, we obtain our food. (Genesis 3:17-19) *But in the new heavens and on the new earth, there will be no more curse. God will wipe away all the tears from our eyes. There will be no more mourning, crying or pain. (Revelation 21:4; 22:3)*

Sin entered the world with the first sin of Adam and Eve. (Romans 5:12, 18) *But nothing unclean will ever enter the new heavens and the new earth, nor anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful. (Revelation 21:27)*

After sending Adam and Eve out of the garden, God placed an angel with a flaming sword at the entrance, to prevent them from entering the garden. (Genesis 3:24) *But in the New Jerusalem, the gates will never be closed.* (Revelation 21:25)

My friend, there is still a lot ahead of us!

Peter tells us that we are born again for the living hope of an inheritance that is kept for us in heaven. If this is our "living hope," how should we, who are guarded by God's power, live in expectation of Jesus' return?

- We rejoice, even though we are temporarily saddened by various trials that God uses to test the authenticity of our faith.
- We love him, even if we haven't seen him face to face yet.
- We believe in Him and we obtain the result of our faith, which is the salvation of souls.
- Because of the Lord's patience in leading people to repentance, we are diligent in sharing the good news of Jesus with others.
- We are diligent to be found by Him without spot or wrinkle
- We are diligent to be found by Him in peace
- We are careful not to be carried away by the error of lawless men
- We grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

***Behold, I'll be back soon... I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End...***

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

(Revelation 22:12-13, 20)

APPENDAGES

HELP IN UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT

What do I need to understand about the Savior as seen in the Old Testament?

After the first sin, God promised Adam and Eve that in the days to come, one of their descendants would defeat Satan, and in doing so, also overcome sin and death. (Genesis 3:15)

Based on this promise, many people in the Old Testament hoped and awaited the birth of this Savior. For example, Eve herself was full of joy at the birth of Cain, perhaps because she hoped that this child was the promised Savior. She rejoiced and said, "*With the Lord's help, I have given birth to a man!*" (Genesis 4:1) But her child was not the promised Savior.

Noah's father, too, was looking for the promised child. When Noah was born, he said, "*He will comfort us in the labor and hard labor of our hands, caused by the land which the Lord has cursed.*" (Genesis 5:29) But Noah, though a righteous man, was not the promised Savior.

We go through history to Abraham, who believed in God when he heard that all nations would be blessed by a child born to his wife Sarah (Genesis 12:1-3). He rejoiced and believed that man's problem of being separated from God will be changed by the Savior who will be one of his descendants. (John 8:56-58; Hebrews 11:8-19) But his son Isaac was not the promised Savior.

When Abraham's descendant, King David, learned that one of his descendants would reign as eternal king (2 Samuel 7:12-13), he knew that the prophet Nathan was not talking about his son Solomon. He understood that it was a promise about the Savior. (See Psalm 145:10–13; Acts 13:22-23) David's son Solomon, like all those who had gone before him, died. He was not the promised Savior, nor the promised king.

In Old Testament times, the Savior's name was not mentioned. But when we come to the New Testament, we read the story of the angel who told Mary that her son would be called Jesus, who "will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20). *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, his kingdom will never end.* (Luke 1:31-33)

You can tell the same story, especially if you're talking to people who have a negative view of Jesus. You will begin with the Old Testament, speaking of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and Abraham, and speaking of the promised Savior, but without saying His name. You will continue the story, adding additional information that was given about it by the prophets of the Old Testament. When you come to the end of the Old Testament story, your listeners will already have a clear picture of the promised Savior, still without knowing His name. And then, when you begin the story of the New Testament with the birth of Jesus, it will be easy for them to understand that Jesus is the promised Savior.

So don't identify Jesus by name when you tell Him in the Old Testament part of the stories. Just talk about the Promised Savior. Then, when they hear about Jesus in the New Testament portion of the accounts, it will be clear that he was the one who was promised to defeat Satan, sin, and death, and that he is the one who was born to be a blessing to all the nations of the world. They will understand that Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. He is alive forever! He is the Savior and the promised King.

What do I need to understand about the *Salvation in the Old Testament?*

How do you think the Old Testament people who lived before Jesus received forgiveness of sins and salvation from eternal judgment in the lake of fire? Some people believe that the people of the Old Testament were not able to find forgiveness of sins because Jesus was

not yet dead. Others say that they were saved by obeying the laws of Moses, while we, who live after the death and resurrection of Jesus, are saved by grace.

What did Jesus himself say? He said, "*I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*" (John 14:6) It is very important that we understand that there are no two ways to obtain forgiveness of our sins and to be saved from eternal death in the lake of fire. There is only one way of salvation, and that is Jesus.

How was this possible for people who lived in Old Testament times, when Jesus had not yet been born, let alone crucified and resurrected? It is true that Jesus had not yet been born, but he had received the promise! Think about it! What did God promise Adam and Eve after they committed the first sin? Look at Genesis 3:15. God said to Satan, "*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and his; He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*"

Let's look at each part of this verse to help you understand exactly what God was saying:

- 1) ***I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman...*** Do you remember the sweet fellowship and unity that Adam and Eve had with God there in the Garden of Eden? After they sinned, that fellowship was broken. In this promise, God was telling Satan that although Adam and Eve joined his kingdom because of their sin, it would not be so forever. He said that in the days to come, He would once again put the enmity between mankind and Satan, which means that their fellowship with God would be restored.
- 2) ***... and between your seed (Satan's offspring) and his (Eve's offspring).*** Who do you think could be Satan's offspring? His descendants are all those who, whether they like it or not, follow Satan and his ways rather than following God and his ways. Jesus made this clear when he addressed the people who insisted that they were the offspring of Abraham. Read John 8:39-44. "*If you were the children of Abraham, you would do what Abraham did. You do the things your father does... You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to fulfill your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not clinging to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his mother tongue, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*"

If the "offspring of the serpent" (i.e., the offspring of Satan) is the one that follows Satan, who could be the offspring of the woman (i.e., Eve)? They are those who believe in the promised Savior and follow Him. God said that there would be enmity between those who follow Satan and those who follow the promised Savior. Jesus himself spoke of this with his disciples, saying: "*If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, he would love you as his. For you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you from the midst of the world. That's why the world hates you.*" (John 15:18-19) There is enmity between Satan's followers and the Savior's followers.

- 3) ***... He (a singular person from the woman's offspring) will crush your head...*** This is the first promise God made about the Savior. God said that one of Eve's descendants would crush Satan's head! If you wanted to kill a snake, where would you hit it? On the tail? Of course not! You'd hit him on the head. When a snake's head is crushed, its power to harm people is completely eliminated. It was precisely there, in these words to

Satan, that God promised that one of Eve's descendants would redeem them from the power of Satan and the power of sin and death that he had brought about.

- 4) . . . **And you** (Satan) **shall strike his heel** (the heel of the promised Savior). What wound leads to death – a crushed head... Or a bitten heel? A crushed heel is only a temporary wound. Indeed, because of Satan deceiving Eve, the entire human race has fallen into sin and lies under the judgment of death. When Jesus, the perfect and sinless, suffered death in our place, he died a terrible death, but it was only temporary! He is risen, victorious over death, after three days!

You may be wondering: Were the people of the Old Testament really saved by faith in the promised Savior? Yes! It is true that they did not know all the facts and details of Jesus as we do – we who live after his coming, and after his death and resurrection. But they believed in the "seed of the Good News of Jesus" that had been announced to them and carefully tried to understand it. *Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intensely with the greatest care, seeking to know the time and circumstances which the Spirit of Christ indicated in them when he foretold the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.* (1 Peter 1:10-12)

In New Testament times, this "seed" grew fully through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As it says in Hebrews 11:40, *God had planned something better for us* (those who live after the time of Christ) *so that only with us* would they (those of Old Testament times) *be perfected.*

Read these verses that explain the faith of some people who lived in Old Testament times:

- **Abraham:** *Consider Abraham: "He believed in God, and this was attributed to him as righteousness." Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. Scripture foretold that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel to Abraham in advance: "All nations will be blessed by you." Thus, all who have faith are blessed with Abraham, the man of faith.* (Galatians 3:6-9)

Notice that these verses say that in His promise to Abraham, God said He would "justify" those who had faith. "Justification" is the term used to explain that God accepts sinners and declares them righteous based on the righteousness of the Savior Jesus. Romans 3:22 tells us that *this righteousness of God comes from faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.* Abraham understood this promise and believed it, and God justified him, that is, he considered him righteous. (Genesis 15:6) So, although Abraham did not know all the details, God saved him through faith in the coming Savior.

- **Isaac:** God made this same promise to Isaac: " *I will confirm the oath I made to your father, Abraham. I will make your posterity as numerous as the stars in the sky... And through your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed.* (Genesis 26:2-6) Isaac believed in the good news just like his father. He was justified by faith, just like his father. And it was by faith that he blessed his son Jacob, that in accordance with God's promise, the nations of the world might be blessed through the promised Savior. (Hebrews 11:20)
- **Jacob:** Isaac's son, Jacob, received this same promise: " *All the peoples of the earth will*

be blessed through you and through your seed. (Genesis 28:14) He too believed in God that all nations would be blessed by God who would justify those who believed in the Savior who would come from his descendants. It was for this reason that he blessed his sons, one of whom was Judah, from whose line Jesus had been born. (See Jacob's blessing on Judah in Genesis 49:10.)

- **Moses:** Moses could have lived in great comfort and riches as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. But he rejected all that. Why was he willing to do this and be called an Israelite instead of an Egyptian? *He chose to be abused with God's people rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He considered disgrace to Christ more precious than the treasures of Egypt, because he expected his reward in the future.* (Hebrews 11:25-26)
- **David:** The prophet Nathan said to David, *"When your days are past, and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your seed to succeed you, who will come out of your own body, and I will establish his kingdom."* *He will build a house in my name, and I will set up the throne of his kingdom forever.* (2 Samuel 7:12-13)
Did David believe that this coming king would be his Savior? The Word of God says that *David died and was buried... But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him by oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what lay ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of Christ ...* (Acts 2:29-33)

All these people were saved because they understood their problem with turning away from God's way, being sinners. They believed that there was no way to save themselves from the wrath of God, that is, from eternal punishment in the lake of fire. They believed that their only hope was the Savior whose God had promised to come.

Those who lived before the time of Jesus looked forward to the Savior who would come. The people who lived at the time when Jesus was alive on earth looked at Him face to face and believed that He was their Savior.

- John said, " *Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.* (John 1:29)
- Andrew said, " *We have found the Messiah*" (i.e., *Christ*). (John 1:41)
- Peter says, " *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" (Matthew 16:16)
- And Thomas called to him, " *My Lord and my God!*" (John 20:28)

What about us? We who live after Jesus look back, because Jesus lived his life here in the world, died, was buried, and rose again according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven to prepare our eternal inheritance of eternal life with Him. *Though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with inexpressible and glorious joy, for you receive the purpose of your faith, the salvation of your souls.* (1 Peter 1:8-9)

There is only one way of salvation! It is by faith in the Savior Jesus. It is addressed to all peoples, beginning with the Old Testament, throughout the years until today. *Without faith, it is impossible to please God.* (Hebrews 11:6)

What do I need to understand about of the Sacrifices of the Old Testament?

Immediately after their first sin, Adam and Eve's eyes were opened in a way that let them know that they were naked. There were no other people around, but even so, they felt terrible, transparent, as if others were able to see and know them thoroughly. So the first thing they did was make clothes for themselves out of leaves, to cover their shame so that they would look good and acceptable on the outside.

But God does not look at appearances, at the outside. God saw deep into their hearts. He knew their problem of sin and the problems it would cause. Clothes made of leaves could not hide their sin, nor could they save them from eternal death if they ate the fruit. In His mercy, God killed animals and covered Adam and Eve with the skins. This was the first death that took place in the world, and it came as a result of their sin.

This incident was very important because it laid the foundation for what God says about blood, life, and death. There are six truths in God's Word that help us understand these questions clearly.

- 1. If a person sins, God requires death as payment for it.**
God had told them, "When you eat [the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil], you will die." We read in Romans 6:23 that the wages of sin is death. Thus, the first thing we understand is that God requires death as payment for sin.
- 2. Second, God says, "The life of a creature is in the blood."** (Leviticus 17:11) Those animals that God killed were living creatures until their blood flowed. Then they became totally lifeless. In this way, the bloodshed was not only a cause of death, but God declared that it was a perfect image of death.
- 3. The third thing is, "Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness." God** says that the confiscation of life (the shedding of blood) is the only way He will forgive sin. We must either die for our own sin, or a proper substitute must die in our place. God sees our hearts and He knows our sinful condition. Neither clothes made of leaves, nor anything else we can do, can help us to be forgiven and accepted by God. God has declared that there must be bloodshed in order for sins to be forgiven.
- 4. A fourth principle of God's Word is: Salvation from sin and its consequence of death comes only through God's plan and hand.** We are unable to contribute to our own salvation. *The sinful spirit is hostile to God. He does not submit to God's law, and he cannot do so. Those who are controlled by sinful nature cannot please God... But God manifests his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us... It is by grace that you have been saved, by faith, and it is not of yourselves, it is a gift of God...* (Romans 8:7-8; Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- 5. The fifth thing is this: God, by His mercy, has declared that one can die in the place of another.** For those who lived before the coming of the promised Savior, God allowed the death of an animal to act as an image of the death they deserved for their sin. The blood of the animal did not have the power to take away sin or bring forgiveness. That's why people had to do it over and over and over again. Instead, it was a picture of the promised Savior shedding His blood and dying in the place of sinners. The blood of the

animal sacrifice only temporarily covered their sin.

- 6. The sacrifice must be offered in faith.** There have been many times in Old Testament history when the offering of sacrifices has become routine for the people. They stopped thinking about what blood meant and stopped throwing themselves on God as their only hope for eternal salvation. People began to think that if they sacrificed an animal, God was obligated to forgive them their sins. For others, it has become a religious custom, and nothing more.

God responded to this by saying: *I am God, your God... I have no need of a bull from your stable, nor goats from your pens, for all the animals of the forest are mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills... Your burnt offerings are not acceptable; Your sacrifices do not please me. (Psalm 50; Jeremiah 6:20b)*

When someone in the Old Testament offered a sacrifice, what attitude was pleasing to God? King David wrote: *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God, you shall not despise.* God accepted the sacrifices of those who came to Him humbly, acknowledging their sin and believing that their only hope was the promised Savior.

In the days following the death of these first animals to clothe Adam and Eve, we continue to see the death of an animal used as a sacrifice:

- **Abel** killed a lamb and offered it as a sacrifice to God. God accepted Abel's sacrifice, but did not accept Cain's vegetable sacrifice.
- **Noah** also offered an animal sacrifice when he came out of the ark, and we are told that it pleased God. (Genesis 8:20-21)
- **Abraham** offered sacrifices on several occasions. (Genesis 12:7-8; 13:4; 22:9-13) **Isaac** asked his father, *"Father, fire and wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"* (Genesis 22:7) God has provided an animal to kill in place of Isaac.
- On the night of the **Passover** they killed a lamb and obediently painted its blood on the doorposts of their houses. When God saw the blood, He knew that those in the house believed in Him, and He allowed the firstborn to live instead of die. In every home where this has happened, the lamb has died in place of the firstborn.

Reading the history of all these people, we find no record of God telling them that they had to offer sacrifices. But after the death of those animals that were killed in the Garden of Eden to cover Adam and Eve, it is clear that somehow all of these people understood that God had chosen this way for sinners to draw near to their holy God.

So when we come to the time when God gave detailed sacrificial laws to Moses, we see that this was not something new, it was only a more regulated system of sacrificial offerings associated with the tabernacle where God dwelt among his people. Because it was so detailed, it made it even clearer to a person that they were a sinner and needed God's salvation.

By way of review, when these people offered sacrifices, what did their action say to God? First of all, when they offered a blood sacrifice, it was their way of saying, *" Yes, I agree that I deserve death, just as this animal dies."* It was also a way of making it clear that they

depended on God to bring reconciliation between them and Him. They understood that they were unable to restore their fellowship with God. They had no other hope than the promised Savior.

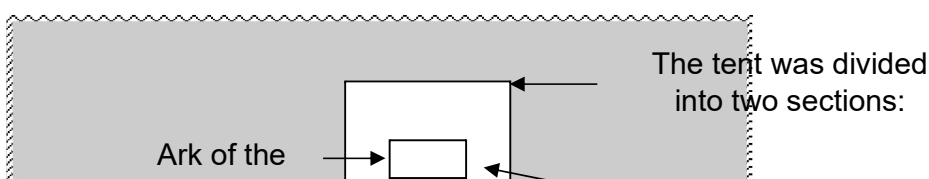
When a sacrifice was offered in this way, God accepted the life blood of the animal in place of the sinner's life. Normally, a person would experience both physical death and eternal spiritual death in the lake of fire as payment for their sin. However, when the sacrifice was offered in faith, God *temporarily* accepted the death of the animal in place of the sinner's death. The blood of the animal created a temporary cover for their sin *because, in [God's] patience, it had left the sins committed before unpunished.* When Jesus came, He fulfilled what all these sacrifices depicted, and God accepted Jesus' death as a fulfillment of all these Old Testament sacrifices. Jesus' death was an absolutely perfect sacrifice, once and for all, that did not need to be repeated again.

Could the blood of animals take away sin? No! Could the blood of animals bring forgiveness? No! But God allowed him to cover the sin of those who believed, until the blood of the promised Savior was shed. (Hebrews 10:1-4)

And what about us, who live after the death and resurrection of Jesus? How does God see us? *But now a righteousness of God, outside the law, has been revealed, of which the Law and the prophets bear witness. This righteousness of God comes from faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace by the redemption that came through Jesus Christ.* (Romans 3:21-24)

Why then don't we offer sacrifices now? This is because Jesus *sacrificed for sin once and for all when he offered himself.* (Hebrews 7:27) There is no need for any other sacrifices! Jesus did it once and for all!

Diagram of the Tabernacle



What do I need to understand about the Old Testament Nation of Israel?

It is important to understand why God chose a group of people to be His special people. There are many reasons, but we'll outline six of them here.

- 1. God chose this special group of people because of His mercy, grace, and faithfulness.** Think of Abraham, the father of the nation of Israel. God did not choose Abraham for his goodness, nor because he deserved to be chosen in any way. Abraham was a sinner like all men. He came from a family that worshipped idols. (Joshua 24:2) But God chose him to be the father of the nation of Israel solely because of His grace and mercy toward Abraham.

Abraham had two sons, Ishmael the son of Hagar and Isaac the son of Sarah. Because of his mercy, grace, and faithfulness, God chose Isaac, before he was born, to be "the child of promise." (Read Galatians 4:22-23 and Romans 9:6-9) His parents did nothing to make God choose Isaac, and Isaac himself did nothing. He was chosen only because of God's mercy and because of God's faithfulness to the promise He made to Abraham.

Isaac also had two children, Esau and Jacob. God, in his mercy, chose Jacob. *Before the twins are born or have done anything good or evil, so that God's purpose in the election may stand, not by works, but by the one who calls, [their mother, Rebekah] was informed, "The elder will serve the younger." "I will have pity on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."* (Romans 9:10-16) All these were sinners, just like us. They did not deserve to be chosen, but they were chosen because of God's mercy, grace, and faithfulness.

It was exactly the same with this group of people called "Israel." *The Lord did not put His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the least of all peoples. But it is because the Lord loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your fathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know, therefore, that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.* (Deuteronomy 7:7-9)

God, because He is our Creator, has authority over all men, and has the authority and power to choose any person or group for His own purposes. He chose Israel for His own good and wise purposes, and He chose them by His mercy, grace, love, and faithfulness.

- 2. God chose Israel as the instrument He would use to bring the Savior into the world.** The ancestry of our Savior Jesus is very clear. God promised Adam and Eve that one of Eve's descendants would crush Satan's head, and we can trace the lineage of their descendants back to Jesus. When He spoke of Abraham, God said: *I have chosen him, that he should lead his children and his house after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and right, so that the Lord may bring to pass for Abraham what he has promised him.* God chose Abraham and his descendants to be His instrument to

fulfill His promise! To see clearly how God fulfilled His promise of the Savior through the generations of the nation of Israel, read Matthew 1:1–17.

Concerning the nation of Israel, God said, *"I will make you a light unto the nations, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."* (Isaiah 49:6) The Savior Jesus Himself said: *Salvation comes from the Jews.* (John 4:22)

3. God chose Israel to be His means of communication with man. It was through Israel that we received the Word of God, the Bible. God announced His message to the Jewish prophets, and they wrote it. The prophets preached God's Word to the people, and the priests and scribes of Israel kept God's Word, carefully making copies of the original manuscripts, so God's Word has endured to this day. (See Psalm 147:19–20; Romans 3:1-2; 9:4-5)

4. God chose Israel to be a witness to the pagan nations of the day. When the pagan nations of Old Testament times looked at Israel and saw how the one true God was caring for them, they understood who God is and how He deals with man (1 Chronicles 17:21-22).

- When the Israelites faced the Red Sea, God said to them, *"The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I have glory through Pharaoh and his chariots, and his horsemen."* (Exodus 14:18)
- After God parted the waters so that they could cross the Red Sea, Moses said: *The nations will hear and tremble, and anguish will come upon the people of Philistia. The rulers of Edom will be terrified, the rulers of Moab will tremble, the people of Canaan will melt; terror and dread will come upon them.* (Exodus 15:14-16)
- And that's exactly what happened when the second group of spies entered the pagan city of Jericho. Rahab said to them, *"We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites, whom you completely destroyed." When we heard of this, our hearts melted and the courage of all failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on earth below.* (Joshua 2:10-11)

The people of these unbelieving nations looked at Israel, and some of them believed because of the testimony they were of God's power! Israel was set apart by God to be a different nation, a holy nation to God, to serve as a witness so that the pagans around them would understand that there is only one God and that salvation is found only in Him.

5. God chose Israel as a means of teaching and warning the people of all times. The experiences of God's people, Israel, not only benefited the Israelites themselves and the pagan nations around them, but we also benefit from them. Scripture tells us that *these things happened to them as examples and were written as warnings to us.* (1 Corinthians 10:11)

Everything that has been written about Israel serves as an example for us. This same passage from 1 Corinthians 10 gives us some examples:

- *Now, these things have come as examples to prevent us from fixing our hearts on the wrong things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them have been; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and arose to indulge in pagan*

rejoicing." We should not commit sexual immorality as some of them did – and in one day, twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did and were killed by snakes. And don't complain, as some of them did and were killed by the destroying angel.

- Other things in the lives of the Israelites serve to give us a glimpse of all that God has done for us through Jesus:
 - The sacrifices of the Old Testament foreshadow the sacrifice once and for all that Jesus made on our behalf.
 - The High Priest of the Old Testament brought blood into the Holy of Holies many times to make atonement for the sins of the people and for himself. He foreshadowed Jesus who took his own blood before God as a perfect and unique atoning sacrifice.
 - God fed the Israelites with a steady supply of "manna." It was God's provision to sustain their physical lives during their journey. Jesus said: *I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, and yet they died... I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.* (John 6:48-51)

These are just a few examples. When we read about all the events that happened to Israel so long ago, we come to know God and His holiness and our faith is strengthened. God chose Israel to teach us.

- 6. On top of all this, in choosing Israel, God was calling and setting apart a certain group of people to be His.** You will recall that from the very first promise He made to Adam and Eve, God told them that there would be two kinds of people in the world: the seed of the serpent (i.e., those who follow Satan) and the seed of the woman (i.e., those who believe in the Savior).

Again, God spoke of His chosen people when He promised that Abraham's descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand in the sea. God's repeated promise was: *I will be their God, and they will be my people.* (Genesis 17:5-8; Exodus 6:7; Rev. 29:45)

In fact, many of the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in Old Testament times did not believe in the Savior who was to come. As time passed, God said to them, *"The time is coming when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah." It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors... because they have broken my covenant, although I have been a husband to them, saith the Lord. This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after that time. I will put my law in their minds and write it in their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people.* (Jeremiah 31:31-33)

Who was this alliance for? God's Word tells us that *to all who have received [Jesus], to those who have believed in his name, he has given the right to become children of God* (John 1:12), and *if you belong to Christ, then you are the seed of Abraham, and heirs according to the promise* (Galatians 3:29), and those who believe in Jesus *are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, so that you may proclaim the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

You were not a people once, but now you are God's people... (1 Peter 2:9-10)

God has always had a people! We look forward to eternity when we will all be together with Him. In speaking of our eternal state, God's Word says: Now *the dwelling place of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be his people and God himself will be with them and will be their God.* (Revelation 21:3)

What do I need to understand about the Law of Moses?

You now understand God's purposes for choosing the nation of Israel, but what about all these laws that have been given to the nation of Israel? There were different types of laws, and each type had its own purpose.

1. God gave the Israelites national or civil laws. Like all countries in the world, they had laws about war (see Deuteronomy 20:1-14), about theft (Exodus 22:1-9), about the punishment of murder – intentional killing (Numbers 35:16-21) and accidental killing (Numbers 35:22-29), about the treatment of oxen that were used to trample grain (Deuteronomy 25:4), about strangers who live in the land, and so on. The nation of Israel had laws affecting all aspects of life so that the people of the land could live in safety and peace. These laws, of course, were laws specifically for Israel.

Let's say, for example, that you are a citizen of (name of your country) and you live in that country. You do not live under Angolan law, nor British nor French. You live under the laws of your country. Even foreigners who live in your country must abide by the laws of your country. But those who live in countries other than yours are not subject to the laws of your country. The same was true of those laws that governed the nation of Israel. They were for the Israelites and those who lived with them. These laws are not binding on us, as we are subject to the laws of the countries in which we live.

Does this mean that these passages of Scripture have nothing to do with us? No! because the Word of God affirms that *all Scripture is inspired of God and that it is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and forming in righteousness.* (2 Timothy 3:16) Israel's civil laws were based on God's standards of justice and righteousness, and we can learn from this. This is why the apostle Paul used the verse that says, "*Muzzle not an ox while it is treading on the grain,*" to emphasize that just as oxen were free to eat some of the grain while they were working, so a pastor or laborer in the church also deserves a wage. (1 Timothy 5:17-18) These laws show us God's character, the value He places on the people He has created, and the fact that He is holy and does not endure sin. So we see that it is good and beneficial to read these laws.

2. God also gave the people of Israel **ceremonial religious laws**. These were laws concerning special religious days, weeks and months, laws concerning sacrifices, prayers, how to worship God, Levites and priests, pure and unclean things, and so on.

These laws served two purposes: first, to show others that the Israelites had a special relationship with God, and second, to be a picture of all that God would do through Jesus.

Regarding the primary purpose of showing that the Israelites had a special relationship with God, God wanted Israel to be different from the other nations around them. So He gave them laws about food, how they should dress, clean and unclean things, and so on. These rules were given to the Israelites to remember that they were a special people chosen by the Lord and that they were to be different from other peoples. If a person from another country met an Israelite, he would immediately know that it was a person from Israel and not from another country.

For example, in Numbers 15:37-41, we read that they were to put a special decoration on their garments: *Thou shalt make an acorn at the corners of thy garments, with a blue cord on each tassel.* Why did God want them to do this? He said, *"You will have these acorns to look at and so you will remember all the commandments of the Lord, that you obey them and not prostitute yourselves by following the lusts of your hearts and eyes."* God said to Israel, *"You must be holy to me, because I, the Lord, am holy, and have set you apart from the nations to be mine."* (Leviticus 20:26) Another example would be their dietary laws. Some foods were considered "ceremonially unclean" and others were considered "clean." (Leviticus 11:1-44) The Israelites kept these laws because God wanted them to be different and apart from the other nations around them.

Again, we don't keep these laws, but we want to remember that God wants us to be different from unbelievers. *As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But as he who called you is holy, be holy in all that you do; for it is written, "Be holy, because I am holy."* (1 Peter 1:14-16) See also 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 1 Peter 3:8-17; Matthew 5:13-16.

Second, and most important, the majority of the actions commanded by these religious laws were images or examples of what the coming Savior would do. When Jesus lived, died, rose again, and ascended into heaven, he fulfilled all those Old Testament images. For example:

- The sacrifices that were offered in the Old Testament represented the sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God who *appeared once and for all at the end of the ages to eliminate sin through the sacrifice of Himself.* (Hebrews 9:26)
- The fact that animals were to be perfect, without blemishes, is a picture of Jesus who was sinless and therefore accepted by God as a perfect sacrifice for our sin. (Hebrews 4:15 and 7:26)
- On the Day of Atonement, the high priest confessed the sins of the people over the goat's head, and the goat was taken away, out of sight of the tabernacle and the presence of God. This picture is clearly fulfilled by justification, in which God no longer sees our sin because He has declared us righteous on the basis of Jesus' righteousness.
- The special vestments worn by priests are an image of the fact that God's children are a "royal priesthood," holy to the Lord. (Exodus chapter 28; 1 Peter 2:9-10)

We do not observe these laws because they have been fulfilled in Jesus. There is no longer any need to offer sacrifices because Jesus offered Himself once and for all for our sin. (Hebrews 7:27) We no longer have a High Priest, because Jesus is our High Priest who intercedes for us (Hebrews 9:11-14), and all believers are called royal priests (1 Peter 2:9) who have open access to God Himself. (Hebrews 4:16)

3. Finally, there were **moral laws** that showed the character and attributes of God. The most well-known moral laws of Old Testament law are the Ten Commandments. Because they explain the character of an immutable God, they are also immutable. They are not just about one nation, but rather about everyone. They show us God's faithfulness, holiness, love, grace and mercy.

Are you able to perfectly observe God's moral laws? No! You can't! No one can do it! We can try to keep all of these laws perfectly, but if we are honest, we see that we are never holy enough, never truthful enough, and never pure enough to approach a holy God and be accepted by Him.

God's Word says that *the Law was put in charge to lead us to Christ so that we could be justified by faith.* (Galatians 3:24) When we see that we cannot keep the Law of God, we see that there was only one person in the whole world who was able to keep the whole Law perfectly, and that was Jesus. (Romans 10:4) We must agree with God that we are sinners, and trust and depend on both Jesus' perfect life and His perfect death! When we do this, God sees us as possessing the righteousness of Jesus. *But now a righteousness from God, outside of the Law, has been revealed... This righteousness of God comes from faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.* (Romans 3:21-22)

Keeping the Ten Commandments, or any other law, is not the way to eternal salvation! But God wanted the Law to lead us to put our trust in Jesus, and in Him we find salvation. (Galatians 3:24)

***Salvation is found in no one else,
for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we are to be saved.***
Acts 4:12

How can I share Jesus with someone that I meet only once? – and perhaps never see him again?

It's very possible that you meet someone – on a plane, in a meeting – and it seems like you'll never see them again. After talking with them for a bit, you may find that they are open to spiritual things.

Of course, it is best if a person can hear all 37 narrations and have time to reflect on them and understand what God has done for them in Jesus. But in a case like this, you won't get

the chance! What you say to someone like this may be the moment God has chosen for that person to put their faith in Jesus – or it may be that God wants you to "plant a seed" in their heart, and then someone else will come and water the seed and see it grow into true faith in Jesus.

We suggest that you follow this pattern by giving a short presentation of the gospel. If you tell the story well, it will take about 35 or 40 minutes.

First: The things I want to tell you about are not my own words or thoughts, but rather the word of the living God. God tells us in His Word that He created all things. He created the first man, Adam, who was the father of all peoples and nations, including you and me.

Next, briefly tell the story of Adam and Eve:

- The place of man in the garden (Genesis 2)
- The temptation of Adam and Eve and their first sin (Genesis 3). What is sin? (*Sin is rebellion against God through unbelief.*) What is the consequence of sin? (*Death.*)
- God promised a Savior who would destroy Satan and deliver us from His power. (Genesis 3:15)
- In His mercy, God killed animals to clothe Adam and Eve and to cover their shame.
- God expelled Adam and Eve from the garden – away from God. There was no way to go back unless He made a way.

Then briefly tell us about Cain and Abel:

- Cain and Abel were the first children of Adam and Eve. They are born outside of God; they were born sinners and under God's judgment because their father was a sinner.
- Give an example of how, like Cain and Abel, we are all separated from God through sin and under His judgment:
"Tell me, did your parents ever teach you to lie, steal or curse people?" [Wait for the answer.] *"But have you ever done any of these things?"*
- To draw near to God, this first family followed the example God gave them in the garden. They killed a lamb and shed its blood. Animal blood cannot pay for sin. It was a reminder to those who offered the sacrifice that they deserved to die and that only God could save them. Faith must be in God, not in oneself or in what one can do.
- Cain refused to approach God in the way God had taught him, and was rejected. Abel came to God in God's way, trusting in God's mercy and promises, and was accepted.

Ask a few questions:

- For example, if God came here to stand before us today and asked you, "Are you a sinner?" What would you say to him? (*Answer*)
- And if He were to ask you, "What is the punishment for your sin," what would you say? (*Answer: Death*)
- What if I said, "God, (Name) is my best friend. Please let me die in his place. How do you think God would respond?"

(*Note: What I'm trying to make here is that even though I'm this person's best friend, I'm not a worthy surrogate because I'm a sinner too.*)

Apply this to his life:

- There is no way to save you, nor can any of your friends save you. Your sin must be paid for by eternal separation from God. He will accept nothing less. Only God can save you.
- Like Abel, you must accept God's way in order to be saved. Be warned! Don't be like Cain and think that you can come to God in your own way (through a certain number of prayers each day, giving alms, etc.).
- The good news is that God has done something so that you can be forgiven of ALL your sins and have your shame removed and you are saved from the punishment you deserve. WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

Talk about Jesus:

- God has sent a Redeemer into the world to be your Savior, as He promised.
- He was born of a virgin (as God promised), and because he had no earthly father, he was not born under sin like you and me.
- He lived a perfect life.
- He showed that He had all authority and power over Satan and his demons, over sickness, or over all created things, and even over death. (Depending on the time available, you can simply make this statement, or you may want to demonstrate each one with a short narration.)
- He died voluntarily in your place for your sin and shame. He let himself be nailed to a cross.
- On the cross he said, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" He said this because He, who did not deserve to die, took the death penalty for my sin and yours. He was separated from God because of our sin.
- God is holy and must judge sin.
- God is also love. (John 3:16)
- You can believe what Jesus has done for you and accept it. (John 1:12)
- Don't be like Cain. Don't think that you can come to God in your own way!

Finally, ask yourself the following question:

- Do you have questions about the Savior? (Answer any questions they may have.)
- What do you think of what I told you?

If someone says they believe Jesus is their Savior, go ahead by asking questions such as:

- Are you a sinner?
- How does God look at your sin?
- What does God require as payment for your sin?
- Are you able to save yourself from eternal death in the lake of fire?
- What can you do to be accepted by God?
- How can you have a relationship with God?
- What did Jesus do for you?

Don't give him the answers! It is of utmost importance that the person gives his or her own answers from his or her own understanding. Do this to see if they truly understand the Good News of Jesus. If you see that they still don't fully understand, or that they still depend on their own good works to be accepted by God, encourage them to keep thinking about what you've said. Allow the Holy Spirit to do His work of bringing understanding and faith, conviction of sin, and the necessity of the Savior.

If he says that they understand and depend on Jesus alone to be saved from their sin, it means that they have already placed their faith in Jesus.

At this point, you can give them the following example: Let's say, for example, that you and a friend are on the ocean in a boat. A terrible storm is rising. The waves come up to the side of the boat and carry you into the water. Let's say you don't know how to swim. You start to sink into the water and you know you're going to die. Your only hope is your friend who is in the boat. With great effort, you shout at him. You say, "Help! Save me! Your friend is an excellent swimmer. He jumps into the water, swims up to you, puts an arm around you and leads you back to the boat. You have been saved! How do you think you'll feel about your friend for the rest of your life? *(Allow the person to respond. Most people say that they will thank the friend profusely and do whatever the person asks them to do for the rest of their lives!)*

This is a good example of what has happened to you. Because you are a sinner, you have no hope, only eternal death in the lake of fire. Jesus is the only one who can save you from this punishment. Then you cry out to Him, trusting Him alone to save you. He does this by taking upon Himself the punishment of your sins. He saves you from God's wrath against your sin. Because of what Jesus did, God accepts Jesus' righteousness in place of your sin. He forgives your sin and gives you eternal life! If you thank a friend who saved your life, how much more will you want to thank Jesus for saving you!

Give them the opportunity to pray a prayer of thanks to God for all that Jesus has done for them. Tell them that there are no special words. To pray is simply to speak to one's heavenly Father. As they pray, listen carefully to make sure they truly understand the Good News of Jesus.

When they have finished praying, you pray too, giving thanks for their salvation and asking for God's blessing and protection upon them.

How to Evaluate the Presentation of the Narrations

The following document will explain exactly how you should be evaluated when you present your narrations. You can use this list and explanations to not only evaluate your own presentations, but those who you will train to train others in keeping with the 2 Timothy 2:2 principle.

1. Did you tell the story? That is,
 - a) Is it evident that you read the Scriptures and prepared your narration from them (as opposed to copying what was in the book or the audios)?
 - b) Did you just tell the story, without embellishments, unnecessary information, or falling into the trap of preaching and teaching?
 - c) Was your story told in such a way to enable your hearers to answer the questions in the book at the end on the narration?
 - d) Did you choose wisely the Scriptures to read or cite in telling the story?
2. Did you connect the chain or break it? That is,
 - a) Did you make a good transition from the previous dialogue to this one?
 - b) Did you present a “hook” to create anticipation for the next story?
 - c) Did you connect your narration to the central theme of redemption in the story of God and man?
3. Was your style of delivery natural and captivating? That is, did it complement the story or distract the hearers’ attention away from the story?
4. Did you avoid the mistakes of presentation pointed out in the book; for example, using the word *Bible* instead of the *Word of God*, or the name of *Jesus* instead of *Deliverer* while telling the Old Testament stories?
5. Did you adequately present the character of God (holy, just, faithful, loving, etc.) in contrast to the character of man (disobedient, unbelieving, etc.) where applicable?

NOTE: You should also stress **wherever** possible that there is only one way to worship, have fellowship with God, and receive His blessings in one’s life (faith and obedience).

The best preparation method you could follow on your path to becoming an effective evangelistic narrator is to constantly evaluate yourself and those you train in light of these questions. Then, of course, practice! Practice! Practice!