



THE LIFE
OF JESUS

Term Three
Oral Bible Study Curriculum

Second Edition



Ambassador Institute
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Plymouth, MN 55441
763-412-2029
ambassador@aflc.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 29. | Jesus' Birth..... | 5 |
| 30. | Jesus' Baptism and Temptation | 9 |
| 31. | The Demon-possessed Man | 16 |
| 32. | The Parable of the Sower | 21 |
| 33. | Feeding of 5,000 and Walking on Water | 25 |
| 34. | Healing Lepers and a Crippled Woman..... | 31 |
| 35. | The Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Zacchaeus | 35 |
| 36. | Lazarus Raised from the Dead..... | 39 |
| 37. | The Unmerciful Servant Parables | 44 |
| 38. | The Ten Virgins and The Sheep & Goats..... | 48 |
| 39. | Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem..... | 54 |
| 40. | The Last Supper and Betrayal..... | 58 |
| 41. | Jesus' Trial, Crucifixion, and Burial..... | 64 |
| 42. | Jesus' Resurrection and Great Commission | 71 |

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible,
New International Version®, NIV®.
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™
Used by permission of Zondervan.
All rights reserved worldwide.
www.zondervan.com

29. Jesus' Birth

Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew 1

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Study Questions: Jesus' Birth

Matthew 1:18-25

Introduction:

The birth of Jesus Christ took place in Israel after the events in the Old Testament, followed by 400 years of silence from God. During Old Testament times, God had said through his prophets that He would send the Messiah. Now the time of waiting for Him was over. This “promised one” of Israel was Jesus Christ, son of God and son of man. The name Jesus was chosen by God because it means Savior, and God had sent Him to be the Savior of the whole world.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To learn that Jesus is both God and Man.
- To understand that God planned for Jesus since before time began.
- To see the Trinity begin to be revealed.
- To realize the power of the Holy Spirit.

Attitude

- To trust in the Lord God who saves us.
- To be confident, not fearful because God is with us.
- To be submissive to the Lord because He is God.

Actions

- To listen to the Lord's instructions.
- To obey the Lord, even when it does not make sense to us to do what He asks us to do.

Memory Verses:

Hebrews 1:1-2 “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Isaiah 7:14; 9:2-6; Luke 2:1-20; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:1-3

Questions about the Story:

1. How did Mary become pregnant when she was a virgin? (Matthew 1:18, 20. By the power of the Holy Spirit.)
2. Since Jesus was born of Mary, as a virgin, through the Holy Spirit, what does that make Him? (Matthew 1:21, 23. Son of

Man and Son of God. 1 Peter 2:21-25; Hebrews 4:14-15; Luke 1:26-38. Note especially Luke 1:35)

3. What do we know about Joseph from this text? (Matthew 1:19-20. Joseph was a righteous man. This means Joseph believed the promises of God regarding the Messiah and was righteous by faith. He considered his options on how to proceed, and decided that he would divorce Mary quietly, so that she would not be publicly disgraced.)
4. What can we learn from the angel's appearance to Joseph? (Matthew 1:20. An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel instructed Joseph to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife, that the child was from the Holy Spirit, the child was a son, the child had the name Jesus and that Jesus had a purpose.)
5. What does it mean that Jesus will "save His people from their sins?" (Matthew 1:21. It means that they were sinful, they could not save themselves, and He alone could help them.)
6. How do we know that the birth of Jesus fit God's plan? (Matthew 1:22. All of it took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophets. Isaiah 9:2-7)
7. What other name was Jesus to be called and what does it mean? (Matthew 1:23. He was to be called Immanuel, which means, "God with us.")
8. What did Joseph do when he woke up? (Matthew 1:24. He did what the angel had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.)
9. What was Joseph's relationship to Mary before Jesus was born? (Matthew 1:24-25. He took her home as his wife, but had no union with her until after Jesus was born.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Are we looking for the Holy Spirit to do miraculous things in our lives, like he did in Mary's life? (Matthew 1:18, 23)
2. What difference does it make to us that Jesus was both God and Man? (Matthew 1:21, 23) [He is able to relate to us. As perfect man, He is our substitute in His life and in His death. As God, His death is the perfect sacrifice for our sins.]
3. What does a righteous life look like? (Matthew 1:19) [Joseph was righteous by faith in the promises of God. As a result, we see that he listened to the Lord, he wanted to do God's will and he believed God at His word.]
4. How should we make decisions in life? (Matthew 1:20) [Like Joseph, we trust in God and our Savior. We also listen to

God's Word and seek to honor Him with our lives so that He is glorified.]

5. How does the Lord speak to you? (Matthew 1:20) [The Lord speaks to us by His Word.]
6. Why don't we need to be afraid of things that happen in our life? (Matthew 1:20) [We don't need to be afraid because God is with us.]
7. What does Jesus save you from? How? (Matthew 1:21) [Jesus saves us from the wrath of God due to us because of our sin. He is the perfect and holy sacrifice that pays our debt to God for our sin.]
8. What was known about Jesus before He was even born? What is His purpose? (Matthew 1:21) [It was prophesied that Jesus would save His people from their sins.]
9. Discuss the meaning of Jesus' three names (Jesus, Christ, Immanuel). [The name Jesus means Savior, one who would save His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21). Christ means Anointed One, Messiah (Luke 4:18). Immanuel means God is with us (Matthew 1:23).]
10. Why can we find comfort in God's faithfulness? (Matthew 1:22) [He always does what He says He will do.]
11. What important things does the name Immanuel teach us about God? (Matthew 1:23) [It tells us that God is personal and that He promises to be with us.]
12. How did Joseph respond when the Lord gave him instructions? (Matthew 1:24-25) [Joseph showed obedience by doing exactly what the Lord had commanded him to do.]

30. Jesus' Baptism and Temptation

Matthew 3:1-4:11

Matthew 3

¹In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea ²and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." ³This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

⁴John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶As soon as Jesus was baptized; he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 4

¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

⁷Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Study Questions: Jesus' Baptism and Temptation

Matthew 3:1-4:11

Introduction:

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to a baptism of repentance. He pointed to a Greater One who was to come: Jesus Christ, who would save the people from their sins. In order to save us from our sin, Jesus had to be the perfect sacrifice, which meant a complete fulfillment of all righteousness. Jesus began His ministry by going to John to be baptized. In His baptism, the Trinity is present (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) as a way of displaying the authority of God. After His baptism, the Spirit of God led Jesus to the desert to be tempted by the devil. Throughout His life, Jesus was tempted in every way, just as we are, yet He was without sin. In this way, Jesus is able to serve as our Great High Priest who fully understands our weakness and can represent us.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To acknowledge our need for repentance.
- To understand the gift of God given through baptism.
- To understand Jesus' place in the Trinity.
- To realize that God has a purpose for trials and testing.
- To know how to respond to temptation.

Attitude

- To make baptism and God's Word high priorities in our lives.
- To recognize the power God has to defeat Satan in our lives.

Actions

- To repent of our sin and turn to God.
- To freely offer the means of grace that is available through baptism and the Word of God.
- To respond with the Scriptures to fight Satan's attacks.

Memory Verses:

Hebrew 4:14-16 "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith few profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Acts 2:38-39 “Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Isaiah 40:28-31; Mark 16:16; John 10:10; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Titus 3:4-7; Hebrews 4:14-16; James 1:2, 13-15; 1 Peter 3:21; 5:8-9; 1 John 2:1-2, 15-17

Questions about the Story:

1. What does John the Baptist’s message about repentance mean? (Matthew 3:2. Repentance means that the Holy Spirit changes your mind concerning sin, self and the savior. It means to go the other direction. The kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of God is the rule and reign of God as King. The King was as near as Jesus standing beside them.)
2. Who prophesied about John the Baptist? (Matthew 3:3. The prophet Isaiah foretold John the Baptist’s ministry.)
3. Why were the people coming from all around the region? (Matthew 3:5-7. Some came to confess their sins and be baptized. The Pharisees and Sadducees came to watch and to judge what John was doing.)
4. What does John’s warning to the Pharisees and Sadducees mean? (Matthew 3:8. He warned them to produce fruit in keeping with repentance, which means that their outward lives were to reflect God’s inner work.)
5. What will happen to the tree that does not produce good fruit? (Matthew 3:10. If it does not produce good fruit, it is because the tree is a bad, evil and unbelieving tree. An evil tree will be cut down and thrown into the fire.)
6. Who is the one to come after John? (Matthew 3:11-14. The One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire, Jesus.)
7. Why did Jesus go to the Jordan River? (Matthew 3:13. Jesus went to be baptized by John to fulfill all righteousness.)
8. What was John’s response to Jesus’ desire to be baptized? Why? (Matthew 3:14-15. John felt unworthy to baptize the Messiah, but he finally agreed to do it when Jesus told him it was the right thing to do.)
9. What happened after the baptism of Jesus? (Matthew 3:16-17. Heaven opened up, the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus

and a voice from heaven [the Father] spoke saying “This is my Son, whom I love, with Him I am well-pleased.” Here, we see all three members of the Trinity participating [Father, Son and Holy Spirit].)

10. Why did the Spirit lead Jesus into the desert? (Matthew 4:1. To be tempted by the devil. Jesus was tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin, Hebrews 4:15.)
11. What was Jesus doing while in the desert for 40 days and nights? (Matthew 4:1-2. Jesus was fasting. He was also continually being led by the Spirit of God and was continually being tempted by the Devil.)
12. In the first temptation recorded, how did Satan tempt Jesus in the wilderness? (Matthew 4:3. Satan appealed to the desires of the body since Jesus was very hungry.)
13. What was the second recorded temptation of Christ? (Matthew 4:6. Satan tempted Jesus to test God instead of taking God at His Word when he suggested that Jesus throw Himself down from the temple. See also Psalm 91:11-12).
14. What is significant about Satan’s second temptation? (Matthew 4:6. The devil tried to tempt Jesus by using the Word of God.)
15. What was the third recorded temptation Satan put before Jesus? (Matthew 4:8-9. Satan used the “Temptation of the Eyes,” as he showed Jesus all the kingdoms and their splendor. He offered them to Jesus if Jesus would bow down and worship him.)
16. How did Jesus respond to all three temptations? (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10. Jesus responded only with the Word of God: “It is written...”)
17. What is significant about Jesus commanding Satan to flee after the final temptation? (Matthew 4:10. Satan must obey Jesus. Jesus has authority over him.)
18. What is important about the angels coming to minister to Jesus after the devil left Him? (Matthew 4:11. Jesus, in human flesh, had needs as anyone does.)
19. Why is this temptation of Jesus so significant? (Adam and Eve were tempted by the devil and they failed. In their failure, sin and death came to all of mankind. The people of Israel were also tested in the wilderness and they failed. Jesus was tempted in every way just as we are, yet did not sin. He overcame the Devil everytime he was tempted and restores for us what was lost in the garden.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to repent? [To repent means that the Holy Spirit is convicting us of sin, shows us our sin and causes us to trust in Jesus as our Savior. The Holy Spirit causes us to turn away from our sin and turn to Jesus.]
2. What does John's message teach us today? [We also need to repent of our sins and turn to God. We also, like the Pharisees or Sadducees, need to confess our sins and produce good fruit.]
3. What do we often trust in for our salvation? (Matthew 3:8-9) [God desires that we would repent of our sins and turn to God. Like the Pharisees, we may be tempted to trust in the good works of someone else, like Abraham, or our own good works. We are to trust in God alone, only a relationship with God through Jesus will save us from the coming wrath.]
4. What kind of attitude seeks the things of God? (Matthew 3:8-10) [The attitude of a person that recognizes their sin and confesses it. The attitude that looks for and seeks God.]
5. Where does good fruit come from? (Matthew 3:8-9) [God is the only one that can cause us to produce fruit. Abiding in Him is the source for that fruit.]
6. What is the warning we must listen to? (Matthew 3:7-10) [The warning includes a coming wrath, an ax and a fire.]
7. What does Jesus' baptism mean for us? (Matthew 3:15-17) [Jesus fulfilled all righteousness for us. The events of the baptism were also a confirmation of who Jesus was: heaven was open, the Holy Spirit was present and the Father confirmed that this was His Son whom He loved.]
8. What does John's baptism of repentance mean for us? (Matthew 3:6, 11) [We also need to repent and have our sins washed away. See also Romans 6:3-8; Colossians 2:11-12]
9. Where do we see the Trinity in the story? (Matthew 3:16-17) ["As soon as Jesus was baptized; he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Jesus is seen as the Son of God. The voice from heaven shows God the Father. The Spirit of God is present in the form of a dove, descending upon Jesus.]
10. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit rather than to be led by the flesh? (Matthew 4:1) [To be led by the Spirit means to listen to, follow and obey God's Spirit rather than what we would want in ourselves.]

11. Why does God allow trials into our lives? (Matthew 4:1) [In the trials we see our weaknesses and failures, we see our need of God, the Lord purifies our hearts and we are given a clear longing for heaven rather than for this world. See also James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7]
12. What “wildernesses” do people face? [Illness, broken relationships, loneliness, death, uncertainty, finances, etc.]
13. How does the Devil try to cause us to sin? (1 John 2:15-17) [Satan tries to get us to sin with the same temptations that Jesus faced. The lust of the flesh (hunger), the lust of the eyes (wealth of the world), and the pride of life (throw yourself down) are common to us all. (James 1:13-15)]
14. How do we resist life’s temptations? (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10) [We resist the temptations of life by living in the Word of God and allowing it to flow out from within. (1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Peter 5:8-9)]
15. Who alone is worthy of our worship and adoration? (Matthew 4:10) [The Lord God and Him alone.]
16. What do we learn about God’s nature by the angels attending Jesus after His temptation? (Matthew 4:11) [He will never leave us nor forsake us.]

31. The Demon-possessed Man Mark 5:1-20

Mark 5

¹They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. ²When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. ⁴For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won’t torture me!” ⁸For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you evil spirit!”

⁹Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” ¹⁰And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

¹¹A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹²The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” ¹³He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

¹⁴Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

¹⁸As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” ²⁰So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Study Questions: The Demon-possessed Man

Mark 5:1-20

Introduction:

After Jesus had finished teaching the people, He decided to cross the Sea of Galilee with His disciples. While they were on the sea, a huge storm nearly sank their boat. Jesus calmed the wind and the waves with his words, and His disciples came face to face with the reality that their rabbi was actually the Son of God. As they landed on the other side of the sea, they met a new challenge: a man who was demon-possessed.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand that Jesus has power over evil spirits.
- To realize that Jesus has compassion for all men, even those controlled by Satan.
- To acknowledge Jesus as the Most High God and Lord of our lives.

Attitude

- To have compassion for all men, desiring to see all of them saved.
- Not to fear evil spirits of this world, instead to be confident that the power of God is greater than the power of demons.

Actions

- To confront evil in the name of Jesus.
- To present the life changing power of Jesus Christ to others.
- To submit to Jesus as Lord of our lives.

Memory Verse:

Acts 3:16 “By faith in the name of Jesus, this man who you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Luke 10:17-20; Acts 3:11-16; 19:13-17; James 2:19

Questions about the Story:

1. When Jesus got out of the boat in the region of the Gerasenes, who came to meet Him? (Mark 5:2. A man with an evil spirit.)
2. What was unusual about this man? (Mark 5:3-5. He lived in the tombs; he could not be tied up, not even with chains, he would cry out day and night and cut himself.)

3. What was this man's reaction to Jesus? (Mark 5:6-7, 10. He ran to Jesus, knelt down, the man knew Jesus' name and shouted his request for mercy.)
4. What is significant about the fact that the demons recognized Jesus? (Mark 5:7. The demons knew that Jesus was the Son of the Most High God. The demons knew that they must submit to, obey and even fear Jesus.)
5. What did the demons ask of Jesus? (Mark 5:7, 10, 12. The man begged not to be tortured and the demons requested that they be cast into the herd of 2,000 pigs that was grazing nearby.)
6. What was the man like after Jesus had cast out the spirits? (Mark 5:15. He was sitting quietly with Jesus, dressed and in his right mind.)
7. Why did the Gerasene people react to the healing of the demon possessed man by begging Jesus to leave their area? (Mark 5:15. The people were filled with fear.)
8. What did the man who had been possessed by the demon ask of Jesus? (Mark 5:18. He asked Jesus if he could go with Him.)
9. What did Jesus tell the man to do? (Mark 5:19. Jesus told him to go and tell his family how much the Lord had done for him and how Jesus had mercy on him.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does "Jesus, Son of the Most High God" mean for us? What does it mean for you personally? (Mark 5:8, 13, 15) [It means that He is God Almighty, He has power over the spiritual world as well as the physical world, and He has power over our lives and hearts as well. An important question is whether we will rebel against His control of our lives and our hearts.]
2. What is your response when you see Jesus?
3. How does Jesus' compassion for this man encourage you? (Mark 5:9-10, 19) [If Jesus cares about a demon possessed man, he must also care about everyone and He can change anyone. He also has a purpose for our lives.]
4. Can demons control us? How strong are they? (Mark 5:4-5) [The demons can control the unbeliever as in the demon possessed man, only Jesus has authority over the demons. When a person welcomes Jesus into their life, then the demons no longer have authority over that person. Demons can bother

- or disturb the believer from the outside, but even then, the believer can ask Jesus to take authority over the situation.]
5. Are there other things that can control us in a similar way to demons controlling us? [Yes, we can be controlled by temptations like the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. They can have a very strong control over our lives, but Jesus has authority over all of those as well.]
 6. What does this story show us about Satan and his demons? (Mark 5:5, John 10:10) [Satan is out to destroy us and will do that by any means possible, but He is still subject to Jesus.]
 7. Why don't we have to fear demonic spirits or even those possessed by the spirits? (Mark 5:6-8) [If Christ is in us, then what can the spirits do? If the spirits come running to us or knocking at our door, we can ask Jesus to answer the door for us. We can also command the demons in Jesus' name because Jesus defeated Satan and the demons. See also Luke 10:17-18; John 16:11; Colossians 2:15]
 8. What authority do we have through Christ? (Matthew 28:18; Luke 10:17-20) [All authority in heaven and on earth has been given unto Jesus. In turn, Jesus has given believers that same authority in this world. See also Ephesians 1:20-22; 2:6]
 9. Mark 5:9 says "He gave them permission." What do you learn from that statement? Relate this statement to the story of Job and Satan's request of God (Job 1) [Every spirit and Satan himself must answer to God.]
 10. What change has there been in your life since you recognized Jesus as the Lord God? (Mark 5:2-5, 15)
 11. What reaction do people have to the change in your life?
 12. What ministry opportunities does the Lord give us through His work in our lives? (Mark 5:19-20) [Each person has a story about what God has done in his or her life. We can tell others all that He has done for us and we can tell others what He has done to be the Redeemer of all.]
 13. Jesus did not allow the man to come with Him, instead, what did Jesus tell the man to do? (Mark 5:18-19) [The man needed to go tell his testimony to his own family, friends, and neighbors about what God had done for him.]
 14. How should we respond when God asks us to do something that we weren't necessarily expecting, or that is something we would rather not do? (Mark 5:19) [We should obey God's instructions to us, because He knows what is best, He has a perfect plan, and He promises to work all things together for

our good (for us who love Him and are called according to His purpose – Romans 8:28)]

15. Who can we bring the gospel to? (Mark 5:2, 20) [All people, even the demon possessed.]

32. The Parable of the Sower

Mark 4:1-20

Mark 4

¹Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. ²He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times.”

⁹Then Jesus said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

¹⁰When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹²so that,

“ they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,
and ever hearing but never understanding;
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”

¹³Then Jesus said to them, “Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.”

Study Questions: The Parable of the Sower

Mark 4:1-20

Introduction:

Jesus used stories (parables) to teach the people about the kingdom of God. In this parable, Jesus again used everyday examples to explain a very important point. Each of the following things has a special meaning in this parable: the seed, the path, the rocks and the thorns. In all of it, God provides the seed and makes it grow.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand that God’s Word is like a seed planted in us.
- To realize how easily we can allow things to crowd out God’s Word in our lives.
- To grasp the power of God’s Word to create life.

Attitude

- To treasure the Word that God has given to us.
- To delight that God uses His Word to produce fruit in us.

Action

- To listen carefully to God’s Word and to protect it in our lives.
- To spread God’s Word that He has given us like a farmer sowing seed.

Memory Verse:

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Isaiah 55:10-11; John 8:31-32; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 4:11

Questions about the Story:

1. Why did Jesus tell parables? (Mark 4:11-12. So that the people on the outside would see but not perceive, hear but not understand. He explained His parables to the disciples, but not to the crowds.)
2. What was the farmer doing in the parable and who does he represent? (Mark 4:3. The farmer was sowing seeds. He represents anyone who is sharing God’s Word and God himself since we are His field.)
3. Where did the sown seeds fall? (Mark 4:4-8. The seeds fell on a path, rocky places, thorns, and good soil.)

4. What happened to the seeds on the path and what does that mean? (Mark 4:4, 15. Birds came and ate up the seeds on the path. Jesus said that it is Satan that comes and steals God's Word from us.)
5. What happened to the seeds on the rocks and what does that mean? (Mark 4:5-6, 17. The seeds grew, but the plants soon withered in the sun because the soil was rocky and the plants had no roots. This represents people who leave behind what they learned in the Word as soon as trouble or persecution comes. Without deep roots in the Word people dry up. See also James 1:2-4.)
6. What happened to the seeds in the thorns and what does that mean? (Mark 4:7, 19. The seeds grew but were choked out. The thorns represent things like worries, thinking that having money will make us happy, or desires for other things. See also 1 Timothy 6:9-10 and Matthew 6:33-34.)
7. What happened to the seeds on the good soil and what is that like? (Mark 4:8, 20. The seeds in the good soil grew and multiplied. The good soil is like people who hear "The Word" and accept it. Then it grows in their lives and brings spiritual fruit.)
8. What does "the seed" in this parable represent in real life? (Mark 4:14. The seed is the Word of God.)

Discussion Questions:

1. How are parables helpful to us as believers? [They allow us to learn and remember the story quickly. They take regular things of life and reveal spiritual depth and meaning.]
2. How can we sow the seed of God's Word into the lives of others? How does it create life within them? (Mark 4:3) [These stories of God's Word are an effective way to sow the seed. God's Word creates spiritual life, our job is to sow the seed of His Word regardless of the person's response.]
3. What types of people are like the path, rocky places, thorns and the good soil?
4. What ways are people hardened to the Word of God so that it is easily taken away like the birds of this parable took away the seed? (Mark 4:15) [People can reject God's Word by not reading it, not attending worship or not listening to it through other people. This hardness is an attitude of the heart without faith.]
5. What ways do people allow troubles or persecution to kill the growth of God's Word in their lives, like what happened to the

seed that fell among rocks? (Mark 4:17) [When troubles come into people's lives it is easy to blame God as the source of the trouble rather than looking for the benefits or blessings of the hardship. Instead of blaming God for troubles, we can seek Him even more. He can take problems and cause good to come out of them, Romans 8:28. Digging deep into God's Word and longing for heaven are two of the blessings that we can find in the midst of trials. See also Romans 8:28; James 1:2-3]

6. How do the things of this world choke out the Word of God, like the seed that fell among the thorns? (Mark 4:18-19) [It is very easy for everything in the world to take a higher priority in our lives than God's Word. Work, family, friends, tiredness, hobbies, and emergencies can all crowd out God's Word from our lives. It is impossible to grow if God's Word is not first.]
7. What happens as a result of these things in our lives? (Mark 4:19) [We don't grow spiritually or bear spiritual fruit. We become hardened toward God and our relationship with Jesus can die.]
8. How can we treasure God's Word in our lives so that we are seeing, perceiving, hearing and understanding it? (Mark 4:12) [God's Word can be brought into our lives through daily devotions, memorizing it, meditating on it, listening to it, reading it or studying it. We can also help one another as we share it with each another.]
9. How can our lives be like the good soil that receives the Word of God? (Mark 4:20) [We can accept the Word of the Lord humbly by faith, treasure every word, put into practice everything we learn and grow by sharing it. The Lord will multiply His work in our lives through His Word.]

33. Feeding of 5,000 and Walking on Water

Mark 6:30-56

Mark 6

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

³²So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

³⁵By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it's already very late. ³⁶Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

³⁷But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

They said to him, “That would take eight months of a man's wages. Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

³⁸“How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.”

When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.”

³⁹Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.

⁴¹Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.

⁴²They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

⁴⁵Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

⁴⁷When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. ⁴⁸He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went

out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, ⁴⁹but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, ⁵⁰because they all saw him and were terrified.

Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.” ⁵¹Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, ⁵²for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. ⁵⁴As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

Study Questions: Feeding of 5,000 & Walking on Water

Mark 6:30-56

Introduction:

Jesus sent out His disciples two-by-two to preach, heal, and cast out demons. When they returned, large crowds gathered who wanted to be with Jesus. The crowds even followed Jesus and the disciples when they tried to get away for some rest. However, many of the people, in their hurry to follow Jesus, left what they were doing without bringing along food. Jesus had compassion on the people, so he miraculously provided food enough for all of them to eat and be satisfied. After this encounter with the large crowds, Jesus continued to teach His disciples about faith and about His identity as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand that Jesus has power over all things.
- To know that Jesus has a heart of compassion for us.
- To realize that even something small or someone insignificant is still great in God's hand.

Attitude

- To trust Jesus to help us with our pains, fears, and needs.
- To have hearts that are tender, teachable and willing to do anything that the Lord asks us to do.

Action

- To look to Jesus when situations seem impossible.
- To depend on the Lord Jesus to give us His perfect peace in every situation, and to provide for our needs.

Memory Verses:

Colossians 1:16-17 “For by [Jesus] all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Jonah 1:13-16; John 6:30-35; Ephesians 1:19-23; Colossians 1:15-23; 1 Peter 5:6-7

Questions about the Story:

1. Where did Jesus go with his disciples and why? (Mark 6:31. Jesus took his disciples by boat to a quiet, solitary place so they could rest.)
2. What did the people do when they saw them leave? (Mark 6:33. When the people saw Jesus and His disciples leave, they ran around the lake ahead of them, and got to the place where they were going before Jesus and the disciples got there.)
3. What was Jesus' response to the crowds who were gathered on the shore when they arrived? (Mark 6:34. He had compassion on them and began teaching them many things.)
4. What did the disciples suggest that Jesus do? (Mark 6:35-36. After Jesus had been teaching the people, His disciples suggested for Him to send the people away to get food, because it was already very late.)
5. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? (Mark 6:37. Jesus said, "You give them something to eat.")
6. What was the disciples' doubtful response to Jesus' telling them to feed the crowd of people? (Mark 6:37. The disciples exclaimed that even 8 months of a man's wages wouldn't be enough to buy food for that many people.)
7. What food did they have available? How many people were there? (Mark 6:38, 44. The disciples only had five loaves of bread and two fish, and there were 5,000 men present, in addition to women and children.)
8. Where did the extra food come from? (Mark 6:41. Jesus divided and multiplied it, so there was enough for everyone - it was a miracle, a blessing from God in heaven.)
9. What was the response of the people? (Mark 6:42. The people ate and were satisfied.)
10. Where did Jesus and the disciples go that evening? (Mark 6:45-46. Jesus sent the disciples on ahead by boat to Bethsaida, while Jesus went up on a mountain to pray.)
11. What were the disciples doing all night? (Mark 6:47-48. The disciples were rowing hard against the wind, which was blowing against them.)
12. How did Jesus come to them? What was their response to him? (Mark 6:48-50. Jesus came to his disciples, walking on the water. When they saw Him, they thought they were seeing a ghost and they were terrified.)
13. What did Jesus tell them? (Mark 6:50. "Take courage. It is I. Don't be afraid.")

14. What happened when Jesus climbed into the boat with them? (Mark 6:51. When Jesus climbed into the boat, the wind died down completely, and the disciples were amazed.)
15. Why didn't the disciples understand about the loaves that Jesus had multiplied for the people to eat? (Mark 6:52. Their hearts were hardened.)
16. What happened when Jesus and His disciples got to the other side of the lake? (Mark 6:54-56. People recognized Jesus and ran to all the villages to bring sick people to Him to be healed.)
17. How many people were healed? (Mark 6:56. All those who touched Him.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you have quiet times and solitary places to rest? (Mark 6:32)
2. When people come to us, what is our response toward them? (Mark 6:34-37) [It is easy to have a response like the disciples because we see situations through our eyes with our perspective. We need Jesus' perspective to see people with compassion, teach them, meet their needs and to heal them.]
3. How do we respond to God when we have problems that seem impossible? (Mark 6:37-41, 50-51) [We can easily be like the disciples and point out how impossible the problem is. The Lord wants us to get involved with the solution. He wants us to look up to heaven, give thanks and give what we have. He tells us to take courage, to not be afraid but instead be completely amazed.]
4. What does this story tell us about the little that we have? (Mark 6:38-41) [This story illustrates that we can gather up everything that we have, even when it is very little, and give it to Jesus. He can use what we give Him for His glory.]
5. Do we have much more than the disciples did? Is it enough to do all that God asks us to do?
6. What type of needs do people have? [People have physical needs like hunger and illness. They have emotional needs like doubt and fear. They have spiritual needs and must be taught God's Word or shown the greatness of God.]
7. Why does Jesus go to the mountain to pray and what benefit is that for our lives? (Mark 6:46) [Like Jesus, we need to spend time talking with our Father in heaven. He desires us to pray and He promises to hear us when we pray.]

8. What are some of the challenges that we struggle with, like the disciples struggling against the wind? (Mark 6:48) [We can struggle with physical things like the disciples. We can also struggle because we are hungry, tired, afraid, doubt or our hearts are hard.]
9. What does Jesus have power or control over in our lives? (Mark 6:50-51) [Jesus has control over everything in our lives. In things that are difficult, like the wind and the storm, He comes to us. In things that are fearful He says, “take courage, it is I, don’t be afraid.”]
10. How can we invite Jesus to help us face things that are fearful?
11. In what ways are we like the disciples, with things that our heart is hardened towards? (Mark 6:52)
12. List some ways that Jesus helps those in this story. [He listens to the disciples and seeks a place of rest for them. He has compassion on the large crowd, teaches the disciples and feeds them all until they were satisfied. He sees the disciples straining and comes to them. He encourages them and gets in their boat. He healed the sick.]
13. What do we need healing from?
14. What is Jesus willing and able to heal us from? (Mark 6:56) [Jesus can heal us from any physical, emotional, or spiritual problem.]

34. Healing Lepers and a Crippled Woman

Luke 17:11-19; 13:10-17

Luke 17

¹¹Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

¹⁴When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

Luke 13

¹⁰On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, ¹¹and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” ¹³Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

¹⁴Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.”

¹⁵The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? ¹⁶Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”

¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

Study Questions: Healing Lepers & Crippled Woman **Luke 17:11-19; 13:10-17**

Introduction:

Jesus spent much of his time teaching and visiting different places throughout Judea and Samaria. As Jesus traveled, He healed people. This directed the people to God the Father and it revealed that Jesus was God's Son, as he revealed His glory to those who followed Him. These events, where Jesus healed ten lepers and also a crippled woman are examples of this part of Jesus' ministry on earth.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand that Jesus can heal our physical bodies and restore us spiritually.
- To recognize that Jesus has power over everything that binds us.

Attitude

- To completely trust God and His Word.
- To be thankful for all that the Lord God has done for us.

Actions

- To thank the Lord for all of His blessings and marvel in His greatness.
- To point people to the compassion of the Lord and the freedom from Satan found in Him.

Memory Verse:

Philippians 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Isaiah 53:4; Mark 2:17; 2:23-3:6; Romans 14:5; 1 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 5:7

Questions about the Story:

1. Who did Jesus meet while he was on his way to Jerusalem? (Luke 17:12. Jesus met 10 men who had leprosy.)
2. Why had the ten lepers come to meet Jesus and why were they standing at a distance? (Luke 17:12-13. The lepers came to Jesus standing at a distance because of their disease. They had come to call out to Him for pity.)
3. What was Jesus' response to the lepers' cry for pity? (Luke 17:14. He said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests.")

4. What happened to the 10 men as they obeyed what Jesus had told them to do? (Luke 17:14. They were cleansed, healed of the leprosy.)
5. What did one of the lepers do when he realized he was healed? (Luke 17:15-16. He came back to Jesus, praising God loudly, and throwing himself at Jesus' feet, he thanked Him.)
6. What attitude did Jesus have toward the outsider or foreigner? (Luke 17:16-19) [He treated them all the same. He had the same compassion for them and He was willing to help/heal/bless them.]
7. What did Jesus say was the means of healing for the leper? (Luke 17:19. Jesus said that the man's faith had healed him.)
8. On what day of the week did Jesus choose to heal the crippled woman on? (Luke 13:10, 14. The Sabbath, a day of rest.)
9. How long had the woman been crippled? (Luke 13:11. The woman had been crippled for eighteen years.)
10. What was the cause of her crippling? (Luke 13:11, 16. An evil spirit was the cause of her crippling.)
11. How long did it take for the woman to be healed by Jesus? (Luke 13:13. She was healed immediately and stood straight up.)
12. What was the attitude of the woman after she was healed? (Luke 13:13. She praised God.)
13. What was the attitude of the synagogue ruler when he saw that the woman had been healed? (Luke 13:14. He was indignant and offended. He felt that Jesus had broken the law of keeping the Sabbath as a day rest.)
14. What was Jesus' response to the indignant ruler? (Luke 13:15-16. Jesus called the indignant ruler a hypocrite, meaning two-faced. He told the man that if he did things on the Sabbath like caring for his animals, he should realize that it is more important, even on the Sabbath, to care for a person, a child of God.)
15. What is the significance of Jesus healing the sick? (Part of the significance is that it demonstrates that He is the mighty gracious Son of God. It is also part of our redemption, because the Son of God is also Son of Man. He is the perfect innocent man who is our substitute. Here, Jesus reclaims authority over sickness and death in our place. He is the last Adam, giving back what was lost in the fall into sin.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What should our response be when we have sickness and problems in life? (Luke 17:12-13) [We should pray to Jesus, calling out to him for help and pity. We should do so as we know that He is able to do more than we could ever ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).]
2. Are there times that God does not bring healing? (2 Corinthians 12:7-10) [Yes, and He can use those times to grow us, glorify Him, or bring us closer to Him.]
3. What choice do we have when we receive a command from the Lord? (Luke 17:14) [We can immediately go and do what He tells us to do or not obey and miss what the Lord wants to do.]
4. What should our response be when the Lord answers our prayers? (Luke 17:15-16) [When the Lord answers our prayers, our response should be joyful praise and thanksgiving, because God Almighty has shown His love and compassion for us.]
5. At this time, who are the outsiders or foreigners that Jesus wants to help? (Luke 17:16, 18) [There are people from other cultures, other languages and other values that also need to see the power of God in their lives.]
6. What does faith look like in our lives? How can people see that you trust in God? (Luke 17:14) [When we tell of all the great things that He has done for us and we testify of Jesus like the man and the woman in this story.]
7. What kind of “crippling” can we see in people’s lives?
8. What is Jesus able to do about the things that “cripple” us? (Luke 13:12) [He is able to set us free, whether our problem is physical or spiritual.]
9. Are there man made rules that keep people from believing in the Lord? How should we respond to such things?
10. Have we been indignant or uncaring to people who are in need of the Lord’s healing touch? (Luke 13:14)
11. What opportunities do we have to praise or serve the Lord? (Luke 13:13-16) [We can praise and serve the Lord at all times.]

35. The Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Zacchaeus

Luke 15:1-10; 19:1-10

Luke 15

¹Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

⁸“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 19

¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a ‘sinner.’”

⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

Study Questions: The Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Zacchaeus

Luke 15:1-10; 19:1-10

Introduction:

Jesus told many parables that helped people understand what God is like and how to have a relationship with Him. Many of the parables taught about faith, confession of sin, and the kingdom of God, however, all of the parables were used to make a point. In the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, God gives us a picture of His love for unsaved people. This love is demonstrated in Jesus' real-life encounter with Zacchaeus.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand that God is actively seeking us.
- To realize that the Lord invites us to respond to Him with repentance and faith.
- To understand that no matter what our past has been, that we can always return to Jesus.

Attitude

- To admit that we are sinful and need His forgiveness.
- To marvel that the Lord waits with open arms to receive us back to Himself.
- To humble ourselves before God.

Actions

- To humbly respond to God's love with repentance and faith.
- To turn from our sin and look to Jesus.

Memory Verses:

Psalm 86:15 "But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness."

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Acts 26; Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23; 1 Timothy 1:15-16

Questions about the Story:

1. Who was gathering around Jesus? (Luke 15:1. The tax collectors and sinners.)

2. Why were the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttering? (Luke 15:2. “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” They were criticizing Jesus for associating with these people.)
3. According to Jesus’ teaching, what happens when a shepherd who is out in the field loses just one of his one hundred sheep? (Luke 15:3. Jesus explains that the shepherd would go after the sheep and look for it until he found it.)
4. What is the response of the shepherd when he finds the lost sheep? (Luke 15:5-6. The shepherd rejoices and puts the sheep up on his shoulders. He then goes home and calls all his friends and neighbors to rejoice with him because he has found his lost sheep.)
5. What effort does the woman who lost her coin make to search for it? (Luke 15:8. The woman who lost her silver coin makes a great effort to look for it. She lights a lamp and sweeps the whole house until she finds it.)
6. What spiritual comparison did Jesus make with the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin? (Luke 15:7, 10. Jesus compared the finding of the lost sheep and coin to a lost sinner repenting.)
7. What did Jesus say is the reaction in heaven when one lost sinner repents? (Luke 15:7, 10. Jesus said that there is rejoicing in heaven over even one lost sinner.)
8. Describe Zacchaeus and what he wanted? (Luke 19:2-3. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector who was very wealthy. He was also was a very short man, but he wanted to see Jesus.)
9. What did he do so that he could see Jesus? Did He care what the people thought? (Luke 19:4. Zacchaeus ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a sycamore fig tree so that he could see over the crowd of people as Jesus passed along. It seems that it was so important to see Jesus, that he didn’t care what people thought of him.)
10. What did Jesus do when he came to the place where Zacchaeus was up in the tree? (Luke 19:5. Jesus looked up at Zacchaeus and called him to come down. He told Zacchaeus that he was going to his house.)
11. How did the people respond? (Luke 19:7. They muttered, “He has gone to be the ‘guest’ of a sinner.”)
12. What was Zacchaeus’ response when Jesus came to his house? (Luke 19:8. Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus gladly and repented of his cheating ways as a tax collector. He said he would give half of his possessions to the poor and he promised to repay everyone four times the amount that he had taken from them.)

13. Why did Jesus tell him that salvation had come to his house? (Luke 19:9-10. Because the outward action showed his faith and the inner transformation that the Lord had done.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it significant for us that Jesus spent time with sinners and tax collectors? (Luke 15:1) [Jesus was intentionally with sinners and tax collectors because they needed salvation. This gives hope to us, because we also are sinners.]
2. How does our attitude easily become like the Pharisees? (Luke 15:2) [We can see our selves as better than others and look down on them, talk about them or ignore them.]
3. Who do we spend time with? Do we have non-Christian contacts that we see on a regular basis?
4. Why is it important for us as Christians to be in contact with unbelievers? [It is important for us to spend time with unbelievers so that they can hear the gospel of Christ.]
5. What does the importance that Jesus places on people who are lost mean for us? (Luke 15:3-10) [These parables represent God's desire for all to be saved and they show that lost people are very important to Him. Jesus also shows their importance when He says that He came to "seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10) This gives hope to us and encourages us to share the Gospel with others.]
6. What does the lost sheep represent in the parable? The Shepherd?
7. Do we see our need for Jesus as our Savior? Why would we hold that back from others who also need salvation?
8. What is significant for us about Jesus calling Zacchaeus by name? [Jesus knows every person's name. He cares very much about every one and he wants to have a loving relationship with them.]
9. How did Zacchaeus respond to the kindness and love of Jesus? (Luke 19:6) [He welcomed Him gladly and turned away from his sins.]
10. Have you like Zacchaeus given your life to Jesus? What would Jesus say to you if He saw you and looked at your life?
11. Who are the people around us that are rejected by society? How can we introduce them to Jesus? [It means knowing them personally, associating with them, caring about them and then sharing with them God's love.]
12. Is God calling you to a great kingdom work?
13. Who can you introduce to Jesus today? [Anyone and everyone.]

36. Lazarus Raised from the Dead

John 11:1-44

John 11

¹Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. ³So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

⁴When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

⁵Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

⁷Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

⁸"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?"

⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. ¹⁰It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light."

¹¹After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

¹²His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." ¹³Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

¹⁴So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

¹⁶Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷“Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”

²⁸And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” ²⁹When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³²When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

³⁴“Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

³⁵Jesus wept.

³⁶Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹“Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

⁴¹So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

Study Questions: Lazarus Raised from the Dead

John 11:1-44

Introduction:

Jesus had power over the entire created world, over sickness, and even over death itself. He also loved the people around him, and expressed his love for them. One day, Jesus raised his close friend Lazarus from the dead. Jesus did not do this only for the people, or for Himself, but just like everything else, it was for His Father's glory!

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand that Jesus has power over physical as well as spiritual life and death. He is the resurrection and the life.
- To realize that He cares about every problem that we face in our life.
- To realize that even difficult things such as death can be for God's glory.

Attitude

- To have confidence that Jesus knows our need and cares about every pain that we feel.
- To anticipate that God's glory will be revealed all around us.

Action

- To live in faith in Jesus Christ for life on this earth and eternal life to come.
- To trust God in every situation that we face.

Memory Verse:

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Matthew 9:18-26; Luke 7:11-17

Questions about the Story:

1. What do we know about the Lazarus' family? (John 11:1-3, 18. His sisters were Mary and Martha. They lived in Bethany, less than 2 miles from Jerusalem. Jesus loved them. They believed in Jesus. Mary poured perfume over Jesus feet. See John 12:1-8.)
2. What do we know about Lazarus' sickness? (John 11:4. It would be for God's glory and would not end in death.)

3. Why did Jesus wait two days after he heard about the illness? (John 11:4, 6, 15. This illness was for the Father's glory and the disciple's faith. He knew that Lazarus had died before he went to him.)
4. Why were Jesus' disciples afraid to go back to Judea? What was Jesus response? (John 11:8, 16. They were sure that they would be killed, but Jesus was not afraid. He was doing all things according to His Father's will.)
5. What did Jesus find out when he arrived? (John 11:17. He found out that Lazarus had been dead four days.)
6. What do we know about Martha from this text? (John 11:20-27. Martha was anticipating Jesus and went to meet Him. She had faith that, if Jesus had been there before her brother died, He could have healed him. She knew Lazarus would rise on the last day and that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. See also John 5:28-29)
7. What did it mean that Jesus said that He was the resurrection and the life? (John 11:23-26. Jesus has power over physical life and death as well as eternal life and death. From God's perspective, physical life is very temporary.)
8. How did Jesus show His compassion for his friends? (John 11:35, 38. He came to them. He wept with them and He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.)
9. What did the Jews say about Jesus? (John 11:36-37. The Jews recognized how much He loved Lazarus, and they thought He should have been able to heal him.)
10. What is significant about what Jesus said and did at the tomb? (John 11:40-43. Jesus told Martha, "If you believe, you will see the glory of God." Jesus then thanked the Father for hearing His prayer, and He called Lazarus out of the tomb. All of this was so that His disciples, Mary and Martha and those watching would believe. See John 10:10)
11. What happened when Jesus called for Lazarus to come out of the tomb? (John 11:44. He came out wrapped in linen cloth and the cloth was still around his face.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Does it ever feel like Jesus is waiting too long to answer prayer? What can we learn from this story about waiting? (John 11:6) [We can see that Jesus cares about the troubles that we face because He wept, He came and raised Lazarus. Yet God's ways are not our ways and we may not have answers to all of our questions. See Isaiah 55:8]

2. When do we, like the disciples, fear people or fear the future? (John 11:8) [We can easily be afraid of people that would be against us or harm that would come to us, but if we are walking in the light with Jesus, there is nothing to fear.]
3. What can we learn from Martha in this story? (John 11:21-27, 39-40) [Martha was waiting for and trusting in Jesus. She believed that God would give Jesus whatever He asked and that Jesus was in fact the Christ, the Son of God.]
4. What do the words: “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day” mean for us? (See John 5:28-29) [This physical life is not the end. There is a resurrection at the at the last day that defines the future of the believer.]
5. What encouragement can we find in Jesus’ statement, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die”? (John 11:25-26) [There is life after death and that life is through faith in Jesus.]
6. What does Jesus weeping and being deeply moved mean for us? (John 11:33-37) [In seeing Jesus weep, the Jews realized how much Jesus had loved Lazarus. That care and concern is for us as well. Jesus knows our pain. He has felt our emotions and He has the power to respond.]
7. How can the Lord use the trials or tragedies of our lives for His glory? (John 11:40) [It is in these difficult times that we are completely unable to do anything in our own efforts. It is at those times that only God’s actions will have significance. He alone gets the credit. He alone is glorified.]
8. How do we, like Martha, object to what the Lord is doing? What is important about believing and seeing the glory of God? (John 11:39-40) [We, like Martha, cannot see the unseen and it causes us to question or doubt. Jesus’ answer was to look to Him rather than the situation at hand.]
9. What difference does it make for us that Jesus can raise to life a man who had been dead for four days? (John 10:10) [It is a picture of Jesus victory over sin and death won at the cross and the empty tomb. We can also have confidence that Jesus will raise us up on the last day.]
10. What are the answers to your prayers that the Lord might give? [Yes, No or Wait.] What reasons are there for those different answers?

37. The Unmerciful Servant

Matthew 18:21-35

Matthew 18

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²²Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶“The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

³⁰“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³²“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

Study Questions: The Unmerciful Servant

Matthew 18:21-35

Introduction:

Every day people do bad things to us. It may be in their actions, their words or the thoughts of their minds. They might say bad things about us, show us disrespect, talk wrongly about us, steal things, etc. In the same way, we also do things that are hurtful to people around us. Although it is easy to feel anger and hatred toward someone who wrongs us, we can easily forget how many times and how many ways we have sinned against God. There is no way to compare the small number of sins that others do against us in comparison to the uncountable number of things we do against God. Because the Lord forgives us all of our sins, we also can forgive others their sins against us.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To know that we have sinned more than we can count because our nature is rebellious toward God.
- To know that God is gracious and forgives the sins of those who repent and ask His forgiveness.

Attitude

- To honor God as your King who is to be respected as the highest authority.
- To rely on God's forgiveness for our every sin.
- To be humble and forgiving toward other people.

Action

- To ask forgiveness from those that we have sinned against.
- To forgive others for their sins against you. This forgiveness includes getting rid of bitterness in your heart.

Memory Verse:

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Matthew 6:14-15; Luke 7:36-50; 11:4; Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 2:13; 3:12-13

Questions about the Story:

1. What did Jesus tell Peter about how many times he must forgive his brother? (Matthew 18:21-22. Jesus replied that

Peter shouldn't forgive his brother only 7 times, but 77 times. This was meant to show Peter that the number of times we forgive should be beyond counting.)

2. What was Jesus describing in this story? (Matthew 18:23, 35. The Kingdom of Heaven where God is the just and merciful king and an unforgiving person is like the selfish greedy servant. The debt is our sin against God and against one another.)
3. What did the servant who owed the king 10,000 talents ask the king to do? (Matthew 18:26. The servant pleaded with the king for mercy, patience, and time to repay the debt.)
4. What was the king's response? (Matthew 18:27. The king showed forgiveness by canceling the servant's huge debt and by allowing him to go free.)
5. How does the servant's response after his release show his character? (Matthew 18:28-30. His demand for repayment, his aggressive attack, his refusal to show mercy and his throwing the servant into prison shows an inner character that was not changed by receiving mercy himself.)
6. Why did the king reverse his decision to forgive the first servant his great debt? (Matthew 18:32-33. The king could see that the first servant did not learn by receiving mercy and did not appreciate the mercy he had received. So the king in anger delivered him to the jailers.)
7. Why did the king have the jailers torture the first servant? (Matthew 18:34. Instead of the mercy that the king desired to show, the servant showed that his heart was hard.)
8. How do the two debts compare to one another? (Matthew 18:24, 28. The second debt is insignificant compared to the first debt.)
9. What will happen to us if we don't genuinely forgive other people? (Matthew 18:35. We will receive from God Almighty the same kind of punishment as the wicked servant got.)

Discussion Questions:

1. How many times must we forgive other people? What must we forgive them for? Why? (Matthew 18:21-22) [We must forgive others people whenever they do wrong to us, because our Heavenly Father has forgiven the un-payable debt that we owe Him because of our sin.]
2. Where is the kingdom of Heaven? [Anywhere that God is King and Lord. It begins now in the lives of us who are His

children by faith, and will be completed and made perfect in Heaven.]

3. If the Lord was going to settle accounts with us, how would we come out? (Matthew 18:23) [In our own nature, we would be nothing but indebted sinners.]
4. What do we need to do about the debt that we owe to God for our sins? (Matthew 18:26: We need to come before the Lord to plead for forgiveness for our sins. Jesus is the one that took the punishment that we deserved upon Himself, and God says He is faithful and just to forgive us if we confess our sins to Him. John 1:9)
5. What will God do for us when we ask Him for mercy and forgiveness? How many times will He do this? (Matthew 18:27) [In His great love and mercy, the Lord is always ready to forgive our sins when we confess them and repent. He cleans us by the blood of the Lord Jesus, who carried our sins in his body when he died on the cross. This pays the debt that we owe Him, and so our account with God is paid.]
6. What types of sins from other people are difficult to forgive? What is our attitude toward people that have hurt us and wronged us?
7. What would the King say to us if He were to see how we treat the people around us?
8. What is the warning for us if we don't forgive others? (Matthew 18:35) [If we don't forgive other people around us, our Heavenly Father will not forgive us.]
9. Are there people in your life whom you have not forgiven? (Matthew 6:12-15, Colossians 3:12-13)
10. How much has God forgiven us? (Romans 5:8) [While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.]

38. The Ten Virgins and The Sheep & Goats

Matthew 25:1-13, 31-26:2

Matthew 25

¹“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶“At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

⁷“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

⁹“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹“Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'

¹²“But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

¹³“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴“Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷“Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?

³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰“The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴“They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵“He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

⁴⁶“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

^{26:1}When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, “As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

Study Questions: The Ten Virgins and The Sheep & Goats

Matthew 25:1-13, 31-26:2

Introduction:

Jesus spoke many times about the kingdom of heaven that is to come. He did this as a warning and as an encouragement. The warning motivates us to examine ourselves, and the encouragement lifts us to faith in Jesus. These two stories point out the importance of being ready for Christ's return, and of remembering that there is a judgment day coming.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To realize that Jesus will come to the earth again, to save those who believe in Him, and to judge all who have lived.
- To understand that there are eternal rewards and punishments for our actions.
- To understand that sin will be punished and salvation is found in Christ alone.

Attitude

- To be alert, excited and ready for the coming of Jesus.
- To have compassion for people, desiring them to be saved and ready for Jesus' return.

Actions

- To live our lives in preparation for the coming world.
- To work for the Lord while we wait for his return.
- To care for people both physically and spiritually.

Memory Verse:

John 17:3 "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

Scriptures for Further Study:

1 Corinthians 15:51-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; Revelation 4; 20:11-15

Questions about the Story:

1. What is Jesus describing in this story? (Matthew 25:1. Jesus is describing the Kingdom of Heaven and His second coming.)
2. Why were the five virgins wise and the other five foolish? (Matthew 25:2. Because the first five were prepared, ready and waiting for the bridegroom while the other five were not.)

3. What happened to them while they waited and why? (Matthew 25:3-5. They fell asleep while they waited for the bridegroom to come, because he was a long time in coming.)
4. When did the bridegroom come? (Matthew 25:6. The bridegroom came late at night (at midnight). This was much later than expected.)
5. Why couldn't the five wise virgins help the foolish ones? (Matthew 25:7-9. There may not have been enough oil for both. Each person must be ready in themselves and not depending on someone else to be ready.)
6. What happened while they were gone to buy oil? (Matthew 25:10. While they were gone, the bridegroom came. He went inside for the wedding banquet and took with him the five virgins who had their oil lamps ready and were prepared to go. Then the door was shut.)
7. Why were the foolish virgins not allowed inside when they returned? (Matthew 25:11. They were late, the door was shut and the bridegroom said he didn't even know them.)
8. What is the warning that Jesus gives to this story? (Matthew 25:13. Jesus gave the warning to keep watch, because we don't know the time or the hour when He will return.)
9. Who is the Son of Man? (Matthew 25:31. The Son of Man is the King, the judge, the son of the Father, namely Jesus.)
10. What does it mean that Son of Man will separate the sheep and the goats when he comes? (Matthew 25:32. He will separate people based on their faith displayed through their actions and those whose unbelief or cold hearts are reflected by their actions.)
11. What promises and declarations does the King give to those on his right? (Matthew 25:34. They have been blessed, they have an inheritance from the King's domain that was prepared for them since the creation of the world.)
12. Why does he give such a blessing to the ones on His right? (Matthew 25:35-40. The righteous lived for the benefit of others which is evidence of faith. When they cared for people in the kingdom, they actually cared for the King. Their actions are the evidence of living faith.)
13. How does the response of the righteous show their righteousness? (Matthew 25:37-38. They don't feel that they deserve the gift that they have been given.)
14. What is the meaning of the condemnation the King gives to those on his left? (Matthew 25:41. They are to be separated from the King and so also out of the kingdom. The curse is a

reflection of who they are on the inside and it is reflected in their outward actions.)

15. Who was the eternal fire prepared for? (Matthew 25:41. The eternal fire was prepared for the devil and his angels.)
16. Why did the King give them such a harsh warning? (Matthew 25:42-43. He is treating them as they treated others. Out of the overflow of their hearts, they also receive the same. Their actions are evidence of unbelief.)
17. How does the response of the wicked condemn them? (Matthew 25:44. They are trying to justify their own actions. They say that they never saw the King in those situations.)
18. What will be the reward of each group of people? (Matthew 25:46. The wicked will go to eternal punishment and the righteous will go to a place of eternal life.)

Discussion Questions:

1. The Kingdom of God is every place where God is King? Where is He not king? Is He king over your life? (Out of all of creation, only mankind disobeys God.)
2. When would we be found to be wise or foolish? (Matthew 25:3-4, 6, 12) [We are wise when we look forward to the bridegroom, prepare for His coming, go out to meet Him and live in a relationship where He knows us. The opposite lifestyle is foolish.
3. Do we get tired of waiting, or do we grow impatient, sleepy or lazy while we wait for the Lord's return? (Matthew 25:5) [It is possible for all to feel this way.]
4. What makes a person ready? Are you ready for Jesus to return?
5. What is our responsibility to those who are not ready? (Matthew 25:9) [Warn them now so that they can be ready.]
6. Are there signs or is there a midnight cry that Jesus will return soon?
7. What do you think about people who predict that Jesus will return at a specific time? (Matthew 25:13) [Jesus said that no one knows the day or the hour of His return, so people who claim to know when it will be are wrong.]
8. What is significant for us about the statement that all nations will be gathered before Him? (Matthew 25:32) [Every one of us will face that judgment.]
9. Is the list of things to do a way for us to get into heaven? Why or why not? (Matthew 25:35-36) [It is not a list of requirements to get into heaven, because the actions of the

righteous came from the blessing of the Father. The inheritance was planned before they did any actions and the righteous were unaware that they were doing things that would be recognized as special.]

10. How can the king's statement to the righteous encourage us? (Matthew 25:34) [It can encourage us in that God has been wanting to give us His inheritance since the beginning of creation. That inheritance includes His kingdom and His blessing.]
11. Who do we know that is hungry, thirsty, a stranger, needs clothes, is sick or in prison?
12. What other kinds of needs do people have in addition to the physical needs that are mentioned in the story?
13. What can this list of actions parallel for us in a spiritual sense? (Matthew 25:35-36) [Some people are spiritually hungry for God's Word, they are thirsty for a relationship with Jesus. They can be strangers to the Lord and naked without the robe of righteousness. People can be sick physically and spiritually as well as bound by many chains in life.]
14. How does the list of actions condemn us? (Matthew 25:42) [We are condemned when we do not care for the King's kingdom or His people. In ourselves, we would certainly be condemned.]
15. What does the statement "prepared for the devil and his angels" mean for us? (Matthew 25:41) [This place was intended for the devil and his angels. The Lord does not want anyone to perish or to be condemned.]
16. What hope does Matthew 26:2 give to us since Jesus is going to the cross? (Matthew 26:2) [It means that all of our failures to care for people are paid for through Jesus. He died for both the righteous and the unrighteous.]

39. Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-17

Matthew 21

¹As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵“Say to the Daughter of Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest!”

¹⁰When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

¹¹The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

¹²Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³“It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a ‘den of robbers.’”

¹⁴The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

¹⁶“Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him.

“Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read,

“From the lips of children and infants
you have ordained praise?””

¹⁷And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

Study Questions: Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem Matthew 21:1-17

Introduction:

Jesus fulfilled every prophecy that was written about Him in the Old Testament, including this day when He entered Jerusalem as the King of the Jews, their Messiah. Jesus went to Jerusalem because this was His Father's time for providing salvation. The crowd called out "Hosanna," which means "Save us," but Jesus rode on a donkey, which is a symbol of peace instead of war. Notice the responses of the disciples, the crowd, the children, and the Jewish leaders.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand that God is holy and His place of worship is holy, too.
- To understand that people can do things that seem right, but do them for selfish reasons.
- To understand that it is important to examine our own hearts and to be humble.

Attitude

- To worship God wholeheartedly.
- To give God glory in everything that happens in our lives.

Action

- To boldly tell people about the Lord Jesus.
- To help others learn to worship God with their whole hearts.

Memory Verses:

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple."

Scripture for Further Study:

Psalm 118:25-26; Zechariah 9:9

Questions about the Story:

1. As he was getting close to Jerusalem, what did he instruct his disciples to do? (Matthew 21:2. Jesus told his disciples to go into the nearby village and get the donkey and colt that they would see there.)
2. Why did Jesus choose a donkey? (Matthew 21:2. The donkey symbolized peace and humility, the horse symbolized war.)

3. What is unique about Jesus' instructions to the disciples and the response they were to give the owner? (Matthew 21:2-3. Jesus knew what they would find before they arrived. He knew what would be asked of them and how they should respond before they even met the person.)
4. Why is it significant that this was prophesied? (Matthew 21:4-5. Jesus came in fulfillment of every messianic prophecy.)
5. How did the **disciples** respond to Jesus' command? (Matthew 21:6. The disciples obeyed. They went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on.)
6. What did the **crowd** do when they saw Jesus riding into Jerusalem? (Matthew 21:8. As the people saw Jesus coming toward the city, they cut down palm branches and laid the palm branches and their cloaks on the ground in front of him. They shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" and "Hosanna in the highest!" Psalm 118:25-26)
7. Why did the people praise Jesus this way? (Matthew 21:9. The people were shouting "Hosanna," which means "Save us." The people thought Jesus was going to save them from the harsh rule of the Romans.)
8. How did the **people in the city** respond? (Matthew 21:10. The whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?")
9. Why did Jesus overturn the tables and drive out those selling in the temple? (Matthew 21:13. Jesus told the moneychangers that God's house will be called a place for prayer, but they had made it a robbers' hangout. He was very angry because they were using God's house to make money for themselves instead of using it to honor and worship His Father.)
10. What was the response of the **chief priests and teachers** of the law when they saw Jesus healing people and the children singing praise to Him? Why? (Matthew 21:15. The chief priests and teachers of the law thought that Jesus was a man and should not receive praise as the Son of God. They came to Jesus in anger because they wanted Him to stop the people from praising Him.)
11. How did Jesus respond to their question? (Matthew 21:16. Jesus responded by quoting the Scripture that says "By the mouths of infants" God would receive praise. In saying this, He was saying that He was the Son of God. Psalm 8:2)

Discussion Questions:

1. What encouragement can we find in the details that Jesus knew and the prophecy that He fulfilled? (Matthew 21:2-5) [He continues to work according to the smallest details regarding His plan and does so in our own lives as well.]
2. How can we respond like the disciples did to Jesus as they went into Jerusalem? [We can trust Him at His Word, follow Him to the into the unknown future, and give our own possessions for His service.]
3. What does Jesus humble entry into Jerusalem on a donkey mean for us? (Matthew 21:5) [Jesus comes to us gently and humbly, yet He has great strength because He comes as King.]
4. How do we shout “Hosanna” to the Son of David? (Matthew 21:9) [We also can cry out to God with many good words yet with selfish motives that are concerned about our agenda as opposed to submitting to the Lord’s plan.]
5. How is Jesus revealed before us and yet we don’t understand Him? (Matthew 21:10) [Jesus is revealed in His Word and yet we don’t fully understand who He is. Even when He comes into our lives we forget who He is.]
6. How is Jesus an offense to us? (Matthew 21:15) [He is an offense when we expect Him to act one way and His plan is different or when our flesh desires things contrary to God.]
7. What would Jesus overturn in our lives? (Matthew 21:12) [He needs to overturn the things that are corrupt in our lives because we are to be holy. Our thoughts, words and actions all need to be turned over and cleaned out.]
8. Who was the Messiah? (Matthew 21:5, 9, 13, 16) [The promised Messiah is a gentle merciful King. He is the Son of David, the one coming in the name of the Lord, the one who heals and the one who saves.]
9. What keeps people from worshiping the Lord God?
10. What does God need to save us from? [We all need to be saved from our sin. We see this sin displayed as the crowd had a selfish agenda, the moneychangers worshiped their money above God, the chief priests and teachers of the law worshiped their own rules before the Lord.]
11. How often do you shout praises with your mouth, but swear quietly in your heart?
12. Are our churches holy places? Are they houses of prayer?
13. Do we honor the Lord in public like the children, even if it means being looked down on by some of the public leaders?

40. The Last Supper and Betrayal

Luke 22:7-8, 13-23, 39-53

Luke 22

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.”

⁹“Where do you want us to prepare for it?” they asked.

¹⁰He replied, “As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹and say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹²He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there.”

¹³They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.

¹⁵And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

¹⁷After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

¹⁹And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

²⁰In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. ²¹But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. ²²The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him.” ²³They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

³⁹Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” ⁴¹He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴²“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” ⁴³An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

⁴⁵When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶“Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

⁴⁷While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

⁵¹But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

Study Questions: The Last Supper and Betrayal

Luke 22:7-8, 13-23, 39-53

Introduction:

The Passover feast was a custom of the people of Israel. It began as a celebration and remembrance of the time when the angel of death killed all the first-born of the Egyptians, but **passed over** the Israelites. At the Passover celebrations a lamb was eaten, remembering how the Israelites in Egypt slaughtered a lamb, painted its blood on their doorposts, and ate it. Before His crucifixion, Jesus celebrated this special dinner with His disciples, as was the custom of the people of Israel. Jesus Himself would be the sacrificial lamb whose blood would allow the sentence of death to pass over us. Jesus taught them that the bread and wine taken during the supper were His body and blood. Through His sacrifice there would be the forgiveness of sin.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To recognize that we, like the disciples, fall into temptation and we, like Judas, betray Jesus.
- To understand that Jesus is the Passover Lamb that takes away our sin. He took the penalty of eternal death so it would pass over us.

Attitude

- To humbly admit that Jesus' sacrifice is the only thing that can cleanse us and forgive our sins.
- To rejoice in the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Action

- To regularly celebrate the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Him and in recognition of the price that He has paid for us.

Memory Verse:

John 1:29 "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Scriptures for Further Study:

Matthew 26:17-56; Mark 14:12-26, 32-50; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:20-34; Hebrews 8:7-13; 12:2-3

Questions about the Story:

1. What did Jesus ask Peter and John to do? When and where was this taking place? (Luke 22:7-8. Jesus told Peter and John

to prepare the Passover meal. It was on the day of Unleavened Bread, while Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem.)

2. What was the feast of Passover? The Passover lamb? (Exodus 12. Passover was the feast to remember the Israelites deliverance from slavery in Egypt, which parallels our deliverance from slavery to sin. The Passover lamb was the lamb that was killed for the feast and its blood was put on the doorposts of the houses of all the Israelites. Our Passover lamb is Jesus, and His crucifixion fulfilled the what the Exodus Passover promised.)
3. What is the significance of Jesus' crucifixion during the time of Passover? (John 1:29) [Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world so that God would "pass over" and not judge us for our sin.]
4. What were Jesus' feelings about this meal with His disciples? What did He know was soon to come? (Luke 22:15. Jesus told his disciples that He was eager to eat this meal with them before His coming suffering.)
5. What does it mean when Jesus says, "I will not eat of it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God"? (Luke 22:16. Jesus would be crucified soon, but He would rise again to go to the kingdom of God. His death and resurrection are the fulfillment of the Passover. The kingdom is not of this world, it is a kingdom is where God is king overall.)
6. What did He say about the cup and the bread? What did He say they are? (Luke 22:19-20. Jesus told His disciples that the bread was His body and the cup was the new covenant in His blood. His body and blood were given for them, and they were to eat and drink it in remembrance of Him for the forgiveness of sin.)
7. What does the new covenant mean? (Luke 22:20; 1 John 1:7; Hebrews 8:10. The old covenant was the sacrifice of animals to atone for the sins of the people. The new covenant was the sacrifice of Jesus once for all on behalf of the people.)
8. What does it mean to do this in remembrance of me? (Luke 22:19. It means that we are to remember, in faith, and to be motivated by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. It is important to participate in the Lord's Supper regularly to follow Jesus' invitation and command.)
9. What is significant about Judas Iscariot being at the table? (Luke 22:21-23. Jesus knew what Judas would do and was giving him one final warning, one final opportunity.)

10. Why did Jesus tell His disciples to pray not to fall into temptation? (Luke 22:40-46. Their spirits were willing, but their bodies were weak. He knew the seriousness of the situation, but they did not. They needed God's help.)
11. What does Jesus' prayer tell us about Him? (Luke 22:42. Jesus wanted the cup of suffering to be taken from Him. The pain and the suffering would be real and as a man He did not want to face it. Yet, He submitted His will to the Father's.)
12. What do the angels and the sweat as drops of blood tell us? (Luke 22:43-44. While Jesus was not alone in his weakness, the burden He bore was heavy and His prayer was intense.)
13. What did Judas get for betraying Jesus? (Luke 22:47-48. Judas, betrayed Jesus for money, 30 pieces of silver.)
14. Why didn't Jesus run, fight, or allow His disciples to fight? (Luke 22:49-52. He was not leading a rebellion. He was submitting to the will of His Father. Hebrews 12:2-3 says that it was for the joy set before Him that He endured the cross.)

Discussion Questions:

1. When does Passover occur on our calendar? Does Passover have any significance to us? [The Jewish celebration of Passover was fulfilled by the death and resurrection of Jesus. We observe His death on Good Friday and celebrate His resurrection on Easter. We remember His death and resurrection in the Lord's Supper.]
2. How does the Lord's Supper affect us or help us? (Luke 22:17-20) [It is the physical means by which God gives us His grace and His forgiveness. The bread and wine by themselves are just bread and wine, but when combined with God's Word, they have the power to forgive our sins and strengthen us.]
3. What does the new covenant mean for us? (Luke 22:20) [The new covenant in the blood of Jesus shows us that we no longer need to make continual sacrifices for forgiveness of our sins. Rather, in Jesus' sacrifice, He paid for all of the sins of the world, 1 John 2:2. Forgiveness is available to anyone who asks Him.]
4. What does the cup of His blood and the bread of His body mean for us? (Luke 22:19-20) [We are to take Him at His Word and believe that Jesus is in fact present with us in a real way when we take the bread and the wine in the Lord's Supper. He is in, with, and under these elements.]
5. Why is prayer necessary to help us avoid temptation? (Luke 22:40) [Prayer is an important part of avoiding temptation,

because we are weak and not able to stand alone against the attacks of the devil. However, the Lord our God is Almighty and is perfectly able to rescue us. Prayer reminds us that our strength comes from the Lord, for without Him, we are weak. As we pray in Jesus' Name, God promises to hear and answer in a way that He sees is best for us.]

6. How do we, like Judas, betray Jesus? (Luke 22:48) [We betray Him when we put any other thing before the Lord or when we mix worship of Jesus with other gods.]
7. What area of our lives do we need to say, "Not mine, but your will be done"?
8. What are some of the temptations we battle against? What are our weaknesses, our needs for prayer, for forgiveness?
9. Why did Jesus choose to do the Father's will? Why did He stand firm and not run? Why did He submit instead of fight? (Luke 22:42) [Jesus obeyed the Father and drank the cup of suffering for us. He stood when we would run. He submitted on our behalf and He did it to forgive us of our sins.]

41. Jesus' Trial, Crucifixion, and Burial

Matthew 27:11-66

Matthew 27

¹¹Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

¹²When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. ¹³Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" ¹⁴But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

¹⁵Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. ¹⁷So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

¹⁹While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

²⁰But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

²¹"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

"Barabbas," they answered.

²²"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!"

²³"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

²⁴When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

²⁵All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³²As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. ³³They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). ³⁴There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. ³⁵When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁶And sitting down, they kept watch over him there.

³⁷Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁸Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

⁴¹In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴²"He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

⁴⁵From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

⁴⁷When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

⁴⁸Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

⁵⁰And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. ⁵²The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

⁵⁴When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

⁵⁵Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. ⁵⁶Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

⁵⁷As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

⁶²The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³"Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

⁶⁵"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Study Questions: Jesus' Trial, Crucifixion, and Burial

Matthew 27:11-66

Introduction:

Just days earlier a crowd had shouted, "Hosanna," and praised Jesus. Now a crowd cried out for Him to be crucified. Why was Jesus killed? Was it because of the disciple, Judas, who betrayed Jesus, or the Jewish leaders who accused Him? Was it because of Pilate who gave the order, or the soldiers who carried out his instruction? If Jesus died to take away the sin of the world, then it was all sinful people, including you, who caused his death.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To acknowledge that Jesus died for your sin and took your punishment on the cross.
- To understand our reconciliation with God, through Jesus.

Attitude

- To be broken in your heart about your sin and the cost of that sin.
- To be in awe of Jesus' willingness to die for you, like the centurion who said, "Surely he was the Son of God."

Actions

- To repent of your sin, going the opposite direction and looking into the face of Jesus.
- To live in the salvation and forgiveness that Jesus provided through His blood.

Memory Verses:

Hebrews 9:27-28 "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Matthew 26:36-27:10; Mark 14:43-15:47; Luke 22:1-23:56; John 18:1-19:42

Questions about the Story:

1. What does the title "King of the Jews" mean? (Matthew 27:11. It means that Jesus is indeed a king; and specifically the King of the Jews. It also means that He came as a different

- type of king than the world could see or understand. It also means that he is the one that was promised by the prophets.)
2. Why did **Jesus** refuse to answer when He was accused? (Matthew 27:12-14. Jesus was silent because those making the accusations and the one acting as judge did not have authority over Him. His reason for coming to earth was for this time and this purpose. By their accusations the chief priests accused themselves and by Pilate's judgment, he judged himself. Also, Isaiah prophesied that He would be silent. Isaiah 53:7)
 3. How did **Pilate** try to get out of this situation? (Matthew 27:15-21, 24. Pilate attempted to force the people to choose between the release of Barabbas or Jesus. When the crowd still demanded to have Jesus punished, Pilate washed his hands in front of them, to demonstrate that he was not responsible for Jesus' death.)
 4. Who was **Barabbas** and why was he released? (Matthew 27:16-18. Barabbas was a notorious prisoner. Luke 23:19 refers to him as a murderer, but he was released because of the envy that the chief priests had toward Jesus. For Barabbas, Jesus literally became his substitution.)
 5. Who did the **crowd** ask to be released and why? (Matthew 27:21-22. They asked for Barabbas to be released and Jesus to be crucified, because they had been persuaded by the chief priests and elders.)
 6. What did the **soldiers** do to Jesus? (Matthew 27:27-31, 35. The soldiers took Jesus into their headquarters, where they mocked him. They joked about His being the King of the Jews. They made fun of Him by stripping His clothes off, then putting a scarlet robe on Him and a crown of thorns on His head. They also whipped Him and beat Him.)
 7. Who was involved in the killing and mocking of Jesus? (Everyone was: the chief priests, Pilate, the crowd, the soldiers, the robbers and those who passed by. There were only a few that followed Jesus to the cross.)
 8. What was the charge that was put on a sign above Jesus' head? (Matthew 27:36-37. "This is Jesus, The King of the Jews.")
 9. What were the accusations from those at the cross? (Matthew 27:39-44. They questioned if Jesus was really the Son of God, they questioned His ability to come down from the cross and His faith in God. It took real strength to stay on the cross when He had the power to come down.)

10. What is the meaning of Jesus' cry "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46. Jesus quoted Psalm 22 and personally cried out because, as He took on the sin of the world, God turned His face away from Jesus. Isaiah 53:6, 12. See also 2 Corinthians 5:21)
11. What is significant about the curtain being torn in two at the moment of Jesus' death? (Matthew 27:50-53. The curtain of the temple separated the people from the Holy of Holies. It was a visual sign that the barrier between man and God was gone. See also John 14:6 and Hebrews 10:19-22)
12. What was the centurion's testimony? (Matthew 27:54. He realized that Jesus truly was the Son of God.)
13. What is significant regarding the manner of Jesus' death and burial? (Matthew 27:57-61. The entire process speaks of the certainty of His death.)
14. What is peculiar about the request to guard the tomb? (Matthew 27:60-66. To secure the tomb, a large stone was rolled in front of it, a seal was placed on the stone, and Roman guards were placed outside to guard it. A dead body does not move, it does not need to be guarded. The chief priests and Pharisees were afraid Jesus' disciples would steal His body and then claim He had risen. Matthew 27:64)

Discussion Questions:

1. By our lives, who do we say Jesus is? [We can easily be like all of those in this story that betrayed, denied, mocked and persecuted Jesus.]
2. What are some of the multiple reasons that we have to believe that Jesus is who He said He is? [We have the Scriptures, the testimony of factual evidence, and the testimony of eye witnesses who confirm who Jesus is.]
3. In what ways do we feel trapped, regarding our faith? (Matthew 27:15-24) [We can easily feel pressured by the crowd. Our close friends and family can try to influence us. We can also face many false motives in our own hearts.]
4. What does it mean that Jesus is the King of the Jews? (Matthew 27:11) [Jesus was the King over all those that followed the Jewish faith. He is also King over everything that the Bible describes. That included all that God had made.]
5. How do we respond when we are accused? Why?
6. Sometimes the crowds around us seem to shout "Hosanna" and at other times they cry out "crucify." What do we do with

the different voices that shout opposite things? (Matthew 27:22-23) [There are many things in the world that give opposite messages of who Jesus is. His Word is the final word.]

7. Are we like Barabbas in any way? (Matthew 27:16-17) [Yes, we are notorious sinners. We deserve the death penalty, yet Jesus takes our place on the cross.]
8. Do we treat Jesus like the soldiers treated Him? How? (Matthew 27:27-31, 35) [We can mock Jesus with our words and our actions. At times we may use His name in swearing, or we may talk about Him as king, but not obey His instructions, or we may treat people that are made in His image with disrespect.]
9. What does the fact that God forsook Jesus mean for us? (Matthew 27:46) [This means that God does accept us for Jesus sake.]
10. What happened at the moment of Jesus' death for us? (Matthew 27:50-54) [At the moment of Jesus death there were many things that took place for us. Our punishment was fully paid for, that which separated us from God was removed. Satan was defeated and we are able to confess like the centurion, "Surely this man was the Son of God."]
11. Like the centurion, each one of us must answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" Who is Jesus to you? (Matthew 27:54) [It is not possible to say that Jesus was just a nice guy, because He claimed to be God. According to Scriptures, the only answer that we can give is that He is Lord.]
12. What can you give to Jesus in exchange for what He has given you?
13. How can we answer the questions of doubt that arise? (Matthew 27:57-66) [Although we may wonder how Jesus could die and be raised again to life, there is rarely a death of a person that is recorded with such detail as this. The crucifixion, the burial process and the guards at the tomb make His death clear. Also, Scripture declares that He experienced death for everyone." Hebrews 2:9]

42. Jesus' Resurrection and the Great Commission

Matthew 28:1-20

Matthew 28

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

¹¹While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.

¹²When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Study Questions: Resurrection & Great Commission

Matthew 28:1-20

Introduction:

After a most painful death, Jesus' body was placed in the borrowed tomb of one of his followers, Joseph of Arimathea, and Roman soldiers guarded it. The death of Jesus made the situation for his disciples seem hopeless. They didn't know that this was just the beginning of God's wonderful plan. As we look at Jesus' resurrection from the dead, we see that the Lord God will always stand victorious, even over death.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To understand that Jesus has power over death.
- To know that God desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

Attitude

- To be in awe of the empty tomb and the promise that it holds for us.
- Not to be afraid, Jesus is alive and He will be with us to the end of the ages.

Action

- To tell the people around us about the salvation they can have by faith in Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection.
- To carry out the great commission that Jesus has given us.

Memory Verses:

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time."

Scriptures for Further Study:

Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20; 1Corinthians 15:3-6; 1 Timothy 2:4

Questions about the Story:

1. Who of Jesus' followers went to the tomb first? (Matthew 28:1. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary on the first day of the week after the Sabbath.)
2. Who rolled away the stone? Why? (Matthew 28:2. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled back the stone to

show that Jesus was not there, because He had risen from the dead.)

3. What is interesting about the response of the guards when the angel came? (Matthew 28:4. Guards would not normally be afraid of anything, but their weapons and armor would not protect them from the angel. It is unusual that the guards would be so afraid that they would shake and become like dead men.)
4. Why did Jesus appear to the women and the disciples, but not to the chief priests and rulers? (Matthew 28:5, 17. The women and the disciples were seeking Jesus and they believed in Him.)
5. What is significant about Jesus' message to the women? (Matthew 28:5. Jesus instructs them not to fear, but instead to go and tell the others.)
6. What had happened to Jesus and where would He meet them? (Matthew 28:6-7. Jesus had risen from the dead and would go ahead of them to Galilee.)
7. Who were the women to tell about this good news? (Matthew 28:7. They were to go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus had risen.)
8. What were the women's feelings as they hurried away from the tomb? (Matthew 28:8. They were afraid, yet filled with joy.)
9. What can we see and understand from Jesus meeting the women on the way? (Matthew 28:9-10. First, the resurrected Jesus has a body that they recognized and touched. Jesus greets them with a specific message to carry to the others. They did not need to be afraid of Jesus and they would see Him again.)
10. Why would the guards report the angel and the missing Jesus to the chief priests instead of to their commanding officers? (Matthew 28:12-14. The guards and the chief priests made a plan to try to hide what had happened. The soldiers were told to say that the disciples came during the night and stole Jesus' body away and the chief priests paid the guards a large sum of money for doing this. They also promised to protect the guards from harm if this report reached the governor. Sleeping while on guard duty could have meant the death penalty for the guards.)
11. Where did Jesus meet His disciples? (Matthew 28:16. The disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. Jesus met them there.)

12. What was the response of the disciples when they saw Jesus? (Matthew 28:17. They worshiped Him, but some doubted.)
13. What authority does Jesus give to His disciples? (Matthew 28:18. It is the authority of His Word, His promise, His instruction and His presence.)
14. What commission did Jesus tell his disciples? (Matthew 28:18-20. Jesus told them to make disciples. While they were going, they were to baptize and teach in the authority given to them in Christ. They were to do it everywhere, literally to all nations. He also promised to be with them to the end of the age.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What importance does Jesus' empty tomb have for us? (Matthew 28:6) [Jesus won the victory over death! Death had no power over Jesus so, in Him, it does not need to have power over us.]
2. What is your personal response to the fact that Jesus is alive? (Matthew 28:9) [Like the women, our response should be one of worship.]
3. What does the angel's message mean for us? (Matthew 28:5-7) [There is truly no reason to fear if death has lost its power. The physical reality of Jesus' resurrection is here visible for all to see. Jesus led the way to the cross and He continues to lead the way, this time to Galilee.]
4. What does the resurrection tell us about who Jesus is? [It confirms that His claims about Himself as the Son of God are true. Romans 1:4 It proves that His Word about eternal things is also true.]
5. Why do people try to twist or cover up the evidence of the resurrection? (Matthew 28:11-15) [They do not want to believe what is true and obvious because of the effect that it would have on their own lives. They would have to submit to the authority of Jesus over their lives.]
6. How are we to be carrying out the instruction in Matthew 28:19-20? [Jesus clear instructions is for us to make disciples of all nations. It is an instruction that we are to carry out until it is complete. We are to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as well as teaching them to be obedient disciples.]
7. How does Jesus authority affect us? (Matthew 28:18) [He has authority over all things which includes our own lives. We

must submit to His will for our lives, His direction for how we live and the purpose by which we live by.]

8. What promise did Jesus leave to encourage us as we obey His “Great Commission” to make disciples of all nations? (Matthew 28:20) [Jesus promised that we can witness with His authority, and that He is with us until the end of the age.]
9. Jesus meets the women on the way and the disciples in Galilee. Where does He meet us today? [He meets us in His Word, in prayer, through Godly counsel of a friend and through worship, etc.]