
Jesus: Who is this Man?

The Gospel of Mark



ESL WORKBOOK
Student Edition

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Preface to Jesus: Who is this Man? The Gospel of Mark

This is the story of Jesus: who He was and is as recorded in the gospel of Mark; why did He come, who knew about it; and what happened. It is our hope that this brief glimpse of the Saviour will awaken a desire in you to learn more about the Prince of Peace.

- Frances Gray, Roslyn Farmer, Marion Chang

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

2 Peter 1:16,17

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Healing: The Leper and the Paralyzed Man Mark 1:40-45;
Mark 2:1-12

Background:

Leprosy is a serious disease of the skin and nerves that can be passed to others. It can cause inability to feel pain, and unnoticed wounds may result in loss of fingers, toes or other parts. God had required his people to take these infections seriously. Lepers were **ceremonially unclean**, and if others touched them they also became unclean. Lepers had to live away from others, and they could never return unless the priests examined them and declared them free of disease.

Before you read:

1. Have you ever known anyone who was healed of a serious disease? What happened?

The Passage

Our story begins as Jesus leads his disciples from village to village in the area of Galilee, preaching in the

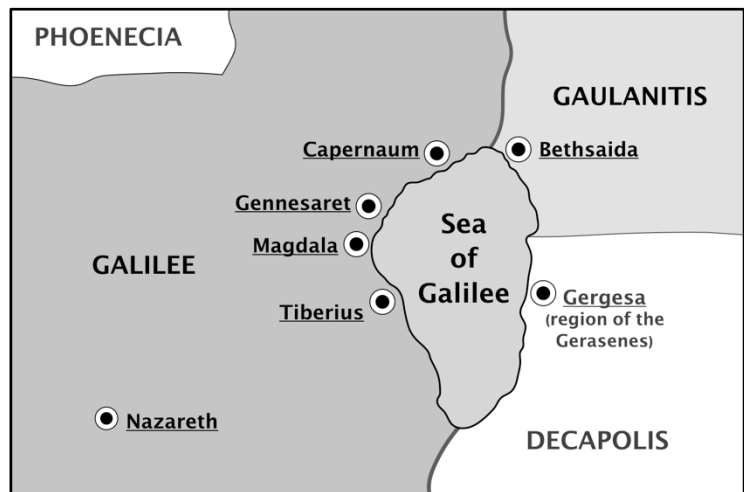
1 synagogues (the Jewish place of worship) and driving out **demons**:

Mark 1:40-45: ⁴⁰ A man with leprosy came to (Jesus) and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

2 ⁴¹ Jesus was **indignant**. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"

⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.

3 ⁴³ Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ⁴⁴ "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a **testimony** to them." ⁴⁵ Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.



Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.1 Healing: The Leper and the Paralyzed Man

Mark 2:1-12: A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a **paralyzed** man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's **blaspheming!** Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the **Son of Man** has **authority** on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, ¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!" (NIV)

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this story? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about the story?
3. What do you learn about people?
4. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

Change these False sentences to be True. (The first is done for you.)

1. Leprosy is a mental illness → *Leprosy is a skin and nerve disease.*
2. Lepers cannot give the disease to others. → _____
3. Jesus did not want to heal the leper. → _____

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.1 Healing: The Leper and the Paralyzed Man

4. Jesus didn't heal the paralyzed man because he had sinned.
→ _____
5. The teachers of the law were happy when Jesus forgave sins.
→ _____

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

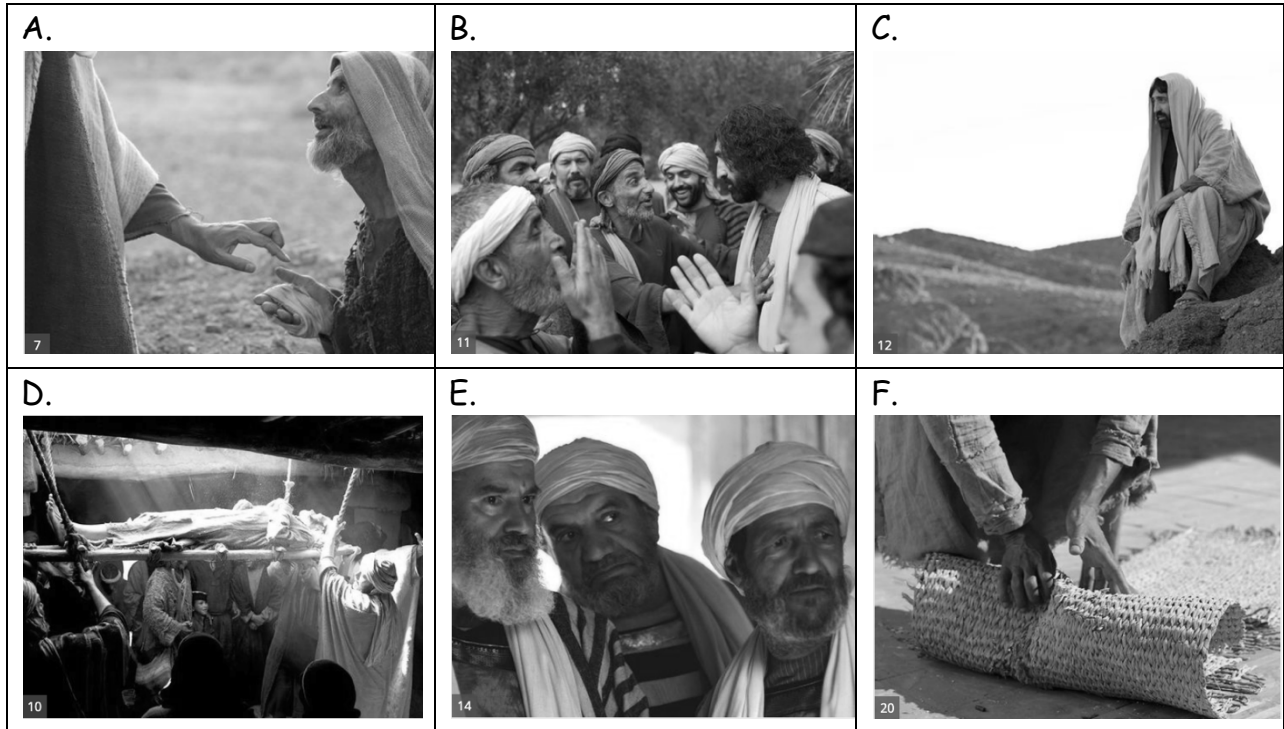
- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| _____1. indignant | a. dirty in a symbolic way |
| _____2. demons | b. unable to move one's body. |
| _____3. testimony | c. a title from prophecy (about a future King who would rule the earth forever- Daniel 7: 13 - 14) |
| _____4. ceremonially unclean | d. angry at unfairness |
| _____5. Son of Man | e. power |
| _____6. authority | f. evil spirits (who can take control of a person) |
| _____7. blaspheming | g. proof |
| _____8. paralyzed | h. showing disrespect for God |

Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

1. When the teacher said my child was stupid, I was _____!
2. The _____ man could not walk.
3. Jesus was accused of _____ when he said the man's sins were forgiven.
4. _____ are enemies of God.
5. According to the Law of Moses, lepers were considered _____.
6. Many people in a restaurant is a _____ that the food is good.
7. Jesus called himself the _____.
8. The city government has the _____ to issue parking tickets.

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.1 Healing: The Leper and the Paralyzed Man

Re-tell the 2 stories using the pictures below:



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-man-leprosy/>

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-jesus-paralysed-man/>

Discussion

- *Easier*
1. In the first story, how bad is the disease of leprosy?
 2. What did Jesus do to the leper that was so unexpected?
 3. What did Jesus tell the healed man to do?
 4. In the second story, what did the four men do to help their friend?
 5. Why did the teachers of the law get upset?
 6. What did Jesus say to them?
 7. How did the healing of the man prove what Jesus had said?

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.1 Healing: The Leper and the Paralyzed Man

8. How did the people feel who saw this? What do you think about this miracle?

• *Intermediate*

1. In the first story, how bad is the disease of leprosy?
2. What did Jesus do that was so unexpected? Would you have done the same?
3. What did Jesus tell the healed man to do? Why do you think was this important?
4. In the second story, what did the four men do to help their friend? What does this show you about their friendship?
5. What was the reason the teachers of the law got upset? Who did they think Jesus was claiming to be?
6. What does Jesus answer reveal about himself?
7. How did the healing of the man prove what Jesus had said?
8. How did the people feel who saw this? What do you think about this miracle?
9. In both stories Jesus does something unusual. What do you think about this?

• *Challenging*

1. In the first story, how bad is the disease of leprosy? What do you know about it?
2. What did Jesus do that was so unexpected? Would you have done the same?

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.1 Healing: The Leper and the Paralyzed Man

3. What did Jesus tell the healed man to do? Why do you think was this important?
4. In the second story, what did the four men do to help their friend? What does this show you about their friendship?
5. What was the reason the teachers of the law got upset? Who did they think Jesus was claiming to be?
6. What does Jesus' answer reveal about himself?
7. How did the healing of the man prove what Jesus had said?
8. How did the people feel who saw this? What do you think about this miracle?
9. In both stories Jesus does something unusual. What do you think about this?

Feeding of the 5000

Mark 6:30-45; John 6:22-48

Background:

Jesus sent the 12 apostles out to practice what they had been learning. He gave them authority to teach the people and do miracles. Mark 6:13 reports, “¹³ They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.” They became very popular! This event happens just after the apostles return.

Before you read:

1. When professionals (doctor, lawyer, teacher, etc.) from other countries want to work in Canada, what kinds of proof does the government require?
2. Is it important to have proof before accepting what people say about themselves?

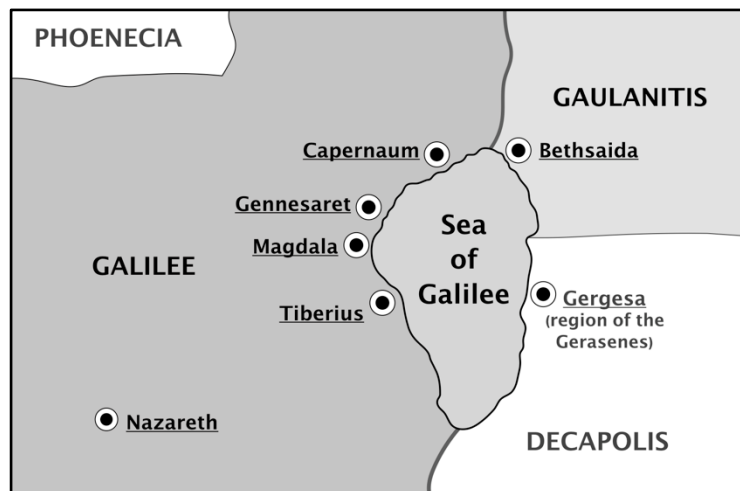
The Passage

1 Mark 6:30-45: The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

2 ³² So they went away by themselves in a boat to a **solitary** place. ³³ But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had **compassion** on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

3 ³⁵ By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. ³⁶ Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

³⁷ But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”



Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.2 Feeding of the 5000

4 They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

³⁸ "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see."

When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish."

³⁹ Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the
5 loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³ and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴ The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

⁴⁵ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

6 In another gospel (John 6:15, 25-27, 35-40) we read that, "¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself..." Then the crowd went searching after Jesus the following day:

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi (teacher), when did you get here?"

²⁶ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the **signs** I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do
7 not work for food that spoils, but for food that **endures** to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his **seal of approval**."...

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never **drive away**. ³⁸ For I have come down
8 from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but **raise them up** at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day." (NIV)

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this story? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about the story?
3. What do you learn about people?
4. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

Put the story events in order from first to last:

- _____ The disciples took up 12 baskets of leftovers.
- _____ Large crowds followed after Jesus.
- _____ The disciples said it would take a lot of money to feed the crowds.
- _____ Jesus told the crowd that he could give them eternal food for eternal life, not just temporary food.
- _____ Jesus took five loaves and two fish, gave thanks to God, and divided the food among more than 5000 people.
- _____ Jesus and his disciples needed rest, so they went to a solitary place.
- _____ Jesus told his disciples to see what food was there.
- _____ Jesus called himself the Bread of Life.

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

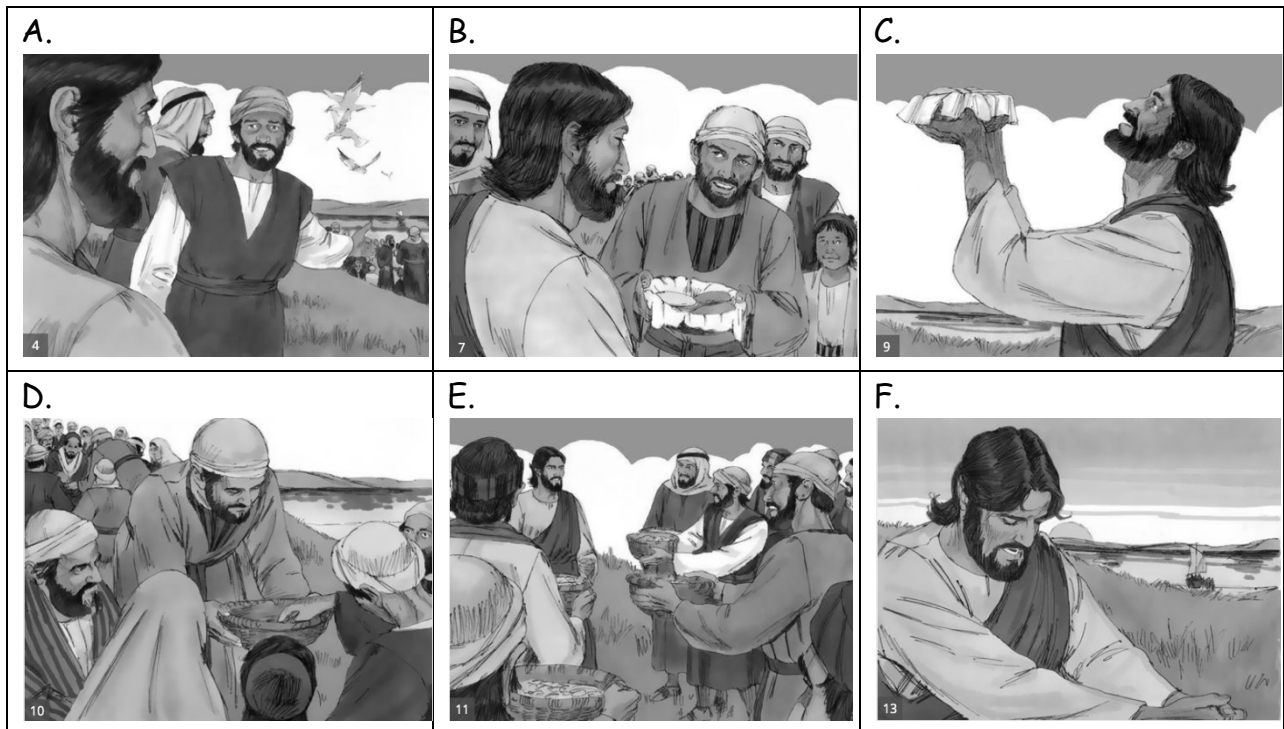
- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. solitary place | a. give life after physical death |
| _____ 2. compassion | b. does not stop |
| _____ 3. signs | c. force to leave |
| _____ 4. endures | d. a kind feeling |
| _____ 5. seal of approval | e. a place where there were no people |
| _____ 6. drive away | f. actions that show something |
| _____ 7. raise up | g. mark of official support or agreement |

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.2 Feeding of the 5000

Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

1. Jesus said he would _____ all people who believe in him and come to him at the last day.
2. Jesus said that he had God's _____.
3. Jesus said he would not _____ anyone who comes to him.
4. Jesus and the disciples went by boat to a _____.
5. Jesus felt _____ for the hungry crowds.
6. Every bride and groom hope their marriage will _____.
7. Healing all diseases, was a _____ that Jesus was from God.

Re-tell the story using the pictures below:



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/feeding-5000/>

Discussion

- *Easier*

1. What problems did Jesus and his apostles have because of the crowds?

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.2 Feeding of the 5000

2. What did Jesus feel when he saw the crowds?
 3. What did Jesus do with the bread and fish?
 4. What is surprising about the leftovers?
 5. What did the crowds want the next day? (If you had just gotten a free meal, would you have wanted to leave Jesus?)
 6. Why do you think Jesus ordered his disciples to leave immediately after feeding the crowd?
 7. Where did Jesus say he came from?
 8. What did Jesus do that proved he was from God?
 9. What did Jesus say about eternal life?
- *Intermediate*
 1. Why were the disciples in the boat?
 2. What did Jesus feel when he saw the crowds?
 3. Why did Jesus ask the disciples to feed the crowds?
 4. What did Jesus do with the small amount of food that was given to him?
 5. Why is knowing what was left over important?
 6. What did the crowds want the next day?
 7. What did Jesus mean when he said He is the bread of life?
 8. How does someone receive eternal life according to Jesus?

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.2 Feeding of the 5000

- *Challenging*
 1. Why were the disciples in the boat?
 2. Why did Jesus ask the disciples to feed the crowds?
 3. What did Jesus do with the small amount of food that was given to him?
 4. Why is knowing what was left over important?
 5. Why did the crowds try to find Jesus the next day?
 6. What did Jesus accuse the crowds of wanting from him?
 7. In John 6:30 - 31 the crowd asks, "*What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?*"³¹ *Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'*"
Why did the crowds want Jesus to give them a sign?
 8. What did Jesus mean when he said He is the bread of life?
 9. How does someone receive eternal life according to Jesus?
 10. When is the 'last day'?

Casting Out Demons

Mark 1: 21-34; Mark 5:1-20

Background:

These events happened when Jesus was going from town to town around the Sea of Galilee. He had chosen 12 men (disciples) to be with him for special training in serving God. Four of them were fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James and John, and sometimes they used boats to travel. Jesus often would go into a synagogue (Jewish place of worship) and teach the people, saying "The time has come, ... The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15).

Before you read:

1. Do you know people who are afraid of evil spirits?
2. What do they do to try and protect themselves?

The Passage

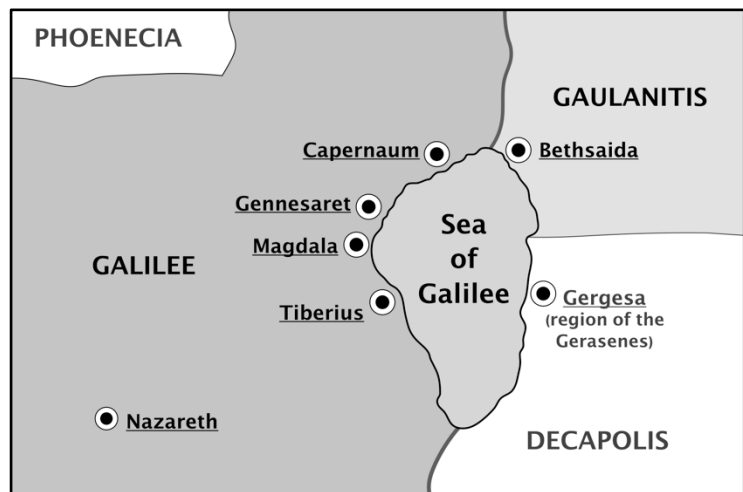
Mark 1: ²¹They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²²The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

¹ ²³Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴"What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

²⁵"Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

² ²⁷The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." ²⁸News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

³ Later in Mark chapter 5 we read another story of Jesus casting out demons:



Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.3 Casting Out Demons

¹They went across the lake to the region of the *Gerasenes*.- When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man
4 lived in the **tombs**, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to **subdue** him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills, he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.
5 ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't **torture** me!" ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!"

⁹ Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹² The **demons** begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." ¹³ He gave them
6 permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

¹⁴ Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there,
7 dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷ Then the people began to **plead** with Jesus to leave their region.

¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own
8 people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰ So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed. (NIV)

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this story? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about the story?
3. What do you learn about people?

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.3 Casting Out Demons

4. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

True or False

1. Jesus taught like the other teachers of the law. _____
2. Jesus told the demon at the synagogue to be quiet. _____
3. The demon-possessed man of the Gerasenes was very strong. _____
4. The demons called themselves "Legion" _____.
5. The man went with Jesus after he was cured _____.

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| _____1. shriek | a. to hurt someone, often to get information from them |
| _____2. tomb | b. having an evil spirit inside you. |
| _____3. impure | c. to make something obey you |
| _____4. plead | d. loud scream |
| _____5. subdue | e. something evil or dirty |
| _____6. torture | f. beg for a favour |
| _____7. demon-possessed | g. a place where dead bodies are buried |

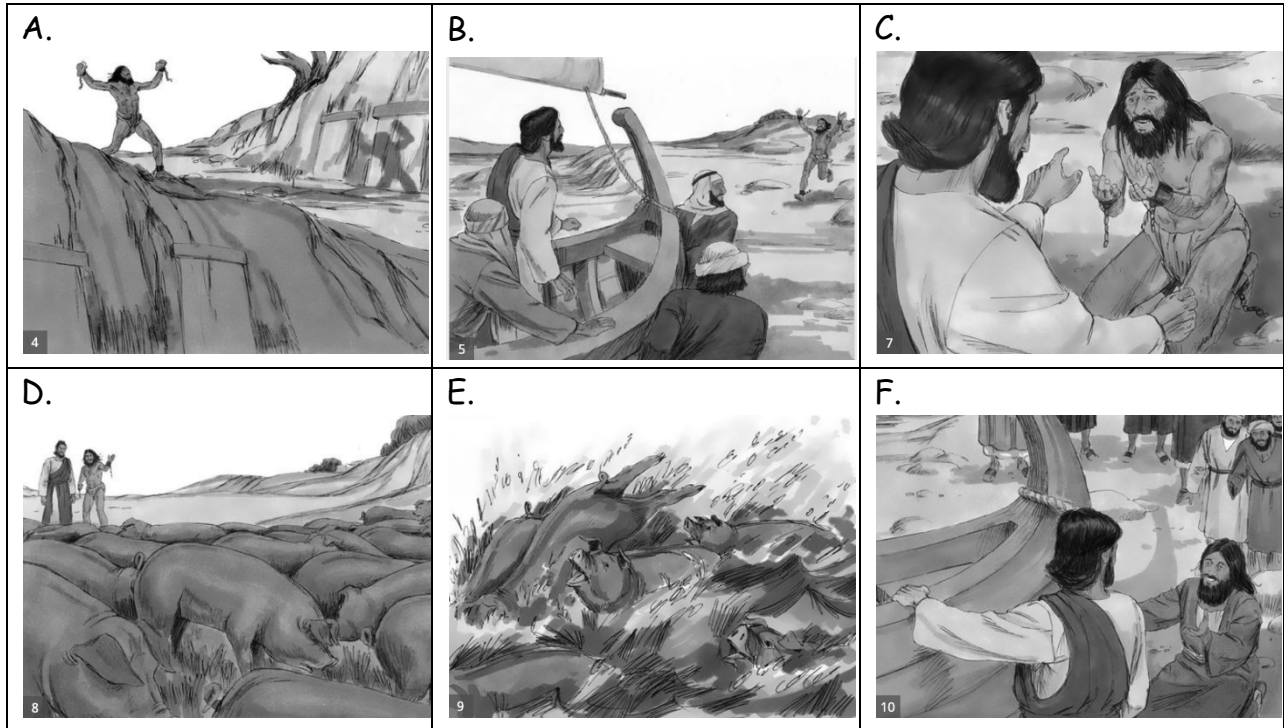
Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

1. The demons knew Jesus had authority to force them, so they had to _____ for mercy.
2. The man in the synagogue had an _____ spirit
3. That man was _____-_____.
4. The Gerasene man was so strong, no one could _____ him.
5. The demons begged Jesus not to _____ them.

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.3 Casting Out Demons

6. If I see a spider on me, I will _____, because I hate them.
7. Sometimes a family will build a large _____, so when family members die, they can be buried in the same place.

Re-tell the story of the Gerasene man using the pictures below:



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-troubled-man/>

Discussion

- *Easier*
1. What was Jesus doing in the synagogue?
 2. What problem did the man have?
 3. What did the impure spirit say about Jesus? What does that mean?
 4. Why do you think Jesus didn't allow the demon to speak?
 5. In the second story, what was this man's problem?

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.3 Casting Out Demons

6. What name did Legion give to Jesus?
7. What happened to the pigs?
8. Why didn't Jesus allow the man to follow him?
9. What do these two stories show about Jesus?

- *Intermediate*

1. What happened in the synagogue? Does this story surprise you?
2. What did the people say about Jesus after this event?
3. In the second story, why was the demon possessed man terrified when Jesus came towards him? Why did they ask Jesus not to torture them?
4. Why did Jesus send the demons into the pigs?
5. Why didn't the townspeople welcome Jesus?
6. What things do you find frightening or interesting about this story?
7. In these two stories, we learn that Jesus has authority over the demons. How does this truth make you feel?

- *Challenging*

1. In the first story, what was Jesus' purpose in travelling village to village in Galilee?
2. What happened in the synagogue? Does anything in this story surprise you?
3. Why do you think Jesus forbade the demon to speak?
4. What did the people say about Jesus after this event?

Chapter One: Performing Miracles

1.3 Casting Out Demons

5. In the second story, we learn the demon possessed man was extremely strong so why was he terrified when Jesus came towards him?
6. Why did Jesus allow the demons to enter the pigs? What does the pigs' reaction tell you about the number and strength of the demons?
7. Why do you think the townspeople didn't thank Jesus for helping the man?
8. Why didn't Jesus allow the healed man to follow him?
9. What things do you find frightening or interesting about this story?
10. In these two stories, we learn that Jesus has authority over the demons. How does this truth make you feel?

Ruling Nature

Mark 4:35-41, Mark 6:46-56

Background:

When he began his ministry, Jesus lived in Capernaum, a city on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. This fresh-water lake is small and shallow, about 21 km long and 12 km wide. Today it is known as Lake Kinneret in Israel. High hills and mountains surround it. Windstorms come down these mountains suddenly and violently hitting the water. This lake was (and still is) rich in fish, and at that time there were several fishing villages along its **shoreline**. Several of Jesus' disciples were fishermen who lived around Bethsaida and Capernaum. Most of Jesus' ministry was spent teaching and healing in the towns and villages along the Sea of Galilee shoreline, and they often used boats to travel. (A fishing boat could hold 15 - 20 people.)

Before you read:

1. Have you ever experienced a natural disaster such as a storm, earthquake or flood?
2. What feelings did you have at the time?

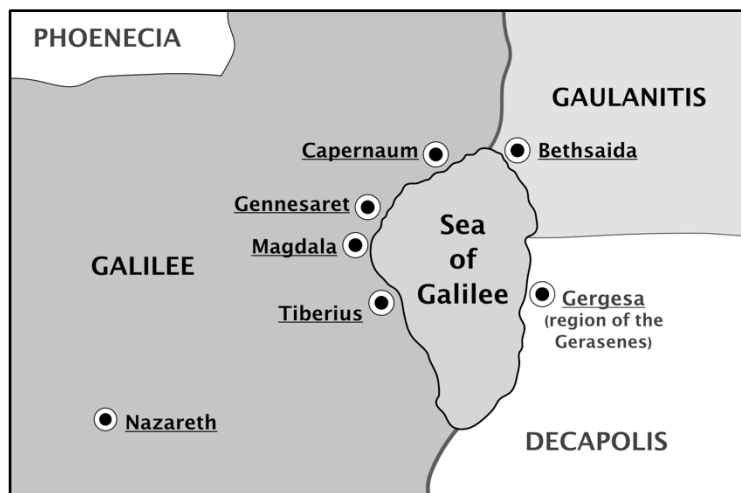
Passages

Jesus Calms the Storm

As this first story opens, Jesus had been teaching a large crowd of people. It is now evening, and the people were leaving for their homes. After this Jesus told his disciples he wanted to sail to the other side of the lake.

Mark 4:35-41: ³⁵ As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." ³⁶ So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds

behind (although other boats followed). ³⁷ But soon a **fierce** storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.



3 ³⁸ Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

4 ³⁹ When Jesus woke up, he **rebuked** the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹ The disciples were absolutely **terrified**. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"

Jesus Walks on Water

5 As this story opens, Jesus and the disciples have spent the day **ministering** to a crowd of 5000 men - plus women and children. He sent his disciples across the lake again, but this time he did not go with them. Instead he spent the night in the hills alone, praying. When the disciples were far from shore, another strong wind came up.

6 Mark 6:46-56: ⁴⁵ Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and head across the lake to Bethsaida, while he sent the people home. ⁴⁶ After telling everyone good-bye, he went up into the hills by himself to pray.

7 ⁴⁷ Late that night, the disciples were in their boat in the middle of the lake, and Jesus was alone on land. ⁴⁸ He saw that they were in serious trouble, rowing hard and **struggling** against the wind and waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. He intended to go past them, ⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the water, they cried out in terror, thinking he was a **ghost**. ⁵⁰ They were all terrified when they saw him.

8 But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage! I am here!" ⁵¹ Then he climbed into the boat, and the wind stopped. They were totally amazed.

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this story? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about the story?
3. What do you learn about people?
4. What do you learn about Jesus?

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.4 Ruling Nature

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

Matching

Match the verses on the left to the event on the right. On the left side are Bible verses about God. On the right side are story verses about Jesus.

God	Jesus
(verses in New Living Translation)	
___ 1. "You rule the oceans. You subdue their storm-tossed waves." Ps 89:9	a. The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!" Mark 4: 41
___ 2. "He alone has spread out the heavens and marches on the waves of the sea...He does great things too marvelous to understand..." Job 9: 8,10	b. But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Mark 4:37
___ 3. "He spoke, and the winds rose, stirring up the waves. Their ships were tossed to the heavens and plunged again to the depths; the sailors cringed in terror." Ps. 107: 25-26	c. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" Jesus...rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm Mark 4: 38-39
___ 4. "LORD, Help!" they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He calmed the storm to a whisper and stilled the waves." Ps. 107: 28-29	d. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water... Then he climbed into the boat, and the wind stopped. They were totally amazed. Mark 6: 48, 51

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.


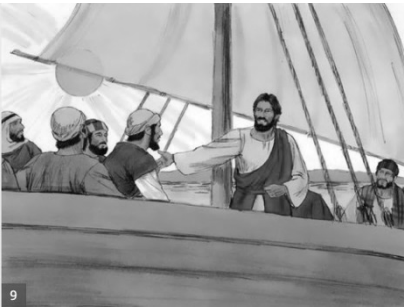

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.4 Ruling Nature

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| _____1. shoreline | a. to speak in a firm and critical way |
| _____2. fierce | b. to serve, help |
| _____3. ghost | c. the land along the edge of a lake or ocean |
| _____4. rebuke | d. very afraid |
| _____5. minister | e. the soul of a dead person, that people can see |
| _____6. terrified | f. try very hard to do something that is difficult |
| _____7. struggle | g. very violent, very strong |

Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

1. Although it was a _____ storm, Jesus stopped it.
2. Teaching and healing were ways Jesus would _____ to people.
3. When Jesus _____ the wind and the waves, the lake became calm.
4. There were many villages along the _____ of the Sea of Galilee.
5. The disciples _____ to keep the boat from sinking.
6. The disciples thought Jesus was a _____ and it _____ them.

Re-tell the 2 stories using the pictures below:

<p>A.</p> 	<p>B.</p> 	<p>C.</p> 
<p>D.</p>	<p>E.</p>	<p>F.</p>

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.4 Ruling Nature



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-storm/>

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-water/>

Discussion

- *Easier*

1. In the first story, why were the disciples terrified of the storm?
2. What did Jesus do when the disciples woke him up?
3. In the second story, why were the disciples terrified when Jesus came towards them?
4. In the second story, why did Jesus send the disciples across the lake by themselves?
5. In the second story, why didn't the disciples recognize Him?
6. What things do you find frightening? Terrifying?
7. How could Jesus have this kind of power over Nature?

- *Intermediate*

1. In the first story, why were the disciples terrified of the storm?
2. Did Jesus know that a storm was coming, before he told his disciples to sail across the Sea of Galilee?
3. What do you think it was like in that boat?

Chapter One: Performing Miracles
1.4 Ruling Nature

4. In the second story, why were the disciples terrified when Jesus came towards them?
5. Jesus told the disciples to row across the lake, knowing they would have to struggle against a wind. Why do you think Jesus did this?
6. Why didn't the disciples recognize Him?
7. What things do you find frightening? Terrifying?
8. In these two stories, Mark is clearly telling his readers that Jesus is God. How do these stories show that this is true?
9. What might it be like when Jesus returns and rules the earth?

- *Challenging*

1. In the first story, why were the disciples terrified of the storm?
2. Did Jesus know that a storm was coming, before he told his disciples to sail across the Sea of Galilee?
3. What was it like in that boat?
4. In the second story, why were the disciples terrified when Jesus came towards them?
5. John tells us that when this story occurred, Passover was near. Passover is celebrated in the time of a full moon. How does this play into the story?
6. Jesus told the disciples to row across the lake, knowing they would have to struggle against a wind. Why do you think Jesus did this and why do you think he sent the disciples across the lake by themselves? Have you ever done a task that was frustrating and seemingly meaningless?
7. Why didn't the disciples recognize Him?

Chapter One: Performing Miracles

1.4 Ruling Nature

8. Why did Jesus put his disciples through both these terrifying trials?
9. What things do you find frightening? Terrifying?
10. In these two stories, Mark is clearly telling his readers that Jesus is *God*. How do these stories show that this is true?
11. What might it be like when Jesus returns and rules the earth?

Parable of the Farmer

Mark 4:1-20

Background:

Jesus taught this story by the Sea of Galilee, and because the crowd was large, he sat in a boat while they listened on the shore. (It was the custom for a teacher to sit down when he taught.) Jesus taught using a parable, which is a common story from life that teaches a spiritual truth. In this farm parable, Jesus spoke of planting seeds in different types of soil. At that time, farmers would throw seeds by hand over the ground.

Before you read:

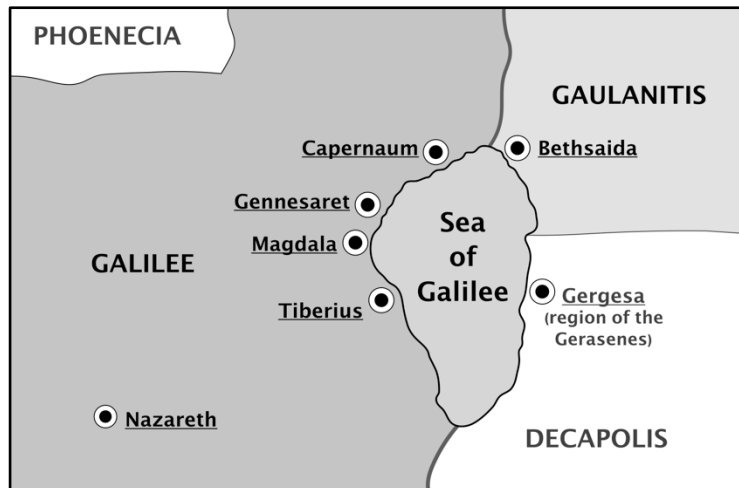
1. Have you ever grown anything? (Flowers, vegetables or fruit?)
2. What kind of soil is best for growing things?

The Passage

Mark 4:3-9:

1 ³"Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. ⁴As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a **footpath**, and the birds came and ate it.

2 ⁵Other seed fell on **shallow** soil with underlying rock. The seed **sprouted** quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶But the plant soon **wilted** under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died.



3 ⁷Other seed fell among **thorns** that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. ⁸Still other seeds fell on **fertile** soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" ⁹Then he said, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

4 The disciples wanted to understand the spiritual truths that Jesus was teaching, so they asked Him to explain it to them:

Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds

2.1 Parable of the Farmer

Mark 4:10,11, "¹⁰Later, when Jesus was alone with the twelve disciples and with the others who were gathered around, they asked him what the parables meant.

¹¹He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secret of the Kingdom of God.
5 But I use parables for everything I say to outsiders, ¹²so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled:

'When they see what I do,
they will learn nothing.
When they hear what I say,
they will not understand.
Otherwise, they will turn to me
and be forgiven"

Jesus was quoting a passage by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. In this passage,
6 God told Isaiah that the people would, "listen carefully but not understand, watch closely, but learn nothing." (Isaiah 6:9,10)

Mark 4:13-20, "¹³ Then Jesus said to them, "If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables? ¹⁴ The farmer plants
7 seed by taking God's word to others. ¹⁵ The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. ¹

⁶ The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they don't have deep roots, they don't
8 last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.

¹⁸ The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's
9 word, ¹⁹ but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.

²⁰ And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's
10 word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" (NLT)

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this story? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about the story?

3. What do you learn about people?

4. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescrptures.com

Passage Questions

Soil Problems

Jesus described four types of soil: 1) footpath 2) shallow 3) thorny and 4) good

Put the number of the soil beside the conditions for growing seeds (*There may be more than one answer*):

- a. Harmful, wild plants grow too quickly and steal the seed's sun and water.

- b. The soil is so hard that the seed can't enter it. _____
- c. The soil is soft, has water, is rich, and contains no wild seed. _____
- d. The seed roots can't get deep enough for water. _____
- e. The seed starts to grow, but then it dies. _____

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| _____1. fertile | a. thin, not deep |
| _____2. persecute | b. become dry and weak |
| _____3. footpath | c. able to produce well |
| _____4. shallow | d. sharp points on weeds and plants |
| _____5. sprout | e. treat someone badly |
| _____6. wilt | f. a narrow walking path through a field |
| _____7. thorns | g. when a seed grows a stem and leaves |

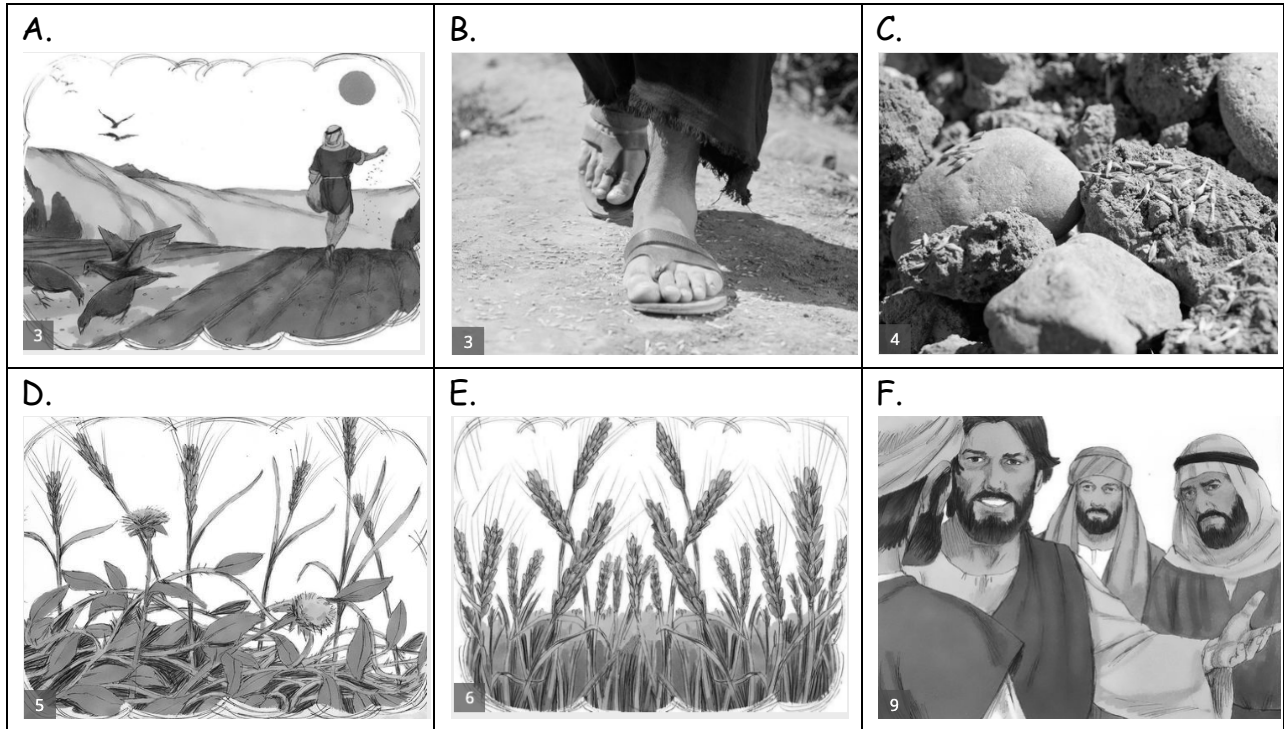
Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

- 1. People would walk on a _____ through the fields.
- 2. Soil that is very _____ can grow lots of good things.
- 3. Seed can still _____ in _____ soil, but the plant can't get enough water.

Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds
2.1 Parable of the Farmer

4. If a plant can't get enough water, it will _____ in the sun.
5. Wear gloves when pulling up weeds, because some weeds have _____.
6. Some people leave their countries because others _____ them there.

Re-tell the story using the pictures below:



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/parable-sower-seed/>
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/parable-sower/>

Discussion

- *Easier*
1. Why did the disciples ask Jesus to explain the parable to them?
 2. What does the farmer's seed represent?
 3. What does the footpath represent?
 4. What does the rocky soil represent?

Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds

2.1 Parable of the Farmer

5. What are some of the thorns of life?
 6. What does the good soil represent?
 7. How did Jesus explain his reason for using parables?
 8. An old wise saying is, "People only hear what they want to hear". Do you think that is true?
 9. People have different reactions to hearing about God. What reactions have you noticed? Can you compare them to the 4 soils?
- *Intermediate*
 1. Why did Jesus teach the crowds from a boat in the water?
 2. Psalm 14:1 says, "Only fools say in their hearts, 'There is no God.'" What type of soil is this person?
 3. Why do you think Jesus did not teach the spiritual truths of the parables to everyone?
 4. Can you have joy in God, but still be shallow in your relationship with him?
 5. Did the farmer know what type of soil he is throwing the seed on?
 6. What is most important to producing a good crop - the farmer, the seed, or the soil?
 7. What type of roots do people need in order to grow a good crop?

Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds

2.1 Parable of the Farmer

8. Good soil can likely produce maybe 10 times more than what was sown. What spiritual truth was Jesus teaching when he said the good soil could produce an impossibly big crop of 30, 60 or 100 times?

- *Challenging*

1. What do the birds represent in the parable? Why are birds a good metaphor?
2. Why didn't Jesus teach the spiritual truths of the parable to everyone?
3. Why did the sower sow seed on all types of soil, rather than just on the good soil?
4. Why do people accept Jesus, then return to their old lives and stop following him?
5. Galatians 5:22-23 says, "The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: l_ _ _ ; _ oy; _ eac_ ; pa_ ie_ _ ; kin_ n_ _ _ ; go_ d_ _ ess; _ ait_ f_ l_ n_ ss; gent _ _ n_ _ _ ; and _ el_ - _ on_ _ ol.
6. What is most important to producing a good crop - the farmer, the seed, or the soil?
7. How was this parable also a picture of Jesus' ministry?
8. What kind of roots do people need in order to grow a good crop? How can they increase their root size?
9. Jesus didn't talk about synthetic seed; there wasn't any in his time. But today we have genetically altered seeds. What would synthetic seed represent?

Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds

2.1 Parable of the Farmer

10. Good soil can likely produce maybe 10 times more than what was sown. What spiritual truth was Jesus teaching when he said the good soil could produce an impossibly big crop of 30, 60 or 100 times?

Who Can Enter Heaven?

Mark 10:17-31

Background:

The Old Testament teaches that we all have eternal life. In this story Jesus was travelling through Perea on His way to Jerusalem. A man came running to Jesus with a question about how to gain eternal life. From the gospel books of Matthew and Luke we know the man was young, had a **prosperous** life, followed the laws of Moses, and was respected enough that he had been made ruler of a synagogue. **Moreover**, he was an unusual religious ruler, for although many such rulers opposed and hated Jesus, this man considered Jesus to be good and showed Him respect.

Before you read:

1. What are your thoughts about what happens after physical death?
2. What formed your ideas?

The Passage

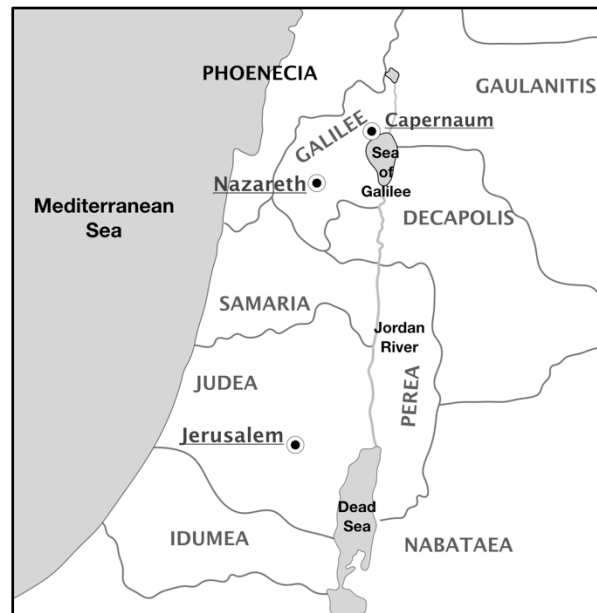
This account is from Mark 10: ¹⁷ As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to Him, knelt down, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked. "Only God is truly good. ¹⁹ But to answer your question, you know the commandments: 'You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.'"

²⁰ "Teacher," the man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young."

²¹ Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," He told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²² At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.



Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds
2.2 Who Can Enter Heaven?

4 ²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!" ²⁴ This amazed them. But Jesus said again, "Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. ²⁵ In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"

5 ²⁶ The disciples were **astounded**. "Then who in the world can be saved?" they asked.

²⁷ Jesus looked at them **intently** and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God."

²⁸ Then Peter began to speak up. "We've given up everything to follow You," he said.

6 ²⁹ "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for My sake and for the Good News, ³⁰ will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with **persecution**. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. ³¹ But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then."

What Do You Think?¹

- a. What do you like about this story? Why?
- b. What questions might someone have about the story?
- c. What do you learn about people?
- d. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

True or False

1. The young ruler respected Jesus. _____
2. Jesus offered the young man treasure in heaven. _____
3. The young man decided to follow Jesus. _____
4. The disciples had given up everything to follow Jesus. _____

Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds
2.2 Who Can Enter Heaven?

5. Jesus said anyone who followed him would have an easy life. _____

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

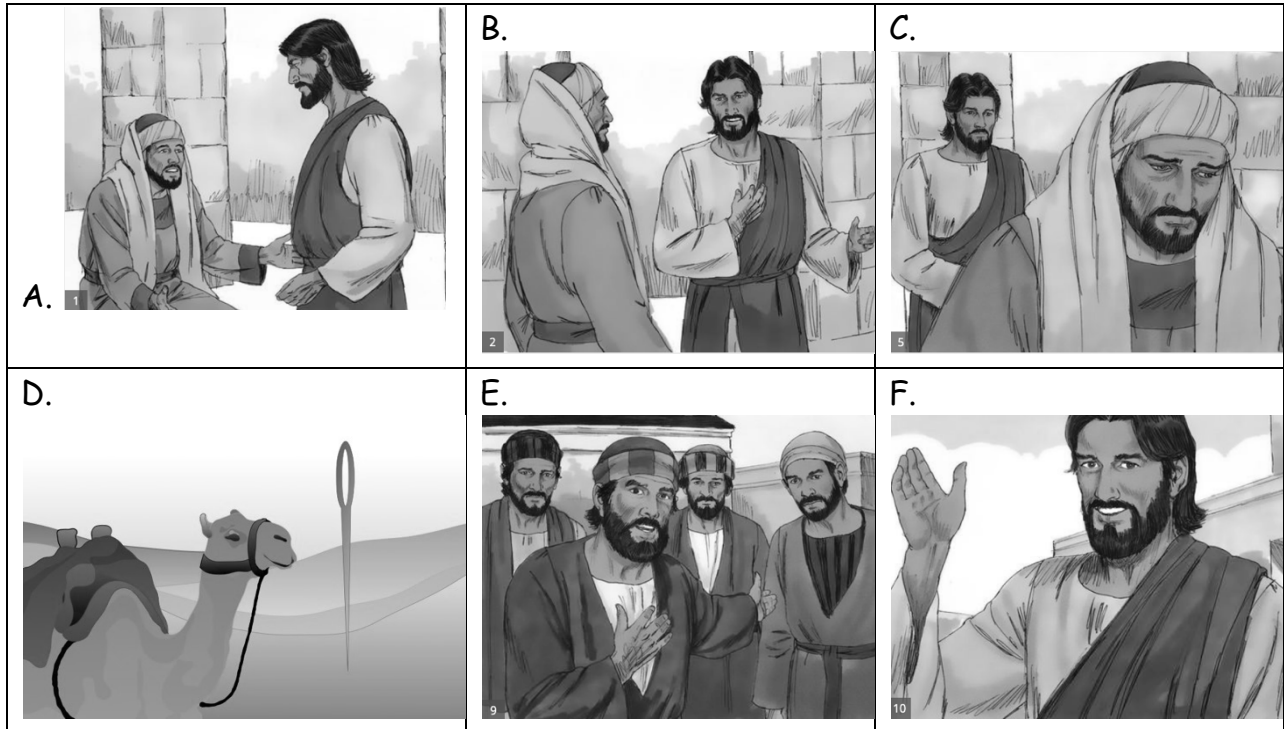
- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| _____1. prosperous | a. to tell what one saw and heard |
| _____2. inherit | b. amazed, astonished, greatly surprised |
| _____3. moreover | c. to receive something when somebody dies |
| _____4. testify | d. rich |
| _____5. cheat | e. going after someone to hurt them because of hate |
| _____6. astounded | f. to steal something by lying or tricking |
| _____7. intently | g. showing great attention, concentration |
| _____8. persecution | h. in addition to what has been said |

Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

1. The man _____ falsely to the police that the car was his, because he wanted to _____ the woman out of her property.
2. She will _____ her parents' house when they die.
3. The disciples were _____ when Jesus said it was humanly impossible to be saved.
4. The young man was _____. _____, others thought he was a good man and made him a synagogue ruler.
5. Jesus promised that whatever his followers gave up, God would replace, but they would still face _____.
6. Jesus looked at his disciples _____, so they knew he was telling them something very important.

Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds
2.2 Who Can Enter Heaven?

Re-tell the story using the pictures below:



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-rich-man/>

Discussion

- *Easier*

1. What did the man ask Jesus?
2. What do we know about the young man?
3. What did Jesus say about being good?
4. Had the man obeyed all the commandments Jesus asked him about?
5. What did Jesus ask the man to do?
6. Why did the man walk away and not become a disciple?
7. What had the disciples given up?
8. What did Jesus say about the greatest and the least of people?

9. What do you think Jesus means when he talked about the camel and needle's eye?

- *Intermediate*

1. What do we know about this young ruler?
2. The young ruler said he followed the 10 commandments. Did the young ruler believe that following these commandments guaranteed him eternal life? Explain your answer.
3. Jesus taught that if a man hated another person, then they had as good as murdered that person; that if he ever looked at another woman with desire for her, then he had as good as committed adultery. Do you think the man had ever done these things?
4. What did Jesus say about a rich man entering the Kingdom of God?
5. What did Jesus tell the disciples about who can be saved?
6. Why do you think Jesus asked the young ruler, "Why do you call me good?"
7. Why had the young ruler walked away rather than become a disciple?
8. What had the disciples given up? What was their reward?
9. What did Jesus say about the least and the greatest?

- *Challenging*

1. What do we know about the rich young ruler?
2. In Canada you may here the expression "quid pro quo". It is a Latin expression that means, "something for something", that is: "If I do this (or give this), then I should get (or deserve) that."

Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds

2.2 Who Can Enter Heaven?

- a. The young ruler said he'd followed the 10 Commandments from his youth. Did he believe, then, that he deserved eternal life? Explain your answer.
 - b. Did the young ruler have a quid pro quo mindset, or did he think he needed grace to have eternal life?
 - c. What was the first thing Jesus said when the man asked his question?
 - d. Why do you think Jesus asked this question?
3. Jesus taught that if a man hated another person, then they had as good as murdered that person; that if he ever looked at another woman with desire for her, then he had as good as committed adultery. Do you think this man had committed those sins? Do you think he was aware that these things were sins?
4. The Bible says we are all sinners. The term sin comes from archery, and it means that the arrow missed the target.
- a. Why do we all miss the mark?
 - b. Why had the young ruler walked away rather than become a disciple?
 - c. How could his life have been different, had he said yes at that time?
 - d. Do you think he ever said yes?
5. Why did Jesus say it was humanly impossible for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God?
6. Jesus' disciples had given up their jobs and their lives - and would give up their physical lives for Him as well. Why were they able to do this?
7. Psalm 51:16,17 says, "You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God" (NLT). Did

Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds

2.2 Who Can Enter Heaven?

the disciples - the men who did choose to follow Jesus - have a broken spirit and a repentant heart?

The Most Important Commandment

Mark 12:28-34

Background:

When God rescued the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt, He spoke to them through Moses and gave them some rules for living in peace. These rules became part of what is known as the Law of Moses. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments written on tablets of stone (Exodus 20:1-17), and there were other laws as well, including the two that Jesus quotes in this story (Deuteronomy 6:4, 5; Leviticus 19:18). In the days of Jesus, a group known as the Pharisees had added many new amendments and additions to the Law of Moses. Pharisees loved their importance and legal authority. They thought pleasing God was only about following rules, and they hated Jesus for his authority and opposing their rules.

Before you read:

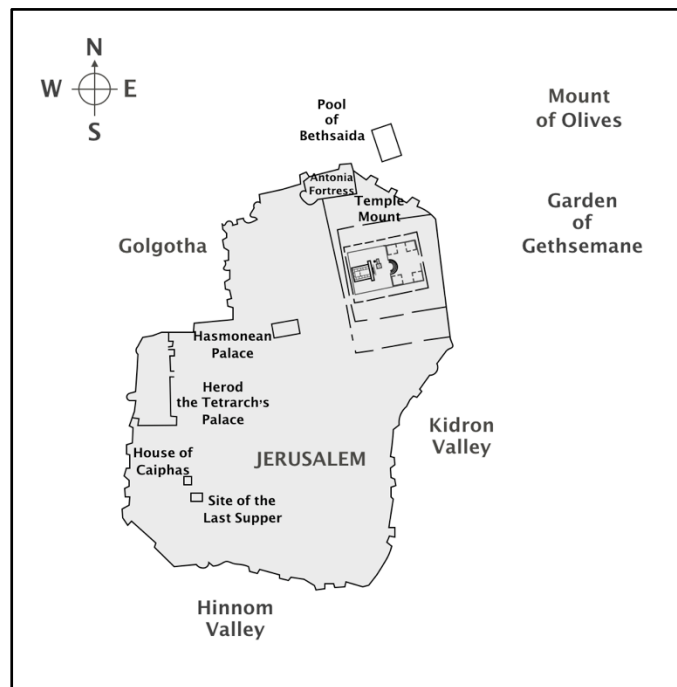
1. What are some of the rules that you follow in your life?
2. Why do you think you should follow them?

The Passage

1 Now the Pharisees held that Jesus taught against the laws of Moses. So, they sent their men to question Jesus in front of the crowds, trying to trap him in his words. They were sure that the answers that Jesus gave would unmask him as an opponent of Moses - unlike the Pharisees who saw themselves as the true teachers of the law.

2 At the beginning of our story Jesus had spent some time debating with the Pharisees over their trick questions and correcting their errors.

3 Mark 12: ²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"



Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds
2.3 The Most Important Commandment

4 ²⁹ "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength (Deuteronomy 6:4).³¹ The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18). There is no commandment greater than these."

5 ³² "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." *

6 ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions. (NIV)

7 In the Gospel of John (14:21,23,24) Jesus talked about the relationship of love and obedience: ²¹ "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." And "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

* *burning offerings and sacrificing animals was an important part of the Law of Moses, especially to show **repentance** for disobeying the law.*

Passage Questions

Change these False statements to make them True.

1. God gave the Law of Moses to the people to make their lives difficult.
2. The Pharisees thought Jesus knew God's Law better than they did.
3. The Pharisees thought the law that God gave to Moses was enough for the people.
4. Jesus expected people to follow the rules of the Pharisees.
5. Jesus said it did not matter if people obeyed his teaching.

Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds
2.3 The Most Important Commandment

6. The Pharisees listened to what Jesus had to say.
7. Jesus said the teacher of the law was far from the kingdom of God.

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| _____1. amendment | a. feeling truly sorry for a bad action |
| _____2. commandment | b. to challenge |
| _____3. opponent | c. reveal |
| _____4. debating | d. a change |
| _____5. dare | e. arguing |
| _____6. repentance | f. a rule to be obeyed |
| _____7. unmask | g. one who disagrees and wants to stop someone |

Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

1. According to Jesus, the most important _____ was to love God.
2. The Pharisees made _____ and additions to the Law of Moses.
3. No one _____ ask Jesus more questions.
4. Jesus was an _____ of the Pharisees' extra rules.
5. Jesus had finished _____ the Pharisees when the teacher of the law asked him about the greatest commandment.
6. If someone pays back money that she stole, she shows _____.
7. The Pharisees wanted to _____ Jesus as a false teacher.

Discussion

- *Easier*

1. What is the name for the commandments God wrote on stone to give to Moses?

Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds
2.3 The Most Important Commandment

2. What did Jesus say was the greatest commandment?
3. How can people show love for God?
4. What does it mean to love others like we love ourselves?
5. What does the gospel of John say about love and obedience?
6. How would love make obeying God's law easier?
7. Why did the Pharisees try to trick Jesus?
8. Why do you think the people were afraid to ask Jesus more questions?

- *Intermediate*

1. Why do you think God gave the commandments to Moses?
2. When you look at Jesus' choice of the greatest commandments, what do you realize is important to God?
3. Who were the Pharisees and why did they seek to add to the rules that God gave them?

4. David wrote in Psalm 119: 1 - 4,
*"Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to
the law of the Lord.
Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their
heart—
they do no wrong but follow his ways.*

You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed."

What do you notice in that passage about the kind of obedience God expects?

5. What is the connection between love and obedience expressed in the passage from the gospel of John?

Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds
2.3 The Most Important Commandment

6. What was the real purpose behind the Pharisees' intense questioning of Jesus?
7. Is it easy to love God with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself? Do you want to do this all the time?
8. Why do you think the people were afraid to ask Jesus more questions?

- *Challenging*

1. When you look at the 'most important' commandment what do you realize is important to God?
2. What purpose did the Pharisees have by adding more rules to the commandments God already gave them?

3. David wrote in Psalm 119: 1 - 4,
*"Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.
Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart—
they do no wrong but follow his ways.
You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed."*

What did David say about God's precepts? What are some key thoughts that David expresses in this passage?

4. What is the connection between love and obedience expressed in the passage from the gospel of John?
5. What was the real purpose behind the Pharisees' intense questioning of Jesus?
6. Is it easy to love God with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself? Do you want to do this all the time? How did these Old Testament commandments point to Jesus?

Chapter Two: Speaking to the Crowds
2.3 The Most Important Commandment

7. Why do you think the people were afraid to ask Jesus more questions?

Breaking the Sabbath Rules

Mark 2:23-27; 3:1-6

Background:

The Sabbath (7th) day was given by God to Moses as one of the Ten Commandments. It said that the Israelites were to work six days, then rest the seventh: "On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you" (Exodus 20:10). But the Pharisees added volumes of definitions of what "work" was. For example, they decided that on the Sabbath you could not carry food heavier than a dried fig and you could not write more than two letters of the alphabet.

Before you read:

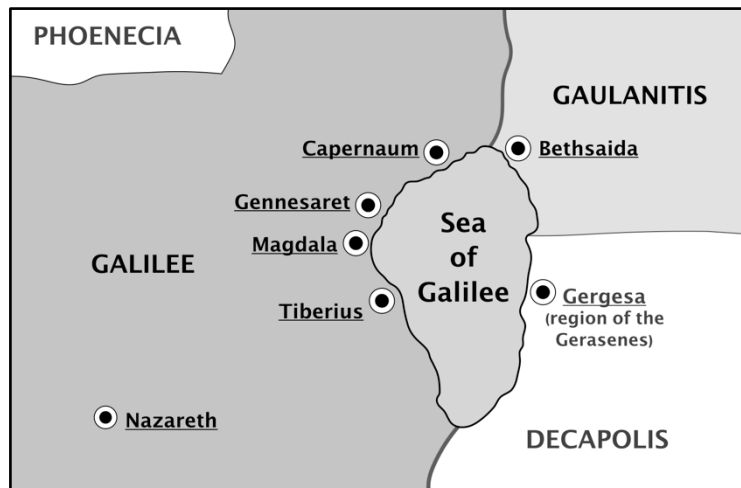
1. How do you rest?
2. When do you rest?

The Passage

1 As the first story opens, Jesus and his disciples are walking through grain fields in Galilee. (Now there were fields everywhere and it was common for people to walk through fields as they went through the land.)

2 Mark 2:23-27: ²³ One Sabbath day as Jesus was walking through some grain fields, his disciples began breaking off heads of grain to eat. ²⁴ But the Pharisees said to Jesus, "Look, why are they breaking the law by **harvesting** grain on the Sabbath?"

3 ²⁵ Jesus said to them, "Haven't you ever read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ²⁶ He went into the house of God (during the days when Abiathar was high priest) and broke the law by eating the **sacred** loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. He also gave some to his companions."



Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities

3.1 Breaking the Sabbath Rules

4 Here Jesus was referring to a story about King David who, when running from an enemy, came to a town where priests lived and where the main place of God's worship was kept. David and his men were very hungry. Every Sabbath, fresh bread was placed on a table inside the worship place. The next Sabbath, those loaves of bread were removed and replaced with fresh bread. The old bread was to be eaten by the priests only. But when the priest in that town realized that David and his men were in need, he gave them that old bread to eat. The priest did this because of who David was - the king.

5 Mark continues, "²⁷ Then Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the **Son of Man** is Lord, even over the Sabbath!"

6 In the next story, Jesus is still in Galilee. It is the Sabbath again, and it was the custom on that day, for the Jews to go to the synagogue, the local place of gathering, teaching, and worship.

7 Mark 3:1-6: Jesus went into the synagogue again and noticed a man with a **deformed** hand. ² Since it was the Sabbath, Jesus' enemies watched him closely. If he healed the man's hand, they planned to **accuse** him of working on the Sabbath.

8 ³ Jesus said to the man with the deformed hand, "Come and stand in front of everyone." ⁴ Then he turned to his **critics** and asked, "Does the law permit good **deeds** on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?" But they wouldn't answer him.

9 ⁵ He looked around at them angrily and was deeply saddened by their hard hearts. Then he said to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was **restored!** ⁶ At once the Pharisees went away and met with the supporters of Herod to plot how to kill Jesus." (NLT)

What Do You Think?¹

- a. What do you like about this story? Why?
- b. What questions might someone have about the story?
- c. What do you learn about people?
- d. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescrptures.com

Passage Questions

True or False

1. Keeping the Sabbath was one of the Ten Commandments. _____
2. Servants still worked on the Sabbath. _____
3. The Scriptures said you could not carry anything heavier than a dried fig on the Sabbath. _____
4. Abiathar the priest had allowed King David and his men to eat the sacred bread when they were hungry. _____
5. The Pharisees cared about the man with the deformed hand. _____
6. The Scriptures said you could not heal anyone on the Sabbath. _____

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| _____1. fig | a. a small fruit |
| _____2. Son of Man | b. a thing one does |
| _____3. accuse | c. a title from prophecy (about a future King who would rule the earth forever- Daniel 7: 13 - 14) |
| _____4. deed | d. very holy; especially used for God |
| _____5. harvest | e. returned to good condition |
| _____6. sacred | f. blame |
| _____7. restored | g. not having the normal shape or form |
| _____8. deformed | h. to gather a crop |

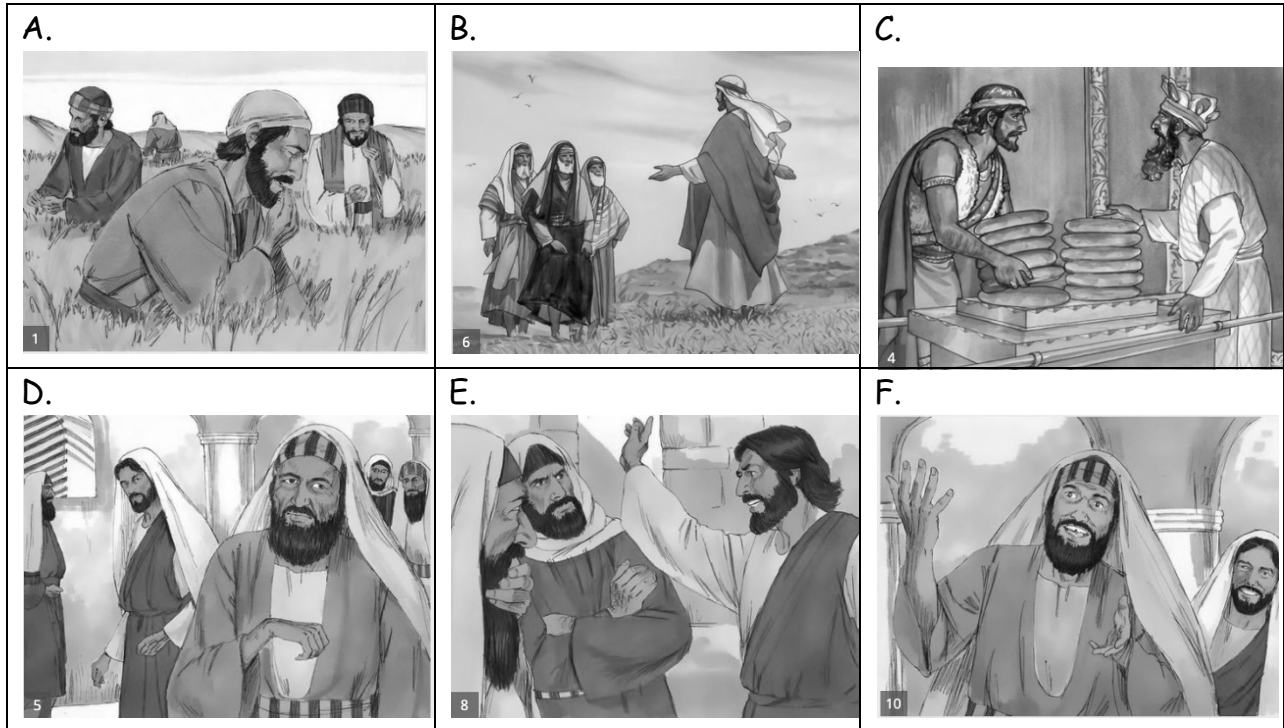
Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

1. The Pharisees wanted to _____ Jesus of breaking the law.
2. When grain is ripe, the farmers will _____ it.
3. The Pharisees added many rules to the Sabbath such as not carrying anything heavier than a dried _____.
4. Jesus called himself by the title of _____.

Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities
3.1 Breaking the Sabbath Rules

5. When Jesus _____ the man's _____ hand, it was a very good _____.
6. God's Temple was a _____ place.

Re-tell the two stories using the pictures below:



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-withered-hand/>
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-030-lord-sabbath/>

Discussion

- *Easier*
1. What was the Sabbath?
 2. What did the Scriptures say about the Sabbath?
 3. Who had to rest on the Sabbath?
 4. What did Jesus say about himself, the Son of Man?

Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities

3.1 Breaking the Sabbath Rules

5. What law did King David break? Was the priest angry with David for breaking this law?
6. What did Jesus say was the purpose of the Sabbath?
7. Why were the Pharisees angry with Jesus for healing the man with the deformed hand?
8. Why was Jesus angry with the Pharisees?
9. What did Jesus ask the Pharisees before he healed the man?
10. What did the Pharisees do after Jesus healed the man?

- *Intermediate*

1. What did the Scriptures say about the Sabbath? What did the Pharisees add to this?
2. Why do you think Jesus reminded the Pharisees about the story of King David?
3. What did the Pharisees accuse Jesus of when he was crossing the grain fields? When he healed the man with the withered hand?
4. In Matthew 11 Jesus says, "Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls."
 - a. What is Jesus teaching about rest?
 - b. Is a humble and gentle heart valued in your society?
5. The Old Testament prophet Hosea spoke these words from God, "I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings" (Hosea 6:6).
 - a. Which is easier, to know God or to offer sacrifices?
 - b. In today's passage, how does Jesus show that He is God incarnate?

Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities

3.1 Breaking the Sabbath Rules

6. Earlier in Mark chapter two, Jesus said, "...who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins" (Mark 2:21,22).
 - a. Who is Jesus referring to as the old cloth, and the old wine skins?
 - b. What is Jesus changing about how we relate to God? To each other?
 - c. Why do you think Jesus didn't try to work with the Pharisees and gently show them a better way?

- *Challenging*

1. What did the Scriptures say about the Sabbath? How did the Pharisees embellish this?
2. What did Jesus say was God's intention for the Sabbath?
3. Why do you think Jesus reminded the Pharisees of the story of King David?
4. Why did Jesus call himself the Son of Man and say he was Lord of the Sabbath?
5. Why did the Pharisees try to find Jesus guilty of breaking the law?
6. The Old Testament prophet Hosea spoke these words from God, "I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings." (Hosea 6:6)
 - a. How do these stories show that Jesus had the same heart and mind as God?
 - b. How far were the Pharisees from knowing God? How is it that you can think that you are serving God, yet you don't even know Him?

Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities

3.1 Breaking the Sabbath Rules

7. Earlier in Mark chapter two, Jesus said, "...who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins" (Mark 2:21,22).
 - a. Who is Jesus referring to as the old cloth, and the old wine skins? And what is he referring to as the new cloth and the new wine?
 - b. Why does Jesus have the right to bring in new wine? New cloth?
 - c. Why do you think Jesus confronted the Pharisees rather than try to persuade them and build bridges to them?
8. In Galatians 2:21 Paul says, "I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing." In Acts 15:11, Peter said, "We believe that we (Jew and Gentile) are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus." Paul dealt harshly with the Judaizers who taught that one should still live according to Mosaic laws and Jewish customs. In what way is Paul showing the same heart and mind of Jesus as shown in this story?
9. Jesus claimed to be the source of true 'rest', saying "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).
 - a. What heavy burdens do people carry?
 - b. How can Jesus give rest for our souls?

Not Following Tradition

Mark 7:1-23

Background:

In this story Jesus comes up against some of the religious traditions of his day. People were very concerned about something called defilement, defined as **corruption of morals, principles, or character** through sin. To be defiled is basically to be against God. The religious leaders, especially the Pharisees, had added rules to protect against even the chance of God's disapproval. Some examples of what they considered defilement were eating with unwashed hands, eating unclean food, and eating with foreigners - or even entering their houses. The Law of Moses did not forbid these things. Their extra rules made life very difficult for the average person as we shall see.

Before you read:

1. Can you think of any cultural tradition that may be good?
2. Can you think of any cultural tradition that may be bad?

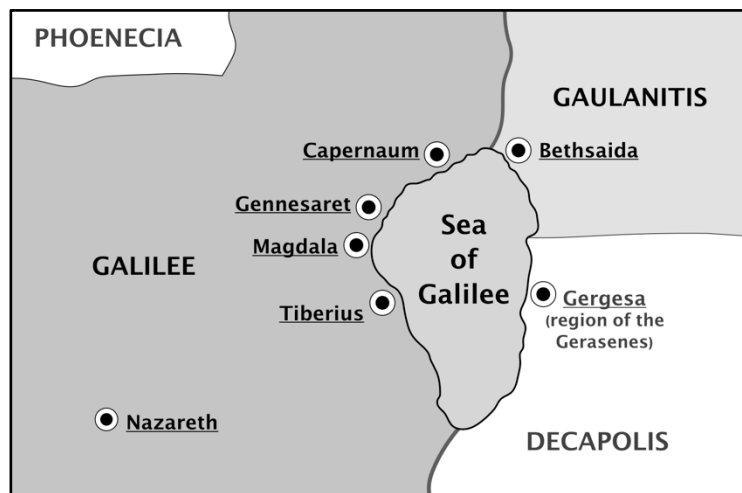
The Passage

Our story begins in Mark chapter 7:

1 ¹The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ²and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed.

2 ³(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a **ceremonial** washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

3 ⁵So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?"



Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities
3.2 Not Following Tradition

⁶ He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you **hypocrites**; as it is written:

4 "These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁷ They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.'

⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."

⁹ And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ¹⁰ For Moses said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.'

5 ¹¹ But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)— ¹² then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. ¹³ Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

6 ¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them."

7 ¹⁷ After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. ¹⁸ "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? ¹⁹ For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

8 ²⁰ He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. ²¹ For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, **malice**, deceit, **lewdness**, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person. (NIV)

What Do You Think?1

- a. What do you like about this story? Why?
- b. What questions might someone have about the story?
- c. What do you learn about people?
- d. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

Put the story events in order from first to last:

- a. _____ Jesus told the religious leaders exactly how they were disobeying God's Law by adding their own traditions.
- b. _____ The Pharisees saw Jesus' disciples eating with unwashed hands.
- c. _____ The religious leaders asked Jesus why his disciples ate with defiled hands.
- d. _____ Jesus told the people that what they ate could not defile them.
- e. _____ Jesus quoted Isaiah's prophecy that people would speak well of God, but not care about Him in their hearts.
- f. _____ The Pharisees kept many traditions about ceremonial washing.
- g. _____ Jesus called the religious leaders hypocrites.
- h. _____ Jesus said defilement comes from inside a person's heart.

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| _____1. corruption | a. people who tell you to do something because it is right but don't do it themselves |
| _____2. ceremonial | b. rude, dirty talk or actions |
| _____3. morals | c. hate |
| _____4. hypocrites | d. to make it nothing |
| _____5. in vain | e. evil change; rotten |
| _____6. nullify | f. useless; without purpose; waste of time |
| _____7. malice | g. a way to do something for symbolic or religious purposes |
| _____8. lewdness | h. beliefs in what is right and wrong |

Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above

1. According to Jesus, the Pharisees _____ the word of God.
2. Jesus called the Pharisees _____.

Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities
3.2 Not Following Tradition

3. True defilement is _____ inside a person's heart.
4. Hands were washed for _____ purposes.
5. Throwing hot coffee on someone shows _____.
6. He always swears and tells disgusting jokes. No one likes his _____.
7. We all respect his good _____, so we often ask for his advice.
8. Isaiah said the people worshipped God _____.

Discussion

- *Easier*

1. What is the name of the Law that the Jewish people follow?
2. Who were the Pharisees?
3. What is an example of defilement according to the Pharisees?
4. Why were the Pharisees angry with Jesus' disciples?
5. Why did Jesus call them hypocrites?
6. What did Jesus say was important to God?
7. What really causes people to be defiled?
8. How important do you think this teaching is?

- *Intermediate*

1. What did the Jewish people follow in addition to the Law of Moses?
2. What does defilement mean?
3. Who were the Pharisees?
4. Why were the Pharisees angry with Jesus' disciples?

Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities
3.2 Not Following Tradition

5. What did Jesus say to correct them? What does this way of speaking reveal about Jesus?
6. How does Jesus reveal the Pharisees' hypocrisy? What is wrong with the Pharisee's traditions?
7. What is Jesus' definition of defilement? How does Jesus' definition change the way people might behave?

- *Challenging*

1. What did the Jewish people follow in addition to the Law of Moses?
2. What does defilement mean?
3. Who were the Pharisees?
4. It was the teaching of the rabbis that it was a greater offence for someone to speak against them than it was for someone to speak against the Bible. What is the danger in this thinking?
5. Why were the Pharisees angry with Jesus' disciples according to the story? What do you think was the true cause of their anger?
6. What did Jesus say to correct them? What did he quote to support what he said? What does this way of speaking reveal about Jesus?
7. How does Jesus reveal the Pharisees' hypocrisy? What is wrong with the Pharisee's traditions?
8. What is Jesus' definition of defilement? How does Jesus' definition change the way people might behave?

Speaking the Truth Boldly

Mark 11:27-33; 12:1-12

Background:

For thousands of years God had sent prophets to warn the Jewish people when they stopped obeying Him. Before Jesus began teaching the people, God had sent a prophet called John the Baptist to get people ready to listen. John told the people to **repent** and be **baptized** with water to show changed hearts. John had been put in prison for **criticizing** the king, who then had him killed. The ruling classes were also increasingly worried and angry concerning Jesus. He did not teach the accepted way. Instead he spoke with authority and **defied** the traditions imposed by the Pharisees and others.

Before you read:

1. Have you ever told someone the truth, but they did not want to hear it?
2. If so, what happened?

The Passage

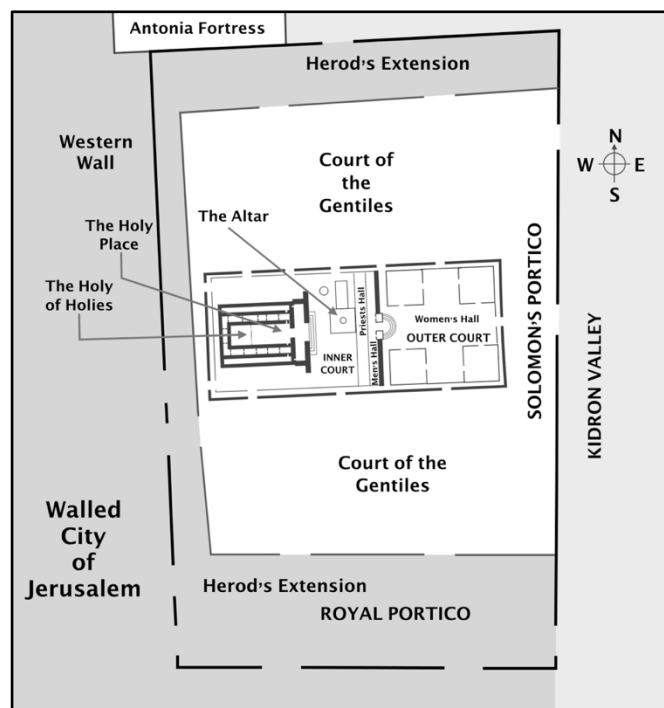
Mark 11 tells of another confrontation between Jesus and religious leaders:

²⁷ They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him.

1 ²⁸ "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you authority to do this?"

2 ²⁹ Jesus replied, "I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ³⁰ John's baptism — was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!"

3 ³¹ They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' ³² But if we say, 'Of human origin' ..." (They feared the people,



Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities
3.3 Speaking the Truth Boldly

for everyone held that John really was a prophet.)

³³ So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

Jesus said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."
(NIV)

4 Then Jesus told a parable about a vineyard. (Starting a vineyard takes a lot of work, and it may be three years for it to produce a good crop of grapes. Owners might lease their land in return for a percentage % or 'share' of the crop.)

5 Mark 12: ¹A man planted a vineyard. He built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he **leased** the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country. ² At the time of the grape harvest, he sent one of his servants to collect his share of the crop. ³ But the farmers grabbed the servant, beat him up, and sent him back empty-handed. ⁴ The owner then sent another servant, but they insulted him and beat him over the head. ⁵ The next servant he sent was killed. Others he sent were either beaten or killed, ⁶ until there was only one left—his son whom he loved dearly. The owner finally sent him, thinking, 'Surely they will respect my son.'

6 ⁷ "But the tenant farmers said to one another, 'Here comes the heir to this estate. Let's kill him and get the estate for ourselves!' ⁸ So they grabbed him and murdered him and threw his body out of the vineyard.

7 ⁹ "What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do?" Jesus asked. "I'll tell you—he will come and kill those farmers and lease the vineyard to others. ¹⁰ Didn't you ever read this in the Scriptures?

'The stone that the builders rejected
has now become the **cornerstone**.

¹¹ This is the LORD's doing,
and it is wonderful to see.*

8 ¹² The religious leaders wanted to arrest Jesus because they realized he was telling the story against them—they were the wicked farmers. But they were afraid of the crowd, so they left him and went away." (NLT)

*This is a prophecy from Psalm 118: 22-23

What Do You Think?¹

- a. What do you like about this story? Why?
- b. What questions might someone have about the story?

Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities
3.3 Speaking the Truth Boldly

- c. What do you learn about people?
- d. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescrptures.com

Passage Questions

Match the parable metaphors with their meanings:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| _____1. the vineyard | a. God |
| _____2. the owner | b. Jesus |
| _____3. the farmers | c. people of Israel |
| _____4. the servants | d. the religious leaders |
| _____5. the son | e. the prophets |

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| _____1. repent | a. the source of something that was created |
| _____2. defy | b. to allow someone to use something for a period of time in return for a payment |
| _____3. origin | c. a stone with perfect angles at the corner of a building that guides where to put other stones for straight walls. |
| _____4. baptize | d. refuse to obey |
| _____5. lease | e. a person who has the legal right to receive the property of someone who dies |
| _____6. criticize | f. be sorry for bad actions and want to change |
| _____7. heir | g. tell what is wrong |
| _____8. cornerstone | h. go through water to show a change of heart |

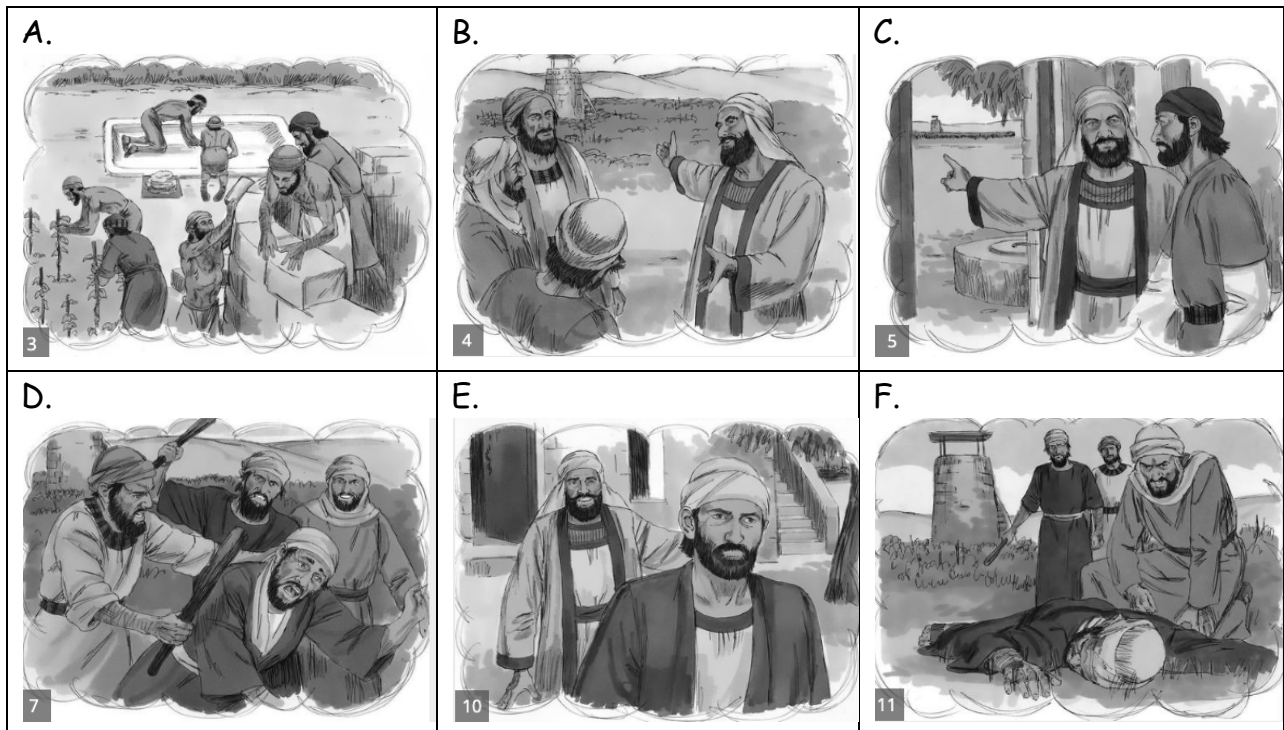
Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

- 1. The owners' son was the _____ who would inherit the vineyard.

Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities
3.3 Speaking the Truth Boldly

2. The tenant farmers agreed to _____ the land from the owner.
3. Jesus _____ the teachings of the Pharisees, and he _____ their authority.
4. Jesus quoted prophecy when he said, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the _____."
5. The Pharisees refused to say what the _____ of John's teaching was.
6. John the Baptist told the people they must _____ and be _____ to show a changed heart.

Re-tell the story of the vineyard using the pictures below:



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/parable-tenants/>

Discussion

- *Easier*
1. Why did the religious leaders refuse to say whether John's baptism was from heaven or of human origin?

Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities
3.3 Speaking the Truth Boldly

2. How did the owner prepare the vineyard before he leased it?
 3. What was the job of the tenant farmers?
 4. What should the owner receive from the farmers?
 5. What should the tenant farmers receive?
 6. What did the tenant farmers do to the owner's servants? To his son?
 7. Why did the religious teachers want to arrest Jesus?
 8. In that time, a cornerstone was the first stone set in the construction of a building. All the other stones would be put in place according to the position of the cornerstone.
 - a) What building do you think Jesus is talking about here?
 - b) How is Jesus the cornerstone in Isaiah's prophecy?
- *Intermediate*
 1. Why did the religious leaders refuse to say whether John's baptism was from heaven or of human origin? What was Jesus' response to this?
 2. Do you think the religious leaders wanted Jesus to consult them and ask their permission before healing the sick, etc.?
 3. In Jesus' story about the vineyard,
 - a) What represents Israel?
 - b) Who represents God?
 - c) Who represents the religious teachers of Israel?
 - d) Who represents the prophets?
 - e) Who represents Jesus?

Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities
3.3 Speaking the Truth Boldly

4. In that time, a cornerstone was the first stone set in the construction of a building. All the other stones would be put in place according to the position of the cornerstone. Jesus was referring to Isaiah 28:16-17: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line."
 - a) What building do you think Jesus is talking about here?
 - b) How is Jesus the cornerstone in Isaiah's prophecy?
 5. Why did the religious teachers want to arrest Jesus?
 6. When Jesus told the story of the Vineyard, he was actually using the imagery from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 5). In that chapter Isaiah said that Israel was God's vineyard that God had planted, but His people failed to give Him good grapes. Isaiah said that because of this, God would bring the Babylonians to tear down the Temple, destroy Jerusalem, and exile the people of Judah to Babylon.
 7. What warning was Jesus giving the religious leaders?
 8. Do all Christians accept Jesus' authority in their life? Why or why not?
- *Challenging*
 1. Why did the religious leaders refuse to say whether John's baptism was from heaven or of human origin? Why did the leaders fear the people?
 2. Do you think the religious leaders wanted Jesus to consult them and ask their permission before healing the sick, etc.? Explain your answer.
 3. In Jesus' story about the vineyard,
 - a. What represents Israel? Why is this a good metaphor?
 - b. Who represents God? Why is this a good metaphor?

Chapter Three: Challenging the Authorities
3.3 Speaking the Truth Boldly

- c. Who represents the religious teachers of Israel? Why is this a good metaphor?
 - d. Who represents the prophets? Why is this a good metaphor?
 - e. Who represents Jesus? Why is this a good metaphor?
4. It was the custom in Israel, that if someone farmed a land for three years, they could lay claim to that land, unless an owner showed up to counter that claim. What does this add to your understanding of the story?
 5. When Jesus told the story of the Vineyard, he was using imagery from a passage by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 5). In that chapter Isaiah said that Israel was God's vineyard that God had planted, but His people failed to give Him good grapes. Isaiah said that because of this, God would bring the Babylonians to tear down the Temple, destroy Jerusalem, and exile the people of Judah to Babylon.
Why did Jesus use this passage?
 6. In that time, a cornerstone was the first stone set in the construction of a building. All the other stones would be put in place according to the position of the cornerstone. Jesus was referring to Isaiah 28:16-17: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line."
 7. Why was it fitting for Jesus to seemingly randomly refer to a cornerstone?
 8. Do all Christians accept Jesus' authority in their life? Why or why not?

Voice of the Forerunner

Mark 1:1-11

Background:

700 years before Jesus, the prophet Isaiah wrote, “³ Listen! It’s the voice of someone shouting, “Clear the way through the wilderness for the Lord! Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God!... ⁵ Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The Lord has spoken!” (Isaiah 40:3 & 5)

The first words in Mark refer to this prophecy: “¹This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began just as the prophet Isaiah had written, “Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way.³ He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming! Clear the road for him!’ (Mark 1:1-3) Mark’s Gospel identifies this messenger as John the Baptist, and the book begins by talking about him.

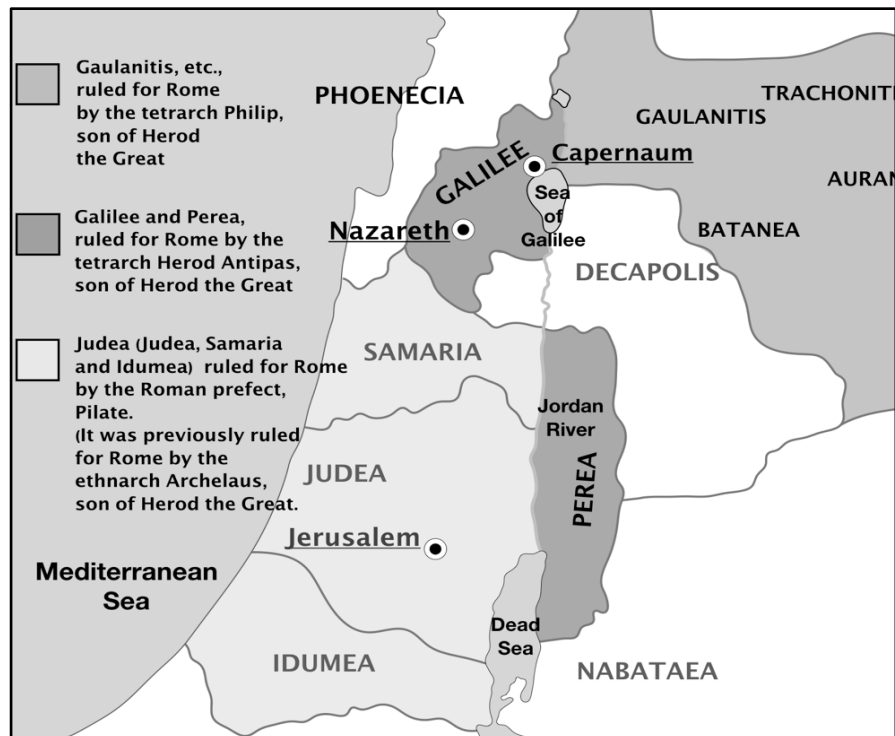
Before you read:

1. Is it possible to know the future? If yes, how can we know?

The Passage

1 Isaiah had said of the Messiah, “In that day the deaf will hear words read from a book, and the blind will see through the gloom and darkness.”¹⁹

2 The **humble** will be filled with fresh joy from the Lord. The poor will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 29:18,19) and “⁶ The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!” (Isaiah



Chapter Four: Fulfilling Prophecy
4.1 Voice of the Forerunner: John the Baptist

36:6) He also wrote that the Messiah would "bring justice to the nations" (42:1 NLT).

3 (Mark 1:4-5) "John the Baptist... was in the wilderness and preached that people should be **baptized** to show that they had **repented** of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. ⁵ All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River." (Mark 1:4,5)

4 John said of Jesus, "Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!" (Mark 1:7,8)

5 When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he **existed** long before me.'" (John 1:29,30)

6 It was at Bethany beyond the Jordan, that Jesus came to John to be baptized. ¹⁰ As Jesus came out of the water, he (John) saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit **descending** on him (Jesus) like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice from heaven said: "You (Jesus) are my dearly loved Son; and you (Jesus) bring me (God) great joy." (Mark 1:10,11)

7 At the time, Herod the tetrarch was ruler of Galilee and Perea. Herod had a brother with a small position, but with a beautiful wife. And Herod had taken her for himself. John had repeatedly told Herod that it was not lawful for him to take her. The woman, Herodias, had Herod throw John in prison. (She would later have Herod behead him.)

8 When John was in prison, he sent his disciples to Jesus while he was teaching the crowds. John told his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the Messiah, or whether they should look for someone else.

9 Jesus answered John's disciples, "Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— ⁵ the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor." ⁶ And he added, "God blesses those who do not **fall away** because of me." (Matthew 11:4-6) For Jesus was doing all those things.

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this story? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about the story?
3. What do you learn about people?
4. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

True or False

John the Baptist said he was the Messiah. _____

1. John the Baptist was the messenger that Isaiah spoke about. _____
2. Only a few people were willing to be baptized by John. _____
3. Only Jesus saw the Holy Spirit descend on him. _____
4. John said the Messiah would baptize people with the Holy Spirit. _____

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

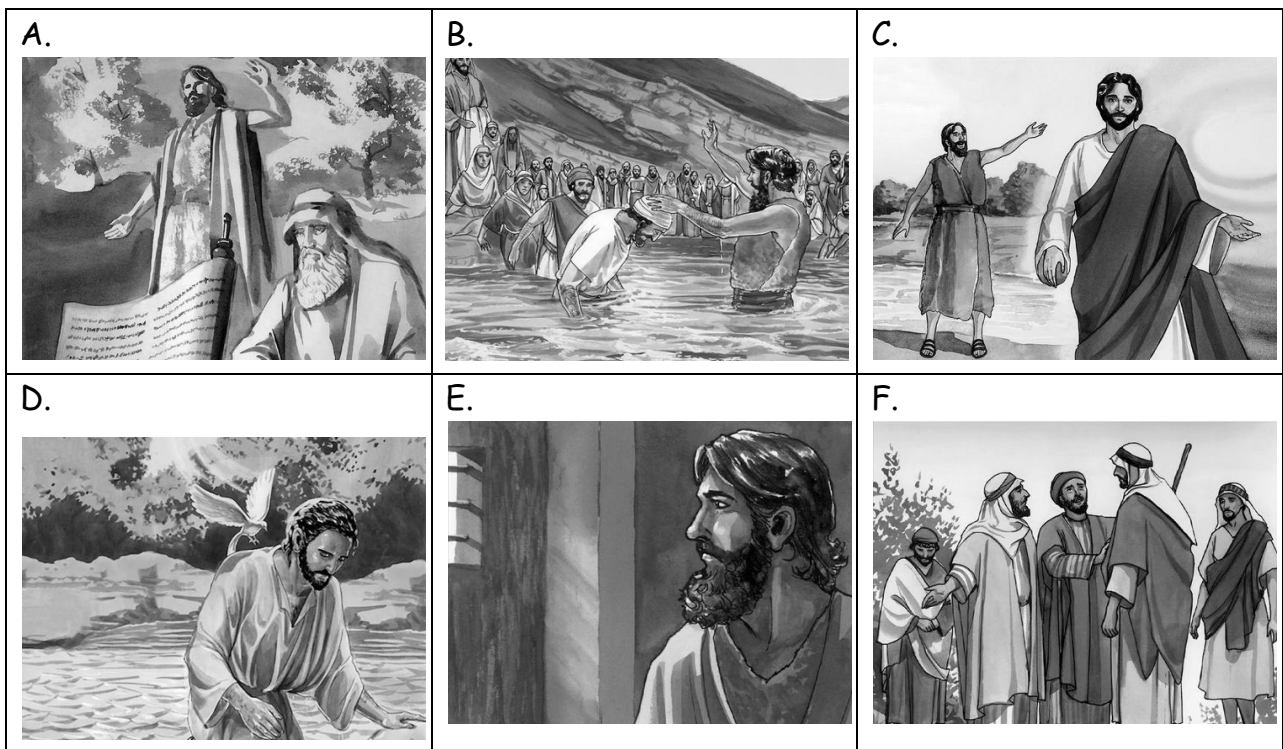
- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| ____ 1. refer to | a. not able to walk easily |
| ____ 2. baptize | b. come down |
| ____ 3. repent | c. feel doubt or offense |
| ____ 4. descend | d. partial darkness, or a feeling of sadness |
| ____ 5. exist | e. go through water to show a change of heart |
| ____ 6. lame | f. be; live |
| ____ 7. humble | g. be sorry for doing bad things; wanting to change |
| ____ 8. fall away | h. talk about |
| ____ 9. gloom | i. those who know they are no better than others and who respect others |

Chapter Four: Fulfilling Prophecy
4.1 Voice of the Forerunner: John the Baptist

Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above

1. God blesses those who do not _____ when Jesus does not do what they want him to do.
2. John preached that people should be _____ to show they had _____ of their sin.
3. My grandmother uses a cane because her left leg is _____.
4. Canada became a nation before I _____.
5. That teacher is very _____. He does not think he is too important to clean after class, and he _____ his students with respect.

Re-tell the story using the pictures below:



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-012-john-baptist/>
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-013-jesus-baptism/>
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-052-death-john/>
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-001-word-flesh/>
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-012-john-baptist/>

Discussion

- *Easier*

1. Who was Isaiah?
2. What did Isaiah say about 'the messenger's' job?
3. Who was the messenger?
4. Who did John say Jesus was?
5. Do you have any ideas about why John called Jesus 'The Lamb of God'?
6. What did John see when he baptized Jesus?
7. Why was John the Baptist put in prison?
8. Why do you think John asked Jesus if he was the Messiah?
9. How did Jesus convince John that he was the Messiah?

- *Intermediate*

1. What is Isaiah's voice in the wilderness calling people to do?
2. Why were people going out to see John?
3. How did John prepare the people to meet Jesus?
4. What did God allow John to know about Jesus?
5. Why was John in prison?
6. Isaiah had more to say about the Messiah's kingdom: "The scoffer will be gone, the arrogant will disappear, and those who plot evil will be killed. Those who convict the innocent by their false testimony will disappear. A similar fate awaits those who use trickery to pervert justice and who tell

Chapter Four: Fulfilling Prophecy
4.1 Voice of the Forerunner: John the Baptist

lies to destroy the innocent." (Is 29: 20 - 21). **How might this explain John's doubt about Jesus?**

7. What did Jesus do that proved that he was the Messiah?
8. If Jesus had set up his kingdom during his time on earth, what would this have meant for John? For the forgiveness of our sins?

- *Challenging*

1. What is Isaiah's voice in the wilderness calling people to do? What does this mean?
2. Did everyone who went out to see John ask to be baptized by him? Why were people willing to be baptized?
3. How did John prepare the people for Jesus?
4. What did you learn about Herod and Herodias?
5. Isaiah 29:20 had also prophesied about the Messiah's kingdom: "The scoffer will be gone, the arrogant will disappear, and those who plot evil will be killed. Those who convict the innocent by their false testimony will disappear." **How might this explain John's doubt about Jesus?**
6. Why might God have allowed these things to happen to John? Do you think that John was restored by Jesus' answer?
7. Jesus' enemies acknowledged that he did those things in Isaiah's prophecy. But they said that he was doing these things by the power of Satan. What is wrong with their argument?
8. If Jesus had set up his kingdom during his time on earth, what would this have meant for John? For the crowds? For his disciples? For the forgiveness of our sins?

Entrance of the King

Mark 11: 1-33

Background:

More than 500 years before Jesus was born, the prophet, Zechariah, said, "Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt" (Zech. 9:9). The prophet Daniel had said the Messiah would come in this time of the Roman Empire (Daniel 2:44). The prophet Nathan said the Messiah would come from King David's family (2Samuel 7:12), which was the family of Jesus.

People in Judea knew these prophecies. Everyone was talking about Jesus' miracles, including raising Lazarus from the dead in Bethany. When Jesus came into Jerusalem to celebrate Passover*¹, crowds were *ecstatic* - they were sure that Jesus had picked this time to declare himself the Messiah and King of Israel.

Before You Read:

1. Have you ever been surprised by something that turned out very differently than expected? What happened?

The Passage

1 Mark 11:1-11, "As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead.² "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.³ If anyone asks, 'What are you doing?' just say, 'The Lord needs it and will return it soon.'"

2 ⁴ The two disciples left and found the colt standing in the street, tied outside the front door. ⁵ As they were untying it, some bystanders demanded, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶ They said what Jesus had told them to say, and they were permitted to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their **garments** over it, and he sat on it.

⁸ Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others

¹ * *Passover was a big celebration to remember how God had rescued the Israelites from slavery. The angel of death had 'passed over' any household who followed God's instructions to kill a lamb and put its blood over and around the door. Part of the celebration included sacrificing and eating a lamb.*

spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,

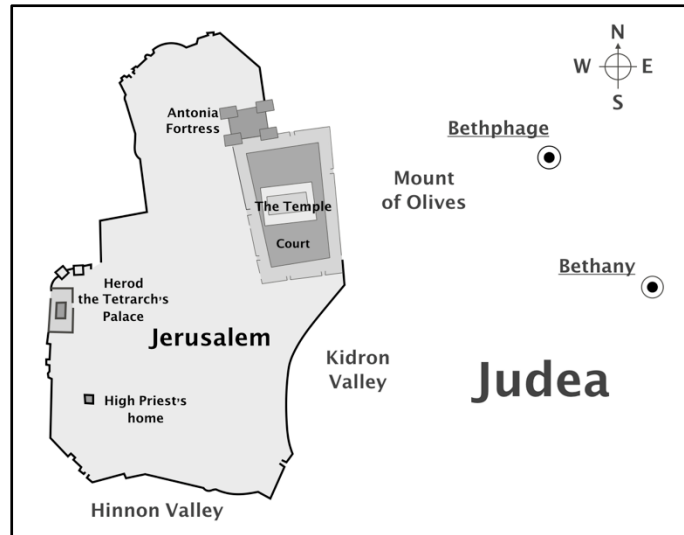
3 "Praise God!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!

¹⁰ Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David!

Praise God in highest heaven!"

4 "¹¹ So Jesus came to Jerusalem and went into the Temple. After looking around carefully at everything, he left because it was late in the afternoon. Then he returned to Bethany with the twelve disciples."



5 At Passover, people from all over the Roman Empire came to worship at the Temple. But they had to exchange their money for special temple money and use it to buy animals for sacrifice. The temple market charged very high prices, but people had no choice but to buy there. The next morning, Jesus and the disciples returned to Jerusalem.

6 Mark 11:15-17 ¹⁵ "When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, ¹⁶ and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. ¹⁷ He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves ..."

7 Jesus was quoting the Old Testament prophet, Jeremiah. Jeremiah had told ancient Judah, "Don't you yourselves admit that this Temple, which bears my name, has become a den of thieves? Surely, I see all the evil going on there. I, the Lord, have spoken ... I called out to you, but you refused to answer. So just as I destroyed Shiloh, I will now destroy this Temple that bears my name, the Temple that you trust in for help, this place that I gave to you and your ancestors. And I will send you out of my sight into exile..." (Jeremiah 7:11-15). (NLT)

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this story? Why?

2. What questions might someone have about the story?
3. What do you learn about people?
4. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

Change these False statements to be True:

1. Jesus did not know how to get a ride into the city of Jerusalem.

2. When Jesus came to Jerusalem he made himself king.

3. Jesus entered Jerusalem on a beautiful white horse.

4. Jesus was glad that the Temple marketplace was making money.

5. Jews from Jerusalem were the only people in the city who were celebrating Passover.

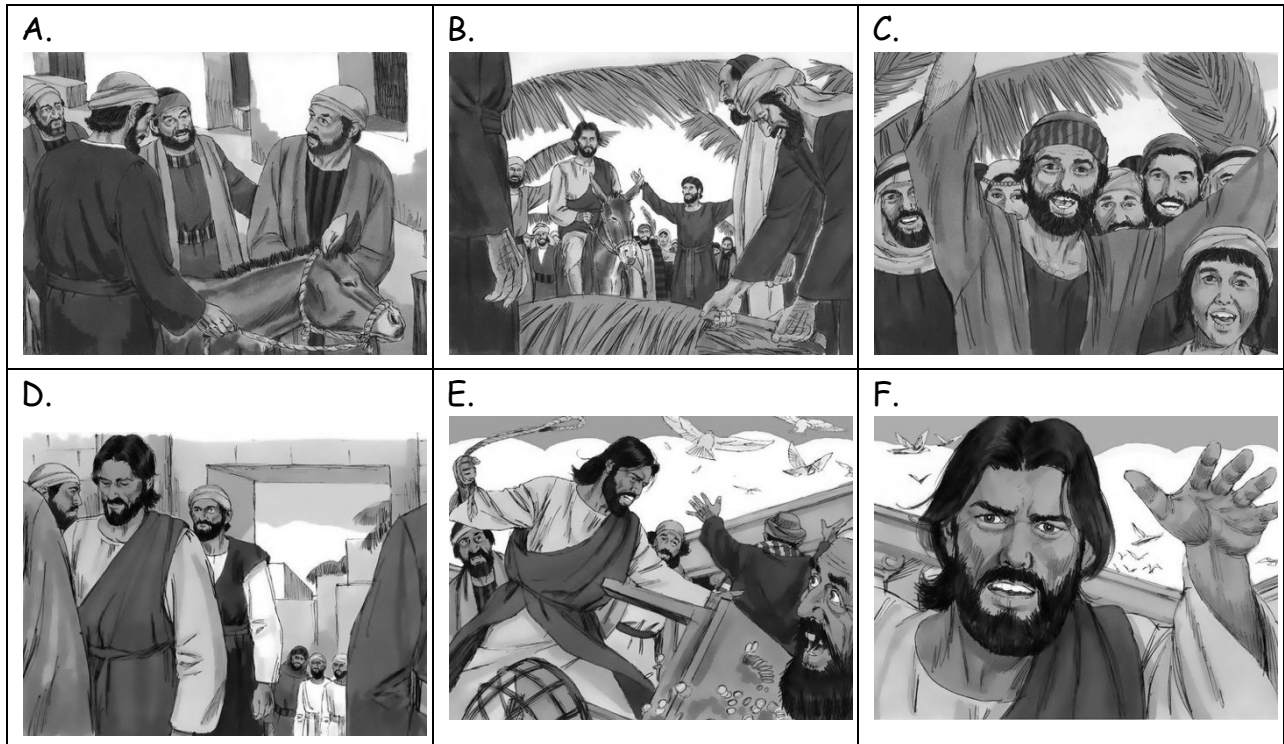
Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| _____ 1. ecstatic | a. a piece of clothing |
| _____ 2. market | b. a young male horse or donkey |
| _____ 3. colt | c. a group of people moving together in an orderly way |
| _____ 4. garment | d. a place where people buy and sell various things |
| _____ 5. procession | e. an animal that is killed as an offering to God |
| _____ 6. exile | f. very happy or excited |
| _____ 7. sacrifice | g. forced to leave home; not allowed to return |

Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

1. A lamb is the _____ at the Passover celebration.
2. The people were _____ when they thought Jesus would become their king. They threw their _____ on the ground in front of him.
3. Jesus rode on a _____, a young male donkey.
4. Jesus did not want the people to use the Temple as a _____ where people were cheated.

Re-tell the story using the pictures below:



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-jerusalem/>
<http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-cleansing-temple/>

Discussion

- *Easier*
1. Why were there a lot of people in Jerusalem when Jesus came there?
 2. What did Jesus ride on when he came to Jerusalem?

3. What did the people do when Jesus came towards Jerusalem?
4. What did the prophet Zechariah say about the Messiah?
5. Why do you think Jesus rode a donkey colt when he entered Jerusalem?
6. Why was Jesus angry with the money changers?
7. What did Jeremiah say would happen to the Temple? To the Jews?
8. Why do you think Jesus was using Jeremiah's words?

- *Intermediate*

1. Why were there a lot of people in Jerusalem when Jesus came there?
2. What were the people talking about before Jesus came to Jerusalem? Why did they talk about this?
3. What did Jesus ride on when he came to Jerusalem? Why was this important?
4. What did the people do when Jesus came towards Jerusalem? Why did they do this?
5. Why are the prophets important to this story?
6. Why was Jesus angry with the money changers, and with those who sold animals for sacrifice?
7. What do you think happened to the crowds who wanted to make Jesus king?

- *Challenging*

1. Why were there a lot of people in Jerusalem when Jesus came there?

2. What were the people talking about before Jesus entered Jerusalem? Why did they talk about this?
3. Why did the people think that Jesus was the Messiah, the King?
4. Why did Jesus choose to ride on a donkey colt, rather than on an adult donkey, or an impressive horse?
5. How did the people respond when Jesus came towards Jerusalem? Why did they respond this way?
6. What was the importance of Zechariah and Daniel's prophecies?
7. What do you think the people thought when Jesus did not make himself king when he entered Jerusalem? Why do you think that?
8. What was Jesus showing his disciples when he didn't declare himself king in Jerusalem?
9. Why was it wrong for the money changers and the people selling animals to charge high prices?
10. When Jeremiah gave his prophecy some 500 years before this, he was warning the Jews that Babylon would burn Solomon's Temple, and take the Jews away from Judah into exile in Babylon. Why, then, does Jesus quote Jeremiah here?

Last Supper of the Lamb

Mark 14:12-26

Background:

Passover is a memorial of the night Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt 1500 years before Jesus was born. That evening God destroyed the firstborn son of everyone in Egypt. But that day the Israelites were to take a lamb without **blemish**. After sundown, they were to **slaughter** it. They **smear**ed some of its blood on the sides and top of the doorframes of their houses. They roasted and ate the meat. That evening they would stay inside their homes. When the Lord saw a home that had the blood of the lamb on its doorframes, he passed over it and no one died. And for seven days after they left Egypt, they were to eat bread that did not contain any **yeast**. They were to remember this time from generation to generation as a sign that they belonged to God, who had saved them. God made a *covenant*² agreement with the Israelites, promising to lead and protect them, if they would listen and obey.

Isaiah used the example of the sacrificial Passover lamb when he prophesied about the Messiah, who would die for the people, "He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth." (Is 53: 7b)

Before You Read:

1. What do you know about the purpose of religious sacrifices? (Any religion)

The Passage

1 Jesus had already shown that he had power over death when he brought life to a man called Lazarus, who had been dead for four days. At that time Jesus told Lazarus' sister, Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying" (John 11:25). Mark 14 tells of how Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples, knowing it would be their last time together before his own death.

2 ¹² On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go to prepare the Passover meal for you?"

² **Covenant:** An agreement that defines a relationship of belonging. For example, a marriage is a covenant.

3 ¹³ So Jesus sent two of them (two disciples) into Jerusalem with these instructions: "As you go into the city, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ At the house he enters, say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' ¹⁵ He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal."

4 ¹⁶ So the two disciples went into the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there.

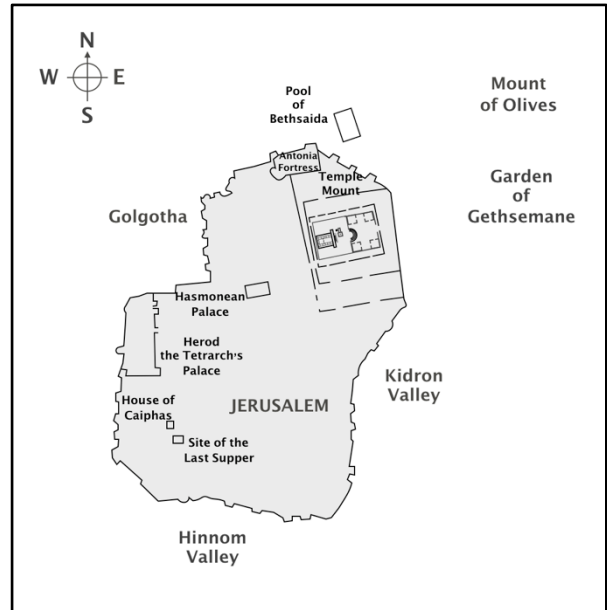
¹⁷ In the evening Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸ As they were at the table eating, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, one of you eating with me here will **betray** me."

¹⁹ **Greatly distressed**, each one asked in turn, "Am I the one?"

5 ²⁰ He replied, "It is one of you twelve who is eating from this bowl with me. ²¹ For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!"

²² As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it, for this is my body."

6 ²³ And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ And he said to them, "This is my blood, which **confirms** the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many. ²⁵ I tell you the truth, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new in the Kingdom of God." ²⁶ Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. (Mark 14:12-25 NLT)



What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this story? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about the story?
3. What do you learn about people?

4. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

Match the parts of **Passover** with **Jesus' words and actions**.

<u>Passover</u>	<u>Jesus' words and actions</u>
1. _____ The Passover lamb must be without blemish	a. "This is my blood...it is poured out as a sacrifice for many."
2. _____ The lamb is slaughtered	b. Jesus breaks the bread and gives it to his disciples to eat saying, "Take it, for this is my body".
3. _____ God tells his people to put the lamb's blood above and around the door posts	c. Jesus says his blood "confirms the covenant between God and his people".
4. _____ People roast and eat the whole lamb	d. Jesus told Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying."
5. _____ Death passes over the people who have believed God and put the lamb's blood around the door.	e. Jesus pleases God perfectly because he has no sin

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. slaughter | a. no yeast |
| _____ 2. shearer | b. fault |
| _____ 3. blemish | c. spread something over a surface |
| _____ 4. yeast | d. makes something sure |

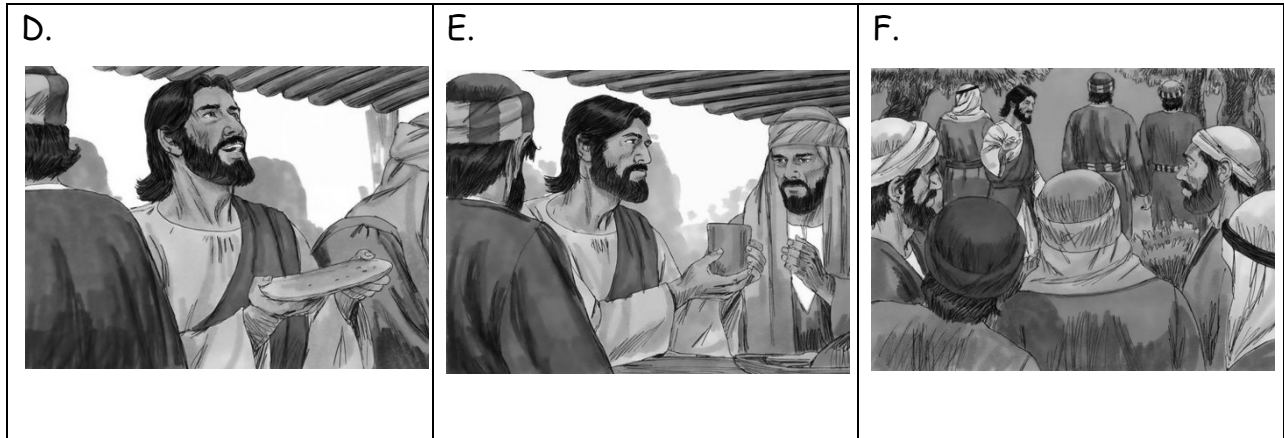
- | | |
|------------------|---|
| ___5. unleavened | e. someone who cuts wool off an animal |
| ___6. distressed | f. to give information about someone to their enemy |
| ___7. confirms | g. very upset |
| ___8. betray | h. to kill an animal for food |
| ___9. smeared | i. ingredient that makes bread rise |

Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

1. Every farm that sells wool needs a lot of _____ when the sheeps' coats are ready.
2. Jesus said that one of his twelve disciples would _____ him, and this _____ all of them.
3. The Passover bread and wine had a new meaning when Jesus said his blood _____ the covenant between God and his people.
4. Passover is also called the Feast of _____ bread because no one can eat bread made with _____
5. At the first Passover, the Israelites had to _____ a lamb with no _____, and then _____ the blood around the door.

Re-tell the story of the Last Supper using the pictures below:





<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/last-supper-jesus/>
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gethsemane-peter/>

Discussion

- *Easier*

1. At Passover, where did the Israelites smear the blood of the lamb?
2. What did God do when he saw the blood of the lamb?
3. What was special about the bread that the Jews had to eat for seven days after Passover?
4. How do you think Jesus knew he was going to die?
5. Who took the disciples to the upstairs room to prepare the Passover meal?
6. When Jesus told the disciples that one of them would betray him, what did the disciples ask?
7. Why do you think Jesus did not tell the disciples the location of the Passover supper beforehand?
8. Jesus used bread and wine as **symbols** -objects that show an idea. What did the bread symbolize? What did the wine symbolize?
9. Why is the Passover lamb a symbol of Jesus?

- *Intermediate*

1. Why was Passover a special day of remembrance for the Jews?
2. What did the blood of the Passover lamb accomplish for the Israelites?
3. How did the two disciples find the location of the room in Jerusalem where they would prepare the Passover dinner?
4. Why do you think Jesus did not tell the disciples beforehand where they would be celebrating the Passover?
5. How did the disciples react when Jesus said one of them would betray him? Why do you think they reacted this way?
6. How did Jesus transform Passover? How was the Passover lamb a prophetic symbol of Jesus?
7. Why did the Passover lamb have to be spotless or "without blemish"?
8. Do you think the disciples understood that Jesus was about to die? Why do you think he told them that he would not drink wine again until the day of the Kingdom of God?

- *Challenging*

1. God would know which houses belonged to Israelites without the need for the lamb's blood, so why was a lamb sacrificed on the first Passover?
2. Why do you think the Israelites had to eat bread without yeast for seven days when Moses led them out of Egypt?
3. Why do you think God told the Israelites to celebrate Passover every year for all those generations?
4. Why do you think Jesus was being so cryptic (secretive) when he told the two disciples how to locate the place where they would eat the Passover?

5. Why was it important to Jesus to spend the Passover dinner with his disciples?
6. How did Jesus transform Passover? In what way was the Passover lamb a prophetic symbol?
7. Do you think his disciples understood the imagery Jesus used? Why did Jesus tell them that he would drink wine again in the Kingdom of God?
8. Revelation 13:8 says of Jesus, "He was the Lamb who was slaughtered before the world was made." How is that possible?

Submission: In the Garden and at the Priest' House Mark 14:32-65

Background:

In the last lesson Jesus had celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples. During the meal Jesus had told them he was going to die as a sacrifice, so everyone could have a new relationship with God. This lesson tells what happened next.

Before You Read:

1. What are some difficult things that people are afraid to do, but they do them anyway, because they know it is right?

The Passage

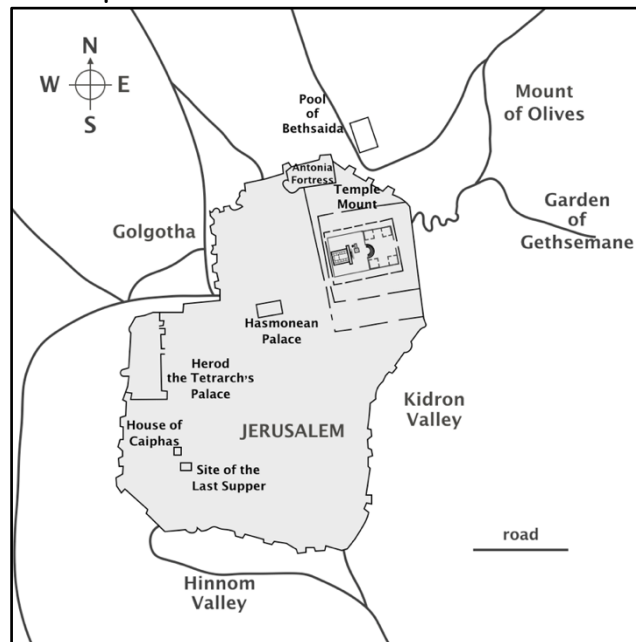
Mark 14 tells us that after Jesus and his disciples had finished their meal,

1 ³² They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."
³³ He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴ "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

2 ³⁵ Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

3 ³⁷ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour?" ³⁸ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak..." (A second time Jesus went to pray, but found his disciples sleeping.)

4 ⁴¹ Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"



43 Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a
5 crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of
the law, and the elders.

44 Now the **betray**er had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man;
arrest him and lead him away under guard." 45 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said,
6 "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46 The men seized Jesus and arrested him. 47 Then one of
those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest,
cutting off his ear.

48 "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and
7 clubs to capture me? 49 Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts,
and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be **fulfilled**." 50 Then everyone
deserted him and fled.

51 A young man, wearing nothing but a linen **garment**, was following Jesus. When
they seized him, 52 he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

8 53 They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the
teachers of the law came together. 54 Peter followed him at a distance, right into
the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself
at the fire.

55 The chief priests and the whole **Sanhedrin** were looking for **evidence** against
9 Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. 56 Many
testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree...

60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going
10 to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" 61 But
Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed
One?"

62 "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of
11 the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

63 The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he
asked. 64 "You have heard the **blasphemy**. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. 65 Then some began to spit at him;
12 they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the
guards took him and beat him. (NIV)

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you think about this story? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about the story?
3. What do you learn about people?
4. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescrptures.com

Passage Questions

Multiple Choice

1. After eating the Passover meal, Jesus went to...
 - a. Gethsemane to pray alone.
 - b. Gethsemane to pray with his disciples
 - c. the Temple to pray alone.
 - d. Bethany to visit his friends
2. Jesus asked God...
 - a. to make him king
 - b. to keep the disciples awake
 - c. to take away the cup of death
 - d. to do what he, Jesus, wanted
3. The disciples...
 - a. could not stay awake
 - b. stayed with Jesus after his arrest
 - c. did not try to stop Jesus' arrest
 - d. prayed with Jesus in Gethsemane
4. Judas kissed Jesus to show...
 - a. that he loved Jesus
 - b. he was ready to follow Jesus
 - c. that he was Jesus' disciple
 - d. the guards which man to arrest
5. The Sanhedrin condemned Jesus to death because...
 - a. he said he was the Messiah
 - b. he said he was the Son of Man
 - c. he said they would see him coming on the clouds of heaven
 - d. all of the above

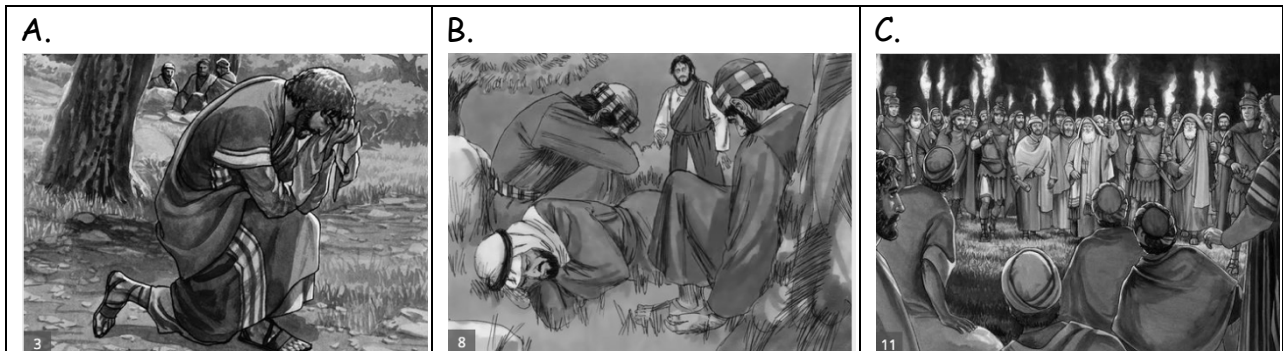
Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. to desert | a. someone who was a friend but changes his loyalty and helps the enemy |
| _____ 2. overwhelmed | b. a piece of clothing |
| _____ 3. betrayer | c. speaking a lie about God |
| _____ 4. fulfilled | d. something that proves something |
| _____ 5. garment | e. to leave when you should stay |
| _____ 6. evidence | f. completed |
| _____ 7. blasphemy | g. a feeling of complete loss of control |

Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

1. Jesus felt _____ about what he knew was going to happen to him.
2. Judas was called the _____ of Jesus because he was one of his disciples.
3. Everyone _____ Jesus and ran away after he was arrested.
4. The chief priests could find no _____ to condemn Jesus.
5. They accused Jesus of _____ when he said he was the Messiah.
6. The young man left his _____ behind as he rushed to flee the soldiers.
7. Jesus said that the Scriptures had to be _____.

Re-tell the story using the pictures below:



Chapter Five: Obeying the Father
5.1 Submission: In the Garden and at the Priest's House



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gethsemane-peter/>

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-089-prayer-garden/>

Discussion

- *Easier*

1. Why did Jesus go to Gethsemane?
2. What did Jesus mean when he asked God “that the hour might pass” or for God to “Take this cup from me”?
3. After Jesus finished praying, who came to Gethsemane and what did they do?
4. What did the priests try to prove about Jesus?
5. What question did the high priest ask Jesus? What was his answer?
6. Why did the priests get so upset when he told them this?
7. Do you think Jesus had a fair trial?
8. Why do you think God allowed this to happen?

- *Intermediate*

1. Why did Jesus go to Gethsemane? What did he do there? Why did he want his disciples to stay awake with him?
2. What did Jesus ask God to do? Why is this important?
3. After Jesus finished praying, who came to Gethsemane and why did they come there?

Chapter Five: Obeying the Father
5.1 Submission: In the Garden and at the Priest's House

4. What did the priests try to prove about Jesus? Were they able to prove what they wanted?
5. How did Jesus react to the false witnesses? What was unusual about his answer to the high priest?
6. Why did the priests get so upset when he told them this? Do you think the priests really wanted to know who Jesus was?
7. Do you think Jesus had a fair trial? What aspects seem unfair to you? Explain.
8. Why do you think God allowed this to happen?

• *Challenging*

1. Why did Jesus go to Gethsemane? What did he do there? Why did he want his disciples to stay awake with him?
2. What did Jesus ask God to do? Why is this important? What does it show about God and his ways?
3. After Jesus finished praying, who came to Gethsemane and why did they come there?
4. What did the priests try to prove about Jesus? Were they able to prove what they wanted?
5. How did Jesus react to the false witnesses? What was unusual about his answer to the high priest?
6. Why did the priests get so upset when he told them this? Do you think the priests really wanted to know who Jesus was?
7. Do you think Jesus had a fair trial? What aspects seem unfair to you? Explain.
8. Why do you think God allowed this to happen?

Sacrifice: the blood of the Lamb

Mark 15:2-39

Background:

In last week's lesson we read about Jesus' secret trial by the religious leaders. They wanted Jesus to die for saying he was the Messiah, Son of God, but only Rome could put prisoners to death. Pilate was the Roman governor, so they brought Jesus to him.

This story also talks about the 'Temple curtain', which was a heavy curtain dividing God's holy room from the rest of the Temple. Only the high priest was allowed in that room once a year when he brought a blood sacrifice for the people's sins.

Before You Read:

1. What kinds of things do people do when they hate someone?

The Passage

¹ **Mark 15:** ² "Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate.

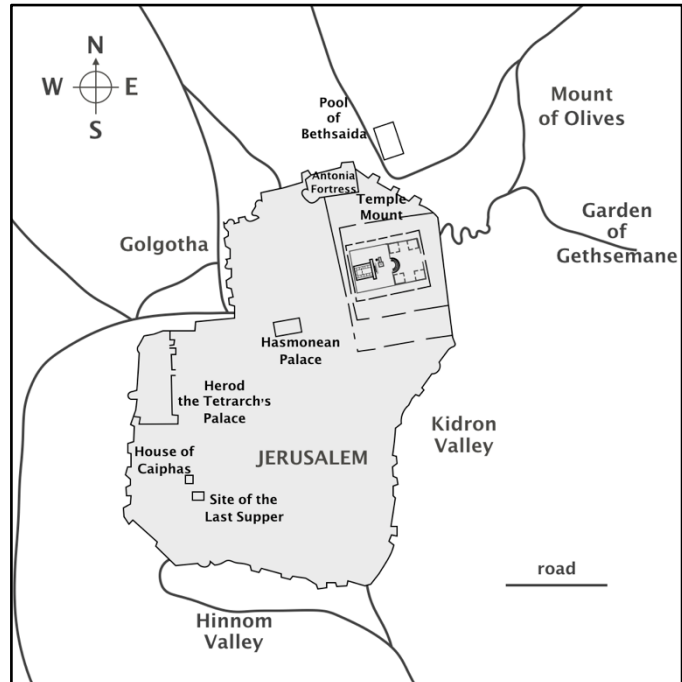
"You have said so," Jesus replied.

³ The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."

² ⁵ But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

⁶ Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. ⁷ A man called Barabbas was in prison with the **insurrectionists** who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸ The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

³ ⁹ "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, ¹⁰ knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him.



4 ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

¹² "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them.

¹³ "Crucify him!" they shouted.

¹⁴ "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus **flogged**, and handed him over to be crucified...

5 ²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.

²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with **myrrh**, but he did not take it.

²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they **cast lots** to see what each would get.

²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

6 ²⁷ They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by hurled **insults** at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law **mocked** him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! ³² Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

7 ³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you **forsaken** me?").

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

8 ³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

9 ³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you think about this story? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about the story?
3. What do you learn about people?
4. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

Put the story in correct order:

1. _____ They gave Jesus wine vinegar to drink.
2. _____ The chief priests brought Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor.
3. _____ People insulted and mocked Jesus.
4. _____ The whole land was dark from 12:00 until 3:00 in the afternoon.
5. _____ The centurion said that Jesus was the son of God
6. _____ The crowd told Pilate to set a criminal free instead of Jesus.
7. _____ Jesus was crucified at a place called Golgotha.

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. insurrectionists | a. made fun of |
| _____ 2. myrrh | b. gambled by throwing stones or dice |
| _____ 3. flogged | c. words showing disrespect |
| _____ 4. insult | d. people who fight against the government to destroy it |
| _____ 5. mocked | e. give up on someone; abandon |
| _____ 6. cast lots | f. a medicine that helps a little with pain |
| _____ 7. forsake | g. whipped; beaten with leather strips |

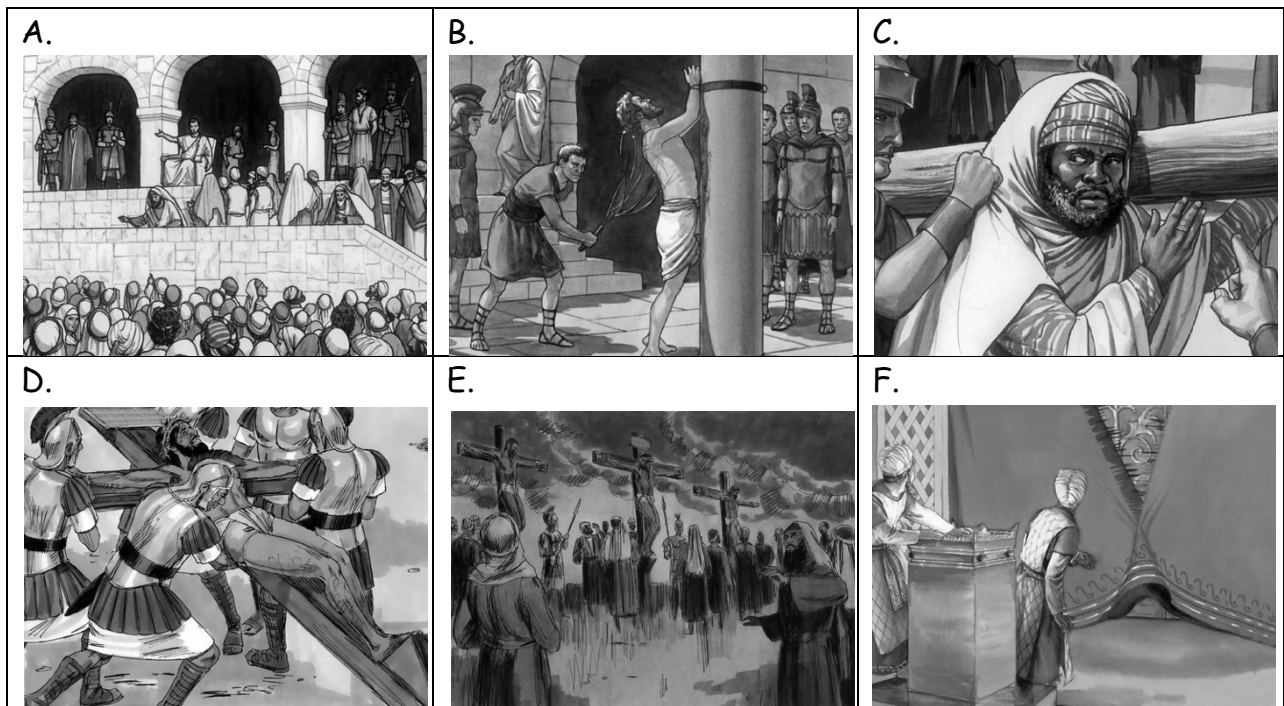
Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

1. The soldiers _____ for the clothes of Jesus.

Chapter Five: Obeying the Father
5.2 Sacrifice: The Blood of the Lamb

2. The wine they gave Jesus was mixed with _____.
3. The _____ committed murder in the uprising.
4. The religious leaders _____ him by telling him to, "Come down from the cross".
5. Pilate ordered Jesus to be _____ and then crucified to please the crowd.
6. The people who passed by Jesus hurled _____ at him.
7. Jesus did not want God to _____ him, and he asked "Why?"

Re-tell the story using the pictures below:



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-098-jesus-dies/> ;
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-crucified-dies/>;
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-093-mocking-jesus/> ;
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-095-jesus-led/>

Discussion

- *Easier*
1. Where did the chief priests take Jesus after his trial?
 2. Did Jesus answer his accusers? Why not?
 3. Why did Pilate release Barabbas instead of Jesus?

4. What were some of the insults Jesus heard?
5. What were some of Jesus' last words before he died?
6. Can you guess how the curtain in the temple could be torn from the top to the bottom? What meaning could that have?
7. What did the centurion say about Jesus' death? What strange things had happened that day to make him say that?
8. Do you agree with the centurion's words?

• *Intermediate*

1. Where did the chief priests take Jesus after his trial? Why did they do that?
2. Did Jesus answer his accusers? Why not? Can you think of a reason he wouldn't?
3. Who was Barabbas? Why was he in jail? Why did Pilate release Barabbas instead of Jesus?
4. This story has a lot of details such as names, exact times and places. What does this tell you about the information?
5. What were some of the insults Jesus heard? In what ways are these people treating Jesus like the soldiers did?
6. What were some of Jesus' last words before he died? Did he call on Elijah as some people thought? Who did he actually call on and why?
7. What, do you think, does the division of the curtain in the temple mean?
8. Do you agree with the belief the centurion expressed?

• *Challenging*

1. Where did the chief priests take Jesus after his trial? Why did they do that?
2. Did Jesus answer his accusers? Why not? Can you think of a reason he wouldn't? Why didn't he defend himself?

Chapter Five: Obeying the Father
5.2 Sacrifice: The Blood of the Lamb

3. Who was Barabbas? Why was he in jail? Why did Pilate release Barabbas instead of Jesus?
4. This story has a lot of details such as names, exact times and places. What does this tell you about the information?
5. What were some of the insults Jesus heard? What attitude lies at the heart of these insults?
6. What were some of Jesus' last words before he died? Did he call on Elijah as some people thought? Who did he actually call on and why?
7. What, do you think, does the division of the curtain in the temple mean?
8. Do you agree with the belief the centurion expressed?

Saviour: One Sunday Morning Mark 15:46-47;
Mark 16: 1-20

Background:

After Jesus had died, Joseph of Arimathea, a rich and important man who believed Jesus, asked Pilate for permission to take the body. Joseph owned an unused tomb that could be sealed up with a very heavy stone. The custom was to prepare bodies after death by putting on oil with spices. Jesus died just before Sabbath, so there was no time to do this. Many women as well as men followed Jesus, and this story names some of them.

Before You Read:

1. Are you afraid of death? Why or Why not?

The Passage

¹ Mark 15: ⁴⁶... Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.



² Mark 16: ¹When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-101-jesus-resurrection/>

³ ⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were **alarmed**.

4 ⁶ "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

⁸ **Trembling** and **bewildered**, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. (NIV)

5 ⁹ When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. ¹¹ When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

6 ¹² Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. ¹³ These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

7 ¹⁴ Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he **rebuked** them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

8 ¹⁵ He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is **baptized** will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be **condemned**. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

9 ¹⁹ After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. ²⁰ Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and **confirmed** his word by the signs that accompanied it.

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you think about this story? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about the story?
3. What do you learn about people?
4. What do you learn about Jesus?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

True or False

1. Joseph of Arimathea stole Jesus' body. _____
2. The women wanted to prepare Jesus' body with spices _____
3. No one knew where they put Jesus' body. _____
4. Jesus' body wasn't in the tomb. _____
5. Jesus appeared first to the eleven disciples. _____
6. Jesus said whoever believed in Him would be saved. _____
7. The disciples obeyed Jesus and preached everywhere. _____

Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

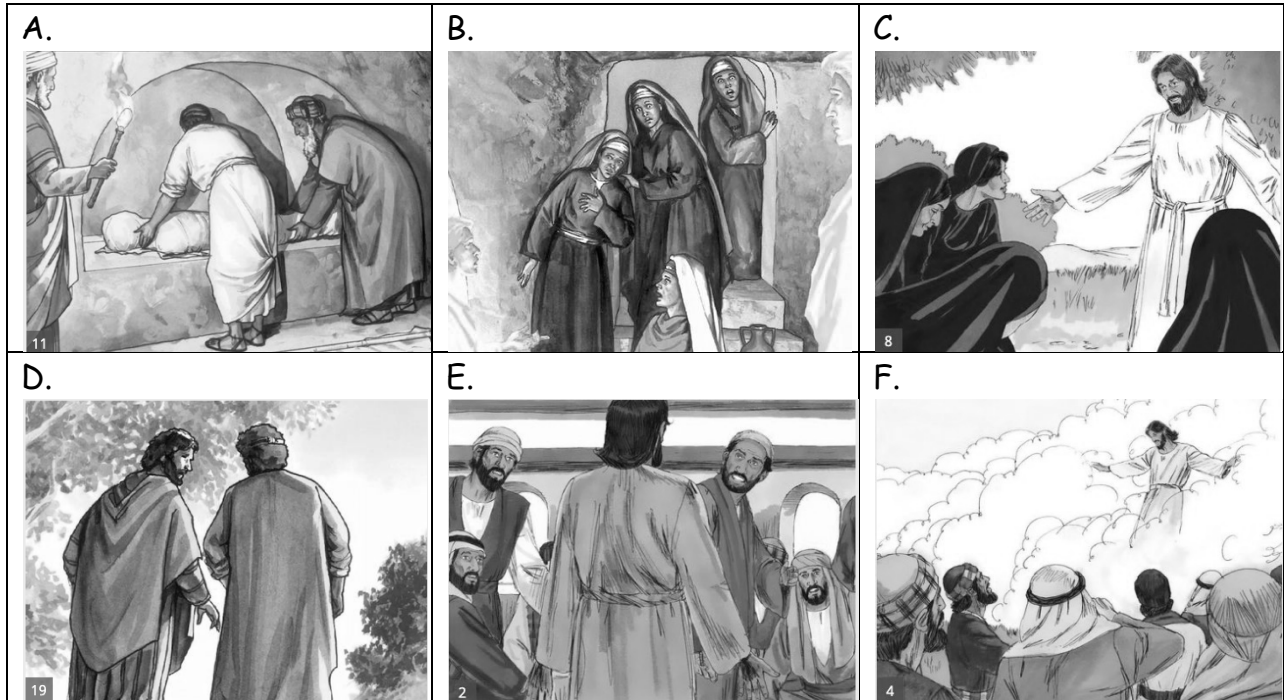
- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. trembling | a. to tell someone they acted badly |
| _____ 2. condemned | b. supported what was said |
| _____ 3. alarmed | c. immersed in water |
| _____ 4. bewildered | d. considered to be guilty |
| _____ 5. baptized | e. shaking |
| _____ 6. rebuked | f. frightened |
| _____ 7. confirmed | g. confused |

Fill in the Blanks with the vocabulary words above.

1. The women felt _____ when they couldn't find Jesus' body.
2. Jesus said whoever believes and is _____ will be saved.
3. Jesus _____ the Eleven for their lack of faith.
4. Jesus was _____ and killed even though he was not guilty.
5. The women were _____ and _____ after the young man in the tomb told them Jesus was alive again.
6. The disciples _____ the word of the Lord by the signs they performed.

Chapter Five: Obeying the Father
5.3 Saviour: One Sunday Morning

Re-tell the story using the pictures below:



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-099-jesus-burial/>;
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-101-jesus-resurrection/>;
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-resurrection/>;
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-ascension/>;
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/resurrection-appearances/>

Discussion

- *Easier*

1. What did Joseph of Arimathea do?
2. How did the women know where to go to find the body of Jesus? Why were they going there?
3. What problem did they think they would have when they went there?
4. Who do you think was the young man? What did the young man say?
5. Why did the disciples not believe when people told them they had seen Jesus alive? What finally made the eleven disciples believe?
6. Is it possible for people to believe something they do not see themselves?

Chapter Five: Obeying the Father
5.3 Saviour: One Sunday Morning

7. How important is faith when we want to follow Jesus? How do we get faith?
8. Jesus said that whoever believes in him will be saved. What will they be saved from?

• *Intermediate*

1. What did Joseph of Arimathea do? Why did he have to ask?
2. How did the women know where to go to find the body of Jesus? Why were they going there? What problem did they think they would have when they went there?
3. Who do you think the young man was? What did the young man say? What does all this mean?
4. Why were the women so frightened by this?
5. Why did the disciples not believe when people told them they had seen Jesus alive? Would you react the same way to this kind of news?
6. Is it possible for people to believe something they do not see themselves?
7. What did Jesus tell his disciples to do? What would be proof to support their words? Do we need such proofs today?
8. How important is faith when we want to follow Jesus? How do you think we get faith?
9. Jesus said that whoever believes in him will be saved. What will they be saved from?

• *Challenging*

1. What did Joseph of Arimathea do? Why did he have to ask? What is the significance of that?
2. How did the women know where to go to find the body of Jesus? Why were they going there? What problem did they think they would have when they went there?
3. Who do you think was the young man? What did the young man say? What were the implications of his words?
4. Why were the women so frightened by this?

Chapter Five: Obeying the Father
5.3 Saviour: One Sunday Morning

5. Why did the disciples not believe when people told them they had seen Jesus alive? Would you react the same way to this kind of news?
6. Is it possible for people to believe something they do not see themselves?
7. What did Jesus tell his disciples to do? What would be proof to support their words? Do we need these kinds of proofs today? What do we have that the early church did not?
8. How important is faith when we want to follow Jesus? How do you think do we get faith?
9. Jesus said that whoever believes in him will be saved. What will they be saved from?

