

**FOLLOWING JESUS**  
**Making Disciples of Oral Learners**

**EVANGELISM TRACK**  
**PERSIAN ORAL BIBLE PROJECT by Team PSW**

**\*\*\*\*\*MODULE 2—CHOOSING TO FOLLOW JESUS\*\*\*\*\***

I. Intro: Making Disciples of Oral Learners (Executive Package)

**II. Choosing to Follow Jesus**

**A. Preparing the Way to Follow Jesus (OT stories)**

**B. Answering the Call to Follow Jesus – (NT stories)**

III. Living in the Family of Jesus

A. New Believers

B. Church-Planting Movements/Multiplying Churches

*For Future Development:*

IV. Becoming Like Jesus

A. Nurturing Spiritual Children

B. Maturing Spiritual Disciples

V. Serving Like Jesus

A. Multiplying Spiritual Disciples

B. Equipping Spiritual Leaders

VI. On Mission with God

The Persian Oral Bible contains Bible stories put together in intentional ways. This project is meant to provide a Bible to millions of Persians who live in an oral culture. There are millions of Persians who cannot read or are functionally illiterate. Many are blind, others have not been able to attend school, still others might have a reading problem such as dyslexia and have never mastered literacy. Keep in mind that if someone is a non-reader, it does not mean that they are mentally inferior. They just cannot look up an answer for themselves. Further, many literate people do not prefer to read. They would rather gain new knowledge through an oral presentation. All of these function best in an oral culture. For them, this project is providing them with an oral Bible. Notice that it is not an audio Bible! The Bible lessons are presented in a very special way to ensure memorization.

In the first story and in several places throughout the 130 stories that comprise the Persian Oral Bible, the listener is reminded that the stories come from a literate source. Muslim Persians understand that holy writings exist, even for Christians. In several hours of interviews with Persians, there is a general knowledge of the Bible. However, specific references are meaningless. When a literal memorization of biblical text is presented, it is common for a reference to be given. Muslims memorize great portions of the Quran (as well as secular poets), so it is important, even on the first lesson to include a memory verse to show that Christians believe in memorizing Scripture!

Oral culture learners need to have Bible stories presented in chronological order. The Bible stories build upon themselves, but they never jump ahead. The use of testimonies by Christian believers or those wrestling with their faith is an attraction for which we understand an oral culture Muslim would stay to listen to the Bible story. The idea is to keep the gospel message moving along before calling for a decision. There are 25 stories required in the presentation pulling from the Pentateuch. Memory verses are used from Joshua, 1 Samuel, Psalms and Isaiah as mental clues that the entire Bible is not being presented.

A core group of the stories were selected because they were considered by evangelical Christians to be essential for salvation. Other Bible stories and each memory verse were

selected based upon one of some eighty worldview issues of Muslim Persians. The discipleship track uses 65 stories and is based largely upon the third module of a new work called "Following Jesus" that is being produced by evangelical Christians who are experts in discipleship and chronological storying of the Bible. There are 65 unique stories in the evangelism track. Although there are 65 stories in the discipleship track, 30 of them are reviewed Bible stories that were told in the evangelism track. The difference is that the stories are examined from a Christian perspective.

**-- PK**

---

---

## OLD TESTAMENT – Preparing to Follow Jesus

---

---

Welcome to the Oral Bible for Persians and its Evangelism Track. The 65 stories in this series is based on “Following Jesus” Module 2 entitled, “Preparing to Follow Jesus.” Please evaluate the following stories for their appropriateness to local worldview issues. These are presented as a guide and should be tested carefully before used with groups of Persians.

### **No. 1-- The Bible as scriptural authority: John 17:17, Matthew 24:35 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Is the Bible important to you? What is the Bible anyway? Is it like the Qur'an or is it different some way? Can you trust it? We have several stories from the Bible to share, but first we'd like to have this story that uses the Bible itself. One thing I need to add before we start: You do not have to be able to read in order to appreciate the wisdom from the Bible. You may be blind, have a vision impairment or perhaps your reading skills prevent you from reading the Bible for yourself. This series is designed for you. It will share Bible stories that you can learn and share with others. The story of the Bible as a book of life and blessing. It is not a story that you'll find in any single place in the Bible, but it is a composite of a number things from God's Word that taken together can give us an idea of how we came to have our Bible. How do we come to know who God is? How is that we come to know what He expects of us; how we might experience His blessings upon our lives? How do we come to know what is the right thing to do and what is really true? This story is designed to help us learn that God's Word is the place to go for answers to those questions. Here is our first story. We call it, “The Bible as Scriptural Authority.”

#### **BIBLE STORY**

##### **Truth: The Bible is the authoritative Word of God**

Barrier—Essential for Salvation—

The Bible as scriptural authority (Based on Romans 15:4, 2nd Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 11:1-2, John 17:17, Matthew 24:35 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

A long time ago, there was wise teacher. His name was Paul, and he wrote instructions to a young man whose name was Timothy. Timothy was just beginning his life's work, so Paul wrote to encourage him because he remembered the sincere faith of young Timothy. In fact, he reminded Timothy. He said you have grown up in a household where your mother and your grandmother before her had this same sincere faith in God. Where did their faith come from? Well, Paul reminded Timothy; he said your mother and grandmother's faith has come from the Word of God. He said to Timothy, continue in what you have learned and be true to it. Since you were an infant, you've known the Holy Scriptures that you wise about salvation through faith in the One sent from God. Paul also reminded Timothy that all Scripture is God breathed and it's profitable to us. It is useful for training, teaching, and helping us do the right thing. Another of God's spokesmen said about that process that none of the prophets of old who've given us God's Word spoke according to their own thinking, instead, each of them was led by God's Spirit. So, though God's Word was written by a variety of men over many generations, what they wrote has consistency and agrees because it was God's Spirit who was guiding them in what to write. Over a period of many years the writings that God guided people to make were gathered into a written form of His Word. And because God was speaking to each of those people they recorded it in the language that they and their people spoke. In recent times God has caused His Word to be put into the language of many, many different people all around the world so that people all over the world know His Word, and know the God who wants to communicate with us. Then they can experience the blessing that God has given. So the stories that we tell from God's Word are about people a long time ago but they were recorded by God's guidance so that they would be blessing to us as well. God has said that “these things are written for our encouragement, to teach us what is right and to teach us what is wrong.” And so that we will know the truth and know the God who has given us this truth. This concludes our Bible story.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Here are a few questions for you to consider: How do we know the truth of God? Does He want us to know His Holy Word? Why do you think God gave us a collection of stories that reveal the very nature of God? Each of the stories in this collection are from God Himself. They are full of truth without any mixture of error. You can trust them to be inspirational and impact your life. The Bible is a wonderful collection, but they are more than stories. The Bible helps to teach us about God's ways. He wants us to live as we should and have a right relationship with Him. Are you equipped for living rightly before God? The Bible helps us to know and do the will of God. Will you commit to understand God's Word? Will you listen to these stories and meditate on each one? Every five sessions, we will learn a new verse from the Bible. Our memory Verse for Week 1 is the very first verse of the Bible. Genesis chapter one, verse one says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (repeat verse) That is all for this story session. The next time we are together we will hear the whole creation story. Until then, please think about our world and who made it. Think about your parents and any ancestors that you might know. Where did everyone come from?

### **CLOSING**

## **No. 2-- God's sovereignty; creation Genesis 1:1-2:6**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Do you believe that the Spirit of God is powerful? How powerful? Do you believe that God is powerful enough to create the world and still be powerful enough to be close to you as a friend? Before we have today's story, let's review the last time we were together story. We talked about God's Word, the Bible, and how it was given to us so that everyone in the world could know God's Word for themselves. Could you retell the story? Do you remember that the wise man named Paul and many prophets before him recorded God's Words for us? How does the need for everyone to have the stories of the Bible in their own language differ from the Quran or other religious writings? Do you believe that God's word is for everyone, even you? Are you looking forward to hearing stories from the Bible? If you listen to this series, we plan to present more than 100 stories, one at a time. We want you to memorize them. Take them to heart. We'll tell the Bible stories and then give you questions that will not lecture, but help you explore truths from the Bible. Are you ready? Today's story is about God creating the world. As the story is told, please listen carefully for specific things. If you are an older man, listen to the order of creation. If you are a young man, see if you can compare the way that the world is today with the way that God intended it to be. If you are an older woman, listen for a special phrase after each day that God created something. If you are a younger woman, find something that was created that you want to praise God for. And this is our story, "God's Sovereign Creation."

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God is sovereign.**

Barrier--God is distant and harsh (Essential for Salvation)

God's sovereign Creation Genesis 1:1-2:6

In the beginning of everything, God created the Heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless. It didn't have any shape. It was empty, and it was dark all over the surface of everything. It was just without any type of shape at all. Now the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters, and God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that there was light that was made and it was good. And you know, He separated the light from the darkness. You know what He called it? He called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and morning and that's what He did in the first day. And then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate the water from the water." So God made the expanse, He made the land, and He separated the water under the expanse so that the water above it, and it was so. And on the second day, God said, "Let there be separation between the waters and the expanse and everything that was being made." And so God separated the water and everything about it, and it was so, and God called this great expanse, He called it sky. And there was evening and the morning the second day. And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered over in one place, and let dry ground appear," and it was so. God called the dry ground land, and He gathered the water together and He called that the seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation," you know, seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to the various kinds. And it was so. The land produced vegetation, the plants bore seed, and they did things according to their kind. And the trees bore fruit with the seed according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And that was the evening and the morning of the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse," which He called the sky, "to separate the day from the night. And let them mark the seasons and to the days and the years, and let the lights of the expanse of the sky give light to the earth," and it was so. Now God made two lights; the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. And He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give them to have light for the earth. They governed the day and the night, and they separated the light from the darkness, and God saw that it was good. And you know what? That was the evening and the morning of the fourth day. And God said, "Let the water teem with every living creature, and let the birds fly above the earth, across the expanse," which He called the sky. So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with the water, everything in it according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiple and fill the water

in the season, and let the birds increase on the earth and them as they fly in the sky.” And there was evening and there was morning, and that was the fifth day. And God said, “Let the land produce creatures according to their kinds of livestock, creatures that move across the ground, and wild animals according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds. The livestock, their kind, and all the creatures that move along the ground, that was another kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let’s make a man in our own image, in our likeness, and let man rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over the livestock, over all of the earth and over all of the creatures that move on the ground.” And so God created man in His own image. And in His own image, He made man. Now He made a man and a woman. He created them, male and female. God blessed them and said to them, “Now be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and rule over it. Rule over those fish of the sea and the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves on the ground. And then God said, “I will give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth, and every tree that has fruit and seed in it, and this will be your food.” And to all the beasts of the earth, and all the birds of the air, and all the creatures that move on the ground, everything that moved around on the earth and had a breath of life in it, even the green plants for the food, He’ll give to you, give to the man. And so it was so. And God saw all that He had made and it was very good. And there was evening and there was the morning, and that was the sixth day. Now, the Heavens and the earth were now completed, and all of that vast array. But you know what God did on the seventh day, God had finished the work He had been doing, and so He rested from all of His work. And God blessed that last day of creation, that seventh day, and He made it holy because He rested from all the work that he had done. Now that’s our story.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Older men, can you remember the order of the creation? Younger men, how does the world today compare with the world God made? Older women, did you hear the special phrase about the creation being good? Young women, what did you find to praise God about? Now, let me ask some questions for everybody to think about: Is God the creator of everything or did our world just happen by accident? Did anyone help God create the world? What do you think the Bible meant that the Spirit of God hovered over the waters? What is the Spirit of God? Why did God create man in his own image? How does that make you feel? Do you think that everything is as good as God made it today? How has the world changed since God made the world? Can you celebrate the fact that God created our world and it was good? What difference does it make knowing that God is our Creator and that His Spirit moved throughout the world, assisting in creation? Does that mean that God is two gods? Of course not, God's Spirit and God are one, but just in another form. Praise God that He made our world! Be sure to listen to our story next time. It will be about the very first man and the very first woman that God created. Their names were Adam and Eve and they were tempted to be as wise as God. Do you remember our memory verse for the week? It is from the very first verse in the Bible. Genesis 1:1-“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” In order to help you memorize these verses, we will look at the verse phrase by phrase. The first phrase was “In the beginning...” When was the beginning? The only thing the Bible tells us is that God was in the very beginning. He existed before anything else. The next phrase is “God created the heavens and the earth.” Have you ever looked into the night sky and tried to count the stars? Do you believe that God created our universe? Do you believe that God is sovereign over all of His creation? Here’s the Bible verse once more: “In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.” Genesis 1:1.

### **CLOSING**

**No. 3-- God created man and woman in His image Genesis 2:7-25**

**INTRODUCTION**

Our Bible story today continues the story of God's creation. In this story, listen for the way that men and women were created. As the story is told, please listen to the way that God created you and me. Whose image do we bear? If you have given birth to a son or a daughter, how do you feel about your children? How do you think God feels about us? Now, please listen to this story today. It is called "God created man and woman in His image."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God invites us to have a relationship with Him.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

God created man and woman in His image

Genesis 2:7-25

This is the story from God's Word. After God had made the heavens and the earth, the lands and the sea and all the other animals, God said let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let him rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth and over all the other creatures that move along the ground. So God created man in His own image. And the image of God he created him. Male and female. He created them. And this how it happened. God took some dust of the earth and he shaped into the form of a man and he breathed into the man the breath of life. And the man became a living soul. A living being. And God saw that it was not good for the man to be alone and so he put him to sleep and he opened a place in the man's side. And from his side he took a portion and he closed that side up and from that portion he made the woman. So that when the man awoke and he saw the woman that God had made, the man said, ah, this is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. She will be called woman because she was taken from man. And God told them "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and rule over it." And the man and woman were naked and they were not ashamed. This is the story of the creation of the first man and the first woman.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

What was the difference God created in the man and woman from everything else that He made? What is the image of God? Should we be honored to have God's image upon us? Do you believe that God is sovereign over all of His creation? How should we feel toward Him? Do you find it interesting that God was concerned that Adam was all alone? Why did God make the woman from the man's side? Do you ever thank God for all that He has made? Think about God's care for Adam and Eve in the Garden. Do you think He loved those whom He had created? Do you think He loves you? What does the Bible mean when it says that the two became one flesh? Does God bond a husband and a wife? Finally, why did Adam and Eve feel no shame even though they were naked? Memory Verse for Week 1-Genesis 1:1-In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**CLOSING**

#### **No. 4--Adam & Eve/Cain & Abel Genesis 3:1 to 4:16**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

There is a difference between a religion of rituals and a personal relationship with God. Do you know someone that wants to have a deeper relationship with God? God is holy and pure. He is sovereign! Do you ever feel at a distance from God? Listen to this Bible story. It is about Adam and Eve, the very first man and the very first woman. Here are a few listening tasks. What freedoms and what restrictions did God give to Adam and Eve? Listen to the relationship that God wants to have with us. Can anything break that relationship? What do you think Adam and Eve will do when they face temptation? How will God react? What will happen to Adam and Eve's children? Here is the Bible story of Adam and Eve; Cain and Abel.

##### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God wants to have an unblemished relationship with us.**

**Truth: We have a sinful nature and cannot redeem ourselves.**

Barrier -- Dishonesty okay if not caught (Essential for Salvation)

Adam & Eve / Cain & Abel

Genesis 3:1 to 4:16

Now God had told Adam that you may eat from any tree that is in the garden, except you must not eat from the tree that is in the center of the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told him in the day you eat from that tree you will surely die. Now the serpent was the craftiest of all the animals that the Lord had made and one day the serpent came to the woman in the garden and asked her, did God really say that you must not eat from any tree in the garden? The woman answered the serpent you can eat fruit from any of the trees in the garden, but God said you must not eat from the tree that is in the middle of the garden and you must not touch it or you will surely die. Oh, the serpent said, you will not surely die, for God knows that when you eat from that tree your eyes will be open and you will be like God knowing good and evil. The woman went and looked at the fruit from that particular tree and it looked good for food and it was pleasing to the eye and it was also desirable to have wisdom, to know like God. So she took some and she ate it. And she gave some to her husband, the man who was there with her, and he ate it. And when they did eat it their eyes were opened and they realized they were naked and they were ashamed and so they made some coverings for themselves out of leaves and hid themselves. Now in the cool of the day, the man and the woman heard the sound of God coming from the garden and so they hid among the trees in the garden. But God said to them, where are you? And the man answered, I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked so I hid. And God said, who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from? The man answered, he said, the woman, the woman you gave me, she gave me some the fruit and I ate it. And the Lord said to the woman, what is this you have done? And the woman said, the serpent, he deceived me and I ate it. So the Lord spoke to the serpent and said that because you have done this you are cursed above all the animals, you will crawl on your belly all the days of your life, through dust. And I will put hatred between you and the woman and hatred between your offspring and her offspring. The son of the woman will crush your head and you will strike his heel and to the woman God said I will greatly increase your pains in child bearing. Only with great difficulty will you give birth. Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you. And to the man, he said, because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree which I told you that you shall not eat from that tree, cursed is the ground because of you, only by painful toil will you raise your food from the crops. They will produce thorns and weeds for you and only by the sweat of your brow will you have food. From the ground you were made and to the ground you will return at your death. And then God made coverings for the man's and the woman's nakedness, he covered them with clothing made of animal skins. And then God said if we allow the man and woman to remain in the garden they may eat from the tree of life and remain in this state forever. And so he sent the man and the woman out of the garden and placed at the entrance there a flaming sword, which moved back and forth, and an angel to ensure that they could never again return. This is the story of the disobedience of Adam and Eve. Adam had sex with his wife Eve, she conceived and gave birth to a son, Cain, meaning "I have created." She explained upon his birth, "With God's help I have



received a man from the Lord.” And after a time, she gave birth to Cain’s brother, whom they named Abel. Abel became a shepherd, but Cain became a farmer. Now at harvest time, Cain brought forth from his farm’s harvest an offering for the Lord. Abel also brought a gift for the Lord, a firstborn that he selected from his flock and the fat from that sheep. The Lord accepted Abel’s offering, but the Lord did not accept nor receive Cain’s offering. As a result, Cain was very, very angry and disappointed to the point you could see it in his face. Now the Lord asked Cain, “Why are you so angry? And why is your face red with rage? Don’t you know if you do well, you will be accepted also? But if you do not do well, sin is waiting at the door to attack you, longing to destroy you. But you can conquer it.” Afterwards Cain talked with his brother Abel. And at a time when they were alone in the field, Cain seized the opportunity and killed Abel. The Lord then came to Cain asking him, “Where is your brother Abel?” Cain responded, “How should I know? Am I my brother’s watchman?” God asked Cain, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood calls unto me from the ground. Now I tell you, you are cursed from the earth, which has opened her mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. Therefore, when you plow the ground, it will no longer yield her harvest to you. You will be a fugitive and a wanderer from place to place.” During this judgment, Cain responded to God. He said, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. Don’t you see, you’ve driven me away from my farm, and from your face I will be hid, and I will soon be a fugitive and a wanderer throughout all the earth. And as a result, among those who find me, one will end up killing me.” The Lord then said to Cain, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, revenge shall be taken on that person sevenfold.” And the Lord set a mark upon Cain lest any finding him should kill him. After that, Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and lived in the land of Nod on the East of Eden. That is our story today.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Did God seek to have a relationship with Adam and Eve? Do you think that Adam and Eve thought that their sin was a secret? Do you think Adam and Eve were able to hide very long from God? How did God punish Adam and Eve? Was the sinful nature of Adam and Eve passed along to their children? Why did God accept Abel’s offering? Do you think God wants our best? Why did Cain kill Abel? Did Cain do wrong even though nobody knew what he did? Did God know? Do you think God tolerates sin? How did God punish Cain? What we sin today, does God know about it? Does it matter to you if you do wrong and nobody knows? Do you believe that God knows when you sin? Does God want to pursue you in order to restore a right relationship with you? In our next story, we will take a look at the continuing sinful nature of mankind. What do you think God will do when almost every man and woman on earth is living sinful lives? Don’t forget our Memory Verse for Week 1-Genesis 1:1-In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

### **CLOSING**

**No. 5 -- Noah and the Ark, pt. 1 Genesis 6:5-7:10**

**INTRODUCTION**

Think back to the origins of sin. Do you remember the story of the disobedience of Adam and Eve? Do you remember that Cain became so jealous of his brother Abel that he killed him? How did God punish them for their sins? Adam lived 930 years and he died. Adam and Eve had many children, including Seth who lived 912 years. Many generations were born and died. Some of the people were good, such as Enoch who walked with God and did not die, but was taken into Heaven when he was 365 years old. Enoch's son was named Methusalah who lived the longest of any man. He was 969 years old when he died. Methusalah had a son named Lamech and he had a son named Noah. Each generation after Adam became more and more sinful. The good world that God created became full of sinful people. The world became so sinful that God decided to destroy it. The people lived with a broken relationship to God. As you listen to the Bible story, listen for ways that one man, Noah, pleased God. If you had been Noah, would you have trusted God as much as Noah did? Our Bible story today is called "Noah and the Great Flood," or "Noah and the Ark." This is part one.

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Sin breaks our relationship with God.**

Bridge -- Essential for Salvation--added

Noah and the Ark, pt. 1

Genesis 6:5-7:10

The earth was very corrupt. The men [and] the women did very many immoral things. They were very wicked in their ways that they treated each other. The Lord was very grieving about what they were doing and He decided that He would bring a flood. He would start over again and wipe out every animal, every creature, and He would start over with anyone that He could find that was righteous. Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. He was righteous. He was blameless and He spent a lot of time with God. ...The earth was very corrupt, but God wanted Noah to get ready for a disaster. God wanted Noah to build an ark. An ark is a type of very, very large boat that could hold many, many different things. God was very careful to give exact dimensions to Noah about how long it should be, how wide it should be, how tall it should be, even where the door would be. He also told him about the decks and how many decks it should have, how many walls and even was concerned about the water proofing, so that the boat, like any boat that would float on the water would not leak. God wanted Noah to know that a flood was coming and that it was going to destroy everything, but God also wanted to establish a promise with Noah. A promise was actually a covenant and after Noah would enter the ark, that He would protect Noah and his family; his wife, his three sons and his son's wives. God would establish a covenant with Noah, but He also told Noah that he wanted him to take two of every living creature that breathed air; a bird or anything that was on the ground. God wanted Noah to take these onto the ark with him. And He also wanted Noah to provide for those in the ark. He wanted them to take food of every kind so that everyone would be able to have something to eat during the flood. Well, Noah obeyed God's command and did just as God commanded. God also gave him another instruction about what was to go into the ark. He was to take seven of every kind of clean animal and two of every kind of unclean animal and when he was taking in these animals two by two, they were to be male and female, a pair for each. Because God knew that a flood was coming in one week and that Noah needed to get ready. The rain was going to come for forty days and forty nights. Now Noah did all that God commanded him to do and he built the boat and he started collecting the animals. Noah was 600 years old when the flood came. Well, his family and the animals entered the ark. They came on two by two, the pairs of animals, male and female and after seven days, the flood came. The springs down in the earth burst forth. The floodgates of heaven literally let go and rain started coming from the sky and it rained so hard, but the Lord sealed the door of the ark and shut everyone in safely in the ark. And the rain fell for forty days and for forty nights. The ark lifted on the water and the water was so deep that the ark even floated well over the mountains. The water was so incredibly high and everything on earth drowned; birds, livestock, wild animals, every kind of creature that could breathe including all mankind. Only Noah and those with him in the ark survived the flood.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

What was God's judgment on a sinful world? Did the judgment affect a few or the whole world? Why was Noah's family the exception? Was Noah obedient to God? What did Noah do to obey God? How did Noah's family show their obedience to God? Do you think it was easy for Noah and his family to obey God? Even though God wanted to destroy the world, did God provide a way to save Noah, his family and the animals? How many of each kind of animals were placed in the ark? Apply this story to your life. Would you trust God no matter what He told you to do? What kind of faith does that take? The story of Noah and the Ark will continue in our next Bible story. Do you think Noah will continue to please God? What would happen if Noah was disobedient? Do you think that God's judgment would still be upon the earth? Will God destroy the world every time human beings become sinful? Have you memorized the Memory Verse for Week 1? Genesis 1:1-"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." If you are not doing it already, let me encourage you to invite your entire family to listen to these stories. If you are a child or an adolescent, invite your parents to listen with you.

### **CLOSING**

**No. 6 -- Noah and the Ark, pt. 2 -- Genesis 7:11-8:22**

**INTRODUCTION**

Did you hear the first part of the Bible story of Noah and the Ark? If we had time, I would ask someone to tell it, so that we can review it together. Do you remember that God intended to destroy the world and all mankind? However, God found favor in a man named Noah. Noah was obedient to God in the middle of a world that was very sinful. Do you remember some of the instructions that God gave to Noah? Did you think about how difficult it would have been to have built a boat like that? Today is the conclusion to our story about Noah and the Ark. As you listen today, think about God and sin. Listen for what God does to people who do not obey Him. Listen for ways that Noah and his family were rewarded by God. Here is the second part of our story of Noah and the Ark.

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God hates sin and punishes those who sin.**

Bridge -- Essential for Salvation--added

Noah and the Ark, pt. 2

Genesis 7:11-8:22 – 9:17

Now the flood lasted 150 days, but God remembered Noah. God sent winds and the waters began to recede. The springs of the deep closed and the floodgates of heaven stopped and the rain no longer fell from the sky. The ark eventually came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. After forty days after the rain stopped, Noah opened the windows on the ark and he sent out a black raven. The raven kept flying around and around until the water dried. Then Noah sent out a white dove. The dove returned because it couldn't find any dry place to land. So Noah waited a week. He sent out a dove again, but this time the dove returned with an olive leaf in its beak. Noah waited another week and he let the dove go again. This time the dove did not return, so Noah knew that it was safe to leave the ark. Well, God told Noah and his family and the animals to leave the ark, which they did. Noah immediately built an altar with his family and they sacrificed some of the clean animals and the birds that God had told Noah to take with him on the ark. The Lord smelled this pleasing aroma and He promised never to destroy mankind or the animals of the earth again by a flood. Even though mankind is evil, even from childhood, God told them to be fruitful and multiply. He put a fear then in the hearts of animals and birds and the fish of the sea toward man. God also said that the animals were to be food for Noah and his family, just as He had provided the green plants for them before. He gave Noah other laws, such as not eating meat with blood, being responsible for his fellow man and requiring a man be put to death if he killed another man. God established a covenant with Noah. As a sign of the promise of His covenant, this promise with Noah, God set a rainbow in the clouds and the rainbow is a reminder of the covenant between God and all living creatures of any kind on the earth that He would never again destroy the earth by flood.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Did you listen carefully to this story about Noah? Let's review the story. Was the whole world flooded? Do you think that Noah's family was thankful for being saved? What did they do when the floodwaters subsided? What did God promise to Noah? Will you remember God's promise the next time that you see a rainbow? Did you reach some conclusions about the way that God deals with sin? Does God tolerate sinful people or does he punish the people who commit sin? Does God reward those who obey him? Will you be obedient to God? We have a new Memory Verse for Week 2. It is Exodus 20, verse 3 "You shall have no other gods before me."

**CLOSING**

**No. 7-- Abram's call to Canaan, includes Egypt Genesis 11:26 to 13:4**

**INTRODUCTION**

Have you ever traveled outside your village or your city or even your country? What did you expect to see? Did you learn about the place before you went? Would the people speak your language or another language? After the days of Noah, people lived in one city. The men of the city wanted to build a tower to God. However, when they had built the tower to a great height, God realized that men were trying to become like God and live with Him in the Heavens. Does this sound like the story of Adam and Eve when the deceiver told them that if they ate of the fruit that they would become like God? As punishment, God gave the men many languages. The different languages caused great confusion. The tower of Babel caused mankind to scatter all over the world. Some Persians travel from their village or city to attend school, others travel for holidays and some travel for religious reasons. Farin and Zoraha both experienced encounters with Jesus who instructed them to find out more about Him. Our Bible story today is about a man named Abram, an ordinary man who lived a long time ago in the city of Ur, which today is located in southern Iraq. In this story, Abram is called of God to leave his homeland of Ur and travel for several weeks to the west to a place called Canaan. We will also include the story about Abram's and his wife, Sarai's, trip to Egypt. When God called Abram to leave Ur, did he know everything about Canaan? Listen for ways that Abram showed obedience to God. Why was it necessary for Abram and Sarai to go to Egypt? How did Abram obey God? Here is our story about Abram's Call.

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God calls us to obedience.**

Bridge -- Ancient heritage & Crossroads history

Abram's call to Canaan and the Trip to Egypt

Genesis 11:26 to 13:4

Terah took Abram, his son, Lot son of Haran, his son's son, and Sarai, his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and all of these people went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldeans. And they were going to the land of Canaan. However, they came to Haran and they settled there, not continuing on their way to Canaan. The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died while they were in Haran. Now it was there in Haran that the Lord came to Abram and said, "I want you to leave your country. I want you leave your relatives and leave your father's home to go to a land that I'll show you. And I will make of you a great nation of people. I'll bless you. I'll make your name great, and you will be a blessing to others. And I will bless those who help you. And through you, all of the families of the earth will be blessed." So Abraham departed, just as the Lord told him to do and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran going to where God told him to go. At that time, Abram too Sarai, his wife, and Lot, his brother's son, and all of the possessions they had gathered, and even the families and workers working for him in Haran. They left Haran to go to the land of Canaan. And unto that land they went and settled. Abram passed through Canaan to Shechem under the plain of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was still in the land at that time. The Lord appeared again to Abram reminding him saying, "Unto your children and their children I will give this land." It was there that he built an altar unto the Lord, who had appeared to him. Now from that place, he moved to a mountain on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent there, having Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. He also built an altar there to the Lord and he called upon the name of the Lord after building that altar. Now a famine swept throughout the land and Abram took his family to Egypt. When he was about to enter the land of the Pharaoh, who was king of Egypt, he was afraid that he would be killed. His wife Sarai was so beautiful that he made a plan with her to pose as brother and sister. He thought that if the Pharaoh saw how beautiful Sarai was, then he would kill her husband in order to marry her. The plan worked well for awhile. Sarai was brought into the royal palace and Abram acquired livestock to raise and several servants. However, God knew what had happened and sent serious diseases upon Pharaoh and his household. Pharaoh figured out the cause of the diseases and confronted Abram say, "What have you done to me? Why didn't you tell me she was your wife?" He instructed Abram to take his wife and leave the country immediately! Abram took his family and all of his belongings back to the land of Canaan where he

settled in a place near Bethel with his nephew Lot. This is the place where he had camped before going to Egypt. And Abram worshiped God at the altar he had previously built. Now this is the end of the story for today.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Is there someone who can tell this story? Let's review it to see what truths we can gather. What was Abram's heritage? What was Abram's father's name? What was his nephew's name? What was Abram's wife's name? Did they have any children when he left his homeland? Why did Abram leave Canaan to go to Egypt? Why did God promise that Abram would be the father of a great nation? Why did God say that all peoples of the earth would be blessed through Abram? How was Abram obedient to God? Are you obedient to God? Does God ever ask us to leave things behind in order to do His holy will? How did Abram trick the king of Egypt; the Pharaoh? Do you think that God was pleased with this deception? What happened to Pharaoh's household because Abram and Sarai were pretending to be brother and sister? Do you think God wants us to deceive others? Where did Abram go when he was expelled from Egypt? Try telling the story until our next time together. In our next story, we will look at blessings and promises made to Abram and Sarai about their promised child. The Memory Verse for Week 2 is Exodus 20:3-You shall have no other gods before me.

### **CLOSING**

**No. 8 -- God's covenant with Isaac, not Ishmael -- Genesis 17:15-23**

**INTRODUCTION**

Abram and his wife had an amazing pilgrimage. As we heard in our lesson the last time we were together, God instructed Abram to leave his hometown of Ur and make his way with his family to the land of Canaan. Abram not only obeyed, but God promised that Abram would be the father of a great nation and that through him all the peoples of the world would be blessed. Abram had many things happen in his lifetime. Abram and his nephew Lot moved apart. Lot chose the fertile valleys that had many sinful cities. Raiders captured Lot and his family, so Abram went with 318 men to rescue Lot, his family and all their possessions and return them to the city of Sodom. However, Sarai, Abram's wife became nervous about getting very old and not having a child. She gave her servant girl Hagar to Abram and together they had a son, Ishmael. Sarai became jealous and forced Hagar and Ishmael to leave. An angel of God ministered to Hagar and Ishmael and said that a great nation would arise from the lineage of Ishmael. In the meantime, God made a promise to Abram. Listen carefully to this story about God's covenant with Isaac.

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God wants to bless the whole world.**

Barrier -- Islam reveres Ishmael's lineage, not Isaac

God's covenant with Isaac, not Ishmael

Genesis 15:1-17:22

A model story from "Following Jesus" was not available. Repeat Discipleship Track #7

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Let's review the story together. Abram prayed to God about not having an heir. Do you remember the promise that God made to Abram? Have you ever tried to count the stars in the sky? Why did God request that Abram make an animal sacrifice? Does this sound like the sacrifice that Abel made to God? How do you know that God was pleased with Abram's sacrifice? What was the vision that God gave to Abram? What was the promise that God made to Abram following the enslavement of his descendants after 400 years of slavery? Why did Sarai give her maid to Abram? What was the boy's name that was born? What did the angel promise Hagar regarding her son, Ishmael? What was the new name that God gave to Abram and Sarai? How old was Abraham and Sarah at this time? Who was to receive God's blessing -- Isaac or Ishmael? Was the promised blessing given before or after Isaac's birth? Why was it important that Abraham and Sarah trust God? How could the covenant be everlasting? What was the importance of male circumcision? Was Abraham obedient? Think back to our story about Adam and Noah -- has God kept His promises? Do you think He will keep His promise with Abraham's son Isaac? We will listen to a story about Isaac next time when we meet. Are you memorizing the Memory Verse for Week 2? It is Exodus 20:3-You shall have no other gods before Me. What does that verse mean? This is a verse that is a command of God. Is faith in God the top priority of your life? Does anything else take priority over your relationship with God? Listen to the memory verse again from God's Word, Exodus 20:3, "You shall have no other gods before Me."

**CLOSING**

### **No. 9 Abraham Intercedes for Sodom & Gomorrah -- Genesis 18:1-33**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Have you thought about the Bible story from the last time we were together? Did Abraham and Sarah trust God? Did they believe that he wanted to bless them with a son named Isaac? What did God promise Abraham? What would happen because of his son Isaac? The Bible story for today shows how God listens to the prayers of the righteous. It is another story about Abraham, but this story includes his nephew, Lot. Abraham and Lot had chosen where they wanted to live and tend their livestock. Do you remember that Lot had chosen valleys where very sinful people lived? As the story is told, keep in mind ways that Abraham showed compassion for his nephew. Was Abraham willing to keep interceding for the sinful people of Sodom and his nephew Lot? Why did Abraham care so deeply about the wrath of God? Here is the story "Abraham Intercedes for Sodom & Gomorrah."

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God listens to the prayers of the righteous.**

Barrier -- Reciprocity

Abraham Intercedes for Sodom & Gomorrah

Genesis 18:1-33

In the land of Canaan, God blessed Abram and his nephew, Lot, who was a member of his family. Their herds multiplied and they became wealthy. They were moving about from place to place to find grass and water for their herds but a problem occurred. The herdsman, who tended to Abram's flocks and the herdsman who tended to Lot's flocks got into arguments because there was not enough grass and water for both men's herds. So Abram said to Lot, let's not have any quarrelling between you and me or between your herdsman and my herdsman, because we are brothers, we are relatives. Isn't the whole land here, Lot, you choose the part of the land that you want and it will be yours and I will take the other part. If you go to the right, I will go to the left. Or if you go to the left, I will go to the right. And Lot looked over the land and he saw that the plain of the Jordan River Valley was well watered and it looked almost like the garden of the Lord. And so he chose that land, which contained the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. And Abram kept his word and he took the land to the west and God was pleased with Abram and said to him lift up eyes from where you are standing and look north and south, look east and look west, he said, I am going to give all of this land to you and your offspring forever. And I am going to make your offspring so numerous they will be like the dust of the earth and so go and walk throughout this land because to you I am giving it. And so he moved and settled in that part of the land that was left to him. Years passed. One day Abram was sitting under the trees where his tent was pitched and three men came. They were traveling and he went to them and he said, please stay here with me. Let me provide you with a meal and so they stayed and he had a large meal prepared. They ate. As they were preparing to leave, the Lord said, shall I hide from Abraham because God had changed his name from Abram to Abraham at this point; shall I hide from him what I am about to do? And so one of the three who was a messenger from God said we are going to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, the outcry of evil in those cities is obvious to God and we have been sent to destroy them because of their wickedness. And Abraham quickly recognized that is where Lot and his family lived. He said, surely God will not destroy the righteous along with the wicked. If there are 50 righteous people in Sodom, won't God spare the city? And the messenger said yes, if there are 50 righteous along with the wicked then God will spare the city. And Abraham bargained with them and said surely if there are 40 or if there are 30 or 20 and so forth, all the way down to 10 and the messengers of God said that if there are even 10 righteous in the city, God will spare the city, He will not destroy the righteous along with the wicked. When God finished speaking with Abraham, He left and Abraham returned to his home. That was our story.

#### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

What promise did the three visitors make to Abraham and Sarah? Why did they have such a hard time believing that they would be parents within the year? What was the promise about which God continually reminded Abraham? Did God initiate this relationship with Abraham? Do



you think God initiates a relationship with us today? Now, let's think about the second portion of our story related to the judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah. Did God love the people in the cities? Why did the angels visit Abraham? Does God tolerate sin? Think for a few minutes about Abraham's requests to God. How did he make the requests? Did he pray a ritual prayer or did he talk with the Lord as humans would talk to each other? Did Sarah talk to God? Think back to the story of Adam and Eve. How did they talk with God? How did Noah talk to God? Did they pray a certain number of times during the day? Were there requirements put upon those who talked with God? So, let me ask you about the prayers that you pray. Based on these stories, do you think God listens to the prayers of the righteous? Now think about the result of Abraham's prayer. What do you think that God will do? Do you think that Lot and his family will be saved? That will be our story next time! Please keep thinking about the Memory Verse for Week 2- Exodus 20, verse 3: "You shall have no other gods before Me."

**CLOSING**

## **No. 10 Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah Genesis 19:1-29**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Is it possible to live differently when God is the top priority of your life? Think back to the story of Abel, Noah or Abraham. Is it possible to live as a human being and please God? Who can tell the story from our last session? Do you remember the promise made to Abraham and Sarah about Isaac's birth to happen in less than a year? Do you remember what Abraham did when he found out that God wanted to destroy the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? What did you learn about prayer being an intimate conversation with God? Listen to this story, which is a continuation of our story from last time. As you listen, see if the angels of God continued on to Sodom and Gomorrah. Identify the ways that Lot showed that he was a righteous man. Here is the Bible story of the Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God hates sin and will punish the sinful.**

Barrier -- Sin is not sin unless you're caught

Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah

Genesis 19:1-29

And so two of the messengers then traveled to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. They arrived there in the evening and Lot was sitting there in the gateway of the city when he saw the two messengers. He got up to meet them and he bowed down to them and he said, please come spend the evening in my home. And they said, oh no, we will just keep here in the city square. Then he said, "No, no, please come, I insist you must stay with me." And so they went with him and at his home he had a meal prepared. He fed them. In the evening before they went to bed, all the men in the city of Sodom, young and old, gathered and they surrounded the house of Lot. They called out and they said, where are the men that came to you tonight. Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them. Lot went out to meet the crowd and he said please, don't do these things. This is a wicked thing. He said I have two daughters who have never slept with a man, I will give them to you and you do with them as you please but don't harm these men because they are my guests. Get out of way they replied. They said, look at this stranger he thinks he can judge our actions and us. We will treat you worse than those and they began to close in on Lot's house. But the two travelers reached out to the door and they grabbed Lot and they pulled him back inside and they shut the door. At the same time they struck the men around the door with blindness so that those men could not find the door to Lot's house. The two men said to Lot, do you have anyone else here, any member of the family, sons and daughters that are part of your house, we have got to get them out of the city because God has sent us to destroy these cities. He has seen the wickedness and is going to judge them. So then Lot quickly went out and he spoke to the sons-in-law who were pledged to marry his two daughters and said please hurry, get out of this place, because God is going to destroy the city. But the two sons-in-law thought Lot was joking and refused. It was coming now to be near the dawn and the two messengers of God urged Lot saying come on, hurry, get your wife and your two daughters and get out of here. Or you will be destroyed along with the city when it is judged. Well Lot and his wife and daughters hesitated so the two messengers of God grabbed them by the hands and pulled them out of this city and along the road towards safety. He said now flee for your lives and don't stop. Don't look back. Go to the mountains or you will be destroyed along with the city. But Lot said, no, please sir, please you have been very kind to us to spare our life, we can't make it to the mountains, please let us stop in a village short of there. And they said, all right, you may go to a small town but go there quickly. Go. And he said don't look back. But when they traveled along the way and God sent the destruction of fire and brimstones on the cities, Lot's wife did stop and looked back. And when she did she was turned to a pillar of salt. Early the next morning, Abraham returned to the place where he had talked with the Lord and saw dense smoke. It was rising as if from a large furnace. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah had been destroyed including the entire plain and all the vegetation. However, God remembered Abraham and brought to safety Lot and his family. And that is our story.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Were these messengers doing their own will or the will of God? Who did they meet by the city gate? What clues in the story let us know that the people in the city were sinful? What did Lot do to help the angels? What did the men of the city say to Lot when he warned them that the city was about to be destroyed? Do you think people listen to the warnings of God today? What happened to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? Why was Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt? Does God tolerate sin? Did Lot and his family do anything to deserve God's gift of deliverance? Do you think you could ever live good enough to qualify for God's righteousness? Did God destroy the towns as He had promised Abraham? Do you think that God hates sin today? Do you ever wonder about His judgment upon you, your family and your city? Does God expect us to repent of our sins and start living in the way that would honor Him? What changes do you need to make in your life or in your family? Will you receive God's judgment or his mercy? If you said His mercy, why would God grant you mercy? Is it because of something that you earned or because you received God's free gift of forgiveness? What about your family? Are they listening to these stories with you? Please invite them to join you! Memory Verse for Week 2: Exodus chapter 20, verse 3-You shall have no other gods before me.

### **CLOSING**

**No. 11 Abraham, Isaac sacrifice with promise of a Messiah Genesis 22:1-18**

**INTRODUCTION**

Do you think Persians are being encouraged to be more and more religious? What does it mean to be religious? Does it mean following a set of rules or having a relationship with God? What if that relationship is broken, how can you have a right relationship with God? This is a good time to review the stories. We began with a story, which discussed the Bible's authority. Many people cannot read the Bible, but God still wants us to know what He says. We can tell stories and think about the Bible stories. Are you doing that? Do you believe that the Bible is literally God's word? Next we talked about how God created the world and it was good! God created every human being, too. We learned that God is sovereign. Nothing else in the world is like the living God. In the story of Adam and Eve, we learned that God wants to have a personal relationship with us. We learned that God does not just create the world and stand off at a distance. Does God initiate a loving relationship with us? If God wants to know us personally, what can break that relationship? We learned that God hated sin. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were punished. Their children Cain and Abel also carried evidence in their lives that they were sinful, too. They quarreled all the time! In jealousy over Abel's acceptable sacrifice, Cain killed Abel. Cain tried to hide his actions from God just like his parents. However, God knows when we sin even if nobody else does. More and more people began to live on the earth. They were more and more sinful. Do you remember the one man who pleased God? God destroyed the world with a flood. However, he saved Noah, his family and a male and a female of every kind of animal on earth. Do you remember the sign that God placed in the sky as a promise that He would never destroy the world like that again? I wonder if Abraham ever saw a rainbow and thought about his ancestor Noah? Abraham lived in the land of Ur and obeyed God. When God told him to move to another country, Abraham moved with his family to Canaan. God promised to bless all the peoples of the world through his covenant with Abraham. After a brief trip to Egypt, where he gained servants such as Hagar, he returned to Canaan. Do you remember the story about Lot and his family in the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? Abraham prayed before God not to destroy those cities if there were only ten righteous people living there. Yet, the angels of God visited the cities, rescued Lot and his family and destroyed those sinful cities. God continued to show that he cared for Abraham by blessing him. The Lord promised to make a great nation of Abraham's descendents but he and his wife Sarah had no children. Abraham had a son by his maid, Hagar, but Ishmael was not the one to receive the promises of God. His covenant was with a son who was still to be born. Do you remember his name? That son will be born in today's story. Do you think that God will keep His promises to Abraham? In today's Bible story, we're finishing our stories of Abraham. In our story today, listen for the birth of a son. What is his name? How old was Sarah? What do you think will happen to Hagar and Ishmael? In today's Bible story, Abraham's faith in God is tested. What is he asked to do to test his loyalty? Would you trust God with this assignment if it had been given to you? Here is the Bible story of Isaac's Sacrifice.

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God calls us to obedience.**

**Truth: God provides a way to restore us to a right relationship with Him.**

Barrier -- To be Persian is to be a Muslim (Essential for Salvation)

Abraham, Isaac sacrifice with promise of a Messiah

Genesis 21:1-21 and 22:1-18

The narrative of Isaac's birth and Hagar/Ishmael's banishment is optional. It has been added to the radio script content. // Some years passed after the birth of Isaac. One day God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham." "Here I am," Abraham answered. God said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering to me on a mountain that I am going to tell you about." So early the next morning Abraham got up and he saddled his donkey, he took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac, they cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out for the place that God told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and he saw the place where he was to make the sacrifice. He said to his servants, you stay here with the donkey while the boy and I go over there. We will

worship and then we will come back to you. So Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and loaded it on his son Isaac and he himself carried the fire and the knife. The two of them walked along. As they were walking together Isaac spoke up and he said to his father, Abraham, "Father?" "Yes my son?", Abraham answered. We have the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering. Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering my son." And so the two of them walked on together. When they reached the place that God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and he arranged the wood on it and then he bound his son Isaac and he placed him on top of the wood on top of the altar. And he reached out his hand and he took the knife and he was just about to slay his son when an angel of the Lord called out from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham." "Here I am," Abraham replied. "Don't lay a hand on the boy," the angel said. "Don't do anything to harm him. Now I know that you fear God. Because you have not withheld me your son, even your only son." Abraham looked up and there in the thicket behind was a ram caught by horns. And so he took the ram and he sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of Isaac. He substituted the ram for his son. And Abraham called that place the Lord will provide and to this day it is said on the mountain of God it will be provided. And the angel of God spoke from heaven to Abraham a second time and said because you have done this and not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars above or the sand of the sea. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies and through your offspring; all the nations of the earth will be blessed because you have obeyed me. So Abraham and Isaac left the mountain and returned to the servants and returned to their home. This is the story of the testing of Abraham.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Let's review this story. What was the name of the son who was born to Sarah and Abraham? Praise God. He keeps His promises! What happened to Hagar and Ishmael? Why did Sarah want them to leave their home? Did this bother Abraham? What did God do to reinforce Sarah's request? It is amazing that God continually reminded Abraham of their covenant. That pact served as a faithful guide to Abraham. Now, let's talk about the test. Why did God test Abraham's loyalty? Why did God intervene? Was there a substitute sacrifice provided to Abraham? What were the key elements of God's promise? Why do you think that God wants to bless all nations? What do you think the "seed" referred to? How do you think one of Abraham's descendants will be a blessing to the entire world? Before we close, here is the Memory Verse for Week 3-Joshua chapter 24, verse 15b-"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

### **CLOSING**

## **No. 12 Jacob Wrestles an Angel (and Esau) Genesis 32:3 to 33:17**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Meditate for a few minutes upon the last session's Bible story. Can you retell the story in your own words? Are you memorizing these stories? Who did Abraham take with him to the sacrifice? Was Abraham faithful when he exhibited that he was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac? Would you have been that obedient? Think back to Adam and Noah. Did God provide a way for these men to have a righteous relationship with God? Did God provide a substitute sacrifice for Abraham? Do you remember our story about Abraham and Isaac? Isaac followed in the ways of the Lord and God blessed him with a wonderful wife, Rebekah who gave him twin boys – Esau and Jacob. Jacob was the younger, but he tricked Isaac into blessing him. To escape punishment, Rebekah sent Jacob away to her brother Laban. Jacob worked many years and married Laban's daughters, Leah and Rachel. The Lord blessed Jacob and gave him eleven sons. After a period of time, Jacob returned to his homeland. He greatly feared meeting his brother Esau. He had tricked Esau out of his father's blessing! How will Esau react? That leads us to our Bible story. Today's Bible story is about a wrestler. Well, he did not wrestle for sport. Jacob wrestled with an angel of the Lord! As you listen, think about ways that you have struggled with your faith in God. Think about the relationship you have with the Lord. Is it as it should be? Think about your relationship with people that you think are your enemies. Are you wrestling with them? Maybe you are not using physical power, but are you wrestling with words or other actions that may harm them? What do you think will happen when Jacob meets the angel and his brother? Here is the story of Jacob Wrestles an Angel.

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God wants to have a relationship with us.**

Bridge -- Wrestling, Soccer and Polo sports loved

Jacob wrestles an angel (and Esau)

Genesis 32:3 to 33:17

A model story is unavailable at this time.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION (1:30)**

What was the setting for this story? Who was Jacob? What were his wives' names? Who was Esau? Why did Jacob fear Esau? Was Jacob wrestling with what he thought would happen when he met Esau? Would it bother you that 400 men were gathering to meet you and your family? What was God's will for Jacob? Was Jacob willing to obey God and return to the land of his fathers? Do you remember the promises that God made to Abraham and Isaac? What happened when Jacob wrestled with the angel? What is the new name that the angel gave to Jacob? Is this story just about wrestling? Do you ever struggle with God? What is the outcome when you trust God? Did the angel bless Jacob? How did Esau greet Jacob? What lessons can you learn about resolving conflict? Do you ever struggle with truths that you hear from God's Word? Is there a struggle that you need to surrender to God's will? Is there a connection between doing God's will and developing a relationship with Him? You will want to listen to our next several stories. We will visit Jacob again. He will have one more boy by his wife Rachel. We will hear about this boy and meet the other eleven. We will find out which boy that Jacob loved in a very special way. Here is the memory Verse for Week 3-Joshua 24:15b "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

### **CLOSING**

### **No. 13 Jacob loves Joseph Genesis 37:1-11**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

It is great to hear how Persians continue to search for the Truth. It is even better to hear of those who have found faith who are now sharing it with their family members. Our Bible story about Jacob continues today. He has resolved the conflict with God and has trusted Him completely. Jacob resolved the conflict with his brother Esau and was able to live in peace. God blessed Jacob and promised to bless Jacob's descendants. Our Bible story is in two sections today. The first section is about Jacob's wife Rachel. She was about to give birth to her second child! Please keep in mind that Rachel had one other child. His name was Joseph. Listen for the trouble that begins to arise in Jacob's family. What is the cause of the trouble? Which son began having dreams? What does his family think about the dreams? Finally, listen carefully for the ways that Jacob shows his love. This is the Bible story we call, "Jacob Loves His Children."

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God is love.**

Bridge -- Male dominant--patriarchal society

Jacob loves his children

Genesis 35:16-20 and 37:1-36

*[The story of Rachel's death at Benjamin's birth is included in order to show death in Jacob's life prior to "losing" Joseph.]* Now Jacob lived in a land where his father had lived in the land of Canaan. He had twelve sons. When Joseph, one of the sons, was 17 years old, he was out pasturing the flock along with his brothers. And Joseph brought back a bad report about his brothers to his father. Now his father, Israel, loved Joseph more than any of his other sons and because he was the son of his old age, he made for Joseph a tunic, a cloak, a coat, that was multi-colored. And his brothers saw that their father loved him for than any of them, so they hated him. And they weren't very friendly to him. Well, one day Joseph had a dream and when he told this dream to his brothers, they hated him even more. He said to them, "Please, listen to this dream that I've had. For we were binding sheaves of wheat in the field and my sheaf of wheat rose up and stood tall and behold, all of yours gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf." And his brother says, "Are you actually going to rule over us? Are you really going to reign?" And they hated him even more for his dreams and for these words that he shared with them. And he said, "I had another dream and this dream, the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." Well, he told this to his father and he told it to his brothers and his father rebuked him saying, "What is this dream that you had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow down ourselves before you on the ground?" Well Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and they hated him. But their father kept saying, "Never you mind." Well, one day his brothers went to pasture in their flock and Israel said to Joseph, "Are your brothers not pasturing the flock in the land far away? Go. I send you to them." And he said, "I'll go." And he said, "Go now and see about their welfare. See about their needs. See if they are doing okay and bring word back to me." And so he sent Joseph to the brothers and as he was searching for them, he saw a man and he said, "Who are you searching for?" And Joseph said, "I'm looking for my brothers. Please tell me where they are." And the man sent him to his brothers. Joseph's brothers saw him approaching from far off and before he came too close, they decided to kill Joseph. They plotted his death. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Let's kill him and throw him into one of the pits. We can say a wild beast has devoured him, then let's see what becomes of his dreams. But Reuben, one of the brothers, heard this and rescued Joseph out of their hands and said, "Let's not take his life." Then Reuben said, "Shed no blood. Throw him into the pit in this wilderness, but don't kill him." So it came about that when Joseph reached his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his coat, of his cloak, his tunic, that was multi-colored and they threw him into the pit. Then they sat down to eat. As they looked out on the horizon, they saw a caravan of traders, a caravan loaded with spices, a caravan on it's way to Egypt. And Judas said to his brothers, "What good is it that we kill our brother and cover his blood? Let's sell him to these traders and send him on his way. For after all, he is our brother, he is of our own flesh." And so the brothers agreed and they sold Joseph to the traders as they passed by. They pulled him out of the pit, gave him to the traders and they took Joseph into Egypt. Well, they took

Joseph's coat, his cloak and they tore it up and they took blood from a goat and they smeared it all over this coat and they took it to their father and they said, "Father, we found this. Examine it to see whether this is Joseph's coat, or not." And when the father saw it he said, "It's my son's coat. A wild beast has devoured him. Joseph surely has been torn to pieces." And so Jacob lamented the death of his son. And all his family went about him to comfort him. Meanwhile, Joseph was sold to Potiphar, an officer of the Pharaoh, captain of the Pharaoh's bodyguard in Egypt. Now Joseph, now a slave of Potiphar, was taken to his household. He became a successful man for his was in the house of his master, who was a successful Egyptian and his master saw that the Lord was with Joseph and the master saw, Potiphar saw, how the Lord caused all that Joseph did, caused him to prosper and be successful. And Joseph was favorable in the sight of Potiphar and so Potiphar made him overseer of his entire house, put him in charge of everything he owned and it came about that he made him overseer of the house and the Lord blessed the house of this Egyptian officer because of Joseph. The Lord's blessing was on everything that he owned in the house and in the field. So he left Joseph in charge of it all. Well, Potiphar's wife looked at Joseph and desired him. And one day she said to Joseph, "Come, lie with me." But Joseph refused and said to his master's wife, "I am here. Doesn't my master trust me with everything he owns? Hasn't he put me in charge of everything? There is no one greater in his house than I am and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. So how can I do this great evil against your husband? How could I do this evil and sin against God?" Well, one day she spoke to Joseph again and she said, "Come lie with me. Come be with me." Well, no one was in the house that day. Everyone had gone out to do work and so she caught Joseph by his garments as he tried to get away saying, "Lie with me. Be with me. Come to bed with me." And his garment stayed in her hand as he escaped and fled. Well, when she saw that he had left this garment in her hand and he had fled outside, she called to the men of her household and she said, "See, Potiphar has brought this Hebrew to us to make sport of us, to make fun of us and he came to be [with me] and he tried to force me, he tried to lie down with me and I screamed, and he heard my scream and he fled. But see he left this garment here of proof of what he has had done." And so she kept it until Potiphar returned and she said these words to Potiphar, "The Hebrew slave who you brought to us came to make fun of me and to have his way with me and I screamed and he fled. But look here, here is his garment that he left here." Now when Potiphar heard the words of his wife and the accusation that she had against Joseph, Potiphar was angry and he threw him into jail, the place where all the king's prisoners were confined. And he stayed there a long time. But the Lord was with Joseph and the Lord was kind to Joseph and the Lord gave Joseph favor in the sight of the chief jailer. This chief jailer put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in jail and whatever was done there, Joseph was in charge of it. Now the chief jailer didn't even have to supervise Joseph because he trusted him because the Lord was with him and the Lord made him prosper. One day, Pharaoh was furious with his cupbearer and his chief baker and so he had them thrown into prison and they were put into the same prison as Joseph. And it happened the captain of the bodyguard made Joseph in charge over these two. While they were in prison they had a dream and Joseph said to them, "I can tell you what these dreams mean. But really, it's not I. God allows me to do it." So he interpreted the dreams. Well one day it was the Pharaoh's birthday and he had a feast for all of his servants. And he called up his cupbearer and he called up his baker and according to the dreams that Joseph had interpreted, the cupbearer was restored to his position, but the chief baker was hanged just as Joseph had interpreted in the dream while they were in prison.

### REVIEW AND APPLICATION

What happened to Rachel when she gave birth to Benjamin? What did Jacob do? What kind of relationship did Jacob have with Joseph? What did he do to show love to his son? Should we love our children and do special things for them? Do you think Jacob had received God's love and so he wanted to share it with his children? Do you ever think of God as a Father in Heaven? Do you ever wonder if He loves you? Fathers love their children and want them to love him. Are you inviting family members to join you in listening to this series? That is a great way to show love! Have you memorized this week's Memory Verse? It is Joshua 24:15b, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

### CLOSING



## **No. 14 Joseph and Pharaoh's dreams Genesis 41:1-49**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Have you ever had a dream about spiritual things? Has Jesus ever appeared to you in a dream? What does the Word of God say about dreams? Do you remember our story from our last time together? Jacob loved each of his sons and especially Joseph. Our story today continues with the life of Joseph. Our story today takes place after something terrible happened to Joseph. Do remember from our story last time how a camel caravan was traveling nearby and Joseph's brothers grabbed him and sold him as a slave? What did the brothers do to cover up their deception? Did their trick work? Did Jacob believe that Joseph was dead? Joseph had many experiences in Egypt. He served as a slave. He was falsely accused of a crime he did not commit and ended up in prison. He was known for interpreting dreams. The Pharaoh who was king of all of Egypt had a dream that nobody could interpret. As you listen to this story about Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dreams, listen for how God helps Joseph.

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God speaks to us.**

**Truth: God's will is being accomplished.**

Bridge – Worldview Issue: Dreams introduce people to Jesus

Joseph and Pharaoh's dreams Genesis 41:1-49

Now it happened that one day, the Pharaoh had a dream. The Pharaoh was standing by the Nile River and from the Nile, there came seven cows. They were sleek and fat and they grazed on the grass. Then seven other cows came after them, ugly and thin and they stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. And amazingly, the ugly and thin cows ate up the sleek, fat cows and then Pharaoh awoke. When he fell asleep, he dreamed a second time and in this dream, seven ears of grain came up on a single stalk and they were good, fat ears of grain. Then seven ears thin and scorched sprouted up after them and the thin ears swallowed up the seven fat ears. Well, Pharaoh awoke and realized it was a dream. Now in the morning, he was troubled within him, so he called out for all of the magicians of Egypt and all the wise men and Pharaoh told them of his dreams but no one could interpret the dreams to Pharaoh. Well, the cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Joseph can interpret the dreams. He did so with me and he can do with you." So Joseph was sent for by Pharaoh and they brought him out of the prison, they brought him out of the dungeons, they shaved him and changed his clothes. And he came to Pharaoh and Pharaoh told him the dream and told him the second dream. So Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh's dreams are one in the same. God has told to Pharaoh what He is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years. The seven good ears of grain are the same. The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, as well. And the seven scorched and dried and thin ears are the same. And it is as I've spoken Pharaoh. God has shown to Pharaoh what He is about to do. Behold seven years of great abundance are coming in all the land of Egypt and after them, seven years of famine, of drought, will come. And all the abundance will be forgotten and famine will ravage the land, so the abundance will be unknown. The abundance will be forgotten in this land because of the famine. Now as for repeating the dreams twice, it means that the matter is determined by God and God is quickly going to bring it about. And so Pharaoh should look for a discerning man, a wise man, and seek him over all the land of Egypt and Pharaoh should taken action to appoint overseers in charge of the land and he should collect food and collect taxes and prepare while we have seven years of abundance to prepare for the seven years of famine that are to come." And Pharaoh said to all of his servants, "Can we find such a man as this?" And then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has told you all of this there is no one so discerning and wise as you are and you shall be over my house according to your command. All of my people shall do as you say and the only one greater than you will be me." And so Pharaoh set Joseph in charge of all the land and Pharaoh set Joseph in charge of preparing for this famine that is to come. The famine came. The people of Egypt and the surrounding lands were hungry and they were starving spread over all of the land. And when this happened, Joseph opened all the storehouses, all the grain that was being saved so that the people would not be hungry. And people came from all over to Egypt to buy this grain, to buy

from Joseph because of the wisdom that Pharaoh had in appointing Joseph over the storage of grain. Now Joseph's father, Jacob, and his family, were hungry, as well. And they saw that there was food in Egypt and so Jacob said to his sons, "Why are you staring at one another? Behold, go to Egypt and buy some grain for us from there that we might live and might not die. And so the ten brothers of Joseph went to Egypt to buy food, but Jacob didn't send Benjamin because he said, "I am afraid that harm might come to Benjamin and I might lose him, too, as I lost Joseph." And so ten brothers went to Egypt to buy grain. Now Joseph, ruler over all the land, was the one who sold the grain and Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to Joseph with their faces on the ground. Now when Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he disguised himself to them so that they would not recognize him and he said, "Where have you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food." But Joseph recognized his brothers and he remembered the dreams he had had about his brothers. And he remembered the dreams he had had about his brothers. Well he said to them, "You're spies. You've come to look at our undefended parts of our land so that you might overthrow them." They said, "No, no my lord. We're your servants and we've come to buy food. We're all sons of one man. We're honest men. We're servants, not spies."

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Who was the only person to be able to interpret Pharaoh's dream? Did Joseph take credit for the dreams? Why did Joseph give God the credit? Do you give God the credit for wisdom that he gives to you? Was God's will revealed in Pharaoh's dream? Do you ever have dreams that you believe God is speaking to you? Do you act on what God is revealing to you? Do you seek a person who might reveal the truth of the dream to you? Think about these things. Be sure to be here the next time we are together. Joseph will have an encounter with his brothers. What do you think he will do? And, before we meet again, be sure to keep memorizing this week's Bible verse. Can you say it with me? "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua chapter 24, verse 15b.

### **CLOSING...**

**No. 15 Joseph encounters his brothers Genesis 43:24-45:18**

**INTRODUCTION**

It is time for our story of Joseph to continue. Do you remember our story from last time? Joseph came from a large family. His mother, Rachel, had died giving birth to his brother Benjamin. Joseph's father Jacob loved him very much. He prepared a special robe for Joseph to wear. However, Joseph had made his brothers angry by telling them his dreams. Do you remember the dreams? In the dreams, images representing his brothers had bowed before Joseph. It made them angry! It made them so angry that they sold Joseph into slavery. However, God was with Joseph even when he was a slave. God helped Joseph to interpret dreams. Do you remember the dream that Pharaoh had? Joseph gave credit to God who had helped Pharaoh and all the Egyptians to avert famine. Several years passed. As God had warned Pharaoh, there were seven years of plenty and now the years of famine were upon them. The famine spread far enough to reach the homeland of Joseph's brothers and his father Jacob. The brothers decided to travel to Egypt. In order to gather the food that they needed to survive, they must encounter their brother Joseph. What would you do if you were Joseph? Would you think they were spies? Would you seek revenge? What will happen to their relationship? Here's the story we call "Joseph Encounters His Brothers."

**BIBLE STORY (8:25)**

**Truth: God provides a way to restore us to a right relationship with Him.**

Barrier -- Paranoia and Conspiracy Theory mindset

Joseph encounters his brothers --Genesis 43:24 to 45:18

[The radio scripts begin when Joseph has a meal with his brothers.] Joseph said, "No, you've come to spy out the land, to see where our defenses are strong and where they are weak." They said, "No, we're twelve brothers in all. The sons of one man in the land of Canaan. The youngest is with our father and the other is dead." Joseph said, "No you are spies and by this you will be tested. By the life of Pharaoh you shall not leave from this place unless your youngest brother comes. Send one of you that you may bring your young brother back that your words might be tested and I might know that you are telling the truth." So he threw them into prison for three days. Now Joseph said to them, "Do this and live, for I fear God. If you're honest men, let one of your brothers be confined here in prison and the rest of you go, carry grain back to your family, back to your household, bring your youngest brother back to me so that your words might be verified and you'll not die." And they did so. And they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother because we saw the distress of his soul and he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen and now his distress has come upon us." And Reuben said, "Didn't I tell you, don't sin against the boy, don't sin against Joseph, you wouldn't listen. Now all of this comes back upon us." Joseph gave orders to fill their grain bags and to give the money that they had paid for the grain back to them, but to put it within their sack so they might not know it and this was done. So they loaded their donkeys and they traveled from there and as they stopped and opened their grain sacks to feed their donkeys, they saw this money. They saw that it was in the mouth of the sack and one of the brothers said, "My money has been returned. It's in my sack." And their hearts sank and they trembled and they feared and they said, "What is God doing to us?" because they didn't want to be accused as thieves. When they came to their father, Jacob, they told him all that happened. They said the lord of the land spoke harshly with us and he said that we were spies, but we said to him, "No, we're honest men. We're not spies. We're twelve brothers and our father." But the lord of the land said, "By this I shall know that you are honest. Leave one of your brothers, take your grain for your family and go, but bring your youngest brother back to me that I may know that you are not spies, but honest men and I will give you your brother and you can trade in this land." And so they are emptying their sacks, they found that in every sack was money. And when their father saw the bundles of money, they were dismayed and their father said, "Oh, you grieve me, my children. Joseph is no more. Simeon is no more and now you want to take Benjamin back. Take him away from me. Reuben said, "You might put my two sons to death if I do not bring him back to you. I will return father." But Jacob said, "My son shall not go down with you for his brother is dead. He alone is left. If harm should befall him when you are taking him, I don't know what I'll do." But the famine was so bad in the

land that their grain ran out and they had nothing left to eat and so their father said, "Go back and buy us more food." And one son, Judas, said, "We can't go back unless we do as he instructed." So their father said to them, "If this must be so, then do it. Take some of the best products of the land in your bag, carry them down to this man as a present. Give them to him. Take the money that's in your hands and double it. Take it back to them saying, "It must be a mistake that we have this money. And take your brother also. Return to the man. May God grant you compassion in the sight of this man that he may release your brother and also Benjamin. But as for me I am a grieving man. I grieve because of my children." And so the brothers took Benjamin back with them to the house of Joseph in the land of Egypt. "Bring the men into the house. Slay an animal. Make ready for them for they are to dine with me at noon," Joseph said. So the men did as Joseph said and they brought his brothers to the house and they prepared the meal. Now the men were afraid because they were brought to Joseph's house and they said, "Oh, it's because of the money that was in our sacks, the money he thought we have stolen from him." They came near to Joseph's house and they were told to enter. They said, "Oh my lord, we've come down the first time to buy food and when it came about that as we left, we discovered this money was in our sacks, so we brought it back. And then we brought more money to buy more food. We don't know how this money was put into our sacks." Joseph said, "Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father has given you treasures in your sacks. I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them. And then the man brought all the men into Joseph's house and gave them water to wash their feet, gave their donkeys food and they prepared a present for Joseph for noon time for they had heard that they were going to eat a meal with Joseph. When Joseph came, they brought into the house to him the present which was in their hand which their father had told them to bring. They bowed down before him. He asked them about their welfare. "How is your father? Is he alive?" They said, "Your servant, our father is well. He is alive." Then they bowed down. As he lifted his eyes, he saw his brother Benjamin and he said, "Is this your youngest brother of whom you spoke?" And he said, "May God be gracious to you my son." Joseph hurried out for he was deeply stirred at seeing his brother and he began to weep. After Joseph washed his face from weeping and he controlled himself, he went back to his brothers and said, "Serve the meal." And so they ate with Joseph by themselves and even ate the bread of the Hebrews which is something Egyptians did not do. They were all seated around Joseph and they ate a meal with him. And then Joseph commanded his household servants saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry and put each man's money into the mouth of the sack. And then put my silver cup in the mouth of the youngest, Benjamin and put his money in there, as well." The servant did as Joseph had told him and as soon as it was light, the brothers went on their way. Just as they had gone out of the city one of Joseph's servants came up to them, "Why have you repaid evil for good?" the servant accused the brothers. "Is this not the one cup that I find in your sack from which our lord drinks? Why have you done this wrong to him?" And so they seized the brothers and brought them back to Joseph, accusing them of stealing Joseph's cup. And each of the brothers lamented and grieved as they returned to the city. They went to Joseph's house and while they were there, they fell to the ground before him and Joseph said to them, "What evil deed have you done? Do you know that this cup is important to me?" One of the brothers, Judas, said, "What can we say my lord? What can we say? How can we justify ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants. Behold we are the lord's slaves, both we and the one in whose possession this cup has been found." But he said to them, "Far be it for me to do this. The man in whose possession the cup has been found, he shall be my slave, but as for you, go in peace to your father." And Judah approached him and said, "Oh my lord. May your servant please speak a word in your ears? Don't be angry with us. We know you are equal to Pharaoh. My lord asked the servants, have you a father or a brother and we said to you, we have an old father and we have a little brother and we have another brother who is dead and then you said bring him to me that I might set your eyes upon you, but we said to you he can't leave his father, for if he should leave, his father would die. But you said, unless your brother comes, you shall not see my face again. And so we did as you said. We came back to buy food. We brought our brother. Now we can't let him, our youngest brother, Benjamin, stay with you for surely our father would die. So please let me remain in his place as a slave to you, but let him return with my brothers back to our father." Well Joseph couldn't control himself anymore because of all that was being said and he began to cry, and he cried out, "Have

everyone leave here!” So there was no one there when Joseph was with his brothers and made himself known to them and he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it and the household of Pharaoh heard it and Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. And Joseph said to them, “Please come closer to me.” They came closer and he said, “I am Joseph your brother whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. Don’t grieve. Don’t be sorry. Don’t be angry because you sold me here. God has made good of this. God sent me here to save your lives because of the famine. I was here and you could eat.” And Joseph fell upon his brothers and he wept and his brother, Benjamin, wept and he kissed all of his brothers and they all wept with joy and they all sat down and talked as family. Well that’s the end of the story from God’s word.  
*[Feel free to continue on to show Pharaoh’s involvement in blessing the family as time allows.]*

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION (1:00)**

Why did Joseph hide his true identity? Was it a conspiracy of hate or was Joseph trying to see if his brothers had changed for the good? Think back to our story about Jacob and Esau. Do you think that Jacob ever told Joseph the story of Esau’s forgiving him for tricking him out of his father Isaac’s birthright? Do you think the brothers were afraid or happy to know it was their brother Joseph? Have you tried to trick someone when you hated them? Would God want you to be suspicious or trusting? How should you treat others? Do you ever try to trick God? Why not seek to begin trusting God and His ways? Our new memory verse for this week is (Week 4)- Psalm 23:1-3-“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”

**CLOSING**

**No. 16 Miriam watches over Moses Exodus 1:6 to 2:10**

**INTRODUCTION**

Have you invited your family to participate in these sessions with you? Thank you for extending the invitation to them. Before we have our Bible story, let me ask you to remember stories about women in the Bible. What do you remember about Eve, Sarah, Hagar, Lot's wife, and Rachel? Which women were role models? Which women were not role models? Did each of these women struggle with their faith in obeying God? Do you? What was their relationship with other people around them? Were these women respected? Why? The Bible story today is about several women. One was a princess of Egypt! However, the other four women were slaves. As you listen to the story, see if you can identify the names of all the women slaves. Two of the slaves were midwives. They had a special standing with the King of Egypt, the Pharaoh! However, listen closely to hear the special relationship that they had with God. When a command from the king and a command from God conflict, who do you think that they will obey? If you are a young girl, I want you to listen for how a girl named Miriam in our story protected her brother Moses. See if you would be as brave as our story's hero. Here is the Bible story, "Miriam Watches Over Moses."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God is accomplishing His purpose.**

**Truth: Women are important to God and have a place in His will.**

Bridge -- Female backbone of society

Miriam watches over Moses

Exodus 1:6 to 2:10

A model story from "Following Jesus" is unavailable at this time.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

What changed from the time of Joseph to the time of Moses? Was God still accomplishing His purpose? Who were Shiprah and Puah? What did the king of Egypt tell the two Hebrew midwives? Why did the midwives disobey the king and let the baby boys live? When is it better to disobey the civil authorities? Is it better to obey God or a king? What does it mean to "fear God"? How did God reward the midwives and the slaves? What was the second decree? What role did Moses' mother and sister play in raising Moses? How did Miriam help the princess who found baby Moses in the river? Do you think that women are important to God? What can women learn from Shiprah, Puah, Moses' mother and Miriam? Should men honor their mothers, sisters and other women that they know? Please continue to remember the Memory Verse. It is from Psalm chapter 23, verses 1 to 3: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

**CLOSING**

**No. 17 Moses and the Burning Bush Exodus 2:11 to 4:17**

**INTRODUCTION**

What does it take to have an encounter with God? Our story about Moses continues. Do you remember our story from last time? Where was Moses born? What happened so that he grew up in the care of the Queen of Egypt? What do you think that life will be like for Moses? Do you believe that God had a special purpose for Moses? Listen for the special job that God gave to Moses. Here is the story of Moses and the Burning Bush.

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God invites us to have a relationship with Him.**

**Truth: God's will is being accomplished.**

**Truth: God is sovereign.**

Barrier -- Lone religious authority

Moses and the Burning Bush

Exodus 2:11 to 4:17

A model story from "Following Jesus" is unavailable at this time.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Why did God appear to Moses? What was the special job that He gave to Moses? Did God hear the prayers of the slaves? What was the name that Moses was to use before Pharaoh? Is there any other god than God? Why could Moses trust in God and God alone? Do you ever trust in things other humans say rather than what God says? In order for the Hebrews to escape their slavery, they will have to leave Egypt under Moses' leadership. Be sure to listen next time to the story of how God delivers the slaves into freedom. Now... Have you been learning the Memory Verse for Week 4? See if you can say it with me: Psalm 23:1-3: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Let's review this verse segment by segment to help you memorize it. What does it mean that God can be like a shepherd? What does a shepherd do? Do sheep wander and get lost? What does the phrase mean, "I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters"? Again, the poet was describing God as a shepherd that fed and watered his sheep. Do sheep need to trust in God to provide everything that they need to live? What does the next phrase mean? "He restores my soul"? What would damage the very center of your being? Would sin cause our souls to need to be restored? Finally, what does the phrase mean, "He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake"? Have you ever watched a shepherd lead his sheep through a narrow mountain pass or along the path of a rushing river? When we follow the Lord, we can count on him leading us in the ways we should go and to avoid wandering into sin. When we do this, God gets the glory. Here's the memory verse again, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake." It is from Psalm 23:1-3.

**CLOSING**

**No. 18 The Passover Exodus 12:1-31**

**INTRODUCTION**

The same God at work today is the same God who was at work in Egypt centuries ago. As you will remember, the children of God were enslaved to Egyptian taskmasters. God had heard their prayers and sent Moses to ask for their freedom. The Bible story today is called, "The Passover." Why is it called that? Listen for how God's will was being accomplished. How did God use the Passover to restore the Hebrew slaves to a right relationship with Him? Here is our Bible story.

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God's will is being accomplished.**

**Truth: God provides a way to restore us to a right relationship with Him.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

The Passover

Exodus 12:1-31

A model story is unavailable at this time.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Did God provide for His people? What was the significance of the blood of the lamb to make the angel pass over each home that trusted in God? Note that those who obeyed God were saved from destruction by the sign of blood. Were the people ready to trust in God? Is this something that you think the people of God would ever forget? Memory Verse for Week 4-Psalm 23:1-3-The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**CLOSING**



**No. 19-- Crossing the Red Sea Exodus 12:29-33, 13:21-14:31**

**INTRODUCTION**

Pastor Boris was delivered from his drinking problem. Is there something that is enslaving you? Do you remember our Bible story from last time? Do you remember that the Hebrews were still slaves? What happened at the first Passover? The Hebrews were finally ready to leave. Listen for the way that they left their slavery. Did the Pharaoh keep his promise? What do you think the children of God will do when they are faced with a huge barrier in their way? What will Moses do? Our Bible story today is called, "Crossing the Red Sea."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God fulfills His promises.**

Gap -- God fulfills His promises.

Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 12:29-33, 13:21-14:31

A model story is unavailable at this time.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

How did Pharaoh respond to the final plague? Did God fulfill His promise and set the captives free? What was the significance of the pillar of fire and smoke? What happened when God's people and Moses were trapped against the Red Sea when the army was closing in? What happened after God's people crossed over on dry ground? What did God do to the army who was chasing them? Do you think God always keeps His promises? How should we show our appreciation to God for His divine help? Memory Verse for Week 4-Psalm 23:1-3-The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**CLOSING**

**No. 20-- Moses appoints judges Exodus 18:13-27**

**INTRODUCTION**

Do you see people who are examples of hypocrisy? How should religious leaders should act? Do you remember our Bible story from the last time we were together? Can you say it from memory? How did God rescue the Hebrews from the Egyptians who wanted to enslave them again? What was the barrier they had to cross? How did Moses lead the people across the Red Sea? As God led the people to the Promised Land and to a place to worship him, God took care of them. He guided them in the day with a column of smoke and a pillar of fire at night. He fed them with manna and quail. He brought them to find water on many occasions. Despite God taking care of them, they began to quarrel among themselves. As you listen to our story today, listen for ways that Moses brought peace and fairness to the people. Remember that Jethro was the father of Moses' wife. Contrast this manner of government with the government that you experience. Do you think that God cares about governments today? Our Bible story is called, "Moses Appoints Judges."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: We are to love each other.**

Barrier -- Government is state religion (Sharia law)

Moses appoints judges

Exodus 18:1-27

A model story is unavailable at this time.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

What was Moses doing by himself in this Bible story? What does this story have to say about delegating work? What does it say about government? Was Moses a king or a judge? He was a leader under God's authority, but did he listen to his father-in-law? What did Jethro suggest? Think back to the evil decrees of Pharaoh upon the midwives. Did they disobey when man's laws conflicted with God's laws? Did Jethro's advice conflict with Moses being obedient to God? Do you think the people appreciated having a number of judges to understand them? Upon who's legal status did the judges rule? Do you think that God cares about governments today? Should they depend upon their own wisdom or upon God's laws and precepts? What about the law that you obey? What is it based upon? Is this country's laws based on God's laws or some other source? Do you think that God's laws should lead people to love each other? In our story next time, God will tell Moses how the people need to obey Him. Memory Verse for Week 5-Psalm 23:1-3 "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

**CLOSING**

## **No. 21 The Ten Commandments Exodus 20:1-17**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Let's think about the Bible story from our last session together. Who can tell the story to the group? Why was it necessary to bring order to the people? Who offered Moses advice? What did Moses do? Once Moses had led the people to freedom and gotten them organized, God wanted to establish a relationship with the people through Moses. God appeared on Mt. Sinai with flashes of fire and with peals of thunder. The people requested the Moses go before God to get the laws. In today's story, we will hear some of the very important commands that God wants us to obey. Here is the story, "The Ten Commandments." See if you can memorize this story today as it is being told.

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God wants us to obey Him.**

Bridge -- Poetry memorized; love metaphors

Barrier—Populace does not have access to the Quran. (Essential for salvation)

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-20

And God spoke all these words to Moses who in turn told them to the Children of Israel. I am the Lord, your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other Gods before me. You shall make no idol for yourself in any form, anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord, your God. For the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your Father and your Mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord, your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his man servant or maid servant, his ox or donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor. Now when the people saw the thunder and lightening and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and they said to Moses, speak to us yourself and we will listen, but do not have God speak to us or we will die. But Moses told the people not to be afraid of God's test. God wanted to keep the people from sinning.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

That was an important list of commands from God! How many of these commands can you name? Can you memorize this set of rules known as "The Ten Commandments"? Let's review God's commands to help you begin memorizing them.

- Are you to worship anyone but God? What does it take for you to make God the highest priority of your life?
- Are you to worship idols? What is an idol? Someone has called an idol anything that takes the place of God. Could a car be an idol? What about a job? What do you spend your time thinking about?
- Are you to treat God's name with disrespect? How can you show God's name respect? Will you use it carelessly in conversation or will you revere the name of God?
- What should we do on the Sabbath day? Think back to the story of creation. Why did God rest on the seventh day? How can we make the Sabbath a holy day?
- How are we to treat our parents? Do you respect your parents? How can you let them know that you honor them? Have you invited them to listen to this series with you?
- What does God think about killing other people? Are there ways of killing a person's reputation that can do as much damage as destroying their life? How can you honor other people?
- Why are men and women not to commit adultery? How do you treat people of the opposite sex? What would it take for you to obey this commandment?

- Are we to take what does not belong to us? Think about the Bible stories of Adam, Cain and others who tried to sin. Did they think that nobody would see them? Do you take things that do not belong to you? Does God see everything that you do?
- Are we to say things that are not true about other people? Are you a person who is known for telling the truth or do you find yourself making exceptions? Is deception or trickery a form of lying? Does God want you to tell the truth?
- And, finally, why does God want us to be content with what we have and not desire things that belong to other people? Stop right now and thank God for everything that He has given to you.

Does that help you to remember the Ten Commandments? Why do you think God asked us to obey these laws? Why have they become so important to God's people? Is there any aspect of your life that these do not touch? The memory Verse for this week [Week 5] is 1 Samuel 15:22-  
"But Samuel replied; 'Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.'"

## **CLOSING**

**No. 22 Moses and the Golden Calf Exodus 32:1-14**

**INTRODUCTION**

This concludes the two-part testimony of Sultan Muhammad Kahn. In today's Bible story, Moses has been gone about 40 days. He is spending time with God. He is receiving the laws. What do you think that the people will do when Moses is gone for such a long time? Here is the Bible story, "Moses and Golden Calf."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Sin breaks our relationship with God.**

**Truth: God hates sin and punishes the sinful.**

Barrier -- Some superstition exists

Moses and the Golden Calf

Exodus 32:1-35

A model story is unavailable at this time.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

What happened when Moses was receiving God's instructions? Do you think Aaron did right in fashioning the calf from the people's gold? Why did the people want a gold calf to worship? Do you ever think that maybe God is too distant to care for you? Do you substitute trust in God for something else? Are there superstitions or other religions that you wonder about? Do you think that these activities will make you closer with God? What was God's reaction to the people wanting to worship an idol? Why did God not destroy the people? What role did Moses play interceding before God? Does God care about your loyalty to Him and Him alone? Will you trust Him today? The memory Verse for this week [Week 5] is 1 Samuel 15:22-"But Samuel replied; 'Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.'"

**CLOSING**

***No. 23 The Spies Sent Into the Land, The Rejection of Land by Spies, and Resultant Wandering and Death in Wilderness Numbers 13:1-3; 13:25-33; & 14:1-38***

**INTRODUCTION**

Are you learning about God and His people? Think of the stories we have shared. Does God keep His promises? Does God hate sin? Does God make a provision for His people? As you consider these questions, let's prepare for a new story. God had delivered His people from slavery in Egypt and we've reviewed that story. It is now time to move into the land of Canaan as God has promised. Listen to this story and see what Moses tried to do to prepare the people to move into the Promised Land. As you listen to this story I want you to think about the reaction of the people that received a very special report from spies that went into the land. Listen to their reactions for what they might expect. Think about yourself as you listen to this story. If you were one of the people of Israel, how would you have responded? If you were one of the spies that went into the Promised Land, how would you have crafted your report? What would have been the things that you would have reported to the people? So here is our story.

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Sin breaks our relationship with God.**

The Spies Sent Into the Land, The Rejection of Land by Spies, and Resultant Wandering and Death in Wilderness

Numbers 13:1-3 (:20); 13:25-33 (1:10); & 14:1-38 (5:10)

The Lord said to Moses, "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan which I am going to give to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe, I want you to pick one of its leaders." So at the Lord's command, Moses sent the people that were there in the desert in the wilderness, and all of them were the leaders of the Israelites. All of the twelve that were chosen from these tribes went in for forty days throughout the land of Canaan. The spies came back and reported to Moses and to Aaron and to the whole people of God that were there in the desert near Perin. They reported to them about the fruit of the land, they showed them the things, they reported about the trees and the mountains and everything that they saw that was there and they said that when they went into the land, they said that it truly does flow with milk and honey, but they also said something besides reporting about the land and the fruit and the mountains and they reported on the people who live there. They said that the cities were very large and that the cities were fortified. They said that they even saw descendents of a race of giants called Anak who were there. They said that there were different types of people that were there called the Amalikes and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites who were living all in the hills. And then the Canaanites were living near the sea and along the Jordan River. Well one of the twelve spies that went in that were the representatives from the different clans of the tribes that were there was named Caleb. And Caleb silenced the people. He demanded to be heard. He went before Moses and the people and he said, "Now we should go up and we should take possession of that land for we can certainly do it." But the other men that went with him, they weren't so sure. They said, "We can't attack those people. They're stronger than we are."

The spies further added, "The land where we explore actually devours those who are living in it. All the people we saw there were of a huge size. They even saw part of the Anaks who were the Nephilim, supposed to be the descendents of the Anak and they even said, "Compared to those giants, we seem like grasshoppers in our own eyes and we're sure we look the same to them." Well that night, all the people of the community raised their voices and they actually wept out loud. The Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly came back to them and said, "If only we had died in Egypt or maybe even out in the desert, why is it that the Lord would bring us to this land and then let us fall by the sword? Why our wives and our children will be taken away as the plunder from these people if we try to go in there. Wouldn't it have been better for us to go back to Egypt?" And they said to each other, "Man, we ought to choose a new leader and go back to Egypt." Well, Moses and Aaron, they fell on their faces before the whole assembly that was gathered there and Joshua and Caleb were among those who had explored the land. They were the two spies that were faithful. They actually tore their clothes and they said before the whole people, "The land we passed through and explored is very, very good. If the Lord is pleased with us, He will lead us into that land. It is a land flowing

with milk and honey and it will just provide everything that we need. Only please don't rebel against the Lord. Don't be afraid of these people in this land. We will swallow them up instead. Their protection is gone, but our God, our Lord, is with us. Do not be afraid of them." But the whole assembly, they even talked about stoning them they were so upset. Well, about that time, the glory of the Lord, the very essence of the Lord Himself appeared at the tabernacle of the congregation, or the tent of meeting before all of the Israelites and the Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me in spite of all the miraculous things that I've been doing for them." So He said to Moses, "I'll strike them down with a plague. I'll give a plague to them and it will destroy every one of them. But I will make of you a great nation, even greater and stronger than they are." And Moses, though, said to the Lord, "Then the Egyptians will certainly hear about it. By your power, you brought these people from among them and they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it and they have already heard, Lord, that you are with these people and that you have even shown yourself by this cloud that stays over them and in that you go in and out from them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, they see your very presence. If you put these people to death all at one time, well the nations who have heard this report about you will say well this Lord of all of them was not able to bring these people into the land as He promised them with an oath, so He slaughtered them in the desert. Moses turned to the Lord and said, "Now may the Lord's strength be displayed just as you've declared. You've said that you are slow to anger, that you are abounding in love and you're forgiving sin and rebellion, yet you do not leave the guilty unpunished. It is said of you that He punishes the children for the sins of their fathers to even the third and fourth generation. So in accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now." The Lord replied, "I have forgiven them as you have asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the earth, not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs that I performed in Egypt and in this desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times, not one of them will ever see the land that I promised on an oath to their fathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. But because my servant Caleb had a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land and his descendants will inherit it. Since the Amelikes and the Canaanites were living in the valleys, turn back the next time we are together and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea." The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I've heard their complaints and these grumbling Israelites, so this is what I want you to go to them and say. As surely as I live declares the Lord, I will do to you the very things I heard you say. As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land that you've rejected, but you, your bodies will fall in this desert. Your children will be shepherds here for forty years suffering for your unfaithfulness until the last of your bodies lies in the desert. For forty years, one year for each of the forty days you explored the land, you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you. I, the Lord, have spoken and will surely do these things to this whole wicked community which has banded against me here in the desert. They will meet their end right here. Here they will die." So the men that Moses had sent to explore the land who returned and gave that report to the community and made them grumble against all the people of Israel, these men who are responsible for spreading the bad report about the land, they were struck down and died of a plague before the Lord. Only the men who went to explore the land, only Joshua's son of Nun and Caleb's son of Jephunneh survived. Now that's our story for today.

### REVIEW AND APPLICATION

Did the twelve spies bring a good report or a bad report? Why do you think that Caleb and Joshua were the only two who thought that they should take the land? How did God react to the grumbling of the people? What was the punishment that God had before them and also think about the way that God also provided for them? Now what can be learned from this? What is important that you learn from this story? Is it always easy to trust God? Should we? How can you exhibit faith in God this week? Can you be faithful to God? Do you have the Bible verse memorized? See if you can say it with me: "But Samuel replied; 'Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better

than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.'" It is from a part of the Bible called First Samuel chapter 15, verse 22. What does that verse mean? God gave many laws to the people. Some of them included making sacrifices. However, in this verse, God reminds us that we are to obey God rather than be caught up in meaningless rituals. The first part of the verse says, "But Samuel says." Who was Samuel? He was a wise man who lived long ago. Samuel obeyed God in all that he did and he became a wise leader. The next part of the verse asks a question, "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord?" Samuel was asking the people to make a choice. In the last part of the verse, Samuel makes a statement, "To heed is better than the fat of rams." The fat burned well in the sacrifices and made a great show. However, the people were caught up in rituals and ignoring their relationship to God. Here is the verse one more time. "But Samuel replied; 'Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.'" First Samuel chapter 15, verse 22. Be sure to listen next time. Our story will be about rebellion and snakes!

## **CLOSING**



## **No. 24 The Sacrifice System Leviticus 4:1-21, 27-28, 35**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Let's review the story told in our last session. How did the Hebrews disobey God? What did ten of the spies report to the people? What did Caleb and Joshua report? Did they trust God to bring them safely into the Promised Land? What did God say would happen to the adults? Why did that death sentence not apply to Caleb and Joshua? So, the Hebrews were told to wander in the wilderness for forty years. When they were in the desert, Moses received more laws that were intended to help people to stop sinning. Do you think these laws will work? In today's Bible story, the children of God were given a set of instructions so that they would know how to obey God. As you listen to this story, listen to the use of blood and its cleansing role. Also pay attention to the intricacy and breadth of the sacrifices. Finally, listen for the sins that this complex system covered. Here's today's story, "The Sacrifice System."

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God wants us to obey Him.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

The Sacrifice System

Leviticus 4:1-21, 27-28, 35

The Lord said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, when anyone sins unintentionally or does what is forbidden in any of the Lord's Commands, then they need to follow a certain procedure. For instance, if an anointed priest, a religious leader does something wrong, that actually brings guilt on the people, he must bring to the Lord a young bull without any defect as a sin offering for the sin he has committed. He is to lay his hand on its head, and he is to kill it before the Lord. Then the anointed priest shall take some of the bull's blood and carry it into the tent. He is to dip his finger into the blood and sprinkle some of it on the altar seven times. And it's to be done in front of that curtain that separates the altar from the very holiest of the sanctuary. The priest shall then put some of the blood on the horns of the altar and of the fragrance of the incense, and that is before the Lord in the Tent of the Meeting. The rest of the bull's blood he shall pour out before the base of the altar of the burnt offering at the entrance to the Tent of the Meeting. Now, you're supposed to take all of the fat from the bull. You're supposed to take the inner parts, like the kidneys and the fat around the loins, and the covering on the liver and the kidneys. And just as the fat is removed from the ox that is sacrificed, then the priest shall burn them on the altar as an offering. But the hide and all of its flesh, as well as the head and legs, and the inner parts, that is the rest of the bull must be taken outside of the camp to a place that is ceremonial clean, and it's the place where ashes are thrown. And these items are to be burned in a wood fire on the ash heap. Now that is what's supposed to be done for the priest. And it's very similar for the whole Israel community when they sin either intentionally or unintentionally so that they bring guilt upon themselves. They are to go, the priest is to go before the whole assembly and a young bull should be offered as a sin offering. The elders of the whole community are to lay hands on the bull's head, and the bull is supposed to be slaughtered before the Lord. Then the priest is to take some of the bull's blood, as we heard before, for himself, and he shall dip the finger into the blood and sprinkle it before the Lord seven times in front of that curtain. He's to put some blood on the horns of the altar before the Lord in the Tent of the Meeting. He's to take the rest of the blood and pour it at the base of the altar at the entrance of the Meeting. And then he is to remove the fat and all of the inner parts, and he is supposed to take it outside of the camp to the ash heap and burn them there with everything that is there. And that's what is supposed to be done for the whole community when it sins. Now, when a leader sins unintentionally or does what is forbidden by the commands of the Lord, then he is guilty, and he is to bring a goat that is without any defect to the place of the burnt offering. Then the priest is to take some blood from that goat, put it on his finger, put it on the horns of the altar, put it at the entrance and at the base of the altar. He's supposed to burn the fat on the altar, as he burned the fat of the other offerings. In this way, the priest will make atonement for the man's sin, and he will be forgiven. Now if a member of the community, anyone, just a regular member sins unintentionally or does what is forbidden from the Lord and he is guilty, he must be aware of that sin. And then he is to bring a female goat without

any defect. And he is supposed to lay his hand on the head of the goat and kill it at the place of the burnt offering. And then the priest is to take some of the blood with his finger. He is supposed to take the horns of the altar of the burnt offering and pour the offering out on the rest of the altar. He is supposed to remove the fat that is removed and he is supposed to burn that on the altar as a pleasing aroma before the Lord. In this way, the priest is to make atonement and he will be forgiven. If he brings a lamb as a sin offering, he is to bring a female one without defect and he is to lay his hand on his head and he is supposed to take that as a burnt offering and slaughter that that is there. The priest shall take some of the blood from the sin offering, put it on the horns of the altar of the burnt offering, and he is supposed to pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. He shall remove the fat, just as the fat is removed from the lamb of the fellowship offering, and the priest shall burn it on the altar on top of the offerings made by the Lord in the fire. And this way it will make atonement for him for the sin he has committed and he will be forgiven. Now that's our story.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Let's review this story. Why was this system used? What does this system say is necessary to be made right with God? What did God tell Moses to do so that sins could be forgiven? What was Aaron's role as high priest? What is so special about the blood that it must be shed to forgive sins? What was the link between the blood of the animals and the forgiveness of sin? Do you think it was costly for the people to keep sinning and having to sacrifice another lamb to forgive them of their sins? Do you think obedience to God's command brings forgiveness every time? Please think about the meaning of our Memory Verse this week. Why do you think that it is important? The memory Verse for this week [Week 5] is 1 Samuel 15:22-"But Samuel replied; 'Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.'" Please make every effort to listen to the next session. It discusses mankind's predicament. In the next story, we will do a brief review of the stories we have heard and briefly cover several more stories. In the next story, we will attempt to cover nearly 400 years of history. We'll listen to the ways that God tried to redeem His people so that they would be a blessing to the whole world. Mankind's sinful behavior continues to be a problem. What do you think it will take to resolve the issue once and for all? Please think about these things before our next program. Thank you for listening!

### **CLOSING**

## **No. 25 Man's Predicament – Composite Story**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Bible story today is the story of man's predicament. It is a story that reaches back almost to the beginning and brings forward the unfolding story of man's broken relationship with God and the many failed efforts to bring about a change of heart. As I tell this story, begin to review the stories that you know. I will mention several that you have not heard. Here are several listening questions: What was the relationship between God and man like in the beginning? How was that relationship broken? What was the consequence of the broken relationship and then how did God work in later times to bring about a restoration of the relationship? When God did do that kind of work, what was the result? Did He succeed in restoring a good relationship with the people he had made? Now this is the story.

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God provides a way to restore us to a right relationship with Him.**

Barrier -- God provides a way for salvation

Man's Predicament

Composite Bible story based on the Old Testament

In the beginning when God created the man and woman, He created them in His image, in His likeness. They had fellowship with each other. He talked with them and they understood Him. They lived in the blessed state of the garden that He made for them. But the day came that they did not keep His Word and they disobeyed by eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And when they did, their eyes were opened and they were aware of their nakedness and they were ashamed and they hid from God when He came in the cool of the day. Their relationship with Him was broken because of their disobedience. In this way sin entered the world. Yet God showed mercy on them in His judgment. He did not destroy them. And He even clothed them and covered them with the coverings of animal skins. But He sent them out of the garden and there they lived outside of the garden and the sin of Adam and Eve was seen in their sons as well. One son, Cain, killed Abel. And yet God did not give up on His plan to restore fellowship with the people that He had made. And so He blessed Adam and Eve with another son, Seth, and through him additional generations were born. But during the time of Seth's descendent, Noah, all the people of the earth were wicked and all their thoughts were continually wicked and it grieved God to see this. His fellowship with man was badly broken by these many sins and so God flooded out all of the earth in His judgment, preserving only Noah and his family to begin again and to start the relationship with man afresh. He made a covenant with them and after many generations He chose one of the descendents of Noah, a man named Abraham, and promised that through Abraham, God would bless all peoples. He promised that Abraham's descendents would be numerous and through them great good would come. With the passing of many generations, Abraham's descendents did multiply as God has said. God blessed the Egyptians through the descendents of Abraham. He brought the descendents of Abraham who were then called Israelites out of Egypt with God's mighty hand. He took them to a land that He had promised them, a land that was rich with crops and with natural resources and with good cities to live in. And as he blessed them there, you would say now at last the fellowship between God and people will be excellent. But when they became prosperous in the good land that God gave them, they turned away from God's ways. They forgot the Lord who had blessed them so and had brought them out of Egypt into that good land. And so God gave them over to the hands of their enemies who came against them and triumphed against them. And the people cried out to God and said, "Oh, we have sinned, we have turned away from the ways of our God." They said, "Please deliver us," and God in His mercy, raised up deliverers. And time and time again this happened over and over. During all of this time people were making the sacrifices for sin that God had told their forefathers to make. He had specified how to sacrifice different animals to make different kinds of sacrifice including one for the removal of the sins that they had committed. The people continued to do the sacrifices year by year. The high priest went in and made the specified sacrifice to remove the people's sins for the preceding year, but each year again, the people returned to their sins. God raised up from the people a king. The king's name was Saul. And he did not follow the ways of God and so God replaced him with another king, a king after

God's own heart, he said. This king's name was David. To him God made a promise, He said that when your days are done and you will rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you. They will come from your own line and I will establish the kingdom of your offspring and you will have an offspring that will rule eternally. David had many sons and then after his death Solomon followed him. After Solomon's death the kingdom split. Ten of the tribes of Israel formed one kingdom and the tribe from which David came, the tribe of Judah, formed a separate kingdom. And many of those who were God's people didn't follow His ways. Well they knew the sacrificial system that they had with God's law and even then they broke fellowship with God because they wanted to follow the ways of the surrounding peoples. God sent them prophet after prophet to call them back to fellowship with Him and yet their hearts were not turned toward God. The majority of the people followed the ways of the other religions and of the other peoples in the regions. So, after many warnings God allowed their enemies to come in against them and in judgment carried away the ten tribes leaving only the two tribes, including the line of David. Even among that group they did not follow God's plan consistently. There were some who followed God's ways, who trusted Him well, but many did not follow His ways. Many of the kings who were descended from David did not follow the ways of God. God in His love and mercy sent them prophet after prophet to warn them, turn back to the ways of God. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and your mind and your strength. But even they did not heed these warnings from the prophets. As a result God let their enemies come in against them and carried them away into exile for 70 years. But God did not forget His people. He brought them back from the exile at the end of those 70 years and restored them to the land that He had promised them. And the people began to rebuild and some of the groups said we must turn back to the Lord our God. He has judged us. He has disciplined us because we have been wicked and sinful people. Our hearts have not been towards God. And so they sought to restore the land and follow the law. But with the passing of time many of them turned their hearts away from God as well. They were waiting, waiting for the fulfillment of the promises that God had made through the various prophets, about a coming one, who would rule with righteousness and justice, who would be called a Wonderful Counselor, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, who would be called Mighty God. They waited for the one whom the prophet said there would be no end to His reign. These and many other prophecies caused the people to look with longing because they knew that the law had not changed their heart and they knew that though they did the sacrifices for the covering of sin, their heart was not changed. They still were prone to sin. And then came a time in which there was no new revelation from God. For 400 years God's people waited for the fulfillment of the prophecies that He had given. They waited and they wondered. What can man do in this circumstance?

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

What do these series of stories reveal about man's nature? What do they reveal about man's efforts to have fellowship with God? Do those efforts succeed? If they succeed for a time, do they succeed from generation to generation? Why? What has God been doing in order to establish fellowship with the people He has made? What kind of steps did He take? What kind of actions did He carry out? What [were] the consequences of those steps and those actions? Do you believe that God still cares about people today? Do you believe that God still provides a way to restore a right relationship with him when they sin? The memory Verse for this week [Week 5] is 1 Samuel 15:22-"But Samuel replied; 'Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.'"

### **CLOSING**

---

---

**NEW TESTAMENT – Answering the Call to Follow Jesus**

---

---

***No. 26 Gabriel's announcement to Mary Luke 1:5-65***

**INTRODUCTION**

Do you remember the story from our last session? It was not a happy story, was it? Do you remember the title that we gave to the story? Why do you think we called it, "Man's Predicament?" Who can tell the story of "Man's Predicament"? Our story today is in two parts. Listen for what happened when an angel named Gabriel told a priest named Zechariah that he and his wife Elizabeth were going to have a baby. Listen for the second announcement to a girl named Mary. Mary was promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, but they were not yet living together. They were not yet married. As the story is told, pay attention to what Mary's child was to grow up and do. Here is the story we call, "Gabriel's Makes Important Announcements."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus is God's only Son.**

Barrier -- Female clothing / subservient "place"

Gabriel makes important announcements

Luke 1:5-65

A model story was unavailable.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Who was Zechariah? What was promised about John? How were Elizabeth and Mary related? How did God honor Mary? What was the special Child of Mary to do? What did Mary want to express right away? How did Mary express her appreciation to the Lord? How do you express your worship to God? We chose a Memory Verse for Week 6 that would help you express your own praise to God. It is from a collection of poetry found only in the Bible. It is called Psalm 100, verses 1 to 3. "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." Be sure to attend time that we are together. Mary's baby is going to be born!

**CLOSING**

## **No. 27 Jesus' birth narrative Luke 2:1-39**

### **INTRODUCTION**

There is nothing like the love that a mother and father have for their own children. Perhaps you have a child and know what I am talking about. Have you ever been concerned about a sick child? God was very concerned about the spiritual sickness of His children. Think back to the time of Adam, of Noah, of Abraham and Moses. Were people living godly lives? Keep in mind the story we told on Man's Predicament. The Bible story we have for you today is about the birth of Jesus. This story takes place several months after the birth of John to his parents Zechariah and Elizabeth. Listen for the concern that God had for Joseph when he learned that Mary was pregnant. In those days, foreigners called Romans ruled the land of Israel. Right before Mary was ready to give birth, she traveled with Joseph to his hometown. It took several days of traveling to reach that village. Listen carefully to the unusual circumstances of Jesus' birth. What city was he born in? How did others find out about Jesus' birth? Here is the story of the Birth of Jesus.

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God loves us.**

Bridge -- Isa/Jesus/Mary known/skewed (Essential for Salvation)

Jesus' birth narrative

Matthew 1:17-25 and Luke 2:1-39

The prophet had said that the anointed one would be born in Bethlehem, a small town in Judea, the home of David. But Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee in the northern part of Israel. In those days, foreigners called Romans ruled the land of Israel. And the Roman ruler gave orders for a census to be taken of the entire world that they governed. Everyone was to return to his own town to register. Now Joseph was a descendant of David, so he took Mary, his wife, and went down to Bethlehem. It was near the time for Mary to give birth to her child. While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and she wrapped him in cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in an inn because of the census. In the fields near Bethlehem, there were shepherds keeping watch over their sheep at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord was shining down from heaven upon them and the shepherds were terrified. The angel said, do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Messiah, the Lord and this will be a sign to you. You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly, a great number of angels appeared and began to praise God saying, glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. When the angels had left them and gone away into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. So they hurried off and they found Mary and Joseph and the baby who was lying in a manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were amazed. So the shepherds returned to their flocks praising God for what they had seen and heard. Mary treasured these things and kept them in her heart. [Radio script adds going to the Temple for purification rites and meeting Simeon and Anna.]

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Let's review this story. How did Joseph take care of Mary? Think about the jobs that do not pay very well among the Persians today. Is a shepherd still among the lowest paid workers? Why was the announcement made to these poor shepherds? Why was Jesus born as a poor man? How was it possible for Mary to conceive? The Holy Spirit of God did not have sexual relations with Mary, but He did cause her to conceive in a supernatural way. Do you believe that Mary was a virgin before Jesus was born? Did you know that the original and oldest wordings of the text use the word for virgin meaning that she had no intercourse with her husband prior to Jesus' birth? What was mentioned in the story that showed that Mary loved her baby? Did she care for Jesus? Why was Jesus wrapped tightly with cloths? Many today say that it was an act of love

and caring for the helpless infants at that time and now? How does this differ with the accounts that you might have heard about? Why do you think the angels were so excited about Jesus' miraculous birth? Think back to the stories that we have heard until this one. Do you believe that God has a special plan for Jesus? Will this plan help restore man's sinful nature? What did the angels sing about? What was their message? Why was peace associated with the birth of Jesus? Do you experience peace in your life? Memory Verse for Week 6-Psalm 100:1-3-Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

**CLOSING**

## **No. 28 The Wise Men visit baby Jesus Matthew 2:1-23**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Who remembers our Bible story from our last session? What did Mary and Joseph name their baby boy? How did the shepherds in the fields outside of Bethlehem know to come and worship Jesus? Was Jesus born as a rich man or a poor man? Why did the angels sing about peace on earth? Our story of the birth of Jesus continues with a story that should be of great interest to Persians. Several wise men – magi – traveled to Jesus shortly after His birth. Bible students believe that they could have been of Kurdish descent. They had heard the prophecies of a Messiah and they believed that the time had come to find him. Listen for how the Wise Men learned exactly what village in Judea to visit. Did they fear Herod or did they fear God? How do you know? How did the Wise Men worship Jesus when they found Him? Here is the story from Matthew, which is the first book of the New Testament. It is called, “The Wise Men Visit Baby Jesus.”

### **BIBLE STORY (3:55)**

**Truth: Jesus was the foretold Anointed One, the Messiah.**

Bridge -- Zoroastrianism is a competing religion

The Wise Men visit baby Jesus

Matthew 2:1-23

Some time later, there came wise men from a far country seeking the one born king of the Jews. They had seen a star and followed it to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, they learned that it was in Bethlehem that this one was to be born, so they followed the star to Bethlehem, came to the house where Mary and Joseph were living and they found the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and they worshipped him and they presented expensive gifts of gold and incense and ointment called myrrh. The king in Jerusalem had asked the wise men to find this newborn king and bring word back to him. He said that he, too, wanted to worship, but really he wanted to kill the child. An angel warned the wise men in a dream not to return to Jerusalem, but to return to their country by a different way. When the king in Jerusalem learned what had happened, he ordered that all the boy babies in Bethlehem two years of age and under be put to death. But the angel warned Joseph in a dream to take Mary and the baby Jesus and go to Egypt and live there until the king died. After the king died, the angel again told Joseph to return to the land of Israel. But Joseph feared the new king so he returned to Nazareth in Galilee and there Jesus would live.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION (3:00)**

What happened in this story? Why did the Magi visit King Herod? What were the Wise Men looking for? Where did the Bible say that the Messiah was to be born? What miracle happened so that the Magi knew where to find the house where Jesus was now living? What did the Magi do when they entered the house? What were the three gifts? Were the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh fit for a king? How did the Wise Men know not to return to Herod? Was God looking out for Jesus, Mary and His earthly father, Joseph? Do you think Wise Men still seek Jesus? Do you seek the truth about Jesus? Why did Joseph take his family to Egypt? After the wicked ruler Herod died, why did Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus move to Nazareth in Galilee? Are you memorizing this Memory Verse? It is from Psalm 100 verses 1 to 3. “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” Let’s review portions of the verse one at a time to help you memorize it. Here is the first phrase: “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.” Let your imagination run free for a minute. What would our whole world be like if everyone shouted for joy to God?! Ha! The next phrase is “Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.” Do you worship the LORD in a happy way? Do you worship using songs? Try making up your own song and use the words of this psalm as the words to the song. You can memorize many Bible verses by putting the words to song. The next phrase is “Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his.” When you hear the word LORD, did you know that it was a special word that meant Yahweh? The Psalmist thought the name Yahweh was too holy to even pronounce, so he used



the word LORD instead. The last phrase is “We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” This sounds like the other Psalm that we memorized. If God is our Shepherd, then we will be confident of His ownership and being cared for. Say the Memory Verse with me, “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” Psalm 100:1-3. Be sure to join us for our next session. We’re going to hear the message of John the Baptist and hear what happened when Jesus was baptized.

**CLOSING**

**No. 29 John's Message and the Baptism of Jesus Matthew 3:1-6; 11-17 and John 1:29-34**

**INTRODUCTION**

Let's begin by reviewing several stories. God spoke through prophets over time to tell them that He was sending a Savior to the world. After more than 400 years when mankind had not heard from God, the angel Gabriel appeared carrying God's message to two families. The messages foretold the births of two very special boys. The first boy was born to a Jewish priest named Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth. Do you remember his name? While Elizabeth was carrying John, Elizabeth's cousin Mary also had a visit from Gabriel. Mary praised God that she had been chosen to be His servant. Mary and Joseph planned to be married. An angel told Joseph to marry Mary, but did not have intercourse with her until after Jesus was born. Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a stable behind a crowded inn in Bethlehem. The angels announced Jesus' birth to shepherds nearby who came and worshipped Jesus. Several Magi also visited several months later and presented gifts fit for a king. After escaping Herod's evil plan to kill every boy two years old or younger, Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Nazareth to live. Joseph was a skilled carpenter. Jesus did the things that boys do when they are growing up. He traveled with his parents to Jerusalem to worship in the temple. One year, when Jesus was twelve years old, He stayed behind when it was time to return to Nazareth. When Mary and Joseph found Jesus, He was talking to the religious leaders. The men were amazed at Jesus' wisdom. As they headed back home, Jesus told His parents that He must be about His Father's business. Mary kept all these things in her heart. Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. The years passed and Jesus and John grew into men. When they were both about thirty years old, John began preaching. He had several men that followed him. Our Bible story today is about John and his message. What did John preach? What did he want the people listening to him to do? What did the people do to show that they were doing what God wanted them to do? Here is the Bible story, "John's Message and the Baptism of Jesus."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus is our example for righteous living.**

**Truth: God wants us to have faith in Jesus.**

**Truth: God is one with three characteristics—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Barrier – To be Persian is to be Muslim / Trinity misunderstood (Father, Son & Mary) / Essential for Salvation

John's Message and the Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:1-6; 11-17 and John 1:29-34

John grew up and became known as John the Baptist. He preached in the Desert of Judea. He said to stop doing things that are wrong because the kingdom of heaven was about to happen. He meant that the Messiah was about to come. John quoted from Isaiah the prophet who said, "I will send my messenger ahead of you who will prepare your way, a voice of one calling in the desert, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths for Him." And so, John came baptizing in the desert region and preaching of baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist and his food was locusts and wild honey. And this was his message. After me, John said, will come one more powerful than I. The thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, John said, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter Him saying, I need to be baptized by you. And do you come to me? Jesus replied, let it be so now. It is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness. And John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment, Heaven was opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him. And a voice from Heaven said, this is my Son, whom I love. With Him I am well pleased. Another account of this event from the Word of God tells us that the next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I meant when I said a man who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me. I, myself did not know Him. But the reason I came baptizing with water was that He

might be revealed to Israel. Then John gave this testimony. John said, I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on Jesus. I would not have known Him except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me. The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. I have seen and testify that this is the Son of God.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Who was John and what was his message? Who was he preparing the way for? Why do you think he made a point of saying that it was not enough to have Abraham as an ancestor? Do you think this addresses the saying, "To be Persian is to be a Muslim"? Is that true or false? Why did John say that he baptized those who had repented, but that one would come who would baptize with God's Holy Spirit and with fire? Why was Jesus baptized? Did you understand that baptism was merely symbolic of repentance? Who was present at Jesus' baptism? What was the significance of the testimony of the Spirit's presence? What was the significance in God's words referring to Jesus as His Son? Do you see how Christians today can view God as the Father, God as the Son and God as the Holy Spirit? How do these three work together to strengthen our faith in the one true God? Does the one true God represent Himself in three ways? Think about this story and keep an open mind until you have heard the all of the good news about Jesus. We're just getting started! Memory Verse for Week 6-Psalm 100:1-3-Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." Our next session will be about the disciples of Jesus. Who do you think Jesus would ask to follow him? What kind of education would they need? Would they be famous people? Rich people? Brave people? Think about who you think Jesus will ask to be His disciple until next time.

### **CLOSING**

### **No. 30 Calling of Peter, James & John Luke 5:1-11**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Prior to our Bible study for today, let's review our last story. Do you remember John the Baptist and his ministry? What was he preparing the people to do? Who were they anticipating was going to come? Was John that person? Why was John called the Baptist? Why was the act of baptism symbolic? Some people have misunderstood baptism. They think that it is required in order to be a Christian. What do you think? Why did Jesus say that he was baptized as an example for His followers? Now, let's review what happened immediately following the baptism of Jesus. What do you think was the significance of the presence of God and His Spirit? Why did God say that He was proud of His son, Jesus? Continue to think about this as we continue with our stories. After Jesus was baptized, he went into the wilderness for forty days. Satan tempted him, but Jesus rebuked him. Jesus traveled to Galilee, which was a region in the northern part of Palestine. Nazareth was in Galilee. On the east side of Galilee was a large lake. Jesus began His ministry when He was about 30 years old. He began teaching in the synagogues and out in the open places where people met. Synagogues were special buildings where the people worshiped God and discussed stories from the Bible. In the time when Jesus was on earth, it was common for important religious teachers, called *rabbis* to enlist a group of young men who would be his students. This leads us to today's story. What was the series of events that led up to Jesus calling His disciples? As the story is being told, listen for the names of the men that Jesus met and called to be his disciples. What was their occupation? What happened when Jesus finished teaching? The title of this Bible story is, "Following Jesus."

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus wants us to follow Him.**

Bridge -- Pro-western business leaders

Following Jesus -- Calling Peter, James & John

Luke 4:31 to 5:11

[The radio scripts include Jesus going to the home of Peter and healing His mother-in-law.] One day Jesus was standing by the Lake of Galilee, and the people crowding around Him and listening to Him were really amazed by the word that He brought from God. Now, by the water's edge there were a lot of boats and some fishermen who were washing their nets owned two of them. Jesus actually got into one of these boats that belonged to a man by the name of Simon, and He asked them to put out a little ways from the shore. Then Jesus sat down and He taught the people by sitting in the boat. And the people were there on the shore. And when He had finished, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deeper waters here and let your nets down into the water and see what you can catch." Now Simon looked at Jesus and said, "Now," he called him master, "Master, we've worked hard all night and we haven't caught anything, but because you say so, I'll let down the net." Now when Simon and his friends and the other fishermen there had done so, they caught such a huge number of fish that their nets actually began to break as they started pulling them into the boat. Well, they signaled for their partners to come on over to the boat where they were and to help them. And do you know what happened? They filled the boats so full that they actually began to sink. Now when Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and he actually was so amazed, he said, "Go away from me Lord. I am a sinful man." And when his fishing buddies that were there with him, his co-workers were there, they were absolutely amazed at all this amount of fish that were there. The men's names who had been helping him were James and John, who were known as the sons of Zebedee. And these were Simon's partners. And Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid, for from now on you will catch men." So they all pulled their boats up on the shore and they left everything and they followed Jesus. Now that was our story for today.

#### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Where did Jesus teach about God? What were some of the miraculous things that Jesus did after He finished teaching? What did Jesus do for Simon Peter's mother-in-law? Did you notice that Jesus healed everyone that was brought to Him? Why did Jesus reach a point that He believed He needed to travel all over the region teaching? What did Simon Peter, James and

John do for a living before meeting Jesus? What did Jesus tell the men to do when He finished teaching? Did Simon Peter trust Jesus right away that he would catch fish that day? Why did Peter think he was a sinful man compared to Jesus? Were these ordinary men? Did you know that Simon Peter, James and John could not read and write? Most fishermen could not read. What does this say about who can be followers of Jesus? Could a businessman follow Jesus? Could a doctor? A teacher? What about a politician? What about a seamstress? What about a shepherd? Could a factory worker follow Jesus? What about someone in the military? Everyone can follow Jesus! Do you think that Jesus still calls people to be His disciples today? What did Jesus mean that those who followed Him would become fishers of men? What about in your life? What would you do if Jesus instructed you to do something unusual at your work? Would you trust Jesus? Would you trust him with guiding your life? This is the last day for this memory verse. Can you say it with me? "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." Psalm 100 verses 1 to 3. Our next Bible story is about a night time visitor to Jesus. Together they will talk about new birth and what that means.

### **CLOSING**

### **No. 31 Nicodemus and Jesus John 3:1-21**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

All over the world, men and women are struggling to understand Jesus and His message of good news. The same thing happened during the time of Jesus. Do you remember our story of Jesus' teachings? Huge crowds followed Jesus. The religious leaders became curious. Some did not think that Jesus should be teaching. However, other religious leaders went to Jesus. Our story is about one religious leader named Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a Pharisee. This was one of several religious groups in Israel. The Pharisees started about 170 years before the birth of Jesus. At first, they were known as the Maccabees. An invading army from Syria had defiled the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple had been turned into a shrine of the Greek god, Zeus. A pig had even been sacrificed on the holy altar. A man named Judas Maccabeus drove the enemy out and cleansed the Temple. The Maccabees were eventually killed. By the time the Roman Empire conquered Palestine, the Maccabees had split into the Pharisees and the Saducees. Do you remember some of the laws that God gave to the Jews? The Pharisees were so afraid that they would break even one of God's laws, that they made additional laws that were very hard for the people to obey. The Pharisees had started out with a noble purpose, but they had become hypocrites. They were so busy trying to get the rituals perfect, that they had all but stopped worshipping God. They considered anyone who was not a Pharisee to be inferior to them. Nicodemus wanted to meet Jesus. Jesus was willing to meet with Nicodemus. Listen to this Bible story very carefully. What did Nicodemus ask Jesus? What advice do you think Jesus will give to Nicodemus? Who did Jesus say was the source of salvation for all mankind? This is the Bible story, "Nicodemus and Jesus."

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Salvation comes only through Jesus.**

Gap -- Salvation only through Jesus (Essential for Salvation)

Nicodemus and Jesus

John 3:1-21

There was a man. He was a Pharisee. His name was Nicodemus. He was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and this is what he said, Rabbi, we know you are a teacher and we also know that you have come from God. No one could perform the miraculous signs that you're doing if God were not with Him. Notice what Jesus said. I tell you the truth. No one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again. And Nicodemus replies, how can a man be born when he is old? Surely, he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born. With that, Jesus answered, I tell you the truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to Spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying Jesus said, you must be born again. The wind blows wherever it pleases, you hear its sound but you cannot tell where it comes from and where it is going, and so it is everyone who is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus once again replies, how can this be? Jesus said to him, you are Israel's teacher and do not understand these things? I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I've spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe. How then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven, the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man shall be lifted up that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict, Jesus said. Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear of his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light so that it may be seen plainly. That what he has done, has been done through God. And that is our Bible story of Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus.

## REVIEW AND APPLICATION

Who was Nicodemus? Why do you think that this religious leader visited Jesus at night? What did Jesus mean when he told Nicodemus that he must be born again? What did Nicodemus say that showed that he was confused? We know what it means to be born of the flesh, but what is the significance of being born of the Spirit? What did Jesus say was necessary to receive eternal life? A good memory verse comes from this Bible story. I will say it now, but we have another memory verse, which I will mention a little later in the session. The verse is from John's gospel, chapter 3, and verse 16. It says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." We will return to the Bible verse to memorize at another time. But for now, think about what it means to you. Did God send His one and only Son? Who was He? What happens to those who believe in Jesus? Does God want to save the whole world through His only Son Jesus? What does the Bible say? In the last portion of this story, Jesus said that men loved darkness instead of light. What do the light and dark represent? Are those who reject Jesus living in the light or the dark? Do you believe that Jesus is the salvation of the world? Our new memory verse for all week is (Week 7) is from one of the prophets. Isaiah lived in a very difficult time. The army of the king of Babylon surrounded Jerusalem. The people were afraid, but God spoke through the prophet Isaiah. He described the person who would become the Messiah. The memory verse is from Isaiah 53:5-6 "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." In our next story session, we will hear a story about Jesus and His disciples. What do you think will happen when they travel through enemy territory? The Samaritans hated the Jews. How will they treat Jesus? This will be in our next story. Thank you for listening!

## CLOSING

### **No. 32 Jesus gives the Living Water of salvation John 4:1-43**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Our Bible story today is about a woman who was a Samaritan. The Samaritans and the Jews were enemies. They shared the same ancestors, such as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but they worshipped God in different ways. Listen for clues to the woman's background. Who was she really? Do you think God wants us to have faith in Jesus? What do you think will be the meaning of the phrase, "Living Water" that Jesus mentions in the story? Also, what do you think the woman will do after meeting Jesus? This Bible story could be called, "The Woman at the Well," but we call it, "Jesus Gives the Living Water of Salvation."

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God wants us to have faith in Jesus.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

Jesus gives the Living Water of salvation

John 4:1-43

Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard Jesus' baptizing and making more disciples than John. Though Jesus himself didn't baptize his disciples did the baptizing. So he left Judea to return to Galilee. He had to go through Samaria based on his choice as he went from Judea to Galilee. Eventually, he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there and Jesus tired from the long walk, sat warily beside the well and it was about noon time. Soon a Samaritan woman came. She came to that well to draw water. Jesus engaged her in conversation and asked, "Woman please give me a drink." Now he was alone at the time remembering his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. The Samaritan woman was surprised for Jews refused to have anything to do with Samaritans. So she said to Jesus, "You are a Jew. I'm a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" Jesus replied, "If you only knew. If you only knew the gift God has for you and who I am, you would ask me and I'd give you living water." "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said. "And this is a very deep well. Where would you get this living water? And besides, are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his cattle enjoyed?" Jesus replied, "People soon become thirsty again after drinking this water, but the water I give them takes away thirst all together. It becomes a perpetual spring within them giving them eternal life." "Oh," the woman said. "Please sir, give me some of that water. Then I'll never be thirsty again. And also I won't have to come here to haul water." "Go and get you husband," Jesus told her. "Oh, I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You are right. You don't have a husband. You have had five husbands and you aren't even married to the man you are living with now." "Sir," the woman said. "You must be a prophet. So tell me, why is it you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship while we Samaritans claim it's here at Mount Gerazim where our ancestors worship." "Oh," Jesus replied. "Believe me. The time is coming when it will no longer matter where you worship the Father, here or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans know so little about the one you worship while we Jews know all about him. For salvation comes to the Jews. But the time is coming and is already here when the true worshipper will worship the Father in spirit, and they will worship him in truth. The father is looking for anyone who will worship him that way. For really God is the spirit, so those who worship him must worship him in spirit and truth." To this the woman said, "I know the Messiah will come, the one who is called Christ. When he comes he will explain everything to us." And Jesus said to her, "I am the Messiah." Just then his disciples arrived. Now they were astonished to find him talking to a woman, but none of them would ask him why he was doing it or what they had been discussing. The woman left her water jar beside the well, went back to the village and told everyone. Come and meet a man who told me everything I ever did. Can this be the Messiah? So the people came streaming from the village to see him. Now meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus to eat. "No" He said. "I have food you don't know about." "Who brought it to him?" The disciples asked each other. Then Jesus explained. "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God who sent me and from finishing his work. Do you think the work of harvesting will not begin until the summer ends four months from now? Look around you. Vast fields are ripening all around us and already now ready for the



harvest. The harvester plaid good wages and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planner and the harvester alike? You know the saying, "One person plants, and someone else harvests. And it is true. I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant. Others had already done the work and you will gather the harvest." Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said he told me everything I ever did. When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay at their village. So he stayed for two days. Long enough for many of them to hear his message and believe. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe because we have heard him ourselves. Not just because of what you've told us. He is indeed the Savior of the world." That is our story for this session.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Why did the Samaritan woman go to the well in the middle of the day? Should Jesus have ignored her? Why did He ask for a drink of water? Why did Jesus say that He was the Living Water? Why did the woman think that Jesus might be the Messiah? Did Jesus treat the woman any differently even though she was a sinner? Why did Jesus say that we must worship God in Spirit and Truth? What did the woman do after this encounter with Jesus? Why did the people of Sychar come to hear Jesus and then invite Him and His disciples to stay with them? Now, apply this lesson to your own life. Do you think Jesus knows what you do? Do you think God cares that you worship Him in a building? Can we worship God anywhere? Are you thirsty for spiritual truth? If you encountered Jesus today, would you consider Him to be a source of Living Water? Memory Verse for Week 7-Isaiah 53:5-6-But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

### **CLOSING**

**No. 33 Jesus has the authority to forgive sin and heal Mark 2:1-12**

**INTRODUCTION**

Do you believe that Jesus has the power to heal the sick? What do you think it means to have spiritual sight? Let's review several of our most recent stories. What happened from the time that Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to give birth to a baby boy named Jesus? One by one, tell the stories to this point. There are many, many stories in the Bible that we do not have the time to share. However, in our time together, we are presenting stories that show how God was at work. Here is a very short summary: Jesus was born. John baptized Him. Jesus healed those who were brought to him. He taught the people about having a right relationship with God. Jesus began attracting a lot of attention. Nicodemus, who was a Pharisee, visited Him. In our last story, Jesus and the disciples traveled through Samaria. Samaritans hated Jews. Jesus met a Samaritan woman by the well. What did they talk about? Where did Jesus say was the right place to worship? What does it mean to worship God in Spirit and in truth? Was the Samaritan woman looking for the Messiah? How did she respond to Jesus? How did the people of Sychar receive Jesus? Jesus and His disciples kept traveling throughout the land. This leads to our story today. Jesus and the disciples traveled through Samaria and reached Galilee, the region where Jesus was from. Today's story happens in the city of Capernaum. Capernaum was on the northern coast of the Sea of Galilee. There were many people who wanted to hear what Jesus had to say. In our story today, a man who could not walk wanted Jesus to heal him. Listen for the way that his friends helped him to meet Jesus. Here is the Bible story we call, "Jesus Heals the Paralytic."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus has the authority to forgive sin and heal.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

Jesus heals the paralytic

Mark 2:1-12

A model story is unavailable.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Why was the paralytic lowered into the roof of the house? Did Jesus reject the intrusion or did he use it as an opportunity to minister? What did Jesus say to the man? Do you think that Jesus can forgive sins? Why do you think the religious leaders became angry? What do you think about Jesus' claims as an authority over sins? If you had been in that house that day and seen Jesus heal the paralytic, do you think you would have had any trouble realizing that Jesus could forgive sins? Have you ever prayed to Jesus to heal you and help you with your problems? Will you trust Jesus to forgive you of your sins? Memory Verse for Week 7-Isaiah 53:5-6-But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. In our next session, we will continue to look at the authority of Jesus. When a storm rages and all hope is lost, what do you think Jesus will do?

**CLOSING**

### **No. 34 Jesus is Lord of Nature Mark 4:35-41**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Let's begin by reviewing our story in the last session. Jesus healed the paralyzed man. If we were sitting in a group, I would ask who could tell the story. What did Jesus say to the man when He healed him? Since our last session, have you been thinking about Jesus' authority? Do you believe that Jesus had the authority to forgive people of their sins? In the story, we learned that Jesus does have the authority over the wrong things that people do. Think back to our story about Nicodemus and Jesus. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus? Jesus said that He was not sent as God's only Son into the world to judge the wrongdoings of everyone. He said the reason that God sent Him was so that the whole world through Him might be saved. Jesus was sent under the authority of His Heavenly Father. When Jesus taught the crowds, they listened. Jesus spoke with authority. In today's Bible story, Jesus has decided to teach by a lake. It is Lake Galilee. Listen for the way that Jesus taught. This series of Bible stories is patterned after the way that Jesus taught. Jesus used stories to convey a point. As the story is told, listen for three stories that Jesus will tell. Each of the stories is about seeds and the way that seeds grow. Keep in mind as the story is told that Jesus is teaching from a boat that is anchored very near the shore. At the end of this story, listen for the storm. After listening to Jesus all day, will the disciples apply the lessons that they have learned? Here is the Bible story we call "The Seed Parables and Jesus is Lord of Nature".

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus is Lord of nature.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

The Seed Parables and Jesus is Lord of Nature

Mark 4

[The radio scripts begin at the Parable of the Sower.] When Jesus had finished teaching on the mount with all of the multitudes, that day, when evening came, He said to His disciples, "Let's go to the other side of the lake," that they were being beside. They left the crowd behind and they took Jesus along, and everybody went more or less just as they were in the boat. And there were also other boats with them out on this lake. Now, while they were on the lake, an incredible, horrendous, awful, terrible storm came up, and it was so bad that the waves were actually breaking over the boat so that water was filling the boats and it was almost swamped with water. Jesus was actually asleep. He was in the front of the boat asleep on a cushion. The disciples woke Him up and they said, "Teacher, don't you even care if we drown?" He got up and Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves by saying, "Quiet, be still." Then the wind quieted down and it was completely calm. His disciples were absolutely amazed at this. They were actually terrified, and Jesus asked them, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" And the disciples, all they could do was say to each other, "Who is this that even the wind and the waves obey him?" That was our story.

#### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Jesus spoke to the people about the Kingdom of Heaven. Did you understand that the Kingdom of Heaven was a name that Jesus gave to God's people that were obedient? Followers of Jesus belong to the Kingdom of Heaven. Why do you think that Jesus sat on the boat to teach? What were the three parables that Jesus taught them? The first one was the Parable of the Sower. What were the four different types of soil that the seed fell into? What did Jesus say that the seed represented? In the second parable of the farmer, who made the seed to grow? How is the growth of the seed like the Kingdom of Heaven? Do we give God the credit for helping us to mature in our faith? Now, please think about the parable of the mustard seed. How is that tiny seed like our faith in God? How much faith is required? Do you think the disciples had faith? How did the disciples display their faith when trouble came? Let's talk about the storm on the lake. Did the people on the lake hear the stories Jesus told about having faith? Do you think they had seen Jesus' miracles? Why do you think they panicked when the storm hit the boats? Think back to the Parable of the Sower. Jesus said that the cares of this world often keep people away from the Kingdom of Heaven. What connection is there between that story and the storm?

Should the disciples have trusted Jesus? If you were on the boat would you have yelled for Jesus to save you? Did Jesus make a long speech or say something profound? Why did the wind and waves obey the command to be at peace? Do you believe that Jesus has authority over all of nature? What about your own situation? Do you have storms in your life? Are there problems that are too big for Jesus to calm? Why did Jesus ask his disciples if they had no faith? Do you think He was remembering the teaching from earlier in the day? In what do you place your faith? Is your faith as big as a mustard seed? Can you place your faith in Jesus today? The Memory Verse is: "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." It is found in Isaiah 53:5-6.

**CLOSING**

**No. 35 Jesus has authority over the Spirit World/folk Islam Mark 5:1-20**

**INTRODUCTION**

Do you believe that Jesus can overcome evil? Do you believe that Jesus has authority over the spirit world? Do you remember our story from last time? Who can repeat it? What was the connection between the parables about the seeds and having faith in Jesus? Who did the disciples turn to when the storm hit the boats on the lake? What kind of storms hit your life? Some storms might be natural disasters such as an earthquake or flood. Another storm in life might be a quarrel in a family. Others might be having money problems. Others might be experiencing stress over a job. A few of you might even be having emotional problems. When these storms have hit your life, where have you turned for help? Have you turned to Jesus for help when storms have come up in your life? If Jesus is the Lord over all of nature, do you believe that Jesus has the authority over the spirit world? This story is actually a continuation of our story from our last session. The disciples listened to Jesus teach about the Parable of the Seeds. Jesus calmed the storm on the lake. Jesus had authority over nature. Our Bible story today is about an encounter with a man who was demon-possessed. As you listen to this story, keep these questions in mind: Where does the man live? What does the demon-possessed man call Jesus? What happens to the man? What happens to the demons? What is the reaction to the villagers who knew the man when he was demon-possessed? What was the special assignment that Jesus gave to the man? Here is our story, "Jesus has Authority Over the Spirit World."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus has authority over the spirit world.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

Jesus has authority over the Spirit World/folk Islam

Mark 5:1-20

And on the same day that He told the story many other parables, when the evening came, He directed His disciples saying, "Let's pass over onto the other side of this lake." And dismissing the multitude, they took Him with them, just as He was, sitting in the boat. And other boats went with Him, crossing the sea. And after a very stormy night, they continued on their journey to the other side of the lake, to the country of the Gerasenes. Upon landing upon the other shore, and as soon as Jesus stepped out of the boat onto the shore, immediately there met Him out of the tombs, a cemetery beside that shore, a man possessed by a demon. This man was living among the dead and it was no longer possible to restrain him. No, couldn't even restrain him with chains. This man had often been bound with chains on his hands and feet, but he had often snapped those chains link from link. No man had the strength to tame him, not being able to do anything with him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs shrieking and cutting himself with sharp stones. It was this man who, when he saw Jesus from a distance, ran to Him on the seashore and bowed down before Him yelling at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name, I beg you, please do not torment me." At the same time, Jesus was saying, "Foul spirit, come out of this man." Now, Jesus asked the man, "What is your name?" The man replied, "There are so many of us," and the man proceeded to beg Jesus, or the spirits within him begged Jesus, again and again not to send them out of that country. Now at this time on a mountain or hill beside the cemetery, a large number of pigs were feeding. And all of the demons inside the man begged Jesus to send them into the pigs, still begging Him not to send them into a distant country. Jesus immediately gave them permission to do so. The demons came out of the man, entered into the pigs. And immediately after the demons entered into the pigs, the entire herd stampeded over the cliff, into the sea, and about 2,000 of them were drown. The herdsmen who were watching and feeding the swine fled, running along the road into the city and telling the people on the road and in the city what happened to their pigs. Hearing this news, people went out to the cemetery to see what had happened. As they approached Jesus, they saw the man, who had been possessed with the demon, who had the legion in him, sitting clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid of what they saw. At that time, after those who saw it happen told them what had happened to the man, the demons in the pigs, the people began to beg Jesus to leave. They didn't want Him to

stay any longer. When Jesus went down to the shore and was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by the demons begged Jesus to allow him to be with Him wherever He was going. But Jesus refused, saying to the man, "Go home to your friends. Go and tell them how much the Lord has done for you today. Tell them the Lord has had compassion on you." The man departed as Jesus told him to do, and told his story in Decapolis, ten towns, how much Jesus had done for him. And all who heard this man tell his story were amazed at what Jesus did for him. That's the end of our story for this session.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

What happened in this Bible story? Did Jesus and the disciples go to the other side of the lake to get away by themselves or to encounter a man with demons? What did Jesus want to know when He encountered the man with the demons? What is the importance of knowing someone's name? Do you believe that Jesus has authority over the spirit world? Did Jesus give a long speech or say something mystical to make the demons leave the man? How do you know that the man was restored? Do believe that Jesus can relieve you of spiritual oppression? The Memory Verse is: "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." It is found in Isaiah 53:5-6. Do you remember the Bible story about Jesus healing the paralytic? This was the man whose four friends tore a hole in the roof of the house where Jesus was visiting. Do you remember the name of the town where this happened? In our next session, we will return to Capernaum where Jesus and His followers will face a life and death situation. Do you think Jesus has authority over death? Be sure to listen!

### **CLOSING**

**No. 36 Jesus is the resurrection Mark 5:21-43**

**INTRODUCTION**

Where do you turn in times of disaster and trouble? Do you turn to friends that you trust? Do you put your faith in medical science or financial gain? What is the one thing that will never fail you? The Bible story today centers around an important man named Jairus. Jairus was the synagogue leader in a seaside town named Capernaum. Do you remember the story about Jesus healing the paralytic? Do you remember how the paralyzed man's four friends had made a hole in the roof and lowered the man down to Jesus? What did Jesus do? What happened when He forgave the man's sins? Do you think that Jairus could have heard about this? Did it make a difference to Jairus then? Would it make a difference to Jairus now? What changed? The problem was that Jairus was gravely concerned. His daughter was sick. In fact, his daughter was so sick that she was very near death. What would you do if you had a terminally-ill child? Would you go to Jesus for healing? Listen for our story. Will you catch the urgency of the moment? Note that Jesus is interrupted. Who interrupts Jesus? Do you think Jesus should stop or keep going to the home where the sick child was? Here is the Bible story called, "Jesus is the Resurrection".

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus is the resurrection.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

Jesus is the resurrection (Jairus' daughter and the woman with the issue of blood)

Mark 5:21-43

As Jesus was traveling, a large crowd welcomed Him, and they'd been waiting for Him. Well, within this crowd was a man named Jairus. Jairus was a leader, an official of the synagogue. And he fell at Jesus' feet and began to beg Jesus to come to his house, for his daughter, his only daughter, who was 12 years old, was sick and she was dying. But as Jairus was approaching Jesus, the crowds pressed around Jesus, and Jairus couldn't get to Him. And while all this was happening, a woman who was sick, who had a disease of the flowing of blood for 12 years, and who couldn't be healed by anyone came to Jesus and she touched the very fringe of His cloak. And immediately she was healed. Well, Jesus said, "Who touched me?" Well, everybody around Jesus was denying it, and they said, "Master, there are crowds around here pressing against you, and you ask who touched you." And Jesus said, "Someone touched me for I was aware that power has flown from me." And when the woman saw that she hadn't gone unnoticed by Jesus, she came trembling and she fell down before Jesus, and she declared in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched Him and who she had immediately been healed. And Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you whole. Go in peace." While Jesus was still speaking to this woman and to the people around her, someone came from the house of Jairus, and they said to Jairus, "Jairus, your daughter has died. Don't trouble the teacher, don't trouble the master anymore." But when Jesus heard this, He said, "Don't be afraid. Only believe and she will be made well." And so they traveled to Jairus' house, and when they approached the house, Jesus didn't let anyone come near, anyone enter with him except for His disciples, Peter and John and James. And he let the girl's mother and the girl's father Jairus enter with Him. They were all weeping and all sorrowful and wailing for her death. But Jesus said, "Stop weeping. She's not dead. She is only asleep." And they began to laugh at Him, knowing that indeed she had died. However, Jesus took the little girl by her hand, and He said, "Child, arise." And the spirit of life returned to the girl and she arose immediately. And Jesus told those around her, "Give her something to eat." And the girl's parents were amazed. And Jesus instructed all of them around not to tell anyone what had happened. Well that's the end of the story from God's Word.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Who was Jairus? Why do you think that this religious leader had faith that Jesus could heal his very sick daughter? What happened on the way to Jairus' house? Should Jesus have stopped to help the woman with the issue of blood? How did Jesus know that the woman had touched the hem of his clothing? How did Jesus show compassion to the woman? Do you think Jesus cares

about everyone, regardless of their position in life? What happened when the little girl died? Did they want Jesus to continue on to the house? What does this say about Jairus' faith? When circumstances look very difficult, do we turn away from God? Does God keep assuring us of His love and concern for us? Do you think that Jairus thought that Jesus could raise his little girl back to life? Why did Jesus want Jairus to believe? Do you think that faith in Jesus is needed for Him to work in our lives? Were you surprised that Jesus saw death as nothing more than sleep? Did Jesus have to say some magic words? Do you think that the simple commands of Jesus shows his authority even over death? Can you trust Jesus with any situation, even death? What would be a better title for this story? Do you think that it should have been titled, "Jesus is the Resurrection?" Here's our memory verse for this week: (Week 8) John 3:16-"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." The news that Jesus brought Jairus' daughter back to life spread throughout the region. People traveled for many miles to bring those who were sick and suffering so that Jesus could heal them. In our next story, Jesus will take the opportunity to teach those who are following Him. Jesus had a message to deliver. What do you think He will say?

### **CLOSING**



### **No. 37 Teachings on Forgiveness and Prayer Matthew 5:1-24 and 6:5-18**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In our story in the last session, we heard about Jairus' daughter being raised from the dead. Do you remember who interrupted him? Who can tell our group the story of Jesus is the Resurrection / Jairus' Daughter from our last session? After Jesus had healed the woman and raised Jairus' daughter, the news about Jesus spread. People came to Jesus for a number of reasons. Some were ill or in pain, others had physical handicaps or were plagued by evil spirits. Jesus healed them. Jesus also taught in the synagogues, which were buildings where Scripture was read. The crowds continued to grow and soon very few buildings were large enough to hold all the people who wanted to hear the teachings of Jesus. One day, a very large crowd followed Jesus to a mountainside to hear Him teach. Our Bible story today is about the teachings of Jesus. His disciples learned these stories and passed them along for us to tell you today. If you had been with Jesus, what would you have asked Him to teach you? Listen for Jesus' teachings on living godly lives. Also, listen for the model prayer that Jesus provided to His followers. Here is the story from the Bible called, "Teachings on Forgiveness and Prayer."

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Believers in Jesus fast and pray.**

Bridge -- Fasting & prayer understood  
Teachings on Forgiveness and Prayer  
Matthew 5:1-24 and 6:5-18

Now Jesus was in an area where there were a lot of crowds following him. He went up on the side of a mountain and he sat down and his disciples and all the people around him joined him right there. When he saw that they were together and they were ready to hear him speak, he began to teach them and he said, blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven, blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted, blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth, blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled, blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy, blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God, blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the sons of God, blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven, blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad for great is your reward in heaven. For in the same way, the persecuted the prophets who were before you. Jesus went on to tell them many things while he was teaching. You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It's no longer any good for anything, so it's just thrown out with the trash. You are the light of the world, a city on a hill that cannot be hidden and people don't put a lamp under a bowl; instead, they put it on a lamp stand and it gives light to everyone in the house and your life is to be like that. It's to shine before everybody so that they can see what you're doing and because of what you're doing, they are able to praise God. Do not think that I've come to do away with the law and the things that the prophets had said. I came not to do away with them, but to actually fulfill them. I tell you the truth until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen will by any means disappear from the law that God gave his people until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of these commandments, even if it's a little one, and teaches others to do that, even if it's a little one, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever teaches and practices these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the religious leaders, the teachers, those Pharisees, and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. You've heard it said that it was said a long time ago, do not murder and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment. But I want to tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Now the Sanhedrin, the religious council that was there, could actually put someone under judgment if they called someone a worthless nobody. Anyone who even says something like, you fool, or you idiot, will be in danger of the fire of hell. Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First, go and be reconciled to your brother, then come and offer your gift. Jesus reminded them that one of God's

commands was not to commit adultery. He told them that when anyone looks at a woman with lust commits adultery with her in his heart. As Jesus was teaching his disciples, the disciples asked Jesus if they could know a prayer to pray or how to pray to God. And in teaching this passage from God's word, Jesus was able to teach about forgiveness in a special way being central to prayer. And this is how Jesus prayed. He said this then is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we also forgive those who do things against us, or our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your father will not forgive your sins. So that was our story of Jesus' teachings.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

How much of this story can you repeat from memory? Why did Jesus say that his followers would be persecuted? How is your life like salt and light? What did Jesus mean when He said that He came to fulfill the Law not to abolish it? Why are we to make sure that we have a right relationship with our fellowman, especially those who have something against us? Do you forgive others? Now, let's review the teachings on prayer. Do you pray to God? How did Jesus say that we should pray? Why is prayer to be such an intimate act? Do you think prayer helps us develop a relationship with God? Is it something that needs to be done at specified times and in specified ways? Do you think God wants to hear from us? Why did Jesus teach His disciples how to pray? What should be included in your prayers? Did you say praise? Did you include forgiving others of their wrong deeds against you? Does God want to reward you for praying and fasting? Are we to look terrible so that others are to pity us? What difference does this story mean to you? Will you pray to God? How will you pray? Will you praise God, forgive others and keep it private between you and God? If you pray in public will you speak directly to God or put on a show for others? How will you apply this lesson to your life? Will you pray and fast as a regular part of your relationship with God? Memory Verse for Week 8-John 3:16-For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

### **CLOSING**

### **No. 38 Feeding of the 5,000 John 6:1-15**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

What was our Bible story about in our last session? Did you think about prayer? In order to help you learn the Model Prayer that Jesus gave to his disciples, I want to share the Lord's Prayer with you. You will remember this from our story the last time we were together. Here it is. Can you pray it with me? "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be you name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one." [Optional if it is in the Farsi translation: ...for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.] The prayer is recorded for us in Matthew 6:9-13. Did you ever wonder what it must have been like to be a follower of Jesus back then? How long do you think that Jesus taught the people? How much time did He spend healing people and caring for the sick? By the time of this story, Jesus had chosen twelve disciples who would form his constant group of students. Do you remember how Jesus called Simon Peter, James and John as His disciples? By this time, Jesus had called another nine men to be His disciples. The disciples were Andrew (who was Peter's brother), Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew (who was a tax collector), Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas son of James and Judas Iscariot who was the treasurer for the group. Several women also traveled with the disciples. Their names were Mary called Magdalene from whom seven demons had come out, Joanna the wife of Cuza who was a manager of King Herod's household, Susanna and many others. Even Jesus' mother Mary traveled with Jesus from time to time. Did you ever wonder how they were cared for? How did the people eat? In today's story, listen for the compassion that Jesus showed to the crowds who were listening to him. What do the disciples who were closest to Jesus learn? Here is our Bible story, "The Feeding of the 5,000".

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus has the power to care for his followers.**

Bridge -- A "Day of Power" is when God works

Feeding of the 5,000

John 6:1-15

Jesus and His disciples crossed to the far side of the shore of the Sea of Galilee, and a great crowd of people followed Him because they had seen these miraculous signs that he had performed on the sick. Then Jesus went up on that mountainside and He sat down with His disciples. And the Jewish Passover feast was near, so Jesus looked up and he saw this great crowd coming toward Him, and He looked over at one of His disciples named Philip, and He said, "Where do you think we ought to buy food for these people to eat?" And he asked this only to test Philip because He already had in mind what He was going to do. But Philip responded to Jesus, He said, "You know, it would take eight months of pay and we probably still wouldn't have enough bread that we could get for everybody to have a bite." Another one of the disciples that was sitting by Philip, who was Andrew, Andrew was Simon Peter's brother, he spoke up and he says, "Well, Jesus, here is a boy and he's got with him five small loaves made out of barley and he's got two fish with him as well. But again, like Philip was saying, how can we serve this among so many?" And Jesus just looked at them and He said, "Have the people sit down." And there was plenty of grass in that area where they were, and the men sat down, and there were about 5,000 men. Jesus took the loaves, He gave thanks, and He distributed that bread to those that were seated, as much as they wanted, and then He did the same thing with the fish. And when they had all had enough to eat, He said to His disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over and make sure nothing is wasted." And so they went around, and after everyone had eaten and were filled, they had everything put into those baskets. And when the disciples came back, there were 12 baskets of pieces of those loaves left over by those who had eaten it. After the people saw this miraculous sign that Jesus did, they said, "Surely this is the prophet who has come into the World." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and by force make Him be the king, they just knew that He was going to be the king, the prophet that was going to help them, Jesus actually withdrew to the mountain by Himself.

## REVIEW AND APPLICATION

In this story, how did Jesus care for those who were following Him? How much food was available to feed the 5,000 men? Why did Jesus' disciples doubt that such a small amount of food could feed several thousand people? What did God do with the little boy's five loaves of bread and two fishes? Have you ever experienced the power of Jesus in your life? What do you think He could do with the things that you would bring to Him? Have you ever felt overwhelmed by life? Would you trust Jesus with your life? What else is God saying to you in this story of a miracle by Jesus? Think back to our stories about Jesus having all authority. What did Jesus have the authority over? Do you remember the story about the paralytic? He was not only healed, he had his sins forgiven, too. Jesus has authority over sin. Do you remember the story about the storm on the lake? Jesus has authority over nature. Do you remember the story about the demon-possessed man? Jesus has authority over the spirit world. Do you remember the story about Jesus raising to life Jairus' daughter. Jesus has authority over death. Is Jesus full of power? What does He want to do with that Power? In our story today, Jesus demonstrated that He cares for His followers. Do you hope to experience the power of Jesus or the power of something or someone else? The Memory Verse this week is very important. Let's review it to help you memorize it. It is from the Gospel of John, which is the fourth book of the New Testament. The verse was taken from the story when Jesus was talking with Nicodemus, the Pharisee. The verse is located in chapter 3 verse 16. If you have memorized it, please say it with me: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Here is the first phrase of the verse. "For God so loved the world." Which Bible stories have you heard that lets you know that God loves everyone in the world? I think of the promise that God made to Abraham. God promised to bless the whole world through one of Abraham's descendents. The next phrase is "that He gave His one and only Son." Jesus said that God only sent one son to earth. Think about the word "sent" in that phrase. If you send someone to a place, do they have a purpose? What has been God's purpose all along? It has been to restore mankind to a right relationship with God. What do you think will be Jesus' special purpose? Why was He sent? The next phrase is: "that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." How long is eternity? My grandmother once told me that eternity is like a giant metal ball the size of the moon. Every one thousand years, an eagle swoops near the ball and brushes its wing against the ball. When that ball is worn away, it will be like one day in eternity. Eternity is a long time! How will you spend it? Here's the whole verse again: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." The verse is found in John 3:16. Please think about that Bible verse until our next session.

## CLOSING

### **No. 39 Teachings on Faith & Works John 6:28-40**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Jesus had just fed more than 5,000 people and more than twelve baskets of leftovers were collected by the disciples. Do you remember where the food came that Jesus used to miraculously feed everyone? Do you believe that Jesus has the power to care for His followers? Immediately following the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus sensed that the people were about to force Him to become their king. Many were saying that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus knew that His work was not yet done. Jesus and the twelve disciples withdrew from the crowd and went to the other side of the lake. When it was the next day, the crowd found out what Jesus had done and went after Him. Listen to the story today to see what Jesus says to the crowd. Why were they following Him? Was it to have food or to have faith in Jesus? Think back to the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. Do you remember when Jesus said he was the Water of Life? What did that mean? As they sat there by the well, Jesus used the water in the well as an example of how vital water was to life. In today's story, keep in mind the miracle of the loaves and fishes feeding everyone. What does Jesus mean that He is the Bread of Life? Here is the Bible story, "Teachings on Faith and Works."

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Salvation comes through faith in Jesus and not by works.**

Gap -- A "works" mentality; no eternal security

Teachings on Faith & Works

John 6:22-68

And when evening came, His disciples went down by the lake, and by the boat they went, and they went to the other side of the lake. But the next day, the other people had come around on the shore and had actually followed Jesus. They actually went all the way to the other side of the lake, realizing that Jesus and His disciples had gone. Now when they got to the other side of the lake, the crowd once more gathered around Jesus. And when they found Him, they said, "Teacher, rabbi, when did you get here?" And Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you're looking for me because of all these miraculous things that I keep doing, and you ate that bread and you had food. But don't just work for the food that will rot and spoil, but instead work for the food that endures, that gives eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. And on Him, God our Father has placed the seal of approval." Well, when they heard him say this, they said, "What must we do? How can we do the works that God requires?" But Jesus said, "Well the work of God is to do this, to believe in the one whom He has sent." So they asked Him, "What miraculous sign can You give us so that we may see it and believe You?" They were still remembering the sign of the feeding of the 5,000 men. And they knew that the forefathers had eaten manna in the desert and they wanted to do that as well. And Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it's not Moses who has given you bread from Heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from Heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, you can imagine who they were saying; they wanted that eternal bread that would give them eternal life. And Jesus made a statement to them, He said, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." [If time allows and it is appropriate to do so, continue with the story through to where many grumble and leave Jesus except for the Twelve.]

#### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

This story happened right after Jesus fed 5,000 people. When the people asked Jesus what works they must perform in order to be saved, how did Jesus respond? Would there ever be any actions that you could do to be saved? Why did Jesus say that the only way to be saved is by every person believing on his own that Jesus was the one that God has sent? Why did Jesus say that He was the Bread of Life? Who draws people to Jesus? If God draws all people to have faith in Jesus, can Jesus' followers have assurance that they will be saved? Do you have the assurance of eternal life that Jesus came to provide? Have you memorized John 3:16? As I say the memory verse, focus on the word "believe." What do you believe about Jesus? The Memory

Verse is "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16. In our next story, several of the religious leaders will try to trap Jesus. How do you think Jesus will deal with a woman who was caught in the act of adultery?

**CLOSING**

### **No. 40 Jesus & The Woman Caught in Adultery John 8:3-11**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Before we begin today's Bible story, let's review several of the Bible stories about Jesus. If I asked you to give me an example of Jesus having authority, what stories would you tell me to illustrate it? Would you choose the story about Jesus having authority over sin when He forgave the paralyzed man that He healed? Would you choose the story about Jesus being Lord of Nature when He calmed the storm? Would you say that Jesus had authority over the spirit world by cleansing the demoniac? Would you say that Jesus had the authority over death when He raised Jairus' daughter from the dead? Do you think that Jesus taught with authority? What did Jesus teach? Do you remember his stories about faith when He talked about the seeds? Do you remember what He taught about prayer and forgiveness? If you were with me today, I'd ask you to try and tell me one of the stories that demonstrate how Jesus had authority. What was our story about in the last session? Why did many of the people want to make Jesus their king? Would you like a king that could give you bread? What did Jesus teach the people? Why did Jesus say that He was the Bread of Life? How is it possible to use Jesus for nourishment? Was He talking about flesh and blood or was He just using an example? Many could not understand all of Jesus' teachings. Do you? In today's lesson, Jesus is confronted by a group of men who wanted to trick Him. Listen carefully at the way that the men asked their questions of Jesus. They were cunning, so listen for the trap they set for Jesus. When they thrust a sinful person at the feet of Jesus, how do you think He will respond? How do you think Jesus feels about sin? What do you think Jesus thinks about forgiveness? Here is the story from the Bible called "The Woman Caught in Adultery."

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Everyone has sinned.**

Barrier -- Adultery blamed on women

Jesus & The Woman Caught in Adultery

John 8:3-11

In the evening Jesus went up to the Mount of Olives. The next morning at dawn he was again in the temple courts. When he sat down, the people gathered around him and began to listen to his teaching. Jesus was a wonderful teacher and people would come from various quarters of the city or various quarters of the community to listen to him. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees wanted to trap Jesus by means of trickery. To do this they brought to Jesus a woman caught in the very act of adultery and made her stand in front of the group. This was very embarrassing for this woman. They pulled her from her home and dragged her through the streets in plain view of the public. And now she was standing in the courts accused of committing adultery. The accusers said, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law of Moses, Moses commanded us to stone such a woman. Now what do you say?" The teachers of the law and Pharisees really wanted to trap Jesus so they could accuse him. But Jesus just bent down low to the ground and started writing with his finger in the dirt. These men just kept asking him the same question over and over and over. "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The Law of Moses commanded us to stone such a woman. Now what do you say?" Picture Jesus again, continuing to write in the dirt. Finally, Jesus straightened up and looked at these men and this is what he said, "If any of you are without sin, throw the first stone." Jesus stooped back down and continued writing in the dirt. All who heard the words of Jesus began to leave. It was really quite odd. The oldest men left first until finally all of the accusers were gone. And then Jesus stood again and looked at the woman face to face and this is what Jesus said, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" This woman caught in the very act of adultery said, "No one." Jesus then said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin." And that is our story.

#### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

What sin had the woman been caught doing? Think back to the Ten Commandments and the command not to commit adultery. How did Jesus feel about adultery? Think back to the Sermon on the Mount when Jesus talked about lustful thoughts being like adultery. Was adultery the

central problem here? Why do you think the men brought the woman to Jesus and not the adulterous man; were they not both guilty by God's law? Why did Jesus say what He did to the accusers? Are we guilty of the same thing--blaming others for what we're guilty of, too? Why do you think the older men left first? After the men had left, what did Jesus say to the sinful woman? Why did Jesus not condemn her for being sinful? Does everyone sin and need forgiveness? Memory Verse for Week 8-John 3:16-For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. The people around Jesus were beginning to wonder about Jesus. Could He be the Anointed One? Could He be the Messiah that the prophets had foretold would come? In our next session, John the Baptist sent his followers to see if Jesus was the Messiah. What do you think they will find Jesus doing?

**CLOSING**



**No. 41 Jesus & John the Baptist – Are you the one? Luke 7:16-23 and Matthew 16:13-23**

**INTRODUCTION TO FIRST STORY FOR SESSION**

What had you heard about Jesus before you started attending these sessions? Jesus constantly amazed people with His authority. Was He just a prophet or was He the Messiah? Jesus spoke with authority, performed miracles and pointed people to having faith in God's only Son. Do you remember the Bible story from the last time we were together? Did the trap set by the religious leaders trick Jesus? What was the trap? How do you think the woman caught in adultery felt? Why did Jesus forgive her? Do you think that once she was forgiven that she sinned again? What would you do if Jesus forgave you of your sins? Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins? In the time of Jesus, many were beginning to wonder if Jesus was the Messiah. The prophets of God had foretold the coming of an Anointed One, a Messiah, who would take away the sins of the world. Was Jesus the One? We will hear two Bible stories today. Both of them deal with Jesus and whether or not He was the Messiah. During the first story, I would like you to listen for what John the Baptist did when he and his followers were wondering if Jesus was the Messiah. The first Bible story of two is titled, "Are You the One?"

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus is the Anointed One, the Messiah.**

Barrier -- Mis-information on Christianity

Are you the one? (John's disciples)

Luke 7:16-23

A model story is unavailable at this time. (Dsc Track #30)

**REVIEW QUESTIONS AND INTRODUCTION TO SECOND STORY**

Before we present the second story, let's briefly review this story about John and His disciples. What do you think the disciples of John reported back to John? What did Jesus say for them to report? Do you think it is possible for people to give misinformation about Jesus? If someone were telling lies about you, would you not appreciate someone coming to ask you if the rumor was true? In our second Bible story today, Jesus is very curious to know what His own disciples thought about Him. As you listen, try to remember the names by which Jesus was being called. What do you believe about Jesus? Our second story today is called, "Who is Jesus?"

**BIBLE STORY (2<sup>nd</sup> story for this session.)**

**Truth: Jesus is the Anointed One; the Messiah**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

Who is Jesus? (Jesus and His disciples)

Matthew 16:13-23

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he gathered his disciples to himself and he asked, "Who do people say that I, the son of man, am? Who do they think I am?" Well, they replied, some say John the Baptist and others say Elijah and still others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. Then Jesus asked them, "Well who do you think I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the son of the living God." Jesus replied, "You are blessed Simon, son of John because my father in heaven has told you this. You didn't learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter and upon this rock will I build my church and all the powers of hell will not conquer it and I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven and whatever you lock on earth will be locked in heaven, whatever you open on earth will be opened in heaven." Then he sternly warned them to not tell anyone at this time that he was the Messiah. From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that he had to go to Jerusalem and he told them what would happen to him there. He would suffer at the hands of the leaders and the leading priest and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed and he would be raised on the third day. But Peter took him aside and corrected him and Peter said, "Heaven forbid Lord. This will never happen to you." Jesus turned to Peter and said to him, "Get away from me Satan. You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view and not from God's perspective." Now that's the end of our second story for today.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION FOR SECOND STORY / BOTH STORIES**

Are you ever curious about the true identity of Jesus? Did you notice that Jesus was praying privately and then asked His disciples who people said that he was? Who were the men that the disciples said that Jesus was? Do you remember John the Baptist? You may have the opportunity to learn about Elijah some day. He was the prophet of God that brought the people back to worshipping God instead of fertility gods and idols. What was the testimony of Peter? What is the Christ of God or the Messiah? Do you believe in the Scriptures that prophesied that God would send an anointed one? Think back to the testimonies of the angels, the Wise Men, John the Baptist, and even the evil spirits. Who is Jesus? Who is Jesus to you? What did Jesus say must happen to the Son of Man, which was a common phrase used for "Messiah"? What do you think it meant that he must be rejected by the religious authorities, killed and raised to life? Why did Jesus say that you would have to take up a cross daily to follow Jesus? When Jesus comes in the glory of God with the angels, will you be ashamed of Him or stand with Him? What hold does death have on you? Do you trust Jesus as God's Messiah and deliver you from death? So, I ask again, "Who is Jesus?" How do you know what Jesus claims is true? Would you ask Him to show you the Truth about Him? Have you given thought to the Memory Verse for Week 9? It is from John chapter 14, verse 6: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." In our next story, a lawyer questions Jesus about God's greatest commandment. Jesus tells a parable in response. The story is about the Good Samaritan.

**CLOSING**

## **No. 42 The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Matters of faith are very personal. Even if your whole family became followers of Jesus, you would still need to make a choice for yourself. Before we tell a Bible story of a lawyer who confronted Jesus, let's review our last story. Do you remember that we actually told two Bible stories in one session? In the first story, John the Baptist's disciples wanted to know if Jesus was the Messiah. What miracles did they find Jesus doing among the people? Who can name several of these miracles? In our second story, Jesus was alone with the twelve disciples that He had chosen. What did the disciples say about Jesus when He asked them who people said that He was? Do you remember that Peter said that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God? If someone asked you about Jesus, what would you say? Think back to several other stories that we have told about Jesus. Who remembers what Jesus has the authority over? Do several stories immediately come to mind? What story illustrated Jesus having the authority to forgive sin and heal? What story came to mind that would illustrate that Jesus was the Lord over Nature and worthy of our faith in Him? What story would you tell to show that Jesus has authority over the spirit world? What story would you tell to explain to someone that Jesus had authority over death? In the last series of stories, we talked about Jesus' teachings on prayer. Do you remember how he cared for His followers by feeding the 5,000? What does it mean that Jesus is the Living Water and the Bread of Life? When people confronted Jesus with questions, how did Jesus answer them? How did Jesus handle the woman who was caught in adultery? Have you been forgiving others since you heard that story? Today's Bible story is about a lawyer who confronted Jesus. How do you think that Jesus will respond? Notice in this story that Jesus taught by using a story. This is our model for our series. Jesus gave stories that helped people think about the answer to a question. Sometimes Jesus used parables to teach about great spiritual truths. In the story that Jesus tells the lawyer, Jesus refers to a man who is a Samaritan. A Samaritan was a half-breed Jew. Do you remember our description of the Samaritans when we told the story about the Samaritan woman at the well? The Jews and Samaritans were enemies. They disagreed on religious beliefs. Samaritans comprise a small group that still live in the Middle East. Today, the Samaritans live in northern Israel. Why do you think Jesus chose a Samaritan to be the hero of the story? What will the lawyer learn? Here is the story we call, "The Good Samaritan."

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Followers of Jesus must be upstanding, godly citizens and remain faithful believers when man's laws conflict with obedience to God.**

Barrier – Reciprocity

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

What was the first question that the expert in the law asked Jesus? Do you remember the story of the laws that God gave to Moses? What did Jesus tell the lawyer were the greatest commands in the law? Why did the lawyer want to know who his neighbor was? Who can tell the parable of the Good Samaritan that Jesus told to the lawyer? Let's review that story. What was the condition of the man after he was robbed and beaten? Who were the two men that did not stop to help? Were they of the same race as the man who lay beaten by the roadway? Did you remember that the Samaritans were a hated group of people? What did the Samaritan man do to help the victim? Where did he take the man? Since they did not have hospitals in those days, it was necessary for the Samaritan to pay two silver coins to an innkeeper in order to help the man to recover. Could the man who was injured repay the Samaritan? What does it mean to be a neighbor? Would you do something for someone else without expecting something in return? What do you believe that Jesus wants us to do? How should we treat the people around us? Do we just wait for them to do something nice for us first? How can we help others even when no reward is expected? Our new Memory Verse for this Week (9) is from John chapter 14, verse 6: "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except

through me." And that is our memory verse this week. Did you enjoy the parable of the Good Samaritan? In our next session, we will hear another story that Jesus told. It is a story about a boy that wasted all of his inheritance on parties and wild living. What do you think Jesus will have to say about that situation?

**CLOSING**

**No. 43 The Parables of the lost sheep, coin and son Luke 15:1-32**

**INTRODUCTION**

Do you remember our last Bible story about the Good Samaritan? What did the Samaritan do to show that he was a neighbor? Did the religious leaders show compassion or did they pass by on the other side of the roadway? How should we act to those around us? Should we wait until they do something nice for us or should we look out for the welfare of our neighbors? Have you met a need this week? Did you help someone you know? Did you help someone that you do not know? Have you ever helped someone try to find something that they have lost? Have you ever lost anything? What did you do to find it? Our Bible story today is actually a set of three stories that Jesus told to the people in Jerusalem. As you listen to this story, think about the things that you hold to be valuable. What mistakes have you made or have you offended people that you care about? Can you become lost in life? Is it possible for you to be like the lost things or the lost person in this story? As the story is told, think to yourself this question, "Can you offend God?" Listen to the story about a lost sheep, a lost coin and a young man who wasted everything he was given on a sinful lifestyle. If you were the man's father, how would you treat your son? Here is the Bible story we call, "The Parable of the Lost Sheep, Coin and Son."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God the Father forgives those who sin against him, but repent and return to Him.**

Bridge -- Essential for Salvation--added

Parables of the lost sheep, coin and son

Luke 15:1-32

As Jesus was teaching, notorious sinners such as tax collectors and others who were known to violate the ways of God gathered around to hear Jesus teaching. They enjoyed to hear Him teach. But there were religious leaders who were scrupulous in keeping the rules of God who were critical and they muttered, "This man welcomes these sinners and even eats with them." And so Jesus told him this story. The story about a shepherd who lost one sheep out a hundred but went and found it and rejoiced. He told them a second story about a woman who had ten silver coins and lost one. She searched diligently until she found it and then she rejoiced. And then He told a parable of a man who had two sons. Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, father, give me my share of the estate. And so the father did. He divided his property between the two sons and gave the younger one his share. Not long after that the younger son got all that he had and he took off for a distant city and there he squandered his inheritance with wild living. After he had spent everything that he had a severe famine came into that country and he began to be in big trouble. So he went out and he hired himself to a man who lived in the country working for him and the man sent him to the field to feed the pigs. And the son was so hungry he wished he could have eaten the food that he was giving to the pigs. But no one gave that son anything to eat. But when he came to his senses, he said my father's hired men live far better than I do and have food to spare and here I am starving to death. I am going to go back and speak to my father and say father I have sinned against heaven and against you, I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me one of your hired men. So with this resolution in mind the son got up and went to his father. While he was still a long way away his father saw him and his father's heart was filled with compassion. And so he ran to his son and threw his arms around him and he kissed him as a way of welcoming him home and the soon began his speech and he said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you, I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger, put sandals on his feet, bring the fattened calf because we are going to eat it. Let us have a feast and celebrate because this son of mine was dead and now he is alive again. He was lost, but now he is found." And they really began to celebrate. Well when all of this was going on the other son, the older brother was out in the field. When he came near the house he heard the music and the sound of dancing. So he called over one of the servants and he said, "What is going on inside?" "Oh," the servant replied, "Your brother has come and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound." He heard this and the older brother became angry. He refused to go in. So the father left the party and went out to where the older brother was outside. He

pleaded with him, please come on in, celebrate, but the older brother was angry still. He said, "Look, all these years I have been slaving for you and I have never disobeyed your orders. You never even gave me even a young goat to celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who squandered your property with prostitutes comes home you kill a fattened calf for him." The father answered him, "My son, you are always with me, everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost, but now he is found." Thus Jesus ended the three stories that Jesus told.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Who was coming to listen to Jesus teach? Were they of a good reputation or were they of a bad reputation? What were the parables that Jesus told? Would someone in your group tell these stories? What were the three things that were lost in these stories? Why was the lost sheep given special attention? Why did the woman search the house for her lost silver coin? I hope that you said that each of them had value to the owner. What was Jesus saying about people who are lost? Think back to the stories of Adam, Cain, Noah and Moses. When people disobey God are they lost? How did this story differ from the story of the Flood? How was this story different from the story of Sodom and Gomorrah? What was Jesus trying to help the people understand about God? Now, please think about the story of the lost son. Did the prodigal son honor his father? What did the son do with his father's inheritance? Did the father stop loving his son? How do you know? Did the father want to forgive his son? Do you ever think of God as your Father? Do you think he's waiting to forgive you of your sins? If you do not have your sins forgiven, are you like one of the lost sheep, coins or the lost son? The father and son had a family bond, right? Do you have that kind of bond with God? Please think back to the story of Nicodemus and Jesus. When you are born, do you have a bond with your parents? If you are born again into new life through faith in Jesus, do you believe that it is like a parental bond? Why do you think Jesus told this parable? What does He want you to learn? Please spend some time thinking about our Memory Verse for Week 9-John 14:6-Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." We will continue telling the parables of Jesus. In our next story a rich man and a poor man both die. What do you think will happen to them in the afterlife? Be sure to listen to our next session!

### **CLOSING**

### **No. 44 Rich man & Lazarus Luke 16:19-31**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Let's review our story from the last time that we were together. Have you thought about the meaning of the parables? How do they apply to your life? Are you living like the lost son? Are you wasting your money on temporary pleasures in this world? What happened when the son wasted all of his money? Would it take feeding pigs to make you want to change your life? What did you think about the father who greeted his returning son? Would you show love for your son who was repentant? Who's money had the son wasted? Where did he get it? Why was the father so happy to see his son come home? How was that story like our relationship to God? What does it take to have an intimate relationship with God? How can you be assured that when you die you will spend the afterlife in Heaven? What about Hell? Is Hell a real place? Do you have to be rich? What if you are poor? Are there special rituals that you have to perform? Do you think that God is ready to forgive you? These questions were being asked in Jesus' day. Jesus tells the parable to the religious leaders. Even though He knew that they would not appreciate His message, He knew that He must tell everyone, even the religious leaders, about the way to eternal life. The religious leaders were Pharisees. Do you remember our description of the Pharisees from our story about Nicodemus meeting Jesus? The Pharisees taught traditions and rituals instead of a personal relationship with the Lord. As you listen to this story about Jesus, I would like to give you two listening tasks. Are you ready to listen? The first task is to identify who went to Heaven and who went to Hell in this story. The second listening task is somewhat harder. Try to understand the connection between going to Heaven and obeying God. Here is the "Parable of the Rich man and Lazarus" from the Bible.

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God wants us to obey Him.**

**Truth: Believers go to Heaven while those who reject Jesus spend eternity in Hell.**

Barrier -- No eternal security -- holy war exception

Rich man & Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

**STORY:** Jesus was talking to the Pharisees about their hypocrisy. Jesus said there was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed, lived every day in luxury. At his door lay a diseased beggar and the beggar's name was Lazarus. As Lazarus lay there longing for scrap from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. Finally, the beggar died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried and his soul went to the place of the dead. There in torment he saw Lazarus in the far distance with Abraham. Now the rich man shouted, "Father Abraham have some pity. Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue because I am in anguish in these flames." But Abraham said to him, "Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted and you are in anguish and besides there is a great chasm separating us. Anyone who wanted to cross over to you from here is stopped at its edge and no one there can cross over to us." "Well," then the rich man said, "Please father Abraham, send Lazarus to my father's home for I have five brothers and I want him to warn them about this place of torment so they won't have to come here when they die." And Abraham said, "Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read their writings any time they want to." The rich man replied, "No father Abraham, but if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will turn from their sins." But Abraham said, "If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets they won't listen even if someone rises from the dead." That ends this session's story.

#### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Why did Jesus tell this parable? What was the difference between Lazarus and the rich man? Was Jesus saying that rich people would all go to Hell and only poor people to Abraham's side? What was the rich man trying to convince his five brothers of? Why is knowledge of the writings of "Moses and the Prophets" so important? Does God's Word carry all that is needed for salvation? Are you able to trust God's Word? If you do not, are you expecting an eternity like the

rich man? Is there a guarantee implied in the parable about the afterlife? Is there a connection in your life between believing God's Word and eternal life with Him that is guaranteed? Let's review the Memory Verse for this Week (9). Have you memorized it? Please say it with me. It is from the book of John chapter 14, verse 6. "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" In order to help you memorize it, let's review it phrase by phrase. This verse is from when Jesus was instructing His disciples about Heaven. Thomas, one of Jesus twelve disciples, asked Jesus how that they could know how to get to Heaven. The memory verse is Jesus' reply to Thomas. The first phrase is "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'" What were the three elements? Way. Truth. Life. Jesus said that He was those three things. If something is the way that means that Jesus gives direction to our lives. If something is the truth, then that means that we can trust Jesus to never lie. If something is the life, then Jesus is the source of life that guarantees that His followers will spend eternity in Heaven. The second phrase in the verse is, "No one comes to the Father except through me." Who did Jesus call "the Father?" Do you remember the Lord's Prayer? How does that start? "Our Father who is in Heaven." If we want to spend eternity in Heaven, then we can trust Jesus to provide the way for us to be in Heaven. Here is the Bible verse one more time. John chapter 14, verse 6 says, "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" In our next story, we will hear a story where Jesus teaches more about prayer.

## **CLOSING**



## **No. 45 Jesus Teaches More About Prayer: The Unjust Judge & Persistent Widow / The Pharisee and the Tax Collector Luke 18:1-14**

### **INTRODUCTION (3:25)**

Before we learn our story for today, let's review our last story. Who can tell the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus? Why did the Rich man go to a fiery hell when he died? What did he plea with Abraham to do for his brothers? Why did Abraham say that even if someone were raised from the dead that they would not believe? Do wealthy people automatically gain entrance to Heaven? Do poor people automatically receive eternal life? What do you think that it takes to be made right before the eyes of God so that you will inherit eternal life? Think back to the Bible verse that we had regarding ritual sacrifices and obedience. Can you say it with me? It is from I Samuel 15:22. "But Samuel replied; 'Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.'" Do you think that God wants to have a personal relationship with us? The disciples of Jesus wanted to know more about talking with God. Do you remember our Model Prayer? Can you say the Lord's Prayer with me? Let's review the Model Prayer: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be you name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one." [Optional if it is in the Farsi translation: ...for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.] The prayer is recorded for us in Matthew 6:9-13, which was a part of the Sermon on the Mount. Do you remember other things that Jesus taught His disciples about prayer? Are they to prayer repetitious prayers that go on and on? Are they to pray boastful prayers so that everybody can hear their eloquent prayers and be impressed with them? Why do you think that Jesus said it was important to pray in a closet or in a quiet place? What did Jesus do? Do you remember that Jesus went away by Himself early in the morning to pray? This was in our story about Jesus calling His disciples. Before He made important decisions, Jesus prayed to God. Now, in today's story, Jesus talks two more times about how we are to pray. Jesus used two stories to convey the truth. In the first teaching, be sure to listen for the judge's reaction to the persistent widow who demanded justice. In the second story, see if you can contrast the prayers of the religious leader who belonged to the Pharisees and that of the sinful tax collector. Remember, the Pharisees were very pious and followed the Law of Moses so carefully that they actually invented additional laws that formed a protective hedge around the actual laws. They were also known for their hypocrisy and self-righteous attitude. Another character in our story is the tax collector who was hated because he collected money for the Roman Empire, who were controlling Judea at this time. Do you think that God would listen to the prayers of either men? Here is the Bible story, "Jesus teaches more about prayer."

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God wants to have a relationship with us.**

**Truth: Believers in Jesus fast and pray.**

Bridge -- Call to prayer exists, but is ignored

Jesus Teaches More About Prayer: The Unjust Judge & Persistent Widow / The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Luke 18:1-14

There was a certain town where there a judge that didn't fear God and he really didn't care about the people either. In that town was a widow who kept coming to him with the same plea, grant me justice against my adversary. While for some time he refused but finally he said to himself even though I don't fear God or care about people, because this widow keeps coming and bothering me and bothering me and bothering me, I am going to give her justice so she won't wear me out with her constant coming. And Jesus said to those disciples who heard this story listen to what this unjust judge said. If he will give justice because of the persistent plea how much more will our just God give justice to those who cry out to Him day and night? Will not the true God who does love people and is just see that they get justice and get it quickly? But the question is, when the Son of Man comes will He find faith on the earth? Now, some who were listening to Jesus were very self-righteous. The Pharisees were very strict in their observance of

all the laws given to the people by Moses. Their pride caused them to look down on others who weren't that religious as they themselves were. To them Jesus told this parable. He said that there were two men who went up to the temple to pray, one was a Pharisee, a religious leader, the other was a notorious sinner, a tax collector. Well the Pharisee stood up and he prayed about himself, oh, God, I thank you that I am not like the other men, robbers, evildoers, adulterers or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get, but the tax collector stood off at a distance, he wouldn't even look up to heaven. But he beat his breast and he said, "God have mercy on me, I am a sinner." And Jesus said, "I tell you that this second man, not the first man, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled. Whoever humbles himself will be exalted." And that is the story from God's Word.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Why do you think Jesus told the story of the unjust judge and the persistent widow? Who did the unjust judge represent? Does he represent God? Do you think that God wants to hear our prayers? Who did the persistent widow represent? What lesson can we learn from this about how we are to pray? In the second story, the religious leader prayed but nothing happened. What happened to the tax collector? Is God ready to answer sincere prayers that are offered to Him? What was the difference in the prayers of the religious leader and the sinful tax collector? Does God want us to repent of our sins? It would be an interesting exercise to have everyone name Bible stories they remember where the main character talked to God. How did Adam talk with God before he sinned? How did Noah talk to God? How did Abraham talk to God? How did Moses talk to God? How did Mary talk to God when she wanted to praise Him for choosing her to give birth to Jesus? Are there other stories that came to mind? Why do you think Jesus told this parable? Do you ever think about how God wants us to pray? Does it matter what we say when we pray? Do you think it matters more to God that we pray or that we pray only when we're supposed to? Here is John 14:6 for the final time. Say it with me: "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" You are invited back for our next session. In our story today, the tax collector was part of the parable that Jesus told about prayer. In our next session we'll meet a real tax collector who was as greedy as he was short in stature. Can you guess why the man was hiding in a tree when Jesus came to his town?

### **CLOSING**

### **No. 46 Zacchaeus' conversion Luke 19:1-10**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Do you remember our Bible story from last time? We reviewed what Jesus taught about praying. Can you say the Lord's Prayer? Repeat it often. Do you remember the teachings about prayer? Jesus told two stories. In the first story, Jesus encouraged His disciples to pray continually—even persistently about things that bothered them. We are to take our burdens to God! In the second parable on praying, Jesus told about a religious leader and a tax collector who repented of his sins. Jesus indicated that just because you are a religious leader does not mean that God will hear your prayers if it is just meaningless rituals. Why did God listen to the prayers of the tax collector? Even though the tax collector was a sinner, he repented of his sin and came away from prayers with a changed heart. Our story today is about a real tax collector named Zacchaeus. The Roman Empire had occupied for centuries what we now call the Holy Land. They often employed local workers to help carry out their plans for building smooth roads, erecting elaborate water supply systems and operating an occupational government. One of Jesus' disciples was a tax collector. His name was Matthew. Matthew is given credit for writing the first book of the New Testament. In fact, many of the stories you have heard in this series were taken from the book of Matthew. Jesus knew from traveling with Matthew as one of His disciples that a tax collector could have a change of heart. The Bible story you will hear today is about a man who was a Jew, but the Roman government employed him. This man earned his living by charging his fees on top of the required taxes. In today's story, Jesus meets a tax collector named Zacchaeus in a very unusual way. Do you think Zacchaeus was loved or hated? How do you think that Jesus will treat Zacchaeus? How will Zacchaeus respond to Jesus? Here is the story of Zacchaeus from God's Holy Word.

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: God the Father forgives those who sin against him, but repent and return to Him.**

Bridge -- Religious leaders are revered  
Zacchaeus' conversion  
Luke 19:1-10

A model story is unavailable at this time.

#### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Why did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus? What had he heard about Jesus? What did Jesus do or say to make a difference to Zacchaeus? Were you surprised at Zacchaeus' actions after encountering Jesus? Do you think that Zacchaeus revered Jesus as he did other religious leaders of his day? What about the religious leaders that you encounter? Is it proper to honor religious leaders? Do your religious leaders revere Jesus? Think about Zacchaeus' response for moment. What did Zacchaeus do after expressing faith in Jesus? If you had an encounter with Jesus, do you think your life would change? Would you get rid of sin in your life? The story of Zacchaeus provides a wonderful example of what repentance is all about. Can you think of other Bible stories where someone was restored to a right relationship after they repented to Jesus? The stories that came to my mind was Simon Peter saying that he was a sinful man and then stopped fishing and followed Jesus as one of His first disciples. Another story was the Samaritan Woman at the Well who confessed not only that Jesus was the Messiah to those in her village, but she also recognized her adulterous lifestyle before Jesus. What about the Gadarene demoniac or the woman who was forgiven of committing adultery? When people encounter Jesus, He helps them change their lifestyle. Are you willing to have a life-changing encounter with Jesus? We have a new Memory Verse for Week 10. It is from a disciple of Jesus named Paul. The verse is taken from a letter that Paul wrote the Christians who were living in Rome. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23. Jesus continued to teach against the hypocrisy of the religious leaders and they were getting tired of it. Many were starting to plot the death of Jesus. In our next story, Jesus will warn His disciples. What do you think He will tell them?

#### **CLOSING**

### **No. 47 Jesus warns his followers Matthew 24:1-31**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Are you thinking about living for Jesus? Many people that Jesus encountered changed their lives. Let's think about several of these. Think with me for a moment about several of the people who changed their lives after encountering Jesus:

- Jesus' parents Mary and Joseph: They trusted God and gave praise to God for their role.
- The Shepherds and the Wise Men who visited baby Jesus. They were among the first to worship Jesus.
- John the Baptist who not only baptized Jesus, but became convinced Jesus was the Messiah.
- Each of the twelve who became Jesus' disciples. They left everything to follow Jesus. I think especially about Peter who claimed that he was a sinful man, but followed Jesus.
- The paralyzed man who was healed and had his sins forgiven.
- The people on the storm-tossed boat who saw Jesus calm the sea. They wondered right there if Jesus was the Messiah.
- The Gadarene demoniac who was freed of more than 1,000 demons. He was restored to his right mind and became an outspoken witness for Jesus.
- The woman who had the issue of blood. In faith she reached out and touched the hem of Jesus' garment and was healed.
- Jairus' daughter who was raised back to life.
- The 5,000 or more people who were fed in a miraculous way.
- The woman who was forgiven for adultery was challenged to go and sin no more.
- And in our last lesson, we learned about Zacchaeus' conversion. What a radical change in his life to repay all those whom he had cheated!

How many of these stories can you tell from heart? Repeat one of them every day! Think about them often. Now, at the beginning of this program, you heard a grief-stricken man who had been worried about End Times, but found comfort in the teachings of Jesus. Do you think Jesus cares enough about his followers to warn them? In today's Bible story, Jesus warns His followers about what was to come. Despite changing the lives of those we remembered today, Jesus was making many of the religious leaders very angry. Some wanted to begin planning to kill Jesus. Jesus knew that what He was teaching was making the religious leaders very angry. However, Jesus traveled to Jerusalem and taught in the temple there. That is where our story takes place today. Listen in the story we are about to hear for what a follower of Jesus can expect in the future. Why do you think that Jesus warned His disciples? Here's the story from God's Word that we call, "Jesus Warns His Followers."

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus warns His followers.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

Jesus warns his followers

Matthew 24:1-31

A model story is unavailable at this time.

#### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Do you ever wonder about the future? Why did Jesus want his followers to be warned about future events? Have you ever been deceived thinking that one thing might happen and something else does? What were some of the events that Jesus told his followers that they could anticipate? Did anyone come after Christ claiming another path to God? What about war, have you ever thought that surely the world would end at that point? This region has a lot of earthquakes, will that bring the end? Did you notice that Jesus was concerned what would happen to those who followed Jesus? Have you ever been hated because of what you believed? Have false prophets come up since Jesus, that have led people away from the truth that Jesus proclaimed? Are there people groups where you live that still have not heard the good news about Jesus? When times of tribulation come, will you be expecting it or surprised? When Jesus

comes again, will you be ready to receive Him? Why do you think the nations that rejected Jesus will mourn? Will your people mourn or be glad? Will you be ready for that trumpet call when the angels gather the believers to Heaven? Are you ready to trust Jesus as the Savior of the world? Memory Verse for Week 10-Romans 6:23-For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**CLOSING**

### **No. 48 The Last Supper Luke 22:1-39**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

To prepare for today's Bible story, I would like you to review a story that we have already told. I would also like you to review a memory verse that you have memorized several weeks ago. The Bible story that I want you to remember is the story about the Passover. Do you remember the story when Moses was in Egypt? How were the Egyptians treating the Hebrews? Do you remember that God put many plagues upon the Egyptians, but the Pharaoh still refused to let them gain their freedom? What did God instruct His people through Moses that He was about to do? What would the people have to do if they did not want the death angel to kill every first-born male child? Do you remember how they had to sacrifice a lamb? Do you remember that they had to splash the blood over the door and on the sides of the door? Do you remember that they had to eat a meal that used no leaven in the bread? Do you remember that they had to gather up all their belongings and in faith prepare to leave Egypt? What happened that night? The Hebrews were all spared, but the Egyptians were not. The angel of God killed every one of the oldest Egyptian male children, including Pharaoh's firstborn. However, the angel passed over the shed blood of the lamb. The next morning, Pharaoh called Moses and told him to take the Hebrew slaves. They were free to go. Do you remember that story? Now is a good time to review the story, because Jesus and His disciples were preparing to celebrate the Passover many generations later. Each year since the time of Moses, the Jews celebrated Passover. Jesus wanted the disciples to observe this weeklong holiday together as a group. The Memory Verse that I would like to review is Isaiah 53:5-6, "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." The disciples were wondering if Jesus was going to be the Messiah. What does that memory verse from Isaiah the prophet remind us about the kind of Messiah that God was sending to earth? Our story today takes place in a room that was prepared for Jesus and the twelve disciples. Listen to see who the two would be that would betray Jesus. Most people think it was only one person, but two of Jesus' disciples actually betrayed Jesus. Which two would do it? In this story, listen for a covenant that Jesus will make with His disciples. What did Jesus tell us to do to remember that covenant? Jesus had already warned His disciples. Now, Jesus would prepare them to live without Him. We call this story, "The Last Supper."

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus is the only way to eternal life.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

The Last Supper

Luke 22:1-39

A model story is unavailable. (Note: The "Following Jesus" series used the account from John's gospel to incorporate the humility of washing the feet. However, it omits the elements of the Last Supper in a concise way, so this version has been chosen. However, John 13:1-30 is a viable alternative.)

#### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Where did Jesus and His disciples observe the Passover meal? Who was making plans to kill Jesus? Why did the chief priests and the teachers of the law fear the people? How did Peter and John know where they would eat the Passover meal? Do you think it took faith to trust that an upper room would be prepared for them? What did Jesus say that the drink and the broken bread were like? Why did Jesus keep saying that He was giving His body for them? What is the new covenant that Jesus established with His followers? Think back to the prophecies of the Messiah and Jesus warning about His death. Do you see the symbolism between His body and blood of the New Covenant shed to cover the sins of those who would believe in Him as God's Son? Was the new covenant just between Jesus and His disciples or for everyone? If you were a follower of Jesus, would you remember what Jesus did for you by taking the cup and breaking bread with other believers? Is there any other way to eternal life? Who did Jesus say would

betray him three times before the very next morning? Why did Jesus pray for Simon Peter? What is God getting ready to do? The Memory Verse for this week (10) is Romans 6:23-For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. The Bible story for our next session is about Jesus' arrest and trial. Please continue with us as the religious leaders plot Jesus' death.

**CLOSING**

### **No. 49 Jesus is Arrested Luke 22:39-54**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

We need to begin by reviewing our last lesson. It was the story of the Last Supper that Jesus had with his twelve disciples in the upper room. Would you have been able to have a meal if you knew that some of the people closest to you were preparing to kill you? Jesus made a covenant with His disciples not to eat of the bread or drink from the cup that they shared until after He was in His Kingdom with the disciples. Jesus was preparing the disciples for the events that were getting ready to happen. Jesus was foretelling His death. The disciples did not want to think of Jesus having to suffer. However, God had already let people know through the prophets how the Messiah was to suffer. What was God getting ready to do? In this story, listen for the way that Jesus prepared Himself. What did He want the disciples to do? Here is the story called, "Jesus is Arrested."

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus was the perfect sin offering.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

Jesus is arrested

Luke 22:39-54

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives with His disciples, and they followed Him. It was nighttime when our story takes place here. On reaching the place, He said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation," and then He went about a stone's throw away and He knelt down and He prayed. And when He prayed, He said, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. But it's not my will but yours that must be done." And an angel from Heaven appeared to Jesus and strengthened Him there. And being in just so much anguish, Jesus prayed even more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. And when He rose from prayer and went back to his disciples, he found that they were asleep, they were exhausted from sorrow. And He asked them, He said, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." While Jesus was speaking, a crowd came up, and a man called Judas, who was one of the twelve disciples, was leading that crowd. But Jesus asked Judas, "Judas are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord should we strike with our swords?" And one of them took the sword out and he cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. And Jesus said, "No, no, no. No more of this." And He touched the man's ear and He healed them. And then Jesus said to the chief priest and the officers and the temple guard and the elders who were there, who were leading this rabble that had come out there, Jesus said, "Am I leading a rebellion that you've come at me with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour when darkness reigns." And then they seized Jesus and they took Him away. They took Him actually to the house of the high priest. Peter tried following at a distance, as maybe even some of the other disciples that were there as well. [And that was our story.]

#### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

What did Jesus do before He was arrested? Who went with Him? Did they stay awake and pray with Jesus? Whose will did Jesus pray would be done; His own will or God's? Who was Judas Iscariot and what did he do? Why did Jesus say that this was the religious leader's hour and that darkness would reign? Do you think Jesus knew what was about to happen to Him? Why did Jesus want to pray? Why did Jesus want His disciples to pray? Have you ever been betrayed? How did you feel toward those who misused you? How did Jesus show compassion even in the middle of the arrest? When he healed the servant's ear, do you think that Jesus was showing compassion? How can you show love to those who are your enemies? Do you pray to God for strength? How does God help those who are called according to His purpose and do His will? Have you memorized the Memory Verse for this Week? (10) Please say it with me: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23. Here is the verse phrase by phrase to help you memorize it. The first phrase is "For the wages of sin is death." This means that everyone that continues to sin is doomed to be spiritually separated from God. Think about the fate of the rich man in the parable that Jesus told. What is



sin? Is it the big things such as killing or stealing? Or is it actions that nobody knows about such as lying or not placing God as top priority? Who do you have to have a right relationship with? The second phrase is "But the free gift of God." Do you have to earn salvation? Is there a price set on your eternal life that you could afford? How much money would be enough? How many animals would you have to sacrifice? How long would you have to pray? Instead, this phrase of the memory verse says that salvation is simply a free gift given of God for you. However, the gift does require a price. Do you remember the memory verse in Isaiah about the Messiah suffering for the sins of the people? The last phrase says that the "free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Eternity awaits each of us. How will you spend it? The word Christ means Messiah or God's Anointed One. What role does Jesus play in your life? Is He who He claimed to be? Will you proclaim Jesus as Lord of your life? Let's put the verse back together again and review it together. Please say it with me: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23. In our next story, we will hear Simon Peter's denials of Jesus.

### **CLOSING**

**No. 50 Peter's denial Luke 22:31-34, 54-62**

**INTRODUCTION**

If you participated in our previous story, you know that the religious leaders arrested Jesus. The religious leaders arranged for Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. His disciples scattered. The Bible does not say where they went. The Bible says that Peter and John were trying to get close to Jesus. John was actually inside a chamber near Jesus because the high priest knew him. However, Peter was in an outer courtyard. Our story is about Peter. Do you remember what Jesus had said Peter would do? Peter was told that he would deny knowing Jesus three times before the rooster crowed and it was morning! How is this possible? Think back to stories that we have told that included Peter. Do you remember the story about Jesus healing the fever of Peter's mother-in-law? Do you remember that Peter had pulled in a great catch of fish? It happened after Jesus finished teaching and ordered Peter to put out into the deep. Do you remember that Peter left his fishing business to follow Jesus? What other stories involved Peter? Peter had traveled with Jesus through Samaria when the woman at the well and almost everyone in the town of Sychar believed on Jesus as the Messiah. Peter was with Jesus when the Gadarene demoniac had been freed from the demons. Peter was with Jesus when Jairus' daughter had been raised from the dead. Peter had been the one that confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the Living God! Peter had helped the other disciples collect more than twelve baskets of food after Jesus miraculously fed the 5,000. Peter was the one that said that Jesus had the words of eternal life, to whom else could they go? Peter had listened to the stories that Jesus told about the Sower, the Good Samaritan, the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son. How could Peter deny knowing Jesus? Before going into our story for this session, let's listen to the portion of the story where Jesus told Peter he was going to deny Jesus. Here is a section of that story for your review:

Luke 22:31-34 – Jesus tells Peter that he would deny Jesus three times by morning.

Do you remember that part of the story of the Last Supper? Do you think Peter thought that he would deny Jesus that very night? Later that night, Jesus took the disciples into the Garden of Gethsemane. It was a small garden on the Mount of Olives, which overlooked Jerusalem. What did Jesus ask the disciples to do? Here is a section of that story for your review:

Luke 22:44-46 – Jesus prays in anguish and encourages His disciples to pray.

Jesus asked Peter and the disciples to pray, but they kept going to sleep. What happened to Peter when Jesus was arrested? Was Peter prepared for the arrest or was it a surprise? What did Peter do to fight for Jesus? Here is a section of that story for your review:

Luke 22:47-51– Jesus is betrayed and one of the disciples cuts off the ear of the high priests' servant.

In another account of this story, Peter is given credit for cutting off the ear of Malchus, the high priests' slave. Peter was ready for a fight. Then Jesus told them to put away the sword and healed Malchus' ear. Jesus was led away and Peter slipped away into the cool night air. Where would he go? What would he do? Would he go back to fishing? Listen to our story about Peter's Denials. Ask yourself, "What was Peter doing?" What happened unexpectedly to Peter? How many times did he have the opportunity to take a stand for Jesus? Here is the story we call "Peter's Denials."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Believers in Jesus share their faith despite the consequences.**

**Truth: Everyone has sinned.**

Bridge -- Shame is a very strong concept

Peter's denials

Luke 22:54-62

[You may desire to begin storying back in the Upper Room and Garden of Gethsemane as a review.] Peter tried following at a distance, as maybe even some of the other disciples that were there as well. But when they kindled the fire in the middle of the courtyard, Peter sat down with them, and a servant girl thought she noticed him. She looked kind of closely at him and she said, "This man was with Him." And everyone started looking at Peter, and Peter just denied it. "Woman, I don't know Him," is what he said. A little later, someone else saw Peter, and he says, "You're also one of them." And he says, "Man, I am not." And about an hour later there was another one that said, "Certainly this fellow was with him because he is speaking with a Galilean accent." Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about." And just as he was speaking, a rooster crowed, and the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the words that the Lord had told him, when Jesus had said, "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And He went out and wept bitterly. And this is the story for today.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Who was Peter? Did he love Jesus? Why did he deny knowing Jesus? Why did Peter weep bitterly when he saw Jesus after the rooster crowed? Was Jesus' prophecy true? What should Peter have done? Is it easy to admit that you are a follower of Jesus? What does Jesus expect us to do? How do we show obedience to God by openly testifying that you love Jesus? This is why this series has presented you with dozens and dozens of testimonies from Persians who have trusted Jesus as their Savior! When Peter realized that he had done wrong, why did he experience shame? Do you think that Jesus stopped loving Peter? Would you do good to people who are spiteful to you? What do you think Peter should do? How do you handle the shame that you experience when doing wrong? Our memory verse this week has been from Romans 6:23. Would you say it with me? "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus' trial will be our Bible story in our next session. Be sure to listen!

### **CLOSING**

### **No. 51 The Trial of Jesus Luke 23:1-28**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Do you remember our last Bible story? Why did Peter deny knowing Jesus? How many times did he do it? Why did Peter weep bitterly when Jesus saw him? What will happen to Peter? Our story today is "The Trial of Jesus." Do you think that Jesus will get a fair trial? In today's story, you will hear that the Jews wanted to kill Jesus. However, since they were under the command of the Roman Empire, law forbade them to have Jesus executed. The Jewish authorities took Jesus before the civil authorities. Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea and Herod was the magistrate over Galilee, the region of Palestine that is in the north. As you listen, see if you can identify the charges made against Jesus. What do you think Jesus will say in his own defense? Here is our story from the Bible.

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus was the perfect sin offering.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

The Trial of Jesus

Luke 23:1-28

The soldiers who had come from the religious leaders to the garden of Gethsemane took Jesus to the high priest and the other chief priests and religious leaders. There they accused him of many things. The accusations were false and none of them agreed so that Jesus did not answer of these. Finally the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Sent One, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I am," Jesus said, "and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." When he heard this, the high priest tore his clothes in dismay, "We don't need any more witnesses", he said. "We have heard this from his own mouth." They all condemned him as worthy of death. They began to spit at him. Then they blindfolded him. They hit him with their fists and said prophecy and their guards took Jesus and they beat him. ...They took Jesus to the Roman ruler of that region. The man was named Pilate and so they brought him and they said "We have brought here the one claiming to be the King of the Jews." They accused him of leading a rebellion against the Roman government. "Are you the King of the Jews?" This is what Pilate asked. "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. And so the Jewish religious leaders made many of the same accusations they had made previously, false ones and they accused Jesus of being against Rome. But Jesus made no answer to all of these accusations, and Pilate was amazed by this. Now it was custom at that time that during the feast of the Passover that the Roman ruler would release a prisoner of the Jews. Now there was a man in prison at that time and he was Barabbas. He had been involved in the insurrection against Rome and he had actually committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do what he normally did in this custom. "Ah, do you want to me to release to you the King of the Jews?" He said that because he knew that it was out of envy that the chief priest had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priest stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. Well then, "What shall I do with Jesus who is called the Christ?" Pilate said. "Crucify him!" the crowd shouted out. And Pilate said, "Why? What evil has he done?" And they shouted all the more loudly "Crucify him!" And so Pilate had water brought. He washed his hands, and he said, "I am innocent of the blood of this innocent man." The people said, "His blood be on us and our children." And so wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas and had Jesus beaten and he handed him over to soldiers to crucify Jesus. And that is our story.

#### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Have you ever experienced the force of an angry mob? If you did, were you shocked at the actions of some in the crowd? Do you believe that everyone present that day wanted to see Jesus killed? Did Pilate consider Jesus to be a criminal? Why was Jesus taken before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate and Herod who was Galilee's governor? Why could Pilate and Herod find nothing wrong with Jesus? Was this a fair trial? Why did the crowd say that Jesus stirred up people? Do you remember prophecies being fulfilled as Jesus was being led away to be crucified? Did you remember the memory verse from Isaiah? Who was Simon of Cyrene and what did He do for Jesus? Why did the women of Jerusalem weep for Jesus? Do you think

Jesus is going to be crucified or will a substitute be put into place? Given what you know about God, His prophecies and Jesus, do you really think God's will would be carried out if a substitute is made? Our new Memory Verse for this Week (11) is Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 10, verse 9. "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." In our next session, we will hear about Jesus on the cross. What do you think will happen to Jesus?

**CLOSING**

## **No. 52 Jesus on the cross Luke 23:33-56**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Have you ever wondered why the cross has become a powerful symbol? The cross was an instrument of torture and death. Let's review our previous stories about Jesus' arrest and trial. Was Judas Iscariot one of Jesus' own disciples? How many pieces of silver was Judas paid for betraying Jesus? Did you know that 30 pieces of silver at that time was the price of a slave? It is the equivalent of \$20.00 US in 21<sup>st</sup> century currency. *[What would this be in local currency?]* When Judas led the religious leaders and their soldiers to the Mount of Olives to arrest Jesus, why did Judas betray Jesus with a friendly greeting? What time of day was it when Jesus was arrested? After Jesus was taken to the chamber of the High Priest, what did His disciples do? If you had been a disciple, would you have run away? Why did Peter weep bitterly after denying three times that he even knew Jesus? What happened in Jesus' trial? Why did the Roman governor send Jesus to Herod? What did Herod want Jesus to do for him? How did Herod mistreat Jesus? Was Jesus being given a fair trial? When Herod and Pontius Pilate could not find Jesus guilty of any charge, whom did Pilate offer to release? Why did the crowd want Barabbas? After Barabbas was released, why did the crowd demand that Jesus be killed? When Jesus was led out to be crucified, a man named Simon who was from the island Cyrene, was ordered to carry Jesus' cross. A Roman crucifixion was a cruel form of capital punishment. Our story continues today with the crucifixion of Jesus. Roman soldiers prodded Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem and out of the city gates. They crucified Jesus on a Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. Our story is in two parts. Listen to what happened to Judas Iscariot. What would he do now that he had betrayed Jesus? How was this a fulfillment of the prophecy by the prophet Jeremiah? Then listen to what happened when Jesus was crucified. What happened when He talked with the men being crucified with Him? Here is our story, "Jesus on the Cross."

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus was the perfect sin offering.**

**Truth: God is love.**

Gap -- Forgiveness is virtually unknown [Essential for Salvation]

Jesus on the cross

Matthew 27:3-10 (1:00) and Luke 23:33-56 (3:00)

[The radio scripts use the remorse of Judas and the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy.] And so they led him away into the place where the guard was gathered... They put a purple robe on him and they made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. Then the crowd called out to him, "Hail King of the Jews." They mocked him again and again. They struck him on the head and they struck him with the staff and they spit on him. And falling on their knees they mocked him. Then they took the purple robe off and put on his own clothes on him and led him out to crucify him. They took him along with two others to the place of the skull, a hill outside the city where they did their crucifixions. The other two were criminals. As the soldiers led Jesus and these two, a group of people followed and some of the women who were followers of Jesus and they mourned and they cried as they saw Jesus being led out. The guards gambled for the clothing of Jesus. Even for his seamless undergarment. The people stood watching while the religious leaders mocked Jesus, saying, "Ah, He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is really the Messiah of God, the Chosen One." Again others mocked him saying, "He trusted in God but let God deliver Him now if he is really the Son of God as He said." And on the cross as Jesus hung there nailed through both hands and nailed through his feet, he prayed saying, "Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing." One of the criminals who was crucified there beside him began to revile Jesus and made insulting remarks, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself! And all of us!" Well the second criminal rebuked the first one, he said, "Don't you fear God? Since you see that we are under the same situation we are getting punished justly. We are getting what our deeds deserve, but this man has done nothing wrong." And so that one said to Jesus, "Jesus, remember me when you come into Your Kingdom." And Jesus told man, "I assure you today you will be with me in paradise." As Jesus hung there on the cross from the mid-morning to noon, around noon the sky became dark and it was darkened for three hours. It frightened people greatly to see this come to pass. As He hung there He was subject to more the mocking and He

was there in the darkness the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom and Jesus cried out, "Father into your hands I commit my spirit." And when He said this He breathed his last. It was a Roman soldier, a commander of a hundred who saw all that happened. And when this happened he praised God. He said that surely this was a righteous man. When all the people who were there watched and saw that Jesus was dead, they beat their chest and they went away. But those who knew Him including those who followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and watched these things. Now the ones that were of the devout religious man who went then to Pilate and requested permission to receive the body and give it a proper burial because the religious festival was about to begin and it was not a good thing for the body to remain there during the religious festival. Now Pilate was surprised to find that Jesus was already dead, so he sent soldiers, who went and they verified that Jesus was already dead and they thrust a spear in His side and blood and water gushed out confirming that He was indeed dead. And so they took the body and they wrapped it in linen cloth as was their custom and place it in a tomb cut into the rock, one in that no one had yet been laid. The women who had followed Jesus followed Joseph of Arimathea and saw the tomb and how Jesus' body was placed in there. And then saw how a large stone was rolled in front of the opening of the tomb to seal it. Thus Jesus was buried. And that was our story from God's Word.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

In the first portion of this story, Judas Iscariot expressed remorse and hanged himself. Do you think he should have tried to talk with Jesus? Why did Judas give up all hope? Contrast Judas' actions with the denials of Peter. What do you think Peter will do at some future point? Now, let's focus on the crucifixion of Jesus. What did it mean to be crucified? Think about the miracles that Jesus had done during His ministry. Did Jesus have the power to come off the cross? What kept Him on the cross? Do you remember the story we told about Jesus praying in the Garden the night that He was arrested? Jesus told His Father that He wanted to do the will of God. This was God's plan! Why did Jesus forgive the people who were killing him? Have you ever been forgiven for wronging someone? How did it make you feel? If Jesus forgave those around him at a time like this, do you think Jesus puts a lot of importance on having ones sins forgiven? Think about the two thieves who were crucified with Jesus. Why do you think one of the thieves on the cross was insulting Jesus while the other one feared God? When you sin should you fear God? What promise did Jesus make to the thief who asked Jesus to remember him? Do you think that if Jesus had a substitute on the cross that He would have done such a thing? Isn't this just like the man that you have come to know? Could anyone take His place? Now think about the centurion who called Jesus righteous. Why would he do such a thing? What did Jesus call God as he was breathing his last breath? Can you trust God as your Heavenly Father? What significance do you see in the curtain of the temple being torn in two? Does this mean all of Jesus' believers have full access to God? Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins? Will you trust Jesus to guarantee that you will be in Heaven as one of His? The Memory Verse for Week 11 is Romans chapter 10, verse 9: "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Jesus had told His disciples that He would be resurrected to life after he had been dead three days. Do you think Jesus' prophecy will come true? Be sure to be here for our next Bible story!

### **CLOSING**

**No. 53 The Empty Tomb, resurrection stories, pt. 1 Luke 24:1-12**

**INTRODUCTION (1:55)**

Jesus died a terrible death on the cross. He did die. Do you remember the man named Joseph of Arimathea who took Jesus and buried him in a new tomb? Some of the other accounts say that Joseph was accompanied by Nicodemus. Do you remember the story of Jesus and Nicodemus? Jesus had told Nicodemus about new birth. Do you remember the timeline of Jesus' death on the cross? His disciples had eaten the Last Supper on a Thursday. That night, they prayed together on the Mount of Olives. While it was still night, Jesus was arrested by the religious authorities who turned them over to the Romans. On the next morning, Pilate and Herod conducted a very rapid and probably illegal trial of Jesus. Do you remember when Pilate sentenced Jesus to death? It was Friday morning about 9:00 a.m. By Friday afternoon Jesus was dead and was buried in Joseph's new tomb. The Jews all wanted to observe the Sabbath. The Sabbath was always on a Saturday, so Jesus was placed in the tomb and a huge stone was rolled in front of the tomb. Pilate listened to the Jewish authorities and had Roman guards posted in front of the tomb. It was well known that Jesus had said that when He was killed that He would rise from the dead in three days. Our story today happens on Sunday morning. Jesus has been in the tomb for three days – Friday, Saturday and Sunday. As you listen to this wonderful Bible story, listen for why the women were going to Jesus' gravesite. How would they remove the huge stone? What would they do about the guards? What would they encounter? Why will the women run to tell the disciples what they found at the tomb? Would the prophecy of Jesus be true? Will Jesus be alive? Here is our Bible story, "The Empty Tomb."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus arose from the dead and is alive today.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

The empty tomb, resurrection stories, pt. 1

Luke 24:1-12

One the day following Jesus' burial some of the religious leaders of the Jews remembered that Jesus had said that on the third day that He would rise from the dead. And so they went to Pilate and they said, "This man claimed that on the third day He will rise from the dead and we are afraid His disciples will come along and steal His body and then claim that He is resurrected." They said that they didn't want that to happen [and requested that Pilate] post a guard to keep that from happening. And Pilate said, "Take a guard. Make the tomb as secure as you can make it." The Jewish leaders did post [the] guards to make the tomb secure. They even sealed [it] with a seal. But on the third day very early there was an earthquake. The angels of God came and rolled away the stone from the tomb. And on that morning, very early some of the women went out early taking spices they had prepared but when they got there the guards had run away and they found the stone rolled away from the tomb and didn't see Jesus' body was there they were confused. They were wondering about this and they looked and there were two men in clothes that shown brightly almost like lightening and in their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground and the men said to them. "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen. Remember how He told you while He was still with you in Galilee? He said that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of the sinful men and be crucified and then on the third day be raised again." And when the angels told them of this they thought oh, that is right. They remembered that this is what He had said. So they left the tomb and they went back where the twelve were gathered and they told them what they had seen. The women included Mary, Magdalene and Joanna and Mary, the mother of Jane and some of the others, but when they told this to the men that had gathered there, they didn't believe the women. They thought the women were saying nonsense. But Peter got up and went with the disciple whom Jesus loved and ran to the tomb and peered in. And when the other disciples saw he believed but Peter didn't understand.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Who were the women and why did they care about Jesus? What did the women find when they went to the tomb? What day of the week did Jesus rise from the dead? Think about what the two



angels told the women. Did the prophecy of Jesus while He was in Galilee come true as He said? Do you think the women were excited or scared as they told the disciples? Did the disciples believe them or think it was nonsense? Does it surprise you that Peter ran to the empty tomb? Why did Peter want to see Jesus? Do you remember that Judas hanged himself? What if Peter had hanged himself after betraying Jesus? Are you like Judas and will make it so that you can never talk to Jesus? Will you be like Peter and run to Jesus? Will you talk with Jesus right now? What do you think about Jesus rising from the dead? Would you react like the women and go tell others the good news? Would you react like Peter and just keep wondering what had really happened? Do you think Peter is afraid what will happen if he meets Jesus? Our Memory Verse for this week is a promise. It is from Romans 10:9: "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." To help you memorize this Bible verse, let's take it phrase by phrase. Here is the first part: "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord.'" What does it mean to confess? When a criminal confesses to a crime, what does he do? He simply admits the truth to others. What does it mean that Jesus is Lord? What or who is lord of your life? Is Jesus the top priority? The second part of the verse says, "Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead." Our Bible verse today revealed an empty tomb. Our Bible story the next time we are together is about Jesus appearing to His disciples and to more than 500 people. They saw Jesus alive! Is it possible for God to raise Jesus from the dead? Do you believe that Jesus is alive today? The last phrase of the memory verse is, "You will be saved." What does it mean to be saved? Do you remember the stories that Jesus told about the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son? Are you wandering away from God's way? Do you want to accept Jesus as your Lord? God is ready to hear your confession! Say this memory verse with me. Say it out loud! "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." I hope you will wait with anticipation for our next Bible story. Jesus is alive and appears to His followers.

## **CLOSING**

**No. 54 The Road to Emmaus, resurrection stories, pt. 2 Luke 24:14-34**

**INTRODUCTION**

Today's Bible story happens outside of the city where Jesus had been crucified and was resurrected back to life. Jesus was arrested by the religious authorities and turned over to the government for prosecution. After a very quick trial before Herod and Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, Jesus was treated with abuse. Some accounts say that he was whipped and was forced to wear a crown of thorns. He was stripped of his clothes and crucified as a common criminal. Crucifixion was a painful death with nails in the victim's hands and feet. He was exposed to scorn by those along the roadway. Often, criminals who were crucified were left to hang for days. However, because of the Sabbath and the Passover festival, the religious authorities wanted to remove the dead bodies from the crosses. The Romans broke the legs of the two thieves next to Jesus, but Jesus was already dead. One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side and water and blood flowed out. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus buried Jesus. After being in a guarded tomb for three days, several of the women went to add spices to Jesus' body. The stone was rolled away and an angel told the women that Jesus was alive. When Peter heard about it, he ran to the empty tomb. In another account, John ran with Peter. The disciples returned to the place where they were staying and tried to make sense of it all. Was Jesus alive? Our story today takes place on the road to a village that was several kilometers West of Jerusalem. What were the two men talking about as they walked along the roadway? Who joined them as they walked along? Why did this other man start talking about the Messiah and explaining the Scriptures? What do you think will happen when they get to the town? Here is the story, "The Road to Emmaus."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus arose from the dead and is alive today.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

The resurrection stories, pt. 2 The Road to Emmaus  
Luke 24:13-34

Now later that same day there were two who were walking to a village about seven miles from Jerusalem, the village is called Emmaus. As they were walking along on that road they were talking about everything that had happened and as they were talking and discussing these things Jesus Himself came up and just walked along side them for a while. But they didn't recognize Him. So He asked them what they were discussing as they were walking? They stood still and their faces looked down at the ground and one of them said, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who doesn't know what has happened there in these last few days?" Jesus said, "Well, what things are you talking about?" They said, "We are talking about Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet. He was powerful. His words and deeds and all that before God and all the people. And the chief priest and our rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death and they crucified Him. We had hoped that He was the One who was going to save Israel. What is more it is the third day since all this took place and some of the women, some of the women tell us that they went to His tomb this morning but He wasn't there. And in fact they said that they had seen angels who said He was alive. And some of the friends went to the tomb and they found it empty just as the women had said but they didn't see Him." And Jesus told them, "How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have said. Didn't the Christ have to suffer these things? And then enter His glory?" And He began with the Books of Moses, the prophets and explained to them all that the Scriptures said concerning Himself. Later He appeared again to another group of His followers as they were in a room meeting and talking about Jesus' resurrection. And that is the end of the story.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Why do you think the two men were leaving Jerusalem and going to Emmaus? Why did the men not recognize Jesus? Who did Cleopas say that he hoped Jesus was going to be? What did Jesus do to help the two men understand that He was truly the Messiah? Why do you think the men reported that the Scriptures burned within their hearts? Do you believe that Jesus fulfilled prophecy? What happened when the disciples suddenly recognized that it was Jesus with whom

they were talking? What happened when they ran all the way back to Jerusalem? What did Jesus say when He suddenly appeared to the disciples? How did Jesus calm their fears that He was not a ghost, but truly was alive? How did Jesus help the disciples understand the Scriptures? How did Jesus' death and resurrection fulfill Scripture? Think back to Bible stories about God fulfilling His promises. Does God do what He says? What did He want the disciples to preach? Have you done what Jesus commanded? Have you repented of your sins and asked Jesus to forgive you? At the end of the story, did you notice that Jesus was going to give them a gift of power from God? Do you think that the followers of Jesus receive the gift of power today? Is there someone that you need to tell that Jesus is indeed alive today? Have you memorized and do you believe the Memory Verse for this week (11)? It is from Romans chapter 10, verse 9. Please say it with me and think what it means, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Will you let Jesus save you? Do you believe that Jesus is the only way under heaven that mankind can be saved? Think back to the stories that you have heard about Jesus. We still have many more stories to go. God wants you to know all the stories about Jesus. But there is no reason to delay. You will never have a better time to repent of your sins and be saved. Please give your heart to Jesus right now. Ask Him to forgive you and be your Lord and Savior. Then tell a Christian about your decision. I hope that these Bible stories have been meaningful to you. Many people were beginning to see Jesus. He was alive! What do you think will happen between Jesus and Peter? What will Jesus tell His disciples now that He is raised from the dead? We will cover this in our next session together. Be sure to join us!

## **CLOSING**

**No. 55 Pt. 1-Jesus instructs the disciples and restores Peter Luke 24:36-44 & John 21:1-19**

**INTRODUCTION**

After Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead, He spent many days with his disciples. Do you remember our story from last time? Who can tell the story of the Two Men on the Road to Emmaus? When did they recognize that it was the resurrected Christ? What did Jesus do with the two men that showed that He cared for them? Is providing explanations using God's Word a way to show concern? During the fifty days after He was resurrected, Jesus appeared to more than 500 people who were His followers. During that time, Jesus taught the disciples many things. In our Bible story today, listen for the instructions that Jesus gave to His disciples. How do you know that He cared for them? What do you think that Jesus will do with Peter? The second portion of our story will deal with that broken relationship. As you listen, listen for a very special promise that Jesus made to His followers. Jesus was getting ready to return to the Father, so the instructions He was to give them were very important. Here is the Bible story, "Jesus Instructs the Disciples and Restores Peter."

**BIBLE STORY (TWO IN THIS SESSION)**

**Truth: Jesus cares for His followers.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

Pt. 1-Jesus instructed His disciples before returning to the Father

Luke 24:36-50 (1:45) and John 21:1-22 (2:50)

He stood among them and He said, "Peace be with you." And they were frightened. They thought He was a ghost. He said, "Why are you so troubled? Why do you have these doubts in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I, myself. Touch me. See. A ghost doesn't have flesh and bones as you see I have." And so he showed them his hands and feet and He said, "Do you have anything here to eat?" And they gave him a piece of broiled fish and he took it and he ate it right there in their presence. And Jesus said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you. Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses and in the prophets and in psalms." Then he opened their minds so that they could understand the Scriptures. He said, "This is what was written. The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all peoples beginning here in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised, but you stay in the city until you have received power from on high."

**PAUSE AND REVIEW THE FIRST BIBLE STORY**

What was the promise that Jesus made to His disciples? We will discuss these teachings in detail a little later. For now, notice that Jesus did not deal with Peter. All the disciples were there, but Peter did not say anything to Jesus at that time. Do you remember how Peter denied three times that He was a follower of Jesus? Judas Iscariot had betrayed Jesus, and hanged himself rather than face Jesus. How would Peter be restored to Jesus? Now here is the second story, "Peter's Restoration."

**SECOND BIBLE STORY**

**John 21:1-22**

Afterward, Jesus appeared again to His disciples by the sea of Tiberius and it happened this way. Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathaniel from Canaan in Galilee, James and John, the sons of Zebedee and two other disciples were all together. Simon Peter looked around at them and he says, "You know, I think I'm going to go out and fish." And they all said, "Well, we'll go with you." So they went out and they got in the boat and they fished and fished all night. But they didn't catch anything. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus and He shouted out to them, "Hey friends! Have you caught any fish?" Well, they had to tell him no that they hadn't caught any fish. So He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you'll find some." And you know what? When the disciples did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then ... John looked at Peter and said, "It's the Lord." As soon as Simon Peter heard John say that, he wrapped his outer garment around him, because he had taken it off while he was fishing, and he jumped in the

water. The other disciples followed in the boat because they were towing that net full of fish, for they were not very far from shore, only about one hundred yards, or so. When they landed they saw a fire burning coals and there were fish on it and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have caught." Simon Peter climbed back on the boat and helped all those disciples drag the net ashore. It was full of very large fish, 153 fish in fact. But even with so many, the net they caught them in was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Why don't you come over here and have some breakfast?" Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew that it was Jesus. Jesus came and He took some bread and He gave it to them and He did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to His disciples after He was raised from the dead and when they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said. "You know that I love you." So Jesus told Peter, "Feed my lambs." And then a second time Jesus said, "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me?" Well, Peter answered, "Yes Lord, you know that I love you." So Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time, Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Well, Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him a third time and so he said, "Lord you know all things. You know that I love you." Well Jesus just said very simply, "Feed my sheep. I tell you Peter, and I tell you the truth, that when you were younger, you dressed yourself and you went out and went everywhere you wanted. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death that Peter would have, by which he would also glorify God. Then He looked at Peter and He just said, "Follow me." And that is our second story for today.

### REVIEW AND APPLICATION

Are you glad that Peter's relationship was restored with Jesus? If you ever betrayed Jesus would you remember this story? Does Jesus want you to have a right relationship with you? Now, let's review the first part of the story when Jesus appeared to all of the disciples. Why was it necessary for Jesus to help the disciples understand all Scripture? How does Jesus help His followers? What power does the Holy Spirit of God provide to believers? Do you know someone who needs this Good News? Do you? Does a friend? Does a neighbor? Who can you tell? For the last time, let's say the memory Verse for Week 11. Have you memorized it? It is from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 10, verse 9. "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Have you made a decision to follow Jesus? Will you trust Him with your problems? The time that Jesus has with His disciples is quickly drawing to a close. In our next story, Jesus will return to the Father.

### CLOSING

**No. 56 Pt. 2-Jesus is alive today and will return Acts 1:3-12**

**INTRODUCTION**

Where do you turn to receive answers from God's Word?. Even if you cannot read, you have the ability to remember God's Word. Think back to the Bible stories that you know. If you have been involved with our storying group from the beginning, you might be amazed to know that this is our fifty-sixth story! There are 65 in this collection. We will soon have another 65 Bible stories for you to learn. The new 65 stories will talk about what it means as a Persian to follow Jesus. In fact, we call both of these sets the Persian Oral Bible. It was intended to help people who need help reading or prefer to learn by listening. In our last story, Jesus appeared as a man and not as a ghost to His disciples. The relationship with Peter was restored. What difference do you think that this will make in Peter's life. Do you believe that God has something special in store for him? As we heard in last story, Jesus was seen in Jerusalem and in the area of Galilee to the north. Jesus told His disciples that He was going back to His Heavenly Father. In today's story, Jesus is preparing to return to the Father and is instructing His disciples. What is the most important thing that Jesus will tell His disciples? Will Jesus stay with them forever? How can that happen? Open your heart to the promises that Jesus made regarding the Holy Spirit. As you listen to this story, think about ways that God might want you to share the good news of Jesus! Also, listen to see if Jesus will return someday. Here is the second part of our story that we call, "Jesus is Alive Today and Will Return, Part 2".

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus is alive today and will return.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added  
Pt. 2-Jesus is alive today and will return  
Acts 1:3-12

After Jesus was raised from the dead He appeared to women and men alike on many occasions. Sometimes even to large groups as many as 500 at one time and He gave them many convincing proofs that He was indeed alive. These appearances took place over a period of about 40 days and during this time He spoke often of the Kingdom of God. On one occasion while He was eating with them He gave them a command, He said to His disciples, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait here, for the gift my Father has promised, which you have heard me talk about. John baptized with water but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they met together they asked Him, "Lord are you at this time going to restore the Kingdom of Israel?" And He said, "It is not for you to know the exact times or dates that the Father has set. These are decisions made by Him. But you will receive power of the Holy Spirit comes on you and you are my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and all Samaria and to the ends of the earth." After He said this He was lifted up. Right before their very eyes! And a cloud hid Him from their sight. And they stood there staring up at the sky. Then suddenly there were two men dressed in white who stood along with them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "Why are you standing here looking into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way you seen Him go into heaven." And so they returned to Jerusalem to wait as Jesus had told them for the gift of the spirit. That was the story from God's Word.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Let's review this Bible story. What was the gift that Jesus promised to send to His disciples? Do you remember the story of John the Baptist? Why did John baptize with water? What did John want the people to do? What did John promise that the Messiah would baptize with? Where did Jesus go after He taught His disciples? If He ascended to Heaven, is Jesus alive today? Can you trust the promise that Jesus will return for His followers? Why was it important that the disciples wait for the Holy Spirit to descend upon them? Do you believe that the Spirit of God can fill the lives of those who follow Jesus? The Memory Verse for this week (12) comes from this Bible story. Let's hear the Bible verse and then I'll help you memorize it. Then, we'll hear it again after our next four stories. The memory verse comes from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. We just call it Acts. The verse is from chapter 1, verse 8 "But you will receive power when the Holy

Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." I know that this is the first time that you have heard this verse. However, I will say it phrase by phrase to help you memorize it. The first phrase is, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." Jesus is making a promise to those who are His followers. The Holy Spirit is a gift that only comes upon those who have decided to make Jesus the Lord over their lives. The Holy Spirit provides power to do something that we find in the second phrase, "And you will be my witnesses." What does a witness do? A witness is a person who tells only what they have seen and experienced for themselves. The testimonies that have accompanied this series are from Christians who have told their own stories. I hope that it was an encouragement to you. Christians tell others about their faith in God by what Jesus did for them! The third phrase tells where a believer in Jesus is a witness, "In Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The disciples were still in Jerusalem, so Jesus wanted them to be a witness right where they lived at the present time. Where do you live? Judea and Samaria were the surrounding provinces. What is a province near your city or village? Finally, Jesus said to be a witness "to the ends of the earth." God wants everyone in the world to know about the Good News of Jesus! He gives followers of Jesus His Holy Spirit to empower them! Here's the memory verse one more time: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8. In our next program, listen to a Mullah who became a Christian. The Bible story will be about Jesus being the mediator for all the believers before God. Please join us and invite someone to listen with you!

## **CLOSING**

**No. 57 Pt. 3-Jesus serves as the mediator for believers. Heb 8:1-7, 9:11-15**

**INTRODUCTION (3:15)**

Think back to our story of Man's Predicament. God had tried to establish a relationship with people, but they kept sinning. An enemy would overtake God's people and it would make the people turn to God for help. God raised up deliverers and so the people would repent and turn to God. Soon they grew comfortable and began to sin. Sin drove them away from God. They were waiting, waiting for the fulfillment of the promises that God had made through the various prophets, about a coming one, who would rule with righteousness and justice, who would be called a Wonderful Counselor, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, who would be called Mighty God. They waited for the one whom the prophet said there would be no end to His reign. These and many other prophecies caused the people to look with longing because they knew that the Law that Moses had given to them had not changed their heart. They knew that though they did the sacrifices for the covering of sin, their heart was not changed. They still were prone to sin. And then came a time in which there was no new revelation from God. For 400 years God's people waited for the fulfillment of the prophecies that He had given. They waited and they wondered. What can man do in this circumstance? The Bible story today will help you see that Jesus was the answer to man's predicament. I mentioned the sacrifices. As the story is told, please think back to the sacrifices that the children of God were supposed to make. Do you remember how a high priest had to carefully atone for the people's sin by making several sacrifices? Do you remember the use of a scapegoat that was killed as a guilt offering? What was the role of the high priest? Why was he specifically responsible for making the sin offerings? The high priest had to continually make sacrifices to redeem the person before God. As we learned, God required a sacrifice to cover the sins of the people. As the story is told, would you please identify the role that Jesus has as our high priest? Do you think it would be possible for any human being to become a totally sinless intercessor before God on our behalf? Think back to the Bible stories where Jesus was tempted, but did not sin. One story you might not have considered was the story of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before He was arrested. He was tempted to not go through with the suffering of the cross. However, He prayed to do God's will. He knew that His death would be a ransom for many. As I tell this story, listen for ways that Jesus qualifies as our mediator. What does God think of Jesus? What does Jesus want us to do? Please listen to the story titled, "Jesus Serves as the Mediator for Believers."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Jesus serves as the mediator for believers.**

Gap -- Essential for Salvation--added

Pt. 3-Jesus serves as the mediator for believers.

Heb 8:1-7, 9:11-15

A model story is unavailable at this time.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

What is the new covenant between God and man? Who is a high priest for Christians to make the new covenant possible? How did Jesus become the mediator between God and us? Does God need continual sacrifices after Jesus shed His blood? If the old Law is fulfilled through Jesus' death and resurrection, is it necessary to follow the Laws from the Old Covenant? Who does God want us to put our faith in? Can you trust God? Think back over all the stories you have heard from God's Word. Does God ever lie? Does God hate sin? Does He always provide a way to help us have a way to become acceptable to Him? Will you trust Jesus to forgive you of your sins? Will you accept His gracious gift of eternal life today? Jesus serves as the mediator for all believers. Think back to several of the memory verses that you have learned. Let's review: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 and this verse "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 If you believe, you will be saved—What a



promise! It lasts for all eternity. And today's memory verse is a promise of a Gift for all believers in Jesus: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 In our next story, the Holy Spirit will come upon the disciples and Peter will preach. A number of different nationalities will be represented, including Persians. Listen and find out what will happen!

**CLOSING**

**No. 58 The Holy Spirit is received, giving boldness Acts 2:1-18, 36-41**

**INTRODUCTION**

The disciples of Jesus had to surrender to God's will for their lives. They did not immediately know what to do. They obeyed the Father's instructions to wait for the Holy Spirit. They trusted that Jesus was God's Son and waited in a room together just as the angels had told them. While they were together, they selected a replacement for Judas Iscariot who had betrayed Jesus and killed himself. Matthias was selected to join the other eleven disciples. Listen to the story. See if you can tell if the good news about Jesus was just for people who had a Jewish background. Was the good news for all peoples? Listen to see if any Persians were participants. Here's our story: "The Holy Spirit is Received, Giving Boldness."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: The Holy Spirit is received upon conversion, giving boldness.**

Gap -- Understanding the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is received, giving boldness

Acts 2:1-18, 36-41

The disciples met together and prayed until the day of Pentecost. Suddenly they were surrounded by a loud noise. It sounded like a strong wind. Something like fire entered the room and rested upon each of the believers. As they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in different languages. The power of the Holy Spirit enabled them to leave the room and begin speaking to all the people of Jerusalem—even those who had traveled there from many different nations. Each person heard them speaking their own language and they were amazed! They said, "These are men from around here, yet how are they speaking our own tongue?" The foreigners were Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Asia, Greece, Egypt and Libya, Rome, Crete and Arabs. These were all Jews, but many were converts from other religions to Judaism. The people demanded an explanation, but some of them thought that maybe the believers were drunk on wine. After the various people experienced the miracle of hearing the gospel in their own tongue, Peter stood up in the midst of them on this day speaking to a large assembly of Jews and proselyte Jews. He spoke in a very loud voice and during his message he said this to them. "Whoever among you will ask the Lord, you will be saved. Listen to me you men of Israel, Jesus of Nazareth, a man authenticated by God in your midst by miracles, wonders, and signs, which God did through him right before your eyes, as you already know, He, being delivered by the determinate counsel in prior knowledge of God, you took and by your wicked hands crucified and killed, whom God raised up loosing from him the pains of death. For it was not possible for death to hold him. Now, David told us about him when he said, "I saw the Lord always before my face, therefore did my heart rejoice and my tongue was glad, and more than that, my body will rest in hope because you will not leave my soul in Sheol. Neither will you allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. You made known to me the ways of life and you will fill me with joy by seeing your face." After this Peter said, "All of you who are listening, let me openly say to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried and his sepulcher is with us even to this day. Therefore, being a prophet and knowing that God swore by an oath to David that out of his family according to his flesh, he would raise up Christ Messiah to sit on his throne. David seeing this before was speaking of the resurrection of Christ that Christ's soul was not left in Sheol and would not rot in the grave. This Jesus, God raised up and we're all witnesses of this fact. Therefore, he is exalted and he is now seeing and hearing this. It was not David that ascended up into the heavens, but He himself the Lord said unto my Lord, "You sit on my right hand until I make your enemies my footstool." Therefore, I will tell all of the house of Israel very clearly that God has made this same Jesus the one you crucified both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard that, they were pierced in their heart. They then said to Peter and to the rest of the apostles, "Men and brothers, what shall we do?" Peter then said to them, "Repent, be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is given to you also and to your children and to all that are afar off, even all who our Lord shall invite. And with many other words Peter testified and exhorted saying, "Save yourselves from this evil generation." Now after all of these words, all of those who gladly received his word were baptized and that very day there

were added to them the congregation about three thousand souls. These individuals continued faithfully in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship and in the breaking of bread and in prayers. And fear came over every soul. And many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all who believed were together. They commonly shared what they had. They sold their possessions and goods and shared them with all men as every man had a need. And they daily continued to gather in unity in the temple and in the breaking of bread from house to house, eating their meat in joy and single-mindedness. They were praising God and they were being respected by all the people. And the Lord added to that church daily such as should be saved."

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Did Jesus' followers receive the Holy Spirit of God as promised? What did the Spirit enable the men and women to do? What were the different nationalities? Did you note that the first languages mentioned were Parthians, Medes and Elamites? Is that significant to you that your ancestors were present the day that the Holy Spirit was received? What was Peter's message? Do you believe the Scriptures were fulfilled? Did God's promise come true? When the people were convicted that Peter's words were true, what did Peter instruct them to do? Have you repented of your sins in the name of Jesus? What did Peter say would happen immediately when you were made right with God? Have you received the Holy Spirit? Do you remember the example that Jesus gave us of being baptized when He was beginning His ministry? Have you been baptized as an outward showing of your faith in Jesus? Memory Verse for Week 12-Acts 1:8- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

### **CLOSING**

### **No. 59 Arrest of Peter & John Acts 4:1-13**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Followers of Jesus can expect to meet resistance. Many do not understand all that Jesus has done for everyone in the world. If you have listened to the stories in this series, you know that Jesus healed the sick such as Peter's mother-in-law who had the fever, forgave people of their sins like the paralytic, the woman caught in adultery and Zacchaeus, pointed people such as Nicodemus to truth faith in God, cast out demons, calmed a raging storm, fed 5,000 men, raised the dead such as Jairus' daughter and many other wonderful acts. We learned in our last session that Jesus is the mediator before God. He is the High Priest that fulfilled the laws of God. He covers our sins with His blood. Then Jesus was arrested, crucified and rose from the dead. He ascended to Heaven where He gives the Holy Spirit to all those who believe in Him as Lord and Savior. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit form the three-parts of God. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This Trinity is not three gods, but One God! Think back to the story of Jesus' baptism by John. The voice from Heaven said, "This is my Son, in whom I am well-pleased." The Spirit of God descended upon Jesus. The Trinity requires us to have faith in God as One. Do you believe that anyone other than God in Jesus Christ could have performed all the amazing acts that He performed? God is still in the business of changing lives today—sometimes in miraculous ways. God cares about each one of us just as much as He cared for the twelve disciples. Let's prepare for today's story. Jesus has ascended to Heaven and the disciples have received the Holy Spirit. More than 3,000 have believed on Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. Each believer has had his sins covered by the blood of Jesus. In today's Bible story, listen to the arrest of Peter and John. What do you think will happen when the religious officials try them? Will Peter again deny knowing Jesus? Listen for the difference that the Holy Spirit made in the lives of these bold believers. Here is the story "The Arrest of Peter and John."

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Believers can expect persecution.**

Barrier -- Believers are persecuted

Arrest of Peter & John

Acts 3:1 to 4:22

[Feel free to add the story of the beggar being healed and Peter's sermon in the Temple.] The priests and the Sanhedrin were very unhappy with Peter because he was preaching to the people about the resurrection of Jesus and because the church was growing so much. Finally they arrested Peter and John and called them before them and they demanded that he not preach anymore in the name of Jesus. And when Peter heard that, he began to say because he was filled with the Spirit, "If you are calling me into account today about this good act, when I healed the man who was sick, and to ask how he was healed, let me tell you how he was healed. He was healed by Jesus Christ—Jesus Christ of Nazareth—the one you crucified. This man stands before you today healed because Christ is the stone that you builders rejected. He's now become the capstone or the cornerstone and salvation is found in no one else for there's no other name under heaven given by men—to men by which we must be saved." And when they saw how courageous Peter and John were, they said, "These people are ignorant. They are unlearned. They haven't been to our schools but it is obvious they have been with Jesus." And they commanded them that they not speak anymore in the name of Jesus. But Peter said, "Well you judge for yourself what's right because in God's sight we must obey God rather than man." And finally they let them go because the people were all praising God for what had happened. After all, the man who had been healed had been more than 40 years old! Now that's the end of the story.

#### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Let's review this story together. What happened to the crippled man who was by the Beautiful Gate in Jerusalem? What did Peter and John do for the man? Did they give him money as he requested or did they give him what he needed? What was the reaction of all those at the Temple? Who did Peter and John give the credit to for this healing? Why did Peter start his

explanation by talking about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Samuel and David? When you are asked about your faith, can you tell the Bible stories that you have heard in this series? What did Peter advise that the people listening to him do? Have you repented of your sins so that your sins could be wiped out? Have you believed in Jesus as the Messiah? Why were Peter and John arrested? Can disciples of Jesus expect to be harassed--even arrested--for proclaiming the news of Jesus? Why do you think that the religious prosecutors noted that Peter and John had been with Jesus? Does it make a difference if you spend time with Jesus? What have you learned about Christians that would help them experience Jesus in their daily lives? Were the disciples shy about their faith? Think back to the command that Jesus gave to His disciples. It is our memory verse for this week. Have you memorized it yet? Here it is: Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The next Bible story will be about the first church. What will they do when members are in need or when there is sin in their midst?

## **CLOSING**

## **No. 60 The early church Acts 4:23 to 5:16**

### **INTRODUCTION**

What is the church anyway? One of the exciting about hearing Bible stories is that we find that the stories have answers for everything that we need. The Bible even tells us how to start new churches. All the answers are there. God has given them to us and I'm excited about sharing the one we have today because it is going to give us some important insights. Do you remember that Peter and John were arrested? Our story for this session picks up what happened when they returned to the group of believers. What does it mean when a Christian says that the church is "the Body of Christ?" In this story, listen for ways that the church became bold in telling others the good news about Jesus. How did they relate to one another? How did they deal with the needs that came up in the church? Then I want you to keep an eye out for examples of generosity, of honesty among the early believers. But then, there's another aspect that comes in. Do you remember what the Garden of Eden was like, and then something came in that changed it? Well in the early church, the same thing happened. And I want you to keep your ears open for the concept of hypocrisy—for two-facedness. Several of our stories revealed that God is a God of truth. Our God *is* a God of truth. Everything He says, He accomplishes. There is no lie in Him. But hypocrisy, two-facedness, is something that goes against God's nature. Please listen to see how God reacts to believers who lie? The church is not perfect. Only Jesus is perfect. However, despite its flaws, I want you to notice that the church continued to grow. Here is the Bible story, "The Early Church."

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: The church is the body of Christ.**

Gap -- Understanding the church

The early church

Acts 4:23 to 5:16

Immediately when they were released they found the church members and they went to them and they began to pray together with them. And they prayed, "Oh Sovereign Lord. You made heaven and earth and the sea and everything in it. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant our father David. Why do the nations rage and the people plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers together stand against the Lord and his anointed one. And indeed Herod and Pontius Pilot met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city conspired against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided before should happen. Now, Lord consider their threats. Enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness and stretch out your hand to heal and perform miracles and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed like that, the whole place was shaken again and they were all filled with the Spirit of God and they all spoke the word of God boldly. The church was growing very quickly at that time. All the believers were agreed. They were agreed in mind and what they thought and they were agreed in what they did. The Bible says they were of one mind and one heart. They didn't claim that what they had belonged to them, each one. Rather they shared them with each other. And in the midst of this the apostles were continuing to share what Jesus had done and talk about the resurrection of Him, and God was just moving in a mighty way. There were no needy people among them for when there was a need, somebody would take some property he had, some land he had, and would sell it and then they would bring the income, whatever they sold it for, they would bring it all and put it down before the apostles' feet for them to distribute. There was a man among the believers. His name was Joseph. This was not Joseph that we saw way back in the time of the patriarchs of the many-colored coat. And it's not Joseph, the husband of Mary or Joseph of Arimathea who allowed Jesus to borrow his tomb. This is Joseph from Cyprus, from an island called Cyprus. But also, he had another name. He was called Barnabas by the apostles. And Barnabas in their language meant "Son of Encouragement." Well, one day he sold a field that he owned and he brought all of the money and put it down at the apostles' feet. But something happened that was different in this story. Another man named Ananias also sold some property. He sold this property and his wife, Sapphira, knew about it that he kept some of the money for himself but brought the rest of it and put it at the apostles' feet. And Peter said,

“Ananias, how could you have let Satan fill your heart in such a way that you would lie to the Holy Spirit and keep part of the money that you received from the sale of the land? That property belonged to you. You could have sold it and kept all of the money. What made you think of doing such a thing? Ananias, you haven’t just lied to men. You have lied to God.” And when Ananias heard that, he fell down and died. And a great fear came upon everybody that heard about this. And then some of the young men of the church came; they covered the body, picked it up, and buried it. About three hours later, his wife Sapphira came in. She didn’t know what had happened to her husband. So Peter asked her, “Tell me, is this the money? Is this all the money for which Ananias sold the land?” And she said, “Yes, this is the price.” And then Peter said to her, “How could you agree with him to test the Spirit of the Lord. Look there come the feet of the men who buried your husband and they’ll carry you out to bury you too.” And that very moment she fell down and died. And the young men came in, they found her, they covered her, and took her and buried her beside her husband. And a great fear seized the whole church and everybody, even outside the church, that heard this. The apostles continued performing astonishing miracles and wonders among the people. And the people, the believers, continued to gather in the same place where that crippled man had been healed. But no one dared to join with them because there was a great fear, even though they had a great appreciation for them. But more and more people came and believed in the Lord and were added to the number of the believers. And as a result of these great things, people kept bringing the sick and even bring them into the street because they thought that maybe if even Peter’s shadow falls on them, they’ll be healed. And many people came from all the towns around Jerusalem. And they’d bring their sick and they’d bring those tormented by demons, and all of them were healed.

### REVIEW AND APPLICATION

After the persecution, to whom did Peter and John return? Is a local group of believers important? What do they do when they are together? Why did Peter and John report what the religious leaders had done to them? Were they angry? What did they do instead? Do you ever pray when you have been in difficult times? Did you notice that the disciples prayed for boldness? Notice that they also prayed for healing and for miraculous signs to be performed in Jesus’ name. Do believers always pray in Jesus’ name? What happened to this first church when they came together and prayed? They had already received the Holy Spirit when they were saved, but notice this time they were filled and spoke the Word of God boldly. What was a result of being Spirit-filled and speaking with boldness? What can a local group of believers expect from having one heart and one mind? Is generosity one aspect of a united faith? What about sharing with others and meeting needs? Is there a way that a group of believers can share with those in need? What was special about the church? How did their common faith in Jesus make a difference in their lives? If you were part of a group where everybody was sharing everything and being honest, how would you feel if hypocrisy came in to the church? That’s why we have those amazing stories about people who experienced a conversion. Zacchaeus changed his whole attitude towards money because Jesus was Lord of His life. In this story, we were introduced to Joseph of Cyprus who gave away a piece of property and earned the nickname Barnabas, which means “Encourager.” And then Ananias came along. Now what was the difference between Ananias and Sapphira and Barnabas? Why did God kill them? It seems like an incredibly harsh judgment. Why do you think God’s judgment was so harsh? Our God is a God who judges and who hates sin and that there is a consequence to our sin. Let me ask you a little bit more about that. What was different about this sin? What made it a very special kind of sin? Who did it affect? What does this say about our participation in a local church? Should we take it seriously? It was like they were planting a seed that could destroy the church and God said, “This cannot be part of the church.” When someone does something that affects the church, God takes that very, very seriously. Why is this story important for a new Christian to hear? Belonging to a church is important for every follower of Jesus. Let me encourage you to find a church that believes in God’s word. The Memory Verse for this week is Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” The next Bible story we will tell is about Stephen, who became the first Christian martyr.

### CLOSING

### **No. 61 Stephen's testimony Acts 6:12-7:51**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The early church was growing and began to encounter problems. The church had to contend with internal squabbles among their members. In one instance, the church in Jerusalem was complaining that the Greek-speaking widows and orphans were being overlooked in the daily food distribution. The disciples met and called out seven helpers. Stephen was one of the helpers. The followers of Jesus also began experiencing resistance from the established religious authorities. Stephen began to receive so much persecution for his faith in Jesus that he was arrested. Our story today is from the trial of Stephen before the religious authorities. The Sanhedrin was the religious authority in Jerusalem. Our story today is part one of Stephen's story. Listen for how Stephen defended his faith. This story is called "Stephen's Testimony."

#### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Believers use Scripture to defend their faith.**

Gap -- Believers use Scriptures to defend their faith

Stephen's testimony (Part One)

Acts 6:1-7:51

Now Stephen was full of grace and full of the power of God. And he performed many great miracles, performed many signs among the people. But there were some men from a certain synagogue, the synagogue of the freed men. And these men were from various nations around that region. And they rose up against Stephen and what he was saying. They argued with Stephen or at least they tried to, but they were really unable to cope with his wisdom and they were unable to deal with the power of the Holy Spirit that Stephen spoke with. So secretly they convinced some of the people to become false witnesses against Stephen. They convinced them to say, "We've heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses. We've heard him speak blasphemous words against God." And so they stirred up the people and they seized Stephen and they dragged him before the council. And they brought these false witnesses forward and they said, "This man speaks against this holy place. He speaks against the law. We've heard him say that this Jesus, the Nazarene will destroy this place, and He'll destroy the traditions that we have of Moses." And all on the council looked upon Stephen and they looked intently into his face and it was as if they were looking upon the face of an angel. And the high priest said to Stephen, "Are these things true?" And Stephen responded to the high priest, and he said, "Listen brothers and fathers," and he began to tell the story of God's activity among His people. Stephen said, "God appeared to Abraham before he was in Haran, and God said, 'Leave your country and leave your family.' So Abraham left and he settled in Haran. And after his father died, God moved Abraham again. Abraham had nothing. He had no inheritance. He didn't have a child, but God had promised him a land that his descendants would inherit. But God also said that Abraham's descendants would be as aliens in a foreign land, that they would also be enslaved. And God gave to Abraham a covenant, the covenant of circumcision." And Stephen continued talking about Abraham and said, "Abraham became the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of the twelve patriarchs. And these patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and they sold him into slavery and he went into Egypt. Yet God was with Joseph and rescued him, and Joseph gained favor in the sight of Pharaoh, King of Egypt. And Pharaoh made Joseph governor over all of Egypt and put him over his own household, the household of Pharaoh. Now there was a great famine in the land, an affliction over all the land. No food could be found. And when Jacob heard that there was food in Egypt, he sent his family to Egypt. And then on their second visit to Egypt, Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and he invited his father and his brothers and his entire family to live there with him in Egypt. And they went there and they died there. And just as God promised, the descendants of Abraham increased and multiplied there in Egypt. But there came a time when there was a Pharaoh, a king of Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And this Pharaoh enslaved our fathers and he mistreated our people. At that time, Moses was born. There came a time when Pharaoh, when the king of Egypt knew nothing of Joseph, and he enslaved our fathers and he mistreated our people. And at that time, Moses was born, and Moses was favorable in the sight of God. And when Moses was three months old, he was taken into Pharaoh's home and raised as Pharaoh's



own son. But at the age of 40, he was visiting his own people in the land, the Hebrews, now slaves, and saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian. So Moses defended him and killed the Egyptian. And the next day when Moses tried to settle the dispute amongst the Hebrews, one said to Moses, "Who made you ruler over us? Are you going to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" And Moses became afraid and he fled Egypt and settled in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons. And after 40 years, an angel appeared to Moses in the wilderness, in the wilderness of Mt. Sinai, and a voice of God came to Moses out of a burning bush and said to him, "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob." And Moses shook with fear, and God said to Moses, "Remove your sandals for you are on holy ground. I have seen the oppression of my people in Egypt," God said. "I have heard their groanings and I have come to deliver them. Come now and I will send you to Egypt." And Moses became both a deliver and a ruler of God's chosen people, and he led them out of Egypt, performing signs and wonders. And they crossed the Red Sea and they wandered 40 years in the wilderness. And Moses said to the sons of Israel, "God shall raise up a prophet like me from among you." And Moses recognized and told the living oracles of God and told his people to pass them on. But our fathers were unwilling to be obedient to this oracle of God, and they turned their hearts back to Egypt. They made a golden calf and they sacrificed to this idol. But God was angry with them for this, and in the wilderness our fathers had the tabernacle, which Moses constructed or instructed them how to build. And they brought it into the Promised Land. With Joshua they took that land, they possessed the land that God had promised to them. And they took nation after nation, and God gave them victory after victory, right up until the time of David. And Stephen continued with the story of David. "David found favor in God's sight and asked that he might find a dwelling place for God. But it was Solomon, David's son, who built the temple. However," Stephen said, "the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands, just as the prophet said." Stephen then accused the council of have unclean hearts. He said that they were just like their ancestors who always rejected the Holy Spirit.

#### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

That concludes part one. Our story will continue in our next session. Who was Stephen? Why was he brought before the council? Why did witnesses say that Stephen wanted to change the traditions of Moses? What did Stephen begin by saying in his defense? Do you remember the story of Abraham and Isaac and God's covenant with them? Do you remember how God used Joseph to save His people and used Moses to rescue His people? Do you remember God giving the Law to Moses? Stephen mentioned other faithful heroes of God such as Joshua, David and Solomon. Why do you think Stephen wanted to remind the council of God's faithfulness through time? Are you guilty of rejecting the way that God is at work? Have you overlooked the way that the Holy Spirit is moving in your own life? The Memory Verse for this Week (13) is Acts 2:38: "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. An you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" The next time we are together we conclude the story of Stephen. Be sure to listen.

#### **CLOSING**

## **No. 62 Stephen's martyrdom Acts 7:52 to 8:2**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Followers of Jesus are faithful unto death. The story from the Bible about Stephen finishes today. Let's review the story of Stephen up to today's story. Stephen was known throughout Jerusalem for being full of grace and full of the power of God. He performed many great miracles. Some men from the synagogue of the Freed Men rose up against Stephen. They were unable to win debates because Stephen had wisdom and the power of the Holy Spirit. Dishonest men began to lie against Stephen. This succeeded where their arguments failed. The Freed Men stirred up the people. They seized Stephen and dragged him before the council. The false witnesses claimed that Stephen wanted to destroy the traditions of Moses. Stephen had an angelic countenance despite the injustice being done to him. Stephen reminded the council members the story of God's activity among His people. Do you remember the heroes of faith that Stephen mentioned? He told how God had called Abraham to leave his country and his family and move to Canaan. He didn't have a child, but God had promised him a land that his descendants would inherit. But God also said that Abraham's descendants would be as aliens in a foreign land, that they would also be enslaved. God made a covenant with Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac. Do you remember who were the sons of Isaac? One of the sons was Jacob, who was the father of the twelve patriarchs. One of the sons was Joseph whose brothers sold him into slavery. He traveled with a caravan into Egypt. Yet God was with Joseph and rescued him. Do you remember how Joseph gained favor in the sight of Pharaoh? Pharaoh made Joseph governor over all of Egypt. Due to the famine, Jacob sent his family to Egypt. Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and he invited his father and his brothers and his entire family to live there with him in Egypt. And just as God promised, the descendants of Abraham increased and multiplied there in Egypt. But there came a time when there was a Pharaoh, a king of Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And this Pharaoh enslaved and mistreated the Hebrews. At that time, Moses was born. Moses killed an Egyptian who was mistreating one of his countrymen and fled from Egypt into the Wilderness. But after 40 years, God spoke from a burning bush and sent Moses to free the people from their slavery. Through a series of signs and wonders, they crossed the Red Sea. Because they rejected God's plan to take the Promised Land, they wandered 40 years in the wilderness until a generation died. Moses' successor, Joshua, eventually possessed the land. God gave them victory after victory, right up until the time of King David. David's son, Solomon built the temple where God was worshipped, yet the Council resisted the work of the Holy Spirit. That was near the end of Stephen's defense and where our story ended in our last session. How will this end? Do you believe that Stephen will shy away from the truth? Will Stephen be loyal to Jesus even to the point of death? Here is the completion of the story of Stephen found in the Bible. It is called, "The Death of Stephen."

### **BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Christians are faithful unto death.**

Gap -- Christians are willing to die for their faith; Many Persian Christians are shy about sharing their faith

Stephen's martyrdom (Part 2)

Acts 7:51 to 8:2

Then Stephen said to the men of the council, "You men who are stubborn and uncircumcised of the heart, you whose ears resist the Holy Spirit are doing just as your fathers did. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute?" Stephen asked. "And they killed those who announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have become now. You who receive Divine Law but do not obey it." Now when the men of the council heard this from Stephen, they were cut to the quick and they reacted violently to him. But Stephen gazed intently into the Heavens and saw the Glory of God. He said, "I see the Heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." The men of the council cried out with a loud voice and they clasped their hands over their ears, and they rushed upon Stephen, and they seized him and they drove him out of the city where they began stoning him. As they stoned him, they laid their robes at the feet of Saul, and Saul guarded the robes of those stoning Stephen. They continued stoning Stephen. Stephen called out in a loud voice, "Lord Jesus receive my spirit." Stephen fell

to his knees and he cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And Stephen died. There was a man named Saul that was in hearty agreement with putting Stephen to death. On that day, a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem, and the believers became scattered throughout all the region. The apostles stayed in Jerusalem, and some devout men took Stephen's body and buried it. But Saul began ravaging the church there, going from house to house, dragging men and women into prison. But those who were scattered went about preaching and proclaiming the Word of God.

### **REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Did Stephen shy away from the truth? How was he able to make a stand? What was the significance of the vision where Stephen saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God? Who was the man named Saul that appears in this story? Did you notice a parallel between the death of Stephen and the death of Jesus? Did he forgive his tormentors? To whom did Stephen pray? Can you pray to Jesus in desperate times? Did you note that the man named Saul was mentioned two times? Do you think he'll play an important role at a future time? Do you think that Saul could ever forget the death of Stephen? Where did the church travel to when persecution started? Many in the Persian-Speaking World have had to leave the country because of persecution of Christians. How do you feel about that? Who stayed in Jerusalem? Do you think this played an important role in spreading the good news about Jesus? The memory Memory Verse for this week is taken from Peter's sermon on Pentecost. (Week 13) It is from Acts 2:38: "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" This invitation to repent, be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit is still valid today. Will you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior right now? Our next story is about the man named Saul who was in our story today. Saul turns on the believers and begins putting them into prison.

### **CLOSING**

**No. 63 Saul's conversion Acts 8:3-4, 9:1-20**

**INTRODUCTION**

Who can tell the story of Stephen? What did that story mean to you? Do you remember the role that the religious leader named Saul played in the martyrdom of Stephen? Saul continued to go from home to home and drag Christians into jail. As you listen to this story, see if you can identify where Saul was going when he had his roadside encounter. Listen to see if Jesus is concerned about His followers being persecuted. Here is the story of "Saul's Conversion." It is from the Bible.

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Salvation is available to everyone who will believe, repent and turn to Jesus.**

Gap -- Even murderous religious leaders can be saved

Saul's conversion

Acts 8:3-4, 9:1-31

Meanwhile Saul was breathing murderous threats on all the Christians that were in Jerusalem, against the Lord's disciples. And so he went to the high priest and he asked him for letters to the synagogue in Damascus where he could find men or women that belonged to the way of Jesus, that he might take them as prisoners. As he neared Damascus on his journey, he suddenly saw a light from Heaven. It flashed all around him, and he fell to the ground and heard a voice to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you Lord?", Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he heard the voice say. "Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do." And the men traveling with Saul stood there, they were speechless. They heard the sound, but they did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes, he could see nothing. So he went on and had the men lead him by the hand into Damascus. And he was there for three days and he was totally blind, and while he was there he didn't eat or drink anything. Now in Damascus, there was a disciple, a believer in Jesus named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision and said, "Ananias," and of course, he responded, "Yes, Lord." The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas, who lives on Straight Street, and there is a man I want you to meet there. His name is Saul and he's from Tarsus, and he's been praying. In a vision, he has seen a man named, Ananias, you, come and place his hands on him and restore his sight." But Ananias said, "Lord, I've heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your servants in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priest to arrest all who call on Your Name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go now for this man is My chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel, and I will show him how much he must suffer for My Name." Then Ananias went to the house and entered into Judas' house and found Saul there. And he placed his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road as you were traveling here has sent me that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again. Now he got up and he was baptized, and after taking some food he regained his strength and he spent several days with the disciples right there in Damascus. But at once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus in the Son of God. [Radio scripts add Saul's preaching in Damascus, his escape, introduction to the apostles by Barnabas in Jerusalem and the time of peace that the whole church enjoyed.]

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Who was Saul? Do you remember his role in Stephen's stoning? What did Saul do to believers in Jerusalem? Was that enough? Where was Saul headed when He encountered Jesus? Did Jesus equate persecuting believers with persecuting Him? Who was the believer in Damascus that prayed with Saul? Did Ananias have doubts about Saul's conversion? What did Saul do after he received the Holy Spirit? Have you ever persecuted those who are believers in Jesus? Do you think that you could change like Saul? What about other leaders that you know? Is there anyone that could not become a follower of Jesus? Does Jesus care about those who are being persecuted? Does Jesus care any less for those who harm his followers? How do you know that

Saul was not lying? Would you speak boldly for Jesus? Why did Saul return to Jerusalem? How did Barnabas help Saul? Are you helping those who are making decisions to accept Christ to fit into a group of believers? The Memory Verse for Week is an invitation from Acts 2:38. "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

**CLOSING**

**No. 64 The judgment of unbelievers Rev. 21:1-5, 22-27**

**INTRODUCTION (1:30)**

Do you believe that salvation by faith in Jesus is the only guarantee against the coming Day of Judgment before God? What is to be the fate of the believers in Jesus and those who reject Him? Before we tell our story for today, let's briefly review Saul's conversion. Who was Saul? Do you remember that he was a Pharisee? What other story have we had about a Pharisee? Do you remember that they were known for being self-righteous? What was Saul doing to the believers in Jesus? What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus? Why did a Christian by the name of Ananias come to help Saul? What did Saul do when he became a believer? Because of the testimony of Saul, many came to know Jesus as their Savior. Saul later used the Greek form of his name and was known as Paul. He wrote many letters to churches that he helped start. Other disciples of Jesus wrote letters to the churches, too. Do you remember John, who was a disciple of Jesus? John was arrested and sent to an island—Patmos—off the coast of Turkey. While he was there, he had a heavenly vision. His account of the vision is called "Revelation." Our Bible story today comes from John's Revelation. As you listen to the Bible story today, think back to the stories that we have heard about God doing what He promises. Listen for a description of Heaven. What will it be like? Who will go to Heaven when they die? How many nations will be represented in Heaven? Here is the story from the Bible, "The Judgment of Unbelievers."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Judgment awaits everyone after death.**

**Truth: Believers go to Heaven while those who reject Jesus spend eternity in Hell.**

Barrier -- Individuals are responsible for their own sin / Essential for

The judgment of unbelievers

Rev. 21:1-7, 22-27

A model story is unavailable at this time.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

What did the loud voice say that God was going to do? When was the last time that God actually lived among men? Do you remember the story of the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve used to live? What separated God from mankind? What has been God's plan all along to restore that relationship? What does the story say that Heaven will be like? Can you imagine a place without crying, mourning, pain or death? How does this vision of eternity contrast with the vision of hell in the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus? Do you remember that the rich man was in torment because he had lived a sinful life? What will Heaven be like some day? Who was the Lamb? Think back to the Law of Moses where unblemished sheep were killed for the people's sins. Now think about Jesus who died once and for all to replace our need for a guilt offering? Will anything that is impure be allowed in Heaven? What is needed regarding the Lamb's Book of Life? Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life? Have you memorized Acts 2:38? Say it with me, "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" To help you memorize this Bible verse, let's review it together. We will take it phrase by phrase. "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you.'" Peter was speaking to the crowds in Jerusalem. Several Persians were included in their midst. Peter wanted them to turn away from their sins. He remembered the way that John the Baptist had baptized Jesus as a model for His disciples to follow. Baptism is a symbolic act. It is faith that saves you and not the ritual. Also, notice that Peter's invitation was to adults. Nothing in the Bible says that baptizing anyone but believers matters. Baptism is a public testimony to accepting Christ as your Savior. The second phrase says, "In the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." There is no name under Heaven by which mankind can be saved for all of eternity except by Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ. Christ means that Jesus was the anointed one of God that would take upon Himself the sins of the world. Jesus died for everyone, but some refuse to accept His atoning sacrifice. The last phrase is, "And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Peter knew that Jesus had promised every believer a gift. The Holy Spirit comes upon every believer when they accept

Jesus as their Savior. This is not some distant event that needs to happen by some mystical ritual. God wants to put His divine guarantee upon you at the moment you believe in His Son Jesus. What a gift! Here is the verse again, "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" Acts 2:38 Will you do as this verse says? Our glimpse into Heaven will continue the next time we are together. Be sure to be with us as we finish our first set of 65 stories.

**CLOSING**

**No. 65 The blessed state of believers Rev. 22:1-10**

**INTRODUCTION**

(The storyer should share his/her testimony.) This was a decision that I was required of God to make for himself, even after weighing the consequences. Our Bible story the last time we were together was from John's Revelation. Our story today is from Revelation, too. Do you believe that Heaven awaits those who have faith in Jesus Christ? John said that he saw a great multitude in Heaven. They were from every nation, tribe, people and language. They were all standing around the throne of Heaven praising God for His plan of salvation. Listen to this story. It is one of the very last stories in the Bible. What will Heaven be like? In today's story, you will hear Jesus be referred to as the Lamb of God. Do you remember the laws that God gave to Moses? Do you remember that a lamb would pay for the sins of the people? Now, remember the story of Jesus as the mediator? Jesus was like the sacrificial lamb. That is why John refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God. Will you go to Heaven? Here is a glimpse of what the Bible describes as "The Blessed State of Believers."

**BIBLE STORY**

**Truth: Heaven awaits those who have faith in Jesus Christ.**

Barrier -- Essential for Salvation--added

The blessed state of believers

Rev. 22:1-10

A model story is unavailable at this time.

**REVIEW AND APPLICATION**

Why was Jesus referred to as the Lamb of God? What will it be like in the presence of the Lamb of God in the new heaven and earth? What will it be like to live without the curse of sin upon us? Why will there be no need for a sun or any light? Who is the Light? Who will be blessed by keeping the words of prophecy? Will you? What happened when the author of this revelation tried to worship at the feet of an angel? Whom did the angel say to worship? Do you worship God? How can you have confidence that you will spend eternity with the Father? Please trust His Son, Jesus who is the mediator for our sins. Your name will be written in the Book of Life as a guarantee that you will spend eternity in Heaven. Pray to God right now, asking Jesus to be your Savior and follow Him. This brings to a close the first 65 stories that were intended to introduce Persians to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. If you have not accepted Jesus as your Savior, I encourage you to listen to this series of 65 stories again. If you are one of many who will accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, I invite you to listen to our next series entitled, "Following Jesus." Following Jesus is designed for Persians who are new believers. We will follow a similar path through the Bible, starting in the beginning and working through 65 Bible stories. However, in the sequence for believers, we will look at many of the stories from a Christian perspective. We will also fill in some of the gaps with new Bible stories. Did you know that the entire Bible is comprised of 66 books? The 65 stories that you have heard were only from eleven books of the Bible. There are many more stories to tell you! The next series also tells Bible stories of the early church. What happened to the disciples? How did the Good News of Jesus spread to the whole world? We will also talk about leaders in churches. Believers will also be challenged to memorize new Bible verses and participate in activities that will help you grow in your faith. We will help you walk as a Christian living in a predominantly Shi'a Muslim environment. As we close this series, I want to review the last memory verse. Would you say it with me? Acts chapter 2 verse 38: "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" Please make the decision to follow Jesus. God created our world and it was good. Sin came into the world by one man, Adam. It was passed through generations. God loved the whole world that He gave us His only Son, Jesus, who died for our sins. Jesus is the only way to salvation. He was really on earth. He had many followers. There are more than 1.2 billion followers of Jesus today. However, each man or woman must accept Jesus as their Lord for themselves. Will you do that right now? You could pray and say, "God, I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I know that you hate sin. I thank you for sending Jesus. Please forgive me of my sins. I want to live for Jesus. It



is in Jesus' name that I pray. Amen." Please pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to a church where you can learn more about God's Word.

**CLOSING**

---

---

**END**  
**"CHOOSING TO FOLLOW JESUS"**  
***FOLLOWING JESUS – MODULE 2***  
**EVANGELISM TRACK**  
**PERSIAN ORAL BIBLE 2002**

---

---

**EVANGELISM TRACK Weekly Memory Verses (13)**  
**(All English verses taken from the NIV with permission)**

Memory Verse for Week 1-Genesis 1:1-In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Memory Verse for Week 2-Exodus 20:3-You shall have no other gods before me.

Memory Verse for Week 3-Joshua 24:15b-But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

Memory Verse for Week 4-Psalm 23:1-3-The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Memory Verse for Week 5-1 Samuel 15:22-But Samuel replied; "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."

Memory Verse for Week 6-Psalm 100:1-3-Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Memory Verse for Week 7-Isaiah 53:5-6-But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Memory Verse for Week 8-John 3:16-For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Memory Verse for Week 9-Romans 3:23-For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Memory Verse for Week 10-Romans 6:23-For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Memory Verse for Week 11-Romans 10:9-That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Memory Verse for Week 12-Acts 1:8-But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Memory Verse for Week 13-Acts 2:38-Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."