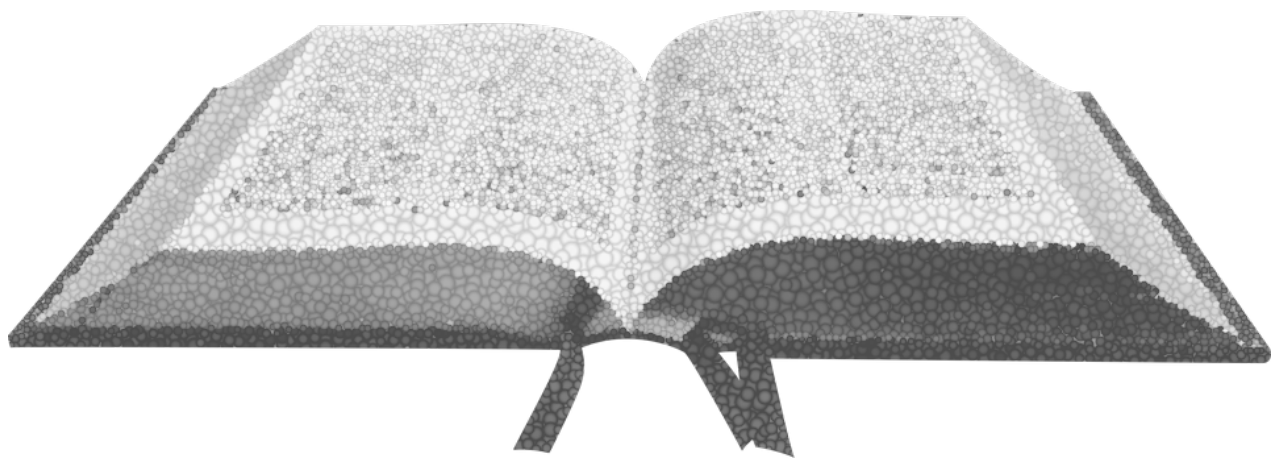


Tapestry

ESL WORKBOOK
Student Edition



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Preface to Tapestry.

A Tapestry of Truth:

The Bible is a marvelous book with many stories and many themes. It was written under the inspiration of God by many different individuals over a period of many years.

When you look closely at a tapestry you can see the many different coloured threads that have been used. When you look at a tapestry from afar you can see one coherent pattern or picture.

When the Bible is looked at from afar as one complete book, you cannot see the many authors but only One.

Our goal is to reveal the major threads of this book and how they are woven together to create one picture: that of God Himself.

Sincerely,

Frances Gray, Roslyn Farmer, Marion Chang,

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Timeline

2081 BC	God's covenant with Abram	Genesis 15
2066 BC??	Abraham's son Isaac is born	Genesis 21
2006 BC??	Isaac's son Jacob is born	Genesis 25
1921 BC? - 1903 BC?	Jacob's 12 sons are born	Genesis 29-35
1875 BC?	Jacob (Israel) and his family move from Canaan to Egypt	Genesis 46
1446 BC	Moses begins the Exodus from Egypt to Canaan	Exodus 13-18
1406/7 BC	Moses' death. Joshua begins the conquest of Canaan	Joshua 1
1399 BC	The land of Canaan is allotted among the Tribes	Joshua 13-22
1043 BC	Saul becomes the first king of Israel	1 Samuel 8-10
1010 BC	David becomes the second king of ancient Israel	1,2 Samuel; 1 Chronicles; 1 Kings
1000 BC	David plans to build a Temple to house the ark	1 Chronicles 17
996 BC	Solomon builds the Temple in Jerusalem and brings the ark to it	1 Kings 9, 2 Chronicles 2-7
967 BC	Solomon becomes king over Israel	1 Kings 3-11
931 BC	Rehoboam becomes king over Israel	1 Kings 11, 12; 2 Chronicles 11
931 BC	Civil war in Israel, Israel splits apart into a northern kingdom (Israel) and a southern kingdom (Judah)	1 Kings, 2 Chronicles
739 -680 BC	The prophet Isaiah begins his ministry, prophecies the life and death of the Messiah, the future exile of the northern kingdom of Israel by Assyria, the fall of Assyria, the future exile of	Isaiah

	Judah, the fall of Babylon to Cyrus of Persia	
722 BC	The northern kingdom of Israel is taken away by the Assyrian Empire	2 Kings, 2 Chronicles
716 BC	Hezekiah reign in Judah	2 Chronicles 29-32; 2 Kings 17-19; Isaiah 36-39
701 BC	Sennacherib threatens Jerusalem	2 Kings 18; Isaiah 36; 2 Chronicles 32
687 BC	Reign of Manasseh over Judah	2 Kings 21, 2 Chronicles 33
640 BC	Josiah rules over Judah	2 Kings 22, 2 Chronicles 33
627 BC	Jeremiah becomes a prophet	Jeremiah
593 BC	Ezekiel becomes a prophet in Judah	Ezekiel
586 BC	Babylon conquers Jerusalem and destroys the city and its temple	2 Kings 25, Jeremiah 52
537 BC	Jewish exiles return to Judah	Ezra 2
515 BC	Zerubbabel's Temple built	Ezra 6
63 BC	Roman general Pompey conquers the Seleucids and takes control of Judah	Between the Testaments
40? 41? BC	Roman Emperor Julius Caesar appoints Herod the Great as King of Judea. Judah becomes a province of Rome.	Matthew 2; Luke 2
6 BC	Caesar Augustus Taxes the Roman Empire	Luke 2
5 BC ?	Birth of Jesus	Matthew 1,2; Luke 2
4 BC	Herod the Great dies. Herod's son Archelaus is ethnarch of Samaria, Judea, and Idumea	Matthew 2
6 AD	Roman prefects (governors) rule over Samaria, Judea, and Idumea	Matthew 27; Luke 3, 14, 23, 24; Mark 15; John 18, 19; Acts 3, 4, 13; 1 Tim. 6

26-36 AD	Pontius Pilate is prefect (governor) of Judea.	Matthew 27; Luke 3, 14, 23, 24; Mark 15; John 18, 19; Acts 3, 4, 13; 1 Tim. 6
26 AD	15 th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, John the Baptist begins his ministry	Luke 3
~26 AD	Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist, and begins His ministry	Matthew, Mark, Luke
27 AD	Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be his disciples	Matthew 4; Mark 1; Luke 4
29 AD	Peter's confession of Jesus	Matthew 16; Mark 8; Luke 9
30 AD ?	Jesus' betrayal, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection, and ascension	Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 18, 19; Acts 1
30 AD	Pentecost, first church forms in Jerusalem	Acts 4
31 AD	Saul persecutes the church	Acts 8
31 AD	Philip preaches in Samaria	Acts 8
34 AD	Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus	Acts 9
37 AD	Peter Preaches to the Gentiles	Acts 10, 11
42 AD	Barnabas sent to Antioch	Acts 11
45 AD	James Writes his Letter	James 1-5
48 AD	Paul's First Missionary Journey	Acts 13
49 AD	Paul's Second Missionary Journey, Paul in Philippi	Acts 16
54 AD	Paul's Third Missionary Journey	Gal. 2; 1 Cor. 18; 2 Cor; Rom. 15; Acts 11, 20
62 AD	Paul writes to the Philippians and to the Ephesians	Philippians 1-4

AD 66-70	First Jewish revolt against Roman Rule.	Not covered in the New Testament
AD 70	Jerusalem falls to Titus. Most of Jerusalem destroyed, Temple destroyed	Not covered in the New Testament
AD 73	Masada falls to Romans under Flavius Silva	Not covered in the New Testament
AD 132-135	Second Jewish revolt led by Bar-Kokhba; most Jews of Judea killed or exiled. Jerusalem ploughed to the ground. Judea renamed Syria Palestine	After the New Testament was written

Source: Bible Timeline - [Biblehub.com/timeline/#complete](https://biblehub.com/timeline/#complete). All dates are approximate.

Chapter 1: History
1.1 Hezekiah's Kingdom is Spared

History: 1.1 Hezekiah's Kingdom is Spared

2 Chronicles 32:1-23

Background:

Unlike fables, myths and folktales, the stories of the Bible are rooted in time and place. This is evident in the story of Hezekiah's **deliverance** from King Sennacherib, a famous ruler recorded in other histories. (A carved stone describing his rule is in an Istanbul Museum in Turkey.)

Hezekiah was a king of Judah "who did right in the eyes of the Lord". He got rid of the idols and places of worship that the people had made in their disobedience to God. This event takes place around 701 BC (Take a look at the timeline from 739 - 701 BC, and see what other important events happened before this.) King Sargon of Assyria (722-705 BC) had deported the people of the Kingdom of Israel to distant places in the Assyrian empire. They were never to return to the Promised Land. Even today they are referred to as the 'Lost Tribes of Israel'.

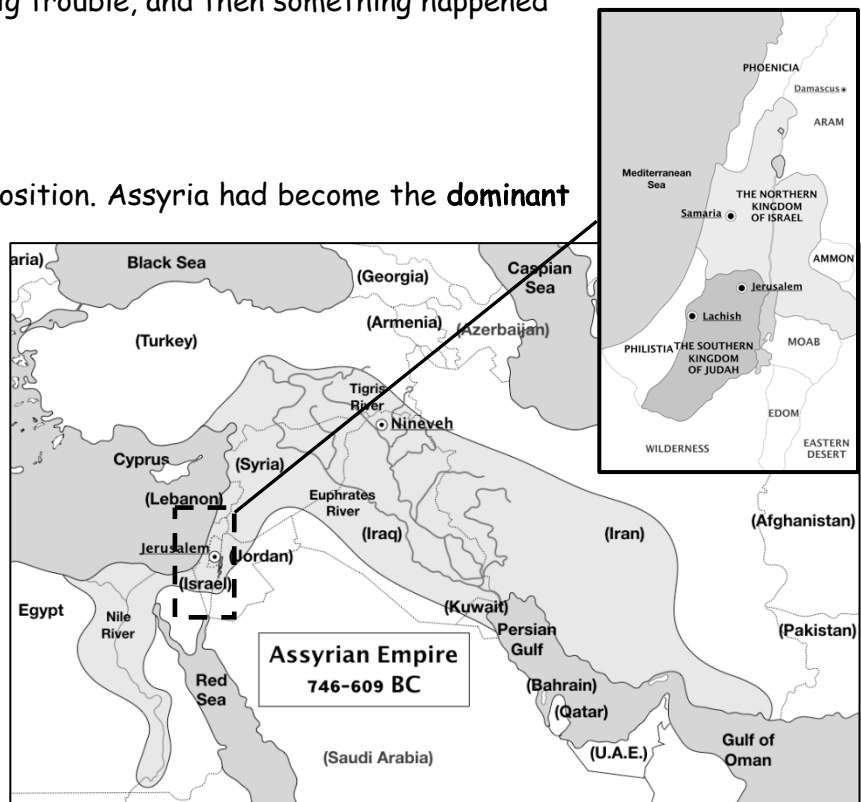
Before you read:

1. Did you study history in school? How did you feel about it? Why?
2. Have you ever been in big trouble, and then something happened to get you out of it?

The Passage

Hezekiah was in a **precarious** position. Assyria had become the **dominant** world power. King Sennacherib, King Sargon's successor, (705-681 BC), threatened to destroy the Kingdom of Judah just as his father Sargon had done to the northern Kingdom of Israel. The Bible tells us of this event in 2 Chronicles 32:1-23:

"After King Hezekiah had faithfully obeyed the LORD's instructions by doing these things, (getting rid of the idols and destroying the places of false worship) King Sennacherib of Assyria invaded Judah. He attacked the **fortified** cities and thought he would capture every one of them.



Chapter 1: History

1.1 Hezekiah's Kingdom is Spared

² As soon as Hezekiah learned that Sennacherib was planning to attack Jerusalem, ³⁻⁴ he and his officials worked out a plan to cut off the supply of water outside the city, so that the Assyrians would have no water when they came to attack...

³ ⁵ Hezekiah also had workers repair the broken sections of the city wall, and they built defense towers and an outer wall... Then he gathered the troops together in the open area in front of the city gate and said to them:

⁴ ⁷ Be brave and confident! There's no reason to be afraid of King Sennacherib and his powerful army. We are much more powerful, ⁸ because the LORD our God fights on our side."

⁹ When Sennacherib and his troops were camped at the town of Lachish, he sent a message to Hezekiah and the people in Jerusalem. It said:

¹⁰ I am King Sennacherib of Assyria, and I have Jerusalem surrounded. Do you think you can survive my attack?

⁵ *¹¹ Hezekiah your king is telling you that the LORD your God will save you from me. But he is lying, and you'll die of hunger and thirst. ¹² Didn't Hezekiah tear down all except one of the LORD's altars and places of worship? And didn't he tell you people of Jerusalem and Judah to worship at that one place?*

⁶ *¹³ You've heard what my ancestors and I have done to other nations. Were the gods of those nations able to defend their land against us? ¹⁴ None of those gods kept their people safe from the kings of Assyria. Do you really think your God can do any better? ¹⁵ Don't be fooled by Hezekiah! No god of any nation has ever been able to stand up to Assyria. Believe me, your God cannot keep you safe!... ¹⁸ The officials said all these things in Hebrew, so that everyone listening from the city wall would understand and be terrified and surrender.*

⁷ ²⁰ Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz asked the LORD for help. In Isaiah 37:26-29, it is recorded that God said:

²⁶ Sennacherib, now listen to me, the Lord. I planned all of this long ago...



The Broad Wall is an ancient defensive wall in the Old City of Jerusalem. The wall was unearthed in the 1970s and dated to the reign of King Hezekiah (late 8th century BC). The Broad Wall is a massive defensive structure, seven metres thick. The motivation for building the wall was the expected invasion of Judea by Sennacherib. The wall is referred to in Nehemiah 3:8 and Isaiah 22:9-10. This would have been similar to the walls of Jericho as described in the Book of Joshua.

Chapter 1: History
1.1 Hezekiah's Kingdom is Spared

8 ²⁹ *I have seen your pride
and the tremendous hatred
you have for me.
Now I will put a hook
in your nose,
a bit in your mouth,
then I will send you back
to where you came from."*

9 ²¹ And God sent an angel that killed every soldier and commander in the Assyrian camp. Sennacherib returned to Assyria, completely disgraced. Then one day he went into the temple of his god where some of his sons killed him.

10 ²² The LORD rescued Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from Sennacherib and also protected them from other enemies. ²³ People brought offerings to Jerusalem for the LORD and expensive gifts for Hezekiah, and from that day on, every nation on earth respected Hezekiah.

What Do You Think?¹

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

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescritures.com

Passage Questions

True or False

1. Hezekiah was a king who obeyed God. _____
2. King Sennacherib of Assyria invaded Judah. _____
3. Hezekiah did not prepare Jerusalem for the invasion. _____
4. King Sennacherib of Assyria wanted the people of Jerusalem to trust God. _____
5. God said He had planned everything long ago. _____

Multiple Choice

1. Hezekiah prepared his city by:
 - a. helping people leave the city
 - b. training soldiers
 - c. asking Egypt for help
 - d. building up the wall

Chapter 1: History
1.1 Hezekiah's Kingdom is Spared

2. Hezekiah said to the people:
 - a. that the Assyrians would not win
 - b. to be brave and confident
 - c. that God would fight on their side
 - d. all of the above
3. King Sennacherib told the people of Jerusalem:
 - a. to listen to King Hezekiah
 - b. not to rely on God
 - c. to change their religion
 - d. to be better prepared next time
4. Hezekiah responded by:
 - a. telling Sennacherib to get lost!
 - b. putting his armor on
 - c. crying all through the night
 - d. asking the Lord for help
5. God told King Sennacherib:
 - a. He would send him back
 - b. He would buy him a hook
 - c. He would let him win
 - d. He would give him a long life

Tell the Story



Sweet Publishing, www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/hezekiah-assyrians

Fill in the blanks with the following words: deliverance, precarious, dominant, fortified, surrender.

1. Palaces and towns were _____ with strong thick walls.
2. _____ means something is very risky.

Chapter 1: History
1.1 Hezekiah's Kingdom is Spared

3. The people hoped for _____ from the bad storm.
4. Assyria was the _____ country at that time.
5. The enemy must _____ or flee when they can't win.

Discussion

Easier

1. What does it mean "to do right in the eyes of the Lord"?
2. What did Hezekiah do when he heard Sennacherib was attacking Judah's other cities?
3. What did Hezekiah say to the people of Jerusalem?
4. Why did Sennacherib write a letter to the people of Jerusalem?
5. What did Hezekiah do when he received Sennacherib's letter?
6. How did God answer Hezekiah's prayer?
7. What did God say would happen to Sennacherib?

Intermediate

1. In what ways did Hezekiah "do right in the eyes of the Lord"?
2. What kinds of things did Hezekiah do when he heard Sennacherib was attacking nearby cities?
3. How did Hezekiah encourage the people of Jerusalem?
4. Why did Sennacherib write an open letter to the people of Jerusalem and not a private one to King Hezekiah?
5. What did this letter show about Sennacherib's faith in God? Why is this important to understand?

Chapter 1: History

1.1 Hezekiah's Kingdom is Spared

6. What did Hezekiah do when he received this letter? What would you have done in the same situation?
7. How did God answer Hezekiah's prayer? What form did his answer take? How did He reassure Hezekiah?
8. What did God say would happen to Sennacherib? Why are these prophecies important to understanding who God is?
9. Summarize some of the significant things you have learned from this story.

Challenging

1. What does it mean "to do right in the eyes of the Lord."? What are some examples of these things that Hezekiah did? What sorts of things would be "right in the eyes of the Lord" today?
2. What was Hezekiah's response when he heard Sennacherib was attacking nearby cities?
3. How did Hezekiah encourage the people of Jerusalem? Do you find anything unusual about what he said?
4. Why did Sennacherib write a letter to the people of Jerusalem and not to King Hezekiah? What was his purpose? What did he say about Hezekiah?
5. What did this letter show about Sennacherib's faith in God? Why is this important to understand?
6. What did Hezekiah do when he received this letter? What would you have done in the same situation?

2 Kings 19:1-3 gives a more detailed account:

As soon as Hezekiah heard the news, he tore off his clothes in sorrow and put on sackcloth. Then he went into the temple of the LORD. ² He told Prime Minister Eliakim, Assistant Prime Minister Shebna, and the senior priests to dress in sackcloth and tell the prophet Isaiah:³ "These are difficult and disgraceful times. Our nation is like a woman too weak to give birth, when it's time for her baby to be born. ⁴ Please pray for those of us who are left alive. The king of Assyria sent his army commander to insult

Chapter 1: History
1.1 Hezekiah's Kingdom is Spared

the living God. Perhaps the LORD heard what he said and will do something, if you will pray."

7. How did God answer Hezekiah's prayer? What form did his answer take? How did He reassure Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah?
8. What did God say would happen to Sennacherib? Why are these prophecies important to understanding who God is? What does this story reveal about God? How can this reassure us today?
9. Summarize some of the significant things you have learned from this story.

Chapter 1: History
1.2 The Gentiles Enter the Church

History: 1.2 The Gentiles Enter the Church

Acts 10, 11

Background:

This event takes place around 37 AD, when Judah (now Judea) was controlled by the Roman Empire. The Law of Moses had kept the Judeans (Jews) separated from other cultures (**Gentiles**) that did not respect God. This story shows how God gave a new law to include all people who wanted to belong to Him.

Before you read:

1. What makes you feel part of a group?
2. What makes you feel excluded from a group?

The Passage

1 The church began in Jerusalem on the Jewish holiday of Pentecost, 50 days after the death and resurrection of Jesus, and 10 days after Jesus had ascended into heaven. On that day Peter, a leading follower of Jesus, was filled with the Holy Spirit. He had preached about Jesus to the thousands of Jews who had traveled from all over the empire for the holiday. Thousands of them had believed. The book of Acts tells us that Peter and other disciples were travelling throughout Judea and Samaria teaching and encouraging these new Jewish believers.

2 A man named Cornelius, the captain of the Roman army in Caesarea, was a Gentile **God-fearer**. He believed in the God of Israel, and worshipped Him, but he had kept his **Gentile identity** and not converted to Judaism.

3 One afternoon while he was praying, Cornelius was frightened by a vision of an angel from God who came to him and said, "God has heard your prayers and knows about your gifts to the poor." ⁵Now send some men to Joppa for a man named Simon Peter." Cornelius then sent two of his servants and one of his trusted soldiers off to Joppa.

4 ⁹"The next day about noon these men were coming near Joppa. Peter went up on the roof of the house to pray ¹⁰and became very hungry. While the food was being prepared, he fell sound asleep and had a vision. ¹¹He saw heaven open, and something came down like a huge sheet held up by its four corners. ¹²In it were all kinds of animals, snakes, and birds. ¹³A voice said to him, "Peter, get up! Kill these and eat them."



Chapter 1: History

1.2 The Gentiles Enter the Church

5 ¹⁴ But Peter said, "Lord, I can't do that! I've never eaten anything that is unclean and not fit to eat."

¹⁵ The voice spoke to him again, "When God says that something can be used for food, don't say it isn't fit to eat."

¹⁶ This happened three times before the sheet was suddenly taken back to heaven."

6 Peter was still wondering about this when the men from Cornelius arrived at the door. The Holy Spirit said to Peter, "Three men are here looking for you. ²⁰ Hurry down and go with them. Don't worry, I sent them."

7 And so it came about that Peter and some of the believers from Joppa went to Caesarea where Cornelius had gathered his relatives and close friends. Peter said to Cornelius, ²⁸ "...You know that we Jews are not allowed to have anything to do with other people. But God has shown me that he doesn't think anyone is unclean or unfit." Then Peter entered Cornelius' home and told the Gentiles gathered there about Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, and the peace that He offered. Acts 10 continues:

8 ⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit took control of everyone who was listening. ⁴⁵ Some Jewish followers of the Lord had come with Peter, and they were surprised that the Holy Spirit had been given to Gentiles. ⁴⁶ Now they were hearing Gentiles speaking unknown languages and praising God.

9 Peter said, ⁴⁷ "These Gentiles have been given the Holy Spirit, just as we have! I am certain that no one would dare stop us from baptizing them." ⁴⁸ Peter ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and they asked him to stay on for a few days.

10 Acts 11 tells us that when Peter returned to Jerusalem, he told the others there what had happened. At first the others had argued with Peter about going to Gentiles, but when Peter was finished, "... they stopped arguing and started praising God. They said, ¹⁸ "God has now let Gentiles turn to him, and he has given life to them!"

What Do You Think?¹

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

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescrptures.com

Chapter 1: History
1.2 The Gentiles Enter the Church

Passage Questions


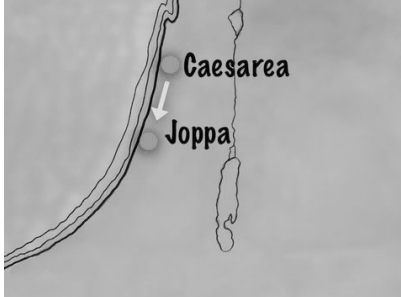


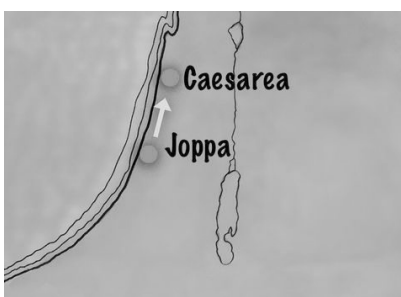

True or False

1. The church began in Jerusalem. _____
2. Cornelius worshipped God. _____
3. Peter was looking forward to eating Gentile foods. _____
4. Cornelius met with Peter alone. _____
5. The Jewish leaders realized that God was including the Gentiles. _____

Match the word with its meaning

Word	Meaning
1. _____ Gentile	a. someone who respects and obeys God
2. _____ identity	b. someone who is not a descendent of Jacob (Israel)
3. _____ God-fearer	c. a ceremony to show new life as a follower of Jesus
4. _____ dare	d. the beliefs of a person that help define them
5. _____ baptize	e. have enough courage or confidence to do something

Tell the Story

1.	2.	3.
		
4.	5.	6.
		

Sweet Publishing, www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/peter-cornelius

Chapter 1: History
1.2 The Gentiles Enter the Church

Ordering: Put the following events of the story in the proper order.

- a. _____ The people in Cornelius' house were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- b. _____ Peter went to Caesarea to speak with Cornelius.
- c. _____ While Cornelius was praying, God sent an angel to him.
- d. _____ While Peter was praying, God sent a vision of all kinds of animals.
- e. _____ The men that Cornelius had sent arrived at the house where Peter was staying.

Discussion

Easier

1. Why were so many Jews from so many different places in Jerusalem?
2. Why was Peter in Joppa?
3. Cornelius was frightened by the angel. Does this mean he was not a brave man?
4. What are some of the animals that Jews are not allowed to eat?
5. What was Peter's vision? Why do you think God gave him that vision?
6. Who do you think was more surprised in this story, Cornelius or Peter?
7. What did the Jewish believers do when they realized God was calling the Gentiles to the church?

Intermediate

1. Cornelius was frightened by the angel; does this mean he was not a brave man? Would you want to see an angel?
2. Why was Peter in Joppa, and not Jerusalem?
3. How did God use Peter's hunger to speak to him?
4. What was the significance of "all kinds of animals" being in the sheet?
5. How did God prepare Peter to enter a Gentile's home?

Chapter 1: History
1.2 The Gentiles Enter the Church

6. What was the peace that Jesus offered?
7. Why do you think the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem at first doubted that Peter should have gone to Cornelius' home? Why do you think they changed their mind in the end?
8. How did Peter's visit to Cornelius prepare the church for missionary work throughout the Roman Empire?

Challenging

1. Did God violate Cornelius' free will when he sent the angel to him?
2. Cornelius was frightened by the angel does this mean he was not a brave man? How do you think you would respond if you saw an angel?
3. Acts 10 tells us that all of Cornelius' servants believed in God, and that the soldier he sent believed in God too. What does that tell you?
4. How did God prepare Cornelius to hear the gospel?
5. What questions might Cornelius have had in his mind regarding the angel's instructions?
6. What connection did Peter make between food laws and people?
7. Why do you think the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem at first doubted that Peter should have gone to Cornelius' home? Why do you think they changed their mind in the end?
8. How did this incident pave the way for the spread of the gospel to Europe?

Chapter 2: Prophecy
2.1 Isaiah 53, the Messiah

Prophecy: 2.1 The Messiah

Isaiah 53 (NIRV)

Background:

Prophecy is God's message to people. Much prophecy in the Bible is about 'Messiah', a Hebrew word meaning someone chosen by God for a very special purpose. (The Greek translation is 'Christ'.) Other prophecy in the Bible tells when, where and into which family Messiah would be born. In Isaiah 53, he tells why Messiah will come.

Before you read:

1. Is it possible to know the future?
2. If it is possible, how can we know what will happen?

The Passage

Isaiah, the prophet of Judah, wrote this book around 680 B.C. At the time Manasseh, a wicked king, ruled Judah, and the people had turned from God to worship idols.

In the first half of his book, Isaiah wrote of God's coming judgment on the Jews - but also of a final day of judgment for the world. In the second half of his book, Isaiah wrote of God's coming grace and salvation for the Jews - but also for the world.

In this **passage** Isaiah wrote of a special, sinless servant of God who would accomplish this salvation. This servant would be the Messiah.

To make the passage easier to follow, it has been broken up into 10 sections.

Isaiah 53:

- 1 Who has believed what we've been saying?
Who has seen the Lord's saving power?

His servant grew up like a **tender** young plant.
He grew like a root coming up out of dry ground.
He didn't have any beauty or majesty that made us notice him.
There wasn't anything special about the way he looked that drew us to him.
- 2
- 3 People looked down on him. They didn't accept him.
He knew all about pain and suffering.
He was like someone people turn their faces away from.



Chapter 2: Prophecy
2.1 Isaiah 53, the Messiah

We looked down on him. We didn't have any respect for him.

He suffered the things we should have suffered.

4 He took on himself the pain that should have been ours.

But we thought God was **punishing** him

We thought God was **wounding** him and making him suffer.

But the servant was pierced because we had sinned.

5 He was **crushed** because we had done what was evil.

He was punished to make us whole again.

His wounds have healed us.

All of us are like sheep. We have **wandered away** from God.

6 All of us have turned to our own way.

And the Lord has placed on his servant

the sins of all of us.

He was treated badly and made to suffer.

7 But he didn't open his mouth.

He was led away like a lamb to be killed.

Sheep are silent while their wool is being cut off.

In the same way, he didn't open his mouth.

He was arrested and sentenced to death.

8 Then he was taken away.

He was **cut off** from this life.

He was punished for the sins of my people.

Who among those who were living at that time

tried to stop what was happening?

He was given a grave with those who were evil.

9 But his body was buried in the tomb of a rich man.

He was killed even though he hadn't harmed anyone.

And he had never lied to anyone.

The Lord says, "It was my plan to crush him

And cause him to suffer.

10 I made his life an offering to pay for sin.

But he will see all his children after him.

In fact, he will continue to live.

My plan will be brought about through him.

Chapter 2: Prophecy
2.1 Isaiah 53, the Messiah

After he has suffered, he will see the light of life.
And he will be satisfied. (NIRV)

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this passage? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about this passage?
3. What do you learn about people from this passage?
4. What do you learn about God from this passage?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

Summary of Sections 4 & 5

1. What would happen to the Messiah?
2. What would people think about what happened?
3. What would be God's purpose? (Why did it happen?)

Opposites: Below are verses in sections 3, 8, 9 and 10 from the Isaiah 53 passage. Underline the statements said in these sections on the **right** that do not seem to fit or say **opposite** things to the statements on the **left**. Can both statements be true?

<p>Sec. 3 People looked down on him. They didn't accept him. He knew all about pain and suffering. He was like someone people turn their faces away from. We looked down on him. We didn't have any respect for him</p> <p>Sec. 8 He was arrested and sentenced to death. Then he was taken away. He was cut off from this life. He was punished for the sins of my people.</p>	<p>Sec. 9 He was given a grave with those who were evil. But his body was buried in the tomb of a rich man. He was killed even though he hadn't harmed anyone. And he had never lied to anyone.</p> <p>Sec. 10. But he will see all his children after him. In fact, he will continue to live. My plan will be brought about through him.</p>
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Chapter 2: Prophecy
2.1 Isaiah 53, the Messiah

	After he has suffered, he will see the light of life. And he will be satisfied.
--	--

Multiple Choice :Circle the word that matches the definition.

1. A short section of a book, a poem, or a speech.
 - a. prophecy
 - b. passage
 - c. shoot
 - d. experience
2. Something that is soft, gentle, and easily damaged.
 - a. callous
 - b. dry
 - c. tender
 - d. special
3. To make someone suffer for a crime or for bad behaviour.
 - a. heal
 - b. punish
 - c. satisfy
 - d. pierce
4. An injury from a cut, a blow. A feeling of sadness caused when something bad happens to you.
 - a. bury
 - b. killed
 - c. wound
 - d. power
5. To go in a direction away from the place where you should be.
 - a. continue
 - b. be led
 - c. face away
 - d. wander away
6. To remove something. To stop something from continuing.
 - a. crush
 - b. notice
 - c. suffer
 - d. cut off
7. To press something with so much force that it is destroyed.
 - a. pierce
 - b. arrest
 - c. crush
 - d. look down on

Discussion

Easier

1. There are over 100 prophecies about Jesus' first coming. Jesus fulfilled all of them. Some of these are:
 - Micah 5:2-4 said the Messiah would be from the tribe of Judah, and that he would be born in Bethlehem.
 - Hosea 11:1 said he would be called out of Egypt.
 - Zechariah 11:12-13 said he would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver.
 - Malachi 3:1 said a messenger would come before him.

Chapter 2: Prophecy
2.1 Isaiah 53, the Messiah

- Isaiah 11:1 said he would be called a Nazarene.
- Zechariah 9:9 said he would come riding on a donkey.
- Daniel 9:26 said the Messiah would be cut off and have nothing.
- Psalm 22:1-31 said he would be forsaken and pierced but then proved right.
- Psalm 16:8-11 said he would be resurrected.

Why do you think there were so many Messianic prophecies?

2. **Match** each of the following verses from Isaiah 53 with its corresponding verse about Jesus in the New Testament.

Section & Verse from Isaiah 53	Verse from New Testament
<p>Sec. 7</p> <p>He was led away like a lamb to be killed. Sheep are silent while their wool is being cut off. In the same way, he didn't open his mouth.</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Jesus was nailed to the cross, to pay for our sins. He enabled us to stop sinning and start living right (1 Peter 2:24).</p>
<p>Sec. 9</p> <p>But his body was buried in the tomb of a rich man.</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>The soldiers mocked Jesus. They put a purple robe on him. They wove branches of thorns into a crown and put it on his head. They laughed at him and said, "Hail, king of the Jews!" (Mark 15:17,18)</p>
<p>Sec. 3</p> <p>We looked down on him. We didn't have any respect for him.</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>When Jesus died on the cross, a disciple named Joseph from the town of Arimathea asked to take Jesus' body. Joseph put Jesus' body in his own tomb. Joseph was wealthy and he had a new tomb that was cut into rock. (Matthew 27:57-60)</p>
<p>Sec. 10</p> <p>I made his life an offering to pay for sin.</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>When people accused Jesus of doing wrong, he didn't answer them. The high priest said, "Defend yourself", but Jesus said nothing. (Matthew 26:62, 63)</p>

Chapter 2: Prophecy
2.1 Isaiah 53, the Messiah

Intermediate

- Match each of the following verses from Isaiah 53 with its corresponding verse in the New Testament.

Verse from Isaiah 53	Verse from New Testament
7 He was led away like a lamb to be killed. Sheep are silent while their wool is being cut off. In the same way, he didn't open his mouth.	_____ Christ carried the burden of our sins. He was nailed to the cross, so that we would stop sinning and start living right (1 Peter 2:24).
9 But his body was buried in the tomb of a rich man.	_____ They put a purple robe on him, and on his head they placed a crown that they had made out of thorn branches. They made fun of Jesus and shouted, "Hey, you king of the Jews!" (Mark 15:17,18)
3 We looked down on him. We didn't have any respect for him.	_____ And with only a word he forced out the evil spirits and healed everyone who was sick (Matthew 8:16).
10 I made his life an offering to pay for sin.	_____ The high priest stood up and asked Jesus, "Why don't you say something in your own defense? Don't you hear the charges they are making against you? But Jesus did not answer. (Matthew 26:62, 63)
5 His wounds have healed us.	_____ That evening a rich disciple named Joseph from the town of Arimathea went and asked for Jesus' body...Joseph put the body in his own tomb (Matthew 27:57-60)

- In section 3 we see that the servant is looked down on and not accepted. In section 8 Isaiah says the servant will be cut off. But in section 10 Isaiah says the servant will continue to live and see all his children. How were these contradicting prophecies fulfilled?
- What do you think, "His servant grew up like a **tender** young plant. He grew like a root coming up out of dry ground" tells us?

Chapter 2: Prophecy

2.1 Isaiah 53, the Messiah

4. Why are we like sheep? Why should we take God's path?
5. Is there anyone who had not gone their own way? (section 6)? How, then, can you know if you are right with God?
6. Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, and fed the hungry. But He didn't free His people from Roman oppression. When Jesus comes the second time, He will free His people (and the world) from oppression.
Why did He speak against the sins of His people the first time He came - but not speak against the oppression of the Romans?
7. There are over 100 prophecies about Jesus' first advent. Jesus fulfilled all of them. Some of these are:
 - Micah 5:2-4 said the Messiah would be from the tribe of Judah, and that he would be born in Bethlehem.
 - Hosea 11:1 said he would be called out of Egypt.
 - Zechariah 11:12-13 said he would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver.
 - Malachi 3:1 said he would be preceded by a messenger.
 - Isaiah 11:1 said he would be called a Nazarene.
 - Zechariah 9:9 said he would come riding on a donkey.
 - Daniel 9:26 said the Messiah would be cut off and have nothing.
 - Psalm 22:1-31 said he would be forsaken and pierced but vindicated.
 - Psalm 16:8-11 said he would be resurrected.

Why do you think there were so many Messianic prophecies?

8. a) What types of pain did the Messiah suffer?
- b) Jesus knew He would rise from the dead and see the light of life. Did this lessen the pain which He experienced?
- c) How did Jesus react to our pain during His time on earth?

Chapter 2: Prophecy
2.1 Isaiah 53, the Messiah

Challenging

1. What imagery does Isaiah use in the beginning of this passage to show that the Messiah was life in a dead place?

2. Do you know anything about sheep? Why do you think God would compare us to sheep?

3. Match each of the following verses from Isaiah 53 with its corresponding verse in the New Testament.

Verse from Isaiah 53	Verse from New Testament
<p>7 He was led away like a lamb to be killed. Sheep are silent while their wool is being cut off. In the same way, he didn't open his mouth.</p>	<p>_____ Christ carried the burden of our sins. He was nailed to the cross, so that we would stop sinning and start living right (1 Peter 2:24).</p>
<p>9 But his body was buried in the tomb of a rich man.</p>	<p>_____ They put a purple robe on him, and on his head they placed a crown that they had made out of thorn branches. They made fun of Jesus and shouted, "Hey, you king of the Jews!" (Mark 15:17,18)</p>
<p>3 We looked down on him. We didn't have any respect for him.</p>	<p>_____ And with only a word he forced out the evil spirits and healed everyone who was sick (Matthew 8:16).</p>
<p>10 I made his life an offering to pay for sin.</p>	<p>_____ The high priest stood up and asked Jesus, "Why don't you say something in your own defense? Don't you hear the charges they are making against you? But Jesus did not answer. (Matthew 26:62, 63)</p>
<p>5 His wounds have healed us.</p>	<p>_____ That evening a rich disciple named Joseph from the town of Arimathea went and asked for Jesus' body...Joseph put the body in his own tomb (Matthew 27:57-60)</p>

Chapter 2: Prophecy

2.1 Isaiah 53, the Messiah

4. Was Manasseh, the king of Judah, right with God? Were the people of Judah right with God? Is there anyone who not gone their own way (section 6)? How, then, can you know if you are right with God?
5. How can the servant have his life cut off (section 8) - and yet at the same time continue to live and see all his children (section 10)?
6. The prophet Zechariah said, "Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son" (Zech. 12:10). How does this passage from Zechariah tie in with Isaiah 53?
7. When Jesus came, he healed the sick, raised the dead, and fed the hungry. Yet he did not speak against Roman oppression. Instead, He confronted his own people about their hatred, hypocrisy, immorality, conceit, selfishness....and their indifference to their God. That is why they rejected and killed him. Why do you think He confronted His people, rather than their oppressors?
8. There are over 100 prophecies about Jesus' first **advent** (coming). Jesus fulfilled all of them. Some of these are:
 - Micah 5:2-4 said the Messiah would be from the tribe of Judah, and that he would be born in Bethlehem.
 - Hosea 11:1 said he would be called out of Egypt.
 - Zechariah 11:12-13 said he would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver.
 - Malachi 3:1 said that he would be preceded by a messenger.
 - Isaiah 11:1 said he would be called a Nazarene.
 - Zechariah 9:9 said he would come riding on a donkey.
 - Daniel 9:26 said the Messiah would be cut off and have nothing.
 - Psalm 22:1-31 said he would be forsaken and pierced but vindicated.
 - Psalm 16:8-11 said he would be resurrected.Why do you think there were so many Messianic prophecies?
9. a) What types of pain did the Messiah suffer?

b) Jesus knew He would rise from the dead and see the light of life. Did this lessen the pain which He experienced?

c) How did Jesus react to our pain during His time on earth?

Chapter 2: Prophecy 2.2 The Olivet Discourse

Prophecy: 2.2 The Olivet Discourse

Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21

Background:

In 63 BC, Jerusalem was conquered by the Roman general, Pompey. In 40 BC they made the Idumean, Herod the Great, 'King of the Jews', even though he was a foreigner. To win the people's favour, Herod renovated Jerusalem's Temple Mount. He covered the Temple walls with gold and decorated its roof with gold. It was a wonder of its time. Almost 100 years later during Jesus time, Jewish **Zealots** had been attacking Roman soldiers and trying to unite the Jews to throw off Roman rule.

Before you read:

1. Has anyone ever given you a warning to help you avoid trouble?
2. Did you listen to the warning?

The Passage

1 Unnoticed by the Romans, Jesus and His disciples have come from Galilee to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem.

2 That week Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey. The prophets had said the Messiah would do that. They said the Messiah would rule from Jerusalem over the nations - the Messianic Kingdom - a time of peace, an end of oppression.

3 But before coming to Jerusalem, Jesus had talked to His disciples of his **betrayal**, death, and resurrection.

4 While in Jerusalem, some of the disciples talked about the beauty of the Temple. But Jesus said to them, *"Do you see these stones? The time is coming when not one of them will be left in place. They will all be knocked down"* (Luke 21:7).

5 That day, when they returned to the Mount of Olives, his disciples asked him, *"When will this happen? What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the world [age]?"* (Matt. 24:3).

6 Jesus answered this question in length. Matthew, Mark, and Luke later wrote down what Jesus had said. His answer became known as the Olivet Discourse, so this prophecy is given by Jesus himself about 30 A.D.:



Chapter 2: Prophecy

2.2 The Olivet Discourse

7 Matthew 24:6-14: "... ⁶ You will hear about wars and threats of wars, but don't be afraid. These things will have to happen first, but that isn't the end. ⁷ "Nations and Kingdoms will go to war against each other. ¹¹ People will **starve** to death [from famine], and in some places there will be earthquakes. All these are the beginning of birth pains...¹² Evil will spread and cause many people to stop loving others...¹⁴ When the good news [the gospel]... has been preached all over the world and told to all nations, the end will come"

8 Mark 13:19-20.: ¹⁹ This will be the worst time of suffering since God created the world, and nothing this terrible will ever happen again ²⁰ If the Lord doesn't make the time shorter, no one will be left alive... "

9 Matthew 24:29-30: ²⁹ Right after those days of suffering, 'the sun will become dark, and the moon will no longer shine. The stars will fall...³⁰ Then a sign will appear in the sky. All nations on earth will weep when they see the Son of Man* coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory... "

10 Luke 21:20-24: ²⁰ When you see Jerusalem surrounded by soldiers, you will know that it will soon be destroyed. ²¹ If you are living in Judea at that time, run to the mountains. If you are in the city, leave it. And if you are in the country, don't go back into the city. ²² This time of punishment is what is written about in the Scriptures... ²⁴ Some of them will be killed by swords. Others will be carried off to foreign countries. Jerusalem will be **trampled** by foreign nations until their time comes to an end".

11 In A.D. 70, enraged at the Jewish revolts against Rome, the Roman general Titus surrounded Jerusalem with his army. They killed hundreds of thousands of the Jews and sent hundreds of thousands more as slaves throughout their empire. They destroyed much of Jerusalem and set fire to the Temple. The heat of the fire melted the gold that had covered the Temple and the gold ran down between the stones of its walls**. To get the gold, the soldiers tore down the entire building, leaving not one stone on top of another.

* ('Son of Man' is a name Jesus used for himself. It can mean 'human', but the title comes from prophecy and refers to the One chosen by God to have "authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him" [Daniel 7: 13-14].)

** (There was no mortar between the stones; they were large, and their weight held them in place.)

What Do You Think?¹

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

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Chapter 2: Prophecy
2.2 The Olivet Discourse

Passage Questions

What kind of Future?

Look at the underlined prophecies in the text. Write down the negative words and phrases that mean a terrible future, and the positive words that mean a happy future. The first one is done for you.

Terrible Future	Happy Future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace • _____ of _____ • _____ • _____

What comes last, the terrible future or the happy future? How does that make you feel?

Fill in the blanks with the following words: oppression, betrayal, starve, Zealots, trample

1. The _____ were a Judean political group who were against the Roman government.
2. The prophets said the Messiah would stop the _____ of the people.
3. If people have nothing to eat for a long time they will _____ and die.
4. When people give information about their friends to enemies, it is a terrible _____.
5. We must never _____ on other peoples' rights, wishes, or feelings, or treat people as if they were not important.

Chapter 2: Prophecy

2.2 The Olivet Discourse

Discussion

Easier

1. What did the prophets say about the Messianic Kingdom?
2. What are some of the things that will happen in the beginning of the end of the age?
3. Why will people stop loving others?
4. Who will see Jesus return? What will they do when they see Him?
5. What warning did Jesus give His disciples who would be living in Jerusalem and Judea?
6. What armies surrounded Jerusalem? What did they do?
7. Why did the soldiers pull down all of the stones of the Temple?
8. Do you have any questions or comments about the story?

Intermediate

1. Why did Herod the Great renovate the Temple in Jerusalem? What were some of the improvements he made?
2. Who were the Zealots? What were they trying to accomplish?
3. What is the Messianic Kingdom? What would this mean for the Jews? For the Romans?
4. What do you think the disciples were thinking when Jesus said the Temple would be destroyed?
5. What things were signs of the "end of the age"? What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "but that isn't the end" (Section 7)? What is the significance of comparing this to birth pains?
6. Why would the spread of evil cause people to stop loving each other (Section 7)?

Chapter 2: Prophecy

2.2 The Olivet Discourse

7. Forty years passed before Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed. How was this prophecy fulfilled?
8. Was Jesus only speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans?
9. What effect do you think the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple had on the Jews? On the Christians?

Challenging

1. How did Herod the Great try to win the favour of the Jews? Why would he want their favour? Why do you think he didn't succeed?
2. What did the shouts of "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" mean, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey?
3. Contrast the disciples' admiration of the Temple with Jesus' prophecy about it. Do you wish the Temple had survived? Why or why not?
4. What things marked the beginning of the end of the age? What is the significance of calling them "birth pains"? What is the significance of Jesus saying, "the end is still to come"?
5. When will the gospel of the kingdom be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations? What did this tell the disciples?
6. What are some of the tribulations (suffering) that the world has gone through so far?
7. How will Jesus return, and who will see Him? What will be their response to seeing Him? Why do you think they will react that way?
8. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "Jerusalem will be trampled by foreign nations until their time comes to an end"?
9. It's been said that unlike any other religion, Christianity stands or falls on history. Why do you think that's the case?

Chapter 2: Prophecy

2.2 The Olivet Discourse

10. Some Hebrew scholars today say that the ancient Hebrew word "hosanna", means not only "save us" but "I beg you, please save us". Why do you think God lets people go through things - like the siege of Jerusalem, and like the events of the end of the age - that we beg to be delivered from?

Background:

The Book of Psalms is a collection of 150 poems written over hundreds of years. Most of them were written as songs of worship to God, and King David wrote at least 75 of them (~1000 B.C.).

Before you read:

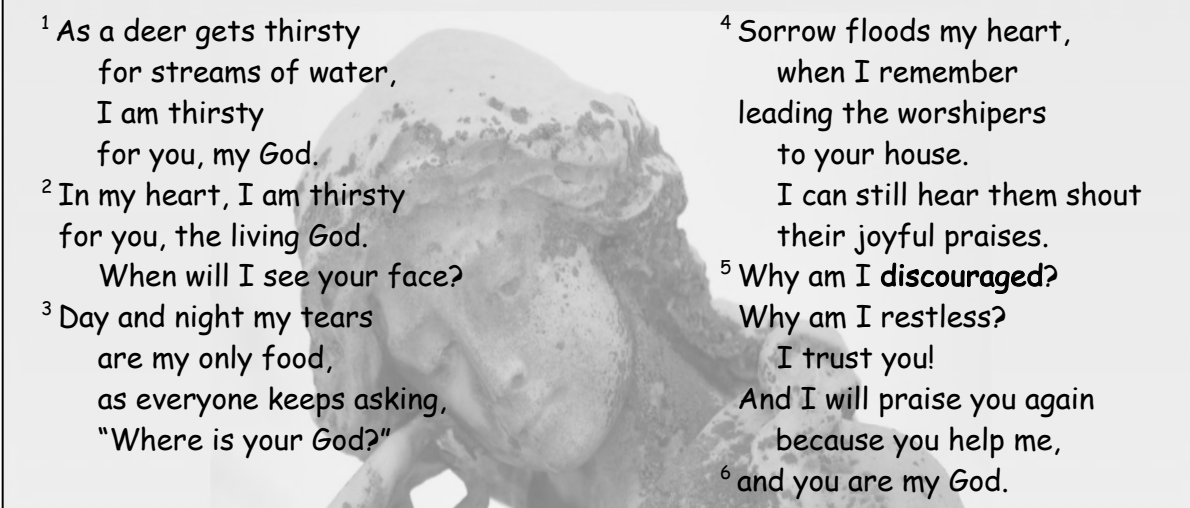
1. Can you think of a poem - in any language - that touches your heart with strong feelings? If you do, tell the group about it.

The Passage

Poetry in the Bible is used to express thoughts and strong feelings using words that **inspire** the imagination. Three types are Wisdom Psalms, **Lament** Psalms and Thanksgiving Psalms. Wisdom Psalms frequently deal with topics such as the injustices of life and the justice of God, the responsibilities of choosing the correct path or manner of living, the relative value of riches, and the **transitory** nature of human existence. Lament Psalms function to move a worshipper from hurt, grief or despair to joy, from darkness to light, from desperation to hope. The purpose of a Thanksgiving Psalm is to praise God for something He has done, to offer thanksgiving in the form of worship.

- Dennis Bratcher. Types of Psalms, Classifying the Psalms by Genre. The Voice, Biblical and Theological Resources for Growing Christians. (n.d.) <http://www.crivoice.org/psalmtypes.html>. Accessed April 2019.

An Example of a Lament Psalm: Psalm 42:1-6



<p>¹ As a deer gets thirsty for streams of water, I am thirsty for you, my God.</p>	<p>⁴ Sorrow floods my heart, when I remember leading the worshipers to your house. I can still hear them shout their joyful praises.</p>
<p>² In my heart, I am thirsty for you, the living God. When will I see your face?</p>	<p>⁵ Why am I discouraged? Why am I restless? I trust you! And I will praise you again because you help me,</p>
<p>³ Day and night my tears are my only food, as everyone keeps asking, "Where is your God?"</p>	<p>⁶ and you are my God.</p>

An Example of a Wisdom Psalm: Psalm 1

Chapter 3: Poetry
3.1 Psalms 1, 42, 100

¹ God blesses those people
who refuse evil advice
and won't follow sinners
or join in **sneering** at God.

² Instead, the Law of the Lord
makes them happy,
and they think about it
day and night.

³ They are like trees
growing beside a stream,
trees that produce
fruit in season
and always have leaves.

Those people succeed

in everything they do.

⁴ That isn't true of those
who are evil,
because they are like straw
blown by the wind.

⁵ Sinners won't have an excuse
on the day of judgment,
and they won't have a place
with the people of God.

⁶ The Lord protects everyone
who follows him,
but the wicked follow a road
that leads to ruin.

An Example of a Thanksgiving Psalm: Psalm 100

¹ Shout praises to the LORD,
everyone on this earth.

² Be joyful and sing
as you come in
to worship the LORD!

³ You know the LORD is God!
He created us,
and we belong to him;
we are his people,
the sheep in his **pasture**.

⁴ Be thankful and praise the LORD
as you enter his temple.

⁵ The LORD is good!
His love and faithfulness
will last forever.

Chapter 3: Poetry
3.1 Psalms 1, 42, 100

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about these poems? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about these poems?
3. What do you learn about people ?
4. What do you learn about God?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

True or False

1. Poetry in the Bible is used only to worship God. _____
2. The Book of Psalms is a book of poetry. _____
3. Psalm 1 is a poem of thanksgiving. _____
4. The writer of Psalm 100 wants the people to be glad and rejoice when they come before God. _____
5. The writer of Psalm 42 feels sad. _____

Multiple Choice

1. The Psalms are written as:
a. history
b. scientific knowledge
c. poetry
d. stories
2. Psalm 1 is a poem about
a. the kind of people God blesses
b. how God protects His followers
c. what evil people are like
d. all the above
3. Psalm 42 is about:
a. thirsty deer
b. a longing for God
c. tears as a kind of food
d. some questions the writer wants answers for
4. Psalm 100 is about:
a. people who are sheep-like
b. how to worship God
c. entering God's temple
d. everyone on this earth
5. The Bible is a collection of:
a. stories about God
b. a set of poems
c. historical events
d. all the above

Chapter 3: Poetry
3.1 Psalms 1, 42, 100

Fill in the blanks with the following words: lament, sneering, inspire, transitory, discouraged

1. To be _____ means to feel defeated.
2. Something _____ is something that is there for a short time.
3. A _____ is an expression of painful feelings.
4. The Psalm writer wants to _____ people to trust God.
5. People express their dislike of something by _____.

Discussion

Easier

1. Do you have a favourite line from any of these Psalms? Which one? Why?
2. Looking at Psalm 1, compare the two types of people mentioned.
3. What kind of feelings do the natural images of trees and water make you think about?
4. Why is the Psalm writer so unhappy in Psalm 42?
5. How does Psalm 42 take the reader from sadness to hope?
6. Why did the Psalm writer think the people should be joyful in Psalm 100?
7. Can you think of times in your life when any of these Psalms would express your feelings or thoughts?

Intermediate

1. What is the purpose of poetry in the Bible? How can words inspire the imagination?
2. What are three types of Psalms? Can you think of any more types of Psalms?
3. Looking at Psalm 1, the Wisdom Psalm, compare the two types of people mentioned. What are the advantages of those who follow the Lord?

Chapter 3: Poetry
3.1 Psalms 1, 42, 100

4. What kind of feelings do the natural images of trees and water make you think about? How effective is the use of natural imagery in this Psalm?
5. Why is the Psalm writer so unhappy in Psalm 42, the Lament Psalm? What kinds of things were making him unhappy?
6. How does Psalm 42, the Lament Psalm, take the reader from sadness to hope? How can our attitudes affect our feelings? Was the Psalm writer just trying to make himself feel good or was there substance to what he was declaring?
7. Why did the Psalm writer think the people should be joyful in Psalm 100, the Thanksgiving Psalm? What does it mean to be joyful?
8. What does Psalm 100 say about God and our relationship to Him?

Challenging

1. What is the purpose of poetry in the Bible? How can words inspire the imagination? How does that relate to God?
2. What are three types of Psalms? Can you think of any more types of Psalms? Why do you think it is important to have different types of Psalms?
3. Looking at Psalm 1, compare the two types of people mentioned. What points of comparison does the Psalm writer use? What are the advantages of those who follow the Lord?
4. What kind of feelings do the natural images of trees and water make you think about? How effective is the use of natural imagery in this Psalm?
5. Why is the Psalm writer so unhappy in Psalm 42? What kinds of things were making him unhappy? Would you feel unhappy about the same things?
6. How does Psalm 42 take the reader from sadness to hope? How can our attitudes affect our feelings? Was the Psalm writer just trying to make himself feel good or was there substance to what he was declaring?
7. Why did the Psalm writer think the people should be joyful in Psalm 100? What does it mean to be joyful? How can we express our joy in the Lord today?

Chapter 3: Poetry
3.1 Psalms 1, 42, 100

8. What does he say about *God*? What does he mean about *God's* faithfulness? Who or what is *God* faithful to?
9. What impact does this concept have on the way you think? How can this reassure us today?

If you would like to read more Psalms, you can look at these examples, either in English, or in your first language. (Just ask your teacher how to get a Bible in your language.)
Examples of Wisdom: Psalms 1, 37, 133; Examples of Lament: Psalms 12, 42, 94; Examples of Thanksgiving: Psalms 75, 92, 100.

Background:

This poem is part of a letter written around 50 A.D. by Paul, a person whom Jesus sent to tell non-Jewish people about God's plan for them. The letter was to the church in the Greek city of Corinth, and it talked about the problems caused by how members treated each other.

Before you read:

1. What are some words that describe love?

The Passage

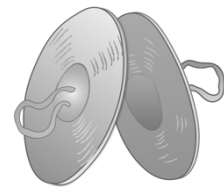
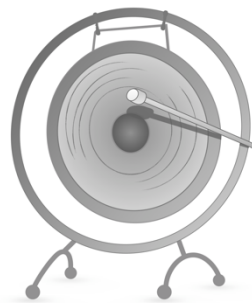
1 In his letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul wrote about spiritual gifts. In 1 Corinthians 12 he wrote, "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit...The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others."

2 We learn from Paul's words in chapter 12 that although the Corinthians had been given these gifts, those who had been given what they thought were lesser gifts were unhappy with them. And those who had been given what they thought were greater gifts were being proud and **boastful**.

3 Paul told church members that each of them and their gifts were important, but then he said, "I want you to desire the best gifts. So I will show you a much better way" (1 Cor. 12:27, 31). In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul wrote of this "better way" in a poem.

1 Corinthians 13:

¹What if I could speak
all languages
of humans
and of angels?
If I did not love others,
I would be nothing more
than a noisy gong
or a **clanging** cymbal.
²What if I could prophesy
and understand all secrets
and all knowledge?
And what if I had faith
that moved mountains?
I would be nothing,



Chapter 3: Poetry
3.2 Love, 1 Corinthians 13

unless I loved others.
³What if I gave away all
that I owned
and let myself
be burned alive?
I would gain nothing,
unless I loved others.
⁴Love is kind and patient,
never jealous, boastful,
proud, or ⁵rude.
Love isn't selfish
or **quick tempered**.
It doesn't keep a record
of wrongs that others do.
⁶Love rejoices in the truth,
but not in evil.
⁷Love is always supportive,
loyal, hopeful,
and trusting.
⁸Love never fails!
Everyone who prophesies
will stop,
and unknown languages
will no longer
be spoken.
All that we know
will be forgotten.

⁹We don't know everything,
and our prophecies
are not complete.
¹⁰But what is perfect
will someday appear,
and what isn't perfect
will then disappear.
¹¹When we were children,
we thought and **reasoned**
as children do.
But when we grew up,
we quit our childish ways.
¹²Now all we can see of God
is like a **cloudy** picture
in a mirror.
Later we will see him
face to face.
We don't know everything,
but then we will,
just as God completely
understands us.
¹³For now there are faith,
hope, and love.
But of these three,
the greatest is love.

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this passage? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about this passage?
3. What do you learn about people from this passage?
4. What do you learn about God from this passage?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Chapter 3: Poetry
3.2 Love, 1 Corinthians 13

Passage Questions

Match the word with its meaning.

Word	Meaning
1. _____ clanging	a. easily made angry
2. _____ rude	b. be unpleasant, offensive, disrespectful
3. _____ quick tempered	c. to think in a logical and sensible way
4. _____ reason	d. the loud, ringing sound of metal hitting against something
5. _____ boastful	e. arrogant; talking about how great one's self is.

Complete the sentence: Match the following phrases to complete the thought Paul expressed in his poem.

Beginning Phrase	Ending Phrase
1. _____ Love rejoices in the truth	a. unless I loved others
2. _____ What is perfect will someday appear	b. we quit our childish ways
3. _____ I would be nothing	c. but then we will
4. _____ When we grew up	d. but not in evil
5. _____ We don't know everything	e. and what isn't perfect will then disappear

Discussion

Easier

1. Name three of the spiritual gifts in verses 1 - 3 that God gave to the Corinthians.
2. What are two things that love is not?
3. What are two things that love is?
4. Do you think it is possible for people to love in this way?
5. Can you give any examples of actions that show this kind of love?
6. Which of the following spiritual gifts would you like to have? Wisdom, great faith, power to heal, knowledge? Why would you like that gift?

Chapter 3: Poetry
3.2 Love, 1 Corinthians 13

7. How does Paul compare the present knowledge with the future?
8. What is the greatest gift according to Paul?

Intermediate

1. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul lists these spiritual gifts: wisdom, knowledge, great faith, power to heal, power to work miracles, prophecy, recognizing God's Spirit, speaking languages, interpreting languages. Other passages in the Bible speak of the gifts of serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy. Which of these gifts would you most like to have, and why?
2. What was the goal of the spiritual gifts that God gave the Corinthians?
3. What are some of the things that love is? That love isn't?
4. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul said that the people in a church are like the parts of a body.
 - a) Why would he compare the people to parts of a body?
 - b) How does being part of a body relate to spiritual gifts?
5. Paul said, "but when we grew up, we quit our childish ways" (v. 11).
 - a) Why is love evidence of being a mature human being?
 - b) How can spiritual gifts be used to express love?
6. What is present knowledge like compared to the future knowledge that God will give us (v. 12)?
7. Do you agree with Paul about the greatest gift?

Challenging

1. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul lists these spiritual gifts: wisdom, knowledge, great faith, power to heal, power to work miracles, prophecy, recognizing God's Spirit, speaking languages, interpreting languages. Other passages in the Bible speak of the gifts of serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy. Which of these gifts would you most like to have, and why?

Chapter 3: Poetry
3.2 Love, 1 Corinthians 13

2. What are some of the things that love is? That love isn't?
3. Paul finished chapter 12 with these words, "Together you are the body of Christ. Each one of you is part of his body," What do you think Paul's purpose was in likening the Corinthian believers to a body?
4. Paul said, "but when we grew up, we quit our childish ways" (v. 11).
 - a) Why is love evidence of being a mature human being?
 - b) How can spiritual gifts be used to express love?
 - c) Can you think of an example of using a spiritual gift at the expense of love?
5. Why are "faith, hope, and love" a better way than "miracles, power, and gifts"? Which do you think people would rather have?
6. Why might Paul have chosen to write 1 Corinthians 13 as a poem?

Chapter 4: Wisdom
4.1 Solomon

Wisdom: 4.1 Solomon 1 Kings 3:16 - 27; Proverbs 12:18,
13:22, 17:28, 19:17; Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Background:

Solomon was the son of King David and Bathsheba. He became the third king of Israel and ruled for 40 years. When Solomon was a young king (967 B.C.), he asked God for wisdom so he could rule well. God was pleased at this request, and he promised Solomon, "I'll make you wiser than anyone who has ever lived or ever will live. (1 Kings 3:12) Solomon wrote some of Proverbs and all of Ecclesiastes, which are two books in the Bible.

Before you read:

1. Are 'intelligence' and 'wisdom' the same thing?
2. Every culture has proverbs, or sayings that give good advice. Can you share any proverbs from your culture?

The Passages

A Wise Ruling

1 1 Kings 3 records a judgment that young King Solomon gave which showed that God did indeed give him wisdom:

*¹⁶ One day two women (**prostitutes**) came to King Solomon, ¹⁷ and one of them said:*

2 *Your Majesty, this woman and I live in the same house. Not long ago my baby was born at home, ¹⁸ and three days later her baby was born. Nobody else was there with us.*

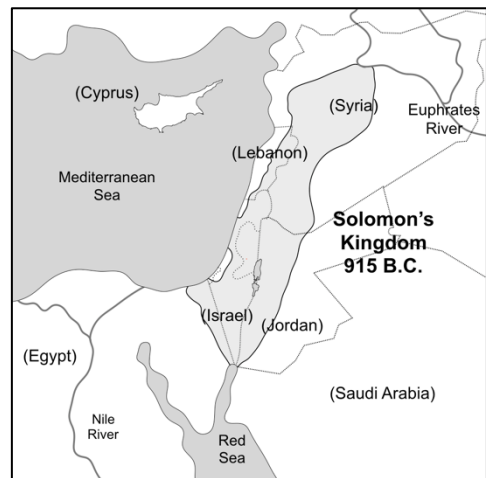
3 *¹⁹ One night while we were all asleep, she rolled over on her baby, and he died. ²⁰ Then while I was still asleep, she got up and took my son out of my bed. She put him in her bed, then she put her dead baby next to me.*

4 *²¹ In the morning when I got up to feed my son, I saw that he was dead. But when I looked at him in the light, I knew he wasn't my son.*

²² "No!" the other woman shouted. "He was your son. My baby is alive!"

"The dead baby is yours," the first woman yelled. "Mine is alive!"

5 *They argued back and forth in front of Solomon, ²³ until finally he said, "Both of you say this live baby is yours. ²⁴ Someone bring me a sword."*



Chapter 4: Wisdom

4.1 Solomon

A sword was brought, and Solomon ordered,²⁵ "Cut the baby in half! That way each of you can have part of him."

6 *²⁶ "Please don't kill my son," the baby's mother screamed. "Your Majesty, I love him very much, but give him to her. Just don't kill him."*

The other woman shouted, "Go ahead and cut him in half. Then neither of us will have the baby."

²⁷ Solomon said, "Don't kill the baby." Then he pointed to the first woman, "She is his real mother. Give the baby to her" (1 Kings 3:16-27).

The Book of Proverbs

7 The Bible says that Solomon collected many proverbs that he had carefully studied (Eccl. 12:9). Proverbs is believed to be his collection of these wise sayings - those of others and those of his own. These sayings show us how to live out our lives wisely, well, and in a way that pleases the Lord. A few of these sayings are below:

Sharp words cut like a sword, but words of wisdom heal. (12:18)

If you obey God, you will have something to leave your grandchildren. (13:22)

8 Even **fools** seem smart when they are quiet. (17:28)

Caring for the poor is lending to the Lord, and you will be well repaid. (19:17)

Within your heart you can make plans for your future, but the Lord chooses the steps you take to get there. (16:9)

The Book of Ecclesiastes:

9 In Ecclesiastes Solomon writes of his pursuit of meaning, **significance**, and lasting joy in wine, wealth, pleasure, knowledge, and activity - apart from God. He concludes that it was all "as senseless as chasing the wind" (Eccl. 1:14). Solomon also reflects on life, and acknowledges God's continued presence in His world. From Ecclesiastes 3, he wrote:

10 ¹ "There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
² a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
³ a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
⁶ a time to search and a time to give up,

Chapter 4: Wisdom

4.1 Solomon

- 11 ⁷ a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to **tear** and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace"

⁹ What do workers gain from their **toil**? ¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can **fathom** what God has done from beginning to end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. ¹³ That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. (Eccl. 3:1 - 13, NIV).

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about these passages? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about these passages?
3. What do you learn about people from these passages?
4. What do you learn about God from these passages?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

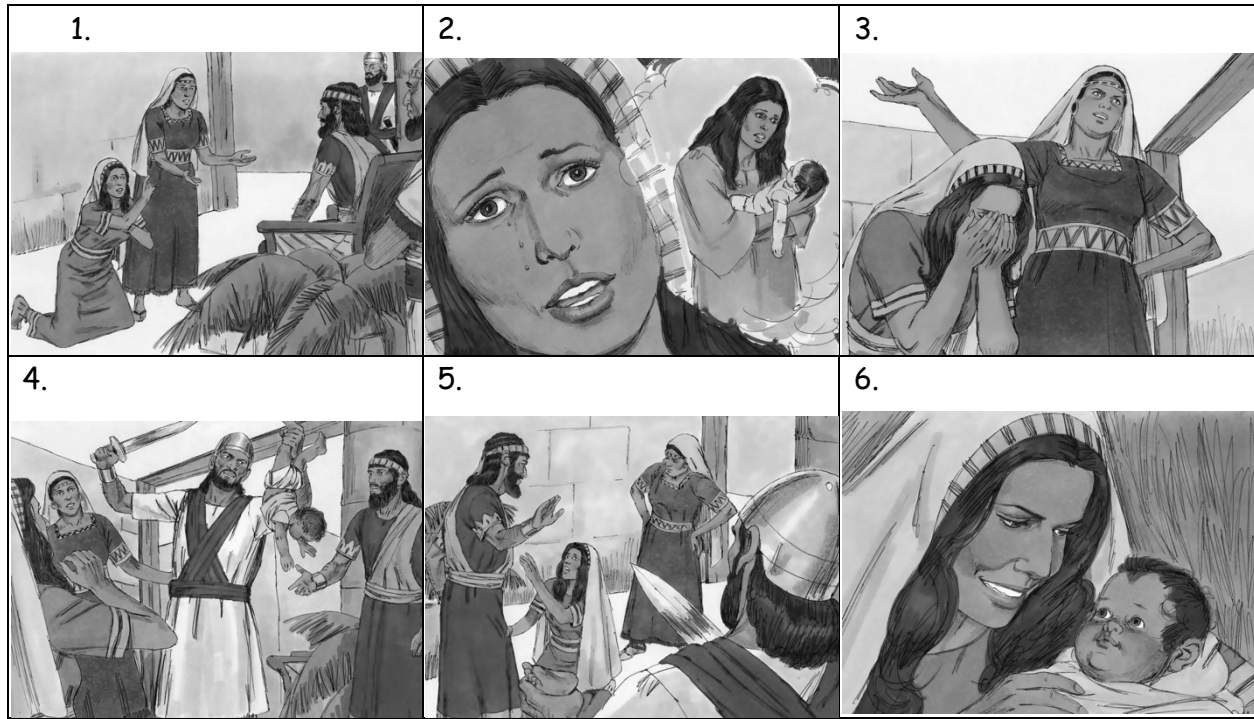
Passage Questions

Matching: Match the best Proverb to each situation. (There may be more than one right answer.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. _____ Sharp words cut like a sword, but words of wisdom heal. (12:18) | A. Someone you know at work loves to talk at meetings, usually without knowing much about the topic. |
| 2. _____ If you obey God, you will have something to leave your grandchildren. (13:22) | B. Two children are yelling and calling each other bad names. |
| 3. _____ Even fools seem smart when they are quiet. (17:28) | C. You catch someone stealing. |
| 4. _____ Caring for the poor is lending to the Lord, and you will be well repaid. (19:17) | D. Someone buys food to give to a Food Bank. |

Chapter 4: Wisdom
4.1 Solomon

A Wise Ruling: Retell this story of Solomon's wisdom using the 6 pictures below.



Synonyms: For each list of words below, underline the synonyms

1. Significance: good, importance, poor
2. Toil: dream, rule, work
3. Prostitute: sex worker, mother, teacher
4. Fool: idol, timer, senseless person
5. Fathom: understand, measure, take

Discussion

Easier

1. What is Solomon famous for? Where did this come from?
2. What were the two women arguing about?
3. Why did Solomon say he would cut the child in half? (What did he want to find out?)
4. Do you think the four proverbs in the passage are true in your experience?

Chapter 4: Wisdom

4.1 Solomon

5. In the last paragraph, what did Solomon say was "the gift of God"?
6. What did Solomon say was "as senseless as chasing the wind"? Why would he say that?
7. What brings you satisfaction in life? Does the satisfaction last long?

Intermediate

1. What did Solomon ask for? What did God give him? Why?
2. If God had given you wealth what would you do with it? What would you have done with it if you had been 20 at the time?
3. On what basis can we claim that something is right or wrong?
4. What are some of the decisions in life that we need wisdom for? Are there times in your life when wise counsel really benefitted you? Or when lack of wisdom got you into interesting circumstances?
5. Do you think the four proverbs in the passage are true in your experience?
6. Over time Solomon lost the desire to follow God. He took 700 wives and 300 concubines and worshipped their gods. His people complained that he oppressed them with taxes. Because of him, God tore away much of the kingdom of Israel. Why do you think Solomon in all his wisdom pursued such a course? Why did God not intervene and stop him?
7. What do you think this means? - God "has set eternity in the human heart".

Challenging

1. When you were 20, what would you have asked God for - wealth, respect, greatness, or wisdom? What would you have done with it? What choice would you make now?
2. Solomon wanted the Lord to give him a heart that could understand the difference between good and evil, for the sake of his people. Do you think most leaders would value this ability today? Do they have it? Do you think it matters?

Chapter 4: Wisdom

4.1 Solomon

3. What are some of the decisions in life that we need wisdom for? Are there times in your life when wise counsel really benefitted you? Or when lack of wisdom got you into interesting circumstances?
4. Over time Solomon lost the desire to follow God. He took 700 wives and 300 concubines and worshipped their gods. His people complained that he oppressed them with taxes. Because of him, God tore away much of the kingdom of Israel. Why do you think Solomon in all his wisdom pursued such a course? Why did God not intervene and stop him?
5. When Solomon turned from the Lord, he sought meaning for existence in wealth, pleasure, knowledge, and projects - yet this only gave him a sense of emptiness. What things in life give you a sense of joy or hope? What can you do to bring a sense of joy to others?
6. If there is nothing beyond death, is life good or evil?
7. Are we designed for eternity? What do you think an eternal body would be like?

Chapter 4: Wisdom
4.2 Wisdom in the New Testament

Wisdom: 4.2 Wisdom in the New Testament 1 Cor. 2:3-16; James 1:2-8;
James 3:13-18

Background:

The first passage in this text is from a letter written by Paul (54 A.D.), a follower of Jesus, to the church in Corinth, a city in Greece. The second passage was written by James, the leader of the Christians living in Jerusalem (45 A.D.).

Before you read:

1. Who is the wisest person you have ever met?
2. What made them wise?

The Passages

- 1 Wisdom is defined in the dictionary as the ability to make sensible decisions and give good advice because of the experience and knowledge that you have.

- <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/wisdom?q=wisdom>

- 2 There are many passages in the Bible that have something to say about wisdom. Jesus said that, "Wisdom is proved right by her actions". (Matthew 11:19) In the New Testament, wisdom from God **contrasts** with human wisdom or 'the world's' wisdom.

1 Corinthians 2:3-14

- 3 ³ At first, I was weak and trembling with fear. ⁴ When I talked with you or preached, I didn't try to prove anything by sounding wise. I simply let God's Spirit show his power. ⁵ That way you would have faith because of God's power and not because of human wisdom.

- 4 ⁶ We do use wisdom when speaking to people who are **mature** in their faith. But it isn't the wisdom of this world or of its rulers, who will soon disappear. ⁷ We speak of God's hidden and **mysterious** wisdom that God decided to use for our glory long before the world began. ⁸ The rulers of this world didn't know anything about this wisdom. If they had known about it, they would not have nailed the glorious Lord to a cross. ⁹ But it is just as the Scriptures say,



Chapter 4: Wisdom

4.2 Wisdom in the New Testament

5 "What God has planned
for people who love him
is more than eyes have seen
or ears have heard.
It has never even
entered our minds!"

6 ¹⁰God's Spirit has shown you everything. His Spirit finds out everything, even what is deep in the mind of God. ¹¹You are the only one who knows what is in your own mind, and God's Spirit is the only one who knows what is in God's mind. ¹²But God has given us his Spirit. That's why we don't think the same way that the people of this world think. That's also why we can recognize the blessings that God has given us.

7 ¹³Every word we speak was taught to us by God's Spirit, not by human wisdom. And this same Spirit helps us teach spiritual things to spiritual people. ¹⁴That's why only someone who has God's Spirit can understand spiritual blessings. Anyone who doesn't have God's Spirit thinks these blessings are foolish.

James 1:2-8

8 My friends, be glad, even if you have a lot of trouble. ³You know that you learn to **endure** by having your faith tested. ⁴But you must learn to endure everything, so that you will be completely mature and not lacking in anything.

9 ⁵If any of you need wisdom, you should ask God, and it will be given to you. God is generous and won't correct you for asking. ⁶But when you ask for something, you must have faith and not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like an ocean wave tossed around in a storm. ⁷⁻⁸If you are that kind of person, you can't make up your mind, and you surely can't be trusted. So don't expect the Lord to give you anything at all.

James 3:13-18

10 Are any of you wise or **sensible**? Then show it by living right and by being humble and wise in everything you do. ¹⁴But if your heart is full of **bitter jealousy** and selfishness, don't brag or lie to cover up the truth. ¹⁵That kind of wisdom doesn't come from above. It is earthly and selfish and comes from the devil himself. ¹⁶Whenever people are jealous or selfish, they cause trouble and do all sorts of cruel things. ¹⁷But the wisdom that comes from above leads us to be pure, friendly, gentle, sensible, kind, helpful, genuine, and **sincere**. ¹⁸When peacemakers plant seeds of peace, they will harvest justice.

What Do You Think?¹

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

Chapter 4: Wisdom
4.2 Wisdom in the New Testament

3. What do you learn about people from this story?
4. What do you learn about God from this story?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

True or False

1. True wisdom comes from God's Spirit. _____
2. Jesus said wisdom is proved by thoughts. _____
3. The writer of Corinthians didn't want the people to have faith because of human wisdom. _____
4. James said to ask God for wisdom. _____
5. James said that sensible people are full of jealousy. _____

Multiple Choice

1. God's wisdom is:
 - a. easy for all to understand
 - b. a way of learning science
 - c. hidden from people who don't know Him
 - d. impossible
2. God's Spirit is:
 - a. powerful
 - b. all knowing
 - c. a teacher
 - d. all of the above
3. To receive God's wisdom, one must:
 - a. be patient and kind
 - b. endure everything
 - c. go to church every Sunday
 - d. ask for it
4. Human wisdom:
 - a. is earthly
 - b. will disappear
 - c. is selfish
 - d. all the above
5. Wise people are:
 - a. proud
 - b. friendly
 - c. jealous
 - d. insincere

Fill in the blanks with the following words: mysterious, mature, sensible, endure, bitter jealousy

1. To have _____ is to feel extremely angry about what someone else has or is.

Chapter 4: Wisdom
4.2 Wisdom in the New Testament

2. Something _____ is something that is secretive or hard to understand.
3. A _____ person is an adult physically, emotionally and spiritually.
4. James said the Christians had to learn to _____ by having their faith tested.
5. _____ people make wise life choices.

Discussion

Easier

1. Why didn't Paul try to sound wise when he spoke to the Corinthians?
2. Why don't Christians think the same way as the rest of the world thinks?
3. In what ways are Christians able to be wise?
4. According to James 1:2-8, why should Christians be glad when they have trouble?
5. What should you do if you need wisdom?
6. According to James 3:13-18, how does a wise person live?
7. What does the '*wisdom that comes from above*' lead people to be like? (Do you know anyone like that?)
8. What did you learn about wisdom from these passages?

Intermediate

1. According to these passages, what is the source of true wisdom?
2. Jesus said, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matthew 7:24) What is Jesus comparing his words to?
3. What did Jesus mean when He said, "But wisdom is proved right by her actions"?

Chapter 4: Wisdom

4.2 Wisdom in the New Testament

4. What was Paul's purpose in saying this: "When I talked with you or preached, I didn't try to prove anything by sounding wise. I simply let God's Spirit show his power"?
5. Why don't Christians think the same way as the rest of the world thinks? What has the Holy Spirit to do with this?
6. What advantages do Christians have when it comes to wisdom?
7. According to James, why should Christians be glad when they have trouble? What does the testing of their faith produce?
8. What should you do if you need wisdom? Are there any conditions attached to asking?
9. According to James 3:13-18, how does a wise person live? Explain how earthly wisdom and Godly wisdom differ.
10. Summarize what you learned about wisdom from these passages.

Challenging

1. Jesus said, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matthew 7:24) What is Jesus comparing his words to?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said, "But wisdom is proved right by her actions."?
3. What was Paul's purpose in saying this: "When I talked with you or preached, I didn't try to prove anything by sounding wise. I simply let God's Spirit show his power."?
4. Do you agree that Christians think differently than the rest of the world? What has the Holy Spirit to do with this?
5. What advantages do Christians have when it comes to wisdom? Do you think that is accurate? Are there any qualifiers to this wisdom?
6. According to James, why should Christians be glad when they have trouble? What does the testing of their faith produce? How does this lead to maturity?

Chapter 4: Wisdom
4.2 Wisdom in the New Testament

7. What should you do if you need wisdom? Are there any conditions attached to asking? Why would God require them?
8. According to James 3:13-18, how does a wise person live? Explain how earthly wisdom and Godly wisdom differ. (Can you think of any life examples?)
9. Summarize what you learned about wisdom in this section.

Chapter 5: Epistles

5.1 Letter to the Philippians

Epistles: 5.1 Letter to the Philippians Philippians 1:1-2, 2:1-18; 4:21-23

Background:

*Paul is believed to have written this letter (epistle) while he was in a Roman prison because of his faith. Paul probably wrote this letter about the year AD 62, more than 30 years after Jesus rose to heaven. At that time, Philippi was an important city in the Roman Empire, which controlled a large area. Paul had helped start a church there about twelve years before when he went to teach about Jesus, and Christians accepted his **authority** as a teacher. Paul mentions his friend and helper Timothy who went with him in many of his travels and who may have helped him teach the Philippians.*

(* "Christ is Worth More than Everything". *Easy English Bible*. February 2009, <https://easyenglish.bible/english-learners-bible/philippians-taw.htm#>. Accessed March 2019)

Before you read:

1. How do you start a formal letter in English? How do you end the letter?
2. Is it the same for email or text?

The Passages

Philippians 1: 1-2

¹From Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus.

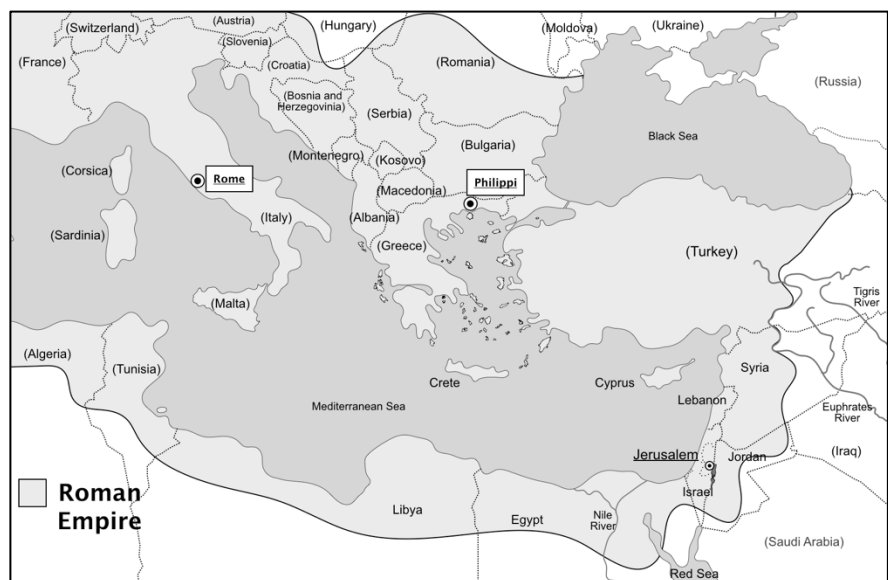
¹To all of God's people who belong to Christ Jesus at Philippi and to all of your church officials and officers.

²I pray that God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless you with peace!

Philippians 2:1-18:

³Christ encourages you, and his love comforts you. God's Spirit unites you, and you are concerned for others.

²Now make me completely happy! Live in harmony by showing love for each other. Be united in what



⁴

Chapter 5: Epistles
5.1 Letter to the Philippians

you think, as if you were only one person. ³ Don't be jealous or proud, but be **humble** and consider others more important than yourselves. ⁴ Care about them as much as you care about yourselves ⁵ and think the same way that Christ Jesus thought:

⁶ Christ was truly God.
But he did not try to remain
equal with God.

5 ⁷ Instead he gave up everything
and became a slave,
when he became
like one of us.

⁸ Christ was humble.
He obeyed God
and even died
6 on a cross.

⁹ Then God gave Christ
the highest place
and honored his name
above all others.

¹⁰ So at the name of Jesus
7 everyone will bow down,
those in heaven, on earth,
and under the earth.

¹¹ And to the glory
8 of God the Father
everyone will openly agree,
"Jesus Christ is Lord!"

¹² My dear friends, you always obeyed when I was with you. Now that I am away, you
9 should obey even more. So work with fear and trembling to discover what it really
means to be saved. ¹³ God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey him.

¹⁴ Do everything without **grumbling** or arguing. ¹⁵ Then you will be the pure and
innocent children of God. You live among people who are **crooked** and evil, but you
10 must not do anything that they can say is wrong. Try to shine as lights among the
people of this world, ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the message that gives life. Then on the
day when Christ returns, I can take pride in you. I can also know that my work and
efforts were not useless.

Chapter 5: Epistles
5.1 Letter to the Philippians

11 ¹⁷Your faith in the Lord and your service are like a **sacrifice** offered to him. And my own blood may have to be poured out with the sacrifice. If this happens, I will be glad and rejoice with you. ¹⁸In the same way, you should be glad and rejoice with me...

Philippians 4:21-23:

²¹Give my greetings to all who are God's people because of Christ Jesus.

The Lord's followers here with me send you their greetings.

12 ²All of God's people send their greetings, especially those in the service of the emperor.

²³I pray that our Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless your life!

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this passage? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about this passage?
3. What do you learn about people from this passage?
4. What do you learn about God from this passage?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

Match the Question to the Answer

Question	Answer
____ 1. How does Paul want Jesus' followers to think of each other?	A. He wanted to obey God, even though it was a difficult sacrifice.
____ 2. What should followers of Christ not do?	B. On the Last Day, when Jesus Christ will come back to earth.
____ 3. Why would Christ choose to become human?	C. God is working in Christians to make them willing and able to obey him.
____ 4. Who makes it possible for Christ followers to do what God wants?	D. They should consider others better than themselves.
____ 5. When will Paul know that all his work with the Philippians was successful?	E. They should make sure they give no reason for others to say they are bad.

Chapter 5: Epistles
5.1 Letter to the Philippians

Multiple Choice

1. Paul describes living in harmony as:
 - a. thinking of yourself first
 - b. not getting into fights
 - c. showing love for one another
 - d. avoiding people who are evil
2. Jesus set an example to the church by:
 - a. being born
 - b. being humble
 - c. sitting in the highest place
 - d. all of the above
3. The children of God should not:
 - a. grumble
 - b. argue
 - c. shine as lights among the evil
 - d. both a and b
4. Paul sends greetings to the Philippian church from:
 - a. Christians staying with him
 - b. Christians in his area
 - c. Christians in the ruler's house
 - d. all of the above
5. Paul wants Jesus' followers to rejoice and be glad if:
 - a. he has to die
 - b. everyone thinks they are smart
 - c. they are jealous and proud
 - d. none of the above

Fill in the blanks with the following words: emperor, humble, grumbling, sacrifice, crooked.

1. Paul said the Philippians service to the Lord was like a _____ offered to God.
2. Christians were told to do everything without _____.
3. The _____ of Rome was the leader of a large area with many cultures and languages.
4. Paul said, "Don't be jealous or proud but be _____."
5. He said, "You live among people who are _____ and evil."

Discussion

Easier

1. What does Paul say about living in harmony in the first paragraph?
2. What are some ways that people can live in harmony?
3. What does Paul say about Jesus?
4. What does Paul say about living with the people that the Christians lived among?

Chapter 5: Epistles

5.1 Letter to the Philippians

5. What does Paul compare to a sacrifice?
6. What kind of words does Paul use to talk about others who share his belief in Jesus Christ? What does this show about his relationship with them?
7. What does Paul mean when he says his own blood may have to be poured out? How does he feel about that?
8. Can you do any of the things Paul talked about?

Intermediate

1. What are the important elements of living in harmony that Paul talks about in the first paragraph?
2. What do verses 2: 6-11 reveal about Jesus?
3. How does Paul expect the Christians to live with their neighbours?
4. What does Paul compare to a sacrifice? Why were sacrifices important to Jewish people?
5. When will Paul know for sure that all his work and teaching with the Philippians was worth the effort? How might that future event also encourage the Philippian church?
6. Towards the end of this letter (4:6-7), Paul tells them not to worry about anything, *"⁶ but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. ⁷ Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel."* How does Paul tell them to pray? What is the result of doing that?
7. Have you ever experienced peace from God, even though the situation is difficult?
8. Summarize some of the significant things you have learned from this epistle. Is there anything you might want to put into practice now?

Chapter 5: Epistles

5.1 Letter to the Philippians

Challenging

1. What does Paul ask the Philippians to do in Chp.2: 1-2? What reason is behind the making of this request?
2. What are some of the things revealed about Jesus in the passage? What is significant about each thing?
3. What lessons about living in the current society does Paul teach the Philippians?
4. Paul says ¹⁷ "Your faith in the Lord and your service are like a sacrifice offered to him. And my own blood may have to be poured out with the sacrifice. If this happens, I will be glad and rejoice with you." ¹⁸ "In the same way, you should be glad and rejoice with me." What point is Paul making to his brothers and sisters in Philippi?
5. What reason does Paul give the Philippians to be glad? Could you be glad for the same reason? Could you be glad even if your life was very difficult and people wanted to kill you?
6. Towards the end of this letter (4:6-7), Paul tells them not to worry about anything, ⁶ *but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God.* ⁷ *Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel.* How does Paul tell them to pray? What is the result of doing that?
7. Have you ever experienced peace from God, even though the situation is difficult?
8. Summarize some of the significant things you have learned from this epistle. What can you put into practice today?

Chapter 5: Epistles
5.2 Letter to the Ephesians

Epistles: 5.2 Letter to the Ephesians Eph. 1:1-2; 15-23; Eph. 6:10-24

Background:

Paul may have written this letter (epistle) while he was in a Roman prison because of his faith, likely around A.D. 60. This was probably a circular letter that Paul intended to be passed around to other area churches in addition to the one in Ephesus. Ephesus was a large center of trade and business. Paul had lived in Ephesus and made it a center for spreading the news of Jesus for about three years. There was no public postal service in those days, so Paul probably sent the letter by Tychicus, who is named at the end.
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/ephesians/>, ESV Study Bible, 2007, Crossway Publishing, p. 2274

Before You Read:

1. Do you ever pray?
2. What kind of things do you do or say when you pray?

The Passages

Ephesians 1:1-2

¹From Paul, chosen by God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus.

- 1 To God's people who live in Ephesus and are faithful followers of Christ Jesus. ²I pray that God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless you with peace!

Ephesians 1:15-23

- 2 ...I have heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people. ¹⁶So I never stop being grateful for you, as I mention you in my prayers.

- 3 ¹⁷I ask the glorious Father and God of our Lord Jesus Christ to give you his Spirit. The Spirit will make you wise and let you understand what it means to know God. ¹⁸My prayer is that light will flood your hearts and that you will understand the hope that was



Chapter 5: Epistles

5.2 Letter to the Ephesians

given to you when God chose you. Then you will discover the glorious blessings that will be yours together with all of God's people.

4 ⁹I want you to know about the great and mighty power that God has for us followers. It is the same wonderful power he used ²⁰when he raised Christ from death and let him sit at his right side in heaven. ²¹There Christ rules over all forces, **authorities**, powers, and rulers. He rules over all beings in this world and will rule in the future world as well. ²²God has put all things under the power of Christ, and for the good of the church he has made him the head of everything. ²³The church is Christ's body and is filled with Christ who completely fills everything.

Ephesians 6:10-24

5 ¹⁰Finally, let the mighty strength of the Lord make you strong. ¹¹Put on all the armour that God gives, so you can defend yourself against the devil's tricks. ¹²We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world. ¹³So put on all the armour that God gives. Then when that evil day comes, you will be able to defend yourself. And when the battle is over, you will still be standing firm.

6 ¹⁴Be ready! Let the truth be like a belt around your waist, and let God's justice protect you like armour. ¹⁵Your desire to tell the good news about peace should be like shoes on your feet. ¹⁶Let your faith be like a shield, and you will be able to stop all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Let God's saving power be like a helmet, and for a sword use God's message that comes from the Spirit.

7 ¹⁸Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Spirit. Stay **alert** and keep praying for God's people. ¹⁹Pray that I will be given the message to speak and that I may fearlessly explain the mystery about the good news. ²⁰I was sent to do this work, and that's the reason I am in jail. So pray that I will be **brave** and will speak as I should.

8 ²¹⁻²²I want you to know how I am getting along and what I am doing. That's why I am sending Tychicus to you. He is a dear friend, as well as a faithful servant of the Lord. He will tell you how I am doing, and he will cheer you up.

²³I pray that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will give peace, love, and faith to every follower! ²⁴May God be kind to everyone who keeps on loving our Lord Jesus Christ.



Chapter 5: Epistles
5.2 Letter to the Ephesians

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this passage? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about this passage?
3. What do you learn about people from this passage?
4. What do you learn about God from this passage?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescrptures.com

Passage Questions

True or False

1. This Epistle was written as an essay for an exam. _____
2. Paul tells his friends he prays for them. _____
3. Paul says God put everything under Christ's power. _____
4. Paul wants the Ephesians to keep the lights on in their homes. _____
5. Paul says armour makes us strong. _____

Multiple Choice

1. Paul says he asked God to:
 - a. give food to the Ephesians
 - b. help the Ephesians to succeed in life
 - c. show love to the Ephesians
 - d. give the Ephesians the Holy Spirit
2. Jesus rules over:
 - a. all powers and authorities
 - b. all the future world
 - c. all beings in this world
 - d. all of the above
3. Paul asks his friends to pray:
 - a. always
 - b. for himself
 - c. in the Holy Spirit's power
 - d. all of the above
4. Paul tells his friends that:
 - a. they should fight their neighbours
 - b. God chose them
 - c. they can relax
 - d. they are powerless
5. Christians should put on the full armor of God by:
 - a. ignoring what is happening around them
 - b. thinking about good things
 - c. not listening to neighbours
 - d. none of the above

Chapter 5: Epistles
5.2 Letter to the Ephesians

Fill in the blanks with the following words: grateful, glorious, authorities, alert, brave

1. _____ people do what they need to do, even when they are afraid.
2. People who have power and knowledge are called _____.
3. Paul feels _____ for the Ephesian church.
4. Parents with young children must be _____ for danger.
5. Paul says the Ephesians will discover _____ blessings.

Discussion

Easier

1. What does Paul explain about what the Holy Spirit does in section 3?
2. What does Paul want the Ephesians to know about God's power?
3. What does Paul say about Jesus?
4. What word picture does Paul use to describe the relationship between Christ and the church? (Ephesians 1:23) Why would he use that picture?
5. Who makes us strong against evil? Why is that important to know?
6. What are the pieces of spiritual armor that Paul describes? How can each help us against evil?
7. What is the last thing in the passage that Paul tells the Ephesians to do?
8. Why doesn't Paul pray for safety, money or political power for himself or others? (Would you ever want to follow his prayer example?)

Intermediate

1. What are some of the important things Paul prays for the Ephesians in sections 2 and 3?
2. Why does Paul want the Ephesians to know about God's power? What authority has God given Jesus?

Chapter 5: Epistles

5.2 Letter to the Ephesians

3. What word picture does Paul use to describe the relationship between Christ and the church? (Ephesians 1:23) Why would he use that picture?
4. Who makes us strong against evil? Why is that important to know?
5. What are the pieces of spiritual armor that Paul describes? How can each help us against evil?
6. What is the last thing in the passage that Paul tells the Ephesians to do? How important do you think this is?
7. Why doesn't Paul pray for safety, money, or political power for others or for himself? (Would you ever want to follow his prayer example?)

Challenging

1. What are some of the important things Paul prays for the Ephesians in the first paragraph? What is Paul's purpose in telling them his prayer?
2. What is the significance about God's power? What authority has God given Jesus? Why is it important for the Ephesians to know about God's power?
3. What metaphor does Paul use in Ephesians 1:23 to describe the relationship between Christ and the church? Why would he use that picture?
4. Who makes us strong against evil? Why is that important to know? Why do we need the armor of God?
5. What are the pieces of spiritual armor that Paul describes? How can each help us against evil? Is one piece more important than another?
6. What is the last thing in the passage that Paul tells the Ephesians to do? How important do you think this is in the light of the previous advice about the armor?
7. Why doesn't Paul pray for safety, money or political power for himself or others? (Would you ever want to follow his prayer example?)
8. Summarize some of the significant things you have learned from this epistle. Is there anything you would want to put into practice today?

Chapter 5: Epistles
5.2 Letter to the Ephesians

Chapter 6: Parables
6.1 The Parable of the Ewe Lamb

Parables: 6.1 the Ewe Lamb

2 Samuel 11 & 12

Background:

The Bible describes King David as courageous, compassionate, and just. He established the kingdom of Israel around 1010 B.C. He loved God and wrote psalms of praise to Him. God called him 'a man after his own heart'. After years of fighting David had wealth, a castle, security and many wives and concubines. This story happens when other kings were at war with Israel. David sent Israel's army off with his commander, but he stayed home in his palace.

Before you read:

1. Have you ever heard of someone who did good things, but then did something bad?
2. What happened to that person?

The Passage

1 "Late one afternoon, David got up from a nap and was walking around on the flat roof of his palace. A beautiful young woman was down below in her courtyard, bathing... (2 Sam. 11:2). David asked who she was, and was told that she was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah. Uriah was one of his mighty men, soldiers known for their loyalty and bravery, and he was away fighting. David then sent for Bathsheba to come to him anyway. A while later she sent him a message that she was pregnant.

2 David sent for her husband, Uriah, and called him home from battle. He asked Uriah the news of the war, got him drunk, then told him to go home to his wife for the night. But Uriah slept in the servant room instead; he refused **comfort** while the army was in battle.

3 David sent Uriah back to the army with a letter for the commander. The letter instructed the commander to arrange for Uriah to be killed in battle. After Uriah's death, David married his widow, Bathsheba.

Sometime later God sent the prophet Nathan to David, and he told David this story:

4 "¹ A rich man and a poor man lived in the same town. ² The rich man owned a lot of sheep and cattle, ³ but the poor man had only one little lamb that he had bought and raised. The lamb



Chapter 6: Parables

6.1 The Parable of the Ewe Lamb

became a pet for him and his children. He even let it eat from his plate and drink from his cup and sleep on his lap. The lamb was like one of his own children.

5 ⁴ One day someone came to visit the rich man, but the rich man didn't want to kill any of his own sheep or cattle and serve it to the visitor. So he stole the poor man's little lamb and served it instead.

6 ⁵ David was furious with the rich man and said to Nathan, "I swear by the living LORD that the man who did this deserves to die!" ⁶ And because he didn't have any **pity** on the poor man, he will have to pay four times what the lamb was worth."

⁷ Then Nathan told David, "You are that rich man! ... ¹⁰ The LORD says, "Because you wouldn't obey me and took Uriah's wife for yourself, your family will never live in peace." ...

7 ¹³ Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

¹⁴ "Yes, you have!" Nathan answered. "You showed you didn't care what the LORD wanted. He has forgiven you, and you won't die. But your newborn son will."

8 The LORD made David's young son very sick... ¹⁸ After the child had been sick for seven days, he died...

²⁴ David **comforted** his wife Bathsheba and slept with her. Later on, she gave birth to another son and named him Solomon" (2 Sam. 12:1-24).

9 David wrote of this time in his life in Psalm 51. Here are some of his words from that psalm: "For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed **adultery** with Bathsheba."

10 ¹ "You are kind, God! ... ⁹ Turn your eyes from my sin and cover my **guilt**. ¹⁰ Create pure thoughts in me and make me faithful again... ¹⁶ **Offerings** and sacrifices are not what you want. ¹⁷ The way to please you is to feel sorrow deep in our hearts (for our sins). This is the kind of sacrifice you won't refuse" (Psalm 51:1-17).

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this passage? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about this passage?
3. What do you learn about people from this passage?
4. What do you learn about God from this passage?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Chapter 6: Parables
6.1 The Parable of the Ewe Lamb

Passage Questions

True or False

1. Uriah was a very good soldier. _____
2. In this story, David led Israel's army into war. _____
3. The rich man had no pity on the poor man. _____
4. God told David he would die because he had sinned. _____
5. David asked God to cover his guilt. _____

Fill in the blanks with the following words: comforted, pity, adultery, guilt, offering

1. Sexual relationship outside of marriage is _____.
2. When we see somebody suffering, we have _____ on them.
3. We can give the church an _____ of money or service.
4. The father _____ his crying daughter by putting his arm around her.
5. People have _____ when they do something wrong.

Tell the Story using the pictures below.



Sweet Publishing, www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/david-bathsheba/

Chapter 6: Parables
6.1 The Parable of the Ewe Lamb

Ordering: Number the following events of the story in the proper order.

- a. _____ Nathan told David a story about a rich man who stole his neighbour's only lamb.
- b. _____ David sent Uriah back to the army with a letter for the commander.
- c. _____ Bathsheba sent a note to David to tell him she was pregnant.
- d. _____ David's son by Bathsheba became sick and died.
- e. _____ David sent his men to bring Bathsheba to him.

Discussion:

Easier

1. How does the Bible describe King David?
2. What did David do when it was time to go to war?
3. Where was Bathsheba when David saw her?
4. When David called Uriah back from war, what did David want Uriah to do? Why?
5. How did David arrange to have Uriah killed?
6. How many sheep and lambs did the rich man have? How many did the poor man have?
7. Did David's actions against Uriah surprise you? Why do you think he did it?
8. Did David feel bad about his sin? How do you know this?
9. God forgave David. Why, then, did David's son have to die and his family have no peace in the future?

Intermediate

1. How did David meet Bathsheba? What did this show about David?
2. What do you learn about Uriah in this story?

Chapter 6: Parables
6.1 The Parable of the Ewe Lamb

3. a) How did David have Uriah killed?

b) Did David repent all he had done?

c) What were the consequences of David's sins? Was this just?
4. Why do you think Nathan used a parable, rather than directly confront David with his sin?
5. Why is adultery like theft?
6. Was Bathsheba innocent?

Challenging

1. Do you think David's conscience bothered him about his adultery and murder?
2. How did Nathan show wisdom in approaching David on the matter?
3. Was Bathsheba innocent?
4. Is adultery theft?
5. What might have happened if David had refused to listen to Nathan?
6. Did David claim - or did anyone in the story claim - that he (David) was basically a good man and circumstances just tempted him beyond his ability to resist? What is the importance of this observation?
7. David honestly repented with all his being, and God forgave David. Why then, did David's son still have to die?

Parables: 6.2 The Kingdom Matthew 13:1-16; Matthew 13:24-35

Background:

Jesus taught for almost 3 years around the area of Judea during the Roman Empire (A.D. 30). The Bible says that he had huge crowds following him everywhere because he "spoke with authority" about God, unlike the other teachers. He also showed God's power by healing all kinds of sickness. Because of the crowds, Jesus taught on the hillsides, or even in a boat while the people stood on the shore. He used parables (teaching stories) that use **symbols** to show truth.

Before you read:

1. Can you tell any teaching story?
2. What truth does it teach?

The Passages

Matthew 13: 10 - 16

1 ¹⁰ Jesus' disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you use nothing but stories when you speak to the people?"

¹¹ Jesus answered:

2 I have explained the secrets about the kingdom of heaven to you, but not to others. ¹² Everyone who has something will be given more. But people who don't have anything will lose even what little they have.

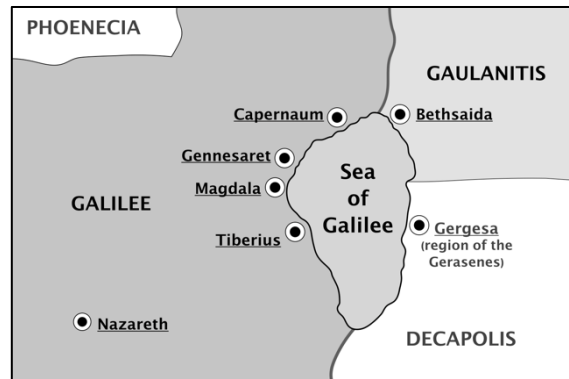
3 ¹³ I use stories when I speak to them because when they look, they cannot see, and when they listen, they cannot hear or understand. ¹⁴ So God's promise came true, just as the prophet Isaiah had said,

"These people will listen and listen,

4 but never understand.
They will look and look,
but never see.

¹⁵ All of them have **stubborn** minds!

5 Their ears are stopped up,



Chapter 6: Parables
6.2 Kingdom Parables

and their eyes are covered.
They cannot see or hear
or understand.

If they could,
they would turn to me,
and I would heal them." (Isaiah 6:9-10)

6

¹⁶ But God has blessed you, because your eyes can see and your ears can hear! ¹⁷ Many prophets and good people were eager to see what you see and to hear what you hear. But I tell you that they did not see or hear...

Matthew 13: 24 - 35

²⁴ Jesus then told them this story:

7

The kingdom of heaven is like what happened when a farmer **scattered** good seed in a field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, an enemy came and scattered **weed** seeds in the field and then left.

²⁶ When the plants came up and began to ripen, the farmer's servants could see the weeds.

8

²⁷ The servants came and asked, "Sir, didn't you scatter good seed in your field? Where did these weeds come from?"

²⁸ "An enemy did this," he replied.

His servants then asked, "Do you want us to go out and pull up the weeds?"

9

²⁹ "No!" he answered. "You might also pull up the wheat. ³⁰ Leave the weeds alone until harvest time. Then I'll tell my workers to gather the weeds and tie them up and burn them. But I'll have them store the wheat in my barn."

³¹ Jesus told them another story:

The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a farmer plants a mustard seed in a field.

10

³² Although it is the smallest of all seeds, it grows larger than any garden plant and becomes a tree. Birds even come and nest on its branches.

³³ Jesus also said:

11

The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a woman mixes a little **yeast** into three big batches of flour. Finally, all the dough rises.

³⁴ Jesus used stories when he spoke to the people. In fact, he did not tell them anything without using stories. ³⁵ So God's promise came true, just as the prophet had said,

"I will use stories

12

to speak my message
and to explain things
that have been hidden

Chapter 6: Parables

6.2 Kingdom Parables

since the creation
of the world." (Psalm 78:2-3, a psalm of Asaph)

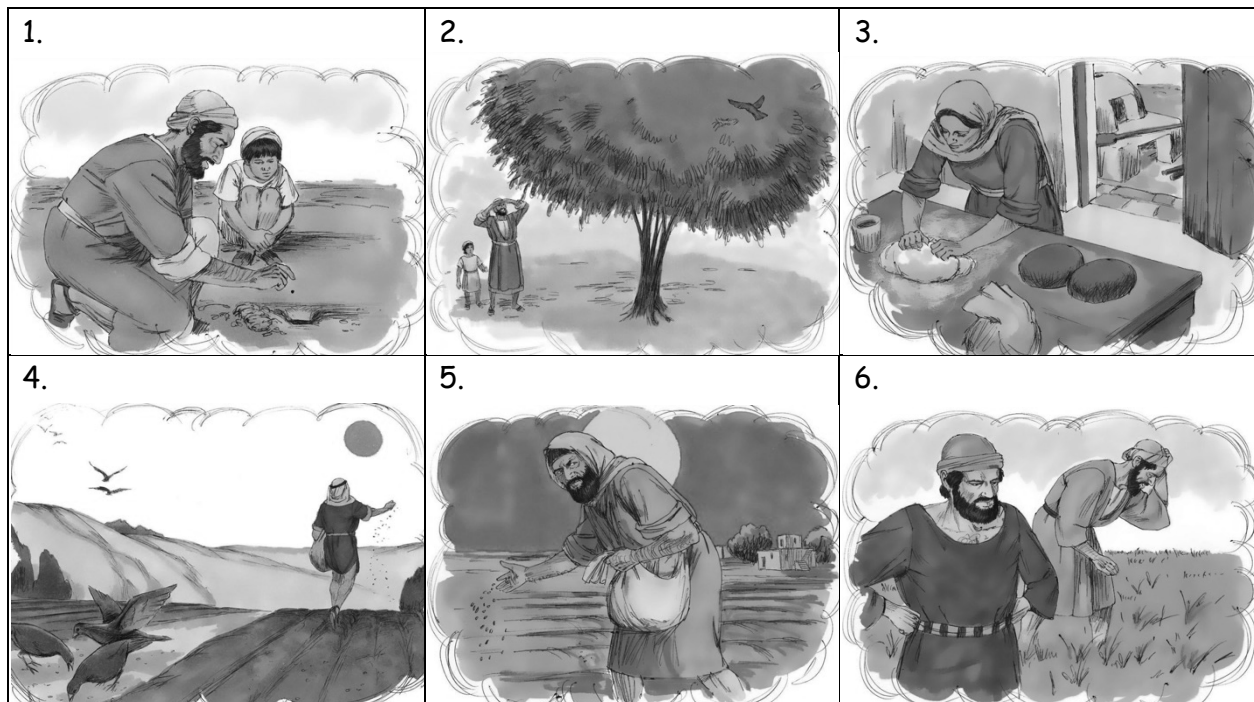
What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this passage? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about this passage?
3. What do you learn about people from this passage?
4. What do you learn about God from this passage?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions:

Tell the 3 Parables using the pictures below.



Sweet Publishing, www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/parable-weeds/ and [/parables-kingdom-heaven/](http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/parables-kingdom-heaven/)

Multiple Choice

1. Jesus used parables to:
 - a. confuse people
 - b. help people learn how to farm
 - c. make the Pharisees angry
 - d. teach the truth

Chapter 6: Parables
6.2 Kingdom Parables

2. Isaiah said the people:
 - a. didn't want to understand
 - b. would not listen
 - c. were stubborn
 - d. all of the above
3. The parable of the farmer and the weeds was about:
 - a. how to farm successfully
 - b. the problems with weeds
 - c. what to do with evil people
 - d. how God allows evil and good to coexist together for awhile
4. The meaning of the mustard seed parable was:
 - a. something can start small but get very big
 - b. the problems with mustard seeds
 - c. the size of mustard seeds
 - d. why you should pray
5. The parable of the yeast was about:
 - a. religious people out of control
 - b. the benefits of yeast
 - c. baking as a survival skill
 - d. yeast is tiny but very powerful

Symbol Matching: Match the *symbol* in the Farmer Parable to its *meaning*.

Symbol	Meaning
_____ wheat	a. God
_____ weed	b. people who listen to God
_____ farmer	c. angels
_____ farm workers	d. Satan/ devil
_____ enemy	e. people who will not listen to God
_____ harvest	f. time when God will judge all people

Fill in the blanks with the following words: symbol, weed, stubborn, scatter, yeast

1. _____ is used to make bread rise.
2. The red maple leaf is a _____ of Canada.
3. A _____ is a plant that nobody wants in the garden.
4. Farmers used to _____ seed on the ground.
5. _____ people are people who don't like to change their minds or the ways they do things even if you show them a better way.

Chapter 6: Parables
6.2 Kingdom Parables

Discussion

Easier

1. What question do the disciples ask Jesus? What was his answer?
2. Why does Isaiah say the people of Israel are not able to hear or see God?
3. What happened at the beginning of the first parable?
4. Who was responsible for the weeds in the story? Do you think there is a connection between the 'weeds' and the one who put them there?
5. Why did the farmer in the story want to leave the weeds in the field?
6. What is the meaning of the mustard seed parable?
7. What is the meaning of the bread and yeast parable?
8. What is the Kingdom of Heaven? What do these 3 parables say about it?

Intermediate

1. What question do the disciples ask Jesus? How did he answer?
2. What does Isaiah say about the people of Israel? Was Jesus indicating there was a change in the people's response over the following generations?
3. What happened at the beginning of the first parable? Why do you think Jesus told a farming story?
4. Who was responsible for the weeds in the story? What are the weeds a symbol of? What purpose did the enemy have in doing that?
5. Why did the farmer in the story want to leave the weeds in the field? What spiritual parallels is Jesus making?
6. What are the meanings of the mustard seed parable and the yeast parable? How do these two parables relate to the kingdom of God?

Chapter 6: Parables

6.2 Kingdom Parables

7. Jesus has talked about bread, yeast, and seeds in other places in the gospels. Can you think of some examples?
8. How would you define the Kingdom of Heaven? Summarize some of the significant things you have learned from these parables. Can you retell them in a modern context?

Challenging

1. Read Matthew 12:1-9 and find out what the day had been like for Jesus before the start of the passage. What is the significance of it being the Sabbath?
2. What question do the disciples ask Jesus? What did he answer? Why did he answer using a passage of Scripture?
3. What does Isaiah say about the people of Israel? Was Jesus indicating there was a change in the people's response over the following generations? How do we know that this is the word of God and not just words of a frustrated prophet?
4. What happened at the beginning of the first parable? Why do you think Jesus told a farming story? What kind of story would Jesus have used in our culture and times?
5. Who was responsible for the weeds in the story? What are the weeds a symbol of? What purpose did the enemy have in doing that? How does this relate to the kingdom of God?
6. Why did the farmer in the story want to leave the weeds in the field? What spiritual parallels is Jesus making? What are some of the implications of this?
7. What are the meanings of the mustard seed parable and the yeast parable? How do these two parables relate to the kingdom of God?
8. Jesus has talked about bread in other places in the gospels. Can you think of some examples? What does bread often symbolize? Are there passages in the Old Testament where bread is mentioned?

Chapter 6: Parables
6.2 Kingdom Parables

9. How would you define the Kingdom of Heaven? Summarize some of the significant things you have learned from these parables. Can you retell them in a modern context?

Chapter 7: Law
7.1 The Mosaic Law

Law: 7.1 The Mosaic Law Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy

Background:

When the Lord led Abraham to Canaan (2081 B.C.), He promised to give him that land. And He promised him descendants - more than could be counted. And He promised him that through those descendants all the nations on earth would be blessed. This promise was passed to his son Isaac, and then to Isaac's son Jacob. Later the Lord changed Jacob's name to Israel, and his descendants were called Israelites. During a severe famine (no food), Israel and his children and their families - now a tribe of 70 people - moved to Egypt. Over time, Egypt forced them to be slaves, and about 1446 B.C. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, through the wilderness and back to Canaan. They were now a nation numbering 600,000 men, plus women, children, the elderly, and any Egyptians that went with them.

Before you read:

1. Tell about a promise or an agreement that must not be broken.
2. What would happen if you break it?

The Passage

When the Israelites were travelling through the Sinai desert, God called Moses up to a mountaintop to give him a message for the Israelites. God said, *"⁵Now if you faithfully obey me you will be my very own people. The whole world is mine, ⁶but you will be my holy nation and serve me as priests."* (Ex. 19: 5 - 6).

God wrote the laws for the Israelites on flat stones:

²"I am the LORD your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt where you were slaves. ³Do not **worship** any god except me.

⁴Do not make idols that look like anything in the sky or on earth or in the ocean under the earth. ⁵Don't bow down and worship idols. I am the LORD your God, and I demand all your love. If you reject me, I will punish your families for three or four generations. ⁶But if you love me and obey my laws, I will be kind to your families for thousands of generations.

⁷Do not misuse my name. I am the LORD your God, and I will punish anyone who misuses my name.



Chapter 7: Law

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5 ⁸ Remember that the Sabbath (seventh) Day belongs to me. ⁹ You have six days when you can do your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day of each week belongs to me, your God. No one is to work on that day—not you, your children, your slaves, your animals, or the foreigners who live in your towns...

¹² Respect your father and your mother, and you will live a long time in the land I am giving you.

¹³ Do not murder.

¹⁴ Be faithful in marriage.

¹⁵ Do not steal.

¹⁶ Do not tell lies about others.

¹⁷ Do not want anything that belongs to someone else. Don't want anyone's house, wife or husband, slaves, oxen, donkeys or anything else. " (Exodus 20: 2 - 17)

6 For breaking some laws, the penalty was to make things right; for other laws, the offender had to sacrifice an animal on his or her behalf; for still other laws, the penalty was to be sent away from the people; and for yet other laws, the punishment was death.

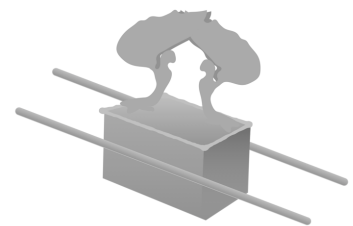
7 **God** told Moses to build an ark (a box with a lid) of wood covered with gold inside and out in which to put the stone tablets. He was to make two gold cherubim and put them facing each other on top of the box. God said, "*I will meet you there between the two [cherubim] and tell you what my people must do and what they must not do...*" (Exodus 25: 22).

8 Moses wrote down what God told him in five books. These make up the Torah (the Pentateuch), which are the first five books in the Bible. The third book, Leviticus, was all about the laws for priests, who were **mediators** between the people and God.

God told Moses to build a tabernacle (tent) that was to serve as a temple. The tabernacle they made contained two rooms. Only the priests could enter the first room of the tabernacle.

9 The second room of the tabernacle was separated from the first room by a thick curtain. This room was called the Holy of Holies and the ark was placed there. Only the high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies, and then only once a year. There he would sprinkle the blood of a sacrificed animal on the ark and pray for his people. This sacrifice was to **atone** for his sins and for the sins of the people.

10 In the outer courtyard of the tabernacle, the priests sacrificed a lamb for the sins of the people every morning and evening. As well, a person could bring an **unblemished** animal there

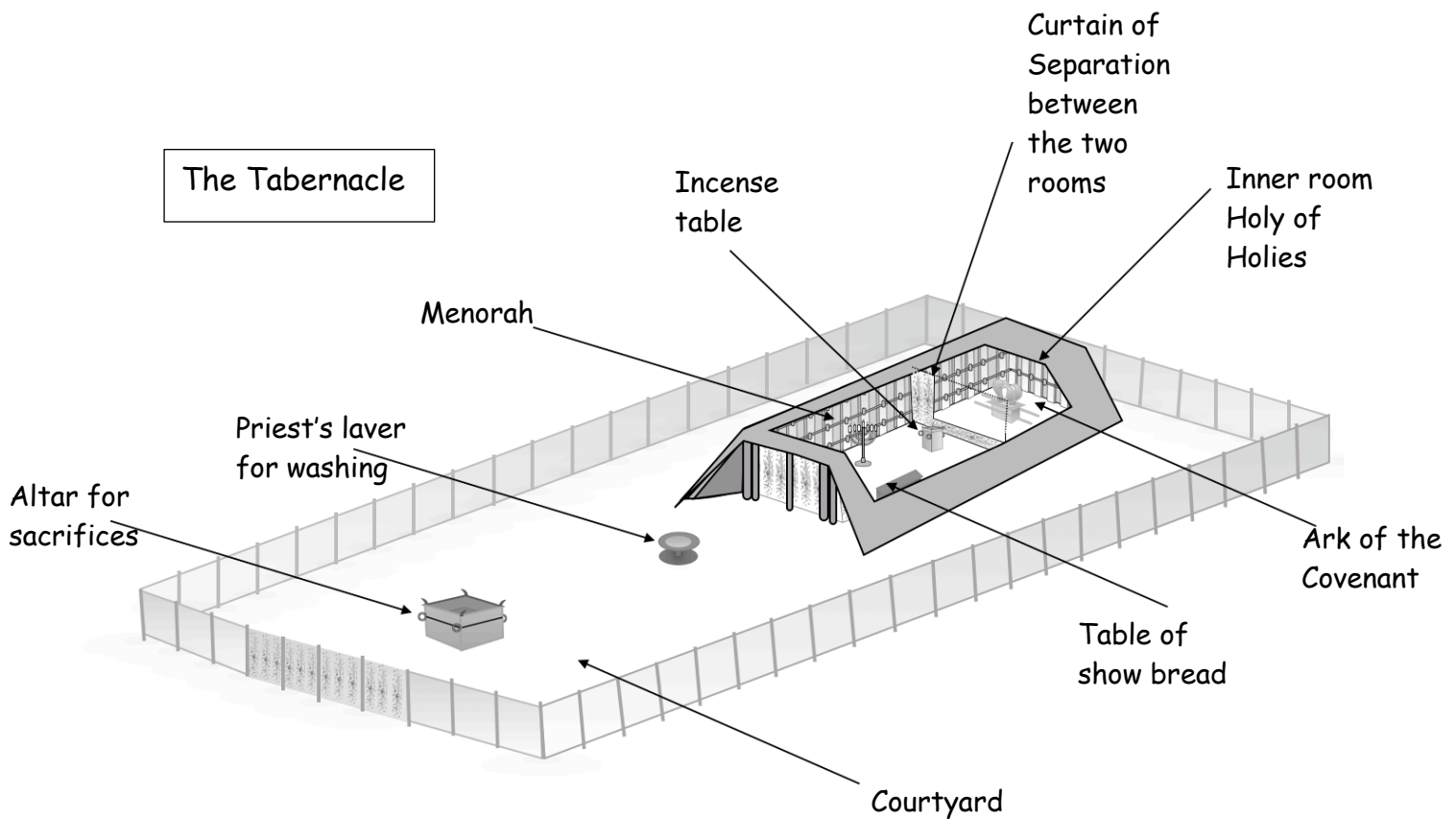


Chapter 7: Law

7.1 The Mosaic Law

and place his hands on the animal's head, in front of the priest. This symbolized the transfer of the man's sin to the innocent animal. Then the priest would sacrifice that animal. If anyone approached God in the wrong way, they could die. In fact, two of Moses' nephews had died that way. (Leviticus 10)

11 God told Moses that the people would not be able to keep his law, ²⁰... they will get fat and turn their backs on me and start worshiping other gods. The Israelites will reject me and break the agreement that I made with them." (Deut. 31:20) But Moses also told the people that God would atone for them, ⁴³He will forgive the sins of Israel and purify their land." (Deut. 32:43)



What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this passage? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about this passage?
3. What do you learn about people from this passage?
4. What do you learn about God from this passage?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Chapter 7: Law
7.1 The Mosaic Law

Passage Questions

True or False

1. God called all the people up to the mountain to talk with them. _____
2. God said that parents were not important. _____
3. God told Moses that He would meet him between the cherubim. _____
4. The tabernacle contained three rooms. _____
5. God said He would never forgive the sins of His people. _____

Matching: Match the word and the definition.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. _____ worship | A. to make something right after doing something wrong, by taking punishment |
| 2. _____ mediator | B. perfect, healthy and whole. |
| 3. _____ atone | C. show love by singing to, praying to and giving gifts to a god |
| 4. _____ unblemished | D. to move something from one place to another |
| 5. _____ transfer | E. someone who helps the relationship between two others |

Ordering: Put the following events of the story in the proper order.

- a. _____ Moses told the people that the Lord would one day atone for their sins.
- b. _____ The Israelites made the tabernacle with two rooms in it.
- c. _____ God brought the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.
- d. _____ God called Moses up to meet Him on Mount Sinai
- e. _____ God told Abraham that he would have more descendants than could be counted.

Discussion

Easier

1. What did God promise to give to Abraham?
2. How many Israelites went into Egypt? How many left Egypt?

Chapter 7: Law
7.1 The Mosaic Law

3. What did *God* give to *Moses* on *Mount Sinai*?
4. Name two things the law told people to do and three things it told them not to do.
5. What do you think is the hardest law to obey?
6. What happened if someone disobeyed the laws?
7. How many rooms were in the tabernacle? What separated the rooms?
8. Why were animals sacrificed in the courtyard of the tabernacle?
9. Who was allowed to go into the Holy of Holies?
10. Why do you think the ark of the covenant (promise) was covered with gold?

Intermediate

1. What did *God* promise to *Abraham*?
2. What did *God* tell *Abraham* about his descendants?
3. How long were the Israelites in *Egypt*? Why do you think they were there that long?
4. *God* gave *Moses* laws for the Israelites to follow. What relationships did these laws govern?
5. What were some of the punishments for breaking the law?
6. Which laws do you think would have been the most difficult to keep? Would you have broken them?
7. Which laws did *Jesus* say were the most important ones?
8. What is the Pentateuch?
9. What is the importance of *Mount Sinai*?

Chapter 7: Law
7.1 The Mosaic Law

10. Who was allowed to come close to God?
11. Describe the layout of the tabernacle.
12. Why do you think the ark of the covenant (promise) was covered with gold?
13. Who was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies? How did they enter it?

Challenging

1. Why did people place their hands on the head of the animal they were offering?
2. A mediator is someone who brings people to agreement. How did Moses act as a mediator between the people and God?
3. How did the construction of the tabernacle show that God intended to use a mediator between Himself and His people?
4. In Deuteronomy 4, it states that at Mt. Sinai the Lord made the Israelites hear His voice: "¹²and the Lord spoke to you from the fire. You could hear him and understand what he was saying, but you couldn't see him... ¹³The Lord then said he was making an agreement with you...". What was the importance of Mount Sinai? Why do you think God wanted all the Israelites to hear His voice?
5. In Exodus 34 God says, *'I am the Lord God. the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, I am merciful and very patient with my people. I show great love, and I can be trusted. ⁷I keep my promises to my people forever, but I also punish anyone who sins...'* (Ex. 34:6-7). **What qualities does God have that show that He wants us to know Him and to love Him?**
6. Why do you think God chose to use a mediator between Him and His people?
7. How did God set apart the Israelites?
8. What were the repercussions for the Israelites if they broke the laws?
9. Which laws do you think would have been the most difficult to keep? Would you have broken them?

Chapter 7: Law
7.1 The Mosaic Law

10. Some scholars think that God made his first promise to Abraham about 2081 B.C.; that Jacob and his family moved to Egypt about 1875 BC; and that the Exodus from Egypt began around 1446 B.C. What do you think are some of the reasons why God moves over such long periods of history?

Chapter 7: Law
7.2 The New Covenant

Law: 7.2 The New Covenant Gen., Lev., Deut., Jer., Matt., Mark, Luke, John.

Background:

A 'covenant' is a serious promise or agreement that sets rules for a relationship. For example, people make covenants of marriage. God has made covenants with humans from the beginning, but even when God kept his promises, humans could not keep their part of the agreement. In the first book of the Bible you can read about God's covenants with Adam and Eve (Genesis 1 - 3), Noah (Gen. 9), and Abraham (Gen. 12). Last week we learned about the covenant God made with the nation of Israel through Moses.

However, all of these covenants could not change human nature so that humanity could keep the agreements. And people who cannot obey God cannot enter God's presence without **atonement**. The construction of the tabernacle under the Moses covenant showed this. The inner room was called the Holy of Holies. God's presence was in that room, and the entrance was covered by a thick curtain. Only the high priest was allowed to enter there, and only once a year. And he could only enter with the blood of a sacrificed animal. The animal's life was a **substitute** for his own life, and for that of the people.

Before you read:

1. Is it easy or difficult to do what is right? Can you give examples?

The Passage

1 Jesus talked a lot about God's law. He said the two most important commandments of God were: *"So love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength"* (Deut. 6:5), and *"...love others as much as you love yourself"* (Lev. 19:18).

2 Jesus said the laws weren't merely to be kept outwardly, but inwardly as well. He said, *"²¹ You know that our ancestors were told, 'Do not murder', and 'A murderer must be brought to trial.' ²² But I promise you that if you are angry with someone, you will have to stand trial. If you call someone a fool, you will be taken to court. And if you say someone is worthless, you will be in danger of the fires of hell... ⁴³ You have heard people say, 'Love your neighbors and hate your enemies.'*

3 *⁴⁴ But I tell you to love your enemies and pray for anyone who mistreats you. ⁴⁵ Then you will be acting like your Father in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both good and bad people...⁴⁸ ...you must always act like your Father in heaven"* (Matt. 5:21- 22, 43-45,48).



Chapter 7: Law

7.2 The New Covenant

4 Who could claim to always love God - and others? Always pray for those who mistreat you?
4 Always act like God? This was God's standard, and even the high priest could not keep it.

Yet Jesus was able to keep it and perfectly please God. The Bible records that the prophet John the Baptist, "... saw the sky open and the Holy Spirit coming down to him (Jesus) like a dove. ¹¹ A voice from heaven said, "You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you." (Mark 1:10-11)

5 Before Jesus, God had sent prophets to tell the Israelites about a New Covenant that
5 would change the relationship between God and imperfect humans. The prophet Jeremiah (627 B.C.) wrote, "³¹ The LORD said:

6 *The time will surely come when I will make a new agreement with the people of Israel and
6 Judah. ³² It will be different from the agreement I made with their ancestors when I led
6 them out of Egypt. Although I was their God, they broke that agreement. ³³ Here is the
6 new agreement that I, the LORD, will make with the people of Israel:*

7 *"I will write my laws
7 on their hearts and minds.
7 I will be their God,
7 and they will be my people.*

8 ³⁴ *"No longer will they have to teach one another to obey me. I, the LORD, promise that all
8 of them will obey me, ordinary people and rulers alike. I will forgive their sins and forget
8 the evil things they have done." (Jer. 31:31 - 34)*

The night before he died, Jesus told his disciples how it would be possible to have God's law written on their hearts and minds. "¹⁵ ...If you love me, you will do as I command.
9 ¹⁶ Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be
9 with you." (John 14: 15 - 16) ...¹⁷ But I tell you that I am going to do what is best for you.
9 That is why I am going away. The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But
9 after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you...¹³ The Spirit shows what is true and will
9 come and guide you into the full truth. The Spirit doesn't speak on his own. He will tell you
9 only what he has heard from me, and he will let you know what is going to happen." (John
9 16: 7 & 13)

10 That night Jesus also talked about the coming new sacrifice that would make possible this
10 agreement with God. "²⁷ Jesus picked up a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. He then
10 gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this and drink it. ²⁸ This is my blood, and with it God
10 makes his agreement with you. It will be poured out, so that many people will have their
10 sins forgiven. (Matthew 26: 27-28) ⁴⁶ ... The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer,
10 then three days later he will rise from death. ⁴⁷ They also say that all people of every
10 nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven" (Luke 24:46-47).

Chapter 7: Law
7.2 The New Covenant

- 11 Matthew records the moment of Jesus' death on the cross: "⁵¹*At once the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, and rocks split apart. ⁵²Graves opened...*" (Matt. 27:51-52). Entry into God's presence was and is now possible.

What Do You Think?¹

1. What do you like about this passage? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about this passage?
3. What do you learn about people from this passage?
4. What do you learn about God from this passage?

¹ Questions taken from www.storyingthescriptures.com

Passage Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who could claim to perfectly please God?
 - a. the high priest
 - b. the people
 - c. Jesus
 - d. John the Baptist
2. The New Covenant
 - a. provided forgiveness of sins
 - b. makes us new people
 - c. retained the Mosaic laws
 - d. both a and b
3. Who told the people that God would atone for our sins?
 - a. Moses
 - b. Jesus
 - c. Jeremiah
 - d. all of the above
4. When Jesus died, He
 - a. took the punishment for our sins
 - b. brought in the New Covenant
 - c. fulfilled the Mosaic law of sacrifice
 - d. all of the above

OLD or NEW? Write 'Old' or 'New' beside each phrase that talks about covenants. The first one is done for you.

1. Old A priest kills an 'unblemished' animal to cover a person's sin.
2. _____ Jesus allowed himself to be killed to take away people's sins.
3. _____ The high priest brings the blood of an animal into the Holy of Holies to atone for his own sin and for the people's.
4. _____ The priests were the mediators between the people and God.
5. _____ Jesus is the mediator between people and God.

Chapter 7: Law
7.2 The New Covenant

6. _____ People who accept Jesus as their High Priest can come into God's presence through his Holy Spirit.
7. _____ People please God by obeying a written law.
8. _____ People please God by listening to and obeying His Holy Spirit.

Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks with the following words: *hell, substitute, atonement, fool, ancestors*

1. An innocent animal was the _____ for a person's life.
2. _____ is a terrible place that is separated from God forever.
3. To make _____ means to make things right by paying the penalty of bad behaviour.
4. A person who lacks good sense or judgment is a _____.
5. My parents, grandparents and their grandparents are all my _____.

Discussion

Easier

1. Where was God's presence in the tabernacle?
2. Who could enter this room? How often could he enter? What did he have to do first?
3. Why were animals sacrificed in the old covenant?
4. What did Jeremiah say about the New Covenant?
5. Why did Jesus say that it was best that he was going away?
6. Did Jesus deserve to die?
7. Why did Jesus have to die?
8. What happened to the curtain in the temple when Jesus died? What does this show us?
9. How can we come into God's presence and know what pleases God?

Chapter 7: Law
7.2 The New Covenant

Intermediate

1. Describe how the tabernacle was made and what the priest's role in the tabernacle was.
2. What commandments of the Mosaic Law were people unable to keep?
3. It's been said that a mirror shows us that we have dirt on our face, but it cannot clean our face for us. How does that relate to the Mosaic Law?
4. What did Jeremiah say about the New Covenant?
5. Why did the Mosaic Law have to be fulfilled? Why could only Jesus fulfill it?
6. Why did Jesus' death on the cross allow the New Covenant to be brought in?
7. In Matthew 9:16 Jesus said, "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse." Some Christians think that they are supposed to still follow the Mosaic Law by not eating pork or shellfish, or by worshipping on Saturdays. Is this okay, or not? Why?
8. Ephesians 5 says, "¹Follow God's example ...²and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord" (Eph. 5:1-8).
 - a. Some accuse Christians of being lawless. How can you answer that?
 - b. How do we learn to walk in a way that is pleasing to God?
 - c. What happens when we fail God? Why? Did Jesus' disciples ever fail Him?
9. What was the significance of the curtain of the temple being torn in two when Jesus died?

Challenging

1. Why were animals sacrificed in the tabernacle, and later in the temple? How did the sacrificial system in the Mosaic Law show God's grace?

Chapter 7: Law

7.2 The New Covenant

2. Hebrews 7 says, ²⁷ *...Jesus doesn't need to offer sacrifices each day for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. He offered a sacrifice once for all, when he gave himself.* ²⁸ *The Law appoints priests who have weaknesses. But God's promise, which came later than the Law, appoints his Son. And he is the perfect high priest forever* (Heb. 7: 27-28). **How does having Jesus as our High Priest change our access to God under the new covenant?**

3. The apostle Paul wrote: "¹⁸ *...Even when I want to do right, I cannot... With my whole heart I agree with the law of God.* ²³ *But in every part of me I discover something fighting against my mind, and it makes me a prisoner of sin that controls everything I do.* ²⁴ *What a miserable person I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is doomed to die?*" (Rom. 7:18-24). **What was it that the apostle Paul wanted that the Mosaic Law couldn't give him?**

4. Why was Jesus able to bring in the New Covenant?

5. a. What did Jeremiah say about the New Covenant?

b. Hebrews 12:13 says of Jeremiah, "By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete." Why did it have to be fulfilled before it could end?

6. After His resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days with his apostles teaching them. Even when He ascended to Heaven, He still taught them. It was a hard learning curve for them at times. In Acts 10 Peter saw in a vision a large sheet containing all kinds of animals. Peter heard Jesus tell him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." Peter said, "Surely not, Lord!", because many of those animals were forbidden under the Mosaic Law. But Jesus said, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

In Matthew 9:16 Jesus said, "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse."

In Galatians 2:21 Paul said, "I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

Many people try to mix the Mosaic Law with the New Covenant. Why do you think they try to do this? Why is it so hard for people to give up living under laws?

7. Jesus said, "... the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). Ephesians 5 says, "¹Follow God's example ...²and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us ...⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of

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light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)
¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord" (Eph. 5:1-8).

- a. Some accuse Christians of being lawless. How can you answer that?
- b. How do we learn to walk in a way that is pleasing to God?
- c. What happens when we fail God? Why? Did Jesus' disciples ever fail Him?

