

The Bible Story Fabric Panel

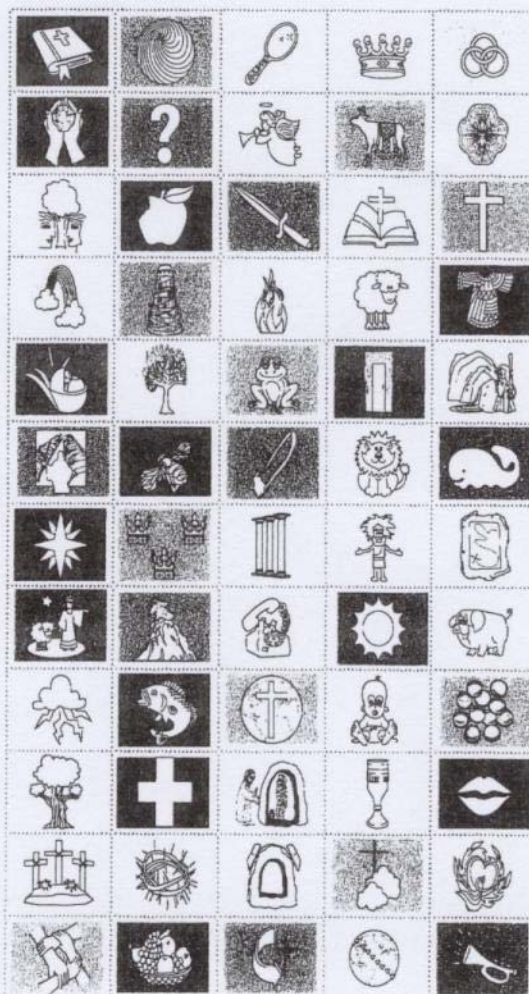
The children's Bible storying fabric panel is a unique resource that provides a durable teaching visual that children's workers, parents and children can use to learn and review the basic story of God. The panel contains a total of 60 symbols, each set of 12 vertical symbols designed for a specific age group. There is also a horizontal layout of the symbols in a smaller size fabric panel.

An additional value of the Bible story panel is to provide the teacher, parent and possibly each child with a keepsake that will be treasured well into adult life. The panel symbols relate how they were taught the story of God when they were a child.

Children's Bible Storying Fabric Panel Symbol

4&5 6&7 8&9 10&11 12&13

4&5	6&7	8&9	10&11	12&13
The Bible is a Special Book	Who is God?	What is God Like?	The Bible Changes Lives King Josiah	The Three Persons of God
Creation	Who is Satan	What are Angels?	False Philosophies Religion vs. Jesus	How Everything Began
Adam and Eve	Sin Enters the World	Cain and Able	A Messiah is Prophesied	God's Plan For Mankind
Noah and God's Promises	The Tower of Babel	Sodom and Gomorrah	Abraham's Faith	Joseph and His Brothers
Baby Moses is Protected by God	Moses is Called	Pharaoh and the Plagues	The Passover	God Provides for His People
The Israelites Cross the Red Sea	Joshua leads to the Promised Land	David and Goliath	Daniel Trusts God	Jonah Disobeys God
Jesus is Born	The Visit of the Magi	Jesus in the Temple	Jesus is Baptized by John	Jesus begins His ministry
Jesus the Good Shepherd	Jesus is tempted by Satan on the mountain	Jesus Calls His Disciples	The Parable of the Sower and the Seed	The Parable of the Prodigal Son
Jesus is God - the Winds and Sea Obey Him	Jesus Feeds 5000	Jesus Has Power Over Evil	Being Born Again - Nicodemus	The Rich Young Ruler The 10 Commandments
Zacchaeus Becomes Jesus' Friend	The Good Samaritan	Jesus Has Power Over Death - Lazarus	The Last Supper	Jesus is Betrayed
Jesus Dies and is Risen	Jesus is Crucified for the Sin of all Mankind	Jesus is Risen	Jesus Ascends and Gives the Great Commission	The Holy Spirit Comes and Gives Power
Becoming Part of Gods Family	The Marks of a Christian Fruit of the Spirit	Saul Becomes a Believer	Early Christians Tell Others About Jesus	Last things Heaven - Revelation



Acknowledgments

The contents of this devotion guide are an adaptation of the Bible Storying for Kids: Storytelling and Panel Guide by Kurt Jarvis, copyright 2009. Prior permission was granted by the author to use this model of teaching the story of the Bible in a devotional format as well as the Scripture passages, the corresponding pictures, and portions of the study outlines and questions for distribution to the church only. The suggested prayers are original.

How to Use this Devotional Guide

The guide is an accompaniment to the 12 week study of the Bible that Saxe Gotha is embarking on beginning January 24 as a church family. There are 5 days of devotions for each of the 12 weeks. At the end of each day is a **suggested** prayer using the acronym model of prayer, A.C.T.S. “A” stands for adoration (praising God for His attributes, His nature, what He has done,) “C” stands for confession (acknowledging the places of sin and disobedience in our lives.) “T” stands for thanksgiving (thanking God for the things He has done and given to us,) and “S” stands for supplication (praying for particular personal needs or those of others.) Many have found this model helpful in their prayer lives and the prayers are designed to help you interact with the lessons in each day’s study.

Our hope and prayer are that whether you embark on this journey as an individual, as couples, or as a family, you will:

1. Begin or continue a daily reading of God’s Word
2. Grow in your love and understanding of God’s Word
3. Gain new insights into how the Bible fits together as a whole
4. Gain an understanding of the chronology of the stories and the ability to retell them
5. Be transformed by God’s Word as you understand how the stories relate to you as a believer today

May God, His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit guide you with His GPS over these next few months!

*If you are using this guide as a family, it might be helpful to use either a children’s or teen’s Bible so that younger children can understand the stories.

Week 1

Day 1

The Bible is a Special Book

Scripture Reading: II Timothy 3:16

The Bible is different from other books. It was written by God through individuals by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is “God’s Word” (mentioned in the scriptures over 2500 times) to us about who He is, who we are, and His plans for His creation.

There are 66 books of the Bible divided into Testaments. The **Old Testament** has **17 Historical books** (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther), **5 Poetical books** (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon) **17 Prophetic books** (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi). The **New Testament** has **4 Gospels** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), The Acts of the Apostles, and **21 Epistles** or letters (Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude) and the book of Revelation.

Read today’s scripture passage from II Timothy and consider the following:

What do you learn about this special book from the verse?

In what ways can the truth of these words affect your life?

What does the picture for today’s devotion remind us about?

- A** Praise God for His Words to us in the Bible
- C** Confess the times when you have simply not wanted to read and study the Bible
- T** Thank God for the power of the Bible to teach, rebuke, correct and train you to live righteously before God
- S** Pray for the desire to read and study the Bible

Day 2:

Who Is God?

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 1:1; John 1:1; John 3:16; Matthew 3:16-17;
John 15:26; 16:5-15

As we discovered yesterday, the Bible tells us about God. In today's passages, we learn a lot about who God says that He is. Read the scriptures above and consider the following:

What do you learn about God from these verses? Try to list some of your findings.

One of the many things we read about in these verses is that God exists as God the Creator, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Do you recall reading about something each one of these 3 personalities does?

If someone were to ask you to describe God, what could you tell them based on these verses?

- A** Praise God for the fact that He is the Creator, the Savior, the Comforter and Teacher
- C** Confess any unbelief in who God says that He is
- T** Thank God for all that He has created that you enjoy as a child of His
- S** Pray for a greater understanding of God as you journey through these next several weeks

Day 3:

What is God Like?

Scripture Reading:

Selections from Psalms

The whole Bible is the story of God, but today we are going to focus on several passages from the book of Psalms to discover what God is like. This book is a collection of songs and poems, written by different people, that talk about God and what He is like. As you read each verse, discuss/write down what it says about what God is like.

Psalm 111:9

Psalm 118:1

Psalm 33:4

Psalm 139:8

Psalm 147:5

Psalm 136:1

Psalm 34:8

Psalm 111:7

Psalm 139:1-4

Psalm 9:7

(Answers: Holy, Love, Faithful, Present Everywhere, All Powerful, Unchanging, Good, Just, Knows everything, Forever)

Because God made us in His image, one of the ways we can remember what He is like is by thinking of our own bodies/senses:

Head: God knows everything

Eyes: God sees everything

Arm/muscles: God is all-powerful

Mouth: God is good and kind to us

Heart: God is loving

Hand: God is fair

Knee: We bow on our knees to Him, because He is holy/perfect and there is no other

Foot: God is everywhere... There is no place we can go where He is not with us

Which attribute of God do you most need to focus on today?

- A** Praise God for all that you learned He is today
- C** Confess the ways you may have denied Him recently
- T** Thank Him that He desires a close relationship with you
- S** Pray asking God to help you fully realize that He alone is holy, loving, faithful, everywhere, powerful, unchanging, good, fair, all-knowing, and forever.

Day 4:**The Bible Changes Lives
King Josiah****Scripture Reading:** 2 Kings 22:1- 20; 23:25

This story is about a young boy who became king of God's people at the age of 8. He loved God and wanted to please Him very much. Most of the people, however, did not love God and had forgotten about Him and His commandments. King Josiah saw that the Temple of God was falling apart and that it was being used to worship idols. Josiah set about to have the Temple restored. During the process, the priest found a copy of the Bible scriptures which had been put away. These scriptures contained God's law, the 10 commandments and other things which told the people how to live to please God.

No one had read these words in a long time. Josiah's secretary read the words to him and he became very sad as he realized that God's people had not been living in a pleasing way to God. He called the people together and read to them the words of God. This reading resulted in great changes in Josiah and the people. God's word clearly teaches us how to live and when people obey the words of God, it changes their lives.

What do you think will happen if you began to start reading God's word daily and obeying what He reveals to you?

- A** Praise God for the power of His Word to change lives
- C** Confess the times you neglect the Bible
- T** Thank God that He still uses the Scriptures to transform lives today
- S** Pray for those you know, maybe even yourself, who need God's transformation through the power of His Word

Day 5:

The Three Persons of God

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:1-3, 13; Deuteronomy 6

The creation story reveals that God exists in three distinct Persons: God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit, and that they are all God.

From the scripture reading, answer the following:

Who created the world?

Are there several Gods or just one true God?

This doctrine of the Trinity of God is a complicated thing to grasp because nothing in this world is like God. Some find it helpful to consider the three parts of an egg: the shell, the yoke, and the white. All three are distinct, yet they are all part of an egg. Or, consider the three states of water: liquid, solid and gas. These are FAR from being good comparisons, but they do help us see how something can be 3 and yet 1.

When we see a globe or picture of the universe, we can be reminded that God, the 3-in-1, as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all present at creation.

- A** Praise God for He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- C** Confess your inability to fully grasp and understand this doctrine and in doing so to deny it
- T** Thank God that He alone is God and that He was and is and always will be God
- S** Ask God to help you remember the Trinity whenever you see the globe or the picture of the three combined rings

Week 2

Day 1

Creation

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1

This passage is about the beginning of everything. As the NIV Study Bible notes, “the Bible always assumes, and never argues, God’s existence. Although everything else had a beginning, God has always been.”

By what means does God create?

Prayer

- A** As you reflect on the awesomeness of the fact that God spoke His creation into existence, praise Him for His power and might
- C** Confess your inability to comprehend and understand it all
- T** Thank Him for the beauty and majesty of His works
- S** Pray for His help to recognize His handiwork all around you today in a new and meaningful way

Day 2

Who is Satan? God's enemy tries to destroy Job

Scripture Reading:

Job 1 – 2:10; 1 Peter 5:8-11

Satan, the accuser, is God's enemy. In today's passage, we witness a good example of him in action. He tempts Job to sin, to disobey God. What do you learn about Job? What was Job's response to his trial in verse 1:21?

How is God's enemy described in 1 Peter? We are told to stand firm in our faith, just like Job did; to believe in and praise God no matter the circumstances simply because He alone IS God. Satan works to deceive us into believing that God cannot be trusted and that He does NOT care for us.

The story of Job ends later in the book with God giving back to Job even more than he had been blessed with previously. After all the testing, Job still trusted God.

- A** Praise God that He alone is in authority over all
- C** Confess the times you believe the lies of Satan over the truth of God and His word
- T** Thank Him that He is in control...even of His enemy
- S** Pray for the strength to resist the devil and stand firm in your faith

Day 3

What are Angels?

Scripture Reading: Psalm 91:11; Luke 1:26-38

Angels are real and created by God and not to be worshipped. They exist as spirits, but can appear as humans. Created to worship God, they also deliver messages for Him (Hebrews 1:14), serve and protect His followers (2 Kings 6:13-17; Acts 5:17-20; 12:7) act as agents in answering prayer (Daniel 9:20-24; 10:12) and act as witnesses for God (1 Timothy 5:21; 1 Corinthians 4:9).

Here are some other things about angels: they were created before the world and man (Job 38:6-7); created holy (Ezekiel 28:15; Jude 6); have emotions (Job 38:7; Luke 2:13; 15:10), have will (Jude 6); can be in only one place at one time (Daniel 9:21-23; 10:10-14); have more knowledge than man (Matthew 24:31; Luke 1:13-16), but less than God (Matthew 24:36); more power than man, but less than God (2Peter 2:11, Acts 5:19).

In today's passage in Luke, how is the angel depicted who came to Mary? What was his job?

- A** Praise God for His creativity and His decision to use angels to serve and protect believers and witness for Him
- C** Confess the times when you fail to recognize and believe that God is actively involved in His creation
- T** Thank God for the examples in today's readings of His intimate involvement in His creation
- S** Pray for an awareness of the activity of God in and around you today

Day 4

False Philosophies/Religion vs. Christianity

Scripture Reading: Exodus 32; Romans 1:20-23

According to the passage in Romans, man has known about God since the beginning of creation. There are many religions that worship and pray to objects and not God. Some equate people or objects with God. Some believe God is in all of nature, such as animals, rocks, and trees (Animism) and that all things have souls like people. Some religions have parts that seem Christian-like, but they don't follow God, Jesus, or the teachings of God's Word.

In today's story, the Israelites are only 3 months from witnessing the parting of the Red Sea and God's deliverance of them from Egypt. They had promised God to obey all of His commands (Exodus 19:8). Moses was on the mountain to meet with God where he would receive the Ten Commandments. The people grew tired of waiting. What did they ask Aaron to do? After it was built, they sacrificed and worshipped the golden calf. Which of the Ten Commandments does that break?

How very easy it is for God's people to forget all that He has done and to turn away from Him and worship other things/people.

- A** Praise God for His clear instructions of whom to worship; He alone is worthy
- C** Confess the times where you have grown impatient with God and/or shifted your allegiance and worship to something seemingly more tangible
- T** Thank Him that His word says that His "eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen" (Romans 1:20) from all that He has created
- S** Pray for the wisdom to recognize false philosophies and keep your focus and worship on the one TRUE God

Day 5

How Everything Began

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1; Psalm 33:6; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:3, 11:3

As we have already read this week in Genesis 1, the Bible clearly states that God created everything, including man. It doesn't tell us all the details of how He did, just that He was the one that created. There are many other ideas of how the world began, but they are unproven. Those that hold to other ideas also say that no one can prove that God made everything. What do the Hebrews passages say to this?

It is all about faith. We believe that God made it because we trust what the Bible says is true. If you look at a tree or flower or bird or an animal, what does the way they are made tell you about God? Why do you think some people do not want to believe what the Bible says?

- A** Praise God for His Word, the Bible, and its truth
- C** Confess the times when you rush to believe what others say rather than look to the Bible and what it says about God and His creation
- T** Thank God that He has given us sufficient information in Scripture about His involvement in Creation
- S** Pray that He will continually reveal himself to you and bless you for your faith

Week 3

Day 1

Adam and Eve

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:7, 15-24

Today's story is about God's creation of man. Adam and Eve were special, distinct from all His other creations. Genesis 1:27 says that man was created in the image of God. Some of the ways that we are like God are that we can think, talk, and love others.

Earlier we read about how God spoke into being the others parts of creation. Here we read that God "formed" Adam and put His own breath into Him.

Adam and Eve lived in a perfect place in the Garden of Eden. There was no sin, yet, and it was a beautiful place to live. They loved God, obeyed Him and enjoyed their fellowship with Him.

What makes people different from all other created things?

- A** Praise God that you are made in His image
- C** Confess the times when you fail to reflect a good image of God to others
- T** Thank Him for the ability to think, talk and love
- S** Pray for others to see in you a reflection of your Creator today

Day 2

Sin Enters the World

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:16-17, 3:1-19

Sin simply means disobeying God—doing the opposite of what He has told us to do. What instructions had God given Adam and Eve? What role did the serpent, Satan, play in their fateful decision?

One of Satan’s chief tactics in tempting us to sin is found in Genesis 3:1. Did God *really* say, “Can you *really* believe God, Eve?, Did He *really* mean what He said?” Satan still works that way today. He whispers to us.... “Did God really say...”

With their disobedience, sin entered the world. Adam and Eve blamed each other and the serpent for their sins, never acknowledging or apologizing for their own parts in disobeying God. They were forced to leave the comfort, pleasure, and enjoyment of the garden. God clothed them with the skins of animals, requiring their sacrifice. Blood was shed because of their sin. They were now separated from their intimate fellowship with God.

Sin always has consequences. The sacrifice of the animals is a picture of future sacrifices of living things because of man’s sin.

- A** Praise God that we can be forgiven for our sins when we ask (1 John 1:9)
- C** Confess the times when you blame others for your sin, rather than admitting your own faults and seeking forgiveness
- T** Thank God that He loves and cares for us even in our sin, like He did with Adam and Eve, by providing them with clothes
- S** Pray for the courage to face our disobedience, ask for forgiveness and turn from our sins

Day 3**Cain and Abel****Scripture Reading:** Genesis 4:1-16

Today's story is about the sons of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel. Both boys came to worship God and bring a sacrifice. Abel, however, brought the required animal sacrifice, the best of his flock. What sacrifice did Cain bring? God accepted Abel's because He knew his heart's desire to please Him. What warning did God give Cain, in vv. 6-7? Did Cain obey?

God wants us to follow His ways, not our own. The decisions we make can have life-long consequences, just like they did for Cain.

- A** Praise God that He honors those who desire to please Him
- C** Confess any times you have done things your own way, rather than seeking to please God through your actions
- T** Thank Him that He is always ready to forgive our disobedience
- S** Pray for wisdom and understanding to see the far-reaching impact of your choices today

Day 4

A Messiah Promised

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7:1-14, 9:6-7; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:22-23, 16:16; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:41

Although many people try to tell the future, their predictions seldom come true. Not so with the Bible. The Word of God has thousands of prophecies that all came true. Not one prediction has yet to come true, except for those that have yet to happen. The prophecy of Jesus, God's Son, coming to earth, was predicted by the prophets over 700 years beforehand.

Today's passages give examples of some of these prophecies. Isaiah foretold that the Messiah would be born from a virgin and his name would be Immanuel. Micah foretold the Messiah would be from Bethlehem. Gabriel told Mary that she would become the mother of the Messiah. Jesus told His disciples about His return after His death and resurrection. What did He say (Matthew 23:36-44)?

- A** Praise God that all He has spoken will come to pass
- C** Confess the times we fall prey to what others say and predict over what God has said in His Word
- T** Thank God that these verses testify to God's sovereignty. His plan is in place and all that He ordained will come to fruition.
- S** Pray for faith to believe God's Word

Day 5

God's Plan for Mankind

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1; Romans 1

When God created the world, all things were perfect. Adam and Eve's disobedience brought sin into this perfect world. The special relationship between God and man was broken. God; however, provided a way through Jesus, His Son, for man's relationship and fellowship with Him to be restored. He provided the way for sin to be removed through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who became a man and lived a perfect life. Through His death and resurrection, forgiveness is available to those who confess their sin. When we acknowledge the work of Christ and admit our sin and our need for a savior, we become a part of God's family.

Paul, in today's reading, reminded the Romans of God's plan. He reminded them to worship, follow, and obey God, not other gods or idols, or what God had created. God stands ready to forgive. The promise of forgiveness, salvation, and heaven are available to those who accept the truth of Jesus as their savior. God's plan is that our lives will reflect Him so that others will come to know Him.

What are the implications of Matthew 12:33?

- A** Praise God for His plan for mankind
- C** Confess the times of disobedience to God and times where you have neither glorified God, nor given Him thanks
- T** Thank God for the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, so that you can be forgiven and have eternal life
- S** Pray that your actions today will exhibit that God is at work in your life

Week 4

Day 1

Noah and God's Promises

Scripture Reading: Genesis 6:1-9:17

God wants us to know Him, love and worship Him. In the time of Noah, people had forgotten about God. Only Noah and his family remained faithful and obedient to God.

Why was God sad about the people He had created? How are people in the world living today? Do you think most people obey God? What was the promise of the rainbow?

- A** Praise God for rewarding Noah and his family for their faithful obedience
- C** Confess the times when you have not loved, worshipped, or obeyed God
- T** Thank God for His promise never to flood the earth again
- S** Pray for our world and for those who know God to love, worship and obey Him

Day 2**The Tower of Babel****Scripture Reading:** Genesis 11:1-9

After the flood, God had told Noah and his family to spread out, be fruitful and fill the earth. Instead of obeying, everyone continued to live in the same area. In an attempt to make a name for themselves, the people erected a tower.

What was God's response? What was the result of the different languages? What are some of the benefits and probable reasons that God commanded them to spread out?

- A** Praise God for His clear instructions for us in His Word
- C** Confess your tendency to disobey God and do what you want to do, rather than what God wants
- T** Thank God for the consequences that result from our disobedience, and help to put us back on the "right track"
- S** Pray for a desire to study His Word and clearly understand how He wants you to live

Day 3**Sodom and Gomorrah**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 13:1-13, 14:12, 19:1-28

Abraham was a righteous man who obeyed God. God had made promises to protect him and was faithful to those promises. Because of the famine in Egypt, Abraham had moved to a new land with his family. This land is the setting of the story in today's passages.

Lot chose where he and his family would live. It was a dangerous choice due to the proximity of the evil in the towns. What was the problem in Sodom and Gomorrah? How did God intervene to protect Lot and his family? What lesson can you learn from this story today?

- A** Praise God. For He alone is righteous and worthy of praise
- C** Confess the times when you have "planted" yourself too close to evil
- T** Thank God for His care and protection of His followers
- S** Pray for the discernment needed to recognize dangerous situations

Day 4**Abraham's Faith**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 21:1-19, 22:1-14

Today's story is about a very faithful man's test of faith. God had promised to make Abraham the father of many nations, and that he would have descendants as numerous as the stars. As you read the story today, reflect on why God chose Abraham. How was Abraham's faith tested? Is anything impossible with God (Matthew 19:26)?

- A** Praise God today for His faithfulness. He always keeps His promises
- C** Confess the times when our faith wavers and we don't believe God
- T** Thank Him for His power that enables us to do the impossible through Him
- S** Pray to be a faithful man/woman/child like Abraham

Day 5

Joseph and his Brothers

Scripture Reading: Genesis 37-50; Romans 8:28

Sometimes God uses certain people to help fulfill His plans for others. Even in seemingly impossible circumstances, God works to accomplish His purposes. When we are faithful to God and trust in Him, His plans are revealed in time.

Today's passage introduces us to Joseph, the great-grandson of Abraham. Joseph was one of Jacob's 12 sons, and he was loved more than the others by his father. Briefly outline what happens to Joseph and how he ends up in Egypt:

How many times can you count when Joseph is tempted not to trust God? What is the irony of his position of power in Egypt when his brothers come for food? What remarkable words does Joseph say to his brothers once they realize who he is?

Romans 8:28 echoes those same words. God is able to bring good no matter what our circumstances.

- A** Praise God for His ability to bring good out of bad circumstances
- C** Confess any times you have acted like Joseph's brothers, full of jealousy and anger
- T** Thank God that He makes right the wrongs done to us
- S** Pray for God to fill you with love and forgiveness for those who have wronged you

Week 5

Day 1

Baby Moses is Protected by God

Scripture Reading: Exodus 1:7- 2:10

The Hebrew people (descendants of Abraham) were now living in Egypt, where Joseph's family had come due to the famine. Before his death, Joseph reminded the people that God would one day give them a land of their own.

A new pharaoh had come to rule Egypt and was disturbed by how numerous the Hebrews were. Because he was afraid that they would become even greater in number, he made the Hebrews become slaves. Life was hard for them. Pharaoh also decreed that all Hebrew baby boys be killed. Jochebed, one of the Hebrew women, had a baby boy. This special child is the subject of today's story.

As you read, list the "God-incidences" that you come across. This baby boy would one day become a great leader of his people.

- A** Praise God for His plans for His people, that we read about both in the story of Joseph and here again today, with Moses' story.
- C** Confess the times when bad things happen and you fail to remember who God is and how He cares for you
- T** Thank Him for the "God-incidences" that occur all around you everyday
- S** Pray for an awareness of these "God-incidences" today

Day 2**Moses is Called****Scripture Reading:** Exodus 3:1-4:18

Moses has been looking after his father-in-law's sheep. How does God appear to him? What instructions does God give him? What is Moses' response? Why does he argue?

God tells Moses He is "I AM." Why? What does this mean? What role was Aaron given?

- A** Praise God that He is I AM.....all that we need
- C** Confess the times you argue with God and give excuses for why you can't do what He is asking you to do
- T** Thank God that He still chooses to use imperfect people and send helpers when needed
- S** Pray for the desire to say "yes" to God and to know that He is with you

Day 3

Pharaoh and the Plagues

Scripture Reading:

Exodus Chapter 7 vs. 8 thru Chapter 12 vs. 42

List the 10 Plagues God sent against Egypt because of Pharaoh's refusal to release the Hebrew people:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

What was the significance of the lamb's blood on the doors? What does this story teach you?

- A** Praise God that His promises and plans never fail
- C** Confess your hard-heartedness to God and ask for His forgiveness
- T** Thank God that He has made a way for His people throughout history
- S** Pray for the eyes to recognize all that God has delivered you from today

Day 4**The Passover**

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-32; Hebrew 9:22, 11:28; Romans 3:25

The Passover was the final plague sent against Egypt. Pharaoh had agreed to let the Israelites go and then changed his mind 9 times before this last plague. What were God's instructions to the Israelites? What protected them from death?

Read Luke 22:7, 14-20; John 1:29, 3:16. How is Jesus similar to the Passover lamb?

- A** Praise God for His provisions and how He protects His people
- C** Confess your stubbornness and disobedience of God and His plans
- T** Thank God for the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, for your sins
- S** Pray for the ability to understand and remember what Jesus has done for you as your Passover lamb

Day 5

God Provides for His People During the Exodus

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:33-39, 13:21-22, 15:22-27, 16:4-6, 12-13, 31-32, 20:1-17, 23:20

God's provision for His people is in full view in today's reading. Consider some of the ways God provided for the Israelites during their Exodus from Egypt. How did He provide for their physical needs? Spiritual needs? Leadership needs?

In Deuteronomy 6, God gives the Israelites (and us today) many instructions and reasons we should live as His people. What specific words from this passage stand out?

- A** Praise God that He is the provider of all of your needs
- C** Confess the ways you may grumble with God over His provisions and are discontent with what you do not have
- T** Thank God for the ways He has provided for you physically and spiritually
- S** Pray for the desire to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. (Deut. 6:5)."

Week 6

Day 1

Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Scripture Reading: Exodus 13:17-15:21

In this familiar passage we continue to see God's hand of provision for His people. What miracles do you see? Despite the display of God's power during the plagues and their deliverance, the people still complained. Why do you think that is? How are people today like the Israelites? God does care for His people and does provide for them.

- A** Praise God that He is a powerful and caring God
- C** Confess your own times of complaining and failing to remember God's power and provisions of the past
- T** Thank God that He meets our needs in very real and specific ways
- S** Pray for the ability to trust God and His provision when you are afraid

Day 2**Joshua Leads to the Promised Land****Scripture Reading:** Joshua 1-6

The Israelites have escaped Egypt, received the 10 Commandments, have wandered in the desert for 40 years because of their disobedience, and are now ready to enter the Promised Land. Moses has died and God has raised up a new leader for His people, Joshua.

Name some of the promises God made to Joshua. How did Joshua capture Jericho?

Joshua and Israel had victory over Jericho because they followed God's instructions. What were Joshua's final words to the people (Joshua 23:2-13?)

- A** Praise God that He is faithful, in accomplishing all that He has promised
- C** Confess your lack of care to obey all that God has commanded
- T** Thank God for His word that guides us and teaches us
- S** Pray for the desire to "hold fast to the Lord your God (Joshua 23:8)"

Day 3**David and Goliath****Scripture Reading:** 1 Samuel 17:32-51

In this story, we see a beautiful example of faith in action. List some of the differences between the way Saul and his soldiers recommended fighting Goliath and how David actually fought. How did David succeed?

David had faith in God to defeat an overwhelming obstacle. He relied on God for His strength and might. In what area of your life do you need to rely on God to meet your needs?

- A** Praise God that He cares and meets our needs
- C** Confess your tendency to rely on your own strength and knowledge to handle your problems, rather than on God's strength
- T** Thank God that as you rely on Him, He gives you the power and strength you need
- S** Pray for the courage to face your "giants" today through faith in God

Day 4**Daniel Trusts God****Scripture Reading:** Daniel 6:1-28

The Israelites and Daniel had been captured by the Babylonians many years ago. God had allowed them to be captured due to their unfaithfulness. Daniel had remained faithful to God during his captivity and had been placed in the king's service from the time he was 16. He had even become a governor in the empire. When a new king, King Darius, came to power, he favored Daniel as well. Some of the other Babylonian leaders were jealous of Daniel and sought a way to plot against him.

How did they trap Daniel? What were the king's words to Daniel in verse 16? Is there a difficult situation in your life right now where God is asking you to remain faithful?

- A** Praise God that He protects those who are faithful to Him
- C** Confess the times you have failed to remain faithful to God in hardships
- T** Thank God for the ability to use us to affect others for His glory
- S** Pray for the strength to remain faithful to God during difficult situations

Day 5**Jonah Disobeys God****Scripture Reading:** Jonah

You can run, but you cannot hide! Jonah definitely found out how true that statement is. In the Bible, God used prophets to give messages to people. Why did Jonah not want to go to the Ninevites and give them God's message? How did he disobey God? What was the result? What did Jonah do while in the belly of the whale? How did God respond? What happened with the Ninevites after Jonah delivered the message?

Sometimes, God may ask you to show compassion to people that you do not like. The story of Jonah teaches us to pray for others, tell them about God, and show kindness to them even when we would rather not.

- A** Praise God for His forgiveness and compassion
- C** Confess your unwillingness to share His love and message with those you don't like and admit that there are times when you desire comfort over being obedient to God
- T** Thank God for the opportunities He provides for us to join Him in His work
- S** Pray for the desire and ability to serve others unselfishly

Week 7

Day 1

Jesus is Born

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-19

Many years before Jesus was born, God promised that He would send His Son, the Messiah, to earth to save His people. Today's scripture reading describes Jesus' birth. What was so special about His birth? Why do you think angels appeared to shepherds to announce the birth instead of to others? What is something that you can learn about God from the way He came to Earth?

- A** Praise God that He has provided a Savior for our sins
- C** Confess the tendency you have to look to other people and things to save you from yourself
- T** Thank God for the prophecies fulfilled in Jesus' birth
- S** Pray that God will give you "great joy" today as you remember what Jesus' birth really means

Day 2**Visit of the Magi****Scripture Reading:** Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men from far away knew the prophecies in scripture and recognized the star that announced the birth of the King of the Jews. Their response was to seek Him to worship Him. Herod, however, desired to destroy this king who threatened his rule and power.

Who are you more like in this story, the wise men who bowed to worship, or king Herod, puffed up with self-serving pride?

- A** Praise God for His plan to redeem His people
- C** Confess any pride and self-serving attitudes in your heart
- T** Thank God for His protection of the Christ-child then and His protection of you today
- S** Pray to be a wise person today who seeks Christ and responds with a heart full of worship and giving

Day 3

Jesus in the Temple

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:21-40, 52

How do you see Mary and Joseph following the Law of Moses that required families to worship at the temple at specific times? As you read today, look for the ways Mary and Joseph were obedient to the Law of Moses. What are some of the things we learn about Jesus in these passages? How is Jesus described in vv. 40 and 52?

- A** Praise God today for the occasions (the Sabbath, Advent, Easter, etc) where His work is celebrated and His story is retold
- C** Confess the times you have not observed God's commandment to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy
- T** Thank God for the blessing that follows the observance of regular times of remembrance
- S** Pray that your corporate and private worship times will be occasions to celebrate what God has done through Jesus and what He is doing currently in the lives of you and others

Day 4

Jesus is Baptized

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-15; Luke 3:1-22

John and Jesus were both born about the same time and both had very special assignments. John the Baptist preached the need for repentance to the people and for them to be watching for the Messiah. Jesus, the Messiah, came to the place where John was baptizing and asked to be baptized as well.

What are some specific things John told those who came to hear him to do differently? How did John distinguish himself from Jesus when the crowd was questioning if he were the Christ? What did John see as Jesus was baptized? Which of the 3 persons of God are mentioned here? (See Week 1, Day 5.)

- A** Praise God that He calls us to repent (stop disobeying Him) and offers forgiveness for us through His Son, Jesus
- C** Confess your areas of disobedience
- T** Thank Him for the gift of forgiveness (1 John 1:9)
- S** Pray for God to give you an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus today

Day 5

Jesus Begins His Ministry

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:21 thru Chapter 3:12

Following Jesus' baptism, He is sent by the Holy Spirit into the desert where He is tempted by Satan for 40 days. Our passages today reveal some of the things that were a part of Jesus' earthly ministry. Make a list of some of the things Jesus did.

Mark 1:35 tells us a very important fact about Jesus. What did he do?

The Pharisees and other religious leaders were angry with Jesus. Why? How was Jesus' teaching about true faith different from their ideas of religion?

- A** Praise God that He is all-powerful and the true healer
- C** Confess the times you place more emphasis on being religious instead of having a heart of faith
- T** Thank God for His example through Jesus of seeking strength and direction through prayer
- S** Pray for the desire to seek a quiet place today to pray for God's strength and guidance in your life

Week 8

Day 1

Jesus the Good Shepherd

Scripture Reading: John 10:1-18

Jesus calls himself “the good shepherd.” What does a good shepherd do for his sheep? Jesus loves us each like a shepherd loves his sheep and will care for, protect, and watch over us.

- A** Praise God that Jesus is our good shepherd
- C** Confess any times you have tried to “run away” from the sheepfold, away from The Shepherd
- T** Thank God for His loving care for you and His willingness to lay down His life for you
- S** Pray that God will help you to know Him (v. 14) even more today

Day 2

Jesus is Tempted

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

Satan comes to tempt Jesus while he is in a weakened state (v.2). What are the 3 temptations?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How does Jesus respond to each temptation? What can we learn from His example?

When does Satan try to tempt you the most? What are the things you are tempted to do that are not pleasing to God?

We are tempted today just as Jesus was. We must know God's Word and rely on His power during times of temptation just like Jesus did.

- A** Praise God that He gives us a way to withstand temptation
- C** Confess the times you have given in to temptation
- T** Thank God that in Jesus we have a savior who was tempted in every way we are (Hebrews 4:15), yet never sinned. He provided us with an example of how to defeat Satan by using God's Word
- S** Pray for the strength to stand strong when Satan tempts you to disobey God

Day 3

Jesus Calls the Disciples

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 4:18-22, 8:9-13, 10:2-4; Mark 1:16-20, 3:13-19;
Luke 5:1-11, 6:12-16; John 1:35-51

In these passages we see Jesus calling His 12 disciples. List their names.

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 7. |
| 2. | 8. |
| 3. | 9. |
| 4. | 10. |
| 5. | 11. |
| 6. | 12. |

Jesus gave these 12 special power, a special mission, and special instructions to do a disciple's work. What are some of the things these disciples did? What kind of men did Jesus choose? As a follower of Jesus, what are we to do?

- A** Praise God for the way He works through those who come and follow Him even today
- C** Confess the times when you are tempted to remain where you are, doing what you have always done, rather than following Jesus
- T** Thank God for the privilege of being a part of His work in the world today
- S** Pray for a willingness to follow Jesus wherever He leads you

Day 4**Parable of the Sower of the Seed****Scripture Reading:** Luke 8:4-8, 11-15

Jesus used stories to teach people about God. In this story, there are 4 kinds of seed and the seeds represent the Word of God or teachings of Jesus. Describe each of the four kinds of seeds and how they relate to what Jesus was teaching:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

- A** Praise God for the ways He reveals the truth of His Word to us
- C** Confess the times your heart has been hard and unreceptive to God, like the rocky soil
- T** Thank God that when His Word falls on hearts that are tender, faith grows and matures
- S** Pray for your heart to be a receptive place for God's Word

Day 5**Parable of the Prodigal Son****Scripture Reading:** Luke 15:11-32

This story teaches us a lot about the heart of God. As you read, consider the attitude of each of the three main characters: the older brother, the father, and the younger son. What stands out about each of them? How did the father treat the younger son when he returned home? Why?

God, our Father, loves us and stands ready to forgive us always, even if we make bad decisions.

- A** Praise God for the great love He has for you
- C** Confess the times you have rebelled like the younger son, and not shown joy and love for those who have returned to the Father
- T** Thank God for the forgiveness He offers us when we go astray
- S** Pray for a deeper understanding of God's love today as shown in this parable

Week 9

Day 1

Jesus is God-The Winds and The Waves Obey Him

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:35-41

It is evident from the disciples' reactions that they still did not yet fully understand that Jesus was God's Son. This boat trip provided a great opportunity to teach a life lesson. What happened? What do you think Jesus was trying to teach them? What does this story tell us about God's power? Is there a lesson here for your current life situation?

- A** Praise God that "even the wind and the waves obey Him"
- C** Confess your lack of faith and trust in the Son of God
- T** Thank God that He is with us always (Matthew 28:30) even in the "storms" of life
- S** Pray for God to help you realize in a meaningful way, His presence with you today

Day 2**Jesus Feeds 5000****Scripture Reading:** Mark 6:30-44

As you read the passage today, consider these questions:

Why were the disciples seeking a solitary place? What was Jesus' response to the crowd that had gathered where they were going?

Because of the lateness of the day and the remote location, the disciples suggested they let the people go to find something to eat. Jesus told them to feed the people. With five loaves and two fish, more than 5,000 people were fed. How much was leftover and collected?

Can God take what we have (even if it's only a little) and use it? How and with whom can you share some of what the Lord has given you?

- A** Praise God that He is able to take our meager offerings and multiply their effects to accomplish big things
- C** Confess any stinginess you have in not wanting to share your belongings with those in need
- T** Thank God for the material blessings He has given you
- S** Pray for an opportunity and a willing heart to share with someone today

Day 3

Jesus Has Power Over Evil and Heals a Demon Possessed Man

Scripture Reading: Mark 5:1-20

Evil is a real and powerful presence in our world. In this passage we see both the power of Satan and the power of God displayed. How did the evil spirits address Jesus? What did Jesus do? Why do you think the townspeople were afraid and wanted Jesus to leave the area?

- A** Praise God that He, alone, is all-powerful
- C** Confess any disbelief you have that Jesus is all-powerful
- T** Thank God for the loving-kindness that complements His power
- S** Pray for God to help you comprehend His great and mighty power in a new way today

Day 4**Being Born Again—Nicodemus****Scripture Reading:** John 3:1-17

Nicodemus, a Pharisee, recognizes that Jesus is a teacher from God based on the miracles he has worked. He comes at night to meet with Jesus and brings his honest questions to him. Jesus explains to Nicodemus what it is to be “born again.” What does he say to Nicodemus?

The authors of our study suggest considering the caterpillar as our life without Jesus, the cocoon as our beginning to change, and the butterfly as the new creation we become once we are “born again.” The butterfly is really the caterpillar, only changed.

- A** Praise God “everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life”
- C** Confess any times you have not simply asked God about or prayed about the things you don’t understand
- T** Thank God that, like Nicodemus, we can take our questions to Him
- S** Pray for help in understanding what the Bible teaches us

Day 5

The Rich Young Ruler-10 Commandments

Scripture Reading:

Mark 10:17-27

What was the question posed to Jesus by the Rich Young Ruler? What did Jesus ask him to do? Why did he go away sad?

We cannot buy our way into heaven, earn our way, or talk our way in. Jesus teaches the disciples in v. 27 that eternal life is only by God's grace through Jesus.

- A** Praise God for His grace and work in our lives
- C** Confess any people or things you love and cherish more than you love and cherish God
- T** Thank Him that "all things are possible with God (v. 27)"
- S** Pray for God to show you if there is a "one thing you lack" area in your life

Week 10

Day 1

Zaccheus becomes Jesus' Friend

Scripture Reading: Luke 19:1-10

In today's story, Jesus is chastised for the company he is keeping with Zaccheus, the "sinner." Who was Zaccheus? Why do you think people did not like him? How do we know that salvation came to the house that day? What lesson do you think Jesus was trying to teach then? Now?

- A** Praise God that He loves and cares for all people, even the worst of sinners
- C** Confess any dislike or disregard you have for certain groups of people who you feel and act unkindly towards, making them feel like they are unworthy of God's grace
- T** Thank God for His example to us in this story of how His message of love and forgiveness is for all
- S** Pray that God will give you eyes of love and grace for others

Day 2**The Good Samaritan****Scripture Reading:** Luke 10:25-37

Jesus teaches us in this passage what it means to love our neighbor. What are some of the ways the Good Samaritan loved the hurt man? Neither the priest nor the Levite showed any mercy on the man. Only the Samaritan showed mercy. Why does God want us to show mercy to our neighbors?

- A** Praise God for His mercy on you
- C** Confess the times you have not shown mercy to others
- T** Thank Him for the privilege of sharing His love with others by the way we treat them
- S** Pray for God to provide you with an opportunity to show mercy today

Day 3**Jesus Has Power Over Death—Lazarus****Scripture Reading:** John 11:1-46

In this story there are some key timing verses. Take a closer look at verses 6, 14, and 17. Taking those verses into consideration, why do you think Jesus delayed going to Bethany once Mary and Martha had sent for him? What did Jesus want the people to know about God?

Sometimes when we pray and do not receive an answer right away, we are tempted to believe God doesn't care. From these Scriptures, we see clearly that not only does He care, but He also has a special plan for our lives.

- A** Praise God that His timing is always perfect
- C** Confess any times when you have believed God did not care because your prayers were not answered quickly
- T** Thank God that He has power even over death itself
- S** Pray for God to give you peace as you wait for answers to your prayers

Day 4

The Last Supper

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 26:17-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-43
(also Luke 22:7-23; Mark 14:12-25)

The setting of the Last Supper was the Passover meal, the Jewish feast that celebrated God's deliverance of His people from the Egyptians after the last plague that killed all of the firstborns in Egypt. The meal was to remember how the Lord had instructed them to sacrifice a lamb and use the blood to cover the door so that The Angel of Death would not enter their homes. This meal of unleavened bread helped the Jewish people remember how they had had to prepare to leave Egypt quickly, and how God had provided for them. Today we celebrate communion which is like the Passover meal. In communion we remember the shed blood of the perfect Lamb of God, Jesus, on the cross.

Jesus knew the time of His crucifixion was drawing near. He had preached and taught through parables that many of the Jews would refuse to believe that he was the Son of God. Jesus even taught about the signs of when He would come again to the Earth after His resurrection and return to Heaven. What does Jesus want us to remember about the Last Supper?

- A** Praise God for giving us His very own Son, the Lamb of God, as the sacrifice for our sins
- C** Confess the times when you have failed to recognize that your sins, along with all others, made the Last Supper necessary
- T** Thank God for the celebration of communion where we can gather with other believers to remember the body that was broken and the blood that was shed on our behalf
- S** Pray for a renewed sense of reverence and awe the next time you celebrate communion

Day 5**Jesus is Betrayed****Scripture Reading:** Luke 22:1-5, 39-53

In the first part of today's reading we learn that Judas Iscariot, the treasurer of the disciples' money, is tempted by Satan to betray Jesus and deliver Him to the religious leaders. Plans are made and Judas receives money for this betrayal. After the supper, Jesus goes to the Mount of Olives to pray. In this Garden of Gethsemane, he prays so earnestly that he sweats droplets of blood. What are Jesus' words to his disciples as he leaves them to pray? What is His prayer? How does God care for Jesus during this time?

Jesus knows that crucifixion is ahead for Him. Though painful, He also knows that this is the will of God, for which he had prayed earlier in the garden. .

- A** Praise God for His tender loving care of us in our darkest moments, as evidenced by the angels' presence with Jesus
- C** Confess that at times you willingly go against the will of God
- T** Thank God for Jesus and His obedience to His Father's will
- S** Pray for the strength to pray "not my will, but yours be done, Lord" in your current situation

Week 11

Day 1

Jesus Dies and is Risen

Scripture Reading: John 18, 19

Describe what happened after Jesus died. Where did they place His body? In chapter 20 of John, we read about the resurrection of Jesus (you will read those passages on Day 4 this week.) Jesus is alive!!!

- A** Praise God that he “gave up His spirit” for all of us
- C** Confess the times in your life when you have also not believed Jesus to be the King
- T** Thank God for the fulfillment of all the prophecies recorded in these 2 chapters
- S** Pray for those who still deny that Jesus is the Son of God

Day 2**Jesus is Crucified for the Sin of all Mankind****Scripture Reading:** John 3:16; 1 John 3:16a; Mark 15, 16

These scriptures teach us of God's great love for us, how our sin separates us from Him, the consequences and punishment required for our sin, and how Jesus' death on the cross took the place of our punishment. In Jesus, a way was made for us to have a relationship with God and live forever with Him in Heaven one day. What must we do to have this relationship?

- A** Praise God for His perfect plan of redemption
- C** Confess any unbelief and lack of faith
- T** Thank Him that Jesus is really alive and now sits at the right hand of God
- S** Pray for the courage to go and tell others the Good News

Day 3

Jesus is Risen and Conquers Death and Satan

Scripture Reading: John 20

John records many of Jesus' resurrection appearances. To whom does He appear in our reading today? To whom was Jesus referring in verse 29? In the closing verse of this chapter we are told why John has recorded all that he has. What does he say?

- A** Praise God that death is forever defeated in the resurrection of Jesus
- C** Confess the times you may have doubted, like Thomas
- T** Thank God for revealing Himself to us today through His Word, His creation, and the testimony of others
- S** Pray like the father in Mark 9:24...."I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief."

Day 4

Jesus Ascends and Gives the Great Commission

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:19-30

In these last moments on earth before Jesus ascends to heaven, He gave the disciples and other believers a command. He also prefaced the command with a statement of His authority. What 3 things did He tell them to do?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

These verses are known as the “Great Commission.” The commands are for us, as believers today. We do not go, tell and teach alone. Who is always with us?

- A** Praise God for His complete authority over all
- C** Confess the times you have not seized an opportunity to go, tell, and teach
- T** Thank God that we never go alone to do His work. He is with us always
- S** Pray for the desire and courage to obey these commands of Jesus

Day 5

The Holy Spirit Comes and Gives Power

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:48-49; John 14:15-26; Acts 1:6-8; 2:1-13; Ephesians 1:13

The setting of the story today is the Jewish Day of Pentecost. This feast was celebrated 50 days after the Feast of the Passover. The disciples were gathered together for the feast. What had Jesus promised before He ascended? Describe what happened as the Holy Spirit descended upon them. According to these verses and the verse in Ephesians in particular, how are we, as believers, affected today by the Holy Spirit?

- A** Praise God for the gift of His Holy Spirit
- C** Confess your tendency to disregard the Holy Spirit's presence and power in your life and your reliance on your own power and understanding
- T** Thank God for the Holy Spirit that gives you courage and power to go, tell, and teach others about Jesus
- S** Pray for a sensitivity to God's Spirit alive and at work within you today, teaching, reminding, empowering, and guiding you

Week 12

Day 1

Becoming Part of God's Family

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:1-14

The family of God is huge! Jesus taught the disciples that those who believed He was the Son of God were part of the family. The day Jesus met Zaccheus, he became a part of the family because he believed. When Peter and John preached, after Jesus died, to a large crowd one day, 5,000 people became part of God's family. The disciples and Mary and Martha were part of the family. The Bible tells us that everyone who believes that Jesus is God's only Son and asks God to forgive them for their sins, can become part of God's family.

In the passage today, what were the disciples asking Jesus about Heaven? Why? Who did Jesus say would be important in Heaven? Why did Jesus tell them to believe like a child?

- A** Praise God for the humility of Jesus who "humbled himself (Philippians 2:8) to die on a cross on our behalf
- C** Confess the self-seeking, self-serving, self-important attitude that is the very opposite of the humility Jesus describes in the passage today
- T** Thank God for His loving care that finds us when we are lost
- S** Pray to go about your day with the humility of a child

Day 2

The Marks of a Christian—Fruit of the Spirit

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:16-23

After Jesus ascended to Heaven, God raised up many leaders to continue teaching others how to become a part of His family. God wanted people to know that becoming a family member was not about following rules, but believing in Jesus and following His teaching.

Paul was one of the leaders God used to spread the message of the gospel. He reminds people that there is nothing that they can do to earn their salvation or God's love because it is a gift from Him. They only have to believe. Paul also teaches that the power of the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of believers. List the 9 fruits of the Spirit Paul mentions:

1. _____ even those who are hard to and/or are mean to you
2. _____ even when you are sad, know that God is with you
3. _____ even when things are not going as planned, an inner calmness
4. _____ God is in control; knowing this helps you to wait
5. _____ being kind to and forgiving others who hurt you
6. _____ helping others and doing good things to please God and show His love
7. _____ God desires that we do what He wants us to do. He is pleased when we obey Him even when it is difficult
8. _____ Sometimes people can be pushy and selfish. God wants you not to be harsh
9. _____ with the help of the Holy Spirit, even when we get mad, God can help us control our actions

Which of these "fruits" is most difficult for you to show everyday to others?

- A** Praise God for the presence and power of His Holy Spirit in the lives of those in the family
- C** Confess the times recently when you have been unloving; down-trodden; ill at ease; impatient; unkind; uncaring; unfaithful; harsh; lacking self-control
- T** Thank God for His forgiveness that is available when we confess our sins to Him
- S** Pray that today the “fruits of the Spirit” would be evident to others you encounter

Day 3**Saul Becomes a Believer****Scripture Reading:** Acts 9:1-19

Prior to his conversion in today's passage, Saul was a religious leader who was against the teachings of Jesus. He was zealous in his persecution of the believers. Paul had received permission from the government to arrest Christians and put them in jail.

What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus? Why do you think Jesus blinded Saul with a bright light?

After these events, Saul went on to be named Paul and became even more zealous in preaching the gospel to others, especially those who were not Jewish, the gentiles. He even wrote 13 books of the Bible!

- A** Praise God for His ability to completely change us and make in us a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- C** Confess the times you may have doubted God's ability to change others, even yourself
- T** Thank God for the ways He intervenes in our lives to redirect our paths and use us for His glory
- S** Pray for your eyes to be open today so you can see the work of God around you

Day 4

Early Christians Tell Others About Jesus

Scripture Reading:

Acts 2:14, 42-47, 4:1-4, 5:12-16, 41-42, 5:12-16, 41-42, 6:7, 8:4-8

As you read through these accounts of the early Christians, make a list of what attributes they had and some of the things they did for one another and others. How would you describe the early church? What dangers did they face? What special power did they have?

- A** Praise God for the power of the Holy Spirit that equips us with all that we need to fulfill the Great Commission
- C** Confess your lack of faith and disregard for the Holy Spirit's power that inhibits our ability to courageously go, tell, and teach
- T** Thank God that His church is still alive and growing today, thousands of years later, because of the faithfulness of the early believers
- S** Pray for the Holy Spirit's power to give you the courage to live more like those of the early church

Day 5

The Last Things

Scripture Reading: Matthew 24; Revelation 21

In today's reading in Matthew, Jesus is with His disciples on the Mount of Olives and they ask Him about the end times. Jesus tells them some things that will happen, things that will be signs that the end is coming:

- *other leaders would say they were the real Messiah
- *there will be constant news of wars happening around the world
- *there will be major earthquakes, famines, and other natural disasters
- *the world would grow in its hate for Christians
- *many who are Christians will turn away from their faith
- *many will become religious leaders and tell lies about God and convince others to believe the things that are not true
- *many would stop being kind and loving
- *Jesus will come like lightening and the angels will announce His return with a loud trumpet
- *Jesus' return will be a surprise. No one knows the time or date...only God. We should continue doing all we can to fulfill the Great Commission

What are you told in the passage Revelation 21?

- A** Praise God that He is the "Alpha and Omega," the beginning and the end
- C** Confess the tendency you may have to place more thought, time, and energy on figuring out the end times rather than obeying the commands of the Great Commission
- T** Thank God that one day we will live forever with Him in a place where "there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain." (Revelation 21:4)
- S** Pray for a heart and mind that are focused on the things of God today and to enjoy the hope that is ours in Christ