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**42 CHRONOLOGICAL STORIES
IN THE BIBLE
REVEALING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**

Story Summaries

© Alan McAlister 2009

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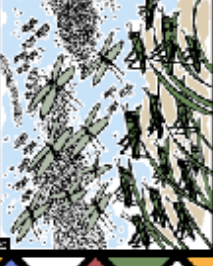
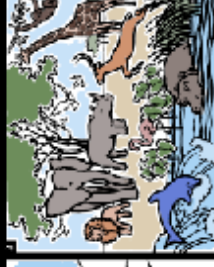
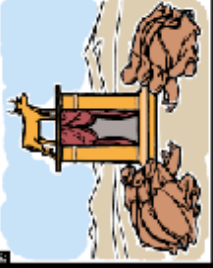
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Please note: All of the stories contain numerous Scripture references so that you may review them to prepare and to be ready to answer questions. However, you should not include the Scripture references when actually “telling” the stories.

For example, in Story 1, one of the points reads: “*Sin manifests itself in terrible crimes (Genesis 4), in immorality and violence (Genesis 6, 19), but most of all in pride and rebellion against God*” (Genesis 11).

However, when “telling” story one you would say: “*Sin manifests itself in terrible crimes, in immorality and violence, but most of all in pride and rebellion against God.*”

As you do this story by story, the result will be a better “Story Telling” method in communicating the wonderful plan God had from the beginning to send the Savior. When you go into a more detailed explanation of the stories, you will want to refer your students to the Scriptures listed.

Begin your stories with the following opening Paragraph:

“There is one God and He loves us very much, but there is a problem in our lives. We have rebelliously disobeyed His commandments, and so we are separated from God. This is the story of what the Bible teaches God has done to bring us back to Him.”

Story 1



The Spirit World

**Job 1:6-7, 38:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19;
2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6**

The Story:

- God created heavenly beings called angels to serve Him and live in heaven with Him, but they sometimes come to earth to help humans. Sometimes they are visible, sometimes invisible.
- God gave one special angel named Lucifer more wisdom (Ezekiel 28:12) and beauty than the rest because he was to lead all of the angels to worship God.
- Lucifer became proud and haughty and began to think he was better than God.
- God removed him from heaven and from His presence because of Lucifer's sin of pride.
- Some of the other angels followed Lucifer. The Bible calls them fallen angels or demons. Evil things that happen here on earth are the result of people rebelliously choosing to sin just as Lucifer and the demons chose. Sin is encouraged by this wicked being, also called "serpent" (Genesis 3, Revelation 12:9), "Satan" (Job 1:6, Luke 10:18) and "the devil" (Matthew 4:1,2).
- Sin manifests itself in terrible crimes (Genesis 4), in immorality and violence (Genesis 6, 19), but most of all in pride and rebellion against God (Genesis 11).



What is the source of evil?

Story 2



Creation 🎵

Genesis 1:1-25

The Story:

- In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He did this through the power of His word as He said, “Let there be...” (Genesis 1:3,6).
- God created light and separated the light from the darkness.
- God then created the atmosphere, the clouds, and the sky.
- God created the water, dry land, plants, and then the sun, moon, and stars.
- God created the birds, fish, and animals on the earth. And God blessed them [sea creatures and winged birds] saying, “be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters and the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” (Genesis 1:22).
- God created mankind in His image, both male and female. God gave control of the earth to them and commanded that they multiply. He also told them to take care of and control all the things He had made.
- Being done with creation on the 7th day, God rested.



How did God create the heavens and the earth and why?

🎵 *Songs can help people of every culture to learn the stories.*

“He’s got the Whole World in His Hands” may be used here.

(See www.HIStorycloth.com for lyrics and chords.)

Story 3a



Adam and Eve

Genesis 2:7-3:24

The Bridge: When God created man, He made **his body** out of dust and breathed life (**his soul**) into him. God had fellowship with this man and put him in a beautiful garden called Eden.

The Story:

- God made a man, who was called “Adam” (Genesis 2:20, 3:17), and He met with him daily.
- God told Adam that he could eat anything he wanted in the garden except the fruit from the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.” He also gave Adam a warning: On the day he ate the fruit, he would die. (Genesis 2:16-17)
- God noticed that it was not good for Adam to be alone, so He created Eve. God put Adam in a deep sleep, took one of his ribs and made Eve. (Genesis 2:18-25). Adam and Eve were living in the garden, in fellowship with God each day, and were very happy.



Why did God create mankind?

Story 3b



Adam and Eve

Genesis 2:7-3:24

The Bridge: When God created man in His image, He put him in Eden, a wonderful place that contained everything that Adam could want or need. In the garden was also “the tree of life,” which showed that God was and is the source of eternal life and blessing (Genesis 2:9, Revelation 22:14).

The Story:

- God reminded Adam that he was to trust Him and obey Him. So, He told Adam that he could eat anything in the garden except of the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.” If he did, he would die. One day, Lucifer came to Eve in the form of a snake to deceive her into disobeying God. He told her that she would not die if she ate from the fruit of the tree but she would be like God (Genesis 3: 1-5). “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.” (Genesis 3:6).
- As a result of their disobedience, they took their eyes off of God and each other. “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.” (Genesis 3:7). When they heard God coming in the garden, they became afraid and hid themselves. When God asked why they were hiding, the man said, “The woman whom You gave [to be] with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” (Genesis 3:12-13).
- God said to the snake, “You are going to bruise the seed of this woman, but He is going to crush your head.” God said to Adam, “The ground which you work will now be cursed with things that will make you toil as you work.” He also told Adam that “From the dust you came, to the dust you will go.” He said to Eve, “You will have pain during childbirth.” (Genesis 3:14-19).
- God made clothes for them from an animal skin, so there was a blood sacrifice for their sin.
- Then God removed them from the garden to show how disobedience and sin separates us from the presence of a Holy God; “therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.” (Genesis 3:23-24).



What is temptation, how does it lead to sin, and what are its consequences?

Story 4



Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:1-26

The Bridge: Adam and Eve had two children. Cain, the firstborn, was a farmer and Abel was a herder.

The Story:

- Cain and Abel brought offerings to God. Abel brought a first-born from his flock. Cain brought some produce from a garden. God rejected Cain's offering but favored Abel's sacrifice because Abel had followed the example God gave when He killed an animal to cover Adam and Eve's sin.
- God warned Cain, "If you do well, will not [your countenance] be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." (Genesis 4:7). Cain remained angry. He ignored God's warning and killed Abel.
- So, God said to Cain, "...What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth." (Genesis 4:10-12).
- After leaving his home "Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son." There many others born through the descendants of Cain, some of whom were evil. (Genesis 4:17-24)
- Adam and Eve had another son named Seth, and through his descendants "men began to call upon God" (Genesis 4:26).



What does this story tell us about sin?

Story 5



Noah's Ark 🎵

Genesis 5:28-11:10

The Bridge: As the earth was populated, it became more and more filled with violence and wickedness because of sin. “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.” (Genesis 6:5-6).

The Story:

- “The LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.” But “Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6:7-8). Noah was a righteous man because he walked with God, and he trusted Him (Psalm 27:5, 33:18; 2 Peter 2:9).
- God told him to build a large boat, called an Ark, which would hold not only his family, but pairs of all the animals of the earth along with extra pairs of clean animals for a later sacrifice (See Leviticus 11). The Ark took many years to build, but Noah obeyed God and built it.
- It rained for 40 days and 40 nights and flooded all the earth for one hundred and fifty days. Everyone perished except for Noah and his family. Afterwards, the Ark landed on a mountain. When Noah and his family got off the Ark, Noah offered sacrifices to God. God promised never to send a flood to cover the earth again and gave the rainbow as a sign of that promise.
- God blessed Noah and then gave him a command; He told him, “...Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” (Genesis 8:15-17, ESV). And they did [Acts 17:26].
- After the flood, the people became rebellious and determined to build a tower to the heavens to reach God. God confused them by giving them different languages so they could not work together (Genesis 11:1-9).



How did God reveal His provision for sin?

🎵 “Arky, Arky” may be used here. (See www.HIStorycloth.com “downloads” for lyrics and chords.)

Story 6



God's Promise to Abraham 🎵

Genesis 12, 15, 17, 18, 21

The Bridge: One of the descendants of Noah was Abram, whom God chose to bless. One day, God told him to leave his family and his father's land, and go to a place where God would show him. Abram obeyed God, taking his nephew Lot with him as well (Genesis 12:4). During this time God made Abram several promises:

- "...I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:2-3, ESV).
- "...Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. ¹⁶I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted" (Genesis 13:14-16, ESV)

The Story:

- After giving His promises to Abram, God took him outside and said "...Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness" (Genesis 15:5-6).
- In spite of the promises God made to Abram, he and his wife, Sarai, still had no child after ten years. So, Sarai suggested Abram have a child with her slave, Hagar. They named the son Ishmael (Genesis 16:1-12).
- After the birth of Ishmael, God re-affirmed His promise to bless Abram with a son by Sarai, and told Abram that the sign of his belief would be circumcision. God then changed their names to Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 17:1-17).
- Abraham had to send Hagar and Ishmael away because of Sarah's jealousy. God promised to bless him and make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. God said, "He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation" (Genesis 17:20). God then re-affirmed His promise to Abram. "But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year" (Genesis 17:21).
- Sarah miraculously bore a son in her old age, and they named him Isaac (Genesis 18:1; 21:1-7).



Why did God choose Abraham? (Genesis 18:19)



Why was Abraham counted as righteous before God?

🎵 *The song, "Father Abraham" may help children remember this story. (See www.HISTORYcloth.com "downloads" for lyrics and Chords)*

Story 7



Abraham's Test

Genesis 22:1-19

The Bridge: Abraham loved his son Isaac very much. This was the first time in the Bible the word *LOVE* appears. God wanted to see if Abraham loved Him more than Isaac. The pagan nations around Abraham sacrificed their children all the time, but God had never asked the sacrifice of a child before, just animals. As a test of Abraham's trust, God asked him to offer his son to Him.

The Story:

- God said , "...Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you" (Genesis 22:2).
- Remembering all of God's promises that He had made about blessing him with many descendants through Isaac, "Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him" (Genesis 22:3).
- Abraham told the young men, "...Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you" (Genesis 22:5). Abraham trusted that God would keep His promise to bless him with descendants from Isaac.
- "Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son..." (Genesis 22:6-8).
- He then tied up Isaac, laid him on the altar, and was ready to slay his son with his knife when the Angel of the Lord stopped him.
- And the Lord said, "...now I know that you fear God since you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me" (Genesis 22:12). God provided a ram that was caught in the thicket to sacrifice as a substitute.

What are the similarities between Abraham offering his son Isaac and God offering His Son Jesus?



What is the major difference?

Story 8



God's Plan for Israel (Jacob and Esau)

Genesis 25:19-34, 27:1-30:43

The Bridge: God began to fulfill His promise to give Abraham many descendants through Isaac by blessing Jacob, Isaac's son, with 12 sons.

The Story:

- Isaac married Rebekah and they had twins. Before they were born they struggled inside of Rebekah. When she inquired of the Lord, He said to her, "...Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples will be separated from your body; and one people shall be stronger than the other; And the older shall serve the younger" (Genesis 25:23).
- God was showing that He would fulfill His promise through Jacob, the second born.
- Esau was born first and then Jacob, who came out holding on to Esau's heel (Genesis 25:26).
- It was customary for the first-born son to receive a special inheritance, but because he was hungry, Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew.
- When his father Isaac was very old, his eyesight was failing. Jacob tricked him into giving him the first-born blessing by pretending to be Esau.
- Esau was very angry, so Jacob was sent to stay with his uncle Laban until his brother wasn't angry any longer (Genesis 27:41; 28:1).



What was valued more by Esau than what Jacob valued?

Story 9



God's Plan for Israel (Jacob's Dream) Genesis 28:11-22

The Bridge: Jacob fled from Esau's anger and traveled toward Haran in Canaan where Rebekah's brother Laban lived. "He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place" (Genesis 28:11).

The Story:

- As Jacob slept, "He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants'" (Genesis 28:12-13).
- The Lord promised to take care of Jacob and bless him. God let him know that it would be through him that the Lord would carry on the promise He made to Abraham and that he would be the father of many peoples (Genesis 28:14-15).
- "Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it" (Genesis 28:16).
- Jacob called that place "Bethel" meaning —"God is in this place" (Genesis 28:19).
- Then Jacob made a vow; "If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, and I return to my father's house in safety, then the LORD will be my God. This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You" (Genesis 28:20-22).



What was revealed in Jacob's dream?

Story 10



God's Fulfills His promise

Genesis 29:1-35, 30:1-24

The Bridge: Remember God's promise to Abraham to give him many descendants through Isaac's descendants? While Esau, Isaac's firstborn was traditionally the one who would receive Isaac's inheritance, God chose to work through Jacob, the second-born son to make the nation of Israel.

The Story:

- While living with his uncle Laban, Jacob fell in love with Laban's younger daughter, Rachel. When Laban asked what wages he should pay Jacob for his work, Jacob said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel" (Genesis 29:18).
- "So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her" (Genesis 29:20). On the night of the marriage, Jacob was deceived into marrying Leah, the older daughter first (Genesis 29:21-25).
- When Jacob protested, Laban said, "It is not the practice in our place to marry off the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also for the service which you shall serve with me for another seven years" (Genesis 29:26-27).
- "Jacob did so and completed her week, and he gave him his daughter Rachel as his wife" (Genesis 29:28).
- Through Rachel, Leah, and their maids Zilpah and Bilhah, eleven sons were born while Jacob was with Laban (Genesis 29:31-30:24). Later a twelfth son would be born (Genesis 35:18). Eventually, the families of these sons became the Twelve Tribes of Israel (Genesis 49:28).



What was God revealing in choosing the second-born, Jacob, to fulfill His promise to Abraham.

Story 11



Jacob Wrestles with an Angel

Genesis 32:1-33:11

The Bridge: God blessed Jacob with many children, servants, herds, and flocks (Genesis 30:25-41). On his way back to his homeland, Jacob encountered an Angel of God. The story illustrates the Sovereign protection of God and the responsibility of man.

The Story:

- When God told Jacob to go back to Canaan, Jacob feared Esau's anger over losing his birthright (Genesis. 31:3, 13).
- As he traveled, Jacob sent messengers ahead of his party telling Esau of his homecoming (Genesis 32:3-6). Upon hearing that Esau was on his way to meet him, Jacob became afraid and prayed to God reminding Him of His promise to him (Genesis 32:7-12).
- He then sent many gifts of livestock to his brother Esau to appease his anger (Genesis 32:13-21).
- After sending gifts to Esau, Jacob sent his wives, servants, and eleven sons across the river and placed them in a camp (Genesis 32:22-23).
- He then was left alone when he was confronted by an angel of the Lord. Jacob wanted God to bless him and protect him from his brother's anger; he wrestled all night with the angel holding tight, determined to persevere. When day broke, the angel gave in and blessed Jacob by changing his name from Jacob to Israel, which means "He who strives with God." Jacob left limping as a reminder of this (Genesis 32:24-32).
- When Jacob met Esau, Esau ran to meet him and embraced him. There was reconciliation between them.(Genesis 33:1-20).



How does what Jacob did to appease Esau's anger relate to our salvation?

Story 12



Joseph

Genesis 37, 39-47

The Bridge: Jacob and Esau lived together peacefully. Because Rachel was Jacob's favorite wife, her first-born, Joseph, was Jacob's (Israel's) favorite son. He received special attention. Jacob even gave him a coat of many colors, which made his brothers jealous.

The Story:

- Joseph dreamed that his family bowed down before him. This made his brothers angry. They sold him into slavery in Egypt (Genesis 37:12-25). They covered his coat of many colors with blood from a young goat, and sent the coat to their father. Jacob recognized the coat and thought that maybe a lion or other wild animal killed him. Jacob was devastated (Genesis 37:31-35). Afterwards, Benjamin, the son Rachel bore to him, became his favorite (Genesis 35:18).
- In Egypt, Joseph was falsely accused of attempted rape and imprisoned (Genesis 39:7-19). Servants of Pharaoh's court who were in prison had their dreams interpreted by Joseph (Genesis 40:1-19). One of the servants was released and would later remember Joseph (Genesis 41:9-13).
- Pharaoh dreamed that there were 7 fat cows and 7 lean cows coming out of the river. The servants told Pharaoh about Joseph, who said that there would be 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine. Joseph was put in charge of storing grain for the famine years (Genesis 41:14-57).
- During the famine, Jacob sent all of his sons, except Benjamin, to Egypt to get food. They did not recognize Joseph, so they bowed down to him just like in the dream (Genesis 42:1-26).
- Joseph finally revealed who he was to them. Joseph was not angry because he realized that God had worked through him to save them from starving to death (Genesis 45:5-8, cf. 50:17-21).
- The brothers went back to Canaan and told Jacob that Joseph was alive. Jacob moved the whole family and all of their belongings to Egypt because of the famine (Genesis 45:25-46:1). The Pharaoh gave Jacob and his sons land to live on [Goshen] (Genesis 47:11).
- Joseph lived with his family in Egypt for the rest of his life. Before he died, he instructed that his bones be taken to Canaan (Genesis 49:29; Exodus 13:19).



How does the story of Joseph relate to Jesus and what He would do to save us?

Story 13



Moses' Early Years

Exodus 1:1-22, 2:1-22

The Bridge: Over the next 400 years from the time of Joseph's reign in Egypt, the Israelites multiplied greatly. Since one of Abraham's ancestors was "Eber" (Genesis 10:24), his descendants became known as Hebrews. A new Pharaoh came into power who did not know of Joseph. He became fearful of a takeover. So, he enslaved the Israelites (Exodus 1:8-12). To reduce their population, he also put out a decree that all the Hebrew baby boys should be put to death (Exodus 1:15-22).

The Story:

- Moses was born in Egypt during this time, but his parents refused to put him to death. So, the mother made a basket and put the baby in the river. His sister, Miriam, watched the baby while she hid near the river during the day (Exodus 2:1-4).
- Pharaoh's daughter was bathing in the river, found Moses and took him for her own (Exodus. 2:5-6).
- Miriam appeared and offered to find a nurse for the child. Moses' own mother got to take care of him (Exodus 2:7-9).
- As he got older, Moses lived in Pharaoh's palace (Exodus 2:10).
- One day when Moses was a young adult, he saw a Hebrew and an Egyptian fighting. In defending the Hebrew, Moses killed the Egyptian (Exodus 2:11-12).
- People found out about the murder, so Moses fled to Midian (Exodus 2:15).
- In Midian, Moses married and stayed there herding sheep (Exodus 2:16-22).



How did God work to save the life of Moses?

Story 14



Moses and the Burning Bush 🎵

Exodus 2:23-4:18

The Bridge: The Hebrews continued to live under slavery in Egypt for many years. The people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. God heard their groaning and remembering His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God determined to respond to their cries (Exodus 2:23-25, ESV).

The Story:

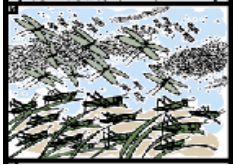
- Moses was herding his sheep one day when he saw a burning bush that was not being consumed (Exodus 3:2).
- God spoke to Moses from the bush and told Moses that He had come to earth to rescue the Hebrew people out of slavery (Exodus 3:4-10).
- He also told Moses that He was sending him to the Pharaoh so he could lead God’s people out of Egypt (Exodus 3:10).
- Moses asked God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” And God answered, “I will be with you” (Exodus 3:11, ESV).
- Moses asked God, “[When the Hebrews ask, ‘what is the name of He who sent me?’] Whom shall I say sent me?” God said, “I Am that I Am. Tell them I Am sent you” (Exodus 3:14).
- Moses obeyed the Lord and headed back to Egypt.



How does God’s preparation of Moses to deliver the Israelites relate to us today?

🎵 *The song “Go Down Moses” (verses 1-6) may help students to remember the details of the story. See www.HISTORYcloth.com “downloads” for lyrics and chords)*

Story 15



The Plagues of Egypt

Exodus 2:23-11:10

The Bridge: Moses departed Median to return to Egypt. God instructed Moses not to fear or hesitate using the powers He had given him. He was also instructed to tell the Pharaoh to let His people go that they might worship Him (Exodus 4:21-23).

The Story:

- Moses came to Pharaoh and told him, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Let My people go that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness’” (Exodus 5:1).
- But Pharaoh was not going to let his huge army of slaves leave. He said "Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and besides, I will not let Israel go" (Exodus 5:2)
- The request made the Pharaoh mad. So, he instructed the slave-leaders to increase the work-load of the slaves. He told them that they were not to provide the materials required, but to make them look for the ingredients themselves (Exodus 5:20-23).
- Ten times Moses came to Pharaoh and said, “Let my people go!” And ten times when Pharaoh refused, God sent plagues on the land and possessions of Egypt. The purposes of these plagues were “that the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord” (Exodus 7:4-5). The Egyptians had many gods.
- The first six plagues were the water turned to blood, frogs, gnats; flies, the Egyptian cattle died, and boils. After these plagues, God told Moses to return to the Pharaoh and say, “For this time I will send all My plagues on you and your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth” (Exodus 9:14)
- He then visited plagues of hail, locusts, and darkness all of which personally affected them (Exodus 9:13-10:28).
- Nine times Pharaoh agreed to let the people go if God would just get rid of the plagues. Nevertheless, on every occasion, when the plagues stopped, the Pharaoh changed his mind. At the finish of the ninth plague event, Pharaoh told Moses to depart and that he never wanted to see his face again, and Moses answered, “As you say” (Exodus 10:29).



What can happen to us when we refuse to listen to God?

Story 16



The Passover

Exodus 11:1-13:19

The Bridge: The final plague was terrible! God was working His plan to reveal His awesome power to the Egyptians who worshipped false gods, including their Pharaohs. God told Moses that after this final plague, Pharaoh would finally let His people go (Exodus 11:1).

The Story:

- The Lord told Moses that He would cause the death of the firstborn male of every family [from the king's house to the lowest servant's house] and of every animal in the land of Egypt (Exodus 11:4-5). He also told Moses, "Speak now in the hearing of the people that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry" (Exodus 11:2, ESV).
- In order to avoid the death plague, God gave Moses very specific instructions to tell the people. They were to kill a lamb or goat without blemish and put some of the blood on the doorposts of their houses. This blood was a distinguishing mark (Exodus 12:13) that symbolized that the people in that house trusted God and that a substitute had been offered for the firstborn. The firstborn belong to God (See Exodus 13:2, 11-13). Then the Lord would pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come in to that house (Exodus 12:13, 23).
- They were also to observe a Passover Meal. God told the Hebrew people to get ready and to eat the meal ready to travel, because after the last plague the people were going to flee Egypt (Exodus 12:11).
- When the destroyer came that night (Exodus 12:23), the people all over Egypt were crying. The firstborn of Pharaoh's house died, too. Pharaoh then told Moses to take his people and leave (Exodus 12:29-32).
- As the Hebrews were leaving, they asked the Egyptians for gold and silver. The Egyptians were so happy to see them go that they loaded them down (Exodus 12:35-37).
- The Israelites traveled across the desert with about 600,000 men and their families with them along with their animals and possessions. Many others from Egypt also travelled along with them (Exodus 12:37).



What do God's instructions regarding the Passover lamb and meal reveal about our deliverance?

Story 17



Parting of the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17-17:6

The Bridge: “When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, “Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.”¹⁸ But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle.¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones with you from here.”²⁰ And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness.²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.²² *The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people*” (Exodus 13:17-22, ESV).

The Story:

- When the Pharaoh realized that the Israelites were gone, and that his slave-labor pool had vanished, his heart was hardened and he sent his army, horses, and chariots to capture the slaves and bring them back to Egypt (Exodus 14:9).
- When they came to the Red Sea, the Israelites saw the warriors coming upon them. They panicked and thought they were trapped. They even began to complain to Moses saying they were better off in Egypt as slaves (Exodus 14:12).
- Moses told them, “Fear not. Stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord” (Exodus 14:13-14). Moses lifted up his staff and the waters of the Red Sea separated, leaving two walls of water and dry ground so that the people with Moses could cross the sea on dry ground (Exodus 14:21-22).
- The Egyptian army followed them into the sea, but as soon as the last Israelite crossed over, the waters swallowed up the chariots, horses, and soldiers (Exodus 14:23-28).
- The Israelites continued to be led by the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire. When the pillar moved, they moved. They stayed in the presence of God all the time (Exodus 13:21-22; 40:36-37; Numbers 9:17-22; Nehemiah 9:12, 19).
- During this time, God fed the Israelites with manna, a substance that came from heaven from which they made bread cakes. He also provided quail and water. In spite of this, the people still grumbled and complained at times (Exodus 16:1-36).



How does what God did in parting the Red Sea relate to our salvation?

Story 18



The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-18; Deuteronomy 5:6-29

The Bridge: God desired to separate for Himself a people (Exodus 3:3-6). God reminded His people that “I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (Deuteronomy 5:6). Out of love for them, God gave standards and directions that they were to follow so that they could live as He desired and so that He could bless them. God said, “Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever” (Deuteronomy 5:29).

The Story:

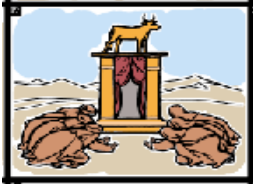
- On the occasion of the giving of His Laws, the Lord called Moses to go up on a mountain (Exodus 19:3, 20). Joshua, his helper, went part of the way with Moses. In the midst of smoke, lightning and thunder, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-18).
- In the first four laws God taught His people how to relate to Him. They were to have (1) no gods but God, (2) no graven images, and (3) not use God’s name in vain. To be reminded of these things, they were to (4) keep the Sabbath day holy (Exodus 20:1-11).
- The last six laws showed His people how to relate to one another: (5) honor your parents, (6) don’t murder, (7) don’t commit adultery, (8) don’t steal, (9) don’t lie, (10) don’t covet (Exodus 20:12-18).
- God also gave Moses additional ordinances and cautions along with the beginnings of a worship system (Exodus 21:1-23:33). When Moses told the people about God’s commandments and ordinances, they replied, “All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!” (Exodus 24:3). By obeying these laws, they showed that they were God’s people.
- Later the Lord again called Moses up on the mountain in order to give him the stone tablets on which He wrote the law and commands. “Now the LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction’” (Exodus 24:12).



How do the Ten Commandments relate to our need to trust in Jesus?

Note: For insight into the application of the Ten Commandments to life, see Exodus 21:1-23:33.

Story 19



The Golden Calf

Exodus 32:1-35, 34:1-28

The Bridge: When God called Moses to the mountain to give him the stone tablet, he was gone so long the people began to think that he was not coming back. They said, "...Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him" (Exodus 32:6).

The Story:

- In a weak moment, the people forgot that it was the One True God who delivered them from Egypt. They wanted a god they could see. In his weakness, Aaron allowed the Israelites to bring him their gold rings and made a golden calf. He then built an altar around it for the people to worship a god they could see (Exodus 32:2-5). The people worshipped the calf by dancing and singing around it (Exodus 32:6).
- While Moses was still on the mountain meeting with God, God told Moses, "...Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*. "They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it and have sacrificed to it and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!'" (Exodus 32:7-8).
- God was prepared to destroy them and make a new nation through Moses (Exodus 32:10). Moses reminded God, "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit *it* forever.'" So the LORD changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people" (Exodus 32:13-14).
- Moses and his helper Joshua came down from the mountain and heard the singing and saw the people dancing around the altar with the golden calf. In anger, Moses threw down the tablets with the commandments and they broke into pieces (Exodus 32:15-19). Moses took the gold idol, burned it and ground it into dust, scattered it over the surface of the water, and made the people drink it to show them what God thought of golden idols. Those who worshipped the golden calf were killed (Exodus 32:20-28).
- Later, Moses went back to the mountain and God gave him new tablets on which to write His laws (Exodus 34:1-28).



Why did the people make a golden calf?

Story 20



Building the Tabernacle

Exodus 25-31:11

The Bridge: After the people had worshipped the golden calf, God gave them a place to which they could come to worship. When Moses was on the mountain, God gave him detailed instructions on how to make a tent for meeting called the tabernacle. God said to Moses, "According to all that I am going to show you, *as* the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct *it*" (Exodus 25:9).

The Story:

- When Moses told the people about God's instructions for making the tabernacle, "Everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him came *and* brought the LORD'S contribution for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service and for the holy garments" (Exodus 35:21).
- The walls for the tent were constructed of wood covered with gold, and the covering for the tent was made from animal skins. The tent was divided into two rooms; one called the Holy Place, the other the Holy of Holies. In one room, the Holy Place, there was a table, a lampstand and an altar. There were candles in this room to symbolize God's presence with them. The altar of incense reminded them to pray daily.
- The Holy of Holies was separated from the Holy Place by a big curtain. Inside was a box made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold. This box held the Ten Commandments and later would hold Aaron's staff (Numbers 17:1-11) as well as a container of Manna, which God gave His people to feed them when they were in the wilderness. Its covering, called the mercy seat, was the place where God met with the High Priest and reminded them of God's holiness. Once a year, the priest would come into the Holy of Holies to offer a sacrifice [a male goat] as a substitute for all the sins of the people (Leviticus 16:3-28).
- God also told Moses to "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, '... you shall bring your offering of animals from the herd or the flock. If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer it, a male without defect; he shall offer it at the doorway of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD. He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, that it may be accepted for him to make atonement on his behalf'" (Leviticus 1:2-4).



How do the stories of the Golden Calf and the Tabernacle relate to the coming of Jesus?

Note: You may read of the many details associated with the tabernacle in Exodus, Chapters 35-40.

Story 21



Promised Land 🎵

Numbers 13:1-14:45; Joshua 1:1-6:27

The Bridge:

Remember how God led His people out of Egypt? “The LORD was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night” (Exodus 13:21-22). As they followed the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire, the Lord led them towards the land He promised Abraham. When they were hungry, God fed them with Manna from heaven (Exodus 16:14-15). When they were thirsty, He gave them water to drink (Exodus 17:6).

The Story:

- The people arrived at Kadesh in the Wilderness of Paran. Moses sent scouts from each of the 12 tribes of Israel to see about the land and the people (Numbers 13:1-25).
- Ten came back saying that the people of the land seemed like giants and the cities were fortified. Joshua and Caleb came back saying that the land was flowing with milk and honey and the Lord would deliver the land to them just as He had promised. They brought back samples of fruit and produce to show them (Numbers 13:26-33). Upon hearing the reports, most of the people wanted to go back to Egypt. They didn't believe that God would give them the land He had promised (Numbers 14:1-4).
- God saw their lack of trust and said that none of these people would see the Promised Land. They would wander in the desert for 40 years [one for every day the scouts spent in Canaan] until all of the people 20 years old or older died (Numbers 14:11-44). Since Joshua and Caleb believed God, they were allowed to enter along with the children of those who doubted.
- During the wilderness journey, the people needed water. God told Moses to speak to the rock to bring forth water. Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod and water poured forth abundantly. God told Moses that he would not go into the Promised Land because of the sin of disobedience (Numbers 20:1-12).
- After Moses died, Joshua and Caleb led the people into the Promised Land. When they entered the land, they partially conquered the people with God's help, and they lived on the land for many generations (Joshua, chapters 1-24).



How does the story of the Promised Land relate to salvation?

🎵 The song “Go Down Moses” (verses 9-12) may help students learn the details of this story. (see www.HISstorycloth.com “downloads” for lyrics and chords.)

Story 22



Samuel and Eli

I Samuel 1:1-3:21

The Bridge:

As His people lived in the land that God promised Abraham, the Lord provided two vital offices to guide His relationship with His people. There were priests, like Eli, who were to lead the worship of God, and prophets, like Samuel, who helped the people understand their relationship with Him.

The Story:

- Eli, the High Priest, oversaw a more permanent place of worship than the tent of meeting. It was a temple in Shiloh, which was patterned after the tabernacle (I Samuel 1:9). Eli was "very old," and most likely retired [Numbers 8:23-26]. Eli stayed in the temple, but left most of the administration of the temple in the hands of his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. However, as priests, "...the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the LORD" (1 Samuel 2:12).
- During this time, a woman named Hannah was praying for God to give her a child. She promised that if God would answer her prayer, she would give him back to God to be His servant. God heard her prayer and gave her a son whom she named Samuel ("Because I have asked him of the LORD", I Samuel 1:20). When he was weaned [perhaps three years old], she took him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh and gave him to Eli to be in the service of the Lord for the remainder of his days (1 Samuel 1:24-28).
- One night, God called, "Samuel." Samuel thought it was Eli calling him, so he ran to see what Eli wanted. Eli said, "I did not call you." After two more times, Eli realized that it was God calling. Eli told Samuel that when he heard the voice again to say, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" (1 Samuel 3:1-10)
- God told Samuel that Eli and his two sons would die and Samuel would be the next prophet. It was because of their disobedience that Eli and his sons would be removed from the Lord's service (1 Samuel 2:27-36 cf. 1 Kings 2:27).
- Samuel was a good prophet and spoke for God. He kept the Israelite people worshipping God and offered sacrifices each year for their sins, and all Israel knew that he was a prophet of the Lord (1 Samuel 3:19-21).



What was the role of the prophets in God's plan of salvation?

Story 23



A King for the Israelites

I Samuel 8:1-15:35

The Bridge:

When Samuel became old, he appointed his sons, Joel and Abijah, as judges over Israel. “His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice” (1 Samuel 8:3). So the people of Israel demanded a king because all the nations around them had one. Samuel thought their request was rebellion against God, but, “The LORD said to Samuel, ‘Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them’” (1 Samuel 8:7).

The Story:

- God chose an impressive, tall, strong warrior named Saul to be the King of the Israelites. Samuel anointed him king, and promised him that the Spirit of the Lord would control him. On that day God changed Saul’s heart (1 Samuel 9:14-17; 10:6-8).
- One day Samuel told Saul to [do whatever was required to bring deliverance to Israel from the Ammonites], and then to meet him seven days later at Gilgal to offer sacrifices (1 Samuel 10:7-8). Saul’s army defeated the Ammonite camp and the people rejoiced he was king (1 Samuel 11:11-15).
- Then, Samuel told Saul that God remembered how the Amalekites opposed Israel when they came out of Egypt [Numbers 14:45], and that he was to attack their camp and destroy them, not sparing anyone or any animal (1 Samuel 15:1-3). (Remember, God will judge sin.)
- However, Saul did not obey. He destroyed the people, but captured King Agag and spared the best of the sheep, cattle, and fattened calves, as well as the young rams (1 Samuel 15:7-9). It seemed he wanted to parade the Amalekite King Agag and the best animals in front of the people claiming yet another victory for himself. He became prideful.
- When Samuel came to Saul, Saul said to him, “Blessed be you to the LORD. I have performed the commandment of the LORD.”¹⁴ And Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?” (1 Samuel 15:12-14, ESV).
- Saul claimed that he saved those animals for a sacrifice to God (1 Samuel 15:15). Samuel said, “To obey is better than sacrifice. You have rebelled and rebellion is a sin” (1 Samuel 15:22-23).
- Samuel told Saul that God would take the kingdom away from him. Saul reached out to grab Samuel in protest and accidentally ripped his tunic. Samuel said, “Just as you have torn my tunic, God will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to another who will obey Him” (1 Samuel 15:27-29).



What can happen when we don't listen to God?

Story 24



David, Solomon and the Temple

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 2:4-7, 7:1-16;

1 Kings 1:29-7:51, 11:1-12:20

The Bridge: After he told Saul that God would remove him as king, “Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death; for Samuel grieved over Saul” (1Samuel 15:35).

The Story:

- “Now the LORD said to Samuel, ‘How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons’” (1Samuel 16:1). This family was from the tribe of Judah. Jesse had eight sons.
- Jesse had each of his seven oldest sons go before Samuel. Samuel thought Eliab, Jesse’s oldest, was the one. “But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God *sees* not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1Samuel 16:7). The same thing happened to the remainder of the seven (1 Samuel 16:8-10).
- Samuel asked Jesse if he had any other sons. Jesse said he had a younger boy, David, who was out in the field tending the animals, and Jesse sent for him. When David returned home and Samuel saw him, “the LORD said, ‘Arise, anoint him; for this is he’” (1 Samuel 16:12). When Samuel anointed him to be king, God’s spirit came mightily upon him (1 Samuel 16:13).
- David became one of the greatest warrior kings ever. He defeated a Philistine giant named Goliath and led His people to victory over all his enemies (1 Samuel 17-19). Because David loved the Lord, God told David that through him He would fulfill His promise to send one who would save the people and rule forever (2 Samuel 7:16, cf. Jeremiah 23:5-6). King David wanted to build a temple for God, but God told him that since he had been a man of war, his son Solomon would build it (2 Samuel 7:1-16).
- After King David died, his son Solomon began his reign ruling in the wisdom of God (1 Kings. 3:9, 4:29). He built a glorious temple which was similar to the plan for the tabernacle that God gave Moses (1 Kings 6:1-38). However, over time, Solomon allowed the temptations of the world to cause him to stray from God (1 Kings 11:4). After Solomon’s reign, the nation of Israel was split into two kingdoms; Judah and Israel (1 Kings 11:1-12:20).



How does what God did in King David’s life relate to our Salvation?

Story 25



Elijah on Mount Carmel

I Kings 18:1-40

The Bridge: Even from the time the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, the worship of false idol gods, like Baal and Asherah, continued in Israel (Judges 2:11-13). About fifty years after Solomon’s reign, there was a wicked king over Israel named Ahab.

The Story:

- King Ahab’s wife was Jezebel, who was a devotee of Baal and Asherah [her father was a priest of Baal]. She and her husband, King Ahab, led the people to worship false gods of Baal and the use of Asherah (1 Kings 16:31-33).
- During his reign, Elijah told King Ahab there would be no rain for three years – not even any dew, except by his word (1 Kings 17:1).
- Three years later, Elijah told the 450 prophets of the god Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah to meet him on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:16-19).
- Elijah told the prophets of Baal to prepare an altar and sacrifice to Baal, and he would prepare one to his God. “And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God – make sure you follow Him.” And all the people answered, “It is well spoken” (1 Kings 18:24, ESV).
- The prophets of Baal prepared a sacrifice and began to cry out to him. Nothing happened. Elijah mocked them and said, “Maybe your god is asleep, on a trip or otherwise detained. Call louder.” (1 Kings 18:27) The people shouted even louder and cut themselves. Their blood flowed until mid-day. Still, there was no answer.
- Elijah prepared the sacrifice on the altar and soaked everything with water. Elijah prayed, “Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God” (I Kings 18:37). Fire came down from heaven and consumed everything...wood, the sacrifice, stones, and water.
- Everyone cried out, “The Lord is the only One True God.” All the false prophets of Baal were killed that day.



What is the point of this story?

Story 26



Jesus' Coming Foretold

Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7, 53:1-12; Micah 5:2

The Bridge: Throughout the Old Testament God used His prophets to give prophecies that would point the way to the One He promised in Genesis 3:15. The Apostle Paul wrote that the Hebrew Scriptures were written as “mere shadows” that pointed to the One who would come as the Light of the World, the Christ. (Colossians 2:17). The prophets God used to foretell the coming of the long-awaited Messiah [Deliverer] of God’s people included Micah, Isaiah, and Jeremiah.

The Story:

- The prophets told of the Promised One coming out of the house of David (Isaiah 11:11; Jeremiah 23:5-6). Isaiah said, “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). Immanuel means God who is living with us.
- Isaiah also gave this prophecy; “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this” (Isaiah 9:6-7).
- The prophet Micah foretold where He would be born. “But as for you, Bethlehem... From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity” (Micah 5:2).
- It was also foretold that He would come to be the sacrificial lamb, without spot or blemish, Who would bear “the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.” (Isaiah 53:12)
- Isaiah prophesied that even though He would be “pierced through for our transgressions” and “crushed for our iniquities” (Isaiah 53:4-6), He would also be raised from the dead. “But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand” (Isaiah 53:10 cf. Psalm 22:19-24).



How does what the Prophets did and said relate to Jesus?

Story 27



John the Baptist and Jesus' Birth 🎵

Matthew 1:18-2:12, 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 1:1-2:20; John 1

The Bridge: Four hundred years passed after the prophet Malachi said that God would send the prophet Elijah before the great and awesome day of the Lord (Malachi 4:4-6). Jesus would later say that John the Baptist was the Elijah who was to come (Matthew 17:11-13).

The Story:

- There was a priest named Zachariah. He and his wife, Elizabeth had been praying that they would have a child. While performing his priestly duties, Zachariah was chosen to enter the Temple of the Lord to burn incense (Luke 1:8-9).
- When Zachariah entered the temple, “...an angel of the Lord [named Gabriel] appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. ¹²Zacharias was troubled when he saw *the angel*, and fear gripped him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John; ¹⁶"And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷"It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN , and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:11-13, 16-17).
- A few months before John's birth, the angel Gabriel appeared to a virgin named Mary, who was related to Elizabeth, and told her that she was chosen to be the mother of the Son of God. It was going to be a miracle, because the Holy Spirit would put the baby inside her. Mary humbly agreed (Luke 1:26-38).
- At that time, Mary was engaged to Joseph. Since Joseph would not understand this situation, the angel appeared to Joseph and explained to him that Mary was a virgin and the baby inside her was the Son of God. God told Joseph to become her husband but not to sleep with her until after the baby was born and to name the baby Jesus. This means “God always saves us” (Matthew 1:18-25).
- True to His word, Zachariah and his wife Elizabeth had a baby. They named him John, just as the Lord had instructed (Luke 1:57-60).

- Before the baby was born, the government told everyone to go to their family's hometown to pay taxes and be counted. Mary and Joseph were descendants of King David, so they went to Bethlehem, David's hometown (Luke 2:1-5).
- There was no place to stay because there were so many people in the town. They stayed in a stable where the baby was born, and they laid him in the cow's manger (Luke 2:6-7).
- There were shepherds watching their animals at night when angels appeared to them and told them that the Savior had been born in Bethlehem and they should go see Him. They found Him in Bethlehem, made known what the angels told them, and all who heard them were astonished. Then the shepherds went home rejoicing and praising God (Luke 2:8-19).
- Sometime later wise men from the East noticed a new star in the sky, which meant that a new King had been born. They followed the star and found Jesus in His home. When they saw Him with His mother, they fell down and worshipped Him. They gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:7-12). They knew He was a special gift from God.



What are some of the prophecies that were fulfilled when Jesus was born?

♪ "Away in a Manger" is suggested with this story. (See www.HIStorycloth.com "downloads" for lyrics and chords.)

Story 28



Jesus' Baptism

**Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-13;
Luke 3:21-22, 4:1-13; John 1:29-34**

The Bridge: The people thought that maybe John was the Messiah, but he made it clear that he was not. He was preparing the way for the One Whom God had promised to send. He said, "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11).

The Story:

- John began preaching to the people about the coming Messiah. He told them to turn away from their sins, for the Messiah was coming soon (Matthew 3:4-6; Mark 1:4-6).
- The people were confessing their sins and were baptized to symbolize their repentance (Matthew 3:7-10; Luke 3:7-9).
- One day when John the Baptist was out baptizing people, Jesus came to be baptized (Matthew 3:13; Mark 1:9; Luke 3:21).
- When John saw him, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29-30).
- When John told Jesus that He did not need to be baptized because He had never sinned, Jesus said, "I came to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15).
- When Jesus came up out of the water, God spoke and said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 3: 22). The Holy Spirit descended like a dove and came to rest on Jesus to show that He was truly the Messiah.



Why did Jesus want to be baptized?

Story 29



The Twelve Disciples 🎵

Matthew 4:18-22, 10:3-4; Mark 1:16-20, 3:18; John 1:35-51

The Bridge: After Jesus was baptized, He began His ministry and chose 12 men to be His disciples.

The Story:

- Jesus was walking by the water and saw two fishermen [Simon Peter and Andrew]. He called them to leave their boats and nets to follow Him and become “fishers of men”. They immediately followed Him.
- In some of the neighboring villages, He found other men [James and John] and asked that they leave their jobs, their families, and follow Him. They immediately followed Him as well.
- On His way to Galilee, Jesus found Philip and told him, “Follow Me.” Philip found Nathanael who also followed Jesus.
- Ultimately, Jesus chose 12 men to be his disciples. They were Simon Peter, Andrew, James, the son of Zebedee, John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James, the son of Alphaeus, Simon, the Zealot, Thaddaeus, Bartholomew, who was also called Nathanael in John’s Gospel, and Judas (Mark 3:16-19).
- By spending much time with them, Jesus trained these 12 men to teach, preach, and help people, just as He did.



What did Jesus mean when He said, “You will be Fishers of Men?”

🎵 *“There Were Twelve Disciples” will help children and even some adults to learn the names of the twelve disciples. (See www.HIStorycloth.com “downloads” for the lyrics and chords.)*

Story 30



Jesus Heals the Paralytic

Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26

The Bridge:

As Jesus began to heal the sick, cast out demons, and preach the good news that the Kingdom of God was at hand (Mark 1:15), many came to see Him and hear Him.

The Story:

- One day Jesus was teaching in a house and many people gathered there. While He was teaching, four men brought their paralyzed friend on a cot in hopes that Jesus would heal him (Mark 2:1-3).
- When they arrived at the house, it was too full for them to enter, so they climbed on top of the house, cut a hole in the roof, and lowered their sick friend down right in front of Jesus. Jesus saw the faith of the men and told the crippled man, “Your sins are forgiven” (Mark 2:5).
- The Pharisees, who were the local church leaders, thought only God could forgive sins and that Jesus was speaking blasphemies.
- Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven’; or to say, ‘Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk?’” But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’ — He *said to the paralytic, ‘I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home.’ And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone...” (Mark 2:9-12a).
- Upon seeing his healing, the people were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this" (Mark 2:12).



What does this story tell us about Jesus?

Story 31



The Woman at the Well

John 4:1-42

The Bridge: One day Jesus stopped by a well in Samaria. From the time that the Kingdom was divided after Solomon died, the Jews wanted nothing to do with the Samaritans because they were a mixed race. The disciples went into town for food, and Jesus waited for them at the well.

The Story:

- A woman came at noon to get water because none of the other women wanted to be with her. Jesus spoke kindly to her and asked her for a drink.
- The woman was shocked that Jesus even spoke to her. “Therefore the Samaritan woman *said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans)” (John 4:9).
- Jesus told her that if she knew who He was, she would ask Him for living water. When she asked Him for this living water, Jesus said, "Go, call your husband and come here" (John 4:16). “The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus *said to her, "You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly” (John 4:17-18).
- The woman then wanted to know the place where God was to be worshipped, in Samaria or Jerusalem. Jesus responded. “... an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers” (John 4:23).
- Jesus then revealed to her that He was the Messiah. She ran back into town to tell the people.
- They wanted to hear Jesus. He stayed there for two days teaching that He was the Messiah who came to save all people, not just the Jews. Many of the people believed (John 4:40-41).



What does this story tell you about Jesus?

Story 32



Feeding the Five Thousand

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15

The Bridge: Jesus sent His disciples out to heal the sick and preach that men should repent (Mark 6:12). When they returned, they reported the amazing things that had happened. Jesus said to them "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while." (For there were many *people* coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat)" (Mark 6:31).

The Story:

- A huge crowd of people followed Jesus and the disciples up to the hills because they wanted to hear what Jesus had to say. It was late in the afternoon, so the disciples suggested that Jesus send the crowds away because they were in a desolate place and there was no food.
- Jesus told the disciples not to send them away, but to get food and feed the people. They replied that it would take 200 days wages to feed that many people (Mark 6:35-37).
- Jesus asked them, "How much food do you have?" All that they found was five loaves and two fish that belonged to a young boy Andrew found.
- Jesus told the people to sit down. Then He looked up and asked God's blessing on the food. He then broke the loaves and fish and gave them to His disciples.
- His disciples passed out the loaves and the fish. They fed 5000 men and **all** the people were filled. There were 12 baskets of leftovers collected (Mark 6:42-44).

(Remember how God provided the quail and manna in the wilderness?)



What does this story tell you about Jesus?

Story 33



Casting out the Demon

Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43a

The Bridge:

Another day Jesus had been on a mountain with some of His disciples. As they came down, they saw a large crowd gathered around the other disciples who had not gone up on the mountain. Jesus walked up to the crowd and asked what they were discussing, when He was confronted by a very concerned father.

The Story:

- The man cried out to Jesus, “My son is demon-possessed and we don’t know what to do with him. He has been like this from his childhood. I brought him to Your disciples and they could not heal him – please help him!” (Matthew 17:16; Mark 9:18; Luke 9:40).
- The boy could not hear nor talk; he often fell to the ground convulsing, gritting his teeth, foaming at the mouth, and becoming rigid (Mark 9:17-20). His father said, "It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" (Mark 9:22).
- “And Jesus said to him, "If You can?" All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the boy’s father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief!"” (Mark 9:23-24).
- Jesus commanded the demon to come out of the boy and he was restored to good health. Everyone was amazed and many were astonished at the majesty of God (Luke 9:43).



What does this story tell you about Jesus?

Story 34



Lazarus Raised from the Dead

John 11:1-44

The Bridge: Another time, Jesus showed his power even over death!

The Story:

- Jesus was near the Jordan River, and His good friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were in a town called Bethany. They sent word that Lazarus was very sick.
- But when Jesus received the message, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it" (John 11:4). He then stayed two days *longer* in the place where He was. After this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again" (John 11: 6-7).
- Just prior to their leaving for Bethany, Jesus told His disciples that Lazarus had died (John 11:11).
- When He arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been in the grave for four days. The two sisters were so distraught. Martha said, "Lord, if you had been here, he would not have died" (John 11:21).
- Jesus said, "Your brother will rise again." Martha responded, "Yes, he will live in heaven after the resurrection of the dead." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection of life. A person who trusts Me will never die—do you believe this?" (John 11:25)
- They took Jesus to the grave and rolled away the stone, even though they feared the odor. Many people were crying, and even Jesus cried because He sympathized with them.
- Jesus said, "Lazarus, come forth out of the tomb!" And he did! (John 11:43-44). "Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him" (John 11:45).



What does this story tell you about Jesus?

Story 35



Rich Young Ruler

Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30

The Bridge: Many people in this day, perhaps even like ours, believed that the more wealth and possessions one had, the more God must be blessing them. Jesus offers something far greater than earthly possessions.

The Story:

- A rich young ruler once asked Jesus, “What must I do to have eternal life [be saved]?” Jesus replied, “You know the commandments, ‘DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER’” (Luke 18:20).
- The ruler replied, "All these things I have kept from my youth." “When Jesus heard *this*, He said to him, "One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me” (Luke 18:21-22).
- The ruler turned away and left sadly because he was a man of much wealth, and he trusted in his money, not God. The disciples were astonished, asking [if this man can’t] “Who then can be saved?” (Matthew 19:25; Mark 10:26; Luke 18:26).
- Jesus taught people that eternal life in heaven comes from being willing to trust Him by forsaking anything that would hinder one from following Him (Matthew 19:29; Luke. 18:29b-30).



How does the young ruler’s reluctance to sell his possessions relate to us?

Story 36



Woman Washes Jesus' Feet

Luke 7:36-50

The Bridge: Throughout His ministry, Jesus revealed that purpose for His coming and His ministry, was to show His power to forgive sin and to save those who would believe in Him.

The Story:

- A Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to eat supper at his home. A woman came in carrying a bottle of expensive perfume. Weeping, she began wetting Jesus' feet with her tears and wiped His feet with her hair. She then anointed them with the perfume (Luke 7:36-38).
- Simon was indignant. He said, "If Jesus was a prophet or the Messiah, He would know that this woman is a prostitute, and He would not let her do that" (Luke 7:39-40).
- Jesus replied with a story. "Two men owed money; one a great sum, and the other just a little. The lender of money forgave them both their debts. Who would love that person more?" (Luke 7:41-42).
- Simon replied, "The man, I suppose, who was forgiven the most" (Luke 7:43).
- Jesus turned and looked at the woman. "He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little" (Luke 7:44-47).
- Then He said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven" (Luke 7:48).



What does this story reveal about our forgiveness and what Jesus would do to forgive us?

Story 37



The Last Supper

Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-31; Luke 22:1-53; John 13:1-38

The Bridge: Following the exodus in Egypt, the Jews celebrated the Passover meal each year. Jesus had told the disciples that He was going to die, be buried, and then rise on the third day as the past prophets had foretold. (Matthew 26:1-2; John 13:31-32). He chose the Passover Feast as an opportunity to help them understand a deeper meaning to the Passover.

The Story:

- The Passover Feast was celebrated every year to remind God’s people of when the Lord passed over the door of every house which had blood from a sacrifice on it, and He did not allow the destroyer to come in to that house (Exodus 12:13, 23; see Story 16).
- He gave His disciples instructions to prepare a place where they could celebrate the Passover together (Matthew 26:17-19; Mark 14:12-16; Luke 22:7-13).
- Jesus washed the disciples’ feet during this time. He was trying to teach them that being a leader meant being the servant of all (John 13:3-17).
- During the Passover meal, Jesus showed them that He was going to be their substitute by dying to save them just like the Passover lamb.
- He told the disciples that one of them would betray Him (Matthew 26:20-25; Mark 14:17-21; Luke 22:14, 21-23). Judas asked, “Is it I?” Jesus responded, “You have said so.” And Judas got up and left (Matthew 26:25; John 13:30).
- Jesus took a loaf of un-leavened bread, tore off a morsel and said, “Take and eat, for this is My body that is going to be broken for you.” He then took a cup of wine and said, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. Drink this in remembrance of Me” (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20).



What was Jesus showing His disciples during this Passover Meal?

Story 38



The Trial of Jesus

Matthew 26:36-75; Mark 14:10-65;

Luke 22:39-23:25; John 18:1-19:16

The Bridge: Prior to the Passover, Judas went to the Pharisees and agreed to deliver Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6). During the Passover, Jesus told Judas that He knew that he was going to betray Him (Matthew 26:20-25).

The Story:

- After the Passover meal, they went to a Garden called Gethsemane. Jesus went off alone to pray. He prayed, "...Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42). He prayed this three times. (Matthew 26:39-45). He knew that the purpose for which the Father had sent Him was about to take place.
- "While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, *who came* from the chief priests and elders of the people." (Matthew 26:47). When Judas showed them Jesus, they laid their hands on Him to arrest Him.
- One of the disciples pulled out a sword and swung it and cut off the ear of the slave of the High Priest. Jesus told the disciple to put away the sword. If He wanted help, He could call thousands of angels. He told them that this must be done to fulfill the Scripture. Then He healed the slave's ear (Matthew 26:47-56; Luke 22:47-54).
- They arrested Jesus and took Him before Caiaphas the High Priest, the elders and the scribes. The religious council sought false testimony against Jesus so that they might put Him to death. They had to have two witnesses to agree before they could convict Him, but they couldn't find witnesses whose accounts agreed. This mock trial lasted through the night—it was during this time that Peter denied Jesus three times as Jesus had predicted (Matthew 26:31-35).
- Finally, the high priests asked, "Are you the son of the living God?" Jesus said, "I Am" (Mark 14:61-64). The words "I Am" were the same ones God used in telling Moses who He is (Story 14). Blasphemy became the charge against Jesus. According to their law, it was punishable by death. "Some began to spit at Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him with their fists, and to spit on Him, "Prophesy!" And the officers received Him with slaps *in the face*" (Mark 14:65).
- They then took Him to the Roman governor, Pilate, who found Him innocent and sent Him to Herod, who ruled the region of Galilee (Luke 23:6-16). Herod also did not find Jesus guilty and sent Him back to Pilate. Pilate again said that Jesus was not guilty of crimes deserving death, but the religious officials and the crowd convinced him to crucify Jesus (Luke 23:20-24).



What did Jesus mean when He said, "Your will be done," after asking His Father to take the cup of suffering from Him?

Story 39



Jesus' Death 🎵

Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-47; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-37

The Bridge: The Romans used the tortuous method execution by crucifixion as a means of exerting control over the population. It was one of the most painful and disgraceful methods of capital punishment. Yet, the most painful suffering of Jesus was what He experienced in bearing all of our sin.

The Story:

- After His trial, Pilate had Jesus prepared for crucifixion by having Him scourged with a whip that had pieces of metal and bone weaved into its ends (Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15). After they whipped Him, the soldiers put a scarlet robe and a crown of thorns on Him and mocked Him saying "...Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on Him, and took the reed and *began* to beat Him on the head. After they had mocked Him, they took the *scarlet* robe off Him and put His *own* garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him" (Matthew 27:29-31).
- They made Him carry His cross toward a place called Golgotha, which means Place of the Skull. He was to be crucified there. His injuries were so severe that halfway there, a man named Simon was made to carry the heavy cross for Him (Matthew 27:31-33).
- When they arrived on Golgotha, they nailed His feet and hands to the cross, and lifted Him up to hang on the cross. A sign was placed on His cross that said in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, "This is Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews" (Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; John 19:20-22).
- There were two thieves being crucified, one on each side of Him. One of the thieves said that he believed that Jesus was the Son of God, and Jesus told him that He would see him that very day in paradise, but the other thief did not believe (Matthew 27:44; Mark 15:32; Luke 23:39-42).
- As He was bearing our sin on the cross, He cried out to God and said, "Father, why have You forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). After this, Jesus cried out, "It is finished" (John 19:30). As He breathed His last breath, He said to His Father, "Into Your hands I commit My spirit" (Luke 23:46). To make sure He was dead, a soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear (John 19:34).
- The sky went black, and the curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies tore from top to bottom, indicating that the way had been open for sinful mankind to come to Holy God (Matthew 27:51-53; Mark 15:38-39). Jesus fulfilled the promise to be the sacrifice for the sins of all the people who would believe in Him (See Stories 3b, 7, 16, and 20).



Why did Jesus ask the Father why He had forsaken Him?

🎵 *A song like "The Old Rugged Cross" may help participants reflect on the meaning of the cross. (See www.HISTORYcloth.com "downloads" for lyrics and chords).*

Story 40



He is Risen

Matthew 27:62-28:15; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10

The Bridge: The gospel rests upon two great pillars: (1) the death of Christ, and (2) the resurrection of Christ. This is confirmed by the apostle Paul as he defines the gospel: “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1Corinthians 15:3-4).

The Story:

- After Jesus died, they put Him in the tomb. A rock was rolled over the entrance. The disciples scattered because they were afraid that they would be executed next. Since Jesus had said He would rise from the dead, the tomb was sealed and guards were stationed there. Religious leaders feared that followers would steal the body and claim that He arose.
- After the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave and anoint Jesus’ body with spices (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1-3; Luke 24:1; John 20:1).
- An angel of the Lord came down from heaven, there was a great earthquake, and he rolled the stone away and sat on it. The guards fainted from fear (Matthew 28:4).
- When the women saw the stone had already been removed from the entrance of the tomb, the angel told them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, *here is* the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you' " (Mark 16:6-7).
- The women ran to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved. Then Peter and John ran to see what was taking place. When they got there the tomb was empty, and Jesus’ grave clothes were folded in place. When they saw this, they believed, but they did not understand (John 20:3-9).
- Later, the religious officials bribed the soldiers to say that the disciples stole the body.



What did the resurrection of Jesus signify?

Story 41



Jesus Reappears to His Followers

**Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:9-20;
Luke 24:13-49; John 20:11-21:25**

The Bridge: On the way to tell the disciples what the angel had said, the women were the first to encounter the risen Savior.

The Story:

- The women left to tell the disciples what they had seen and heard. “And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me’ ” (Matthew 28:9-10).
- Later that day, the disciples were together in a room. Jesus appeared to them. He showed them the nail scars and where the spear had pierced His side. They fell down and worshiped Him (John 20:19-23).
- The disciple, Thomas, was not present when the other disciples saw Jesus, and he doubted since he had not seen for himself. Later, Jesus appeared again. This time Thomas got to see and touch Jesus (John 20:24-27).
- Thomas realized Jesus was the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah. He fell down and said, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). Thomas understood that Jesus was the One whom God had sent to save those who would believe from sin and remove the curse. “Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed *are* they who did not see, and *yet* believed”” (John 20:29).
- Jesus’ death and resurrection fulfilled all of the prophecies of the Old Testament (Story 26).
- When God slew the animal to cover Adam and Eve, it was foretold that one day, One would die to cover our sins (Story 3).
- Jesus is our substitute sacrifice, just as the ram was a substitute for Isaac (Story 7).
- Jesus died so that we would not die spiritually, just as the Passover Lamb died so that the Destroyer would pass over the Israelites (Story 16).



Why did Jesus die and rise again?

Story 42



The Ascension 🎵

Matthew 18:20; Mark 16:19-20;

Luke 24:51; Acts 1:6-11

The Bridge: After His resurrection, Jesus spent approximately 40 days with His disciples giving them instructions for sharing this glorious news with others.

The Story:

- Over the weeks following His resurrection, Jesus showed Himself to many people to confirm that He had risen from the dead. He appeared to the women at the tomb (Matthew 28:9); the disciples (Matthew 28:16; John 20: 15, 20, 26; 21:1); 500 brethren (1 Corinthians 15:6 combined with Matthew 28:16-17); and James [His earthly family] (1 Corinthians 15:7). Jesus wanted them to know for sure that He was alive!
- He told His disciples to go into the entire world and tell everyone, everywhere, the good news that Jesus had died and risen again to remove the curse from their lives. Jesus was the sacrificial lamb who shed His blood to take away our sins.
- When He was taken up to heaven, He said, “Wait for the Holy Spirit whom I am sending. After He comes, you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and all of the earth (Acts 1:8).
- Then Jesus blessed the disciples, was taken up to heaven, and disappeared in a cloud (Acts 1:9).
- Two angels appeared and said, “Just as you saw Him go, someday He will return” (Acts 1:10-11).
- The disciples returned to Jerusalem filled with joy and praising God. They waited there for the promise Jesus made to send the Holy Spirit as their “Helper” and “Teacher” (John 16:1-33).
- Just as Jesus had been their Comforter, Teacher, Helper, and Guide. He sent His Holy Spirit to be with all who believe that He is the perfect Substitute who was sacrificed for their sin and rose again to forgive them of their sin and give them eternal life.



What should your response to HIStory be?

🎵 *A song such as “Amazing Grace” or “Jesus Loves Me” (for children) may be used here. (See www.HIStorycloth.com “downloads” for lyrics and chords.)*



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Response

You have heard the story of Jesus Christ. It is the story of John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

What is your response?