



KNOWLEDGE
AND DOCTRINE

Term Four
Oral Bible Study Curriculum

Second Edition



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43. God the Father Psalm 103

Psalm 103

- ¹ Praise the LORD, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- ² Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits-
- ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶ The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
- ⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
- ⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
- ¹⁰ He does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
- ¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
- ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
- ¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
- ¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass,
he flourishes like a flower of the field;

- ¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
- ¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting
the LORD's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children-
- ¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.
- ¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.
- ²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.
- ²¹ Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.
- ²² Praise the LORD, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.
Praise the LORD, O my soul.

Study Questions: God the Father

Psalm 103

Introduction:

God has always been faithful to His people throughout all of existence. This faithfulness is portrayed in the Bible as existent all the way from the very beginning of creation until the future return of Christ. God is seen as our loving Father, who cares for every one of His children. He is a patient Judge who wants no one to perish, but rather to obey Him and be saved. He is the Mighty God and nothing is impossible for Him! This description gives on a tiny glimpse of the God that we serve. He is the One who we study to learn more about.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To begin to understand God the Father's character.
- To recognize God's greatness and His love.
- To realize what the Father has revealed about Himself.

Attitude

- To stand in awe of our Father God and be encouraged by Him.
- To believe that God alone is the ruler of the universe, yet He is also involved in the details of our lives every day.

Actions

- To praise the Lord and fear Him in all things.
- To tell other people about the great God whom we serve.

Memory Verses:

Psalm 18:1-3 "I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies."

Malachi 3:6 "I the Lord do not change."

Scriptures for Further Study:

John 1:12; 15:1-10; Hebrews 12:7-11; 1 John 3:1

Questions about the Story:

1. Why does the psalmist command his soul to praise the Lord in the beginning of the psalm? (Psalm 103:1-2. Thinking about the character of God the Father, demands a response. As the psalmist lists some of the attributes of the Lord, he must

personally respond to the Lord rather than merely acknowledge that God is great.)

2. What are some of the benefits that the Lord gives to His people? (Psalm 103:3-5. He forgives their sins, heals their diseases, redeems their life from the pit, shows them love and compassion, and satisfies their desires with good things in order to restore them, etc.)
3. How did God reveal Himself? (Psalm 103:7. He revealed Himself to Moses and showed His deeds to the people of Israel. God also reveals Himself through His character, His creation and His actions.)
4. How does the Lord God relate to His people according to the Psalmist? (Psalm 103:8, 13. The Lord is compassionate and gracious; slow to anger, abounding in love. He is like a Father who has compassion on His children.)
5. How does the Lord treat us in response to our sins? (Psalm 103:10. He does not treat us as our sins deserve nor repay us according to our iniquities.)
6. How far does God separate our sin from us? (Psalm 103:12. As far as the east is from the west, so far has God separated our sin from us. That is a picture of the freedom Jesus brings through His death on the cross.)
7. How long does the love of God last for His people? (Psalm 103:17. From everlasting to everlasting.)
8. Where is the throne of God and His kingdom established? (Psalm 103:19. In heaven.)
9. Over what does the kingdom of God rule? (Psalm 103:19. The kingdom of God rules over everything, both heaven and earth.)
10. What is the Lord's position in relation to the angels and the heavenly hosts? (Psalm 103:20-21. They are His servants who do His will. He is the ruler over all things and all things are subject to Him.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Like the psalmist, what should our response be when we realize how great God is? In what ways can we express our response? (Psalm 103:1-2) [Our response to God's greatness must be to praise Him and exalt His name. We can show this by expressing praise to Him in prayer, song, and adoration.]
2. Why is it important that the Lord is a God who forgives our sins? What does it show us about God? (Psalm 103:3) [Our sins separate us from our holy God. He has the power to

forgive us if we repent and believe in the sacrifice of Jesus for us.. To forgive sin shows God's power over that which has been done, is being done, and will yet to be committed.]

3. What does it mean for God to "satisfy our desires with good things?" (Psalm 103:5) [This means that God knows what we need and want. He is able to provide for us. Sometimes God answers our desires for things we think we need with what He knows we need most.]
4. Why is it important to us as believers to know that God chose to reveal Himself and make Himself known? (Psalm 103:7) [It shows that God wants to have a relationship with us and that we have a way to know Him.]
5. What encouragement is there when we remember that God is a God of compassion? (Psalm 103:8-13) [Compassion means that God understands our feelings and our weaknesses. It is important to know that even when we sin, He still loves us and remains faithful to us. We just need to confess our sin, repent and receive His cleansing.]
6. What does God's role as Father teach us about parenting? (Psalm 103:13) [All of God's character comes out in His role as Father. His actions, His attitude and His wisdom are on behalf of His children. Our children need the same care that we need from our Father.]
7. Since God separates our sin from us as far as the east is from the west, what does He see when He looks at a believer? (Psalm 103:12) [He sees a person who is clean, washed in the blood of Jesus. As we live and abide in Him and in His forgiveness, He sees us as being without sin and living justified before Him.]
8. Can we be sure that God's love will be the same tomorrow as it is today? (Psalm 103:17) [We can always be sure that God loves us, because the Bible says that His love is from everlasting to everlasting.]

44. Jesus the Son Matthew 17:1-13

Matthew 17

¹After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

⁴Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

⁵While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don't be afraid.” ⁸When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

¹⁰The disciples asked him, “Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?”

¹¹Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. ¹²But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” ¹³Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Study Questions: Jesus the Son **Matthew 17:1-13**

Introduction:

At this point in Jesus' ministry, His disciples were beginning to understand who He really was. It was not long before this that Peter had confessed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus had been revealing deeper things to His disciples, including the fact that he would soon die in Jerusalem at the hands of the chief priests. As part of this growing revelation of Himself, Jesus took His closest disciples, Peter, James, and John, along with him to the top of a high mountain where they would learn more about who He was.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To see that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Son of Man.
- To understand the relationship of Jesus to God the Father.
- To know the fulfillment of Jesus as the promised Messiah.
- To acknowledge that Jesus is both Lord of heaven and of earth.
- To realize that Jesus wants to reveal Himself to us.

Attitude

- To trust in Jesus as personal Lord and Savior.
- To be convinced that Jesus Christ is the prophesied and long-awaited Messiah.
- To be motivated to tell who Jesus is.

Actions

- To live confidently because Jesus' power is in us.
- To tell others that Jesus Christ is King and Lord.

Memory Verses:

Colossians 2:9-10 "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Mark 9:2-13 (Parallel Account); Luke 9:28-36 (Parallel Account: Note that Jesus goes to the Mount to pray); John 5:18; 8:42; 10:30; Colossians 2:9-10; Hebrews 1:1-2; Revelation 19:11-16

Questions about the Story:

1. Why did Jesus take Peter, James and John with Him to the top of a high mountain? (Matthew 17:1. He revealed Himself to them. God the Father also spoke to them.)
2. What does Jesus' transfiguration say about Him? (Matthew 17:2. His face shone like the sun; His clothes became as white as light. More than the physical details, it revealed that although Jesus was a man with a physical body, He was also God with a spiritual body.)
3. What is significant about Moses and Elijah coming to talk with Jesus? (Matthew 17:3. Jesus' life was directly connected to the Old Testament. It was those scriptures that prophesied about Jesus. The disciples wanted to honor all of them, but God said, "This is my son, listen to Him.")
4. What did Peter think about witnessing this event? (Matthew 17:4. He said, "It is good for us to be here." He thought it would be good to build three shelters.)
5. How did God the Father refer to Jesus and set Him apart from the others? (Matthew 17:5. As God's loved Son, in whom was found great pleasure. God told the disciples to listen to Him.)
6. What does the disciples' response to the voice mean? (Matthew 17:6. God is holy. When He speaks there is no other response. Even the sound of His voice reminded the disciples that they were only men.)
7. What is significant about Jesus saying to His disciples "Get up, don't be afraid?" (Matthew 17:7. Although God is holy and fearful, his disciples did not need to be afraid. Jesus Himself was the reason that they did not need to be afraid.)
8. Why would Jesus tell the disciples not to tell anyone what they had seen until Jesus rose from the dead? (Matthew 17:9. It was not time for Jesus to be fully revealed as the Messiah. After the resurrection everything was finished and then it was time to reveal all things.)
9. What does the disciple's question about Elijah say about their understanding? (Matthew 17:3, 10. It shows how little they understood about who Jesus was.)
10. What did the disciples finally understand about the Elijah who had been promised? (Matthew 17:13. The disciples realized that the Elijah who was predicted was actually John the Baptist. They began to hear that Jesus would also have to suffer as John did.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some advantages of having a close group of friends, like Peter, James and John? (Matthew 17:1) [Small groups are needed to share intimate experiences. Time in prayer, revealing one's self, listening to God's Word and growing in faith are all part of discipleship.]
2. How does the description of Jesus from this story affect our understanding of who He is? (Matthew 17:2) [He is God's Son, having the fullness of God in bodily form. He deserves all praise, worship, and adoration. John 5:16-18; 10:27-30; Colossians 2:9-10]
3. How can we respond to the majesty of Christ? (Matthew 17:4) [We can cherish His greatness, love being in His presence and listen to Him. This means being willing to do whatever He commands.]
4. What can we tell other people about Jesus from this story? (Matthew 17:5) [We can say, He is the beloved Son of God and the One that was promised through the prophets. Although He is the Son of God, awesome and brilliant; He is also the Son of Man, compassionate and willing to die on our behalf. John 1:1-4, 14; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Timothy 2:5]
5. How is this different from other religions and their views of Jesus? [Muslims see Jesus as only a prophet. The Jehovah's Witnesses see Jesus as a son of God, but not a part of the trinity of God.]
6. In what ways can we "listen to Jesus?" (Matthew 17:5) [We can listen by studying His Word and when we pray.]
7. How should we respond when we think of God's holiness? (Matthew 17:6-7) [Our response should be to have a reverent fear, not one that is frightened and reluctant.]
8. What do we learn from Jesus' telling His disciples not to be afraid? (Matthew 17:7) [We learn that Jesus wants us to live our lives without fear, realizing that He is with us.]
9. What can we learn from Jesus' clear statement that he would suffer, die and be raised from the dead? (Matthew 17:12, 9) [He was clear about His purpose and His mission. It was not to stay on the top of a mountain, but rather to go down, be among the people, minister to them and save them.]
10. Does Jesus' identity as the long awaited and foretold Messiah open our perception of God's plan and how He orchestrates things? [God plans things to the finest and most precise detail as He brings things to fruition, as He also does with our own lives.]

45. Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-8, 11-21

Acts 2

¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? ¹¹We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

¹⁹I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Study Questions: Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-8, 11-21

Introduction:

After Jesus' resurrection, He stayed on earth for forty days before He ascended into heaven. During this time, He appeared many times to His disciples to prove that He was alive and to teach them more about the kingdom of God. Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem, until the Father sent the Holy Spirit, who would go before them and guide them into all truth. Then Jesus returned to heaven. As this story begins, the disciples were waiting in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come, living in the truth of Jesus' resurrection. The Holy Spirit came on the fiftieth day after Easter, on the First Fruit Harvest Festival of Pentecost. When the Holy Spirit filled them, they found they had a new vigor to spread the word about the Lord with the world.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- To know that all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

Attitude

- To believe that the Holy Spirit can use simple and ordinary men to accomplish God's purposes.
- To trust in the Holy Spirit for salvation, power, conviction of sin and encouragement.
- To believe that our actions cannot save us, but that calling on the name of the Lord can.

Actions

- To proclaim the Word of the Lord with confidence, knowing that the Holy Spirit will use it to speak to people.
- To bring the message of salvation to every nation under heaven.

Memory Verses:

Matthew 10:19-20 "But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."

John 14:26 "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

John 16:13 “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.”

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.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Matthew 10:17-19; Luke 24:49; John 14:15-27; 16:5-15; Acts 1:1-8; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:18

Questions about the Story:

1. What is significant about this day of Pentecost? (Acts 2:1. It was a harvest festival of the First Fruits and the believers were all meeting together in one place.)
2. How is the coming of the Holy Spirit described? (Acts 2:2-4. The sound of a violent blowing wind from heaven that filled the whole house. It came as tongues of fire, rested on each one of them and filled them. This is the only time that the Bible describes the Holy Spirit coming in this way.)
3. What does being filled with the Holy Spirit mean and what happened as a result of the filling of the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:4. This story describes the tongues of fire resting on them and going inside of them so that they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. See also Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 8:9-11; Acts 4:31; Galatians 5:22-23)
4. What does speaking in tongues mean and what is significant about speaking in other tongues in Jerusalem at this time? (Acts 2:5. This story describes speaking in tongues as speaking in the languages of the other nations. At this time, God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven were there and each one could understand the disciples’ message of salvation.)
5. What did the God-fearing Jews that were in Jerusalem hear in bewilderment? (Acts 2:6. They heard the believers speaking to them in their own native languages.)
6. What did the Jews observe about the believers? (Acts 2:7-11. The believers were Galileans, yet they were speaking in multiple languages, proclaiming the wonders of God.)
7. Why did the Jews make fun of the believers? (Acts 2:13. The Jews were amazed, perplexed and did not understand what was going on.)

8. What does Peter's address say? (Acts 2:14-15. These men are not drunk, but God's prophecy about the last days was taking place.)
9. What does Joel's prophecy about the last days say about the Spirit? (Acts 2:16-17. That the Spirit of God will be poured out on all people.)
10. What is the role of the Holy Spirit from this text? (The Holy Spirit filled them. He enabled them to speak in various languages. He gave Peter the words to say and the understanding of the prophecy from Joel. John 16:7-13 describes the role of the Spirit as a counselor, a guide into all truth, and the one who convicts us of sin. See also Hebrews 3:15 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19)
11. What does Joel's prophecy say will result from the Spirit of God being poured out on all people? (Acts 2:21. God will pour out His Spirit, people will prophecy, signs will occur and all that call on the name of the Lord will be saved.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is Pentecost a significant day for us? (Acts 2:1) [It is the beginning of the New Testament Church. It is the day when God's Spirit came to live in us.]
2. What do we learn from this story about how the Holy Spirit comes to us believers? (Acts 2:2-3) [The Holy Spirit comes to us personally. It fills us, gives us gifts and reveals spiritual things to us.]
3. What does this manifestation of the Holy Spirit teach us about who He is? (Acts 2:2-4) [He is the essence of the Invisible God including the power of God and the wonders of God. In John 16:7 Jesus says that he would send the Spirit who would convict the world of sin.]
4. In what ways is it encouraging that the Holy Spirit comes and dwells in us? (Acts 2:4) [It encourages us as we realize that it is no longer our own sinful nature that is living but rather the Spirit of God living and reigning through our lives.]
5. What is the Holy Spirit able to do through our lives? (Acts 2:4) [The Holy Spirit is able to take our lives and use us in any way He chooses, even supernaturally, in order to bring Him glory.]
6. Who is the Holy Spirit able to use? (Acts 2:7) [The Holy Spirit is able to use the most simple and uneducated persons in order to proclaim His message with all the truth, excitement, and unction that His Word deserves. This often gives God

more glory, because those that He uses are unable to take credit for themselves.]

7. What does this day of Pentecost give us to proclaim to the world around us? (Acts 2:11, 17-21) [The Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to proclaim the wonders of God. The Spirit was a fulfillment of prophecy and we can invite people to call on the name of the Lord for salvation.]
8. How can we be standing up for what we know to be true and remain in our convictions even in the midst of criticism? (Acts 2:14-15) [We can stand for what we know to be the truth by being firmly planted in the Word of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit and able to correctly handle the Word of truth.]
9. How can we proclaim the promise that “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved?” (Acts 2:21) [By actively sharing our faith, taking every opportunity to share Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, leaving the results up to God.]

46. Nature of Man

Genesis 19:1-26

Genesis 19

¹ The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. ² “My lords,” he said, “please turn aside to your servant's house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning.”

“No,” they answered, “we will spend the night in the square.”

³ But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate. ⁴ Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. ⁵ They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.”

⁶ Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him ⁷ and said, “No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing. ⁸ Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof.”

⁹ “Get out of our way,” they replied. And they said, “This fellow came here as an alien, and now he wants to play the judge! We'll treat you worse than them.” They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door.

¹⁰ But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. ¹¹ Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door.

¹² The two men said to Lot, “Do you have anyone else here—sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, ¹³ because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it.”

¹⁴ So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, “Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!” But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

¹⁵ With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished.”

¹⁶ When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them. ¹⁷ As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, “Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!”

¹⁸ But Lot said to them, “No, my lords, please! ¹⁹ Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die. ²⁰ Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it—it is very small, isn't it? Then my life will be spared.”

²¹ He said to him, “Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of. ²² But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it.” (That is why the town was called Zoar.)

²³ By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. ²⁴ Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the LORD out of the heavens. ²⁵ Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. ²⁶ But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Study Questions: The Nature of Man

Genesis 19:1-26

Introduction:

Abraham and his nephew Lot had traveled from the land of Ur to the land God had showed them. Abraham chose to settle in the wilderness in tents while Lot chose to dwell in the region of Sodom and Gomorrah, which was known for its wickedness. The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah grew so great that God decided to destroy the cities and told Abraham about His plan. Abraham was concerned for his relatives, so he pleaded to God to spare the cities if ten righteous men could be found there. Unfortunately, there were not enough righteous people found, so God brought destruction on the cities. These cities reveal the sinful nature of man and the judgment of God on sin. Jesus is the one who intercedes for us and protects us from the coming wrath.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand that mankind is sinful in thought, word, and action.
- To remember that our Holy God judges sin.

Attitude

- To repent of our fallen and lost sinful state.
- To believe that we need the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Actions

- To make a habit of repenting quickly and seeking forgiveness for our sins.
- To run from our sins and not “look back” with desire for our old life. Instead, look to God and His mercy.

Memory Verse:

Romans 3:10 “As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one.’”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Genesis 6:5; Psalm 40:1-2; 51:1-13; Isaiah 64:6-7; Romans 3:9-24; Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 3:5-10; 2 Peter 2:4-9

Questions about the Story:

1. What can we notice about Lot when the angels arrived at Sodom? (Genesis 19:1-3. He was sitting in the gateway of the city. He got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to

- the ground. He welcomed the angels and insisted on having them stay with him.)
2. Why did the men from every part of the city surrounded Lot's house when they were about to go to bed? (Genesis 19:4-5. They wanted to commit sexual immorality with the two men, or angels, who were staying in his house.)
 3. What was Lot's response to this sinful request? (Genesis 19:6-8. He said to them, "No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing." Lot personally intervened, then he proposed that they take his daughters instead. He pleaded with them because the men were under the protection of his home.)
 4. What was the response of the crowd to Lot's refusal? (Genesis 19:9. They kept pressuring him, trying to force him away so they could break down the door.)
 5. What was the response of the two men (angels)? (Genesis 19:10-15. They were the ones that protected Lot rather than Lot protecting them. They judged the men of Sodom by blinding them. They cared about Lot and his family by warning them to get out of the city, because its destruction was coming, and they would be swept away with the city if they did not leave.)
 6. What does the response of Lot's sons-in-law show after he had warned them? (Genesis 19:14. They thought he was joking. The nature of man is in rebellion against the way of God.)
 7. What does Lot's hesitation to the angels' warning illustrate? (Genesis 19:16. The nature of man is hesitant and resistant to follow God. To leave the city meant leaving everything that he had, including possessions and animals. The cost was great.)
 8. Why do the angels grasp the hands of Lot, his wife and the two daughters to lead them out of the city? (Genesis 19:16. The Lord was merciful to them and showed them what they must do to be saved. The Lord Himself saved them from the coming destruction.)
 9. What does the angels command, "Flee for your lives without stopping and do not look back", show? (Genesis 19:17. It shows God's mercy to save Lot's family and provide a way of escape. It shows that sin will be punished and there is no room to return to sin.)
 10. Why did the Lord judge Sodom and Gomorrah? (Genesis 19:13. The "outcry to the Lord against its people" was great.)
 11. What does it show when Lot's wife looked back? (Genesis 19:26. There are consequences to disobedience. The nature of

man is to return to sin. She disobeyed by looking back and she was turned into a pillar of salt.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the morality of the city where Lot and his family were living? (Genesis 19:4-7) [It was a wicked city where the people loved immorality and sexual perversion.]
2. Who has wickedness in their hearts? (Genesis 19:4) [Everyone. People from all over, both young and old.]
3. As we Christians live in this wicked world, what should our response be to the sin that is everywhere around us? (Genesis 19:7) [We should respond by taking a stand against the sinful acts of wickedness that we daily face. We should also strive to live in holiness, in ways pleasing to the Lord.]
4. What was Lot's sin and what are the lessons we can learn about how to respond when we are confronted with sin? (Genesis 19:8) [Lot proposed the sexual mistreatment of his two daughters in place of the sin of homosexuality. The lesson to be learned is unlike Lot, when faced with a decision for sin, we should never partake in it. Instead of permitting another kind of sin, we must tell people what is right and trust in God for His protection. Lot had also become accustomed to sin because he lived in the midst of it.]
5. As we observe the crowd of men in this story, what are some of the characteristics that we see about the way people are? (Genesis 19:9) [We see that people full of sinful desires. They can be forceful, unwilling to listen, accusing of others, and self-gratifying.]
6. What do we learn from this story about the consequences of sin? (Genesis 19:11, 24-26) [We see that there is punishment for sin. We see the perverted crowd of men made blind, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed by the Lord, and Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt because she looked back and disobeyed.]
7. In what ways did God show us His mercy in the midst of our sinful nature? (Genesis 19:12-16) [The Lord warns us of the coming judgment and leads us to a safe place even when we hesitate or resist the warning given to us. Our salvation is His initiative.]
8. Do we respond like Lot did, even when God warns us and leads us to safety? (Genesis 19:16, 18-23) [Sometimes we hesitate and suggest solutions to God. Instead, we should trust our Father's love and quickly obey Him.]

47. The Power of the Word

Acts 8:26-40

Acts 8

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before the shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?” ³⁸And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Study Questions: Power of the Word

Acts 8:26-40

Introduction:

A great persecution had broken out against the Church at Jerusalem, and all of the believers except the twelve apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Philip, one of the seven deacons chosen by the apostles (Acts 6:5), had been sent to proclaim Christ to the people in Samaria. While he was there, the Lord called him to go to the road leading from Jerusalem to Gaza, a city that was located about 60 miles southwest of Jerusalem. The power of God's Word is seen as it transforms the Ethiopian eunuch in just a short conversation. The Word that transforms him is the "good news about Jesus."

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand that God is able to speak to the heart of every individual through His Word.
- To understand that the Word of God is able to bring conviction to the hearts of people who hear it.

Attitude

- To believe that God's Word is powerful and can guide His people.
- To trust in the leading of the Spirit of God.

Actions

- To seek the counsel of those knowledgeable in Scripture when looking to discern its meaning.
- To obey the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Memory Verses:

Isaiah 55:10-11 "My Word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

Matthew 4:4 "Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active; Sharper than any double-edged sword; it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Psalm 19:7-11; 119:9-16; Isaiah 55:6-13; Matthew 4:4; Romans 1:16; Hebrews 4:12

Questions about the Story:

1. Why did the angel of the Lord speak to Philip and send him on this mission? (Acts 8:26. Phillip was given this mission and this opportunity to tell the Ethiopian about the greatness of God and the salvation in Jesus.)
2. How did Philip respond to this opportunity? (Acts 8:27. He obeyed the word of the Lord, through the angel, without question. He met the Ethiopian, began a dialogue with him about God's Word and he taught the Ethiopian about Jesus through that Word.)
3. What is significant about the position that the Ethiopian held? (Acts 8:27. He was an important official with a position of respect. He was a man worthy of entrusting this valuable message and a person that could influence many others.)
4. What is significant about the Ethiopian going to Jerusalem to worship and returning home reading from Isaiah? (Acts 8:27-30. He was seeking the Lord and wanted to know Him more. His eyes were opened to understand and respond to the Word.)
5. What does the timing of Philip's arrival and the reading from Isaiah show? (Acts 8:30. This was the Spirit's intended time for the Ethiopian to hear and respond to the Word. It was part of God's plan.)
6. What was the Ethiopian's understanding of the book of Isaiah? (Acts 8:30-31. Although he did not understand whom Isaiah was talking about, he wanted Philip to explain it to him.)
7. How did Philip answer the eunuch's questions? (Acts 8:35. "Philip began with that very passage of Scripture" that the eunuch was reading and began to explain to him the good news about Jesus Christ.)
8. What does the Ethiopian's desire to be baptized say about the Good News about Jesus working in his life? (Acts 8:38-39. He took the Word to heart and applied it to his own life. He responded in faith to the Word that he had heard and went on his way as a changed man.)
9. Why did the Holy Spirit take Philip to the region of Azotus? (Acts 8:40. There were more people that needed to hear the Word of God and his previous mission was complete. He traveled around preaching the gospel in the surrounding towns until he reached Caesarea.)

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we get directions for our lives? (Acts 8:26) [The Lord will direct our lives through His Word and by His Spirit.]
2. How should we respond when the Lord directs us to do something? (Acts 8:27, 29-30) [We should respond in confidence that although we do not see the whole picture, the Lord is at work behind the scenes. He has divine appointments for us to share His Word.]
3. How should we interact with the Word of God? (Acts 8:30-31) [We need to spend time reading the Bible and seeking to understand it, then we will be equipped to tell others the good news of Jesus. See Romans 1:16]
4. What should we do when we do not understand a section of God's Word that we are reading through? (Acts 8:31) [We should invite those around us who have an understanding of it to explain it to us.]
5. What can we learn from Philip that will help us talk to people around us about the gospel of Jesus Christ? (Acts 8:35) [Philip started with something that the eunuch was already thinking about and from there he introduced the gospel of Jesus.]
6. In what ways does the Word of God work in our lives? (Acts 8:35-38) [The Word of God convicts us of sin in our lives and points us to Jesus Christ as the way to forgiveness. It teaches us how to live as Christians. This brings us to repentance and growth into maturity as believers. See Hebrews 4:12]
7. Why did the eunuch desire to be baptized? (Acts 8:36) [He had been taught God's Word and the good news about Jesus. He wanted the new life in Christ.]
8. How does the Word of God change our lives? (Acts 8:39) [The Word of God changes our hearts. This change brings us joy and teaches us how to live the way God wants us to.]
9. Does our witness to other people come to an end? (Acts 8:40) [Our witness will continue until the end of our lives. The Spirit will bring us to people who need the Lord.]
10. Who needs to hear the Gospel message? (Acts 8:40) [All people from every nation or ethnic group need to hear the Gospel. They need to come to saving faith in Jesus Christ through the power of the Gospel.]
11. What do we learn in this passage about God? About Philip? About the eunuch? About the Word of God?

48. The Word as Law

Luke 18:18-27 & Exodus 20:1-17

Luke 18

¹⁸A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁹“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ²⁰You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’”

²¹“All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.

²²When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²³When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. ²⁴Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁶Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷Jesus replied, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

Exodus 20

¹ And God spoke all these words:

² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ “You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the

LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Study Questions: The Word as Law **Luke 18:18-27 & Exodus 20:1-17**

Introduction:

Man is continually seeking how to attain to a certain level of goodness because the Law of God is written upon his heart. This Law of God that is interwoven with our very nature continually puts in us a burning desire to ascertain righteousness by some sort of personal merit. Many try to do enough good in their own strength. However, God has given us His righteous law to serve as a mirror to show us our sin, a curb to keep us from sin, and a guide to drive us back to our need of Jesus. For whoever keeps the law, yet stumbles at one point is a lawbreaker, and deserving of punishment. God's law can be found in the Ten Commandments, which were ten summarizing laws that were given to Moses for the instruction of God's people. The law is a reflection of the character of God and his expectation of perfection. God's Word convicts us with these laws.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To see where we fall short of God's Holy Law.
- To understand that God's Word is clear about how God's followers should live.
- To understand that the law requires the perfection that only Jesus can meet on our behalf.

Attitude

- To humble ourselves before the Lord and His law.
- To believe that we are powerless to perfectly obey the law in our own strength, but Jesus met it on our behalf.

Actions

- To obey God's laws, knowing that we are forgiven sinners who are growing toward God's perfection.
- To live by faith, cleansed from our guilt by Jesus' blood and living in the strength that God gives us.

Memory Verses:

Romans 7:7-8 "What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead."

James 2:10-11 “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Matthew 5:17-30; Romans 2:14-15; 7:7-8;
Hebrews 10:1-10; James 2:10-11

Questions about the Story:

1. Why does the ruler call Jesus a good teacher? (Luke 18:18. He perceived Jesus as one who could teach and explain the law. He is setting himself up to be perceived as good enough.)
2. What does the ruler’s question reveal about himself? (Luke 18:18. His statement, “What must I **do**”, reveals that he is trying to earn his way into heaven by his good works.)
3. How does Jesus’ response reveal a different standard for the definition of good? (Luke 18:19. Jesus said, “Why do you call me good? No one is good—except God alone.” That means that if Jesus is good, it is only because He is God. There is no person that is good. God is the One to compare against.)
4. What did the ruler falsely believe about the five commands of God that Jesus mentioned? (Luke 18:21. He believed that he had kept them all perfectly during his whole life. See also James 2:8-11; 1 John 1:8; Galatians 2:15-16)
5. Did hearing the five commandments make the ruler aware of his sin? (Luke 18:20-21. No, it revealed that he was righteous in his own eyes.)
6. What misunderstanding did Jesus point out to the rich ruler? (Luke 18:22. Jesus told him that he still lacked one thing. By telling the ruler to “Sell everything you have and give it to the poor and follow me,” Jesus was suggesting that the ruler had another “god” that was taking the place of the Lord. In Luke 10:27 Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” See also Romans 3:20)
7. Why did the rich ruler become sad when Jesus told him to sell his possessions? (Luke 18:23. He was a man of great wealth and his possessions on this earth meant more to him than the eternal life that he said he wanted to inherit. Jesus had revealed the real god of the man’s life.)
8. What does Jesus’ answer to the crowd’s question concerning who can be saved mean? (Luke 18:27. It is impossible for man

- to save himself, but it is possible for God to save man. That is why Jesus came and it was for the rich ruler that Jesus died.)
9. Why is it difficult for the rich to enter the kingdom of heaven? (Luke 18:24. It is difficult because of the temptation to worship the god of money or the god of good works. The rich ruler thought he could do enough on his own and was not willing to give up his temporary possessions.)
 10. What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments? (Exodus 20:1. It is God's instructions to mankind. The commandments define sin, they reveal how important it is that Jesus would come to pay for sin and they give direction for how to live.)
 11. What do the first three commandments teach regarding our relationship with God? (Exodus 20:3-11. They define who God is and what it means to worship Him alone.)
 12. What do the second set of seven commandments teach regarding our relationship with others? (Exodus 20:12-17. They define how to interact with other people. Breaking the second set of laws breaks our relationship with other people and through that our relationship with God.)
 13. Who is affected when we obey God's Law? (Exodus 20:3-17. Obeying God's law affects people in their relationship with God and in their relationship with one another. To break the laws breaks those relationships.)
 14. What does it mean to follow these commandments? (It means that God is holy and those He created are made in His image. It means that He desires relationships and defines how that works.)
 15. Who needs to hear the law? Who needs to hear the gospel? (Those that are self-righteous need the Law, those that are broken need the Gospel.)

Discussion Questions:

1. How do we in our lives look for assigned titles or look to take credit from those around us who think we "look good?" (Luke 18:18) [Taking credit for exceeding in something, focusing on receiving the biggest promotions, etc.]
2. What must we understand about "being good?" (Luke 18:19) [No one is good—except God alone. We cannot earn our way into the kingdom of heaven by our good works.]
3. What must we understand about the question of "What must I do?" in our own lives? (Luke 18:27) [In our own strength it is impossible to do anything good because even our best deeds are mixed with selfish motives. By living in the power of the

Holy Spirit, we can live holy and pleasing lives, because He is the one that lives in and through us.]

4. What is often our sinful response to the law when we are confronted with it? (Luke 18:20-21) [Sometimes we try to justify ourselves, claiming that we keep the law in our own strength.]
5. Even when we think we have been keeping the whole law and living a good life according to God's standard, how does Jesus' statement that "there is still one thing we lack" show itself to be true? (Luke 18:22) [We are sinful by nature and regardless of the sins we commit or the good we fail to do, we are still sinful in our hearts.]
6. What should our attitude be when we are convicted by the law? (Luke 18:22) [We should repent, and obey Jesus. We can't do this in our own strength, but He helps us.]
7. How should we respond when Jesus calls us to follow Him? (Luke 18:23) [We should obey Him quickly and gladly.]
8. If following and keeping the law cannot save us, how can we be saved? (Luke 18:27) [With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26]
9. How should the fact that God is the author of His Law affect the way we respond to it? (Exodus 20:1) [Knowing that the Law is from God should make us want to obey it. The Law is not just ordinary words spoken by men, but the very words of the Almighty God.]
10. Why did God give us the Ten Commandments? (Exodus 20:1. The Lord gave them to us for our good, not our punishment. These ten commands teach us God's holy will, drive us to Jesus and show us how to live.)
11. Why would we obey God's Law? (Exodus 20:3-17. First because they are God's commands and he tells us to. Second, because they are the source of a good and healthy life. We are the first ones to suffer by disobeying them.)
12. How do we follow these commandments? (We follow them by fearing and loving God in response to each of the individual commandments.)
13. Have you kept the Ten Commandments? If not, what must you do?

49. The Word as Gospel

John 3:1-21

John 3

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.” ³In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” ⁴“How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!”

⁵Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰“You are Israel's teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹I 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. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

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. ¹⁷For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever 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. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But 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.”

Study Questions: The Word as Gospel

John 3:1-21

Introduction:

The Pharisees were men who studied God's Law. They knew every detail written in the Law and they spent much time memorizing and examining it. They were confident that they were faithful followers of the Law of God, and they assumed that they could obey it perfectly. However, they were so focused on obeying the details of the Law that they missed the good news, Gospel, of Jesus. A Pharisee named Nicodemus came to visit Jesus one evening. Jesus explained to him that God loved the world that he gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. This gift was because they could not keep the Law, so Jesus kept it for us.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand that God made a way for us to receive eternal life by believing in His Son.
- To recognize that earning salvation is nothing that we can or could ever do.

Attitude

- To trust in Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, who perfectly fulfilled the law.
- To rejoice in the hope that we have in Jesus.

Actions

- To love the Lord and other people in response to the love that we have been given.
- To live by faith in the gospel promise of Jesus Christ and not by trying to be saved by obeying the Law.

Memory Verse:

2 Corinthians 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Numbers 21:4-9; Isaiah 61:1; Romans 5:8-9; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11; 15:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Ephesians 2:1-10; Colossians 1:13-14, 2:13-14; Hebrews 10:1-10.

Questions about the Story:

1. What is significant about Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council, coming to Jesus? (John 3:2. Nicodemus came

to Jesus at night and he came alone. He was seeking a private and personal meeting with Jesus, which showed his sincere interest in Jesus. It would have been a great display of humility for a member of the Jewish ruling council to seek an audience with a simple man from Galilee.)

2. What did Nicodemus recognize about Jesus? (John 3:2. Nicodemus realized that Jesus and His teaching came from God. He acknowledged Jesus' miracles and signs as evidence and he recognized Jesus had answers to questions that he did not understand.)
3. How did Jesus redirect the conversation from the topic of miracles and signs to the kingdom of God? (John 3:3. Jesus directed Nicodemus from the miracles and signs to begin seeing the kingdom of God.)
4. Why did Nicodemus' respond with a question about being born again? (John 3:4. He was still looking at things from man's perspective rather than God's. Instead of looking at the topic of the kingdom of heaven, Nicodemus was thinking about how a second birth was possible.)
5. How did Jesus redirect Nicodemus' back to the kingdom of God? (John 3:5-6. Instead of talking about being born a second time, He talked about entering the kingdom of God. Jesus knew that the real issue was Nicodemus' desire for eternal life and not the topics of things on this earth.)
6. What is included in Nicodemus' question, "How can this be?" (John 3:9. Coming from the Pharisees, Nicodemus wants to understand what he must do to gain the kingdom of God. Jesus points him to the work of God rather than the work of man.)
7. Why did Jesus talk about Moses lifting the snake in connection with the Son of Man being lifted up and the way to gain eternal life? (John 3:14-16. Moses and the law was the most familiar topic for the Pharisees and they understood that when people looked at the pole they were healed. That would be the same idea with Jesus. It was by faith in Jesus that they would be saved, not by their work. See Numbers 21:4-9)
8. Why did God send His one and only Son? (John 3:16-17. God sent His Son because He loved the world and wanted to save them, not condemn them.)
9. How are some people condemned, even though God loves them? (John 3:18-19. They have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.)
10. What do these people choose to love instead of God's one and only Son? (John 3:19. They choose to love darkness.)

11. Why does the man who lives by truth come into the light? (John 3:21. He comes into the light so that people can tell that what he has done, has been done through God and not in his own strength.)

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we see the kingdom of God? (John 3:3-6) [We must be born again by the Spirit of God]
2. What does a spiritual rebirth look like? (John 3:5-6) [A change of life; the birthing of the Spirit of God within us; leaving behind our old self and the taking on the new creation that God makes inside us.]
3. How do people respond when they hear the gospel of rebirth and renewal by the Spirit of God? (John 3:4) [Sometimes people respond with skepticism, uncertainty, or disbelief. In our natural self, it is impossible to understand the Gospel. Only by the grace of God and with the help of His Spirit can we understand and accept it.]
4. When can we respond to Jesus' call to be born again? (John 3:6) [When we see our great need for salvation, because of our sin. When we are burdened and broken under the law and come to Jesus in faith for His free gift of salvation.]
5. How can we respond when we realize that the only way to receive eternal life is by believing in the name of God's Son? (John 3:14-16) [We can share this good news with people around us, so that that they can begin to walk in the light instead of in the darkness.]
6. When we understand that God chose to send His one and only Son for us, what do we learn about our importance to Him? (John 3:16) [God showed us that He loves us very much, since He gave all that He could to give us the most important thing that we need.]
7. What is God's desire for mankind? (John 3:17) [God desires, not to condemn the world, but rather to save them.]
8. How can God's great love for mankind affect the way we respond to people who are walking in darkness? (John 3:17-21) [We can bring them to the light of God's truth, because we know that God loves them so much.]
9. What should our attitude be when we receive praise for what we have done? (John 3:21) [We need to realize that it has not been done by our own power, but that it has been done through the power of God through us, so all the glory should go to Him.]

50. Salvation

Acts 16:23-34

Acts 16

²³After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. ²⁷The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

²⁹The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." ³²Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

Study Questions: Salvation

Acts 16:23-34

Introduction:

On their missionary journey, Paul and Silas stopped at many cities proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ for the salvation of all who would believe in Him. Even though many believed, others were angered and upset by the fact that the message of Jesus was for both the Jews and the Gentiles. On one journey, in Philippi, Paul commanded a demon to leave a girl. As a result Paul and Silas were severely beaten and thrown into prison. However, even in prison, Paul and Silas found a way to make the message of Jesus Christ known.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand that there is only one way to be saved, and that is through believing in the Son of God: Jesus Christ.
- To learn that salvation is for everyone, young and old alike.

Attitude

- To find peace and joy in Jesus regardless of the situation.
- To marvel at the way God uses situations.

Actions

- To repent and believe and you will be saved.
- To watch for opportunities to share Jesus with people the Lord brings us into contact with.
- To bring our whole family to the Lord.

Memory Verses:

2 Timothy 1:8-9 “So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Acts 4:12; Romans 10:8-13; Ephesians 2:1-10; 2 Timothy 1:8-9

Questions about the Story:

1. Why were Paul and Silas beaten and thrown into prison? (Acts 16:23. They had been telling people how they could be saved and had cast a demon out of a girl that could foretell the future.)

2. What is interesting about the harsh treatment used against Paul and Silas? (Acts 16:23-24. They were not doing anything that would merit harsh treatment nor were they a threat to anyone that they would need to be guarded.)
3. What do the attitude and response of Paul and Silas say about them? (Acts 16:25. They responded with kindness though they had been treated harshly. They were trusting in God, praying and singing hymns to God in spite of how they had been treated. It showed their confident faith in God and the importance of the message.)
4. What is significant about Paul and Silas' time in prison? (Acts 16:25-26. After being severely flogged they sang songs and prayed to God and the other prisoners were listening to them. There was a violent earthquake, the doors flew open and all of the prisoners' chains came loose, but they stayed in prison!)
5. Why did the jailer decide to kill himself when he was awakened by the earthquake? (Acts 16:27. He thought that the prisoners had escaped and he was accountable for them.)
6. Why did Paul call out to him, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"? (Acts 16:28. He had compassion on the jailer, even though they had been treated so harshly.)
7. Why did the jailer come to Paul and Silas trembling and asking how he could be saved? (Acts 16:29-30. He came face to face with a power that was greater than beatings, chains and even prison itself. He could see that he and his whole family needed what Paul and Silas had.)
8. What does the statement "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" mean? (Acts 16:31. It means to be saved from God's wrath, Romans 5:9, from death, Romans 5:20-21, and from slavery to sin. Romans 6:14, 17-18)
9. What did Paul and Silas then do for the jailer and what did the jailer do for them? (Acts 16:32-33. Paul and Silas spoke the Word of the Lord to him and baptized his whole family. The jailer washed their wounds, took them into his house and set a meal before them.)
10. What gave the jailer great joy? (Acts 16:34. He was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.)

Discussion Questions:

1. How do we see that following Christ in our own lives is not always easy, and often may be difficult or painful? (Acts

- 16:23-24) [When we follow Christ, sometimes we experience mockery, persecution, pain and suffering.]
2. What possible responses are before us when we are faced with pain, suffering, and hardships? (Acts 16:25) [We can respond in anger, bitterness and revenge, or we can show what faith in God looks like to a watching world. We can turn to the Lord in prayer, since we know that He is in control and we can continue to praise and glorify Him in every situation.]
 3. How can we, like Paul and Silas, witness for Jesus Christ wherever we are? (Acts 16:25) [In any circumstance, we can point the people around us to Jesus by our words and actions. These both are part of our testimony.]
 4. What is life like for people who are not following Jesus as their Lord and Savior? (Acts 16:27) [There is fear. Life may not seem worth living and as a result, it may seem easier to die than to face life.]
 5. What can we offer people who are lost, hopeless, and confused in their thinking? (Acts 16:28) [We can reach out to them in love, warn them of the danger they are in and share with them the hope that surpasses the trials. Romans 3:20-24]
 6. Why is it important to be prepared to share the message of salvation with people who are spiritually lost? (Acts 16:29-30) [At times, people who are lost will come to a Christian in fear and trembling, asking how to be saved. We must be prepared to help them cry out to the Lord to save them.]
 7. Where should a Christian direct an unbeliever in order to be saved? (Acts 16:31) [We must direct them to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and call on His name for salvation. Romans 10:8-13; Ephesians 2:1-10]
 8. What else is required to bring salvation to an unbeliever, as illustrated in this story? (Acts 16:32-33) [Speaking the Word of God and offering them new life. They were baptized into their new faith was immediate. Titus 3:3-7]
 9. What do we learn from this story about who can be saved? (Acts 16:34) [We learn that salvation is for all who believe. It can be for young or old, individuals or for a family. It is for all people. 1 Timothy 2:3-4; Mark 16:15-16]
 10. What does salvation by faith in Jesus Christ bring to the person who receives it? (Acts 16:34) [Salvation in Jesus Christ brings great joy to the person whose life has been changed.]

51. Baptism

Acts 2:22-41

Acts 2

²²“Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.

²⁶Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will live in hope,

²⁷because you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

²⁹“Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. ³²God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. ³³Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand
³⁵until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”’

³⁶“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸Peter 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. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Study Questions: Baptism

Acts 2:22-41

Introduction:

After Jesus had risen from the dead and had spent 40 days with His disciples, He ascended into heaven with the promise that He was sending the Holy Spirit to them. After spending time in Jerusalem waiting, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in tongues of fire and they spoke with boldness the good news of Jesus. The Holy Spirit was going before the disciples in a new way, not just being with them but also now dwelling in them. At this time, there were many people gathered from across the nations. Peter stood in front of a large crowd of people and explained to them who Jesus Christ is, and how to be saved.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand the promise and provision of baptism.
- To acknowledge that we are raised to new life through baptism.

Attitude

- To gladly welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives.
- To be convicted by our sin.

Actions

- To preach the good news of Jesus Christ people around us, teaching them and baptizing them.
- To obey Jesus wholeheartedly and live by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us.

Memory Verses:

Galatians 3:26-27 “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

1 Peter 3:21 “And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Ezekiel 36:24-26 (Note reference to sprinkling); Matthew 18:1-4; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27; Colossians 2:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Peter 3:21

Questions about the Story:

1. What was Peter trying to point out about Jesus? (Acts 2:22-24. Peter was pointing out that they had killed Jesus and that they were as guilty of His death as the ones that had nailed Him to the cross. Even still, God raised Him from the dead, for it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Jesus.)
2. Why is it important for the crowd to see their connection with Jesus' death? (Acts 2:23. It was essential for them to see their own sin and guilt or they would not see their need for new life.)
3. Why did Peter bring up King David's quote from Psalm 16? (Acts 2:25-28. David was prophesying about his Lord and the promised life beyond the grave. Though David died and was abandoned to the grave. The promised Holy One would be raised to life. He would be the path of life and would not be abandoned to the grave.)
4. How can Peter make such bold statements about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to the grave, His body did not see decay and that God raised Jesus to life? (Acts 2:31-32. The crucifixion and resurrection had only taken place 50 days earlier and these people were truly witnesses of it all.)
5. What is the point of restating that the people of Israel crucified Jesus, but God made him Lord and Christ? (Acts 2:36. It pointed out the people's sin and their need for forgiveness.)
6. What is the reaction to the presentation of Peter's message? (Acts 2:37. The people were convicted of their sin and had a response of wanting to know more.)
7. What is the evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in their life? (Acts 2:37. They were cut to the heart and asked what they must do.)
8. Why did Peter tell them to repent and be baptized? (Acts 2:38. So they could be forgiven of their sin and so they could receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. See also Acts 22:16)
9. In what way did Peter say the people should be baptized? (Acts 2:38. In the name of Jesus Christ. See also Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:16)
10. Who did Peter say this promise was for? (Acts 2:39. He said it was for every one of them, including children and those that were far off, because it was a promise for all whom the Lord God would call. See also Acts 16:33; Matthew 18:1-6; 19:13-15; Colossians 2:11-12 parallel with circumcision)

11. What was the result of Peter's message? (Acts 2:40-41. Three thousand people accepted his message. They were baptized, added to their number and were saved.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Who killed Jesus? Was it the crowd that Peter challenged, was it those who nailed Him to the cross, or are we responsible since He died for our sins?
2. Why is it important that we see our own sin? (Acts 2:22-24) [Every person must see their sin before they will see or understand their need for a Savior.]
3. What difference does Jesus' resurrection from the dead make for us? (Acts 2:24, 31-32) [The resurrection is the fulfillment of prophecy, the evidence of God's power and hope for the future. In life... we die, but in baptism... we are raised to new life in Christ.]
4. How can we be certain that the message we preach is true? (Acts 2:32) [There were many witnesses in Bible times that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and is alive now.]
5. We know that God was able to raise Jesus from the dead and make Him both Lord and Christ. What does this tell us about His power to save us? (Acts 2:32, 36) [God is able to make us new creations in Jesus Christ. He claims us as His own and gives us eternal life.]
6. How should we instruct people who are under conviction for their sins? (Acts 2:38) [We should invite them to repent of their sins, be united with Christ and to be baptized.]
7. Who should we forbid from repentance and being united with Christ? (Acts 2:38) [No one, this gift is for everyone, both young and old and all whom the Lord would call.]
8. When we baptize people in the name of Jesus Christ, what happens to them? (Acts 2:38) [They are united with Him in death, and they are raised with Him in life. They receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. See also 1 Peter 3:21; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4]
9. How should we baptize people? [The Bible uses many modes in which water was used. In the water along the way, Acts 8:36-38; plenty of water, John 3:23; sprinkling with water, Ezekiel 36:25; with the water at hand, Acts 16:33]
10. How is our generation corrupt and how can we be saved from it? (Acts 2:39) [Our generation, like Peter's, has done the same thing to Jesus as before. We also must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness.]

52. Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:20-30

1 Corinthians 11

²⁰When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. ²²Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!

²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

Study Questions: Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:20-30

Introduction:

On the night that He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, and this meal parallels the Passover meal in Egypt when the blood of the lamb was put on the door to save the first born from the angel of death. When believers take communion, they partake of the real presence of the body and blood of Christ and they are saved from the death of sin. Jesus told His disciples to practice this sacrament in remembrance of Him. This instruction from Jesus was not only for the disciples, but also for the spiritual nourishment of believers today. This sacrament is different than the sacrament of baptism in that we are urged to examine ourselves before partaking in it. This is so that we will realize the sin of our own lives and think seriously about the price that was paid for our forgiveness, even though we are unworthy. The blood that Jesus shed for us is what makes us acceptable to God.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and its role in the believer's life.
- To remember the parallel meal and sacrifice that was offered at Passover in Egypt to save the firstborn children.

Attitude

- To believe that Jesus Christ is Himself present with us, as we take the bread and wine.
- To strengthen, renew, and restore us as we remember the price He paid for our sins when He died on the cross.
-

Actions

- To celebrate the Lord's Supper with other believers remembering what Christ has done for us.

Memory Verses:

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 "The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 10:16 “Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:19-23; John 6:53-58;
1 Corinthians 10:14-17

Questions about the Story:

1. What was Paul’s main concern for the believers in Corinth as they took the Lord’s Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:21. They were not showing respect to this holy meal that the Lord had instituted. They were indulging in the food as if it were just food and they did not give consideration to the others.)
2. When did the Lord Jesus establish the Lord’s Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:23. On the night in which He was betrayed, which was his Passover celebration on the night before His crucifixion.)
3. What are the physical elements of the Lord’s Supper that Jesus used? (1 Corinthians 11:23, 25. Bread and Wine [The Cup].)
4. Why did Jesus say, “This is my body” as He broke the bread? (1 Corinthians 11:24. The bread was not only bread, but it was His body because of His word.)
5. Why did Jesus say, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood.” as He took the cup? (1 Corinthians 11:25. The old covenant of animal blood sacrifices was now fulfilled in the perfect sacrifice of Jesus once and for all. See also Hebrews 9:18-28)
6. What does He mean by saying, “Do this in remembrance of me?” (1 Corinthians 11:24-25. The instruction is to remember the sacrifice made and the price paid for our sin.)
7. Who did Christ say was to receive both His body and blood? (1 Corinthians 11:24-25. “You,” which is first directed to the disciples who were with Him, and then all believers who would follow Him. Matthew 26:27-28)
8. Until Christ’s return, how do believers proclaim the Lord’s death when they eat of the bread and drink of the cup? (1 Corinthians 11:26. They remember what Jesus did and the forgiveness that is ours.)
9. What are the dangers when believers partake of the Lord’s Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:27. They can take it in an unworthy manner. They can sin by dishonoring the body and blood of

the Lord. They can eat and drink judgment on themselves.
1 Corinthians 10:21)

10. What does it mean to not recognize the body of Christ?
(1 Corinthians 11:29. It means to take the bread and wine casually, not considering our partnership with Him.
1 Corinthians 10:15-16)
11. What must a person do before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup? (1 Corinthians 11:28. He must examine himself and ask forgiveness for his sin. Psalm 139:23-24)
12. What is the parallel between the Passover meal and this Lord's Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:26-29. In the Passover meal the sacrifice is what saved the first born from the death angel, so also in this meal it is the sacrifice of Jesus that saves us from the death of sin. See also 1 Peter 2:24)

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we show respect when we take the Lord's Supper?
(1 Corinthians 11:21) [We can take the Lord's Supper with a holy reverence for the gift given, the sacrifice made and the price paid for our sins.]
2. What is important about the timing Jesus chose when He established the Lord's Supper on the night of His betrayal?
(1 Corinthians 11:23) [By teaching it on the night He was betrayed, Jesus showed us the extent of His forgiveness. Even to the very one who would turn against Him.]
3. What value do the bread and wine have for us as believers?
(1 Corinthians 11:23-25) [They are physical elements that remind us in a tangible way that the Lord Jesus died for our sins. The Lord's Supper unites the believer with food and drink to Christ Himself.]
4. Why do we as followers of Christ believe that the bread and wine are in fact the body and blood of Jesus? (1 Corinthians 11:23-25) [We as followers believe this because Christ plainly stated: "This is my body," and "This is my blood." So we take Christ at His Word.]
5. How often are we supposed to celebrate the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Jesus? (1 Corinthians 11:23-25) [We should not take the Lord's Supper only once, but rather we should do this frequently to help us remember what Christ did for us.]
6. Why is it important for older believers to instruct younger believers about what the Lord's Supper truly is?
(1 Corinthians 11:27) [It is very important to carefully teach

- younger believers, because taking the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner is sin and brings judgment.]
7. What does it mean to examine oneself? (1 Corinthians 11:28) [When a believer examines himself before taking communion, he realizes that he is a sinner and desperately needs the forgiveness through the body and blood of Jesus for renewal, restoration, and unity with Christ.]
 8. Who should participate in the Lord's Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:23-29) [The celebration of the Lord's Supper is for every believer who has rightly examined himself. The practice is reserved for those who can fully understand their sin and who can truly examine themselves.]
 9. What should be served in the Lord's Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:23-25; See also Matthew 26:26-29) [Just as Christ instituted the Lord's Supper using bread and the cup of the fruit of the vine, so believers should celebrate this sacrament using such elements in the practice of the sacrament.]
 10. What manner of style or practices do people use today?

Promises of Forgiveness:

Isaiah 1:18	Isaiah 53:5	1 John 1:8-9
Psalms 103:11-12	Ephesians 1:7	Psalms 32:1-2
Psalms 130:3-4	Romans 8:1	

53. Ascension and The Second Coming

Acts 1:3-12 & Matthew 24:27-44

Acts 1

³After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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.”

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.

Matthew 24

²⁷For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

²⁹“Immediately after the distress of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”

³⁰“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. ³¹And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

³²Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ³³Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁴I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁶No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴²Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Study Questions: Ascension and The Second Coming

Acts 1:3-12 & Matthew 24:27-44

Introduction:

Jesus lived on earth for 33 years. After He rose from the dead, He stayed for 40 more days. During this time He showed His resurrected body to over 500 people. He promised His disciples that He would return again, but He did not give the exact time or date when this would be. Jesus also promised that when He returned to the Father, He would send the Holy Spirit to guide, comfort and assist his disciples as they followed Him. He told them not to lose heart at His departure. Then He ascended (went up) to His Father in Heaven. Some angels of God were there, and they promised the disciples that Jesus would return in the same way that He left. We can live with expectation because we know that Jesus will come again.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To know that Jesus is alive and has authority on heaven and earth.
- To realize that the Father has set the times and dates for Jesus' return.
- To remember that our days here on earth are numbered and that Christ will be returning to take us to heaven.

Attitude

- To have hope, knowing that our Lord and Savior Jesus will be returning to take His followers to be with Him.
- To be expectant of the Lord's return at any time.

Actions

- To be witnesses in the power of the Holy Spirit for Jesus globally until He returns.
- To be ready and watchful, taking care of the Father's house.

Memory Verses:

Matthew 24:27 "For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."

John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Luke 21:12-19; John 6:39-40; 14:1-42; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 19:11-16

Questions about the Story:

1. What was the purpose of Jesus staying around for 40 days after His resurrection? (Acts 1:3. He showed Himself to His disciples, gave many convincing proofs that He was alive and He told them about the Kingdom of God.)
2. What is significant about the gift the Father promised to the disciples after Christ's return to heaven? (Acts 1:4-5. It was the gift of the Holy Spirit, it was a gift of power and it allowed them to be witnesses to the ends of the earth.)
3. What can be learned about the timing of the kingdom coming to Israel? (Acts 1:7. It was not for the disciples to know the time that the Father has set by His authority. Jesus return caused His disciples to keep watch and always be ready.)
4. What responsibility was Jesus giving to His disciples when He returned to the Father? (Acts 1:8. He trusted them to be His witnesses and to spread the Word about Him to all peoples.)
5. How was Jesus' departure unique? (Acts 1:9-11. He was taken up before their very eyes until a cloud hid Him from their sight. Two angels came and spoke to them about Jesus, His destination of heaven and His return from heaven.)
6. How does Matthew 24 describe Christ's 'Second Coming'? (Matthew 24:27. It will be very visible. It will be seen everywhere, just as lightning from the east is seen in the west.)
7. What will the return of Christ Jesus from heaven be like? (Matthew 24:30. He will return coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory and all of the nations will see Him and they will mourn.)
8. What will happen when Christ appears? (Matthew 24:31. He will send His angels to gather His chosen people from the ends of the earth. Resurrection from the dead, John 6:39-40; rapture, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; judgment, John 5:28-29)
9. What is known about the day in which Christ will return back to earth? (Matthew 24:36. No one knows about the day or hour, not even the angels nor the Son, but only the Father. It will be obvious that the time is near; yet it will be a great surprise. It will be unexpected.)
10. What will the spiritual condition of the people in world be when Christ returns? (Matthew 24:38-39. They will be living their normal lives and will know nothing of what is happening.)
11. How are we to prepare for the coming of the Lord? (Matthew 24:42-44. We are to keep watch and be ready, for we do not know the day or the hour of Christ's return.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Do the proofs of Jesus' resurrection offer us any encouragement today? (Acts 1:3) [The resurrection of Jesus is still questioned today. The testimonies or proofs of those who saw Jesus can give believers confidence that their faith is based on reality.]
2. How does Jesus' return to heaven affect our lives as believers today? (Acts 1:4-5) [As a result of Christ's return to heaven, the promised Holy Spirit now lives within believers and leads us toward Jesus. Romans 8:34 says that He is also interceding for us.]
3. What should we remember about God's timing in the events of our lives? (Acts 1:7; Matthew 24:36) [God's timing is often not what we expect or even desire. He is the Sovereign Lord and it is for Him alone to know the details of what is yet to come. We are to trust Him.]
4. What are we to be doing while we wait for Christ's return? (Acts 1:8) [We are to be witnesses to the ends of the earth that He is alive and that He is returning again.]
5. We know that Christ ascended to heaven and promised to come back and take us to be where He is. What does this tell us about our future dwelling? (Acts 1:11) [As followers of Christ, our future dwelling will be forever with Him in heaven.]
6. It has been about 2000 years since Jesus went into heaven. How can we know when or if he will return? (Matthew 24:30-33) [We can know that Jesus will return because He said He would and the signs of his return will be obvious like the fig tree budding.]
7. Do we need to worry about whether we will get a glimpse of Christ when He returns or worry that we might miss Him? (Matthew 24:27) [No. We need not worry about missing Christ's return, because at that time He will be visible everywhere, just like lightning in the east can be seen in the west.]
8. How will we know if Christ will gather us unto Himself or whom He will gather? (Matthew 24:31) [He will send His angels to gather the elect, or people chosen by God, to Himself. So, if we are obeying the truth, our election is sure, and we can be confident that we will be with Christ when He gathers His own.]
9. How can we be ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ? How can we keep watch for His return? (Matthew 24:42-44;

See also 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11) [The return of the Lord will be like a thief in the night, at an hour when it is not expected. We are ready for His return when we are looking for Him, trusting in Him and living for Him. 2 Peter 3:10-13]

10. What will the end of the world be like? [(1) Distress in the world – Matthew 24:6-8, (2) Persecution of Christians – Matthew 24:9-14; Luke 21:12-19, (3) False Prophets – Matthew 24:23-26, (4) The return of Christ – Matthew 24:27, 29-31; Luke 17:26-30; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 5:1-11.]

54. Judgment

Luke 16:19-31

Luke 16

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²²“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

²⁵“But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

²⁷“He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, ²⁸for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

²⁹“Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

³⁰“No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

³¹“He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'”

Study Questions: Judgment

Luke 16:19-31

Introduction:

Jesus told many parables to the people of Israel to teach them about spiritual things. He often taught about heaven and hell and the coming judgment. This subject is important because, just as each and every one of us will die physically, each and every one of us will also live forever spiritually. What we choose to do during our life on earth determines where we spend our spiritual life for eternity.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To recognize that our souls are eternal and that a day of judgment will come.
- To be reminded that every person will live forever in either heaven or hell.

Attitude

- To believe that there is a heaven and hell.
- To consider the seriousness our eternal fate.

Actions

- To carefully consider our faith in Jesus and the future impact of a life of belief or unbelief.
- To urgently warn people around us who are perishing.

Memory Verse:

Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; 22:2-14; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 9:27.
Revelation 20:12-15; 21:1-8

Questions about the Story:

1. What does the earthly life of the rich man and Lazarus show about their spiritual life? (Luke 16:19-21. The rich man’s wealth, food and fine clothes shows a man with abundance physically but with little or no concern about the beggar at his own gate. The rich man’s lack of care for Lazarus shows that he did not see his acknowledgement of God or his accountability before God.)

2. After the rich man and Lazarus both die, what do they face in eternity? (Luke 16:22-25. The rich man who lived for himself faced the torment of hell and fire. Lazarus was by Abraham's side in a peaceful place and was comforted.)
3. What do the rich man's list of requests to Abraham show? (Luke 16:24-30. He is in agony. He can only ask for pity because he is getting what he deserves. He is now the beggar, asking Abraham for help.)
4. What else does the rich man's conversation with Abraham show? (Luke 16:24-31. The rich man regretted his life style of self-indulgence. He wished for even a small amount of relief. He finally had a concern for others, namely his brothers, yet he still considers Lazarus under his own authority. He admits that he did not listen to Moses and the Prophets. He tries to say that a warning from someone who died would have been convincing. He sees that he and his brothers needed to repent.)
5. What about Lazarus and his condition? (Luke 16:23. Lazarus was in a peaceful place next to Abraham and far away from torment.)
6. What did Abraham explain about crossing from where he was to hell? (Luke 16:26. Abraham said that there is a great chasm (a deep, steep valley) that cannot be crossed from either place.)
7. What does Abraham's statement "If they don't listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead" mean? (Luke 16:29, 31. It shows how hard their hearts were. It shows that they would not listen to anything that God would say or do.)
8. What is it about Jesus telling this parable that makes it seem that much more true to life? (Luke 16:31. Jesus himself did rise from the dead and yet people continue to not believe in him.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Does having more material possessions, wealth, and health in this life give us a "better place" in the world to come? (Luke 16:19-23) [No, you can be the wealthiest person alive and be very spiritually dead. The question for us centers on how we live our lives toward others, toward Moses and the Prophets, in repentance and toward the one that rose from the dead.]
2. What happens to a person before he faces judgment and the life to come? (Luke 16:22) [A physical death leads to the eternal spiritual dwelling.]

3. Why would you not want to spend eternity in hell? (Luke 16:23-24) [The torment and agony of living in unending fire shows the horror of that place, but even more horrific is the separation from God.]
4. In the parable, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham and called to him. Where should we look and whom should we call on now while we are still able? (Luke 16:23) [As long as we are alive on this earth we can still call on the Lord God for mercy. He will hear our prayers and will comfort us in our agony. He will teach us His Word and will respond when we repent.]
5. What do we learn from this text about heaven? (Luke 16:23) [Heaven is a place at the side of other believers and a place removed from the pain and torment that others are forever experiencing in hell.]
6. What do we learn about a person's ability to go back and forth between heaven and hell? (Luke 16:26) [Even if a person wanted to cross from one to the other, it would be impossible because of a great chasm between them that cannot be crossed.]
7. When can a person make a decision about whether or not he will spend eternity in heaven or hell? (Luke 16:27-31) [We can only make this decision while we are living here on earth.]
8. For those of us on earth, what is it that we need to be listening to for the warning of what is to come after death? (Luke 16:29, 31) [Moses and the prophets, those who are proclaiming the Word of God.]
9. What responsibility do we have to share the message of the Gospel with unbelievers? (Luke 16:29, 31) [We need to urgently share the message that we have received with other people, before they die and no longer have a chance to be saved.]
10. What is "The Judgment"?
 [Revelation 20:11-15 describes a great white throne judgment;
 Revelation 14:14-20 describes the gathering of the people;
 For the wicked:
 Romans 2:5-11 talks about God's wrath
 Revelation 16:1-11 describes the bowls of God's wrath
 For the righteous:
 Romans 5:8-9 describes how we are saved from God's wrath
 Revelation 21:1-8 describes our future home of heaven
 1 Peter 1:3-5 talks about our inheritance as believers

55. Angels

Acts 12:1-19

Acts 12

¹It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ²He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. ³When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. ⁴After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

⁵So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

⁶The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. ⁷Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

⁸Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. ⁹Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

¹¹Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating."

¹²When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. ¹³Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. ¹⁴When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

¹⁵"You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

¹⁶But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. ¹⁷Peter motioned with his hand for them to

be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. “Tell James and the brothers about this,” he said, and then he left for another place.

¹⁸In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. ¹⁹After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.

Study Questions: Angels

Acts 12:1-19

Introduction:

Just as God created people, He also created other beings that we call angels. Angels are spiritual beings who serve as messengers of God. They were created for the purpose of praising the Lord God Almighty and doing His will. Angels are perfect beings who are eternal and have the freedom to choose to follow God. Unfortunately, one third of the angels decided to rebel against God and follow Satan (the Devil) instead. By doing this, they lost their place in heaven and were cast down to earth. These fallen angels are now known as demons. Instead of praising the Lord God Almighty like they did in heaven, they spend their energy tempting people to sin and give their allegiance to Satan (the Devil). Since these demons rebelled against the Lord, He has promised their destruction in the end. By this we see that they are still subject to the sovereign authority of the Lord God as they await their final judgment.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand that angelic beings are eternal spiritual messengers created by God.
- To know that they have a place in our lives as ministering spirits.
- To acknowledge the reality of the spiritual realm and the demonic forces that wage war against the soul.

Attitude

- To have confidence in the power of God and His Word against the spiritual forces and principalities that fight against us.
- To be encouraged that the angelic force of God is protecting us.

Actions

- To be bold as children of God, knowing we serve the Sovereign Lord and Ruler of all. Be strong in the One who is in control of all things, not afraid of these beings that we cannot see.

Memory Verses:

Ephesians 6:10-13 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers

of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Isaiah 14:11-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Mark 5:1-15; Ephesians 6:10-18; Hebrews 1:5-14; Revelation 12:7-9; 22:8-9

Questions about the Story:

1. What was physically happening at the time of Peter’s arrest? (Acts 12:1-4. Herod was arresting members of the church and was persecuting them. He had James put to death and then arrested Peter also. Herod was being persuaded by the Jews who also wanted to see harm done to the church.)
2. How was Peter guarded by man’s strength after his arrest? (Acts 12:4, 6-10. He was in prison, guarded by a total of 16 soldiers, four squads of four soldiers each. He was chained to two of them and two guarded the cell. There were two more sets of guards that he passed plus an iron gate.)
3. What else was taking place at the time Herod wanted Peter to be put on public trial? (Acts 12:3-5. The Feast of Unleavened Bread and Passover were taking place. The Jews wanted to stop the early Church and the Church was earnestly praying for Peter.)
4. How does a small group of praying people have any hope of releasing someone from a heavily guarded prison? (Acts 12:5, 12. They were praying to God; the power of prayer.)
5. What was spiritually happening during the time of Peter’s arrest? (Acts 12:7. The forces of evil, namely Herod, the Jews and the soldiers; were battling the forces of good, namely the praying church, the Lord and His angel.)
6. Describe the angel and what the angel caused to happen. (Acts 12:7-10. The angel of the Lord just appeared and a light shone in the cell. The angel caused the chains on Peter’s hands to fall off; he kept the guards from noticing as Peter followed him out; he opened the iron gate without touching it.)
7. What was Peter thinking as he followed the angel out? (Acts 12:9. He thought he was seeing a vision. He had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening.)
8. What happened after Peter and the angel had walked the length of one street? (Acts 12:10. The angel left Peter, he

came to himself and realized that the Lord had rescued him from Herod and from the Jews.)

9. Who does Peter say was the One who sent the angel to rescue him? (Acts 12:11. He said it was the Lord who did this.)
10. What was the response the next morning? (Acts 12:18-19. There was a large commotion among the soldiers, trying to figure out what happened to Peter. Herod couldn't find him; he ordered the guards to be executed.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the effect of a church that is earnestly praying to God for their fellow believers? (Acts 12:5, 12) [When Christians are devoted to prayer, God responds according to His will on behalf of those who love Him.]
2. What kind of physical things can hinder the work of Lord and the angelic messengers in our lives? (Acts 12:6-7) [The Lord and His angelic messengers are spirits. They are not hindered by physical boundaries or obstructions.]
3. How quickly is God able to send angels to help us in our time of need? (Acts 12:7) [Angels are able to appear suddenly and unexpectedly, so they can come to the aid of believers at a moment's notice.]
4. What power do angels have over the physical realm? (Acts 12:7-10) [They can cause blindness and they can go right through blockades at will.]
5. What battles do we face in the spiritual realms that have a physical dimension? [There are many things that imprison us and hold us captive: situations, people, physical obstacles.]
6. What is often our response when God chooses work in our lives? (Acts 12:9) [Our response is often surreal, concluding that the action could only have been accomplished and done by God alone and not by our own action or will.]
7. Why does the Lord send angels to us? (Acts 12:11) [To rescue us and to bring us His message.]
8. Why are believers astonished when they receive the very thing they pray for? (Acts 12:16) [Believers doubt.]
9. What is the response of unbelievers to the things angels do? (Acts 12:18-19) [They cannot explain what happened.]

Scripture on Angels: Genesis 19:13; Psalm 148:2-5; Matthew 1:20; Colossians 1:16, 2:18; Hebrews 1:3-4, 6, 14; Revelation 22:8

Scripture on Demons: Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:20; Luke 10:17; Ephesians 6:12; Philippians 2:8-11; 1 Timothy 4:1; James 2:19; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6

56. Satan

Job 1:1-22

Job 1

¹ In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. ² He had seven sons and three daughters, ³ and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

⁴ His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

⁶ One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

⁹ "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. ¹⁰ "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

¹² The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

¹³ One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said:

“Naked I came from my mother's womb,
and naked I will depart.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;
may the name of the LORD be praised.”

²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Study Questions: Satan

Job 1:1-22

Introduction:

Satan has no greater pleasure than to accuse those who are seeking the Lord's face. He is the great deceiver and the Father of lies. He is determined to deceive and destroy those who are following the Lord. Job is an example of a man who Satan tried to destroy. Job was a righteous man who loved God and obeyed His laws, but Satan accused Job of being righteous because of God's protection and blessing. God gave Satan permission to take away everything that Job owned to see if he would forsake God. Job was a very wealthy man, but in a single day Satan destroyed everything Job owned and killed all of his children.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To recognize the devil's schemes against us.
- To understand Satan's limitations and submission to God.

Attitude

- To believe that Satan is a real spiritual being and a force for sin and temptation in the life of every believer.
- To trust God's protection from Satan and his lies.

Actions

- To resist the devil in all of his works and all of his ways
- To look to Jesus for the victory over Satan.

Memory Verses:

1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-17; John 10:10; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Revelation 12:7-12

Questions about the Story:

1. Why is Job's character described as so great? (Job 1:1, 5. His fear of God and resistance of evil was the beginning of what made him great. His sacrifices to God showed his true priority.)
2. What made Job the greatest man among all the people of the East? (Job 1:2-3. Job had a large family and much livestock,

but the faith and honor that Job had for God is what truly made him great.)

3. What does Job's custom of offering sacrifices for his children show? (Job 1:4-5. The Lord took first place in his life. He knew that the sin of their hearts could separate them from God.)
4. What does the dialog between the Lord and Satan show? (Job 1:7-12. Satan must appear before the Lord. He must answer to the Lord. He can only go as far as he is given permission to go. His domain is the earth.)
5. Why does the Lord ask Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?" (Job 1:8. God knows that Job is a man of faith and that his righteousness is one that comes from a respect or fear of God.)
6. What is the difference between a righteousness that comes from blessing, wealth and protection versus one that comes from faith and fear of God? (Job 1:9-11. A righteousness that comes from blessing, wealth or protection is a self-centered righteousness that cares first about self. One that comes from faith and respect of God is centered on the Lord alone.)
7. What does the challenge that Satan gave to God show? (Job 1:11. It shows two views toward God. The first view is "if we do good things then we will be blessed by God." The second is we only believe and trust in God when He gives us good things, blesses and protects us.)
8. Why did God give everything over to Satan's control? (Job 1:12. The Lord gave everything of Job's over to Satan to show that true righteousness is by faith alone and is not based on blessing or our actions.)
9. What did Satan take away from Job? (Job 1:13-19. He took away Job's oxen, donkeys, sheep, servants, camels, and children.)
10. What was Job's response to the massive loss that he suffered? (Job 1:20. Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. He then fell down to the ground in worship.)
11. How could Job praise the Lord after losing everything that he had? (Job 1:21. He knew that he came into the world with nothing and will leave with nothing. Everything is the Lord's and not ours to hoard or to own.
12. What was Job's attitude in his response? (Job 1:22. Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.)

Discussion Questions:

1. If someone were to look at your life as a Christian, how would they describe you? Blameless? Upright? Fearing God? Shunning evil? (Job 1:1) [Personal response.]
2. As Christians, what should be our response toward sin? (Job 1:4-5) [Even at the hint of sin we should make amends and examine ourselves.]
3. What do we learn about Satan by the fact that he is able to appear before God and leave His presence? (Job 1:6, 12) [He is a spiritual being, capable of going up to heaven. He works in realms that we are not capable of seeing or imagining.]
4. What do we learn about where Satan works? (Job 1:7) [He is roaming the earth, going back and forth in it.]
5. What do we learn about Satan from his knowledge of Job when he spoke of him before God? (Job 1:9-10) [Satan knows our status, both how we are doing physically and what kind of relationship we have with God.]
6. What ways do people look to God as a source of blessing, wealth and protection today? (Job 1:9-11) [There are many health, wealth and prosperity teachings today. It is, in a sense, trying to control God much as Satan was.]
7. As Christians, are we to fear Satan? Why or Why not? (Job 1:9-10) [No, we are to fear God. Satan must answer to God and can only do as much as He allows. The Lord can also protect us from Satan and bless us in many ways.]
8. What is Satan's desire for the believer's life? (Job 1:11) [Satan accuses us before God and wants us to forsake God, curse Him and turn away from Him.]
9. How can we look to God, in faith, in the midst of incredible trials? [Satan does not have the final say in our lives. The Lord is still on the throne and He is still in control of our lives. We came into the world with nothing and we will leave with nothing, but from the beginning to the end, He is praised.]
10. What kind of power do we recognize that Satan has? (Job 1:12) [Satan has only as much power as God allows him.]
11. As Christians, what needs to be our reaction when Satan attacks us? (Job 1:21) [We need to turn to God for our security and help. Whether the Lord gives or takes away, we need to praise the name of the Lord.]
12. What is the important thing for a believer to remember about God and the possibility of Him doing wrong? (Job 1:22) [God is not the one who causes the wrongdoing but merely the one who permits it for the sake of His greater will and purpose.]