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# GOD'S TRAVELLERS

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ESL WORKBOOK  
Student Edition

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## Preface to God's Travellers:

We have all been somewhere and are going somewhere. Whether you have chosen to leave or were forced to leave your country, you have come to a new place. There are many adjustments to be made and some things will always seem a little strange. We hope the following stories will encourage you that you are not alone. We are all travellers through life and, ultimately, we have not yet reached our final home. These are just some of the people in the Bible who were led by God to look for a new place.

- Frances Gray, Roslyn Farmer, Marion Chang

October 2019

<sup>13</sup> All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> And indeed if they had been thinking of that *country* from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them. Hebrews 11: 13-16 (NASB)



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## Terah and Abram, Out of Iraq

**Genesis 11:27-32**

**Background:** The Bible says that in the days of Noah, the people were very wicked and violent. God judged them by sending a flood to kill them. But first He saved one man, Noah, and his family. When this story opens, a few hundred years have passed since the flood. People have **repopulated** the entire region. All these people are descendants of Noah's three sons. Among these people, only a small memory of God remains. Terah is a descendant of Noah's son, Shem. Terah lived in the large, prosperous **city state** of Ur. It probably had about 30,000 people and was in the land of Sumer. Sumer was a nation in southern Mesopotamia (the land between the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers). In the Bible, Sumer was known as Shinar.

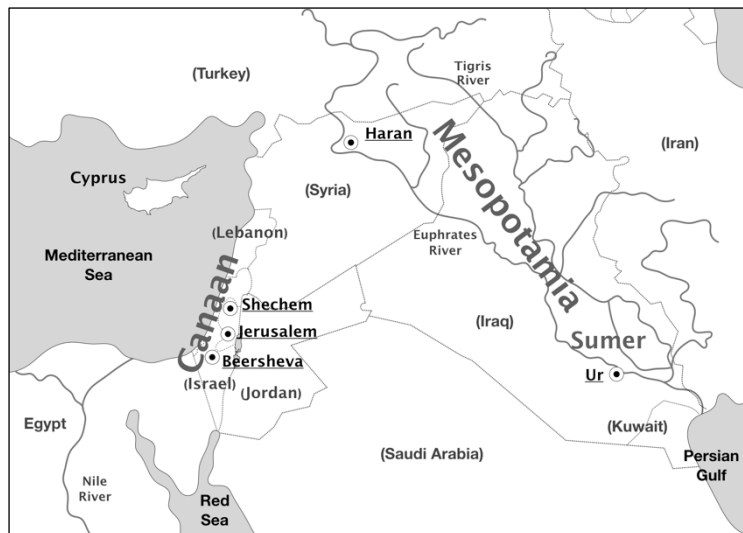
### Before You Read:

1. What made you decide to travel to Canada?
2. How far or how long did it take you to get here?

### The Passage

Genesis 11: <sup>26-28</sup> After Terah was seventy years old, he had three sons: Abram, Nahor, and Haran, who became the father of Lot. Terah's sons were born in the city of Ur in Chaldea, and Haran died there before the death of his father. The following is the story of Terah's **descendants**.

<sup>29-30</sup> Abram married Sarai, but she was not able to have any children. And Nahor married Milcah, who was the daughter of Haran and the sister of Iscah.



<sup>31</sup> Terah decided to move from Ur to the land of Canaan. He took along Abram and Sarai and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran. But when they came to the city of

## Chapter One: Travellers Seeking a Promise

### 1.1 Terah and Abram, Out of Iraq

Haran, they decided to **settle** there instead. <sup>32</sup> Terah lived to be two hundred five years old and died in Haran. (CEV)

*In Terah's time, there were well established caravan routes along the Euphrates River valley. Many nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes travelled with their families and herds throughout the region, stopping along their way to trade goods at various villages and city states. Terah and his family would have been just another such travelling tribe. The distance from Ur to Haran was about 1000 kilometres. These Bible passages from the books of Joshua and Acts give more details about God and this family:*



The ancient Mesopotamian city of Ur

The city of Ur. Mozaik education. [https://www.mozaweb.com/Extra-3D\\_scenes-The\\_city\\_of\\_Ur\\_3rd\\_millennium\\_BC-155950](https://www.mozaweb.com/Extra-3D_scenes-The_city_of_Ur_3rd_millennium_BC-155950). Accessed July 2020.

#### Joshua 24:2-3

<sup>2</sup> Then Joshua told everyone to listen to this message from the LORD, the God of Israel, "Long ago your ancestors lived on the other side of the Euphrates River, and they worshiped other gods. This continued until the time of your ancestor Terah and his two sons, Abraham\* and Nahor. <sup>3</sup> But I brought Abraham across the Euphrates River and led him through the land of Canaan. " (CEV)

#### Acts 7:2b-4a

<sup>2</sup> "...Our glorious God appeared to our ancestor Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he had moved to Haran. <sup>3</sup> God told him, "Leave your country and your relatives and go to a land that I will show you." <sup>4</sup> Then Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After his father died, Abraham came and settled in this land where you now live. " (CEV)

\* Abram and Abraham are the same person. (God changed his name.)



## What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

## Passage Questions

### True or False

1. Terah moved his family from Ur to Canaan \_\_\_\_\_
2. Haran moved from Ur to Haran \_\_\_\_\_
3. Lot was Abram's nephew \_\_\_\_\_
4. Leaving his country was Abram's idea. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Terah worshipped God \_\_\_\_\_
6. God wanted Abraham to move from Ur to Canaan \_\_\_\_\_

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

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. _____ route       | a. fill a place with people after the place lost people |
| 2. _____ caravan     | b. moved to a place and made it your home               |
| 3. _____ repopulate  | c. an independent city with its own government          |
| 4. _____ settled     | d. a path taken by many travellers                      |
| 5. _____ city state  | e. a group of traders traveling together                |
| 6. _____ descendants | f. continually moving from place to place               |
| 7. _____ ancestors   | g. children, grandchildren, etc.                        |
| 8. _____ nomadic     | h. parents, grandparents, etc.                          |

## Chapter One: Travellers Seeking a Promise

### 1.1 Terah and Abram, Out of Iraq

Use the words above to complete the following sentences.

1. In those days, many people, especially traders, travelled together along a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Ur of the Chaldeans was a large \_\_\_\_\_ in the land of Sumer.
3. Terah's family was \_\_\_\_\_, moving from place to place with their herds of animals.
4. Terah was Abram's \_\_\_\_\_, and Lot was Terah's \_\_\_\_\_.
5. After the flood, Noah's family \_\_\_\_\_ the earth.
6. Terah started out for Canaan, but he \_\_\_\_\_ in Haran.

### Discussion

- *Easier*

1. Did the people stay faithful to God after the flood?
2. Think about traveling in Abram's time:
  - a. How far did Terah's family travel?
  - b. How might they have traveled?
  - c. How long might it take?
3. Why might Terah have worshipped many gods?
4. Why might Terah have taken Lot with him to Haran?
5. Why might Terah have stopped in Haran?
6. Would you have wanted to make such a journey? Why or why not?
7. Why did Abram believe in God, instead of idols?
8. Why might Terah have decided to move from Ur to Canaan?

## Chapter One: Travellers Seeking a Promise

### 1.1 Terah and Abram, Out of Iraq

- *Intermediate*

1. The Bible says that only 7 generations had passed since the Flood and Terah's move to Haran. Did the people still follow God in Terah's time? Why might this be so?
2. What was Ur like? Does it surprise you that people could rebuild such a civilization within a few hundred years of the flood?
3. Why might Terah have decided to leave Ur and go to Canaan?
4. Why might Terah have not followed his plan to go to Canaan?
5. Describe what travelling in a caravan might have been like.
6. Why might Lot have travelled with Terah to Haran?
7. Why might Terah have worshipped many gods but Abram worshipped only one?
8. Would you have wanted to make such a journey? Why or why not?
9. God chose to work through Noah. Now He was choosing to work through Abram. Did Abram's descendants, the Israelites, follow God any better than Noah's? Why or why not?

- *Challenging*

1. Describe what Ur of Sumer was like.
2. Why might Terah have left Sumer? Do you think God was in his decision?
3. Describe what travelling in a caravan would have been like. Would you have wanted to go on such a journey? Have you ever ridden a donkey or a camel?
4. Why might Lot have travelled with Terah and Abram to the city of Haran? Explain your answer.

## Chapter One: Travellers Seeking a Promise

### 1.1 Terah and Abram, Out of Iraq

5. Why might Terah and his family stayed in Haran rather than continuing to Canaan?
6. It was after the conquest of Canaan that Joshua reminded the Israelites of where Abraham had come from. Why might he have done this?
7. Would you have wanted to make such a journey? Why or why not?
8. God chose to work through Noah. Now He was choosing to work through Abram. How did Abram's descendants, the Israelites, differ from Noah's? Why do you think God chose only Abram to work through?
9. Abram's descendants, the Israelites were one family. Are Christians one family?

## Abram, out of Syria

Genesis 12:1-9

**Background:** The last story was about the travels of Terah's family. Abram was Terah's son, and he and his wife Sarai had no children. God had told Abram to leave the city of Ur and travel to the land of Canaan. However, Abram's father and brother stopped halfway at Haran. This story is about how Abram continued his journey from Haran to Shechem in Canaan, which was about 890 kilometres.

### Before You Read:

1. What is one problem you have had because you came to Canada?
2. What is one thing you like about living in Canada?

### The Passage

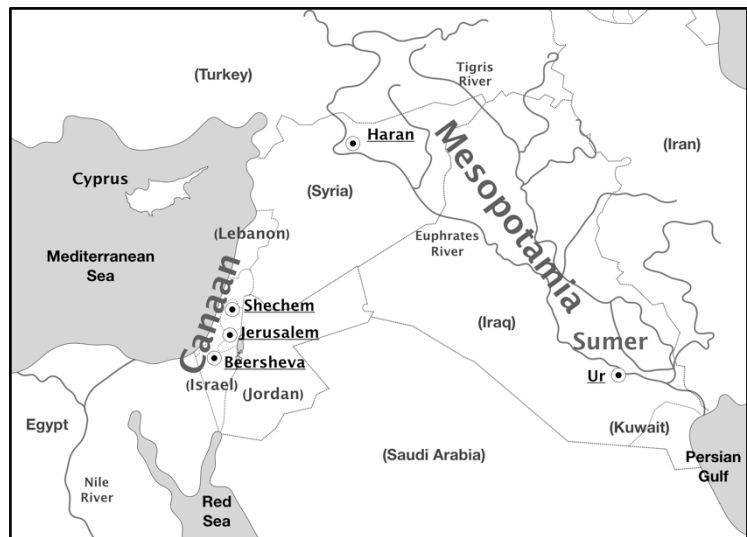
#### Genesis 12:1-20

*When Abram was living in Haran the LORD appeared to him again.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram:

"Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will bless you and make your descendants into a great nation. You will become famous and be a **blessing** to others. <sup>3</sup>I will bless anyone who blesses you, but I will put a **curse** on anyone who puts a curse on you. Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you."

*Abram would have travelled with his herds, using donkeys or camels as pack animals. They would face rainstorms, sandstorms, and **robbers**. They would travel for about eight hours a day, averaging three to four kilometres per hour.*



Chapter One: Travellers Seeking a Promise  
1.2 Abram, out of Syria

<sup>4-5</sup> Abram was seventy-five years old when the LORD told him to leave the city of Haran. He obeyed and left with his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the possessions and slaves they had gotten while in Haran.

When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup> Abram went as far as the sacred tree of Moreh\* in a place called Shechem. The Canaanites were still living in the land at that time, <sup>7</sup> but the LORD appeared to Abram and promised, "I will give this land to your family forever." Abram then built an altar there for the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> Abram traveled to the hill country east of Bethel and camped between Bethel and Ai, where he built another altar and worshiped the LORD. <sup>9</sup> Later, Abram started out toward the Southern Desert.

*Mesopotamia, where Abram had moved from, had good farmland and a reliable water supply from the two large rivers that ran through it. But Canaan was a dry, rocky land, dependant on rainfall for its water supply, with only a few good areas for farming. Famines were common there.*

<sup>10-11</sup> The crops failed, and there was no food anywhere in the land. So Abram and his wife Sarai went to live in Egypt for a while. But just before they got there, he said, "Sarai, you are really beautiful! <sup>12</sup> When the Egyptians see how lovely you are, they will murder me because I am your husband... <sup>13</sup> Please save my life by saying that you are my sister."

*Egypt's Nile River was a reliable source of water. Egypt was the superpower*

*of Abram's time. It was a huge, unified nation, and highly civilized. When famines hit Canaan, Egypt allowed Canaan's people to bring their tribes and herds into its well-watered area to wait until the famine was over.*



Egyptian Wall Relief

The MET. Egypt in the Old Kingdom (ca. 2649-2130 B.C.)

[https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/oking/hd\\_oking.htm](https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/oking/hd_oking.htm)

Chapter One: Travellers Seeking a Promise  
1.2 Abram, out of Syria

<sup>14</sup> As soon as Abram and Sarai arrived in Egypt, the Egyptians noticed how beautiful she was. <sup>15</sup> The king's officials told him about her, and she was taken to his house...<sup>17</sup> Because of Sarai, the LORD struck the king and everyone in his palace with terrible diseases. <sup>18</sup> Finally, the king sent for Abram and said to him, "What have you done to me? Why didn't you tell me Sarai was your wife? <sup>19</sup> Why did you make me believe she was your sister?"... <sup>20</sup> So the king told his men to let Abram and Sarai take their possessions and leave.



Egyptian Pharaoh Statue  
ca. 1919-1885 B.C.

The MET 150.

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/543864>.

*Abram and Sarai went to the Southern Desert. God blessed Abram and he became rich. Abram and Sarai had a son in old age, and Jesus would come from his family.*

\* *This tree was probably a large landmark well known in its time.*

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

### Passage Questions

Put the story in the right order. The first one is done for you.

- a) Abram took his family to Canaan and stopped at the sacred tree of Moreh .  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) Abram and his family stopped in Haran. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) God promised Abram that the land would belong to his family. \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter One: Travellers Seeking a Promise

### 1.2 Abram, out of Syria

- d) God spoke to Abram in Ur and told him to leave and go to Canaan. \_\_\_\_1\_\_
- e) Abram built an altar to the LORD. \_\_\_\_\_
- f) God told Abram to leave Haran and said, "Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you". \_\_\_\_\_
- g) The king of Egypt took Abram's wife, but God got them both out of that country. \_\_\_\_\_
- h) There was a famine in Canaan, so Abram went to Egypt. \_\_\_\_\_

### Vocabulary

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

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. _____ blessing  | a. something on land that is easy to see and recognize |
| 2. _____ curse     | b. trusted, likely to be true                          |
| 3. _____ landmark  | c. cause trouble or bad luck                           |
| 4. _____ reliable  | d. a time of no food                                   |
| 5. _____ famine    | e. someone or something that does good                 |
| 6. _____ robber    | f. someone who attacks and steals                      |
| 7. _____ altar     | g. having an advanced culture                          |
| 8. _____ civilized | h. a table for worship                                 |

Fill in the blanks with the words above.

- 1. The water supply in Canaan was not \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. When people saw the tree of Moreh, they knew they were close to Shechem. That tree was a \_\_\_\_\_ for travellers.
- 3. Abram made an \_\_\_\_\_ after God blessed him.
- 4. There was a \_\_\_\_\_ in Canaan because there was no rain.
- 5. Egypt became powerful and \_\_\_\_\_ because they had enough water and food.
- 6. Travel was dangerous because of sandstorms and \_\_\_\_\_.



Chapter One: Travellers Seeking a Promise  
1.2 Abram, out of Syria

7. God would bless those who were a \_\_\_\_\_ to Abram's family, but \_\_\_\_\_ those who \_\_\_\_\_ his family.

### Discussion

- *Easier*

1. What did God promise to Abram in Haran?
2. What do you think Abram would miss about Mesopotamia?
3. Who did Abram take with him to Canaan?
4. Did Abram disobey God when he took along his nephew, Lot?
5. Why do you think Abram built an altar after God's promise to him?
6. Did it look like God's promises to Abram could come true? Why or why not?
7. Did Abram stay in Canaan? What happened?
8. What was good about having Egypt as a neighbour?
9. What did Abram ask Sarai to do when they got to Egypt?
10. How did God save Sarai?
11. How did God bless Abram after they went to the Southern Desert in Canaan?

- *Intermediate*

1. What did God call Abram to do? What was Abram leaving behind?
2. Did Abram disobey God when he took his nephew Lot with him? Why or why not?

## Chapter One: Travellers Seeking a Promise

### 1.2 Abram, out of Syria

3. What were God's promises to Abram? Did it look likely that these promises would happen? Why or why not?
4. God told Abram that He would bless him in Canaan. Was the famine and crop failure in Canaan part of this blessing?
5. Why might God have chosen Canaan for His people, rather than Mesopotamia?
6. Why did Abram build an altar in Shechem? What did this show about him?
7. OK, mathematicians, how long would it have taken Abram to travel 890 kilometres at a rate of 3-4 kilometres per hour, for 8 hours a day? What things would have slowed down his travel to a much longer time?
8. What did Abram decide to do when there was a famine? What problem did this cause for Sarai and how did God intervene?
9. Was Abram's decision to move to Egypt a wise one? Why or why not?
10. How did God keep His promises to Abram?

#### • *Challenging*

1. What did God call Abram to do? What was Abram leaving behind? What might his family and servants have thought about this move?
2. Did Abram disobey God when he took his nephew Lot with him? Why or why not?
3. What were God's promises to Abram? Did it look likely that these promises would happen? Why then did God make these promises?
4. God told Abram that He would bless him in Canaan. Was the famine and crop failure in Canaan part of this blessing?

## Chapter One: Travellers Seeking a Promise

### 1.2 Abram, out of Syria

5. Why might God have chosen Canaan for His people, rather than Mesopotamia?
6. Why did Abram build an altar in Canaan? What did this show about him?
7. At the time, did it seem that God was blessing Egypt and/or Mesopotamia? Why or why not? Would anyone have realized that Abram was God's chosen vehicle for blessing?
8. OK, mathematicians, how long would it have taken Abram to travel 880 kilometres at a rate of 3-4 kilometres per hour, for 8 hours a day? What things would have slowed down his travel to a much longer time?
9. Egypt and Sumer both became leading nations of their time. What might have kept the Canaanites from becoming a nation?
10. Was Abram's decision to move to Egypt a wise one? Why or why not?

## The Wise Men, out of Persia

Matthew 2:1-12

**Background:** This story is about the Magi, a Greek word meaning 'Wise Men'. They were a group of **scholars**, probably from Persia, who studied the stars. Their interest was in the spiritual meaning of the stars, not so much about the science of the stars. When they saw a special star over the area of Judea, they probably searched for its meaning in the Jewish books of **prophecy**. The Magi knew about the Jewish Scriptures because the Jews had been **captives** in the Persian Empire for a time. The first passages in this lesson are prophecies about a King from God. The last passage is about when these prophecies came true, and the Magi arrived to look for that special King.

### Before You Read:

1. What is the farthest you have traveled just to see or experience something wonderful and amazing?
2. Was it worth the trip?

### The Passages

**The King's Sign:** *The Magi knew about the linking of a star to the King of Israel from the Jewish Scriptures:*

"A star shall come forth from Jacob, a **scepter** shall rise from Israel..."  
(Numbers 24:17)

**The King's Tribe:** *Another prophecy was made long before there were any kings in Israel. Abraham's grandson Jacob spoke a prophecy for each of his twelve sons. To Judah he said:*

"The sceptre will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come, and the **obedience** of the nations shall be his." (Genesis 49:10)



## Chapter 1: Travellers Seeking a Promise

### 1.3 The Wise Men, out of Persia

**The King's Family:** "Like a branch that **sprouts** from a **stump**, someone from David's family will someday be king. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will be with him to give him understanding, wisdom, and insight. He will be powerful, and he will know and honour the LORD.<sup>3</sup> His greatest joy will be to obey the LORD." (Isaiah 11:1 - 3) *Jesus was a descendant of King David, who was from the tribe of Judah.*

*This is Matthew's account of the Magi's search for God's promised King in Judea:*

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east

arrived in Jerusalem, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'" (Micah 5:2,4)

*King Herod had been put in a position of power by the Roman authorities of the time. He was not even descended from Jacob, but rather from Jacob's brother Esau, who had not been faithful to God. The news that the Messiah, God's King, was about to appear would have severely upset Herod, because it would **threaten** his power.*

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." <sup>9</sup> After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood



Jerusalem at the time of Jesus

Free Bible Images.

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/tis-shepherds-magi/>

## Chapter 1: Travellers Seeking a Promise

### 1.3 The Wise Men, out of Persia

over the place where the Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh\*. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way." (Matthew 2:1-12)

\*Frankincense and myrrh were kinds of tree gum. They were expensive and used as incense or in oil for worship, or chewed for medicine.

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

### Passage Questions

Match the sentence beginning with the correct ending.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| _____ 1. The Magi were scholars who studied                  | a. ...from the tribe of Judah and nations would obey him.                         |
| _____ 2. The Magi from the east knew about Jewish Scriptures | b. ...because the Jews had been captives in the Persian Empire.                   |
| _____ 3. Prophecy said that a star would come                | c. ...that a new King of the Jews had been born                                   |
| _____ 4. Prophecy said that a king would come                | d. ...the spiritual meaning of the stars.   |
| _____ 5. King Herod was troubled when he heard               | e. ...Bethlehem where they found the child, Jesus.                                |
| _____ 6. The Magi followed the star to                       | f. ... from Jacob and a ruler from Israel   |
| _____ 7. After God warned them in a dream                    | g. ...the Magi went home by another way instead of telling Herod where Jesus was. |

## Chapter 1: Travellers Seeking a Promise

### 1.3 The Wise Men, out of Persia

#### Vocabulary: Match the word with the definition

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. _____ prophecy  | a. a person who studies                                 |
| 2. _____ scholar   | b. people who are taken away by force                   |
| 3. _____ captives  | c. grows up from a seed or root                         |
| 4. _____ obedience | d. what is left after a tree is cut down                |
| 5. _____ sprouts   | e. put in danger  |
| 6. _____ sceptre   | f. something that is said or written before it happens  |
| 7. _____ stump     | g. a stick or rod that is used as a symbol of authority |
| 8. _____ threaten  | h. doing what someone orders                            |

#### Fill in the blanks with the words above.

1. The prophet Isaiah wrote that a king would come from David's family "like a branch that \_\_\_\_\_ from a \_\_\_\_\_".
2. Parents ask for \_\_\_\_\_ from their children.
3. The Jews were \_\_\_\_\_ in the Persian empire.
4. King Herod was afraid that God's King would \_\_\_\_\_ his power.
5. The Magi were \_\_\_\_\_ who studied the stars.
6. Matthew wrote about a \_\_\_\_\_ of the birthplace of God's King.
7. A \_\_\_\_\_ is what a king holds to show his authority and right to rule.

#### Discussion

- *Easier*

1. What does the word *Magi* mean?
2. Why were the Magi interested in stars?
3. Who were the descendants of Judah?

## Chapter 1: Travellers Seeking a Promise

### 1.3 The Wise Men, out of Persia

4. Who was the king of Judea when Jesus was born?
5. Which people did Herod ask about the birthplace of the Messiah?
6. What did Herod want the Magi to do after they found the baby?
7. What did Herod say he wanted to do when he found out where the baby was? (Do you think he was telling the truth?)
8. What did the Magi do when they found Mary and Jesus?
9. Why didn't they go back to Herod to report where they found Jesus?
10. Why are the prophecies important to this story?

- *Intermediate*

1. Who were the Magi? What did they study and why?
2. How did the Magi know that the Messiah was to be born under a star?
3. Why is it important to know who Jesus is descended from?
4. Why is it important to know who Herod was descended from?
5. Why did the Magi travel to Jerusalem?
6. What were Herod's motives in asking the Magi to report back to him?
7. What was the Magi's reaction when they found Jesus?
8. What gifts did the Magi give Jesus? Why did they give these gifts?
9. Why didn't they go back to Herod to report where they found Jesus?
10. Why are the prophecies important to this story?



## Chapter 1: Travellers Seeking a Promise

### 1.3 The Wise Men, out of Persia

- *Challenging*

1. Who were the Magi? What did they study and why?
2. What did the prophecies teach about the Messiah?
3. Why is it important to know who Jesus is descended from?
4. Why is it important to know who Herod was descended from?
5. Why did the Magi travel to Jerusalem?
6. Why weren't the people of Jerusalem seeking the Messiah like the Magi?
7. What were Herod's motives in trying to learn where the Messiah was born?
8. What was the Magi's reaction when they found Jesus?
9. What is the significance in the type of gifts Jesus was given?
10. Why are the prophecies important to this story?

## Mary and Joseph, into Egypt      Luke 2:1-6; Matthew 2:13-23

**Background:** These passages tell about the travels of Mary and Joseph before and after Jesus' birth. In the previous lesson, we learned about the Magi - wise men travelling from Persia to Jerusalem. They were searching for the **Messiah**, who was a new king promised by God through the prophets. King Herod, who was ruling at that time, was very upset to hear about this new king. He asked the chief priests and the teachers where the Messiah would be born. They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet Micah wrote" (Matt 2:5). Herod told the wise men to find this king, then come back and tell him where the child was. But God warned the wise men in a dream. So, after they had found Jesus, they did not return to Herod, but went home a different way.

### Before You Read:

1. Do you think dreams can have meaning?
2. Can you tell about someone who has had a meaningful dream?

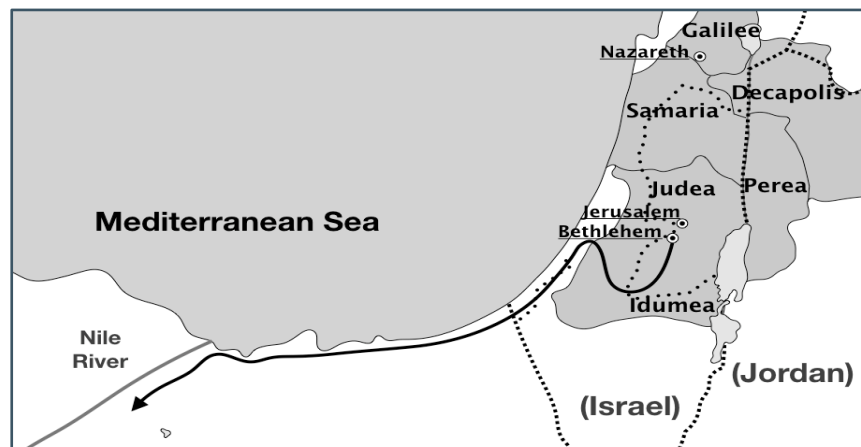
### The Passages

*Luke tells why Joseph and Mary had to travel, even though Mary was **pregnant**...*

**Luke 2:** About that time Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books.

<sup>2</sup> These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family.



## Chapter 2: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.1 Mary and Joseph, into Egypt

<sup>5</sup> Mary **was engaged** to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, <sup>6</sup> and while they were there, <sup>7</sup> she gave birth to her first-born son.

*Matthew tells what happened after Jesus was born and the wise men went back to Persia...*

Matthew 2: <sup>13</sup> After the wise men had gone, an **angel** from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him."

<sup>14</sup> That night, Joseph got up and took his wife and the child to Egypt, <sup>15</sup> where they stayed until Herod died. So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "I called my son out of Egypt"(Hosea 11:1).

<sup>16</sup> When Herod found out that the wise men from the east had **tricked** him, he was very angry. He gave orders for his men to kill all the boys who lived in or near Bethlehem and were two years old and younger. This **was based on** what he had learned from the wise men.

<sup>17</sup> So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet Jeremiah had said,

<sup>18</sup> "In Ramah a voice was heard crying and **weeping** loudly. Rachel was **mourning** for her children, and she refused to be comforted, because they were dead."

<sup>19</sup> After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph while he was still in Egypt. <sup>20</sup> The angel said, "Get up and take the child and his mother back to Israel. The people who wanted to kill him are now dead."



1<sup>st</sup> Century Alexandria, Egypt

Flickr. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/antrix/138413722>

## Chapter 2: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.1 Mary and Joseph, into Egypt

<sup>21</sup> Joseph got up and left with them for Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Herod's son Archelaus was now ruler of Judea, he was afraid to go there. Then in a dream he was told to go to Galilee, <sup>23</sup> and they went to live there in the town of Nazareth. So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "He will be called a Nazarene."

#### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

#### Passage Questions

Change the False sentences to be True:

1. Mary and Joseph were from Bethlehem.

---

2. The angel ordered Joseph to go to his hometown.

---

3. Herod was happy to hear about the birth of a new king.

---

4. The wise men did exactly what Herod asked them to do.

---

5. Joseph took his family for a vacation in Egypt.

---

6. Herod's soldiers murdered all the people of Bethlehem.

---

7. Jesus grew up in Egypt.

---

## Chapter 2: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.1 Mary and Joseph, into Egypt

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

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. _____ weeping          | a. crying when someone dies                |
| 2. _____ (to be) based on | b. heavenly being, not human               |
| 3. _____ mourning         | c. promised to be married                  |
| 4. _____ angel            | d. going to have a baby                    |
| 5. _____ (to be) engaged  | e. depended                                |
| 6. _____ pregnant         | f. shedding tears                          |
| 7. _____ Messiah          | g. to fool                                 |
| 8. _____ (to) trick       | a. the King from God who would save people |

Fill in the blanks with the words above.

1. Jeremiah prophesied that there would be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ because children were dead.
2. The place where the \_\_\_\_\_ would be born was \_\_\_\_\_ prophecy.
3. Mary was \_\_\_\_\_ to marry Joseph, so she went with him to Bethlehem, even though she was \_\_\_\_\_.
4. King Herod knew that the wise men had \_\_\_\_\_ him when they did not come back and tell him where the Child was.
5. Joseph knew when to leave Bethlehem and Egypt, because he saw an \_\_\_\_\_ in dreams.

### Discussion

- *Easier*

1. Where were Mary and Joseph from?
2. Why did Joseph have to go to Bethlehem?
3. Why was Herod really interested in finding Jesus the Messiah?

## Chapter 2: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.1 Mary and Joseph, into Egypt

4. Who told Joseph to leave Bethlehem? Did he have much time?
5. Why did Herod kill all the babies?
6. Did Joseph go back to Bethlehem from Egypt?
7. Why are the prophecies important to this story?

#### • *Intermediate*

1. Where were Mary and Joseph from and why did they leave their hometown?
2. Why is Bethlehem a significant place?
3. Why did Herod want the Magi to report back to him? Do you think they would have been safe to do so?
4. Why do you think Herod got away with his murderous actions?
5. Why did the angel warn Joseph?
6. Why didn't Joseph go back to Bethlehem after Herod's death?
7. Why are the prophecies important to this story?

#### • *Challenging*

1. Where were Mary and Joseph from and why did they leave their hometown?
2. Why is Bethlehem a significant place?
3. Why did Herod want the Magi to report back to him? Do you think they would have been safe to do so?

## Chapter 2: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.1 Mary and Joseph, into Egypt

4. Why would Herod want to kill all the baby boys? Why not just hunt for Jesus?
5. How does God communicate with Joseph? Why do you think He uses that method?
6. Why did Joseph decide to go to Galilee?
7. Why are the prophecies important to this story?

## Moses, out of Egypt (Part 1)

## Exodus 2

**Background:** God had made a promise to Jacob and his descendants that they would belong to Him. In the first book of Exodus we learn that the descendants of Jacob, called Hebrews, had been living in Egypt for hundreds of years. They had multiplied **rapidly**, and the Egyptians began to fear them. The Hebrews were forced to work for the Egyptians. To stop the rapid growth in population, the government did **cruel** and terrible things. The King of Egypt, called Pharaoh, **decreed** that all Hebrew newborn males would be thrown into the Nile River.

### Before You Read:

1. What reasons force people to leave one place and move to another?

### The Passage

Exodus 2: A man from the Levi tribe married a woman from the same tribe,<sup>2</sup> and she later had a baby boy. He was a beautiful child, and she kept him inside for three months.<sup>3</sup> But when she could no longer keep him hidden, she made a basket out of **reeds** and covered it with **tar**. She put him in the basket and placed it in the tall grass along the edge of the Nile River.<sup>4</sup> The baby's older sister stood off at a distance to see what would happen to him.



<sup>5</sup> About that time one of the king's daughters came down to take a bath in the river, while her servant women walked along the riverbank. She saw the basket in the tall grass and sent one of the young women to pull it out of the water.<sup>6</sup> When the king's daughter opened the basket, she saw the baby and felt sorry for him because he was crying. She said, "This must be one of the Hebrew babies."

<sup>7</sup> At once the baby's older sister came up and asked, "Do you want me to get a Hebrew woman to take care of the baby for you?"

<sup>8</sup> "Yes," the king's daughter answered.



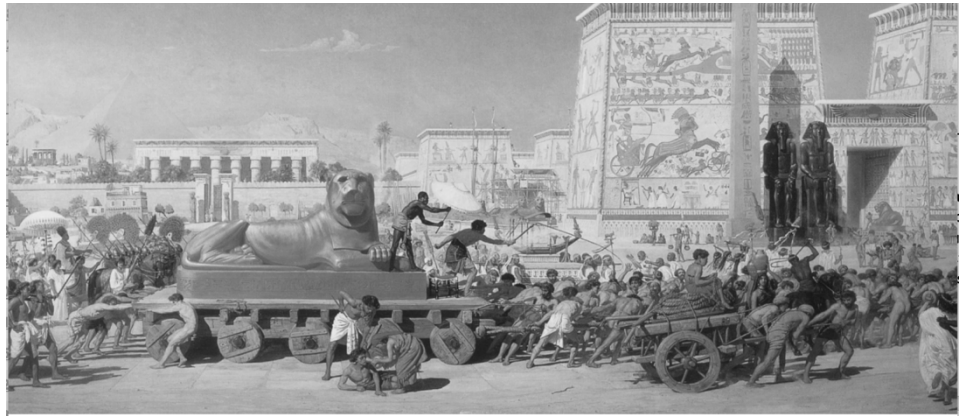
## Chapter 2: Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.2 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 1)

So the girl brought the baby's mother, <sup>9</sup> and the king's daughter told her, "Take care of this child, and I will pay you."

The baby's mother carried him home and took care of him. <sup>10</sup> And when he was old enough, she took him to the king's daughter, who **adopted** him. She named him Moses because she said, "I pulled him out of the water."

<sup>11</sup> After Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were hard at work, and he saw an Egyptian **beating** one of them. <sup>12</sup> Moses looked around to see if anyone was watching, then he killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand.



Egypt in the time of Moses  
Imagining the Exodus, Edward Poynter Credit  
File: 1867 Edward Poynter - Israel in Egypt.jpg  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1867\\_Edward\\_Poynter\\_-\\_Israel\\_in\\_Egypt.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1867_Edward_Poynter_-_Israel_in_Egypt.jpg)

<sup>13</sup> When Moses went out the next day, he saw two Hebrews fighting. So he went to the man who had started the fight and asked, "Why are you beating up one of your own people?"

<sup>14</sup> The man answered, "Who put you in charge of us and made you our judge? Are you planning to kill me, just as you killed that Egyptian?"

This frightened Moses because he was sure that people must have found out what had happened. <sup>15</sup> When the king heard what Moses had done, the king wanted to kill him. But Moses escaped and went to the land of Midian.

One day, Moses was sitting there by a well, <sup>16</sup> when the seven daughters of Jethro, the priest of Midian, came up to water their father's sheep and goats. <sup>17</sup> Some shepherds tried to chase them away, but Moses came to their **rescue** and watered

Chapter 2: Fleeing an Enemy  
2.2 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 1)

their animals. <sup>18</sup> When Jethro's daughters returned home, their father asked, "Why have you come back so early today?"

<sup>19</sup> They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds, and he even watered our sheep and goats."

<sup>20</sup> "Where is he?" Jethro asked. "Why did you leave him out there? Invite him to eat with us."

<sup>21</sup> Moses agreed to stay on with Jethro, who later let his daughter Zipporah marry Moses. <sup>22</sup> And when she had a son, Moses said, "I will name him Gershom, since I am a foreigner in this country."

<sup>23</sup> After the death of the king of Egypt, the Israelites still complained because they were forced to be slaves. They cried out for help, <sup>24</sup> and God heard their loud cries. He did not forget the promise he had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, <sup>25</sup> and because he knew what was happening to his people, he felt sorry for them

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescrptures.com](http://www.storyingthescrptures.com)

### Passage Questions

#### True or False

1. Moses' mother asked her daughter to follow the baby as he floated down the river. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The pharaoh's daughter didn't know Moses was a Hebrew. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Moses was upset when he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew man. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Moses ran away because pharaoh was angry with him. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The priest of Midian had eight daughters. \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 2: Fleeing an Enemy  
2.2 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 1)

6. Jethro invited Moses to stay with him because he had rescued Jethro's daughters. \_\_\_\_\_
7. God had forgotten about the Israelites \_\_\_\_\_

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

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| _____ 1. rapidly | a. hitting very hard                         |
| _____ 2. decreed | b. quickly                                   |
| _____ 3. reeds   | c. save from danger                          |
| _____ 4. cruel   | d. made a law                                |
| _____ 5. tar     | e. make someone part of the family           |
| _____ 6. adopted | f. sticky, black material that is waterproof |
| _____ 7. beating | g. bringing pain; no mercy                   |
| _____ 8. rescue  | h. a type of long grass-like plant           |

Fill in the blanks with the words above.

1. The pharaoh \_\_\_\_\_ that Hebrew baby boys should be thrown in the river Nile because the population had grown \_\_\_\_\_. This was a very \_\_\_\_\_ thing to do!
2. Moses mother made a basket out of \_\_\_\_\_ and covered it with \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Pharaoh's daughter \_\_\_\_\_ Moses.
4. Moses saw one Hebrew man \_\_\_\_\_ another Hebrew.
5. When shepherds drove Jethro's daughters away from the well, Moses \_\_\_\_\_ them.

### Discussion

- *Easier*

1. Why were the Egyptians worried about the Hebrews?
2. What did pharaoh do to stop the Hebrew population from growing?

Chapter 2: Fleeing an Enemy  
2.2 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 1)

3. What did Moses' mother do to hide Moses?
4. Who found Moses in the river?
5. What do you think Moses' life was like growing up with the royal family?
6. Did Moses forget about his people, the Hebrews?
7. What terrible thing did Moses do?
8. Where did Moses go?
9. Do you think Moses forgot about his people in Egypt?
10. How did God feel about the Hebrews in Egypt?

- *Intermediate*

1. Why were the Egyptians worried about the Hebrews?
2. What did pharaoh do to stop the Hebrew population from growing?
3. What happened to Moses not long after he was born? Do you think he was lucky?
4. Why is the story of his adoption important?
5. What does the murder of the Egyptian show about Moses character and thinking?
6. What were the consequences of Moses' actions?
7. How does Moses show another side of his character in Midian?
8. Do you think Moses forgot about his life in Egypt?

Chapter 2: Fleeing an Enemy  
2.2 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 1)

9. Do you think God forgot about the descendants of Jacob and His promise to them?

- *Challenging*

1. Why were the Egyptians worried about the Hebrews? What did pharaoh do to stop the Hebrew population from growing?
2. What happened to Moses not long after he was born? Do you think he was lucky?
3. Why is what happened to Moses while he was young important?
4. Do you think that Moses identifies with the Egyptians or with the Hebrews? Why do you think that?
5. What kinds of consequences did Moses face for his actions?
6. Do you think the way he treated the daughters of Reuel to be an indication of his true character?
7. Do you think Moses would ever forget Egypt?
8. The Hebrews had been suffering for many years. Do you think God had forgotten about the children of Jacob or His promise to them?

## Moses, out of Egypt (Part 2)

Exodus 12:1-42

**Background:** In the last lesson we learned about how the Israelites were suffering as slaves in Egypt. God had made a promise to protect them and He "heard their cry for help". We also learned about Moses, an Israelite who grew up in Pharaoh's family, but who had to run away from Egypt. After 40 years in the desert of Midian, God spoke to Moses in a very special way and sent him back to Egypt to **persuade** Pharaoh (king) to let God's people go. Moses and his brother Aaron spoke to Pharaoh, but he kept refusing, even when God sent nine **plagues** on Egypt. This part of the story starts as God prepares the worst plague of all.

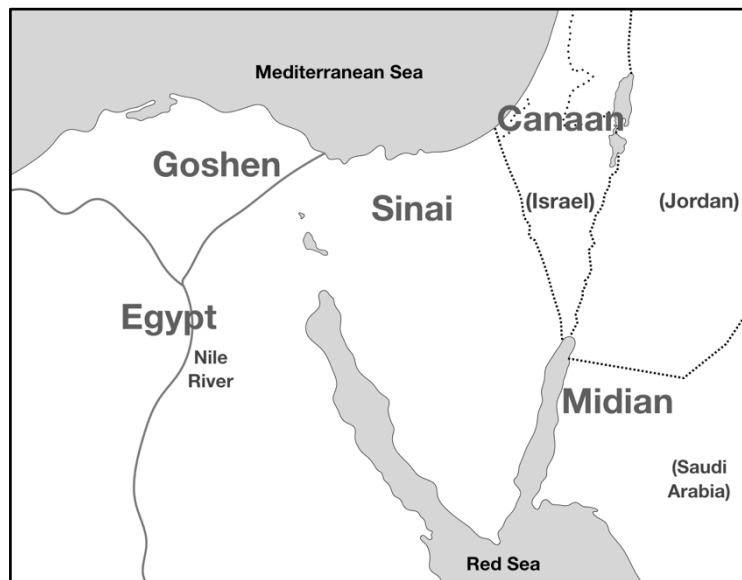
### Before You Read:

1. Can you tell about a hard time that you felt would never end?
2. What happened to end it?

### The Passage

Exodus 12: Some time later the LORD said to Moses and Aaron:

<sup>2</sup> "This month is to be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup> Tell the people of Israel that on the tenth day of this month the head of each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for his family to eat...<sup>6</sup> Each family must take care of its animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, when the animals are to be killed. <sup>7</sup> Some of the blood must



be put on the two **doorposts** and above the door of each house where the animals are to be eaten... <sup>11</sup> When you eat the meal, be dressed and ready to travel. Have your sandals on, carry your walking stick in your hand, and eat quickly. This is the Passover Festival in honour of me, your LORD.

Chapter Two: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy  
2.3 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 2)

<sup>12</sup> That same night I will pass through Egypt and kill the first-born son in every family and the first-born male of all animals. I am the LORD, and I will **punish** the gods of Egypt. <sup>13</sup> The blood on the houses will show me where you live, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. Then you won't be bothered by the terrible **disasters** I will bring on Egypt.

<sup>14</sup> Remember this day and celebrate it each year as a festival in my honour. <sup>15</sup> For seven days you must eat bread made without **yeast**. And on the first of these seven days, you must remove all yeast from your homes. If you eat anything made with yeast during this festival, you will no longer be part of Israel"...



Two Israelites applying their Passover lamb's blood on their two doorposts and above the door.

Pinterest.

<https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/282812051582078314/visual-search/?x=10&y=10&w=324&h=379>

<sup>30</sup> That night the king, his officials, and everyone else in Egypt got up and started crying **bitterly**. In every Egyptian home, someone was dead. <sup>31</sup> During the night the king sent for Moses and Aaron and told them, "Get your people out of my country and leave us alone! Go and worship the LORD...But ask your God to be kind to me."

<sup>33</sup> The Egyptians did everything they could to get the Israelites to leave their country fast. They said, "Please hurry and leave. If you don't, we will all be dead."

<sup>34</sup> So the Israelites quickly made some bread dough and put it in pans. But they did not mix any yeast in the dough to make it rise. They wrapped cloth around the pans and carried them on their shoulders...

<sup>37</sup> The Israelites walked from the city of Rameses to the city of Succoth. There were about six hundred thousand of them, not counting women and children.

## Chapter Two: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.3 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 2)

<sup>38</sup> Many other people went with them as well, and there were also a lot of sheep, goats, and cattle. <sup>39</sup> They left Egypt in such a hurry that they did not have time to prepare any food except the bread dough made without yeast. So they baked it and made thin bread.

<sup>40-41</sup> The LORD's people left Egypt exactly four hundred thirty years after they had arrived. <sup>42</sup> On that night the LORD **kept watch** for them, and on this same night each year Israel will always keep watch in honour of the LORD.

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

### Passage Questions

Put the story in the right order. The first one is done for you.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ God told them not to put yeast in their dough and be ready to leave
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ Pharaoh (the king) ordered Moses, "Get your people out of my country".
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ God sent a plague that killed the firstborn son of the Egyptians.
- d) 1 God told Moses to go back to Egypt and speak to Pharaoh.
- e) \_\_\_\_\_ The Egyptians helped the Israelites to leave quickly.
- f) \_\_\_\_\_ Pharaoh would not listen to Moses even after God sent 9 plagues.
- g) \_\_\_\_\_ All the Israelites left Egypt, and they still keep the Passover festival to remember how God saved them.
- h) \_\_\_\_\_ God told the people of Israel to kill a lamb or goat and put blood around their door.



## Chapter Two: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.3 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 2)

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

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. _____ persuade   | a. terrible events  |
| 2. _____ doorpost   | b. to cause pain to someone for doing evil                |
| 3. _____ plague     | c. to guard against danger or to pay attention            |
| 4. _____ punish     | d. to get somebody to do something                        |
| 5. _____ yeast      | e. with deep sadness                                      |
| 6. _____ disasters  | f. part of a doorway beside the door                      |
| 7. _____ bitterly   | g. something used in bread which causes the dough to rise |
| 8. _____ keep watch | h. a wide-spread sickness or terrible event               |

Fill in the blanks with the words above.

1. The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ over his people on their way out of Egypt.
2. The people made flat bread because they had no \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God sent ten \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the gods of Egypt.
4. The Egyptians cried \_\_\_\_\_ when their firstborns died, and they told the Israelites to leave so they wouldn't have more \_\_\_\_\_.
5. God sent Moses to \_\_\_\_\_ Pharaoh to let the people go.
6. The Israelites listened to God and put blood on their \_\_\_\_\_.

### Discussion

- *Basic*

1. Why were the people of Israel crying to God for help?
2. Why did it take so many plagues to persuade pharaoh?
3. What did the people do to avoid the last plague?
4. Why did the Egyptians want the Israelites to leave quickly?
5. Why do you think the story talks so much about the bread?

## Chapter Two: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.3 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 2)

6. How many people left Egypt?
7. How long had the people of Israel lived in Egypt?
8. Who did God say He was punishing with the plagues?
9. Do you think Pharaoh would have changed his mind if God had sent another plague that was not deadly?

- *Intermediate*

1. Why were the people of Israel crying to God for help? Why do you think Pharaoh was not sympathetic?
2. Why did it take so many plagues to persuade pharaoh? What finally persuaded Pharaoh to let the Israelites go?
3. What did the people do to avoid the last plague? What was the significance of the lamb's blood?
4. Why did the Egyptians want the Israelites to leave quickly? In verses 35-36 the Bible says the Israelites *"... had gone to their Egyptian neighbours and asked for gold and silver and for clothes. <sup>36</sup> The LORD had made the Egyptians friendly toward the people of Israel, and they gave them whatever they asked for. In this way they carried away the wealth of the Egyptians."* Was it wrong for the Israelites to take advantage of the Egyptians before leaving?
5. Why is the fact that the bread had not risen so important?
6. How many people left Egypt? How would their leaving affect Egypt?
7. How long had the people of Israel lived in Egypt? Why do you think God left them there so long?
8. Who did God say He was punishing with the plagues? Who suffered from them?

## Chapter Two: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.3 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 2)

- *Challenging*

1. Why were the people of Israel groaning? What is the connection between sin and groaning?
2. Why did it take so many plagues to persuade pharaoh? What was the effect of the last plague?
3. How did the Israelites protect themselves from the last plague? What is the significance of the lamb's blood? Why was the blood put on the doorposts?
4. In verses 35-36 the Bible says the Israelites "*... had gone to their Egyptian neighbours and asked for gold and silver and for clothes.* <sup>36</sup> *The LORD had made the Egyptians friendly toward the people of Israel, and they gave them whatever they asked for. In this way they carried away the wealth of the Egyptians.*" What would motivate the Egyptians to give away their gold and silver? Was it just for the Israelites to plunder the Egyptians in this way?
5. Why is the fact that the bread had not risen so important? What do you think the bread symbolizes?
6. How many people left Egypt? How would their leaving affect Egypt? Was this fair to Egypt?
7. How long had the children of Israel lived in Egypt? Why do you think God left them there so long? How do we benefit from their long affliction?
8. Who did God say He was punishing with the plagues? Who suffered from them?

## Moses, out of Egypt (Part 3)

Exodus 14:5-31

**Background:** In the last lesson we learned about how God forced the Egyptian king to let the Israelite slaves leave Egypt after 400 years. God promised the Israelite's ancestor Jacob, also called Israel, to protect His people and lead them back to Canaan. God chose Moses as His prophet and leader of the Israelites. The story begins as the people of Israel head towards Canaan.

### Before You Read:

1. Have you ever had a 'narrow escape'? What happened?

### The Passage

Exodus 14: <sup>5</sup> When the king of Egypt heard that the Israelites had finally left, he and his officials changed their minds and said, "Look what we have done! We let them get away, and they will no longer be our slaves."

<sup>6</sup> The king got his war chariot and army ready. <sup>7</sup> He commanded his officers in charge of his six hundred best chariots and all his other

chariots to start after the Israelites. <sup>8</sup> The LORD made the king so **stubborn** that he went after them, even though the Israelites proudly went on their way. <sup>9</sup> But the king's horses and chariots and soldiers caught up with them while they were camping by the Red Sea near Pi-Hahiroth and Baal-Zephon.

<sup>10</sup> When the Israelites saw the king coming with his army, they were frightened and begged the LORD for help. <sup>11</sup> They also **complained** to Moses, "Wasn't there enough room in Egypt to bury us? Is that why you brought us out here to die in the desert? Why did you bring us out of Egypt anyway?" <sup>12</sup> While we were there, didn't



## Chapter Two: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.4 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 3)

we tell you to leave us alone? We had rather be slaves in Egypt than die in this desert!"

<sup>13</sup> But Moses answered, "Don't be afraid! Be brave, and you will see the LORD save you today. These Egyptians will never **bother** you again. <sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you, and you won't have to do a thing."

<sup>15</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you keep calling out to me for help? Tell the Israelites to move forward. <sup>16</sup> Then hold your walking stick over the sea. The water will open up and make a road where they can walk through on dry ground. <sup>17</sup> I will make the Egyptians so stubborn that they will go after you. Then I will be praised because of what happens to the king and his chariots and **cavalry**. <sup>18</sup> The Egyptians will know for sure that I am the LORD."

<sup>19</sup> All this time God's angel had gone ahead of Israel's army, but now he moved behind them. A large cloud had also gone ahead of them, <sup>20</sup> but now it moved between the Egyptians and the Israelites. The cloud gave light to the Israelites, but made it dark for the Egyptians, and during the night they could not come any closer.

<sup>21</sup> Moses **stretched** his arm over the sea, and the LORD sent a strong east wind that blew all night until there was dry land where the water had been. The sea opened up, <sup>22</sup> and the Israelites walked through on dry land with a wall of water on each side.

<sup>23</sup> The Egyptian chariots and cavalry went after them. <sup>24</sup> But before daylight the LORD looked down at the Egyptian army from the **fiery** cloud and made them **panic**. <sup>25</sup> Their chariot wheels got stuck, and it was hard for them to move. So the Egyptians said to one another, "Let's leave these



Egyptian war chariot in the time of Moses

The Exodus. Bible History. <https://www.bible-history.com/old-testament/exodus-from-egypt.html>

Chapter Two: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy  
2.4 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 3)

people alone! The LORD is on their side and is fighting against us."

<sup>26</sup> The LORD told Moses, "Stretch your arm toward the sea—the water will cover the Egyptians and their cavalry and chariots." <sup>27</sup> Moses stretched out his arm, and at daybreak the water rushed toward the Egyptians. They tried to run away, but the LORD drowned them in the sea. <sup>28</sup> The water came and covered the chariots, the cavalry, and the whole Egyptian army that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them was left alive. <sup>29</sup> But the sea had made a wall of water on each side of the Israelites; so they walked through on dry land.

<sup>30</sup> On that day, when the Israelites saw the bodies of the Egyptians washed up on the shore, they knew that the LORD had saved them. <sup>31</sup> Because of the mighty power he had used against the Egyptians, the Israelites worshiped him and trusted him and his servant Moses.

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

### Passage Questions

Match the sentence beginning to the correct ending:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. _____ God had chosen Moses                               | b. ... they told Moses it was his fault.                      |
| 2. _____ Pharaoh and his officials                          | c. ... by putting His cloud between them.                     |
| 3. _____ When the Israelites saw the army                   | d. ...to be His prophet and lead the people.                  |
| 4. The Israelites thought that                              | e. ...changed their minds about letting the Israelites leave. |
| 5. _____ God stopped the army from attacking the Israelites | f. ... but the Egyptian army drowned in the sea.              |

## Chapter Two: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.4 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 3)

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Moses stretched out his stick
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The Israelites crossed on dry ground
- g. ... it was better to be slaves than die.
- h. ... and a strong wind divided the sea.

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

- |                     |                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ chariots   | a. unable to think because of fear  |
| 2. _____ complained | b. express unhappiness              |
| 3. _____ bother     | c. unreasonable                     |
| 4. _____ cavalry    | d. made his arm as long as possible |
| 5. _____ stubborn   | e. fast vehicles used in war        |
| 6. _____ fiery      | f. with fire                        |
| 7. _____ stretched  | g. soldiers on horses               |
| 8. _____ panic      | h. to cause trouble for someone     |

Fill in the blanks with the words above.

1. Pharaoh's army followed the people of Israel with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
2. The people \_\_\_\_\_ to Moses that they were going to die in the desert.
3. Pharaoh was very \_\_\_\_\_ when he went after the people, but Moses promised them that the king would never \_\_\_\_\_ them again.
4. Moses \_\_\_\_\_ out his arm in the direction of the sea and the water formed walls on each side.
5. God looked down from the \_\_\_\_\_ cloud, and the Egyptian army was in a \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Discussion

- *Easier*

1. Why did pharaoh change his mind?

## Chapter Two: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.4 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 3)

2. Were the Israelites afraid at first before they saw the army?
  3. What did they say to Moses when they saw the army?
  4. Did God want his people to fight the Egyptians?
  5. What action did God want Moses to take?
  6. What happened when Moses stretched out his arm?
  7. What happened when the Egyptian army went into the sea after the Israelites?
  8. When did the Egyptians realize God was against them?
  9. How did the people respond when they saw what happened to the Egyptians?
  10. What lesson is in this story for us today?
- *Intermediate*
    1. Why did pharaoh change his mind? Do you think he hadn't learned anything from the plagues?
    2. What did the Israelites say to Moses when they saw the Egyptian army? What did they mean? Had they not learned anything from the plagues and Passover?
    3. Why didn't God want his people to fight the Egyptians? Do you think the Israelites trusted God?
    4. What action did God want Moses to take? What did God tell Moses would happen?
    5. When did the Egyptians realize God was against them?



## Chapter Two: Travellers Fleeing an Enemy

### 2.4 Moses, out of Egypt (Part 3)

6. What were the consequences of Moses' stretching out his arm? What does this show about Moses' faith?
7. Do you think the people of Israel had more faith in God at this point? Do you think they would be more afraid or more trusting in God?
8. What lesson is in this story for us today?

#### • *Challenging*

1. Why did pharaoh change his mind? Why hadn't he learned anything from the plagues? What does this say about the miracles and faith?
2. What did the people say to Moses when they saw the army? What did their words show? Why hadn't they learned anything from the plagues or the Passover?
3. Why didn't God want his people to fight the Egyptians? Why had God trapped the Israelites between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea?
4. What did God say to Moses? Why is that significant? What action did God want Moses to take?
5. How did God use the fiery cloud? Why was this significant?
6. What were the consequences of Moses' stretching out his arm? What do you think about Moses' faith in God? Would you like to have been there, among the Israelites?
7. Do you think the people gained as much faith as Moses after the destruction of the Egyptian army? Do you think they would be more fearful?
8. What lesson is in this story for us today?

## Hagar Flees Sarah

Genesis 16:1-15; 21:8-20

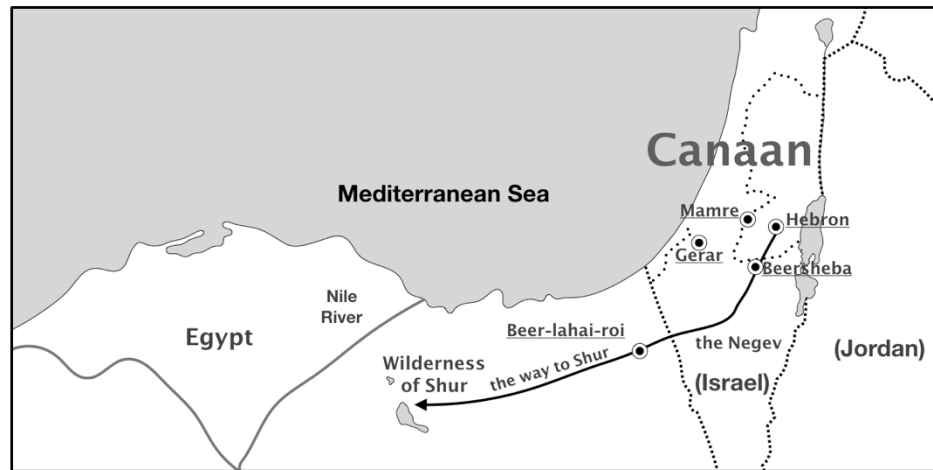
**Background:** These passages tell about Abram's family after he followed God to Canaan. God had promised him that his descendants would be as many as the stars in the sky, even though his wife, Sarai could not have children. Later God gave Abram and Sarai new names based on that promise: Abraham (Father of a multitude) and Sarah (Princess).

### Before You Read:

1. What kinds of disagreements do families have?
2. What brings peace in a family?

### The Passages

Genesis 16: Abram's wife Sarai had not been able to have any children. But she owned a young Egyptian slave woman named Hagar, <sup>2</sup> and Sarai said to Abram, "The LORD has not given me any children. Sleep with my slave, and if she has a child, it will be mine." Abram



agreed, <sup>3</sup> and Sarai gave him Hagar to be his wife. This happened after Abram had lived in the land of Canaan for ten years. <sup>4</sup> Later, when Hagar knew she was going to have a baby, she became proud and was hateful to Sarai.

<sup>5</sup> Then Sarai said to Abram, "It's all your fault! I gave you my slave woman, but she has been hateful to me ever since she found out she was pregnant. You have done me wrong, and you will have to **answer to the LORD** for this."

<sup>6</sup> Abram said, "All right! She's your slave, and you can do whatever you want with her." But Sarai began treating Hagar so **harshly** that she finally ran away.

## Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression

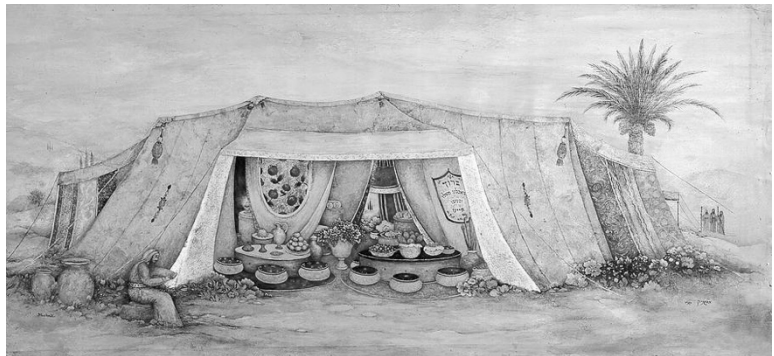
### 3.1 Hagar Flees Sarah

<sup>7</sup> Hagar stopped to rest at a **spring** in the desert on the road to Shur. While she was there, the angel of the LORD came to her <sup>8</sup> and asked, "Hagar, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

She answered, "I'm running away from Sarai, my owner."

<sup>9</sup> The angel said, "Go back to Sarai and be her slave. <sup>10-11</sup> I will give you a son, who will be called Ishmael, because I have heard your cry for help. And later I will give you so many descendants that no one will be able to count them all. <sup>12</sup> But your son will live far from his relatives; he will be like a wild **donkey**, fighting everyone, and everyone fighting him."

<sup>13</sup> Hagar thought, "Have I really seen God and lived to tell about it?" So from then on she called him, "The God Who Sees Me."...



Abraham's Tent by Michael Muchnik. Fineartamerica.  
<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/abrahams-tent-michael-muchnik.html>

*The story continues when, miraculously, Sarah did bear a son for Abraham when he was 100 years old and she was very old herself. Sarah named her new baby Isaac.*

*The time came when Isaac was old enough to no longer need to be **nursed**. This time in a child's life was a cause for celebration, and Abraham gave a big feast for Isaac. But on the day of that feast Sarah noticed Ishmael mocking Isaac.*

<sup>10</sup> [Sarah] said to Abraham, "Get rid of that Egyptian slave woman and her son! I don't want him to **inherit** anything. It should all go to my son."

<sup>11</sup> Abraham was worried about Ishmael. <sup>12</sup> But God said, "Abraham, don't worry about your slave woman and the boy. Just do what Sarah tells you. Isaac will inherit your family name, <sup>13</sup> but the son of the slave woman is also your son, and I will make his descendants into a great nation."

<sup>14</sup> Early the next morning Abraham gave Hagar an animal skin full of water and some bread. Then he put the boy on her shoulder and sent them away. They wandered around in the desert near Beersheba, <sup>15</sup> and after they had run out of water, Hagar

## Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression

### 3.1 Hagar Flees Sarah

put her son under a bush. <sup>16</sup> Then she sat down a long way off, because she could not bear to watch him die. And she cried bitterly.

<sup>17</sup> When God heard the boy crying, the angel of God called out to Hagar from heaven and said, "Hagar, why are you worried? Don't be afraid. I have heard your son crying. <sup>18</sup> Help him up and hold his hand, because I will make him the father of a great nation." <sup>19</sup> Then God let her see a well. So she went to the well and filled the skin with water, then gave some to her son.

<sup>20-21</sup> God blessed Ishmael, and as the boy grew older, he became an expert with his bow and arrows...

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

### Passage Questions

#### True or False

1. Hagar was Sarah's best friend. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Sarah wanted to have a baby. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Hagar behaved differently when she became pregnant \_\_\_\_\_
4. God tells Hagar to run away to Egypt. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Hagar believed that it was dangerous to see God. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Sarah did not want Ishmael to keep his place in the family. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Abraham sends Hagar and Isaac away. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Hagar and Ishmael died in the desert. \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression

### 3.1 Hagar Flees Sarah

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

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| _____1. multitude    | a. an animal related to a horse        |
| _____2. slave        | b. to gain possessions from a relative |
| _____3. harshly      | c. to feed a baby from the breast      |
| _____4. a spring     | d. impossibly                          |
| _____5. donkey       | e. cruelly                             |
| _____6. miraculously | f. very many                           |
| _____7. to nurse     | g. a person owned by someone           |
| _____8. inherit      | h. where water comes out of the ground |

Fill in the blanks with the words above.

1. Abraham's name means father of a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Hagar was hateful to Sarai, even though Hagar was only a \_\_\_\_\_, so Sarai treated her \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Hagar ran away and stopped beside \_\_\_\_\_.
4. God said that Ishmael would be like a wild \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ had Isaac when she was very old, and Abraham gave a feast when she did not \_\_\_\_\_ her son anymore.
6. Sarah did not want Ishmael to \_\_\_\_\_ anything from Abraham.

### Discussion

- *Easier*

1. Why did Sarai give her slave to her husband?
2. How did Hagar feel when she became pregnant? How did Sarai feel?
3. What did Abram tell his wife about how to solve this problem?
4. Who found Hagar near the spring? What did he say to her?

## Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression

### 3.1 Hagar Flees Sarah

5. What did God promise Hagar?
6. What did Hagar call God?
7. Do Sarah and Hagar become friends after the birth of their children?
8. Are God's words to Abraham the same as what God had already told Hagar?
9. Do you think that what Abraham did was cruel to Hagar and Ishmael? Why?
10. How did God rescue Hagar and Ishmael?

- *Intermediate*

1. Why did Sarai give her slave to her husband? Do you think this was a good idea?
2. How did Hagar feel when she became pregnant? How did Sarai feel? Why did they have these reactions?
3. What did Abram tell his wife about how to solve this problem? Do you think Abram did the right thing?
4. Who found Hagar near the spring? What did he say to her? Why is this important?
5. What did God promise Hagar?
6. What did Hagar call God? Why is this name meaningful?
7. Do Sarah and Hagar become friends after the birth of their children? Explain why you think not.
8. How do God's words to Abraham echo what God had already told Hagar?
9. Do you think what Abraham did was cruel to Hagar and Ishmael?

## Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression

### 3.1 Hagar Flees Sarah

10. How did God rescue Hagar and Ishmael? What does this tell you about the character of God?

- *Challenging*

1. Why did Sarai give her slave to her husband? How do you think she expected things to turn out? Was this a wise decision?
2. How did Hagar feel when she became pregnant? Why did Sarai blame Abram? Why did they have these reactions?
3. What did Abram tell his wife about how to solve this problem? What does this tell you about Abram? About God's choice of Abram and Sarai to be the founding couple of His people?
4. Who found Hagar near the spring? Why does he tell her to go back and be a slave of Sarai? He tells her not only to return but gives her promises as well. What does this show you about God?
5. What did God promise Hagar? What did He say her son would be like? Why do you think God named her child?
6. What did Hagar call God? Why is this name meaningful? Do you think it also has significance to us today?
7. Do Sarah and Hagar could become friends after the birth of their children? Explain why you think not. There's a proverb, "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree." How do you see that truth in this story?
8. How does God's words to Abraham echo what God had already told Hagar? What did He tell Abraham to do?
9. Do you think what Abraham did was cruel to Hagar and Ishmael? Why had God let Sarah give such a harsh sentence?

## Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression

### 3.1 Hagar Flees Sarah

10. How did God rescue Hagar and Ishmael? Do you think Hagar trusted God to take care of them when she set out? What does this tell you about the character of God?



## David Flees Saul (Part 1)

## 1 Samuel 16-18

**Background:** Almost 1000 years after Abraham, God's promises to him came true: his descendants were a nation of millions of people. But they lost wars with enemies like the Philistines when they did not listen to God. When the people told the prophet Samuel to give them a king, God allowed Samuel to **anoint** the warrior Saul. But, when Saul won many battles, he began disobeying God. Samuel told Saul, "Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you from being king." God chose a shepherd boy called David to be king instead. The Bible says, "Samuel poured the oil on David's head... At that moment, the Spirit of the LORD took control of David and stayed with him from then on..."(1 Samuel 15:26 & 16:13)

### Before You Read:

1. Who was a very good leader in your country's history? Who was the worst?
2. What made them good or bad?

### The Passage

1 Samuel 16: <sup>14</sup>The Spirit of the LORD had left Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD was terrifying him... *David had a good reputation as a musician, so Saul took his officials' advice and brought him to the palace...* <sup>23</sup>Whenever the evil spirit from God bothered Saul, David would play his harp. Saul would relax and feel better, and the evil spirit would go away.

1 Samuel 17: *The Philistine army came to battle Saul and the men of Israel.* <sup>4</sup>The Philistine army had a hero named Goliath who... was over nine feet tall... <sup>8</sup>Goliath went out and shouted to the army of Israel,



Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.2 David Flees Saul's (Part 1)

"Why are you lining up for battle? I'm the best soldier in our army, and all of you are in Saul's army. Choose your best soldier to come out and fight me! <sup>9</sup>If he can kill me, our people will be your slaves. But if I kill him, your people will be our slaves. <sup>10</sup> ... Choose someone to fight me!"

<sup>11</sup> Saul and his men heard what Goliath said, but they were so frightened of Goliath that they couldn't do a thing... <sup>16</sup> Goliath came out and gave his challenge every morning and every evening for forty days...

*One day David heard him and said, <sup>21</sup>"Who does that worthless Philistine think he is? He's making fun of the army of the living God!"...<sup>31</sup> Some soldiers overheard David talking, so they told Saul what David had said. Saul sent for David, and he spoke to the king.*

<sup>32</sup> "Your Majesty," he said, "this Philistine shouldn't turn us into cowards. I'll go out and fight him myself!...<sup>34</sup> Your Majesty, I take care of my father's sheep. And when one of them is dragged off by a lion or a bear, <sup>35</sup> I go after it and beat the wild animal until it lets the sheep go... <sup>37</sup> The LORD has rescued me from the claws of lions and bears, and he will keep me safe from the hands of this Philistine."

"All right," Saul answered, "go ahead and fight him. And I hope the LORD will help you."

<sup>40</sup> David... picked up his shepherd's stick. He went out to a stream and picked up five smooth rocks and put them in his leather bag. Then with his sling in his hand, he went straight toward Goliath... <sup>42</sup> When Goliath saw that David was just a



David and Goliath  
Courageous Faith: Trusting God Over Tools and Techniques.  
Christchurchlakeland.com <https://christchurchlakeland.com/courageous-faith-trusting-god-tools-techniques/>

healthy, good-looking boy, he made fun of him. <sup>43</sup> "Do you think I'm a dog?" Goliath

## Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression

### 3.2 David Flees Saul's (Part 1)

asked. "Is that why you've come after me with a stick?" He cursed David in the name of the Philistine gods <sup>44</sup> and shouted, "Come on! When I'm finished with you, I'll feed you to the birds and wild animals!"

<sup>45</sup> David answered, "You've come out to fight me with a sword and a spear and a dagger. But I've come out to fight you in the name of the LORD All-Powerful. He is the God of Israel's army, and you have **insulted** him too! <sup>46</sup> Today the LORD will help me defeat you. I'll knock you down and cut off your head, ... Then the whole world will know that Israel has a real God. <sup>47</sup> Everybody here will see that the LORD doesn't need swords or spears to save his people. The LORD always wins his battles, and he will help us defeat you.

<sup>48</sup> When Goliath started forward, David ran toward him. <sup>49</sup> He put a rock in his sling and swung the sling around by its straps. When he let go of one strap, the rock flew out and hit Goliath on the forehead. It cracked his skull, and he fell facedown on the ground... <sup>51</sup> David ran over and pulled out Goliath's sword. Then he used it to cut off Goliath's head. When the Philistines saw what had happened to their hero, they started running away. <sup>52</sup> But the soldiers of Israel and Judah let out a battle cry and went after them as far as Gath and Ekron...

1 Samuel 18: <sup>6</sup> David had killed Goliath, the battle was over, and the Israelite army set out for home... Women came out of each Israelite town to welcome King Saul... *Saul was joyful with victory!* They were singing happy songs and dancing to the music of tambourines and harps. <sup>7</sup> They sang:

"Saul has killed a thousand enemies;  
David has killed ten thousand enemies!"

<sup>8</sup> This song made Saul very angry, and he thought, "They are saying that David has killed ten times more enemies than I ever did. Next they will want to make him king." <sup>9</sup> Saul never again trusted David.

<sup>10</sup> The next day the LORD let an evil spirit take control of Saul, and he began acting like a crazy man inside his house. David came to play the harp for Saul as usual, but this time Saul had a spear in his hand. <sup>11</sup> Saul thought, "I'll pin David to the wall." He threw the spear at David twice, but David **dodged** and got away both times.

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.2 David Flees Saul's (Part 1)

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

### Passage Questions

Put the story in the right order. The first one is done for you.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ Goliath insulted Saul's army and challenged one of them to fight him.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ David knocked Goliath down with his sling and cut off his head.
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ David offered to fight Goliath.
- d) 1 The people asked Samuel to give them a king.
- e) \_\_\_\_\_ The women of Israel sang songs to honour David more than Saul.
- f) \_\_\_\_\_ God chose Saul to be king, but Saul disobeyed God.
- g) \_\_\_\_\_ Saul tried to kill David.
- h) \_\_\_\_\_ God told Samuel to anoint the shepherd boy, David, as king.

Match the following words with their meanings.

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. insult      | a. laugh at disrespectfully                          |
| _____ 2. warrior     | b. people afraid to do what they should do           |
| _____ 3. cowards     | c. soldier or fighter                                |
| _____ 4. anoint      | d. move quickly out of the way                       |
| _____ 5. make fun of | e. a strap with a pocket in it used to throw a stone |
| _____ 6. dagger      | f. show disrespect                                   |
| _____ 7. sling       | g. long knife  |
| _____ 8. dodged      | h. to choose someone to do something                 |

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.2 David Flees Saul's (Part 1)

Use words from the list above to fill in these sentences.

1. Goliath was a huge \_\_\_\_\_, and he made the Israelites into \_\_\_\_\_ who were afraid to fight.
2. Goliath \_\_\_\_\_ the Israelite army and God, and he \_\_\_\_\_ David also.
3. Goliath had a spear, a sword and a \_\_\_\_\_, but David had only a stick and a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Saul threw a spear at David, but David \_\_\_\_\_ it twice.
5. Samuel poured oil on David's head to \_\_\_\_\_ him to become the next king.

### Discussion

- *Easier*

1. What made Saul a good king in the beginning?
2. What made Saul a bad king? Why do you think he changed?
3. Why was David a good choice for king?
4. Did God put David in King Saul's place right away? Why?
5. What was Goliath's challenge?
6. How did Saul respond to Goliath? How did David respond to Goliath? Why do you think they responded so differently?
7. What was Saul's first reaction when David killed Goliath? Why do you think Saul responded this way?
8. Why do you think Saul tried to kill David?

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.2 David Flees Saul's (Part 1)

- *Intermediate*

1. *1 Samuel 8: 5 - 8 says Israel's elders went to Samuel and said, "Now we want a king to be our leader, just like all the other nations. Choose one for us!"*<sup>6</sup> *Samuel was upset to hear the leaders say they wanted a king, so he prayed about it.*<sup>7</sup> *The LORD answered, "Samuel, do everything they want you to do. I am really the one they have rejected as their king."*  
Why did the Israelites want a king? Was it good that they wanted a king?
2. The Bible describes Saul as being the best looking and tallest man in Israel. Would this fit people's ideas about a king? In what ways was Saul a good king?
3. Why did God reject Saul as king? Was God being unfair to Saul?
4. In the Bible, we learn that God told Samuel to go and find the new king among the sons of Jesse. Jesse only brought seven of his sons to Samuel. Even though Samuel thought all seven would make good choices, God rejected all of them. Samuel then asked Jesse if he had another son, and then had to tell Jesse to bring David. How do you think David's brothers reacted to this?
5. What personality traits did David have that made him a good choice for king?
6. Why didn't God replace Saul with David king right away?
7. Why would the Philistines have chosen the 'champion' method of warfare - when the fight between the two best warriors decides who wins the battle? Do you think they gave the Israelites any choice?
8. Compare Saul's and David's response to Goliath. What explanation could there be for the differences between them?
9. What was Saul's first reaction when David killed Goliath? Why do you think Saul responded this way?

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.2 David Flees Saul's (Part 1)

10. What prompted Saul to try to kill David?

- *Challenging*

1. *1 Samuel 8: 5 - 8 says Israel's elders went to Samuel and said, "Now we want a king to be our leader, just like all the other nations. Choose one for us!"<sup>6</sup> Samuel was upset to hear the leaders say they wanted a king, so he prayed about it. <sup>7</sup> The LORD answered, "Samuel, do everything they want you to do. I am really the one they have rejected as their king." Were the Israelites right to demand a king? Explain your answer.*
2. The Bible describes Saul as being the best looking and tallest man in Israel. Was Saul the kind of king that the Israelites wanted? Why or why not? Why does God give us what we want sometimes even when it doesn't honour Him?
3. What did you learn about Saul in this part of the story? If you were an employer, would you have kept Saul or fired him?
4. *In the Bible, we learn that God told Samuel to go and find the new king among the sons of Jesse. Jesse only brought seven of his sons to Samuel. Even though Samuel thought all seven would make good choices, God rejected all of them. Samuel then asked Jesse if he had another son, and then had to tell Jesse to bring David. The Bible records one of David's older brothers despising him and bringing accusations against him. Why do you think the brother did this?*
5. What personality traits did David have that would make him a good choice for king? Do you think Samuel was able to see this? Why was Samuel able to discern God's will?
6. Why didn't God replace King Saul with David right away?
7. Why would the Philistines have chosen the 'champion' method of warfare - when the fight between the two best warriors decides who wins the battle? Do you think they gave the Israelites any choice? Do you think this is a good way of doing battle?

## Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression

### 3.2 David Flees Saul's (Part 1)

8. Why were Saul and David so different in their response to Goliath?
9. What was Saul's first reaction when David killed Goliath? Why do you think Saul responded this way?
10. What motivated Saul to try to kill David? Do you think they will be able to become reconciled? Why or why not?



## David Flees Saul (Part 2) 1 Samuel:20: 5-42; Psalm 57:1-3

**Background:** In the last lesson we learned how God had rejected Saul as king over the Israelites after he had rejected God. God chose David, a shepherd boy, to be the new king when the time was right. David won many great victories against their Philistine enemies, because God's Spirit was upon him. This made Saul **jealous**, and he wanted David dead. However, Saul's son Jonathan had become David's closest friend. The story begins as David tries to find out his danger from Saul.

### Before You Read:

1. Who is the best friend you have had, and what made that person a good friend?

### The Passage

1 Samuel 20: *David spoke to Jonathan,* <sup>5</sup>“Tomorrow is the New Moon Festival, and I’m supposed to eat dinner with your father. But instead, I’ll hide in a field until the evening of the next day. <sup>6</sup>If Saul wonders where I am, tell him, ‘David asked me to let him go to his hometown of Bethlehem, so he could take part in a sacrifice his family makes there every year.’ <sup>7</sup>If your father says it’s all right, then I’m safe. But if he gets angry, you’ll know he wants to **harm** me. <sup>8</sup>Be kind to me. After all, it was your idea to promise the LORD that we would always be **loyal** friends.”...



David and Jonathan

Ian Dale, Dribbble.

<https://dribbble.com/shots/3669711-David-Jonathan>

<sup>12</sup> Jonathan said, “I **swear** by the LORD God of Israel, that two days from now I’ll know what my father is planning. Of course I’ll let you know if he’s friendly toward you. <sup>13</sup> But if he wants to harm you, I promise to tell you and help you escape. And I ask the LORD to punish me severely if I don’t keep my promise...”

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.3 David Flees Saul (Part 2)

*Jonathan agreed to meet David in a certain field after two days and give him the news in this way:*

"<sup>20</sup> I'll shoot three arrows at a target off to the side of the rock, <sup>21</sup> and send my servant to find the arrows. You'll know if it's safe to come out by what I tell him. If it is safe, I swear by the living LORD that I'll say, "The arrows are on this side of you! Pick them up!" <sup>22</sup> But if it isn't safe, I'll say to the boy, "The arrows are farther away!" This will mean that the LORD wants you to leave, and you must go."...

<sup>24</sup> So David hid there in the field.

During the New Moon Festival, Saul sat down to eat <sup>25</sup> by the wall, just as he always did. Jonathan sat across from him... But David's place was empty. <sup>26</sup> Saul didn't say anything that day, because he was thinking, "Something must have happened to make David unfit to be at the Festival. Yes, something must have happened."

<sup>27</sup> The day after the New Moon Festival, when David's place was still empty, Saul asked Jonathan, "Why hasn't that son of Jesse come to eat with us? He wasn't here yesterday, and he still isn't here today!"

*When Jonathan gave David's excuse to his father,* <sup>30</sup> Saul was furious with Jonathan and yelled, "You're no son of mine, you **traitor!** I know you've chosen to be loyal to that son of Jesse. You should be ashamed of yourself! And your own mother should be ashamed that you were ever born. <sup>31</sup> You'll never be safe, and your kingdom will be in danger as long as that son of Jesse is alive. Turn him over to me now! He deserves to die!"

<sup>32</sup> "Why do you want to kill David?" Jonathan asked. "What has he done?"

<sup>33</sup> Saul threw his spear at Jonathan and tried to kill him. Then Jonathan was sure that his father really did want to kill David... He got up, left the table, and didn't eat anything all that day.

<sup>35</sup> In the morning, Jonathan went out to the field to meet David. He took a servant boy along <sup>36</sup> and told him, "When I shoot the arrows, you run and find them for me."

... <sup>37</sup> When the boy got near the place where the arrow had landed, Jonathan shouted, "Isn't the arrow on past you?" <sup>38</sup> Jonathan shouted to him again, "Hurry up! Don't stop!"...

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.3 David Flees Saul (Part 2)

<sup>41</sup> After the boy had gone, David got up... and bowed very low three times. Then he and Jonathan kissed each other and cried, but David cried louder. <sup>42</sup> Jonathan said, "Take care of yourself. And remember, we each have asked the LORD to watch and make sure that we and our descendants keep our promise forever."

*Saul and his army hunted David for four years. David was constantly on the run through the wilderness. The areas where he stayed are shown on the map below. Even though Saul wanted to kill him, David showed loyalty to him and to God. Twice David had a chance to kill Saul, but he refused to take Saul's life.*

*David wrote this prayer to God while he was in the wilderness:*

God Most High, have  
pity on me!  
Have mercy. I run to  
you for safety.  
In the shadow of your  
wings,  
I seek protection till  
danger dies down.

<sup>2</sup>I pray to you, my  
protector.

<sup>3</sup>You will send help  
from heaven...,

but you will bring trouble on my attackers.  
You are faithful, and you can be trusted. (Psalm 57: 1-3)



*Eight years after David had fled, Saul, Jonathan and two other of Saul's sons were killed in a battle with the Philistines at Gilboa. David mourned for them.*

*When David was 27 he became king of Israel, and he kept his promise to his dear friend Jonathan by taking care of Jonathan's young son all the days of his life.*

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.3 David Flees Saul (Part 2)

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

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

### Passage Questions

Change these False statements to True:

1. King Saul was happy that David won many victories.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Everyone in Saul's family hated David.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Saul listened to his son Jonathan.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. David joined Saul for the New Moon festival dinner.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Jonathan told David that if the arrow was close, he was in danger.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. David was happy when Saul was killed.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. David tried to kill Saul twice. \_\_\_\_\_

Match the following words with their meanings

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| _____1. rejected   | a. hurt  |
| _____2. traitor    | b. fleeing   |
| _____3. jealous    | c. not accept  |
| _____4. harm       | d. promise   |
| _____5. loyal      | e. angry that someone has what you want                                  |
| _____6. on the run | f. faithful  |
| _____7. swear      | g. was deeply sad at losing someone or something                         |
| _____8. mourned    | h. a person who betrays friends or his country by helping their enemies. |

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.3 David Flees Saul (Part 2)

Use the words above to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ Saul as Israel's king.
2. Saul was \_\_\_\_\_ of David's victories, and David was afraid Saul would \_\_\_\_\_ him.
3. Jonathan was a \_\_\_\_\_ friend to David, and he said " I \_\_\_\_\_ by the LORD God to help you".
4. Saul thought Jonathan was plotting with David against him. He told him that he was a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. David was \_\_\_\_\_ for many years in the wilderness.
6. When Saul and his sons died in battle, David \_\_\_\_\_ for them.

### Discussion

- *Easier*

1. Who was Jonathan? What was his relationship to David?
2. What did David ask Jonathan to do to see what Saul's intentions were?
3. How did Saul respond to Jonathan's excuse for David's absence?
4. What was Jonathan's plan to tell David whether Saul intended to kill him?
5. Why did Jonathan say to the boy, "Hurry! And don't stop running"?
6. Why did David come out from hiding, instead of leaving immediately?
7. What does David's prayer show about why he refused to kill Saul?
8. The Bible says that before Saul went to his final battle, he went to a witch in Endor and made her bring up Samuel's spirit from the dead. This was against God's law. What did this show about Saul?
9. What would David's life have been like all those years that Saul hunted him?

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.3 David Flees Saul (Part 2)

10. Why do you think that God made David live such a hard life for so many years?

11. Why did David take care of Jonathan's son?

• *Intermediate*

1. How did David ask Jonathan to test Saul's intentions?

2. What was Saul's response to Jonathan's excuse for David's absence? What does this show you about Saul?

3. What was Jonathan's plan to let David know Saul's intentions? Why was this a wise plan?

4. Why did Jonathan say to the boy, "Hurry! And don't stop running"? What was he expecting David to do?

5. Why did David come out from hiding, instead of leaving immediately? What did the two say to each other?

6. The Israelites mostly remained loyal to Saul after David fled. Why do you think that happened?

7. Why did David not kill Saul when he had the chance?

8. The Bible says that Jonathan was fearless and a great leader of men. It also says that Jonathan was willing for David to be king, rather than himself. What do you think of this?

9. What do you think David's life was like the four years Saul hunted for him?

10. Why do you think that God allowed David to live such a hard life for so many years?

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.3 David Flees Saul (Part 2)

11. The Bible says that before Saul went to his final battle, he went to a witch in Endor and made her bring up Samuel's spirit from the dead, which was against God's law. What did this show about Saul?
12. Samuel's spirit did talk to Saul, and told him that he and his sons, and the Israelite army would fall in battle the next day. Why did Saul still lead the army into battle?
13. David took care of Jonathan's son. Why did he do this?

- *Challenging*

1. The Bible says that Jonathan was fearless and a great leader of men. It also says that Jonathan was willing for David to be king, rather than himself. It also shows that Jonathan had a sense that he might die. Why do you think Jonathan was an immediate friend to David?
2. How did David ask Jonathan to test Saul's intentions? How could David be sure this would work?
3. What was Jonathan's plan to let David know the result? What were the advantages of this plan?
4. What was Saul's response to Jonathan's excuse for David's absence? How did Jonathan respond to Saul's reaction? What does this show you about Jonathan?
5. Why did Jonathan say to the boy, "Hurry! And don't stop running"? What was he expecting David to do?
6. Why did David come out from hiding, instead of leaving immediately? What did the two say to each other?
7. The Israelites mostly remained loyal to Saul after David fled. Why do you think that was?

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.3 David Flees Saul (Part 2)

8. Why did David not kill Saul when he had the chance?
9. What would it have been like for David to flee from Saul for four years? David did not grumble against God the entire time. Why not?
10. The Bible says that before Saul went to his final battle, he went to a witch in Endor and made her bring up Samuel's spirit from the dead, which was against God's law. What did this show about Saul?
11. Samuel's spirit did talk to Saul, and told him that he and his sons, and the Israelite army would fall in battle the next day.
  - a. In Jesus' parable of Lazarus and the beggar, the rich man says of his brothers, "If someone came back to them from the dead, they would change their ways." Abraham replies, "If they won't listen to Moses and the Prophets, they're not going to be convinced by someone who rises from the dead." How does this apply to Saul?
  - b. When David's family heard of the difficult situation he was in, they joined him in hiding. But back when Jesse sent David to bring food to his three older brothers who were serving in Saul's army in the time when Goliath was taunting them, David's oldest brother (and perhaps the others as well) disdained his righteous anger at Goliath. The oldest had accused him of being a poor shepherd, and of abandoning the care of his father's sheep to be a voyeur of the battle. What had changed them?



## Onesimus Flees his Owner

## Philemon 1:1-21

**Background:** During his house arrest in Rome, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to his good friend Philemon in Colossae, Asia. Philemon was wealthy, and like most of the wealthy, he had a large house and owned slaves. One of his slaves, called Onesimus, ran away to Rome. In Rome, Onesimus met Paul and became a Christian. Under Roman law, a runaway slave could be killed or suffer harsh punishment. Slaves had no rights, and the slave owners had all the power. The passage comes from a letter that Paul wrote to Philemon about Onesimus' return to his household.

### Before You Read:

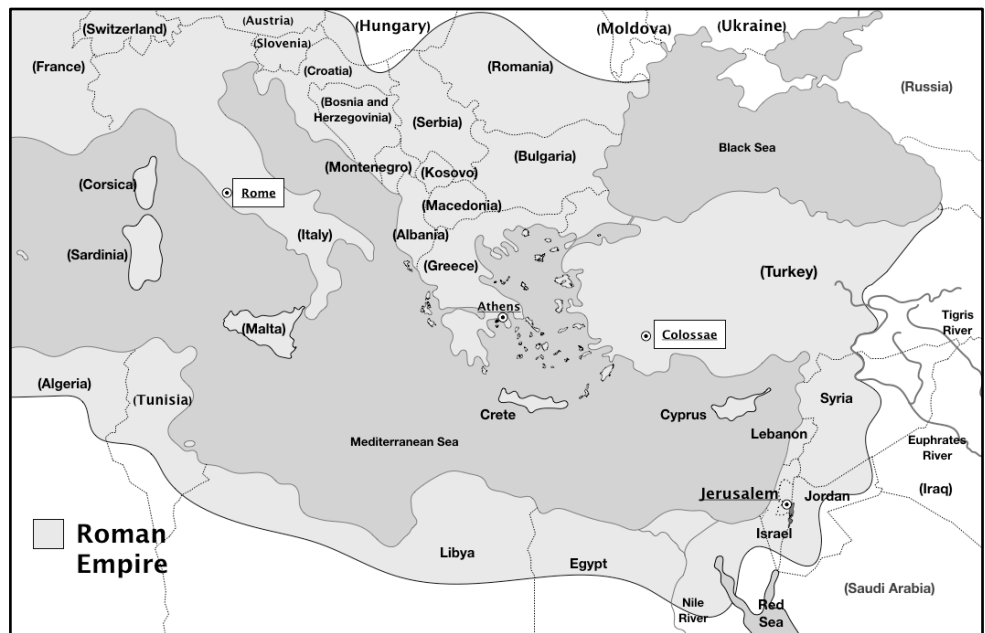
1. Tell about a relationship that changed from bad to good.
2. What made it change?

### The Passage

<sup>1</sup> From Paul, who is in jail for serving Christ Jesus, ...

Philemon, you work with us and are very dear to us. This letter is to you <sup>2</sup> and to the church that meets in your home...<sup>3</sup> I pray that God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless you with peace!

<sup>4</sup> Philemon, each time I mention you in my prayers, I thank God. <sup>5</sup> I hear about your faith in our Lord Jesus and about your love for all of God's people. <sup>6</sup> As you share your faith with others, I pray that they may come to know all the blessings Christ has given us. <sup>7</sup> My friend, your love has made



## Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression

### 3.4 Onesimus Flees his Owner

me happy and has greatly encouraged me. It has also cheered the hearts of God's people.

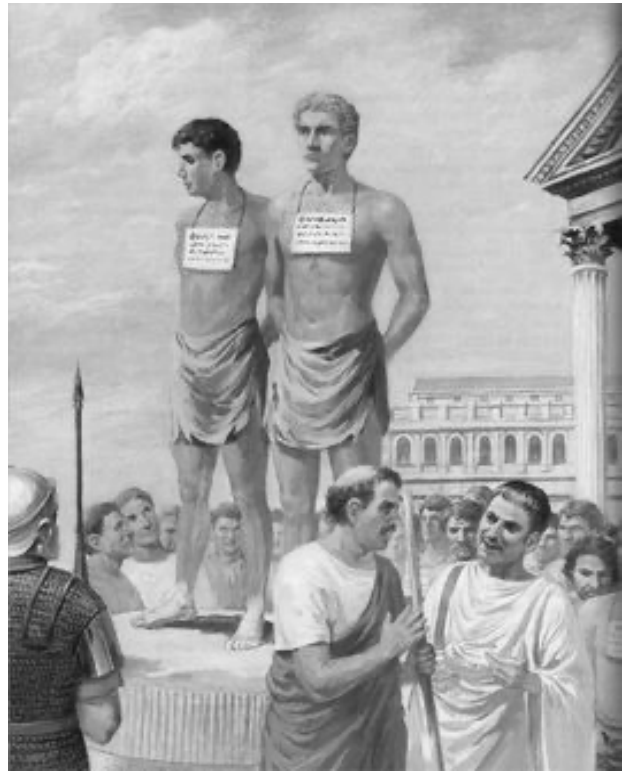
<sup>8</sup> Christ gives me the courage to tell you what to do. <sup>9</sup> But I would rather ask you to do it simply because of love. Yes, as someone in jail for Christ, <sup>10</sup> I beg you to help Onesimus! He is like a son to me because I led him to Christ here in jail. <sup>11</sup> Before this, he was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me.

<sup>12</sup> Sending Onesimus back to you makes me very sad. <sup>13</sup> I would like to keep him here with me, where he could take your place in helping me while I am here in prison for preaching the good news. <sup>14</sup> But I won't do anything unless you agree to it first. I want your act of kindness to come from your heart, and not be something you feel forced to do.

<sup>15</sup> Perhaps Onesimus was taken from you for a little while so that you could have him back for good, <sup>16</sup> but not as a slave. Onesimus is much more than a slave. To me he is a dear friend, but to you he is even more, both as a person and as a follower of the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> If you consider me a friend because of Christ, then welcome Onesimus as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has cheated you or owes you anything, charge it to my account. <sup>19</sup> With my own hand I write: I, PAUL, WILL PAY YOU BACK. But don't forget that you owe me your life. <sup>20</sup> My dear friend and follower of Christ our Lord, please cheer me up by doing this for me. <sup>21</sup> I am sure you will do all I have asked, and even more...

*Many scholars say that Onesimus became the Christian leader of the church in Ephesus and that he died because of his faith in Jesus.*



Roman Slave Market

The Slave market. Romanslavery.weebly.com.

<https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/463237511656443853/>

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.4 Onesimus Flees his Owner

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

### Passage Questions

Match the sentence beginning to the correct ending:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| _____ 1. Philemon was a man who                   | a. ...was a runaway slave.                                  |
| _____ 2. Paul was a man who                       | b. ...because he was now a brother in Christ.               |
| _____ 3. Onesimus was a man who                   | c. ...had a lot of money and slaves .                       |
| _____ 4. Paul was sad about sending Onesimus back | d. ...he owed him his life.                                 |
| _____ 5. Paul wanted Philemon to help Onesimus    | e. ...was in jail because he followed Jesus.                |
| _____ 6. Paul asked Philemon to                   | f. ... because he was a good helper.                        |
| _____ 7. Paul told Philemon that                  | g. ... welcome Onesimus the same way he would welcome Paul. |

Match the following words with their meanings

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| _____1. cheated   | a. a place to put people who break the law |
| _____2. slave     | b. a slave who runs away from his owner    |
| _____3. for good  | c. strong and brutal                       |
| _____4. charge to | d. pay what was taken away                 |
| _____5. harsh     | e. a person who is owned by someone else   |
| _____6. runaway   | f. to get something illegally or unfairly  |
| _____7. pay back  | g. cost/take from                          |

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.4 Onesimus Flees his Owner

\_\_\_\_\_8. jail

h. always

Fill in the blanks with the words above

1. Paul said that if Onesimus had \_\_\_\_\_ Philemon, then Philemon could \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ his own account, and Paul would \_\_\_\_\_ the money.
2. Onesimus was the \_\_\_\_\_ of Philemon.
3. Paul hoped that Philemon would get Onesimus back \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ slaves received \_\_\_\_\_ treatment.
5. Paul himself was in \_\_\_\_\_.

Discussion

- *Easier*

1. Who were Paul and Philemon?
2. Why did Paul write to Philemon? What did Onesimus do?
3. How did Onesimus change?
4. What favour did Paul ask of Philemon?
5. Why did Paul say Onesimus was like a son?
6. Why did Paul say to Philemon that Onesimus was now much more than a slave? (What had changed in their relationship?)
7. What was one punishment for runaway slaves?
8. Why was Paul in jail?
9. Why didn't Paul force Philemon to free Onesimus?
10. Do you think Philemon did what Paul had asked?

Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression  
3.4 Onesimus Flees his Owner

- *Intermediate*

1. What was the relationship between Paul and Philemon?
2. Why did Paul write to Philemon?
3. How had Onesimus changed? What was he like now?
4. What favour did Paul ask of Philemon? What argument did he use?
5. In Colossians, Paul wrote that in Christ there cannot be a difference in status of slave and free but are all equal (Colossians 3:11). What is the significance of this?
6. Why do you think the laws against runaway slaves were so harsh?
7. Do you think the fact that Paul was in jail made him value freedom more?
8. Why didn't Paul force Philemon to free Onesimus?
9. Do you think Philemon did what Paul had asked? What do some scholars say happened to Onesimus?

- *Challenging*

1. What was the relationship between Paul and Philemon? How do you think they met?
2. Why did Paul write to Philemon? What kind of role did Philemon have in the local church?
3. Compare Onesimus' current behaviour to his past behaviour.

## Chapter Three: Travellers Fleeing Oppression

### 3.4 Onesimus Flees his Owner

4. What favour did Paul ask of Philemon? How did Paul try to persuade Philemon? What were the main points of his argument?
5. In Colossians, Paul wrote that in Christ there cannot be a difference in status of slave and free but are all equal (Colossians 3:11). What are the broader implications of this?
6. Why do you think the laws against runaway slaves were so harsh? Do you think the harsh laws achieved what they were meant to?
7. Why do you think Paul valued Onesimus' freedom so much?
8. Why didn't Paul force Philemon to free Onesimus? What kinds of issues might have restrained him?
9. Do you think Philemon did what Paul had asked? What do some scholars say happened to Onesimus?

## Nehemiah, Back to Jerusalem

## Nehemiah: 1-2

**Background:** Around 597 BC, the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem, and carried off its people to Babylon. But the prophets had said these people of Judah would return and rebuild. After seventy years, Persia conquered Babylonia. Their king set the people of Judah free to return to their homeland. But only about 50,000 out of 2 - 3,000,000 were willing to go back and rebuild (Neh. 8:66-69).

### Before You Read:

3. Have you ever returned to a place that you knew as a child?
4. What were the changes to that place? How did you feel?

### The Passage

*This story opens about 100 years later in Susa, the capital city of Persia where a Jew named Nehemiah served King Artaxerxes. Nehemiah wrote what happened:*



During the month of Chislev in the twentieth year that Artaxerxes ruled Persia, I was in his **fortress** city of Susa, <sup>2</sup> when my brother Hanani came with some men from Judah. So I asked them about the Jews who had escaped from being **captives** in Babylonia. I also asked them about the city of Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> They told me, "Those captives who have come back are having all kinds of troubles. They are terribly **disgraced**, Jerusalem's walls are broken down, and its

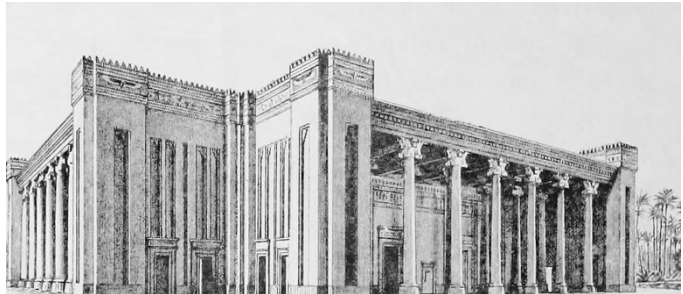
## Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home

### 4.1 Nehemiah, Back to Jerusalem

gates have been burned." *[With no walls, the people were at the mercy of looters and robbers.]*

<sup>4</sup> When I heard this, I sat down and cried. Then for several days, I mourned; I went without eating to show my sorrow, and I prayed:

"LORD God of heaven...<sup>8</sup> Please remember the promise you made to Moses. You told him that if we were **unfaithful**, you would **scatter** us among foreign nations. <sup>9</sup> But you also said that no matter how far away we were, we could turn to you and start obeying your laws. Then you would bring us back to the place where you have chosen to be worshiped... <sup>11</sup> Please answer my prayer and the prayer of your other servants who gladly honour your name. When I serve the king his wine today, make him pleased with me and have him do what I ask". *[Nehemiah was the king's cup-bearer; his job was to choose and taste the wine to prove it was not poisoned, then give the wine to the king. It was a rule for servants that they must look happy when they were with the king. ]*



Artaxerxes' Palace in Susa

This construction of this palace was begun by Artaxerxes' grandfather, Darius I. Palace of Darius in Susa.

[https://readtiger.com/wkp/en/Palace\\_of\\_Darius\\_in\\_Susa](https://readtiger.com/wkp/en/Palace_of_Darius_in_Susa)

Neh 2: *About 4 months later..*<sup>1</sup>In the twentieth year that Artaxerxes was king, I served him his wine, as I had done before. But this was the first time I had ever looked depressed. <sup>2</sup> So the king said, "Why do you look so sad? You're not sick. Something must be bothering you."

Even though I was frightened, <sup>3</sup> I answered, "Your Majesty, I hope you live forever! I feel sad because the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and its gates have been burned down."

<sup>4</sup> The king asked, "What do you want me to do?"

I prayed to the God who rules from heaven. <sup>5</sup> Then I told the king, "Sir, if it's all right with you, please send me back to Judah, so that I can rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried."



Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home  
4.1 Nehemiah, Back to Jerusalem

*The king asked how long Nehemiah would be gone for and when he would return, then agreed to release him.*

<sup>7</sup> Then I asked, "Your Majesty, would you be willing to give me letters to the governors of the provinces west of the Euphrates River, so that I can travel safely to Judah? <sup>8</sup> I will need **timber** to rebuild the gates of the fortress near the temple and more timber to construct the city wall and to build a place for me to live. And so, I would appreciate a letter to Asaph, who is in charge of the royal forest." God was good to me, and the king did everything I asked...

<sup>10</sup> But when Sanballat from Horon and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about what had happened, they became very angry, because they didn't want anyone to help the people of Israel.

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

5. What do you like about this story? Why?
6. What questions might someone have about this story?
7. What do you learn about people from this story?
8. What do you learn about God from this story?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

### Passage Questions

#### True or False

1. The prophets said the Jews would return to Judah \_\_\_\_\_
2. Hanani, Nicodemus' brother, gave him good news about Jerusalem. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Nehemiah did not know why God had allowed the Israelites to be scattered. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Nehemiah asked God and the king for help. \_\_\_\_\_
5. 100 years had passed, and Jerusalem's walls had not yet been rebuilt \_\_\_\_\_
6. Artaxerxes did not respect Nehemiah \_\_\_\_\_
7. Everyone was happy that Artaxerxes helped provide for the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home

### 4.1 Nehemiah, Back to Jerusalem

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

Word	Meaning
1. _____ fortress	a. shamed
2. _____ captives	b. robber who takes things during a disaster
3. _____ disgraced	c. large pieces of wood for building
4. _____ mourned	d. separate and go in different directions
5. _____ looter	e. not loyal in a relationship
6. _____ scatter	f. walled place, or a place difficult to enter
7. _____ timber	g. prisoners
8. _____ unfaithful	h. expressed deep sadness after a loss

Fill in the blanks with the words above.

1. Nehemiah asked the king for \_\_\_\_\_ so he could build new city gates and a home for himself.
2. The Jews were \_\_\_\_\_ after the Babylonians forcibly took them from their homes.
3. The Babylonians went into the Temple and \_\_\_\_\_ it, taking all its valuable objects.
4. Nehemiah \_\_\_\_\_ after he heard that Jerusalem was not a \_\_\_\_\_ anymore because it had broken walls.
5. Hanani reported that the returned Jews in the ruined city of Jerusalem were \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The prophets said that when the people were \_\_\_\_\_ to God, He would \_\_\_\_\_ them everywhere.

### Discussion

- *Easier*

1. What happened to the southern kingdom of Judah?

## Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home

### 4.1 Nehemiah, Back to Jerusalem

2. What did Persia do for the Jews of Judah?
3. Why might so few of the Jews been willing to return to Judah?
4. What was Nehemiah's job in Susa? What did he have to do in that job?
5. How did Nehemiah react when his brother, Hanani, and the other men told him how things were in Judah?
6. Why was Nehemiah afraid when the king asked him why he was sad?
7. What things did Nehemiah ask of the king?
8. What did you learn about king Artaxerxes from this story?
9. How was prayer important in this story?

- *Intermediate*

1. What had happened to the southern kingdom of Judah?
2. How did Persia's conquest of Babylonia affect the Jewish exiles of Judah?
3. How long had the Jews of Judah been in Babylon? Why might so few of them have been willing to return to Judah?
4. Why would the Jews continue to trickle back to Jerusalem, even 100 years later?
5. Why do you think Nehemiah stayed in Susa, rather than return with his brother, Hanani, to Jerusalem?
6. Do you think Nehemiah still loved Jerusalem? Why or why not?
7. Do you think Hanani and the other men purposely went to visit Nehemiah to ask for help? Why or why not?

## Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home

### 4.1 Nehemiah, Back to Jerusalem

8. What things did Nehemiah tell God in his prayer? Why do you think he said these things to God?
9. How long was it before Nehemiah's prayer was answered? Why do you think it took this long?
10. What did you learn about King Artaxerxes from this story? Can a ruler today be like this?

#### • *Challenging*

1. How did the Persian conquest bring about the rebuilding of Jerusalem?
2. Why do you think Nehemiah remained in Susa, rather than return with his brother to Judah?
3. Why do you think Nehemiah's brother, Hanani, and the other men travelled the almost 1000 km from Jerusalem back to Susa?
4. What thoughts did Nehemiah express in his prayer to God? Why were these important thoughts for him to say?
5. How long was it before his prayer was answered? Why might it have taken this long?
6. What was Nehemiah's position in Susa? How would this position have affected his relationship with the king?
7. What did Nehemiah ask the king for? Do you think these requests were too bold? Why or why not?
8. Why might God have picked Nehemiah for this work? What qualities of character did Nehemiah have?
9. Why was it important to rebuild Jerusalem?

## Nehemiah, Rebuilding Jerusalem

Nehemiah: 2-13

**Background:** The nation of Judah had been conquered by the Babylonian Empire and its people taken to Babylon. Around 538 B.C., the Medo-Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great conquered the Babylonian Empire. Cyrus allowed the exiled Jews to return to their land and rebuild.

When the Jews returned, they faced strong opposition from the enemies of Judah who did not want to see their return. Without supplies or defences, Jerusalem remained in ruins for over 90 years. In 449 B.C., the Persian king, Artaxerxes, gave his cupbearer, Nehemiah, the **commission** and the supplies to return to Jerusalem and rebuild Jerusalem's walls.

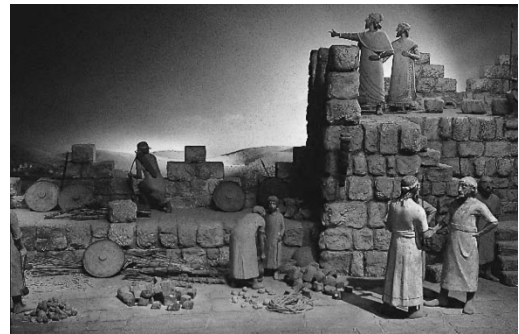
But when Nehemiah came to Jerusalem he faced strong opposition from the neighbouring regional officials, Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem. He also faced opposition from some of his own people who had risen to positions of wealth and rulership. Both groups **resented** Nehemiah's position of governor. Nehemiah's story begins 3 days after he arrived in Jerusalem.

### Before You Read:

1. What is the most difficult thing you have ever done? Did you have help?

### Passage:

Nehemiah 2: <sup>12</sup>I got up during the night and left my house. I took some men with me, without telling anyone what I thought God wanted me to do for the city... Then before daylight I returned to the city through Valley Gate. <sup>16</sup>None of the city officials knew what I had in mind. And I had not even told any of the Jews... <sup>17</sup>But when I got back, I said to them, "Jerusalem is truly in a mess! The gates have been torn down and burned, and everything is in ruins. We must rebuild the city wall so that we can again take pride in our city."



Nehemiah carried a trowel and a sword...

Study-Grow-Know.

<https://studygrowknowblog.com/2013/10/2/nehemiah-is-our-example-of-how-to-build-the-wall-in-spice-of-troubles-surrounding-us/>

Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home  
4.2 Nehemiah, Rebuilding Jerusalem

<sup>18</sup> Then I told them how kind God had been and what the king had said. Immediately, they replied, "Let's start building now!" So they got everything ready.

<sup>19</sup> When Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab heard about our plans, they started insulting us and saying, "Just look at you! Do you plan to rebuild the walls of the city and rebel against the king?"

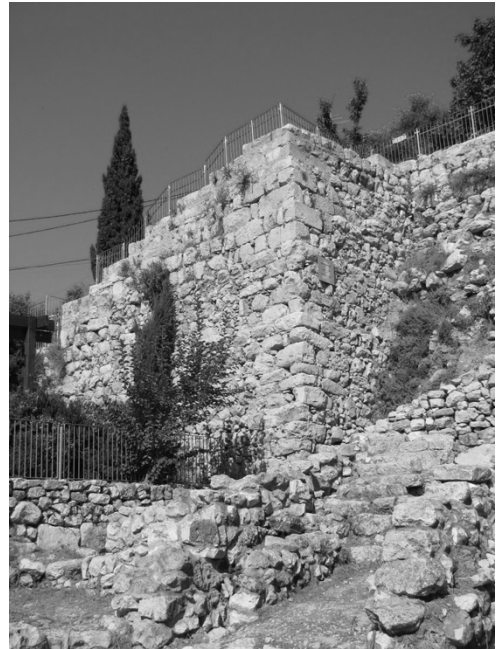
<sup>20</sup> I answered, "We are servants of the God who rules from heaven, and he will make our work succeed. So we will start rebuilding Jerusalem, but you have no right to any of its property, because you have had no part in its history."

*Nehemiah organized the Jewish exiles. Sections of the wall were taken on by families, tribes, villages; the priests - including the high priest; rulers, goldsmiths, perfumers, sons, daughters, the rich, the poor; and Nehemiah and his family.*

Nehemiah 4: When Sanballat, the governor of Samaria, heard that we were rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, he became angry and started insulting our people..., "What is this feeble bunch of Jews trying to do?... Do they think they can make something out of this pile of scorched stones?"...

<sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, the people of Judah were singing a sorrowful song:

"So much rubble for us to haul!  
Worn out and weary,  
will we ever finish this wall?"



A portion of the wall Nehemiah built in 445 B.C. on the east side of Jerusalem. The upper portions of the wall were rebuilt by the Jewish Maccabean kings (140 B.C. - 116 B.C.) Jerusalem 101.  
<http://www.generationword.com/jerusalem>

<sup>11</sup> Our enemies were saying, "Before those Jews know what has happened, we will sneak up and kill them and put an end to their work." <sup>12</sup> On at least ten different occasions, the Jews living near our enemies warned us against attacks from every side, <sup>13</sup> and so ...I placed them according to families, and they stood guard with swords and spears and with bows and arrows. <sup>14</sup> Then I looked things over and told

Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home  
4.2 Nehemiah, Rebuilding Jerusalem

the leaders, the officials, and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of your enemies! The Lord is great and fearsome. So think of him and fight for your relatives and children, your wives and homes!"...<sup>22</sup> I asked the men in charge and their workers to stay inside Jerusalem and stand guard at night...

*But there were problems among the Jewish people as well. The poor complained that they had to mortgage their homes to the rich to buy food. When they couldn't pay back their loans, the rich had taken their land, their houses, and even their children as slaves.*

Nehemiah 5: <sup>7</sup>Then I called a public meeting and accused the leaders <sup>8</sup>by saying, "We have tried to buy back all of our people who were sold into exile. But here you are, selling more of them for us to buy back!" The officials and leaders did not say a word, because they knew this was true. <sup>9</sup>I continued, "What you have done is wrong! We must honour our God by the way we live, so the Gentiles can't find fault with us."...

Nehemiah 6: <sup>15</sup>On the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, the wall was completely rebuilt. It had taken fifty-two days. <sup>16</sup>When our enemies in the surrounding nations learned that the work was finished, they felt helpless, because they knew that our God had helped us rebuild the wall.

*Nehemiah put two men who feared God in charge of the city. Ezra the priest read the law of Moses to the people every day, and they celebrated a holy day given to them in the time of Moses. The people fasted, confessed their sins, remembered what God had done for them, and made a promise to be faithful to Him.*

*Twelve years passed, and Nehemiah returned to Susa to serve king Artaxerxes. When he later visited Jerusalem, people were disobeying the laws of Moses again, but Nehemiah set everything right. He prayed, "Remember me, my God, for good."*

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home  
4.2 Nehemiah, Rebuilding Jerusalem

Passage Questions

Match Nehemiah's problem to his solution of the problem:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. _____ The city wall was rubble, and the gates were burnt.                       | i. Nehemiah told the Jews to carry spears and swords as they worked.                        |
| 2. _____ Their enemies insulted the Jews who were rebuilding.                      | j. Nehemiah said, "Don't be afraid of your enemies! The Lord is great and fearsome. Fight!" |
| 3. _____ Their enemies planned to attack the Jews.                                 | k. Ezra the priest read God's law to the people every day.                                  |
| 4. _____ The Jews were afraid of their enemies.                                    | l. Nehemiah organized the Jews to rebuild the wall.   |
| 5. _____ Some rich Jews sold their poor countryman as slaves.                      | m. Nehemiah called a meeting and told the leaders to honour God by how they lived.          |
| 6. _____ The Jewish exiles didn't know God's law.                                  | n. Nehemiah told them God would make the work succeed, but they had no part in it.          |
| 7. _____ After Nehemiah went back to Persia, the Jews stopped following God's law. | o. Nehemiah returned and made sure people obeyed God.                                       |

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

- | Word                | Meaning  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. _____ commission | a. weak  |
| 2. _____ ruins      | b. admit something wrong                       |
| 3. _____ resented   | c. an official order or duty given to a person |
| 4. _____ feeble     | d. large broken pieces                         |
| 5. _____ rubble     | e. destroyed so it can't be used               |
| 6. _____ mortgage   | f. felt angry or bitter about                  |



Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home  
4.2 Nehemiah, Rebuilding Jerusalem

7. \_\_\_\_\_ fasted                      g. a loan secured by property  
8. \_\_\_\_\_ confessed                h. stopped eating

Fill in the blanks with the words above.

1. One hundred years after the Jews were allowed to return, Jerusalem was still in \_\_\_\_\_ and full of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Their enemies were \_\_\_\_\_ who worshiped other gods and they \_\_\_\_\_ the Jews return.
3. Sanballat called the Jewish workers "a \_\_\_\_\_ bunch".
4. The poor Jews had \_\_\_\_\_ their lands and houses to buy food.
5. The Jewish exiles wanted to show God that they were sorry, so they \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ their sins.

### Discussion

#### Easier

1. When did Nehemiah inspect the walls of Jerusalem? Why do you think he chose that time?
2. What did Nehemiah tell the leaders of Jerusalem?
3. How did Nehemiah organize the work of rebuilding the wall?
4. How did their enemies try to stop the people from rebuilding the wall?
5. How did Nehemiah encourage the people who were rebuilding the wall?
6. What had happened to the poor people in the nearby villages?
7. Who were Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem? Why were they against Nehemiah?
8. Did the people stay faithful to God? Are you surprised by this?

## Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home

### 4.2 Nehemiah, Rebuilding Jerusalem

- *Intermediate*

1. What did Nehemiah do before talking to Jerusalem's leaders? What do you think about this?
2. Who took on the building of the wall? Why was this important? What does this tell you about Nehemiah?
3. Nehemiah had problems with enemy groups, but also some Jewish leaders: 6:<sup>18</sup> *Many people in Judah were loyal to Tobiah for two reasons: Shecaniah son of Arah was his father-in-law, and Tobiah's son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berechiah.* What were the reasons Samaritans and Jews had for opposing the rebuilding?
4. How did Nehemiah's enemies try to stop the rebuilding of the wall?
5. Was it okay for the money lenders to take the house and fields of the people who could not pay back their loans? Why or why not?
6. Why would Nehemiah want people to stay inside the city of Jerusalem?
7. Did the people all remain faithful to God? Why or why not? Why would they let that happen?
8. What have you learned about the character of Nehemiah in this story?

- *Challenging*

1. Why might Nehemiah have at first kept his plans hidden from the people and the leaders of Jerusalem?
2. Were the Jews sincere about wanting to rebuild their walls? Back up your answer.
3. Nehemiah named all the people who helped rebuild the walls and listed all their occupations (Chapter 3). He noted those who wouldn't help but didn't list their names. Why do you think he did all that?

## Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home

### 4.2 Nehemiah, Rebuilding Jerusalem

4. Is it right for a money lender to take the homes and fields of those who could not repay their loans? Why or why not?
5. Nehemiah notes in 6:<sup>18</sup> *Many people in Judah were loyal to Tobiah for two reasons: Shecaniah son of Arah was his father-in-law, and Tobiah's son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berechiah.* Why did Nehemiah's enemies try to stop him? Why would some of the Jews of Jerusalem try to stop him? Why would some of them honour Tobiah over Nehemiah?
6. How long did Nehemiah spend in Jerusalem? What did he accomplish there?
7. What did Nehemiah find when he later returned to Jerusalem? How do you explain this? How does this relate to the gospel?
8. What did you learn about Nehemiah's character from this story?

## The Ethiopian Eunuch, Back to Ethiopia

Acts 8:26-40

**Background:** The church in Jerusalem had experienced its first **wave of persecution** after the death of Stephen, a well-known and loved church member. Although the apostles remained in Jerusalem, many other Christians had **scattered**. One of these was Philip. He had been part of the group who was chosen to make sure all had enough food by serving at the tables. He was someone "full of the Holy Spirit". This is about his travels.

### Before You Read:

1. What do you do when you cannot understand something?

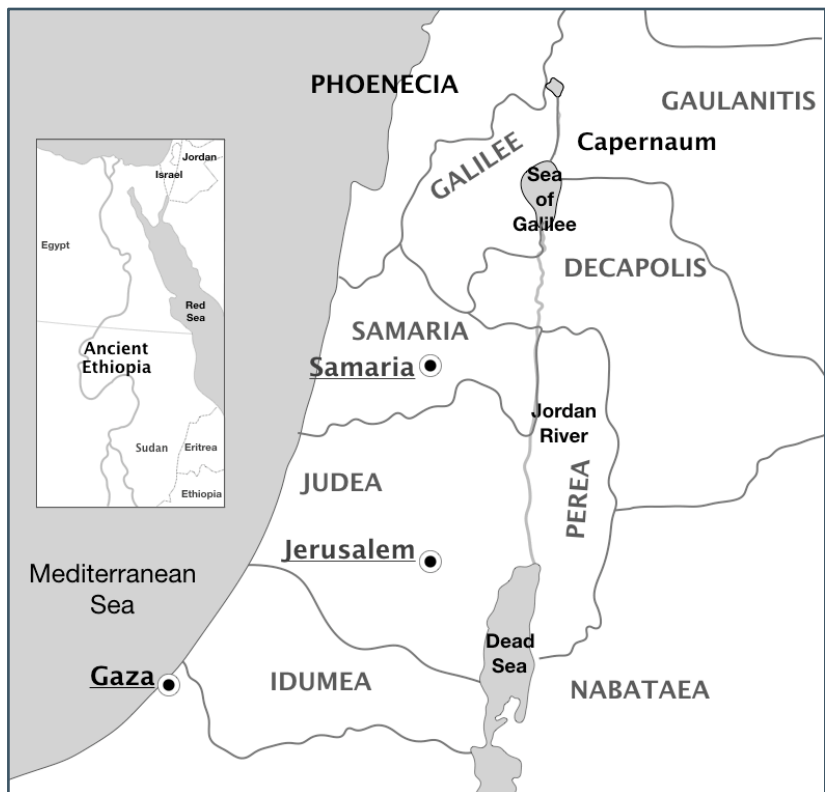
### Passage:

Acts 8: <sup>4</sup> The Lord's followers who had been scattered went from place to place, telling the good news. <sup>5</sup> Philip went to the city of Samaria and told the people about Christ. <sup>6</sup> They crowded around Philip because they were eager to hear what he was saying and to see him work miracles. <sup>7</sup> Many people with evil spirits were healed, and the spirits went out of them with a shout. A lot of **crippled and lame** people were also healed. <sup>8</sup> Everyone in that city was very glad because of what was happening...

<sup>26</sup> The Lord's angel said to Philip, "Go south along the desert road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza."

<sup>27</sup> So Philip left.

An important Ethiopian official happened to be going along that road in his chariot. He was the chief **treasurer** for Candace, the



Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home  
4.3 The Ethiopian Eunuch, Back to Ethiopia

Queen of Ethiopia. The official had gone to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was now on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot, reading the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip to catch up with the chariot. <sup>30</sup> Philip ran up close and heard the man reading aloud from the book of Isaiah. Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

<sup>31</sup> The official answered, "How can I understand unless someone helps me?" He then invited Philip to come up and sit beside him.

<sup>32</sup> The man was reading the passage that said,

"He was led like a sheep on its way to be killed.

He was silent as a lamb whose wool is being cut off, and he did not say a word.

<sup>33</sup> He was treated like a **nobody** and did not receive a fair trial. How can he have children, if his life is **snatched** away?"

<sup>34</sup> The official said to Philip, "Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> So Philip began at this place in the Scriptures and explained the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36-37</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to a place where there was some water. The official said, "Look! Here is some water. Why can't I be **baptised**?" <sup>38</sup> He ordered the chariot to stop. Then they both went down into the water, and Philip baptised him.

<sup>39</sup> After they had come out of the water, the Lord's Spirit took Philip away. The official never saw him again, but he was very happy as he went on his way.

<sup>40</sup> Philip later appeared in Azotus. He went from town to town, all the way to Caesarea, telling people about Jesus.



Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch  
Go Beyond. Omar C. Garcia.  
<https://gobeyond.blog/2014/04/23/a-eunuchs-legacy/>

## What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

## Passage Questions

Put the story in the correct order. The first is done for you:

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ The Lord's angel told Philip to go south on the desert road.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit told Philip to catch up with the chariot.
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ Philip explained to the official all about Jesus.
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ The Ethiopian invited Philip to come up and explain the meaning of what he was reading.
- e) \_\_\_\_\_ The official asked to be baptized when they came to water.
- f)   1   Philip fled to Samaria after there was persecution in Jerusalem.
- g) \_\_\_\_\_ Philip told the Samaritans about Jesus and did miracles in His name.
- h) \_\_\_\_\_ An Ethiopian official was in a chariot reading Isaiah on the road.

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

Word or phrase	Meaning
_____ 1. wave of persecution	a. a person in charge of money
_____ 2. scattered	b. unable to function properly
_____ 3. crippled	c. to be washed with water to show to other people one's faith
_____ 4. treasurer	d. unable to walk

Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home  
4.3 The Ethiopian Eunuch, Back to Ethiopia

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| _____ 5. lame     | e. time when many people are mistreated |
| _____ 6. a nobody | f. grabbed away                         |
| _____ 7. snatched | g. an unimportant person                |
| _____ 8. baptized | h. to be spread out                     |

Fill in the blanks with the words above.

1. The believers in Jerusalem were \_\_\_\_\_ after a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Philip healed many Samaritans who were \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The official from Ethiopia was a \_\_\_\_\_ for the queen.
4. Isaiah wrote that Jesus the Messiah would be treated like a \_\_\_\_\_ and his life would be \_\_\_\_\_ away.
5. Philip \_\_\_\_\_ the man after he said he believed in Jesus.

### Discussion

- *Easier*

1. What happened to the church in Jerusalem?
2. Who was Philip?
3. What did Philip do after he fled from Jerusalem?
4. What did the angel of the Lord tell Philip to do?
5. Who was the Ethiopian official and what was he reading?
6. What question did Philip ask the official?
7. What question did the official ask Philip?
8. Why do you think the official wanted to be baptized?
9. What happened to Philip after he baptised the Ethiopian?

Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home  
4.3 The Ethiopian Eunuch, Back to Ethiopia

- *Intermediate*

1. What happened to the church in Jerusalem?
2. Who was Philip? What did Philip do after he fled from Jerusalem?
3. What did the angel of the Lord tell Philip to do?
4. Who was the Ethiopian official and what was he reading? How do we know he was an important man in Ethiopia?
5. What question did the official ask Philip? How did Philip answer him?
6. What shows us that the Ethiopian understood and accepted what Philip told him?
7. Why do you think God chose such an unusual method of transporting Philip after he baptized the official?
8. What do you think has been the impact on Ethiopia because of this encounter?

- *Challenging*

1. What happened to the church in Jerusalem? Why do you think God allowed this to happen?
2. Would you consider Philip a faithful follower of Christ? Why?
3. What did the angel of the Lord tell Philip to do? What do you think Philip thought about this? Would you feel the same? Would you obey?
4. What was revealed about the Ethiopian man in this story? How important is this information?
5. What is the significance of the question the official asked Philip? How did Philip answer him?



Chapter Four: Travellers Returning Home  
4.3 The Ethiopian Eunuch, Back to Ethiopia

6. What are the indicators that the Ethiopian understood and accepted what Philip told him?
7. Why do you think God chose such an unusual method of transporting Philip? Why doesn't God do this all the time?
8. How do you think Ethiopia changed because of this encounter? What proof do we have today?

## Jonah Flees God

## Jonah 1-4

**Background:** Jonah was a prophet of God who lived in the northern kingdom of Israel. This was during the time that Assyria was a regional power. The capital city of Assyria was Nineveh. The Assyrians **ruthlessly** controlled all the nations of the region, including Israel. If the nations did not pay money to Assyria, their army would kill the people in horrible ways. This Assyrian oppression made the people of Israel hate them.

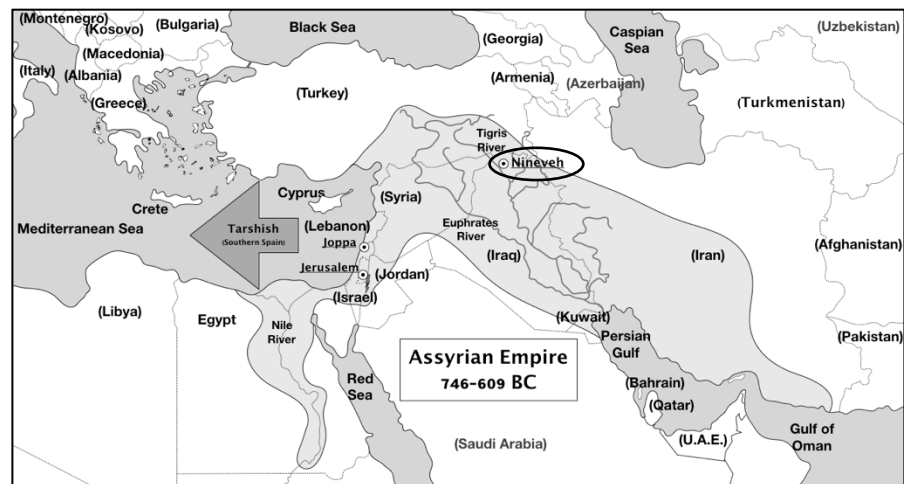
### Before You Read:

1. How do people act when they need to do something that they do not want to do?

### Passage:

1: One day the LORD told Jonah, the son of Amittai, <sup>2</sup> to go to the great city of Nineveh and say to the people, "The LORD has seen your terrible sins. You are doomed!"

<sup>3</sup> Instead, Jonah ran from the LORD. He went to the seaport of Joppa and bought a ticket on a ship that was going to Spain. Then he got on the ship and sailed away to escape.



<sup>4</sup> But the LORD made a strong wind blow, and such a bad storm came up that the ship was about to be broken to pieces. <sup>5</sup> The sailors were frightened, and they all started praying to their gods. They even threw the ship's cargo overboard to make the ship lighter.

All this time, Jonah was down **below deck**, sound asleep. <sup>6</sup> The ship's captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep at a time like this? *Get up and pray to your God!* Maybe he will have pity on us and keep us from **drowning**."...<sup>9</sup> Jonah answered, "I'm a

Chapter Five: Travellers Spreading the Message  
5.1 Jonah Flees God

Hebrew, and I worship the LORD God of Heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

<sup>10</sup> When the sailors heard this, they were frightened, because Jonah had already told them he was running from the LORD. Then they said, "Do you know what you have done?" <sup>11</sup> The storm kept getting worse, until finally the sailors asked him, "What should we do with you to make the sea calm down?"

<sup>12</sup> Jonah told them, "Throw me into the sea, and it will calm down. I'm the cause of this terrible storm."...<sup>15</sup> Then they threw Jonah overboard, and the sea calmed down. <sup>16</sup> The sailors were so terrified that they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made all kinds of promises.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD sent a big fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. 2: <sup>1</sup>From inside the fish, Jonah prayed to the LORD his God... <sup>7</sup>"When my life was slipping away, I remembered you—and in your holy temple you heard my prayer."

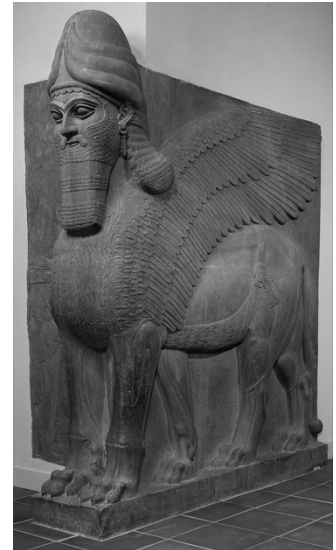
<sup>10</sup> The LORD commanded the fish to vomit up Jonah on the shore. And it did.

3: <sup>1</sup>Once again the LORD told Jonah <sup>2</sup> to go to that great city of Nineveh and preach his message of doom. <sup>3</sup> Jonah obeyed the LORD and went to Nineveh. The city was so big that it took three days just to walk through it. <sup>4</sup> After walking for a day, Jonah warned the people, "Forty days from now, Nineveh will be destroyed!"

<sup>5</sup> They believed God's message and set a time when they would go without eating to show their sorrow. Then everyone in the city, no matter who they were, dressed in sackcloth...

<sup>10</sup> When God saw that the people had stopped doing evil things, he had pity and did not destroy them as he had planned.

4: <sup>1</sup>Jonah was really upset and angry. <sup>2</sup> So he prayed: "Our LORD, I knew from the very beginning that you wouldn't destroy Nineveh. That's why I left my own country



Assyrian palace statue (ca 883-859 B.C.)  
Human-headed winged lion. Assyrian. The Met.  
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/322609>

Chapter Five: Travellers Spreading the Message  
5.1 Jonah Flees God

and headed for Spain. You are a kind and merciful God, and you are very patient. You always show love, and you don't like to punish anyone, not even foreigners.

<sup>3</sup> Now let me die! I'd be better off dead."

<sup>4</sup> The LORD replied, "What right do you have to be angry?"... <sup>11</sup> In that city of Nineveh there are more than a hundred twenty thousand people who cannot tell right from wrong, and many cattle are also there. Don't you think I should be concerned about that big city?"

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

### Passage Questions

Change these False statements to be True:

1. Jonah wanted to go and preach to the people of Nineveh.

---

2. Jonah was happy to go but he had to go to Tarshish first.

---

3. The sailors threw the cargo below deck.

---

4. The sailors caught a large fish.

---

5. Jonah could not hear Jonah's prayer from inside the fish.

---

6. Jonah was very happy that the people of Nineveh listened to God.

---

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7. God wanted to destroy the evil people of Nineveh.

---

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

Word or Phrase	Meaning
_____ 1. ruthlessly	a. clothing people wore when very sad
_____ 2. doomed	b. the lower floor of a ship
_____ 3. drowning	c. to throw up stomach contents
_____ 4. cargo	d. off the ship
_____ 5. below deck	e. without mercy
_____ 6. sackcloth	f. death by water
_____ 7. vomit	g. surely destroyed in future
_____ 8. overboard	h. things carried by the ship to be sold later

Fill in the blanks with the words above.

1. The people of Nineveh wore \_\_\_\_\_ to show God they were sorry.
2. Jonah was sleeping \_\_\_\_\_ when the sailors prayed to their gods to save them from \_\_\_\_\_ in the storm.
3. Jonah told Nineveh that they were \_\_\_\_\_ because they \_\_\_\_\_ sinned against other nations.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ was thrown \_\_\_\_\_ by the sailors during the storm.
5. A big fish swallowed Jonah, and then God commanded it to \_\_\_\_\_ him up on land.

### Discussion

- *Easier*
1. What did God want Jonah to do?
  2. Why did Jonah take a ship to Tarshish?

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3. What happened on the trip to Tarshish?
4. What did the sailors do first?
5. Why did they wake up Jonah?
6. What did Jonah tell them to do?
7. Why were the sailors afraid when they heard Jonah worshipped the God of Heaven who made the sea and land?
8. What happened to Jonah when he fell into the sea?
9. What happened to Nineveh because of Jonah's preaching?
10. Why do you think God gave Jonah and Nineveh a second chance?
11. Why do you think Jonah was so angry that Nineveh was not destroyed?

- *Intermediate*

1. What did God want Jonah to do? Why would this be something Jonah would not want to do?
2. What was Jonah's response? Why would Jonah choose Tarshish?
3. What did God do to make Jonah go back? What did Jonah tell the sailors?
4. How did the sailors react when they heard who Jonah worshipped? How did God use the storm to not only teach Jonah but also bless the sailors?
5. What did Jonah's refusal cost him and the others around him.?
6. What do you think was the turning point for Jonah?
7. What was the end result for the people of Nineveh? Do you think Jonah was happy with this result?

## Chapter Five: Travellers Spreading the Message

### 5.1 Jonah Flees God

8. Why do you think God gave Nineveh a second chance? Do you think they deserved this?
9. Why do you think God gave Jonah a second chance? Do you think he deserved this second chance?

- *Challenging*

1. What did God want Jonah to do? What was Jonah's response? Why did he respond this way? (Why Tarshish?)
2. What did God do to make Jonah go back? What did Jonah tell the sailors?
3. These sailors would most likely have been Phoenicians (modern day Lebanon), not Israelites. How did God use the storm to bless the sailors? Genesis 12:1-3 says that God would use Abraham's descendants to bless all the families of the earth. Do you think the sailors considered themselves blessed?
4. What did Jonah's refusal cost him and the others around him? Had Jonah been indifferent to that cost?
5. What do you think was the turning point for Jonah?
6. Why do you think God gave Jonah and the Ninevites a second chance? Will He always give us a second chance if we refuse to carry out His purposes for Him?
7. What was the end result for the people of Nineveh? The Bible tells us that Jonah was not happy with this result. Does this surprise you?
8. Matthew 5:43-44 says, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." Why does God ask this of us?

## Chapter Five: Travellers Spreading the Message

### 5.1 Jonah Flees God

9. The Bible also says that *God* continued to work on Jonah until Jonah did repent of his attitude. Philippians 1:6 says "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." What does this tell you about *God*?
  
10. What similarities do you see between *God* in the story of Jonah, and Jesus?



## Paul, out of Antioch

## Acts 13

**Background:** The book of Acts is a history of what happened after *Jesus Christ* returned to Heaven. It tells how Christianity spread from the Jews to the **Gentiles**. Jews who believed Jesus was *Messiah*<sup>1</sup> fled **persecution** in Jerusalem and Judea, bringing the **gospel** with them. In Antioch, Syria, Jewish believers began telling the *Gentiles* about Jesus, and they began worshipping together. When the leaders of the Antioch church were praying, the Holy Spirit told them to set apart Barnabas and Saul for special work. This work was to go and tell everyone God's plan through Jesus.

### Before You Read:

1. What is the best news anyone ever gave you?

### Passage:

In *Cyprus*:<sup>4</sup> After Barnabas and Saul had been sent by the Holy Spirit, they went to Seleucia. From there they sailed to the island of Cyprus.<sup>5</sup> They arrived at Salamis and began to preach God's message in the Jewish meeting places...<sup>6</sup> Barnabas and Saul went all the way to the city of Paphos on the other end of the island, where they met a Jewish man named Bar-Jesus. He practiced **witchcraft** and was a false prophet.<sup>7</sup> He also



<sup>1</sup> Both 'Christ' (Greek) and 'Messiah' (Hebrew) mean the same person who was promised by God. Long before Jesus, many prophets in the Bible talked about how Messiah would save human beings by bringing them to God.

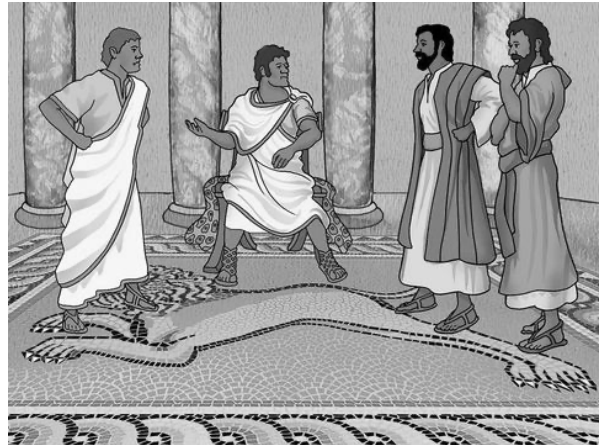
## Chapter Five: Travellers Spreading the Message

### 5.2 Paul, out of Antioch

worked for Sergius Paulus, who was very smart and was the governor of the island. Sergius Paulus wanted to hear God's message, and he sent for Barnabas and Saul.  
<sup>8</sup> But Bar-Jesus, whose other name was Elymas, was against them. He even tried to keep the governor from having faith in the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> Then Saul, better known as Paul, was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked straight at Elymas <sup>10</sup> and said, "You son of the devil! You are a liar, a crook, and an enemy of everything that is right. When will you stop speaking against the true ways of the Lord? <sup>11</sup> The Lord is going to punish you by making you completely blind for a while."

Suddenly the man's eyes were covered by a dark mist, and he went around trying to get someone to lead him by the hand.  
<sup>12</sup> When the governor saw what had happened, he was amazed at this teaching about the Lord. So he put his faith in the Lord.



Paul and Barnabas speak with Sergius Paulus and Elymas  
Paul in Cyprus. Free Bible Images.  
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-paul-cyprus/>

*When they left Paphos, Barnabas and Paul sailed to Perga then moved on to Psidian Antioch.*

In Psidian Antioch: <sup>14</sup> On the Sabbath they went to the Jewish meeting place and sat down. <sup>15</sup> After the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the leaders sent someone over to tell Paul and Barnabas, "Friends, if you have anything to say that will help the people, please say it."

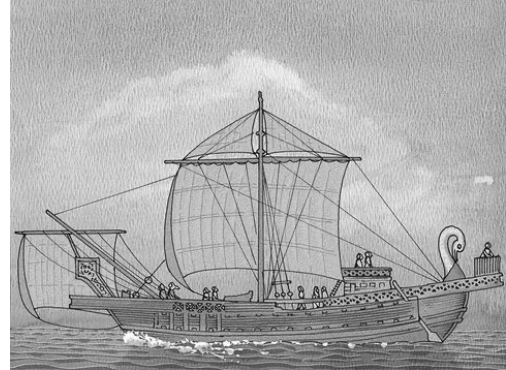
<sup>16</sup> Paul got up. He motioned with his hand and said:..."<sup>23</sup> God promised that someone from David's family would come to save the people of Israel, and that one is Jesus... <sup>26</sup> Now listen, you descendants of Abraham! Pay attention, all of you Gentiles who are here to worship God! Listen to this message about how to be saved, because it is for everyone. <sup>27</sup> The people of Jerusalem and their leaders didn't realize who Jesus was. And they didn't understand the words of the prophets that they read each Sabbath. So they **condemned** Jesus just as the prophets had said...<sup>30</sup> But God raised him from death! <sup>31</sup> Then for many days Jesus

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5.2 Paul, out of Antioch

appeared to his followers who had gone with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. Now they are telling our people about him.

<sup>32</sup> God made a promise to our ancestors. And we are here to tell you the good news <sup>33</sup> that he has kept this promise to us. ...<sup>38</sup> My friends, the message is that Jesus can forgive your sins! The Law of Moses could not set you free from all your sins. <sup>39</sup> But everyone who has faith in Jesus is set free..."

<sup>44</sup> The next Sabbath almost everyone in town came to hear the message about the Lord. <sup>45</sup> When the Jewish people saw the crowds, they were very **jealous**. They insulted Paul and spoke against everything he said... <sup>52</sup> But the Lord's followers in Antioch were very happy and were filled with the Holy Spirit.



Paul and Barnabas Travel by Ship  
Paul in Cyprus. Free Bible Images.  
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/yo-paul-cyprus/>

*Paul and Barnabus continued to travel to the cities of Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. In Iconium some people tried to kill them. In Lystra Paul healed a lame man. This made people think Paul and Barnabas were Greek gods, and they began to worship them. But Barnabas and Paul told them, "We are ordinary men. This healing was by the power of the living God!"*

*Some people believed in Jesus, but later hostile crowds stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city. They were sure they had killed him. But Paul lived, got up, returned, and he and Barnabas continued preaching there. Then they went on to Derbe and preached there as well. It was the only city in which they did not undergo persecution.*

*Before returning to Syria, Paul and Barnabas went back to visit the believers in every city they had taught in.*

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

## Passage Questions

Choose the best answer:

1. The words 'Christ' and 'Messiah' mean ...
  - a. The one who prophets said God would send to save people from sin
  - b. the same thing in different languages
  - c. all of the above
2. Governor Sergius Paulus wanted to hear Paul and Barnabas because...
  - a. Elymas said they were interesting
  - b. The governor was a smart man who wanted to know about God
  - c. Paul and Barnabas were friendly to him.
3. Paul told the Jews in Psidian Antioch that...
  - a. his message was only for the Jews
  - b. the Law of Moses could set them free
  - c. none of the above
4. Almost everyone in Psidian Antioch...
  - a. came to hear more from Paul
  - b. believed what Paul said about Jesus
  - c. all of the above
5. When Paul and Barnabas spoke about Jesus...
  - a. only Jews believed
  - b. only Gentiles believed
  - c. some Jews and Gentiles believed
6. In most places that Paul and Barnabas visited they..
  - a. were almost killed
  - b. faced persecution
  - c. only spoke to Gentiles

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

- |                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| _____1. Gentiles    | a. good news (about Jesus)  |
| _____2. persecution | b. someone dishonest        |
| _____3. gospel      | c. people who were not Jews |
| _____4. witchcraft  | d. sentenced to die         |
| _____5. crook       | e. resentful                |
| _____6. mist        | f. very bad treatment       |
| _____7. condemned   | g. using evil magic         |
| _____8. jealous     | h. fog                      |

### Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below using words from above.

1. Elymas practiced \_\_\_\_\_ and was a liar, so Paul called him a \_\_\_\_\_. God punished him by covering his eyes with a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Paul said that faith in Jesus could set people free from their sins. This was the \_\_\_\_\_, for both Jews and for \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The prophets said that the Messiah would be \_\_\_\_\_ because people would not realize who he was.
4. When some of the Jews saw the big crowd, they felt \_\_\_\_\_ and Paul faced \_\_\_\_\_ from them.

### Discussion

- *Easier*
1. Where did the first believers tell Gentiles about Jesus?
  2. What did the Holy Spirit tell the church in Antioch?
  3. What other ways did the Holy Spirit act during Paul and Barnabas' travels?
  4. What kind of man was Elymas?

## Chapter Five: Travellers Spreading the Message

### 5.2 Paul, out of Antioch

5. Why did Governor Sergius Paulus believe in the Lord Jesus?
  6. What did Paul say about the teachings of the prophets and God's promises?
  7. Why did many of the Jewish leaders and teachers reject Jesus?
  8. How did Greeks in Lystra react when Paul and Barnabas healed the lame man? What did Paul and Barnabas say to them?
  9. What did you learn about Paul in this story?
  10. What did you learn about God's plans in this story?
- *Intermediate*
    1. What was the role of the Holy Spirit in this story?
    2. What kind of man was Elymas?
    3. Why did Governor Sergius Paulus believe in the Lord Jesus?
    4. (You can read Paul's full sermon in Acts 13:16 - 41) What did Paul teach about the prophets to the people in Antioch, Pisidia? What did he tell them about Jesus?
    5. Why did many of the Jewish leaders and teachers reject Jesus?
    6. In Lystra, Paul and Barnabas healed a lame man.
      - a. How did the Greeks in Lystra react when the man was healed?
      - b. What did Paul and Barnabas say to them?
      - c. What misunderstandings might happen if two men healed like that today where you live? In your first country?
    7. What did you learn about Paul in this story?

8. What did you learn about God's plans in this story?

- *Challenging*

1. From the time of Abraham, the entire region of the Middle East and Asia Minor (Turkey) had been wracked with warfare as one superpower warred with the next: Hittites; Egyptians; Assyrians; Babylonians; Persians; Macedonians, the Ptolemies and the Seleucids; then Rome. Galatians 4:4 says, "But when the appropriate time had come, God sent out his Son...". Why was the 1<sup>st</sup> century during the Roman Empire the appropriate time for the spread of the gospel?
2. The Bible says that it was Jewish believers from Cyprus and Cyrene who were the first to intentionally spread the gospel to Gentiles in Syrian Antioch. Why did they choose Antioch, Syria to start this work? Why might God have not chosen the church leaders in Jerusalem for this work?
3. How would Barnabas and Paul have known for sure that they were to leave for Asia (modern Turkey)?
4. (Read Paul's full sermon in Acts 13:16 - 41) Paul and Barnabas taught in the synagogue in Antioch, Psidia.
  - a. What did Paul teach the people about the prophets?
  - b. Why did he talk about Moses as well?
  - c. Why did he talk about David?
5. Why did many of the Jewish leaders and teachers in Psidian Antioch reject Jesus? What did Paul and Barnabas tell them?
6. How did the Greeks in Lystra react when Paul and Barnabas healed the lame man? What did Paul and Barnabas say to them? How do you think they would react to this?

## Chapter Five: Travellers Spreading the Message

### 5.2 Paul, out of Antioch

7. How did Paul describe Elymas? How did Elymas' practice of witchcraft fit into Paul's description of him? What else might you guess about Elymas from this passage?
8. Why do you think Sergius Paulus believed in the Lord Jesus so quickly?
9. What did you learn about Paul in this story?
10. Why is this a pivotal point in God's plans for His people?



## Paul, into Europe

Acts 16-17

**Background:** Five years after Paul and Barnabas had started new churches they decided to visit them, but they went separately. Barnabas took his cousin Mark to Cyprus. Paul took Silas, an elder from the church in Jerusalem, to Pamphylia. Along the way two other friends, Luke and Timothy, joined them. (Luke wrote Acts, which is why the passage uses 'We'.)

### Before You Read:

1. What keeps you going when life is hard?

### Passage:

Acts 16: <sup>6</sup>Paul and his friends went through Phrygia and Galatia, but the Holy Spirit would not let them preach in Asia. <sup>7</sup>After they arrived in Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not let them. <sup>8</sup>So they went on through Mysia until they came to Troas.

<sup>9</sup>During the night, Paul had a vision of someone from Macedonia who was standing there and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" <sup>10</sup>After Paul had seen the vision, we began looking for a way to go to Macedonia. We were sure that God had called us to preach the good news there...



Chapter Five: Travellers Spreading the Message  
5.3 Paul, into Europe

*Paul and his friends sailed across to Macedonia, and they went to the important Roman colony of Philippi...* <sup>13</sup>On the **Sabbath** we went outside the city gate to a place by the river, where we thought there would be a Jewish meeting place for prayer. We sat down and talked with the women who came. <sup>14</sup>One of them was Lydia, who was from the city of Thyatira and sold expensive purple cloth. She was a worshiper of the Lord God, and he made her willing to accept what Paul was saying. <sup>15</sup>Then after she and her family were baptised, she kept on begging us, "If you think I really do have faith in the Lord, come stay in my home." Finally, we accepted her invitation.



<sup>16</sup>One day on our way to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl. She had a spirit in her that gave her the power to tell the future. By doing this she made a lot of money for her owners. <sup>17</sup>The girl followed Paul and the rest of us and kept yelling, "These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how to be saved."...

Paul travelled the ancient Roman road, the "Via Egnatia" in Macedonia.

All the "roads" lead to Philippi: The history of the greatly travelled 'Via Egnatia'. <https://www.travel-zone-greece.com/blog/roads-lead-philippi-history-greatly-travelled-via-egnatia/>

*After several days* <sup>18</sup>Paul got so upset that he turned and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I order you to leave this girl alone!" At once the evil spirit left her. <sup>19</sup>When the girl's owners realized that they had lost all chances for making more money, they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them into court. ... *They lied about Paul and Silas to the officials, who had them whipped and put in jail...*

<sup>25</sup>About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God, while the other prisoners listened. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly a strong earthquake shook the jail to its foundations. The doors opened, and the chains fell from all the prisoners. <sup>27</sup>When the jailer woke up and saw that the doors were open, he thought that the prisoners had escaped. He pulled out his sword and was about to kill himself. (*The jailor*

## Chapter Five: Travellers Spreading the Message

### 5.3 Paul, into Europe

would have had to take the sentences of all who escaped.)<sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! No one has escaped."

<sup>29</sup> The jailer ... knelt down in front of Paul and Silas,...<sup>30</sup> He asked, "What must I do to be saved?"<sup>31</sup> They replied, "Have faith in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved! ..."<sup>32</sup> Then Paul and Silas told him and everyone else in his house about the Lord.<sup>33</sup> While it was still night, the jailer ...and everyone in his home were baptised.

*Acts 17: Paul and his friends continued west to Thessalonica and preached there. Many believed, but many **opposed**. A **mob** attacked the house of Jason, a believer, but they could not find Paul. They went to the officials and said "Christians,"<sup>7</sup>...break the laws of the Roman Emperor by claiming that someone named Jesus is king." ... The believers quickly sent Paul and Silas to Berea.*

<sup>11</sup> The people in Berea were much nicer than those in Thessalonica, and they gladly accepted the message. Day after day they studied the Scriptures to see if these things were true.<sup>12</sup> Many of them put their faith in the Lord, including some important Greek women and several men.

*When some of the unbelieving Jews of Thessalonica heard of this, they came to Berea to stir up a mob. The Bereans immediately sent Paul on a ship to Athens. Silas and Timothy stayed behind in Berea to continue teaching the new believers.*

### What Do You Think?<sup>1</sup>

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?

<sup>1</sup> Questions taken from [www.storyingthescriptures.com](http://www.storyingthescriptures.com)

### Passage Questions

#### True or False

1. Barnabas and Paul travelled together again. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Paul and his friends traveled into Bithynia. \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter Five: Travellers Spreading the Message

### 5.3 Paul, into Europe

3. Both Jews and Gentiles persecuted Paul and Silas. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The slave girl could tell the future by God's Spirit. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Lydia already knew about God when she met Paul. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The Bereans checked to see if Paul was telling the truth. \_\_\_\_\_

Match the word with its meaning.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| _____1. begging     | a. the strongest part of a building below the ground                  |
| _____2. vision      | b. beat using leather or cord   |
| _____3. foundations | c. strongly requesting  |
| _____4. Sabbath     | d. a large crowd of people who are angry and difficult to control     |
| _____5. whipped     | e. against  |
| _____6. mob         | f. a picture you see in your mind                                     |
| _____7. chains      | g. the Jewish day of worship  |
| _____8. opposed     | h. metal rings joined together for holding a prisoner's hands or feet |

Use the words above to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

1. An angry \_\_\_\_\_ told officials that Christians break the law of the Roman emperor.
2. If a building has good \_\_\_\_\_ it will last for a long time.
3. Paul and Silas preached to people during worship on the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Paul saw the Macedonian man \_\_\_\_\_ him to come in a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In Philippi, officials arrested Paul and Silas, then they were \_\_\_\_\_ and put in \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Some of the Jews and Gentiles \_\_\_\_\_ Paul in Thessalonica.

## Discussion

- *Easier*

1. Why were Paul and Silas not able to preach in other regions of Asia?
2. Where is Macedonia? Why did Paul decide to go there?
3. Who was Lydia?
4. How did the slave-girl know who Paul and Silas were?
5. Why do you think Paul commanded the spirit to come out of her?
6. Why did the jailor believe in God? Who in his family believed?
7. What accusation did the unbelieving Jews of Thessalonica make against Christians, including Paul and Silas?
8. Luke said the Berean Jews were much nicer people. Why did he think this?
9. In each of these three cities, Paul and Silas went to preach in the synagogues. Why did they do this when they knew it would bring persecution?

- *Intermediate*

1. Why do you think the Holy Spirit kept Paul and Silas from preaching in other regions of Asia during this journey?
2. Why did Paul believe he should go to Macedonia?
3. Why did Paul and Silas go to the riverside in Philippi?
4. Who made Lydia accept the good news about Jesus?
5. Why do you think Paul cast out the demon from the slave-girl? Is all fortune telling wrong? Why or why not?

## Chapter Five: Travellers Spreading the Message

### 5.3 Paul, into Europe

6. Why do you think the jailor wanted to be saved? What do you learn about Roman law and order here?
7. The mob in Thessalonica did not find Paul or Silas when they went to the believer Jason's house. Why do you think the believers still sent them away the same night?
8. The Bible says the Bereans were 'much nicer'. Why would the writer Luke say this? Do you think it's important to do what they did? Why or why not?
9. Why does Paul keep preaching in the synagogues, when he knows this will bring persecution? How did God make use of this persecution?

- *Challenging*

1. Why do you think the Holy Spirit kept Paul and Silas from preaching in Asia during this journey? (In his next journey, Paul was able to return to Asia and preach there.)
2. Why did Paul believe he should go to Macedonia? What is a vision? How can you tell a vision from a daydream?
3. Why did Paul and Silas go to the riverside in Philippi?
4. Why do you think Paul cast out the demon from the slave-girl? Is all fortune telling wrong? Why or why not? How is fortune telling different than prophecy?
5. The Jews in Jerusalem resisted Roman rule and refused to allow Roman emperor worship in Judea. How did those opposing Paul make use of this fact?
6. Why do you think the jailor wanted to be saved? What do you learn about Roman law and order here?

## Chapter Five: Travellers Spreading the Message

### 5.3 Paul, into Europe

7. The officials of Thessalonica did not imprison Jason despite the charge that he was disrupting the city. Why do you think the believers still sent Paul and Silas away by boat the same night?
8. The Bible says the Bereans were 'much nicer'. Why would the writer Luke say this? Do you think it's important to do what they did? Why or why not?
9. In each of the three cities, Paul and Silas encountered persecution. How did God make use of this persecution?
10. Why does Paul keep preaching in the synagogues, when he knows this will cause much opposition? In Romans 9:1-4, Paul wrote, "...I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons...". What does this tell you about Paul's heart?
11. Mark, Barnabas' cousin, was young when he accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first journey. Mark deserted them when the going got tough, so Paul refused to take Mark with him on his second journey. But Barnabas took a chance on him again. Later Mark wrote one of the gospels and became a useful worker for Paul. In this story, you see Paul taking young Timothy along with his group. What do you learn from this?

