

*COMBINED
SIMPLIFIED
NARRATIVES*

Preschool Sunday School Lessons #1-50

Lesson 1 – God Creates the World

Do you know what this is? (Hold up a Bible). Yes, it is God’s Word! We call it a Bible. This book has everything in it that God wants us to know. Today we will learn the very first thing that God tells us.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1 KJV). That means that God made everything there is!

The Bible tells us that before God made the world, there was darkness, but God was there. God wanted to fill the darkness with light and life. God said ‘Let there be light!’ and there was light. God saw that the light was good.

Next, God made water and sky, and he saw that those were good too. After that, God made dry land. The earth now had sky, water and land, ready for God to fill them. First, God made plants to grow on the land. God saw that the plants were good.

Then God made the sun, moon, and stars to fill the dark sky. Do you think they were bad? No! God saw that they were good too!

God made fish to fill the water and birds to fill the sky. God saw that they were good also.

Then he made all the kinds of animals to fill the land, and he saw that they were good. Now the world was ready for the best thing God would make—people!

God made a man and a woman named Adam and Eve. God planted a beautiful garden for them to live in and told them to care for it. God saw everything that he had made and that it was very good. Then God rested and enjoyed what he had made.

Lesson 2 – Adam and Eve Sin

Last time we learned that God made everything. Do you remember what God said about what he had made? Yes, it was good!

God had made a garden for the first people, Adam and Eve, to live in. Life in God's garden was perfect. They never got sick, and nothing died. Best of all, every evening God would come and talk with Adam and Eve.

But one day, all this changed.

There was a tree in the garden whose fruit was not good for Adam and Eve to eat. God had told them not to eat from it.

There was also a tricky snake in the garden. The snake did not love God, and he wanted to hurt Adam and Eve. He told them that the fruit from the tree was good and that God was wrong when he said it would hurt them.

Adam and Eve decided to listen to what the snake said instead of listening to God. They disobeyed God and ate the fruit that God had told them not to eat.

As soon as they ate it, they knew they had done wrong. When God came to talk with them that evening, instead of going to talk to him, they hid. Because they had disobeyed, they had to leave God's good garden. They could not walk and talk with God each evening like they used to. Their friendship with God was broken.

Now Adam would have to work hard to grow food. Now Eve would have a hard time having a family. Now they would not live forever. Someday they would die. Life in God's world was not perfect anymore.

But God made a special promise to Adam and Eve. He promised to one day send a special person who would kill the snake and make God's world perfect again. This person is Jesus!

Lesson 3 – God Protects Noah and His Family

Last time we learned that Adam and Eve had to leave God’s garden because they ate the fruit that God had told them was not good for them. After they left the garden, Adam and Eve had many children, who had children, who had children, until there were many people on the earth.

These people did not follow God. They didn’t love God or each other, so the earth became full of fighting. God saw that his world was being ruined, and he was sorry he had made people. He decided to cover the world with a big flood and start over.

But Noah still loved and trusted God. So, God told Noah to build a very big boat, big enough for his family and some of every kind of animal to live in. God told Noah that he would keep his family and the animals safe in the boat during the flood.

Noah believed what God said. He worked hard for many years to build the boat. When the boat was finished, Noah brought two of every kind of animal into the boat. His family came on the boat too. Then God closed the door.

It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. The water covered the whole earth higher than the tops of the mountains. Every living thing – all the animals, all the plants, and all the people – died, except Noah and his family and the animals with them. God kept them safe in the big boat, just like he promised that he would.

Lesson 4 – A Reminder of God’s Promise

Last time, we learned about a man named Noah who built a big boat. Does anyone remember why he built the boat? God was sending a flood because the people on earth had become so bad, but God promised to keep Noah and his family safe in the boat.

Do you remember what else was with Noah and his family in the boat? Animals! A mommy and a daddy of each kind of animal were also kept safe on the boat.

The Bible tells us that when the flood came, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. After that, water covered the earth for a long time, close to a year! One day, BUMP! The boat got stuck on something! It was a mountain.

More days went by. Now, Noah could see the tops of other mountains poking through the water. The water was getting lower. Finally, the day came when God told Noah that he and his family and all the animals with them could leave the boat. The first thing Noah and his family did when they got off the boat was to thank God. God had kept his promise. God had kept them safe.

God told them to have many children so that the earth would again be full of people.

God also made a promise to Noah. He promised to never send a flood to cover the whole earth again. God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of this promise. When we see a rainbow in the sky, we remember that God always keeps his promises.

Lesson 5 – A Promise for Abram

After the flood, Noah’s family grew and grew until there were many people on the earth again. But most of the people still did not love God or each other. God had promised to send someone to fix his world. Which family would the rescuer come from? God was about to choose!

God told a man named Abram to leave the place where he lived and go to a land that God would show him. God promised to make Abram’s family very large. He also promised that someday the rescuer, Jesus, would be born through Abram’s family. What do you think? Should Abram listen to God and travel to the new land? Abram did listen to God! He moved his wife and workers to the land God showed him.

Abram was not a young man when God told him to move. He was as old as a grandpa! But he was not a grandpa. Abram and his wife did not have any children or grandchildren – not even one.

When they got to the new land, God promised Abram that he would take care of him and give him good things. “LORD God,” said Abram. “What good things will you give me? You haven’t given me any children!”

“Look up at the stars,” God told Abram. “Do you know how many there are?” (Pause and ask children if they have ever looked at stars or how many they think there are.) God told Abram, “Just like there are so many stars that you cannot count them, I will give you a family so big that you will not be able to count them all!”

Abram believed that God would keep his promise, even though it seemed impossible since he was so old! God was pleased that Abram believed him, and he gave Abram a new name, Abraham, which means ‘a father of a large family.’

Lesson 6 – A Baby for Abraham

Last time, we learned about an old man named Abram. God made a special promise to him. Do you remember what it was? (To give him a baby; to give him as many children as the stars; to send Jesus to earth through his family). We also learned that God gave Abram a new name, Abraham, to show that he would have a very large family.

Abraham's wife was old like he was – way too old to have a baby. But God had promised that he was going to give them a baby, and nothing is too hard for God. God gave Abraham's wife a new name too – Sarah – to show that she would be the mother of this very large family.

One day Abraham and Sarah had some visitors. Three men they had never met before came to their tent. Sarah rushed to mix bread; Abraham made meat. Then Abraham served the food to their guests. Sarah overheard the men talking about the promise God had given them. How did the men know about the promise? They knew about the promise because they were messengers from God.

One of the men said that within a year, Sarah would have a baby. Sarah knew she was too old to have a baby, so she laughed at the man's words. But he was right! Within a year, Sarah did give birth to a baby boy just as God had promised. Sarah was so happy that she laughed and laughed, and she wanted everyone to laugh for happiness with her. Sarah and Abraham named their baby Isaac, which means, "laughter".

Isaac grew up and became the father of two boys. Abraham's and Sarah's family was growing just as God had promised.

Lesson 7 – Joseph’s Dream and Coat

Last time, we learned that God kept his promise to Abraham by giving him and his wife a baby even though they were too old to become a dad and mom.

Abraham’s son grew up, and he became a dad of twin boys. The twins grew up and became dads also. One of the twins, Jacob, had twelve sons and a daughter. Of all his twelve sons, his son named Joseph was his favorite. Jacob made Joseph a beautiful colorful coat. How do you think his other brothers felt about that? (Pause to discuss responses.) Yes, they wanted beautiful coats too! They were upset that Joseph got a beautiful coat when they did not.

Then Joseph had a dream. In his dream, he was gathering wheat in the field with his brothers. His wheat stood up straight, but his brothers’ wheat bowed down before his wheat. He had another dream where the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down before him. Joseph knew these dreams meant that someday he would be in charge, and his brothers would do what he said. When he told his brothers the dreams, it made them even more upset. Now they wanted to get rid of Joseph!

One day, Joseph went to visit his brothers who were out caring for the sheep. When they saw him coming, they remembered how they wanted to get rid of him. They caught him and took his beautiful coat. Then they saw some travelers passing by on their way to a far-away country called Egypt. The brothers made Joseph go to Egypt with the travelers. They were sure they were rid of Joseph forever!

Even though Joseph was now far from home and his family, God was still with him. God had told him through dreams that he would one day be in charge of his brothers. Next time, we will learn how Joseph's dreams came true, just as God told him!

Lesson 8 – Joseph in Egypt

Last time we learned about a boy named Joseph who was one of Abraham’s great-grandchildren. Does anyone remember the special dreams that Joseph had? God gave Joseph two dreams that showed that he would someday be in charge of his family. Joseph’s brothers were upset about his dreams, so they sent him far away to the land of Egypt. Will God still make Joseph be in charge? Today we will find out what happens next.

In Egypt, Joseph was a slave. That means that he was not free to do whatever he wanted. Instead, he had to work very hard for his master who was in charge of him. Then things got worse; he got sent to prison! Prison is like jail. In prison, the doors were locked so that he could not leave. It was an awful place to be. The Bible tells us that God was still with Joseph and taking care of him. One night, one of the other men in the prison had a strange dream. He wondered what the dream meant. Joseph told him that the dream was from God. God helped Joseph understand that the dream meant that the man would get out of prison and go work for the king of Egypt. In a few days the dream came true!

Then the king of Egypt, called Pharaoh, also had some strange dreams. In one dream, he saw fat and skinny cows. In another dream he saw fat and skinny ears of corn. He wondered what his dreams meant. The prisoner who now worked for Pharaoh told him about Joseph. Pharaoh called Joseph to explain his dream. Joseph knew he could not explain the dream by himself. “God will tell me what your dream means,” Joseph said. God did help Joseph explain the dream! The king’s dream meant that soon there would be a time when not enough food would grow. The people of Egypt needed to save food now

so that they would not be hungry later. Pharaoh was very glad to know what his dreams meant. He could see that Joseph was a wise, good man. He wanted Joseph to help him rule Egypt and save up food. He made Joseph the second most important person in Egypt! Everyone had to do whatever Joseph said. Do you remember Joseph's dream where God told him that someday he would be in charge? Now Joseph was in charge of the most important country in the world, just like God said! God took care of Joseph, even in Egypt.

Lesson 9 – Joseph Provides for His Family

Last time, we learned that Joseph was taken to a place called Egypt. We also learned that the king of Egypt, who they called Pharaoh, had some dreams and that God told Joseph what the dreams meant. The dreams were about fat and skinny cows and fat and skinny corn and were a message from God. Does anyone remember what the message was? (Take time for answers.) Yes, the message was that there was going to come a time of no food, so the people needed to save food now so that they would not be hungry later. Today we will learn about how God took care of Joseph's family through the time of no food.

Pharaoh decided that Joseph would be in charge of saving grain so that they would not be hungry during the time of no food. Joseph had large buildings, called storehouses, built where they could store grain. He had the people bring all the extra grain to the storehouses. When the time of no food came, the people went to Joseph, and he gave them grain. Joseph's family did not live in Egypt. They did not know that the time of no food was coming. They did not store extra food, so when the time of no food came, they were hungry! But God was taking care of them. They learned that there was food in Egypt, so Joseph's father, Jacob, sent Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy grain.

The brothers came to Joseph and asked him for grain. These were the same brothers who had sent Joseph far away to Egypt to get rid of him because they did not like his pretty coat or his dreams about being in charge someday. Joseph knew they were his brothers. However, they did not know he was Joseph because he had grown older and wore Egyptian clothes and cut his

hair like the Egyptians. “I am Joseph!” he told them. How surprised the brothers were! They were also worried. Was Joseph angry with them? Would he hurt them as they had hurt him?

No, Joseph was not angry. He knew that it was God’s plan that he had come to Egypt so that his family would have enough to eat during the time of no food. Joseph told his brothers that there would be many more years of no food. They would not have enough to eat back where they lived. He gave them carts and donkeys and extra food so that the whole family could move to Egypt where there would be plenty to eat. Joseph’s brothers had been unkind to him by sending him to Egypt, but God used it for good to take care of the whole family through the time of no food.

Lesson 10 – Moses and the Egyptian Princess

Last time, we learned that Jacob’s family all moved to Egypt where there was plenty to eat. More and more babies were born until the family was so large that it would be very hard to count all the people. Father Jacob got old and died. Joseph and his brothers got old and died. Pharaoh, king of Egypt, also died.

Now there was a new Pharaoh. He did not know about how Joseph had stored food so that the people had enough to eat, but he could see Jacob’s family getting bigger and bigger. He worried that if Jacob’s family kept growing, they might want to be in charge instead of him! He made a bad plan. He decided to make Jacob’s family be his slaves. They had to work hard making buildings and doing field work. His plan did not work. Jacob’s family kept growing, so Pharaoh made another bad plan. He would throw all the Hebrew baby boys into the river!

What would happen? Would all the Hebrew baby boys die? One mother had a good idea. She made a little boat out of long river grasses. She painted the boat with special mud to keep out water. Then she placed her baby boy in the boat and hid him in the tall grasses that grew at the edge of the river. The baby’s older sister, Miriam, hid nearby to keep watch over the baby.

Along the path toward the river came a group of ladies. Would they find the baby? Would they tell Pharaoh? One of the ladies was Pharaoh’s daughter, the princess! As she and her helpers walked along the riverside, she saw the tiny boat and asked one of her helpers to bring it to her. When she looked inside, there was the baby. He was crying and crying! The princess felt love in

her heart for the baby, and she wanted to help him. Because she had taken him out of the water, she called him Moses, which means ‘taken out.’

His big sister, Miriam, saw that the princess loved baby Moses. She asked the princess if she should go get someone to care for the baby. Who do you think she brought to help the princess care for the baby? Her mother, who was also Moses’ mother! Baby Moses was not thrown in the river. Instead, his mother was able to take him home and care for him. When he was older, he went to live with the princess. God took care of baby Moses and kept him safe from Pharaoh, who wanted to kill him.

Lesson 11 – Moses Sees a Burning Bush

Last time, we learned about a baby who was in big trouble, but God kept him safe. Do you remember the baby's name? Yes! Moses!

Moses and his family were Israelites, which meant they were from Jacob's family. His big problem was that the king, called Pharaoh, wanted to kill all the Israelite baby boys. God gave Moses' mother a good idea of where to hide her baby. Do you remember where it was? Yes, she hid him in a basket boat in the river. Then God sent just the right person to find baby Moses. Do you remember who it was? Yes, it was the princess, Pharaoh's own daughter! She found baby Moses and made sure he was safe.

God made sure Moses was safe, and God had an important job for Moses. God wanted Moses to lead his people, the Israelites, out of Egypt, back to the land where Abraham and Jacob had lived. In Egypt, the Israelites had to work very hard for Pharaoh. They were slaves. In their new home, they would be free. Today we will learn about when God told Moses about his important job.

Because the princess had found him, Moses grew up living with her in the palace. What do you think it was like to live with the princess? Moses did not know about the important job God had for him.

One day Moses was out in the wilderness when he saw something he had never seen before. It was a burning bush. The bush was on fire, but it was not burning up! He went closer to the burning bush and heard a voice. The voice was God speaking to him! God told him to take off his shoes because this was

a special place. God had seen how hard life was for the people of Israel. God told Moses that he wanted him to lead the people out of Egypt. Moses should go to Pharaoh and tell him, “Let my people go!”

Would you like to go talk to Pharaoh all by yourself? Probably not!

Moses did not want to go talk to Pharaoh either. God told Moses that he would always be with him. God also sent Moses’ brother, Aaron, to go with him and help him talk to Pharaoh. Moses decided to go. He would do the important job God had for him. He would go to Pharaoh and tell him to let God’s people leave Egypt.

Lesson 12 – Pharaoh Sees God’s Power

Last time, we learned that God’s people had a big problem—they were not free! They had to work very hard for the king of Egypt, who was called Pharaoh, without being paid. We also learned that God had picked a man named Moses to lead them to a new land where they could be free. What if Pharaoh would not let them go? God had a plan.

God told Moses and his brother Aaron to go talk to Pharaoh. They could do this because Moses had grown up in Pharaoh’s house. “Our God says we should go worship him in the wilderness,” they told Pharaoh. Remember, God’s people were busy doing work for Pharaoh. Do you think Pharaoh wanted to let them stop working? (No.) That’s right! Pharaoh did not want to let them stop. He said, “No!”

What should Moses and Aaron do? (Ask God.) Yes, they asked God for help. God told them to try again, and he would give them an amazing sign to show Pharaoh. Moses and Aaron went back to Pharaoh. Aaron threw his walking stick on the ground, and it turned into a snake! This was the amazing sign that God had promised to give them. Still Pharaoh said, “No.” He would not let God’s people go.

After that, God gave Moses and Aaron nine more amazing signs (called plagues). Each time there was an amazing sign from God, Moses and Aaron asked Pharaoh to let God’s people go. Each time, Pharaoh said, “No.”

The first amazing sign was that the river turned into blood! No one could drink it or wash in it, but Pharaoh still would not let God’s people go free.

The next amazing sign was that frogs appeared all over the land. There were so many frogs that they were in the people's houses, the streets, everywhere! "Take the frogs away, and I will let God's people go!" Pharaoh said. God caused all the frogs to die except those in the water, but then Pharaoh changed his mind and would not let God's people go.

God sent more amazing signs. He sent tiny bugs that lived in the hair on the people and animals and bit them. Then he sent swarms of flies. Have you ever had a fly buzzing around your house or room? It is so annoying! In Egypt there were tons and tons of flies buzzing everywhere, but still Pharaoh would not let God's people go.

God sent more amazing signs. The horses, donkeys, sheep, and other farm animals got sick and died. Then the people of Egypt got sores on their skin. The sores were like big bug bites that started bleeding. Ouch! Then God sent a big storm. Large balls of ice fell from the sky. The balls hurt the people and animals who were outside, and the ice balls broke the leaves of the plants that the Egyptians were going to use for food. Still Pharaoh would not let God's people go.

Then God sent bugs flying into Egypt that ate up all the rest of the plants. There were no more plants left for the people of Egypt to eat. Things were not going well for the people of Egypt. Do you think Pharaoh should change his mind and say yes to God? (Yes.) I agree! The Bible says Pharaoh's heart was hard. He would not say yes to God.

God sent another amazing sign—darkness. Even during the day when it should have been light, it was dark. The darkness lasted for three days in the land of Egypt, but while the people of Egypt had darkness, the place where God's

people lived still had light! All the other amazing signs had not hurt God's people either! They had not had any of the sicknesses or storms or bugs or frogs that had hurt the people of Egypt.

By this time, the land of Egypt was almost totally ruined. The people, the animals, and the plants had been hurt, all because Pharaoh would not do what God said. Pharaoh was very, very angry. He yelled at Moses to go away. "I never want to see you again!" he said. "Alright," said Moses. "You will never see me again."

Moses had now asked Pharaoh to let God's people go ten times! Each time Pharaoh had said no. Would God's people ever be free? Yes, because God had promised that they would be free. Next time, we will learn the story of how that happened.

Lesson 13 – God Rescues His People

Last time we learned that Moses and Aaron went to the king of Egypt, called Pharaoh, with a message from God. Do you remember what the message was? “Let my people _____.” (go!)

Did Pharaoh let God’s people go? (No) That’s right. Each time they asked, Pharaoh always said, “No.”

God gave Moses and Aaron many amazing signs to show Pharaoh. Aaron’s stick turned into a snake, the river turned into blood, there were many frogs, then many bugs, and other signs that hurt the people, animals, and plants in Egypt. Did these signs change Pharaoh’s mind? (No) That’s right! His heart was hard, and each time he said, “No.”

While the people of Egypt were being hurt by the amazing signs, the place where God’s people had their houses was not hurt at all! Finally, Pharaoh got so mad that he told Moses he never wanted to see him again. God had promised that his people would be free from slavery, and now Pharaoh said he never wanted to see Moses again. Would that stop God’s plan? (No!) That’s right! Nothing is too hard for God. Today we will learn the story of how God kept his promise and brought his people out of slavery in Egypt.

God knew that Pharaoh’s heart was very hard. He would not say “yes” unless he saw a very big, very terrible sign. Even though God is always sad when people die, God decided that he would have the oldest son in every family die. It was the only sign that would make Pharaoh change his mind and let God’s people go.

God wanted the Israelite boys to be safe and not die. He told Moses to tell all the dads and moms to put the blood of a lamb around the door of their houses. When the oldest boys in the Egyptian families died, the boys in the Israelite families would be safe, because they had the blood on their houses.

The Israelites did what God said. They put lamb's blood on their houses. They also packed up all their things. God had promised that this was the night when Pharaoh would let them leave Egypt. They believed God, and they wanted to be ready.

That night it happened just like God had said. The oldest son in every Egyptian family died. Even Pharaoh's oldest son died. When Pharaoh saw that his son was dead, he finally changed his mind. He sent a message to Moses and Aaron that God's people could leave Egypt. Because they had followed God's instructions, the Israelites were packed and ready. As soon as they got the message, they took their children, their animals, and the bundles they had packed, and they walked out of Egypt. What a happy night for them! They would not have to work hard for the king of Egypt anymore! God had set them free, just like he had promised!

Lesson 14 – God Parts the Red Sea

Last time we learned about a very happy day for the children of Israel. (Show flannelgraph or picture from last week. Ask children what they remember.)

For many, many years, Jacob’s family, called Israelites, lived in Egypt. The king of Egypt, called Pharaoh, had made them work very hard. When they asked Pharaoh if they could leave Egypt, he always said, “No,” but after God did some amazing signs, Pharaoh finally said they could leave. God’s people were allowed to leave Egypt. They were free!

Soon after God’s people left Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind. With the Israelites gone, who would do the hard work for him? He decided to chase after them and bring them back to Egypt.

When he caught up with them, God’s people were camping beside a big lake called the Red Sea. They saw Pharaoh and his soldiers coming toward them in their chariots. The water was in front of them, and the soldiers were behind them. Would you be scared? God’s people were scared. Moses was the man who was leading them on their trip to their new home. The Israelites cried out to Moses to help them.

“Do not be scared!” Moses told them. “Stand still, and watch God save you! You will never see the Egyptians again. God will fight for you.”

Do you think God can keep his people safe from Pharaoh and his soldiers? Let’s find out.

God told Moses to lift his walking stick over the Red Sea. Moses did what God told him to do, and God sent a wind that blew over the sea. The wind blew a dry path right through the sea! God's people were able to walk through the sea on dry land. Pharaoh and his soldiers chased them, but the wheels of their chariots got stuck! While they were trying to get un-stuck, God's people all crossed safely to the other side of the sea. Then Moses lowered his walking stick, and the water covered Pharaoh and all his soldiers. God's people never saw Pharaoh or his soldiers again, just like God had promised!

Do you ever sing songs to praise God? When the people saw how God kept them safe by making a dry path through the sea, they wanted to thank him. They sang a song that told how God had made a path through the sea so that they could escape.

Lesson 15 – A Beautiful Tent for God

Last time we learned that God did something amazing so that his people could escape from Pharaoh who was trying to catch them and take them back to Egypt. Let's see if we can remember the amazing thing that God did! (Pause to show picture/flannelgraph to review last week's lesson.)

God's people continued on their journey toward their new home. After many days of walking, they arrived at a mountain and stopped to rest. God asked Moses to talk to him on the mountain. He asked all the people to watch. When God came down to the mountain, there was thunder, lightning, smoke, and the sound of a loud trumpet. God's power was amazing, but also scary!

"Remind the people that I helped them leave Egypt. I helped them get away from Pharaoh," God told Moses. "Tell them that I want them to obey me. Then they will be my special people. All the other people on earth will see that my people are different and will know that that I am the true God."

God gave Moses rules for the people to follow. The rules told them how to love God and how to love each other. We call these the Ten Commandments.

God also gave Moses a plan for building a beautiful, special tent.

"Have all the Israelites bring me a present," God told Moses. "Have them bring things like gold and silver, beautiful stones, and colorful cloth. Use these things to build a beautiful tent so that I can live with my people. I want to live right in the middle of your camp with you."

The Israelites brought presents to God like he asked. They worked together to build the beautiful tent, following the plan God had given Moses. When it was finished, a cloud from God came down, and God's glory filled the tent. God had come to live with his people!

Today we do not have a beautiful tent like the Israelites did. We have something better. When we repent and believe in Jesus, he comes and lives in our hearts.

Lesson 16 – Explorers of the New Land

After building the beautiful tent, God’s people were ready to travel to their new home that God had promised to give to them. The new land was called Canaan, and they were looking forward to living there. When they got to the edge of the land, Moses asked a group of men to go into the land to see what it was like.

“Go see what kind of land it is,” Moses told the men. “Is it good or bad? What kind of people live there? Are there cities with strong walls, or do the people live in tents? Does good food grow there?”

The men traveled all through the land. The trip took many days. Finally, they came back to Moses. Two of the men were carrying some grapes they had found. Have you ever gotten a bunch of grapes from the store? The bunches of grapes that grew in Canaan were so big, it took two men to carry one bunch!

Everyone gathered around. They wanted to hear what the new land was like. “The land is wonderful, but there are giants who live there,” the men said. “It would be impossible for us to take the land from the giants.”

Then Caleb and Joshua spoke up. They were two of the men who had traveled through the land. “God is stronger than the giants,” they reminded the people. “Nothing is too hard for God. He promised to give us the land, and he always keeps his promises.”

Caleb and Joshua wanted to go right away to take the land away from the giants. They trusted God and knew that God would help them, but the other people were too scared. They forgot that God always keeps his promises. God was unhappy that most of the people did not trust him. “The people who did not trust me will not live in the new land,” God said. “Only Caleb and Joshua and their children will live in the new land because they trust me.”

Lesson 17 – Rahab Trusts God

Last time we learned about some explorers who went to spy out the new land that God had promised to give to his people for their new home. Was it a good land? Yes! It was a good land where much fruit grew, but many of God’s people did not think that God could give them the land because of something scary that the explorers had seen, something big and tall. Do you remember what it was? Yes, there were giants! Most of the people thought that God was not stronger than a giant. Do you think that is right? Of course not! God is way stronger than a giant! Because they did not trust God, the people were not able to live in the new land. They lived in the desert outside the land for many years until the grown-ups who did not trust God had died.

Finally, the time came when they could try again to go to their new home. Moses had died, and God’s people had a new leader named Joshua. Joshua sent some explorers to spy out the land. He told them to go secretly so that the people who lived there would not see them. “Go, view the land, especially Jericho,” Joshua told them.

Jericho was the first city they came to when they entered the land. The explorers entered the city of Jericho and went to the house of a woman named Rahab. Rahab had heard about how God made a path through the sea for his people. She decided to believe that God, not statues, is the real God. “I know that your God is the real God,” Rahab told the explorers. “I will let you hide in my house.”

Even though the explorers had tried to go secretly to Rahab's house, some of the people of Jericho saw them! The people of Jericho went to Rahab's house. "Send the explorers out!" they commanded her.

Rahab would not send the explorers out. Instead, she showed the spies a place where they could hide under grain that was drying on her flat roof. The men from the city came looking for the explorers, but they could not find them!

That night, Rahab helped the men get out of the city by climbing out of her window down a red rope. "I know that God will give you our city," Rahab told the explorers. "When you take the city, please keep me and my family safe."

"Put this red rope in your window," the explorers told her. "That will remind us that you trust in God, and we will not hurt you."

Lesson 18 – Jericho’s Walls Fall

Last time we learned about a woman named Rahab who trusted in God. She knew that God is the true God, so when some of God’s people who were exploring came to her city, she let them come into her house. Then, when people from her city wanted to hurt the explorers, Rahab helped the explorers hide. She chose not to hurt them, and she asked them to promise not to hurt her either. Today we are going to learn about how God’s people kept that promise.

The other people who lived in Rahab’s city, Jericho, were very bad. God had promised to take their city away from them and give it to his people, the Israelites, to be their new home. Jericho had tall walls around it. Are tall walls a problem for God? Of course not!

Joshua was the leader of the Israelites. God told Joshua his plan for making the walls fall down. “March around the city one time every day for six days,” God told Joshua. “On the seventh day, march around the city seven times. Then blow trumpets, have all the people shout very loud, and the walls will fall down!”

Do you think that sounds like a good plan? Should God’s people follow the plan? God’s plans are always good, and God’s people did follow the plan. Every day for six days, they left their camp and marched around the city of Jericho. Then, on the seventh day, they marched around the city seven times. After they had marched around it seven times, they blew trumpets and shouted as loud as they could. Do you think the walls fell down? Yes! Just as

God had promised, when the people yelled and blew trumpets, the walls of Jericho came crashing down.

What about Rahab, who had kept the explorers safe? She had put a red rope in her window so that the explorers could find her. The explorers helped her and her family get out of the city so that they were not hurt when the walls fell down.

Optional addition: The Bible tells us that Rahab got married to one of God's people and that they had a son. Their son had a son, and he had a son, and after many years, the Savior whom God had promised, Jesus, was born into Rahab's family!

Lesson 19 – Ruth’s New Family

Last time we learned about a city that had something big around it. Do you remember what was around the city? Yes! Very tall walls. The people who lived in that city did not love God and were very mean to each other, so God planned to tear down their city and give the land to his people, the Israelites. Did the tall walls stop God’s plan? No! God made the walls of the city fall.

After the walls of Jericho fell, God’s people moved into the land and settled down to live with their families. They called their land Israel.

Today we are going to read about a woman named Ruth who lived during that time. Ruth had a problem—she needed a home and family. Do you have a guess who found a home and a family for her? Yes! God! Let’s learn the story together.

It happened in the land of Israel that there was not enough rain, and not enough food grew. One man from Israel decided to take his family to a nearby country where there was more food. While they were there, the boys grew up and married Orpah and Ruth, but things did not go well for the family. First the dad died, and then the two boys died also. Naomi (the mother), Orpah, and Ruth were left alone. With no husbands to provide for them, they became very poor.

Naomi heard that there had been rain in Israel and that now there was food there, so she decided to go back to her home in Israel. Orpah decided to go back and live with her parents, but Ruth wanted to stay with Naomi. She even wanted to serve the true God like Naomi!

When they returned to Israel, one of their relatives, Boaz, was busy harvesting the grain in his fields. God had told the farmers to let poor people pick up any grain that was left in the field after the harvest. Ruth and Naomi were poor, so Ruth went to his field and gathered grain.

Boaz saw how hard Ruth worked. He heard how Ruth wanted to serve the true God like Naomi. He loved Ruth and decided to marry her! Now Ruth and Naomi were not alone anymore. They were not poor anymore either. They lived with Boaz in his house and had plenty of money and food. Then God gave Ruth and Boaz a baby boy, Obed! Now Ruth, who had been alone and poor, had a home and a family.

Lesson 20 – David Kills Goliath

Last time we learned about a woman named Ruth who did not have a family. She decided to love and trust God. Did God give her a family? Yes! He gave her a husband, Boaz, and a baby boy named Obed. When Obed grew up, he had children and grandchildren. One of his grandchildren became very famous. You may already know about him. His name is David. Have you heard of David? God helped David do something amazing—kill a giant! Let’s learn the story together.

The people in the land of Israel had a big problem. Their neighbors, the Philistines, hated them and wanted to take over their country. The Philistine soldiers marched into Israel and set up a camp. The Israelite soldiers set up a camp across from the Philistine camp. The biggest Philistine soldier was a giant named Goliath. Goliath was so tall that his head would touch this ceiling! He was tall and strong, and he hated God.

Every day Goliath came out and asked the Israelites to fight him, but the Israelites were too scared. Goliath would say bad things about God, but still all the soldiers were too scared. No one would go fight Goliath. Would you go fight Goliath? Who do you think should go?

I told you that this story was about David. David was too young to be a soldier, but his older brothers were in the army. Their father sent David to take food to his brothers. When he got to the camp, David saw Goliath come out and ask for someone to fight him. David heard Goliath saying bad things about God.

“Who will go fight this giant so that he stops saying bad things about God?” David asked. Nobody wanted to go. David remembered times when God had helped him be brave. He knew God would help him fight the giant. “I will go,” said David.

Goliath had a set of metal clothes called armor. He had a big spear, a sword, and a shield. David did not have any of those things, but he did have a sling. A sling is like a slingshot. David had practiced throwing stones with it. He went to the stream and gathered stones. Then he went out to fight the giant.

The giant saw David coming with no metal armor, no spear, and no sword—just a sling. He laughed and thought it was a joke, but David put a stone in his sling and threw it right at the giant’s head. The stone hit the giant on his forehead, and he fell down to the ground! David ran and took the giant’s sword. He cut off the giant’s head. The giant was dead! David had trusted in God, and God helped him to kill the giant.

When the Philistines saw that their giant was dead, they turned and ran back to their own country. The Israelite soldiers chased them. Because David trusted in God, God gave them victory over their enemies.

Lesson 21 – A Promise for David

Last time we learned about a boy named David who did something hard and scary because he knew God would help him. Do you remember what David did? Yes, he killed the giant Goliath!

When David grew up, he became the king of Israel. He had a beautiful house to live in. He remembered how God had helped him fight the giant and how God had made him the king. He remembered the beautiful tent that God's people had made where they went to worship God. "God should have a beautiful house like mine," David told his friend Nathan. "I will build a beautiful house for God."

That night, God spoke to the prophet Nathan and gave him a message to tell David. "You want to build a house for God, but you have done lots of fighting in your life. Your son will be a man of peace, so God wants your son to build the house for God."

Then Nathan had a wonderful surprise for David. "Right now you are the king," Nathan told David. "But when you are too old to be king, God will make sure that someone from your family is the next king, and the next and the next. In fact, the king of Israel will always be someone from your family! Someday, the special person, Jesus, whom God is sending to save the world, will come from your family. Jesus will save the world, and Jesus will be the King forever!"

What a wonderful promise! Jesus would come from David's own family! David was so happy about this promise that he prayed and thanked God.

David wrote many songs of praise for worshiping and thanking God. You can read these songs in the Bible.

Do you like to pray to God like David did? Do you like to sing songs to God? God loves it when we talk to him and sing to him. Let's sing a song of praise to God now!

Lesson 22 – Solomon Asks for Wisdom

Last time we read about a king named David. God had promised to David that someday, Jesus, the Savior, would be born from David's family. God had also promised that the king of Israel would always be someone from David's family. Today we will learn about David's son Solomon who became the next king.

One night after Solomon had become king, he had a dream. In the dream God asked him, "What do you want me to give you?" What do you think Solomon should ask for?

"Please make me wise so that I can be a good king. I do not know how," Solomon told God. God was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. "I will help you be a wise king," God told Solomon. "I will also give you riches and honor. No other king will be as wise or have as much money and treasure as you."

It happened just as God promised. King Solomon was very wise. When people had hard problems, he knew how to help them. Solomon also had lots of gold and treasure. He used some of it to build a beautiful house for God. The beautiful house was called the temple. It had a golden room inside where people could go to worship God.

The Queen of Sheba heard about the beautiful temple that Solomon had built. She traveled a long way to come see it. When she saw it, she was amazed. "It is even more beautiful than I heard!" she exclaimed. "Your

people must be very happy to have such a wise king. God must love his people very much because he has made you their king.”

The Queen of Sheba was right. It was God who had given Solomon so much wisdom and riches.

Lesson 23 – Fire From Heaven

Last time we learned about a king named Solomon who had more wisdom and more riches than any other king. Do you remember who gave him all that wisdom and riches? Yes, God did!

Solomon's story has a sad ending. When he got older, he forgot about God. Instead of worshiping God at the beautiful temple he had built, he prayed to statues made of wood and stone. The people of Israel began to pray to statues of wood and stone too.

What did God think about the people praying to statues instead of to him? Yes, it made him sad. God is slow to anger, but when the people prayed to statues again and again and again, he finally got mad. He sent messengers to remind the people that he is the real God, not statues. Some people listened, but most people did not.

What do you think? Should the people stop praying to statues and start praying to God? Yes, they should! They did not. They kept praying to statues.

One of the messengers whom God sent was Elijah. "Let's gather the people together on top of Mount Carmel," Elijah told the king. "There we will see who the real God is."

On the mountain, Elijah built a pile of stones called an altar. On top of the stones, he put wood and some meat to offer to God. The people who prayed to statues made a pile of stones and put meat on it also. "We will both pray for fire to come from Heaven and burn up the meat," Elijah told the people. "I

will pray to God. You can pray to the statues. This will show us who is the real god.”

All day long the people who prayed to statues asked their statue to send fire. They prayed loud prayers and jumped around the pile of stones. Nothing happened.

At the end of the day, Elijah told the people, “Come near to me.” With the people gathered around, Elijah prayed a simple prayer asking God to send fire. Do you think God heard Elijah’s prayer? Do you think God sent fire? Yes! Before Elijah even finished praying, fire came from Heaven. The fire burned up the meat. It even burned up the pile of stones.

When the people saw it, they knew God was the real God. “The Lord, he is God!” they said. “The Lord, he is God.” By sending fire, God showed all the people that he is the real God.

Lesson 24 – Daniel and His Friends

Last time we learned about a sad time for God’s people. Instead of praying to the true God, they kept praying to statues made of wood and stone. Are statues really a god? Can statues hear prayers? No, of course not!

God sent messengers to tell the people that if they kept praying to statues, they would have to leave their homes in the land God had given them. For many, many years God sent messengers, but the people would not listen and would not start praying to God. Finally, God did what he had said. He allowed soldiers from the powerful land of Babylon to come to Israel and take the people away from their homes. Babylon was far away. The people had to walk across the desert to go live in Babylon.

Do you think God was still with his people even though this bad thing happened to them and even though they had to leave their homes? Yes, of course! God still loved them and was with them in Babylon.

Daniel was a young man when he had to leave his home and go to Babylon. He was older than you, but not a grown-up yet. The king of Babylon took Daniel and three of his friends to a special school. At this school they would learn to talk like the people of Babylon, wear clothes like the people of Babylon, and even eat food like the people of Babylon. Now the people of Babylon ate many foods that God had told his people not to eat.

“We should not eat the king’s food,” Daniel told his friends. “The king eats foods that God told us not to eat.”

“If you do not eat the king’s food, you might look sick, and the king will be very angry!” the king’s helper told them.

“Please give us vegetables to eat, just for ten days,” Daniel said to the king’s helper. “Then see if we are sick or not.”

For ten days, Daniel and his friends did not eat the king’s food. They ate vegetables instead. After ten days, the king’s helper came to see them. Daniel and his friends did not look sick at all! In fact, they looked healthier than the boys who ate the king’s food!

God blessed Daniel and his friends because they obeyed him and did not eat the king’s food. He made them ten times wiser (smarter) than all the others. Because they were so wise, the king chose Daniel and his friends to be his special helpers. God was with Daniel and his friends, even while they were living far away from home in the land of Babylon.

Lesson 25 – God Rescues Daniel

Last time we learned about a boy named Daniel who had to leave his home in Israel and live in far-away Babylon. Do you remember why he and many of God’s people had to go live in Babylon?

God allowed the king of Babylon to take them away because for years the people had prayed to statues instead of to God. Was God still with Daniel while he was in Babylon? Yes! God was with him. God even made Daniel very smart so that he became one of the king’s best helpers. Today we are going to read about a time when God kept Daniel safe from some lions!

Daniel was a helper to the king for many, many years. When that king died and there was a new king, Daniel helped that king, too. The new king liked Daniel so much that he became the king’s best helper. What do you think the king’s other helpers thought about that?

The king’s other helpers did not like it. They wanted to be the best helper instead of Daniel, so they made a plan to get rid of Daniel.

They knew that Daniel prayed to God every day. “We should make a rule that people should pray only to the king,” they said. “Anyone who prays to God will be thrown into a cave full of lions, called a lions’ den.”

Do you think that is a good rule? Should people pray to the king?

The king decided he liked the new rule. Now everyone had to pray to him or be thrown to the lions.

The king's helpers rushed to Daniel's house to see what he was doing. There was Daniel, praying. Was he praying to the king? No, he was praying to the one true God! Because he had not prayed to the king, Daniel was taken to the lions' den.

The king was sorry to see his best helper, Daniel, taken to the lions' den. "Your God will help you," the king told Daniel.

What do you think? Will God keep Daniel safe, or will the lions eat him?

The next morning, the king rushed to the lions' den. He wanted to see if Daniel was safe.

He called to Daniel, "Daniel, did your God keep you safe from the lions?" He heard Daniel's voice answering from the lions' den. "My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths, so they did not hurt me!"

The king was so happy that Daniel had not been eaten! He called for Daniel to be taken out of the lions' den. The king also made a new rule, a better rule. The new rule said that everyone everywhere should honor the true God, the God who Daniel prayed to. He saved Daniel from the lions' den.

Lesson 26 – God’s People Return Home

We learned that God’s people had to leave their home because they were praying to statues instead of to God, but it was not God’s plan that they would stay away forever. After 70 years, the king allowed God’s people to go back to their home. Seventy years is a long time! People who were children when they left Judah were now grandmas and grandpas. Some of the people were glad to go home. They packed up and went back to Judah. Other people decided to stay. They had houses and jobs in the new land and did not want to leave.

Nehemiah was one of the people who stayed, but he wanted to know how the people back in Judah were doing. One day he got news, and it was not good. The wall that used to go around their city had been broken down. The big wooden doors that used to keep enemies out of their city had been burned! When Nehemiah heard this news, he prayed right away. He asked God to forgive the people for praying to statues. He asked God to help them rebuild their wall. Do you think God will help them? Yes, of course, God will help them!

Nehemiah’s job was to bring the king his drinks. When Nehemiah brought the king his drink, the king noticed that Nehemiah looked sad. “Why are you sad, Nehemiah?” asked the king.

“How can I be happy when my people back in Jerusalem are in trouble?” Nehemiah answered. He told the king how the walls were broken down and the big doors burned. “How can I help?” asked the king.

“Let me go back to Jerusalem to help my people rebuild the wall, and let us use wood from your forest to rebuild the doors,” Nehemiah answered. Do you think the king should let Nehemiah leave his job and go rebuild the walls and big doors?

God worked in the king’s heart so that the king said yes. Nehemiah left his job working for the king and traveled to Jerusalem.

“Let’s work together to rebuild this wall,” Nehemiah told the people. Rebuilding a city wall is a big job. Everyone would have to help. The priests worked on one section of wall. Each family also took a section, all around the city. The walls began to go up.

Soon, though, there was trouble! Their enemies were not happy when they heard that the people of Jerusalem were rebuilding their wall. The enemies came and tried to stop them. What should God's people do? God gave Nehemiah a good idea.

“Some of you will work, and some of you will stand guard with your weapons,” Nehemiah told the people. “If an enemy comes, blow a trumpet, and we will all come over and help you.” The plan worked! Their enemies could not stop them now, and the people were able to continue building the wall.

Building a wall is a big job. Usually it would take many, many months (show ten fingers), but because God was helping them work hard, they finished in less than two months (show two fingers). That is a miracle!

Once the wall was finished, Nehemiah held a party. The people played instruments and sang songs of praise to God. They had a parade around the city. They were thankful because God had helped them to finish rebuilding their city wall.

Lesson 27 – A Message for Mary

Last time we learned that God’s people returned to their land, just like God had promised. The time was getting close for the Savior, Jesus, to come. God had sent messengers who told the people that the time was getting close. When would he be born? Who would his mother be? Everyone wondered and waited. Today we will learn the story of how God sent an angel to tell a woman named Mary that Jesus would be born, and she would be Jesus’ mom!

God sent an angel named Gabriel with an important message for a young woman named Mary. “Be glad!” the angel told Mary. “God has a special job for you!” But Mary was scared. She had never seen an angel before.

“Do not be afraid,” the angel said. “God is pleased with you. You will be the mother of a baby boy and name him Jesus. He will be the special person God promised to send. He will be the Savior who will be the King forever.”

“How can I have a baby whose father is God¹?” Mary wanted to know.

The angel said, “God’s Spirit will make this happen, for with God, nothing is impossible!”

“My life is for God. May this all happen just as you have told me,” Mary said.

Mary was very happy that God was going to send Jesus and that she was going to be Jesus’ mother, so she sang a song of praise. She wanted everyone

¹ The phrase ‘whose father is God’ is taken from *God’s Big Promises Bible Story Book* by Carl Laferton

to know how amazing and wonderful God is. “My soul magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,” Mary sang.

Lesson 28 – Jesus’ Birth

Last time we learned that God sent an angel to visit a woman named Mary with a special message—she was going to have a baby! This baby would be a special baby. He would be the Savior whom God had promised to send. Do you remember what this special baby’s name is? Yes, Jesus! Today we will learn the story of when Jesus was born.

When it was almost time for Jesus to be born, the ruler of that country decided he wanted all the people to pay him money. Mary and her husband, Joseph, had to travel to the town of Bethlehem to pay.

While they were there, the time came for Jesus to be born. With so many people arriving in Bethlehem to be counted, there were not enough rooms for everyone to sleep in. Mary and Joseph found a place to sleep where the animals were kept. Here baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped baby Jesus in strips of cloth. She did not have a baby bed, so Mary laid him in the manger, which is an animal’s food box.

That night shepherds outside of the town were watching over their sheep. Suddenly, the Angel of the Lord appeared in a flash of light. The shepherds were very scared! “Do not be afraid,” the Angel told the shepherds. “I bring you good news, joyful news! Today the Savior, Jesus, has been born! You will find him lying in a manger.”

Then the sky was full of angels singing a song of praise. “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men,” the angels sang. When

the angels had gone back to Heaven, the shepherds said, “Let’s hurry and see this baby that God has told us about!”

They hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, with the baby lying in the manger. When they had seen it, they told everyone about it. God had kept his promise. Jesus had been born!

Lesson 29 – Wise Men Worship Jesus

Last time, we learned about one of God’s big promises that came true. God had promised to send a special person, Jesus, to save the world from sin. That came true! Jesus was born! Today we will learn that God sent wise men to worship Jesus and bring him presents.

When Jesus was born, God put a special star in the sky. Wise men who lived far away were studying the stars and studying God’s Word. They knew the star meant that Jesus had been born. They wanted to bring Jesus presents, so they went to the land of Israel where Jesus was.

God’s Word says that one day Jesus will be the King, so the wise men went to the king’s house to look for Jesus. No one at the king’s house even knew that Jesus had been born!

The king, named King Herod, gathered a group of men who studied God’s Word. “What does God’s Word say about where Jesus will be born?” King Herod asked them.

“God’s Word says that Jesus will be born in Bethlehem,” they told him.

When the wise men heard this, they went to Bethlehem. The special star was shining over the very house where Jesus was! How happy the wise men were when they found Jesus. They knew Jesus is God, so they kneeled before Jesus and worshiped him. They also knew Jesus is the real King, so they gave Jesus wonderful presents—gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Lesson 30 – Jesus Is Baptized

Do you remember learning about baby Jesus? Like all babies, Jesus grew up. He grew to be a child like you, then a young man, and then a grown-up. Soon it would be time for Jesus to start teaching the people about God. At this time Jesus' cousin, John, was teaching the people about God. John told the people to turn back to God because the Savior was coming soon.

When people decided to stop doing wrong and start trusting and obeying God, John baptized them in the Jordan River. (Consider pausing to ask the students if they have seen a baptism.) John would lower the person all the way under the water and then raise the person's head and body up out of the water. It was a way of showing that they wanted to trust and obey God for the rest of their lives.

Large groups of people came to be baptized by John. One day, John saw Jesus in the crowd. "Look, there is the Savior!" John told the people.

Even though Jesus had never done anything wrong and had always trusted and obeyed God, he asked John to baptize him.

John knew what a wonderful man Jesus was. John did not think Jesus needed to be baptized, but Jesus told John, "Let me be baptized. That is what God wants me to do." John wanted to do whatever God would want, so he baptized Jesus!

As he raised Jesus' head up out of the water, something amazing happened! The clouds began to move apart, and the sky opened up. The Holy Spirit

came down from Heaven like a beautiful dove and landed on Jesus. Then God spoke from Heaven, saying, *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* That means “This is my son whom I love. I am very happy with him.”

Lesson 31 – Jesus Heals a Lame Man

Last time we learned that people were wondering who the Savior would be. Then when Jesus was baptized, God’s voice spoke from Heaven. God’s voice told them that Jesus is the Savior, the one they had been waiting for! After being baptized, Jesus began traveling around telling the people about God. One day Jesus was teaching in a house. So many people wanted to hear him that the house was crowded. There was not room for any more people to get in.

Outside the house was a man who could not walk. This man knew Jesus was the Savior. He trusted that Jesus could heal him, but how could he get to Jesus? There was no room for him inside. What would you do if you wanted to get in, but the room was totally full of people?

This man had friends who wanted to help him get to Jesus. They carried him up to the roof of the house. The roof was flat like the top of a box, not slanted like our roofs. They made a hole in the roof of the house. The man who could not walk had a mat, which is like a small rug, that he laid on. His friends used ropes on the corners of his mat to lower him down through the hole in the roof right to where Jesus was. What would you think if you saw a person coming down through a hole in the ceiling?

Jesus knew that the man who could not walk believed that he could heal him. Jesus said to him, “I say to you, get up, take your mat, and go home!”

Can someone who cannot walk get up and carry their mat home? Of course not! This man, though, was able to stand up, pick up his mat, and walk home because Jesus had healed him!

Lesson 32 – Jesus Calms a Storm

One day, Jesus and his friends got into a boat. “Let’s cross over to the other side of the lake,” Jesus told them. Some of Jesus’ friends were fishermen. They knew how to sail boats. Jesus let them sail the boat. He laid down and took a nap.

While Jesus was sleeping, the wind started blowing. Soon there was a big storm! Would you like to be in a boat during a storm? It sounds scary! The wind blew big waves that splashed into the boat. The boat was filling with water. It was almost ready to sink!

Jesus’ friends woke him up. “Help us!” they cried.

Jesus got up. He said to the wind and waves, “Peace, be still.” That means: wind, stop blowing; waves, stop crashing!

Do you think the wind and waves will do what Jesus told them to do? They did just what Jesus said! The wind stopped blowing, and the waves stopped crashing. The lake became calm and still.

“Why did you not trust me?” Jesus asked his friends. Jesus’ friends did not know what to think. “Who is this, that even the wind and waves do what he tells them to?” they wondered.

They did not understand yet who Jesus is, but we know who he is! He is _____ (point up to prompt). (God/the Son of God)

Lesson 33 – Jesus Brings a Girl Back to Life

Last time we learned that Jesus and his friends got caught in a storm while they were sailing on a lake, but Jesus told the storm to stop. Do you remember what happened when Jesus told the storm to stop? That is right, it stopped! The wind stopped blowing, and the waves stopped crashing.

When Jesus and his friends got back to land, a big group of people met them. One of them was a man who begged Jesus to come to his house right away. “My little girl is very sick,” the man told Jesus. “I know that you can make her better.”

On the way to the man’s house, a messenger came and stopped them. “You do not need to bother Jesus anymore,” the messenger told the girl’s dad. “Your little girl has died.”

What sad news! The little girl was dead. Do you think Jesus can make her alive, or is that too hard for Jesus? Of course he can make her alive! Nothing is too hard for Jesus.

“Do not be scared,” Jesus said to the girl’s dad. “Just trust me.”

When they got to the girl’s house, there were many people crying. “Why are you making so much noise?” Jesus asked them. “The little girl is not dead. She is sleeping.”

The people at the house thought this was crazy. They knew the little girl was dead, not sleeping, but for Jesus, making a dead person alive is as easy as waking up a person who is asleep.

Jesus went to the little girl and took her by the hand. “Little girl, wake up,” he said. The little girl woke up! Her mom and dad were full of joy. Their little girl had died, but Jesus had made her alive again!

Lesson 34 – Jesus Tells About the Good Samaritan

One day someone asked Jesus a question about how God wants us to treat other people, so Jesus told a story about a man who showed love.

“There once was a man who was traveling from one town to another through a wilderness,” Jesus told them. “He was in a rocky place with no people around when suddenly, some robbers jumped out from behind the rocks! They stole his clothes, hurt him, and left him to die alone beside the road.”

What would you think if that happened to you? Would you hope for someone to come and help you?

“The man heard footsteps. Someone was coming! It was one of the priests who worked in the temple. Surely a priest would stop and help him. The priest did not stop. He walked by without stopping to help.”

“Then another man who worked in the temple came along. Since he worked in the temple, surely, he would stop. He did not stop to help either.”

“Then a third man came along. This man did not work in the temple. He was not even from that country! He was a stranger from a place called Samaria. When he saw the hurt man, he felt sorry for him. He stopped and came over to the hurt man. The stranger put bandages on the hurt man’s cuts. He helped the hurt man onto his donkey so that he would not have to walk. Then the stranger took him to a place like a motel where he could rest. The next day he paid the motel owner and asked him to take care of the hurt man until he was better.”

“Which man treated the hurt man the way God wants us to?” Jesus asked the people.

“The Samaritan stranger who helped the hurt man,” they answered.

“Go and be like him,” Jesus told them.

Lesson 35 – Bread and Fish for a Crowd

We have learned about many wonderful things that Jesus did. He made a dead girl alive again. He stopped a storm. He healed a man who could not walk. People heard about these wonderful things that Jesus did. Many people wanted to see Jesus, so they traveled to where Jesus was.

One day Jesus was teaching out in the countryside. A very large group of people gathered to listen to him. At the end of the day, the people were still there. They had been listening all day and were now hungry. “Where can we get food for all these people?” Jesus asked his helpers.

“It would take a very long time to save enough money to buy food for all these people,” answered Jesus’ helper named Philip.

“Here is a little boy who has a lunch basket. In it are five little loaves of bread and two small fish,” said Jesus’ helper, Andrew. “That is not nearly enough for all these people.”

Jesus’ helpers did not know how to get enough food for the big crowd. How do you think they should get food for the big crowd? Do you think Jesus had a plan?

“Tell the people to sit down,” Jesus told his helpers.

Jesus took the lunch basket with the five loaves and two fish. Jesus prayed to thank God for the food. Then he began breaking off pieces of food to pass to the people. As Jesus broke off pieces, there was always more in his hand to

break off. If you or I keep breaking off food and passing it out, we would run out, but Jesus had the power to make there be more and more food!

Jesus broke off enough pieces for everyone in the big crowd to eat. Moms, dads, and children all had enough food.

“Take around baskets and gather the leftovers. We do not want to waste any,” Jesus told his helpers.

Jesus’ helpers gathered 12 baskets of leftovers. They started with one small lunch basket and ended up with 12 big baskets! That is a miracle. Jesus had made enough food for the large crowd of people, and food was left over. When the people saw it, they were amazed. They knew that Jesus must be the Savior whom God had promised to send.

Lesson 36 – Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Last time, we learned about a day when a big group of people gathered to hear Jesus teach. By the end of the day, the people were hungry. What did Jesus do for the hungry people? That is right! He made a little basket of food into enough food for all the hungry people plus lots left over.

Today's story is about another time when Jesus was teaching. A group of people gathered to listen to Jesus. In the group were people who had done bad things. Some of the people had taken money from others. That is called stealing. There were also people who had hurt others and people who had disobeyed God's laws. Jesus knew that they had done bad things. What do you think? Will Jesus tell them to go away since they are bad, or will Jesus be kind to them and teach them?

Even though they had done bad things, Jesus was kind to them and talked to them. He even ate meals with them! Some people did not like that. "Does Jesus not know that these people have done bad things? Why does he talk to them and eat with them?" they said.

Jesus wanted people to understand that God loves everyone, even people who have done bad things. God wants to help people stop doing bad things and start obeying him. To help the people understand this, Jesus told them a story about a shepherd and his sheep.

"A shepherd had 100 sheep. The shepherd took good care of them. During the day he led them to good pastures where they could eat. He led them to calm streams where they could drink. If a wolf attacked, the shepherd fought

the wolf and drove it away. At night the shepherd checked each sheep to make sure it was healthy. All through the night, the shepherd made sure they were safe.

One night, the shepherd counted his 100 sheep to make sure they were all there, but they were not all there. One was missing!”

Then Jesus asked the people, “Does the shepherd let the lost sheep stay lost, or does he go looking for the lost sheep until he finds it?”

“Yes, he goes and finds it!” Jesus told them, “The Shepherd leaves the 99 sheep and searches until he finds the lost sheep. When he finds his lost sheep, he picks it up and carries it home. He is so happy that he tells all his friends and neighbors, ‘Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!’”

In the same way, God and the angels in Heaven are happy when one person turns to God and starts obeying him.

Lesson 37 – Jesus Loves the Children

Last time we learned that Jesus loves each person like a shepherd loves his sheep. Do you think Jesus loves children? Yes! He loves them very much. Today's story is about a time when some children came to visit Jesus.

One day a group of mothers and children wanted to see Jesus. The mothers wanted Jesus to put his hands over the children and bless them, so the mothers and children found out where Jesus was and went to that house.

Jesus' helpers thought the children would bother Jesus. The helpers told the children to go away.

When Jesus saw this, he was not happy. "Let the children come to me," Jesus told his helpers. "God's kingdom is for people like them." What did Jesus mean? Maybe he meant that God's kingdom is for people who come to him, like the little children did. Maybe Jesus meant that God's kingdom is for people who love and trust him like the children did.

Then Jesus took a break from talking to the grown-ups and spent time with the children. Jesus let the children come near. He let them sit on his lap. He put his hands over their heads and blessed them.

Lesson 38 – Jesus and Zacchaeus

Last week we had a special story about the love that Jesus has for children. We learned that Jesus wanted the children to come to him even though Jesus' helpers thought the children should go away. Today we have a story that shows that Jesus loves grown-ups, even grown-ups who have done bad things.

One day Jesus and his helpers were passing through the town of Jericho. Big crowds of people had come to see Jesus. So many people were there that it was hard to see Jesus. One short man named Zacchaeus really wanted to see Jesus, but with all the people there, he could not see over them. Then Zacchaeus had a good idea. He remembered a tree that grew near the road where Jesus would pass by. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so much that he ran ahead and climbed up into the tree. From his spot in the tree, he could see Jesus and his helpers walking toward him with the crowds of people all around.

Why did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus so much? Zacchaeus had done many mean things to others. He had taken money from many people. He knew this was wrong, and he wanted to be different. He believed that Jesus could help him change.

Jesus and his helpers got closer, closer, and closer to the tree where Zacchaeus was. Soon they would pass by. Instead of passing by, Jesus stopped and looked up at Zacchaeus. "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down!" Jesus said. "Today I am going to stay at your house!"

Jesus knew his name? Jesus was going to stay at his house? Zacchaeus was so surprised! He hurried down from the tree. Right there, in front of all the people, Zacchaeus told Jesus that he was sorry that he had taken money from people. He told Jesus that he would pay people back the money he had taken and that he would share the money he had with people who were poor.

Jesus was so happy to hear this. “God loves you and has a place for you in his family,” Jesus told Zacchaeus. God loves everyone, even people who have done bad things.

Lesson 39 – Jesus Rides a Donkey

***Note:** *If using this lesson for Palm Sunday, take time to explain that you are jumping ahead in the big story of the Bible. If desired, use the first two paragraphs below to introduce the story since it will not flow from the previous week's lesson. **

For many years, God had been showing people that he was going to send someone special, the Savior, who would save people from their sins. This special person would be their King forever. Do you have a guess who that special person is? (Pause to take answers.) Yes, it is Jesus!

One of God's messengers had told the people that when the Savior came, he would come as a king riding on a donkey. Today we celebrate the day that God made that promise come true. We call this special day "Palm Sunday." For our lesson today, we will read about when Jesus rode a donkey to show that he is the true King.

Jesus and his friends were near the city of Jerusalem. Many people who believed that Jesus was God's special Savior came to welcome him as the King. They put their coats on the road where Jesus would pass by. They waved palm branches and sang songs of praise.

Jesus told two of his friends to go to a nearby town to get him a donkey to ride. This donkey was a young donkey that had never given anyone a ride before, but when Jesus sat on his back, he was gentle and did not try to run away! Perhaps even the donkey knew that Jesus was the real King.

As the people waved palm branches and sang, Jesus rode the donkey along the path all the way to Jerusalem. God had promised that the real King would come riding on a donkey, and now God's promise had come true in Jesus!

***Note:** *If you plan to teach on the resurrection next Sunday, continue the story and teach on the crucifixion today.**

When the leaders of that country heard that Jesus had ridden into the city as the real King, they were very angry! They did not want Jesus to be King. They planned to get rid of Jesus and sent soldiers to catch him and put him to death. Since the soldiers knew that Jesus said he was a king, they gave him a crown, but it was not a nice crown made of gold. It was made of pokey thorns. What a mean thing to do! To kill Jesus, they nailed him to a cross made of two beams of wood. The people who hated Jesus were happy; they had killed Jesus! What they did not know was that Jesus had the power to come off the cross. He could have asked God to send angels to help him, but he did not. He knew it was God's plan for him to die for the sins of everyone in the world.

After Jesus was dead, his friends took his body off the cross. They buried Jesus in a tomb. Do you know what a tomb is? It is a cave where dead people are placed. The next day was the Sabbath, the day of rest, so they went home and rested. How sad they were. Was Jesus gone forever? Would God's promises still come true? Jesus was not gone forever, and God's promises would all still come true. It would be the most wonderful surprise there ever was—the brightest day in the whole world! Next week, we will find out how that happened.

Lesson 40 – A Meal to Remember

The Israelite people have a special holiday called the Passover. At Passover, they eat a special meal that helps them remember when God freed his people from slavery in Egypt. Two important foods at Passover are bread and wine.

On the day before the Passover holiday, two of Jesus' friends asked him where they would eat the Passover dinner. "Follow the man carrying a waterpot on his head," Jesus told them. "He has a room on the roof of his house. Ask him if we can use it to eat the Passover."

It happened just as Jesus said. The man who was carrying the waterpot let them use his upstairs room. Jesus' two helpers made sure they had bread, wine, and everything else they would need for the Passover.

As Jesus and his friends ate the Passover meal together, Jesus talked to them about the bread and wine.

"Eat this bread," Jesus told them. "It will remind you of my body which will soon die for you."

Then Jesus passed around a cup of wine. "Drink this wine," Jesus said. "It will remind you of my blood, which soon will flow out of my body when I die for you."

Does it make you sad to think of Jesus dying for us? Jesus' friends were sad when they heard that Jesus would die.

"Do not worry, or be sad," Jesus told them. "My Father's house has many rooms, enough for all of us! I am going to get a place ready for you."

Jesus was talking about Heaven. He had to die for our sins so that we could live with him in Heaven. Every year, the believers at church eat bread and drink wine to remember that Jesus died for us.

Lesson 41 – Jesus on the Cross

When the leaders of Judah heard that Jesus had ridden into the city as the real King, they were very angry! They did not want Jesus to be the King. They planned to get rid of Jesus. They sent soldiers to catch Jesus and put him to death. Since the soldiers knew that Jesus said he was a king, they gave him a crown, but it was not a nice crown made of gold. It was made of sharp thorns. Then they made him carry a heavy wooden cross up a hill. What a mean thing to do!

To kill Jesus, they nailed him to the cross he had carried. The nails made holes in Jesus' hands and feet. What do you think came out of the holes in Jesus' hands and feet? That is right – blood.

As Jesus died on the cross, the sky became dark and the earth shook. The people who loved Jesus watched in sadness.

The people who hated Jesus were happy that they had killed Jesus. What they did not know was that Jesus had the power to come off the cross. He could have asked God to send angels to help him, but he did not. He knew it was God's plan for him to die on the cross for us.

After Jesus died, his friends took his body off the cross. They buried Jesus in a tomb. Do you know what a tomb is? It is a cave where dead people are placed. The next day was the Sabbath, the day of rest, so they went home and rested. How sad they were. Was Jesus gone forever? Would God's promises still come true? Jesus was not gone forever, and God's promises would all still come true. It would be the most wonderful surprise there ever

was—the brightest day in the whole world! Next week we will find out how that happened.

Lesson 42 – Jesus Lives

Last time we learned about the saddest day in the world. Do you remember what happened? (Pause to show the coloring page, or a picture poster or flannelgraph of Jesus on the cross.) Yes! Jesus died on the cross. This is the saddest thing that ever happened.

Last time, I told you that we would learn about a wonderful surprise today. This is the very best surprise there ever was. After Jesus died, his friends placed his body in a tomb, which is a cave where dead people are placed. Then they went home and rested because the next day was the Sabbath, the day of rest. They could not visit Jesus' tomb because they were not supposed to work on the day of rest.

As soon as the day of rest was over, a group of women who were Jesus' friends started walking toward his tomb. They wanted to show their love for Jesus, so they were bringing sweet-smelling spices to put on his body. As they walked toward the tomb, they realized something. The door to the tomb was a very large stone. It was too big for them to push aside. How would they get in?

When they arrived at the tomb, they had a huge surprise. The stone was not in front of the tomb! Someone had rolled it to the side, so they could walk right in. Who could have done this? The Bible tells us that early that morning, the angel of the Lord had come down from Heaven and rolled the stone away.

Since the doorway was not blocked, the women walked into the tomb, but they had another surprise. Jesus' body was not there! They saw the cloths that had been wrapped around his body, but they did not see Jesus anywhere. While they were trying to figure out what had happened, they had another surprise. Two angels stood beside them. "Why are you looking for a live person in this place where dead people are placed?" the angel asked. "Jesus is not here. He is risen from the dead. Jesus is alive!"

Jesus is alive? What a wonderful surprise! This was the best news ever! Quickly the women went to tell Jesus' other friends this happy news. On their way, Jesus himself met them. How amazed and happy they were! The morning that had begun with such sadness turned into the happiest morning they had ever known because Jesus is alive.

Lesson 43 – Jesus and Thomas

Last week, we learned about the happiest day in all the world. Do you remember the wonderful surprise that happened on that day? (Show students a picture/flannelgraph of empty tomb.) Yes! Jesus did not stay dead. He came back to life again!

After Jesus rose from the dead, he went to see his friends. Many of them were together in one room. Jesus talked to them. He ate food with them. He showed them the place in his hands where the nails had cut him when he was on the cross. One of Jesus' friends named Thomas was not there when Jesus came to see his friends. The next time they saw Thomas, they told him, "We have seen Jesus. He is alive."

Thomas did not believe them. Thomas replied, "Unless I see and touch the holes that the nails made in his hands, I will not believe." What do you think? Should Thomas trust what his friends told him? Should he believe them that Jesus is alive?

Eight days later, Jesus' friends were together again. Again, Jesus visited them. This time Thomas was with them. Would Jesus be angry at Thomas? Would Jesus scold Thomas for not believing that he was alive? No, Jesus was gentle with Thomas. "Peace to you," he told Thomas. Then Jesus showed Thomas the holes in his hands from the nails. "Here, look at my hands and touch them," Jesus told Thomas. "Stop not believing and start believing!"

What do you think? Now did Thomas believe that Jesus was really alive? Yes, he did! “My Lord and my God!” Thomas said to Jesus. Now, Thomas knew that Jesus was alive. Now, Thomas believed!

Lesson 44 – Jesus Ascends

One day Jesus was together with his friends in a garden on a mountain where they often liked to go. Now that Jesus was alive, his friends asked if it was time for him to be the King of the whole earth. “No,” Jesus told them. “Only God knows the right time for me to be the King.”

The Bible tells us that before Jesus becomes King, people from every part of the earth will believe in him. Jesus told his friends to go and tell everyone the good news: Jesus died for us and is alive again! He is coming back to be our King forever. Jesus wanted them to tell the good news so that more and more people would believe in him!

Jesus told his friends that he would give them power from God to help them share the good news. “You will receive power from the Holy Spirit,” Jesus told them. “Then you will tell people about me here in this town, in towns nearby, and even in places all the way to the ends of the earth!”

After this, Jesus rose up into the sky until a cloud covered him, and they could not see him anymore. What just happened? While they were still looking up at the sky, they saw two men in white clothes. Who do you think the men were? They were angels!

The angels asked them, “Why are you looking up at the sky? Jesus just went up to Heaven. Someday he will come back the same way you saw him go.”

Jesus is still living in Heaven today. Someday, when people from all over the earth know about him, Jesus will come back!

Lesson 45 – Jesus’ Church Grows and Grows

Last time, we learned about when Jesus went back to Heaven. Before he went, he told his friends that he had a job for them. He wanted them to tell people in their town, people in towns nearby, and people all over the world the good news about him. Jesus promised that God would send his Holy Spirit to help them.

Jesus’ friends were together in the city of Jerusalem. Every day they wondered if today was the day when God would send the Holy Spirit.

There was a special holiday called Pentecost. People from many places around the world had come to their town, Jerusalem, for Pentecost. Jesus’ friends were all together in one house when suddenly they heard a sound like a strong wind blowing through the house. Then they saw on each person a light that looked like a little flame of fire. What do you think made the sound and light? It was the Holy Spirit, whom God had promised to send. The Holy Spirit had come to help them tell everyone about Jesus!

Right away all Jesus’ friends began talking about Jesus. There were many people in Jerusalem that day from many different places. People in different parts of the world use different kinds of words, called languages. On this day, Jesus’ friends were able to speak different languages. Everyone heard about Jesus in words that they could understand!

As the people heard about Jesus, many of them believed! That day, many people believed in Jesus and became his followers.

Lesson 46 – Philip Meets a Man from Ethiopia

Last week we learned about a wonderful day when many people heard about Jesus and put their faith in him. The news of Jesus was starting to spread to more and more people, just like Jesus wanted it to. Today we will learn a story about a man from Ethiopia who learned about Jesus.

The Bible does not tell us the name of this man, but it does tell us his job. He worked for the queen. His job was to take care of all her money. What an important job!

The man from Ethiopia had gone to Jerusalem to worship God. Now he was riding in a chariot on the long road back home. Have you ever gone on a long trip in the car? Do you ever listen to Bible stories to pass the time in the car? That is what this man did. As he rode along in his chariot, this man was reading the Bible.

As he read, the man came to a part that he did not understand. He read about someone being killed, but since this man did not know about Jesus dying on the cross for our sins, he did not understand what it meant.

Who could go and tell this man about Jesus so that he would understand what he was reading?

God asked Philip to go. The Holy Spirit told Philip to start walking on the path that leads to Ethiopia. Ahead of him, Philip saw the chariot where the man was reading the Bible. “Go catch up with that chariot,” God told Philip.

Philip saw that the man was reading the Bible and asked him, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

Lesson 47 – Jesus Changes Saul

We have been learning about how more and more people were learning about Jesus. All the people who trusted and obeyed Jesus were called Christians.

Today's story is about a man named Saul. Saul really, really did not like the Christians. He did not like them so much that he would try to catch them and hurt them. Saul did not know it, but when he hurt Christians, it hurt Jesus too.

One day Saul was traveling to a city called Damascus so that he could catch the Christians and take them to jail. Suddenly, he saw a very bright light shining down from Heaven. Saul heard a voice say, "Saul, Saul, why are you hurting me?"

This voice came from Heaven, so who do you think was talking to Saul? That is right. It was Jesus.

Saul did not know whose voice it was. "Who are you, Lord?" he asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are hurting," Jesus said.

Saul was very surprised. "Lord, what do you want me to do?" he asked.

"Get up and go into the city, and someone will tell you what to do," Jesus said.

Saul got up, but when he opened his eyes, he could not see! The light had made him blind, which means he could not see.

The men traveling with him had to take his hand and lead him to the city.

In the city was a man named Ananias, who believed in Jesus. Jesus told Ananias to go visit Saul. Ananias did not want to go. “I have heard about Saul, and he is trying to hurt the Christians,” Ananias told Jesus.

“Go to him. He is going to tell lots of people about me,” Jesus told Ananias.

What do you think? Should Ananias go visit Saul, or not go since Saul might hurt him?

Ananias did what Jesus said. He went and visited Saul, and Saul did not hurt him! Saul now believed that Jesus was the Son of God, so he wanted to help Jesus’ followers, not hurt them. Ananias put his hands on Saul, and Saul’s eyes were healed. He was able to see again!

Right away, Saul started telling people about Jesus. What a change! Saul started out hurting Christians, but then he met Jesus and followed him. Now he wanted to tell everyone about Jesus!

Lesson 48 – Paul Sings in Jail

Last time, we learned about a man named Saul. Another name for Saul is Paul. We also learned how Jesus met Paul and changed him. After that, Paul started telling everyone about Jesus! Today we will learn about a whole family who believed in Jesus because of Paul.

Paul and his friend Silas traveled to many cities to tell people about Jesus. Some people were happy to hear about Jesus. They believed in him. Other people did not want to hear about Jesus. They tried to hurt Paul and make him leave their city. In one city, the people were so mad at Paul and Silas that they put them in jail! In jail, they put chains around Paul and Silas so that they could not run away. They put Paul and Silas in a small room made of stones. There was a heavy door with a lock so that they could not get out.

What would you do if you were in jail? Would you be sad?

In the jail, Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns, which are songs about God and Jesus. In the middle of the night, the ground started shaking. It was an earthquake! The big heavy doors in the jail broke! The metal chains around Paul and Silas broke off! Do you think God sent the earthquake so that Paul and Silas could be free from jail? Yes!

There was a man in charge of the jail. It was his job to make sure that no one got out. When he saw that the big doors and the chains were broken, he was worried. What if Paul and Silas had run away from jail?

“Do not worry,” Paul called to him. “We are still here.”

The man kneeled down in front of Paul and Silas. “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” he asked.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved,” Paul told him.

The man brought Paul and Silas to his house. He gave them food. They told the man and his family about Jesus. The man and his family believed in Jesus. That night, the man and his family were baptized! They were very glad to know about Jesus.

Lesson 49 – Paul is Shipwrecked

Last week we learned that Paul traveled and told the man in charge of the jail about Jesus. Today, Paul is taking another trip, but the trip does not go very well! Let's find out what happens.

On this trip, Paul was traveling by boat. The man in charge of the ship, called the captain, wanted to start the trip in the winter. Winter is not a good time for sailing. "This trip is not going to go well," Paul told the captain. The captain did not want to wait for better weather and began to sail anyway. For a few days, the weather was good. Maybe Paul was wrong. Then a strong wind began to blow. (*Pause to blow as a class like a strong wind.*) Thick clouds covered the sky. (*Turn off the classroom lights, and say, "We cannot see the sun—too many clouds!"*) The wind and clouds became a storm. Have you ever been in a storm? It is scary! Paul and the other travelers were probably scared too. The storm went on for days and days, so long that everyone thought that the ship would sink and that they would die.

One night, while Paul was sleeping on the ship, an angel appeared to him. "Do not be scared, Paul," the angel said. "God wants you to go talk to the emperor. He will keep you and everyone on the ship safe, but the ship is going to get stuck on an island and break in pieces."

This message made Paul feel much better. They were not going to die in the storm! Paul told everyone on the boat what the angel had said. They started to feel hopeful. The sailors checked, and sure enough, they were getting close to an island. Everyone who could swim jumped off the boat and swam to the island. People who could not swim grabbed pieces of wood from the ship so

that they could float to shore. The ship got stuck in the sand and was broken in pieces by the waves, but every single person on the boat made it safely to the island just like the angel had said.

Lesson 50 – John Sees Heaven

Do you remember how Paul got put in jail because he told people about Jesus? Today, we will learn about a man named John who got put in jail too. His jail was an island out in the sea. Since there was water all around, he could not get away.

One Sunday, John was worshiping God when he heard a voice behind him. It was Jesus! Jesus looked different than when he lived on earth. His face was as bright as the sun, and his body and clothes were shiny! “Do not be afraid,” Jesus told John. “Write down the things that I am going to show you.” Then, Jesus showed John what Heaven is like and what will happen when Jesus comes back.

First, John saw God’s throne in Heaven. The throne had a rainbow around it! Around the throne were angels and people singing and worshiping God. “Who are these people?” John asked. One of the people in Heaven told him, “These are the people who have believed in Jesus. They are never hungry or thirsty because Jesus takes care of them. God wipes away every tear from their eyes!” What a beautiful vision. Heaven is a wonderful place!

Then John saw Jesus returning to earth, riding on a white horse. Jesus became King over the whole earth. The evil one, Satan, tried to stop Jesus, but some angels caught Satan and locked him up! Then God set up a beautiful city called New Jerusalem. God lives in the city with his people. In God’s city, no one is sad, cries, has pain, or ever dies! The city has beautiful walls made of jewels. The streets of the city are made of gold. A beautiful clean river flows through the city, with fruit trees growing beside it. People

from all the different places on earth come to God's city to worship him. All the fighting on earth is ended forever.

Jesus wants us to know what Heaven is like because he is coming back soon!