

## KHMER CHRONOLOGICAL STORY LIST – For Discipleship

**\*\*Stories highlighted in purple are designed to use in pre-evangelism.**

**\*\*Stories highlighted in blue comprise the list of stories for the evangelism track and are intended to be repeated in the regular discipleship track.**

**\*\*The story highlighted in red is used in the new disciples track as an OT summary and transitional story to the NT and may or may not need to be used in the regular discipleship track.**

### EVANGELISM BIBLE STORIES

- 001 – Poem – Who is God
- 002 – God's Calling All Peoples
- 003 – Heaven and Hell
- 004 – The Bible

### OLD TESTAMENT STORIES

- 101 – The Creation of the World
- 102 – The Very First People
- 103 – Sin
- 104 – From Ancient Times to the Savior Descending From Heaven (Transitional Story)
- 105 – Cain and Abel
- 106 – Noah and the Great Flood
- 107 – The Tower of Babel
- 108 – God Blesses Abraham
- 109 – Birth of Isaac and Abraham's Faith Tested
- 110 – Jacob and Esau - Sons of Isaac
- 111 – Jacob Receives a New Name - Israel
- 112 – Joseph Sold by his Brothers
- 113 – Sufferings of Joseph in Egypt
- 114 – God Rewards Joseph
- 115 – Joseph Forgives his Brothers
- 116 – Moses' Background
- 117 – God Calls Moses
- 118 – Moses Before the King of Egypt
- 119 – Leaving Egypt and Crossing the Red Sea
- 120 – The Ten Commandments
- 121 – The Holy Tent and the Golden Calf
- 122 – The Israelites Invade Jericho and the Promised Land
- 123 – Israel Wants a King; Saul
- 124 – David Anointed and Becomes King
- 125 – Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

## NEW TESTAMENT STORIES

201 – John's Birth

**202 – The Son of God Comes to Earth**

203 – The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

204 – Jesus Chooses His Disciples and Begins Preaching

**205 – Jesus Has Authority Over Nature and Evil Spirits**

**206 – Jesus Has Authority to Forgive Sins**

**207 – Jesus Has Authority Over Sickness and Death**

208 – The Parable of the Lost Son

209 – The Rich Man and Lazarus

210 – Jesus Announces his Death

211 – The Last Meal

212 – Jesus Arrested on the Mount of Olives

**213 – Jesus Gives His Life On the Cross**

**214 – Jesus Comes Back to Life**

**215 – Jesus Goes Up to Heaven**

## 10 COMMANDS OF CHRIST STORIES

301 – Repent and Believe

302 – Be Baptized in Water

303 – Be Baptized in the Holy Spirit

304 – Obey God's Word

305 – Love God

306 – Love One Another

307 – Break Bread

308 – Pray

309 – Give

310 – Be Witnesses

# 001 Poem - Who Is God?

John 1, Colossians 1

Since the dawn of time  
There was absolutely nothing  
There were no men or women  
The sun was dark

Long, long ago  
There was but Great God  
Worlds or heaven  
no shining stars

But God was.

His nature  
In one there are three  
God explained the riddle  
God the Father

From the first era  
It's a mystery  
That's extremely deep  
God the Son

And God the Spirit.

God is the high Lord  
All powerful  
Without beginning, without end  
Entirely spirit

Bright, clear, glorious  
Unchangeable  
Existing forever  
In a place of nothingness

Ready to create.

Life waited  
In the will of  
Waited divine proclamation  
Then quickly born

In heart's deep  
Supreme God  
One uttered word  
Thickly appearing

Inundating the universe.

Every and all things  
Was invited to be  
Things without bodily form  
The spirit world

That we can see  
By God  
Cannot be seen  
By the voice of God

Came into being as well.

# 002 God's Calling All People

Based on Acts 17:22-31

Oh, men and women of Cambodia! I see that you all are very religious, I see that in every place there are many idols which you worship and to which you offer sacrifices. And, I see that there are many wats and pagodas as well. But I'm bringing good news about a God who you don't yet know - the mighty and all-powerful God!

The God who created the world, he is Lord of heaven and Lord of earth, he does not live in temples made by human hands. And, he does not need people to provide and care for him, because it is he who gives life and gives all things to people. He created each and every nation to come from one man, and for them to live all over the entire earth.

He predetermined the times and the territorial boundaries of each nation, and controls their histories as well. God does this so that they will seek him, and if they make the effort to seek him, that they would certainly find him.

Actually, God is not far from each of us - we live and move and have our life right in him! So if God really did create all people, we must not think that God has a bodily form like the idols made of gold, silver and wood according to the imaginations of man.

God does not hold guilty the people of previous generations who did these things without understanding, but now he is calling all peoples in every place to repent! This is because he has determined a day to judge people rightly, through a man whom he has appointed as a judge.

God has offered proof to all people about that judgement by resurrecting that man back to life from death.

# 003 Heaven and Hell

Job 38 – Revelation 20

At that time when God created the sky and earth, God also created heaven – a royal throne for reigning over everything that he created. Heaven is a bright and glorious place, beautiful and most holy, filled with peace. God also created many angels, too many to count, to be his servants.

After that, there was an angel named Satan, the foe – who God created with an important position and much authority – he became proud and desired to be God. He lied and deceived a large number of angels – 1/3 of all the angels – to join him in rebellion against God.

At that time there was war in heaven, but Satan, the foe and all of his angels were unable to gain victory over the angels who remained loyal to God. God condemned all of those evil angels who rebelled, and prepared a place for them to receive punishment forever called hell, which is like a lake of fire and burning brimstone. One day, the Lord God will finally throw them into that lake of fire. But He is delaying until his purposes have been fulfilled through them first, then they will receive their judgment.

So, Satan, the foe, and all of his angels have become the enemies of God and are awaiting to receive their unending punishment. Satan, the foe, is also called Dragon, Serpent, and Father of Lies, and his angels are the evil spirits, demons, devils and territorial spirits who afflict and subjugate people who are the children of God all the way until this present day.

Now, the sky is their abode, but one day God will finally throw them into the lake of fire, and they will be tortured for all eternity.

## 004 The Bible

God really loves people and wants us to know him and know about his plans for mankind. So God chose a number of men to write down whatever he told them to. Each of those men wrote only what God commanded them. Everything they wrote has been compiled into one book called, The Bible.

The Bible tells us about the Lord God and about truth. God inspired them to write so that people in every generation can know God and hear his good news too.

God chose 36 men to write the various parts of the Bible. But, they lived in eras that were different from each other; from the time that the very first person wrote to the time of the very last writer was a period of 1,600 years.

The people who wrote the Bible were Israelites, from the country of Israel, located in the Middle East. They wrote in their own languages, on animal skins, rolled up and saved for all peoples for generations to come. In the Bible, God has a message for us, but because this story is too long, we need to meet together regularly in order to hear the gospel that God wants to bring to us.

# 101 Creation of the World

Genesis 1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was but a watery and dark mass. God commanded, "Let there be light!" And light was created. God called the light "day" and the darkness "night". That was the first day.

God commanded, "Let there be sky," and it was created. That was the second day.

God commanded, "Let dry ground appear out of the water!" And that's what happened. God commanded further, "Let various trees and plants grow out of the ground, producing fruit upon the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. That was the third day.

God commanded, "Let there be bodies of light in the sky to shed light on the earth." And that's what happened. God created the sun, the moon and all the stars as well. That was the fourth day.

God commanded, "Let there be fish and birds according to their kinds." And they were created. God commanded them, "Reproduce and multiply in number." That was the fifth day.

God commanded, "Let various land animals be created out of dirt according to their kinds." And that's what happened.

Finally, God created mankind out of dirt, giving them His nature, and giving them authority over everything on the whole earth. God created man and woman and told them, "Have many children and fill the earth with them! Rule over the entire earth!"

God saw everything that He had created and declared, "Very good!" That was the sixth day.

The heavens and the earth were completed and on the seventh day, God rested.

# 102 The Very First People

Genesis 2

This is how God created people. First of all, God took dirt and formed it into a man, then He breathed into his nostrils and the man came alive.

God made a beautiful garden and made all kinds of trees to grow out of the ground. The trees had fresh and attractive fruit, enticing to eat as well. As for the middle of the garden, God planted two special trees, one being the Tree of Life and the other, the Tree of Knowledge.

God took the man and placed him in the middle of the garden and made him its caretaker. God ordered the man, "You may eat any of the fruit in this garden, but you must not eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge, for if you eat that fruit, you will surely die."

God brought all of the animals that he had created to the man to give them names. So all the animals were named according to the name the man gave them.

God understood that, "It is not good for the man to remain alone like this. We must create another to help him and be a companion to him."

So God caused the man to go unconscious. He took out one of his ribs, and closed up his flesh. God took that rib and made a woman, then He brought her to meet the man. The man declared, "This is truly flesh and bone that was made out of me - I will call her, woman."

For this reason, whenever a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his own wife, the two become one body.

At that time, the man and the woman were both naked, but they were not ashamed.

# 103 Sin

Genesis 3

In the garden, the people were well and their lives were extremely abundant and happy! But one day, Satan took the form of a serpent and asked the woman, "Did God really command that you must not eat fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" The woman answered back, "No! We may eat all of this fruit in the garden, except the fruit of Knowledge, because God has forbidden us by saying don't eat of its fruit, don't even touch it! If you do not listen, both of you will surely die."

But the serpent lied to the woman, "No. You will not die. But God knows that whenever you eat that fruit, you will become enlightened, and you will know things just as He does." The woman looked at the tree and saw that its fruit looked delicious and fresh, and that it could make one wise, too! So she picked a fruit and ate it, and handed one to her husband who was with her and he ate as well. All of the sudden, they really were enlightened and saw that they were naked!

Later, they heard God's voice in the garden, because they were so ashamed, the man and the woman ran and hid themselves beneath the trees so that God couldn't see them. God called out to the man, "Where are you?" He answered Him, "I heard your voice and became frightened because I am naked."

God asked further, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat the fruit that we forbade you to eat?" The man answered, "The woman that you created to be with me, gave me a fruit, and I ate it." God asked the woman, "Why did you do that?" The woman answered, "The serpent came and deceived me, and I went ahead and ate the fruit."

God spoke to the serpent, "You are accursed! From this time onward you must crawl around on your belly, and the descendants of the woman will stomp on your head!"

God spoke to the woman, "You are sinful! You will bear children with great pain. You will love your husband, but he will be master over you."

God spoke to the man, "You are sinful, too! The ground is accursed because you ate of the forbidden fruit. Therefore, you will clear and till the ground while sweating miserably in order to sustain your lives, until the day that you die and you become dirt again."

God took animal skins for them to wear as clothing, and said, "We must keep them from picking any more fruit from the Tree of Life, so they won't eat of it and live forever."

God expelled the people from the garden, and then placed angels holding flaming swords to guard the entrance to the garden as well.

# 104 From Ancient Times to the Savior Descending from Heaven

Genesis - Matthew

God expelled the man, whose name was Adam, and the woman, who was named Eve, from the garden and cut them off from the Tree of Life. So from that time onward, they began to suffer, contract diseases, and be sick and in pain until they died. And, sin blossomed and grew in the world as a result of disobeying God.

At that time, Adam slept with Eve and had his first son, later he sired many sons and daughters. Their children were born with sin in their hearts passed on from their father and mother. That is, all people have sin and suffer misery and must die just like them. All of us have been cut off from relationship with God, who is the source of life. We will receive judgment and will be thrown away into the lake of fire forever because of our sins.

Later, mankind tried to deal with this problem on their own. They wanted cleansing from sin and sought eternal life, but they were unable to do so. They joined together in sacrificing animals, offered various burnt sacrifices, did merit, gave alms, worshiped the sun and the moon, and sacrificed to their dead ancestors, demons and territorial spirits, but sin and death remained stuck on them as before. They joined together in making idols of gold, silver and wood and worshiped and prayed to those images. But all of people's attempts were utterly useless, because other than God alone, no one is able to remove sin.

But God really loved mankind and had a plan to save us and restore our relationship with him. God promised through his messengers that he would send his holy and completely sinless son to come and save and rescue mankind from sin and death. God promised that he would come down from heaven in order to deliver people from the power of the devil, Satan, and forgive our sins so we could have the benefit of eternal life.

# 105 Cain and Abel

Genesis 4

After being expelled from the garden, the man whose name was Adam, slept with the woman, who was named Eve, his wife, and he had a son, named Cain. Later he had another son whose name was Abel, the younger son. Abel was a shepherd and Cain was a farmer.

When they were grown, Cain took some of the produce from his gardens and offered them to God. Abel also took the firstborn of his flocks and offered them as well. God was pleased with Abel and his offering, but was displeased with Cain and his offering. Cain got really steamed and down in the mouth! God asked Cain, "Why are you angry and down in the mouth? If you do good, you will be happy again for sure, but if you do not do good, sin will become master over you, but you must subdue it."

Cain persuaded Abel his younger brother into the field, and when they arrived, he rose up and outright killed him!

God asked Cain, "Where is Abel, your younger brother?" Cain answered him, "I don't know! Am I a caregiver for my brother?" God asked Cain further, "Why did you do that? The screams of your brother's blood are bellowing from the ground up to us. You are accursed. Whenever you till the ground, the soil will no longer give you any produce, you will become homeless, wandering to and fro on the earth.

Cain answered God, "Your judging me like this is way too severe, I cannot endure it. Today, you are expelling me from rich soil, far from you, and if anyone comes across me, they will kill me for sure." After that, God stamped a mark on Cain so that whenever anyone meets him, they will not kill him. After that, Cain left and went far away from God.

# 106 Grandfather Noah and the Great Flood

Genesis 6-9

The descendants of Adam and Eve greatly increased in number, filling the entire earth. At that time, all people in every place were entirely wicked and committed acts of evil more and more. God declared, "We will wipe out all of mankind and all the animals that we created from the earth. We regret that we ever created them." But God was pleased with Grandfather Noah. He was righteous and upright and devotedly followed after God. Noah had three sons as well.

God told Noah, "We have decided to kill all the people and animals because mankind is entirely evil, and are all filled with sin. Take some wood and make an ark, 150 meters long, 25 meters wide and 15 meters high.

We will cause flood waters to submerge the earth in order to destroy everything. But you will enter the ark with your wife, your three sons and your three daughters in law. You must also bring pairs of animals from all of the various kinds of animals into the ark so they may be rescued along with you, that is one male and one female of each. A pair of animals from each of the different animal kinds will come to you in order to save their lives. And you must take food to eat and stock feed for all the animals to eat, too.

Grandfather Noah did everything that the Lord commanded him to do.

In the year that Grandfather Noah turned 600 years old, God commanded him, "Enter into the ark with your family, because we are going to cause rain to fall on the earth for a period of 40 days and 40 nights." Grandfather Noah and his family went into the ark. Pairs of animals came into the ark along with Grandfather Noah as well. And then, God shut the door of the boat.

Seven days later, a great flood rose up and submerged the earth. Water gushed out of the ground and the skies opened wide. Rain really did fall on the earth for a period of 40 days and 40 nights until all the high mountains were submerged as well. All of the land

animals and people on earth died, except for Grandfather Noah and all who were with him on the ark

After that, the rain stopped falling and the water began to recede as well. When the earth was good and dry, God commanded Noah, "Leave this ark!" When they left the boat, God placed a rainbow in the sky as a sign that He would not destroy the earth with a flood like this ever again.

# 107 Tower of Babel

Genesis 11

After Grandfather Noah and his family left the ark, people multiplied in number and all the people on the earth were speaking a common language. They refused to obey God's edict, which He commanded them, "Go and live all over the earth." Instead, they said to each other, "Let's build a city and a monument that is as high as the sky, so that we can have a famous name and so that we are not divided up and separated from each other, living all over the earth."

God came down and saw the city and the monument that the people had built and He said, "All of the people are of one nationality and speak one language! If they are able to accomplish this, they will be able to accomplish anything else that they desire to do as well, there will be no barriers to hinder them. So we must go down and break up their languages so that they will no longer be able to understand one another."

So that's what God did; he broke up their languages so they couldn't understand each other and caused them to be separated one from another, going far away from that place, to live all over the whole earth. And they stopped building the monument any further.

# 108 God Blesses Abraham

Genesis 12-15

God commanded Abraham, "Leave your country and your family and go live in a land that we will show you, we will make a great nation out of you and we will bless you. Therefore, we will also bless others and we will bless everyone who blesses you and we will curse anyone who curses you. All peoples on the earth will be blessed because of you."

Abraham departed in obedience to the command of God. At that time he was 75 years old. He brought his wife, Sarai and his nephew, Lot along with him, as well as all his possessions and his servants. They all departed together and went to the land of Canaan.

At that time the Canaanites were the inhabitants of the land. When Abraham arrived in Canaan, God came down so Abraham could see him and said, "We will give this land to your descendants."

When Lot parted ways with Abraham, God said to Abraham, "Lift up your head and look to the north, the south, the east and the west, because we are going to give all of the land that you see to you and to your descendants forever. We will make your descendants greatly multiply in number, as many as grains of sand, so many that no one will be able to number them. Stand up, walk over all of this land, because we are giving it to you." At that place, he made an altar for offerings to God.

After all of those things happened, God spoke to him, "Hey, Abraham! Don't be afraid of anything, we will protect you and we will give you a great reward." Abraham replied, "Even if you do give me something it's pointless, because I will die childless." But God answered him, "A son will be born from your own body, and he will receive the inheritance from you." God led him outside and said, "Look up to the sky and see if you can count the stars; can you count them all? Your descendants will multiply in number, just like all these stars." Abraham believed God and because of that faith God made him to be righteous.

# 109 Isaac Born, Abraham's Faith Tested

Genesis 21-22

God helped Sarah just as he had promised; God made her to become pregnant and she give birth to a son. At that time Abraham was already 100 years old. He named the child, "Isaac."

Many years later, God tested Abraham's heart. God commanded him, "Take Isaac, your one and only beloved son, and sacrifice him on the mountain."

Abraham arose early in the morning and took his young servants and Isaac his son along with him. He also split wood and took it for the burnt sacrifice and departed to the place that God had told him about. When they arrived at a place where they could see the mountain from a distance, he told the young servants, "My son and I will go up to worship God on that mountain and then we will return."

He took the wood for burning the sacrifice and gave it to Isaac to carry, and he himself carried the fire and the knife, and they walked on together. At that time, Isaac said, "Dad!" He answered, "What is it Son?" Isaac said, "We have fire and wood, but where is the animal for the sacrifice?" Abraham answered, "Son, God himself will provide the animal for the sacrifice." And so, they walked on together.

When they arrived at the sacrificing place, Abraham built an altar, piled the wood on top of it, and tied up Isaac and laid him on the altar. After that, he pulled out his knife in order to slit his throat to sacrifice him. Then, all of the sudden an angel of God yelled, "Abraham! Hey, Abraham! Don't kill the child, now we know that you really do fear God; you did not refuse to offer your child, your only child, to us."

Abraham lifted up his face and saw a ram with its horns caught in the brush. Abraham took the ram and sacrificed it in place of his child. God promised Abraham once again, "We will richly bless you, we will make your descendants greatly multiply in number like the stars in the sky and like the sand on the seashore. All peoples on the whole earth will be blessed through your descendants, because you obeyed us."

# 110 Jacob and Esau - Sons of Isaac

Genesis 25, 27

When Isaac was 60 years old, he fathered a set of twins. The first child was born with hairy skin, like an animal, red in color. He named him Esau. Then the younger child was born and they named him Jacob.

The two sons grew and became adults. Esau became a skillful hunter and enjoyed working in the outdoors, while Jacob liked the quiet and staying in the house. Isaac loved Esau more because he liked to eat wild meat. But his wife, she loved Jacob.

One day, Jacob was making some stew when Esau returned from the fields, extremely hungry and tired. Esau asked Jacob, "I would like some of that red stew to eat, I'm famished." Jacob answered, "First, please sell me today, your rights as firstborn." Esau replied, "I'm about to die of hunger, of what benefit to me are my rights as firstborn?"

Jacob said, "OK, then swear to me first." Esau swore to exchange his rights as firstborn to Jacob for a bowl of stew. So, Esau ate and drank and then left.

Isaac had grown old and his body was weak, to the extent that he could no longer see. At that time he called Esau his firstborn son to him and said, "Son, I am old and I don't know what day I'll die. For this reason, go and shoot an animal and bring the meat to me to eat. I will give you a blessing before I die."

When Isaac was speaking to Esau, his wife was eavesdropping. Esau left to go to the wilderness to hunt an animal, and Isaac's wife said to Jacob, "I overheard your father say to Esau to go and hunt a wild animal and make some tasty food for me to eat. I will give you a blessing in the presence of God before I die. Now, go and get two good and fat young goats, I will make some tasty food just as your father likes it. And then, you will take the food to your father to eat, and he will bless you instead." Jacob answered, "Esau has hair all

over his body, but I don't have any. If Father touches me and sees that I've deceived him, I will receive a curse for sure, and not a blessing."

His mother replied, "No problem! Go get the young goats." Jacob did accordingly and his mother prepared the food. Then, his mother took some of Esau's clothes and put them on Jacob. She took goat's wool and covered Jacobs arms and neck with it. And then she brought the delicious food and bread that she'd prepared and gave them to Jacob, and he in turn brought it to his father and said, "Father!" Isaac answered, "I'm over here, which son are you?" "I am Esau, your firstborn son, I did as you told me. Father, get up and please eat the meat that I hunted for you in the wilderness, and then bless me." "Son, you hunted that animal so quickly!" Jacob answered, "That's because God was helping me." Isaac sad, "Son, come closer to your father, I will touch you so I can know if you are really Esau or not." Jacob drew close to Isaac and Isaac touched him and said, "Your voice is the voice of Jacob, but your arms are the arms of Esau." He did not know that it was Jacob, but before eating the food he asked to be sure, "Son, are you really Esau?" Jacob answered, "Yes!" Isaac said, "Give me some food." Jacob did accordingly. Then, Isaac sniffed Esau's clothes and blessed Jacob. He blessed him saying, "May you govern over your siblings! May all peoples be your servants!"

When Isaac finished blessing Jacob, Jacob left his father. Then, Esau returned from hunting and told his father, "Father, please get up and eat this meat that I've hunted for you, and then, bless me." Isaac asked, "Who are you?" Esau replied, "I'm Esau, your firstborn." Isaac shook violently and asked, "Then who was it that was just here? Before you came I had just finished eating, and I blessed him, he will be blessed forever."

When Esau heard his father's words, he screamed loudly because he was so angry. He begged his father, "Father, please bless me, too!" Isaac answered, "I have already blessed him to be master over you and for you to serve him. Therefore, there's nothing more that I can do for you." Esau bawled and pleaded with his father over and over, "Please bless me, too!" Isaac answered him, "You will live in a barren land and you will make a living by the edge of the sword."

# 111 Jacob Receives a New Name - Israel

Genesis 28, 32-33

Esau held a strong grudge against Jacob, because Jacob received the blessing from his father. He thought to himself, "Soon, my father will die; I'll wait until that time and then I'll kill Jacob." His mother told Jacob, "Esau wants to kill you. You must run and take refuge and stay with your uncle until your brother stops being angry with you."

Jacob left to find his uncle. At sundown, Jacob took a rock and used it as a pillow and rested there. He dreamed he saw a ladder standing upright on the earth, its end as high as the sky, and angels of God were climbing and descending on the ladder. Right then, God was beside him and said, "We are God. We are the God of Abraham your grandfather, and the God of Isaac, too. We will give you and your descendants the land upon which you are sleeping. The number of your descendants will greatly increase. All peoples on the earth will be blessed because of you and your descendants. We will be with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and we will bring you back to this land; we will accomplish everything that we promised."

Jacob awoke and said, "God truly resides in this place; this truly is the house of God and the doorway of heaven!"

Jacob went to stay with his uncle and lived there for 21 years. He had two wives, two female servants of his wives, and fathered 11 sons and acquired great wealth as well. God commanded Jacob, "Go and return to the land of your grandparents, we will be with you."

Jacob took his sons and his wives and left on the journey. He took his flocks and herds of animals and all of the possessions he had accumulated along with him. Jacob sent messengers on ahead of him to meet his older brother, Esau, in order to tell him, "I've been staying with our uncle up until now. I have flocks and herds of animals and many servants. I have sent them on to meet you, my Lord, in order to plead for your mercy, my Lord."

The messengers returned to Jacob and informed him, "We were able to meet Esau. He is on his way to meet you, and there are

400 others coming along with him! Jacob became greatly afraid and distressed.

Then, Jacob said, "God, will you mercifully help me to escape from Esau's hand, I'm afraid he will kill me and my family, too."

That night, Jacob stayed at that same place. He took some animals as a present for Esau: hundreds of goats, cattle and sheep, and told his servant, "All of you go on ahead of me, and take these flocks and herds of animals and give them to our Lord, Esau as a gift." That same night, he sent his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven children and all of his possessions across the stream ahead of him.

Jacob was all alone. Then, a man came and wrestled with Jacob until daybreak. When the man saw that he was unable to beat Jacob, he struck him, putting his hip out of joint. The man said, "Release me! Let me go! For it's light out already." He replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me first." The man asked him, "What is your name?" He answered, "My name is Jacob." The man said further, "You will no longer be called Jacob; you will be called Israel instead, for you have wrestled with God and won." The man blessed Jacob.

Jacob looked and saw Esau coming with 400 men. He walked in front of his family and bowed to the ground 7 times in front of Esau to show him respect. But instead, Esau ran and embraced and kissed Jacob! The two men cried and Jacob introduced his family to Esau. From that time on Jacob knew that Esau no longer held a grudge against him.

# 112 Joseph Sold By His Brothers

Genesis 37

Israel's eleventh child was named Joseph. When he was 17 years old, he helped care for his father's sheep with his older brothers. Israel loved Joseph more than his other children, because he was born in his old age. He made a special coat for Joseph to wear. Seeing that their father loved Joseph more than them, the older brothers hated Joseph.

One day, Joseph dreamed that his older brothers came to pay respect to him, as if he were an important person, and he told it to his brothers. They hated him even more! At that time, the older brothers were taking care of their father's sheep some distance away. Israel told Joseph, "Your brothers are looking after the sheep far away from here, I want you to go see how they are doing." Joseph replied, "Yes, I will go." Joseph went to look for his brothers and met them in the pasture.

When they saw him from a distance, they began to conspire together to kill him, saying, "Look, that dreamer is here! Come on, let's kill him and say that a ferocious animal tore him up and ate him, then his dreams will die with him!" When one of his older brothers heard the plan, he wanted to help Joseph. He said, "Do not execute him, throw him into this well, that'll do, it's not necessary to kill him."

When Joseph walked up to them, they grabbed him and pulled off his special coat that his father gave him to wear, and threw him into a dry well. After that, they saw a group of traders on their way to Egypt. One of Joseph's older brothers said, "If we kill him, of what benefit will that be to us? Come on, let's sell him to these traders." So they lifted him out of the well and sold him to them. The buyers brought Joseph to Egypt and sold him to one of the King's ministers.

Joseph's older brothers took some goat's blood and sprinkled it on his coat and brought it to their father and said, "We found this coat, does it belong to your son?" Israel answered, "This coat belongs to my son for sure! He surely must have been torn up and eaten by a ferocious animal!" Israel cried and mourned for a long time and refused to allow anyone to comfort him.

# 113 Sufferings of Joseph in Egypt

Genesis 39 - 40

God was with Joseph and everything he did was fruitful. Joseph lived in the house of his master and his master saw that God was with Joseph as well. The master was very pleased with Joseph and gave him responsibility over all of his possessions and his entire household. From that time on, God caused Joseph to prosper in every way.

Joseph was really handsome and his master's wife fell in love with him and would try to persuade him, "Please come and sleep with me!" Joseph refused saying, "My master has entrusted to me to govern over everything he has, except for you madame. So I can not commit this most evil act." She continued to entice Joseph every day to have sex with her, but he refused obey her."

One day, Joseph went in to perform some of his duties in the house and at the time, there were no other servants in the house; his master's wife grabbed hold of his shirt and said, "Please come and sleep with me!" He left his shirt in her hands and ran out of the house. She screamed and called for the other servants and said, "Look here, this foreigner came in intending to rape me but I screamed loudly. Then he left his shirt in my hands and ran outside." She kept Joseph's shirt and when her husband returned home she told him the story, too. After that, Joseph's master was steaming mad. He had him arrested and put in prison, in the place where they kept the king's prisoners.

While Joseph was imprisoned in that place, God was with him and showed him favor, causing the prison chief to have pity on him as well. The prison chief put Joseph in charge of all the inmates, and he had the job of administrating the work detail in the prison. The prison chief stopped being concerned about anything that he gave Joseph to do and God helped everything that he did to prosper.

When Joseph was in prison, two of the king's servants did wrong; the king was angry and had them arrested and put in the prison with Joseph, too. One night, both men dreamed, each having his own dream but with totally differing meanings. In the morning, they were

both very disturbed by the dreams; Joseph asked them, "Why are you both so upset?" They answered, "Last night we dreamed, but no one is able to interpret the dream for us." Joseph said, "Only God can interpret dreams! Please describe them to me."

The servant who was in charge of giving the king's wine described it to Joseph as follows, "I dreamed I saw a grape vine in front of me. The grape vine had three branches. Then I was holding the king's cup in my hand, then I picked grapes from the vine and squeezed them into the cup, then I offered the cup to the king."

Joseph said, "The three branches are three days, in three days the king will appoint you back to your job of offering the king his wine, just as before. But when everything is well again with you, please do not forget me, please tell the king my story and get me out of this prison, because I was kidnapped from a distant land and have been imprisoned unjustly."

The servant whose job was to bake bread saw that Joseph gave a good interpretation of the dream, he also described his dream to Joseph as follows, "As for me, I dreamed I saw three baskets on my head and the top-most basket had all kinds of bread for the king to eat. But, birds came and ate all the bread from the basket on my head." Joseph replied, "The three baskets are three days. On the third day the king will cut off your head and hang you on a tree, and birds will come and eat all of the flesh from your body!"

Three days later on the the king's birthday, the council of government ministers were celebrating with the king. Right then, the king had the two servants released. The servant whose job it was to give the king's wine, the king appointed to his previous position. But the king ordered the baker to be hanged on a tree, according to what Joseph disclosed to them. But the servant whose job was to offer the king's wine did not remember Joseph, he forgot all about him.

# 114 God Rewards Joseph

Genesis 41

Two years after Joseph went into prison, the king dreamed he saw himself standing at the riverside. Seven fat and good cows came up out of the river and grazed on the bank of the river. After that, seven other cows, thin and having only skin and bones came out of the river after them and stood on the river bank near the fat cows. The thin cows completely swallowed the fat and good cows. The king awoke.

And then the king dreamed again. He saw 7 fat and good ears of grain growing out of one stalk, and there were 7 thin heads of grain, wilted by the heat of the wind, growing up after them, too. The 7 thin heads of grain swallowed up the 7 fat ears of grain. In the morning the king was worried so he called all of his fortune tellers and wise men in Egypt and told them the dreams, but they were unable to offer an interpretation. Then, the servant who offered the king's wine said, "When I was in jail, there was a young foreign man that interpreted my dream, and everything happened according to his words."

The king had Joseph called to come. The king told Joseph, "I dreamed, but there is no one able to interpret the dreams, but I heard that you are able to interpret them." Joseph answered, "I don't know how to interpret dreams! Only God is able to interpret your dreams. Then, the king proceeded to tell him his two dreams. Joseph interpreted the dreams for the king, "The two dreams have the same meaning. God has shown the king the things he is preparing to do. The 7 fat and good cows represent 7 years of abundant fruitfulness, and the 7 fat and good ears of grain means 7 years of plenty as well. The 7 thin cows that came after, and the 7 withered ears of grain wilted by the heat of the wind means that there will be 7 years of famine.

Truly God is revealing to the king the things he will do. The whole land of Egypt will have abundant fruitfulness for a period of 7 years. After that a period of 7 years of famine will decimate the whole land of Egypt, leaving nothing. Because you've dreamed this twice, it's clear that God will fulfill this in the very near future. So, the king should appoint a man who is really wise and have him rule over the land of

Egypt, in order to collect taxes on produce and save it, gathering food stores during the period of 7 years of plenty, and keeping them in granaries in each city. Those stores should be kept for use during the period of 7 years of famine in Egypt, so the people won't die of hunger."

The king was pleased with Joseph's words. The king told his officials, "We can not find any other man who has the Spirit of God with him like this man." The king said to Joseph, "God has revealed to you all these things, there is no one else who is as wise as you. So, I am appointing you as governor over the whole land of Egypt, and all of our people will be under your command. Only I have a higher status than you." Then the king gave Joseph his signet ring to wear, gave him his special coat to wear, and gave him a gold necklace to wear as well.

At that time Joseph was 30 years old. During the 7 years of plenty the land of Egypt produced abundant fruit and Joseph gathered grain to keep in the granaries of each city. Joseph gathered a large amount of grain, as the sand of the seashore. When the land of Egypt had gone through the period of 7 years of plenty, the 7 years of famine began to happen in every country as well, just as Joseph said it would. People from all over Egypt as well as from all countries traveled to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph.

# 115 Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 42-45

A famine had come to every country and people began to starve. At that time Israel had heard that there was grain in Egypt; he told his children, "Go together to Egypt and buy grain so we can survive." Joseph's ten older brothers went to Egypt.

When they arrived, they all knelt in respect before Joseph because he was the governor of all Egypt and was in charge of selling the grain. When Joseph saw his older brothers, he recognized them immediately, but they did not recognize him. He asked them sternly, "Where did you come from?" They replied, "We've come from a distant country to buy grain." Joseph accused them, "You are spies!" They replied, "No, my Lord! We are 12 brothers, one is dead, and our younger brother is at home with our father; we came here to buy grain, not to spy on you!"

Joseph said, "You must leave someone behind in our prison, and the rest of you are free to return to your country and bring grain to your families who are starving. Then, you must bring your younger brother to meet me in order to prove you are telling the truth." Joseph put one of his older brothers in prison and ordered his servants to fill their bags with grain, and put the silver back in each of their bags as well. When they arrived back in their country, they told their father everything that had happened to them.

Their father said, "You have caused me to lose all my children - Joseph is lost, another is in jail and now you want to take my youngest child as well! No way! If my youngest child didn't return to me, I would die for sure!"

When they consumed all the grain, Israel said to his children, "OK, go. Take the silver that was in your bags as well, perhaps it was put there by mistake." They took gifts, double the silver as before, and their youngest brother and traveled to Egypt and went in to meet Joseph.

When Joseph saw his younger brother coming with his older brothers, he told the servants of his house, "Take them into the house and prepare a meal for them." They got really afraid and told Joseph's servant, "The last time we were here, when we arrived at a place to rest, and we noticed in each of our bags the entire amount of silver; we brought the silver to give back to you." The servant replied, "Don't worry about it, it was your God who put the silver in your bags. The silver for the price of the grain I received in full." And then, he released the brother that was being held in prison to join the others.

When Joseph returned home, the brothers presented their gifts to him, and knelt in respect to him, too. Joseph looked at his younger brother and asked, "Isn't this the younger brother that you were telling me about?" Joseph saw his younger brother, got a lump in his throat and went into his room to cry, because he was unable to hold back the tears. After washing his face, he came back out, trying to keep himself under control.

After that, Joseph ordered his servant, "Fill their bags with grain, and put each of their silver back into each of their bags. Put my silver cup in the bag of the youngest one as well." In the morning, they were allowed to leave. When they had traveled some distance from the city, Joseph's servant chased after and caught up with them and asked them, "Why did you steal my master's silver cup?" They replied, "We didn't do that!" Joseph's servant replied, "If I find the cup in anyone's bag, that one will become my servant, but the rest of you will be off the hook." He started checking their bags and found the cup in the bag of the younger brother! The older brothers were terrified and turned around and went back into the city.

When they arrived at Joseph's house, they bowed to the ground in respect to him. Joseph asked them, "Why did you do this?" They answered, "We don't know what to say." Joseph said, "The owner of the bag in which we found the cup will become my slave."

At that time, one of the older brothers came close to Joseph and pleaded, "My Lord, our father greatly loves our younger brother, and I have personally guaranteed to bring him back, so please, my Lord, allow me to become your servant in his place, and allow him to return with his older brothers."

Because Joseph could no longer control himself, he burst out crying, and said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! How is our father?" But, his brothers didn't answer; they were shaking in fear, having seen Joseph there right in front of them like this! Joseph said, "Come close to me, I am Joseph, your younger brother whom you all sold into Egypt. Brothers, please don't be worried about anything, and don't feel regret for selling me as you did; God brought me here before you in order to keep you all alive. God has appointed me as the highest official and to govern the entire land of Egypt. Brothers, please hurry up and return to our father and tell him that Joseph, his son, is alive! Father and all of his household must come and live here in order to survive the famine, for five years still remain.

Joseph embraced his younger brother and cried. And then, he kissed all of his older brothers and forgave them, and all of them cried, too. After that, Joseph's brothers returned to bring their father, his entire household to Egypt to live, along with all of the treasures he possessed.

# 116 Moses' Background

Exodus 1 - 2

The Israelites had been living in Egypt for hundreds of years and had many children, reproducing and multiplying themselves greatly. A king rose to power in Egypt who knew nothing of Joseph. The king said to the Egyptians, "See, the Israelites outnumber us. So, we must control them so they don't multiply in number any longer. If we don't take control, they will surely rebel and run away from this country."

The king of Egypt forced the Israelites into hard labor, like the building of various cities. But the Israelites multiplied in number even more than before, causing the Egyptians to fear.

So the king ordered, "Take all of the Israelite newborn sons and toss them in the river. After that, an Israelite woman got pregnant and gave birth to a son. She hid him for 3 months. Then, because she could not hide him any longer, she took a basket and laid her child in the basket, then hid him among the reeds in the river. The child's older sister was following and watching from afar.

Right then, the king's daughter had gone down to the river to bathe. She saw the basket in the reeds. She took pity and said, "This baby is an Israelite child." The child's older sister came and asked the princess, "Do you want me to go and find a wet nurse to come and feed the baby for you?" The princess answered, "Go ahead." She ran and called the baby's mother. The princess said to her, "Take this child and nurse him for me and I will pay you for it." The mother took the child to feed him at home. When the child was older, she brought him back to the princess. She considered the child as her own. She gave him the name, "Moses."

When Moses was fully grown, he left the palace to see how his fellow Israelites were getting along and saw them working very hard. He saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite. He looked to his left and right, not seeing anyone, he rose up and killed the Egyptian, and buried him in the sand. The next day, he went out again and saw two Israelites fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why do you fight with your

own brother like this?" The person answered, "Who appointed you as judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me like you killed that Egyptian?"

Moses was terrified and thought to himself, "Everyone knows all about this." The king also knew about the issue and sought for a way to kill Moses; but Moses found out in time and fled from the king to a distant country. Moses lived there, got married and took up a profession as a shepherd.

# 117 God Calls Moses

Exodus 3 - 4

40 years after Moses left Egypt, the king of Egypt died, and there was no one else who was seeking to kill him any longer. The misery of the Israelites who lived as slaves became so extreme, that they pleaded with God. God heard their cries and he had great compassion on them.

Moses was herding sheep in the distant country where he lived, beside the mountain of God. Moses looked up to the mountain and saw fire coming out of a bush, but it was not being burnt up. Moses thought to himself, "I will go and see this miracle; why doesn't the bush burn up?" God called to Moses in the bush, "Hey Moses, Moses." Moses answered, "Yes!" God ordered, "Don't come near here; take off your shoes, for the place where you're standing is holy ground. We are the God that you're grandfather always worshiped and served."

Moses covered his face, not daring to look at God. God continued, "We have seen the suffering of our people in Egypt. Therefore, we will deliver them. We will lead them away from that country, to a rich and spacious land. Now we are sending you to meet the king. Go and lead the Israelites out of Egypt."

Moses answered God, "Who am I that I could go and meet the king and be able to lead the Israelites out of Egypt?" God replied, "We are with you already!" Moses answered, "If I go and meet the Israelites and they ask 'Which God sent you?', what should I say to them?" God told Moses, "You must tell them, 'the living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, is who sent me to meet all of you.'"

"They will listen to your words and then you will go in to meet the king. You will ask permission for them to leave in order to worship their God. We know that the king will not give permission, but only if we use our great power to force him will he agree. We will destroy Egypt and perform many miracles, and then the king will give you all permission to leave."

Moses answered, "What if they do not believe, and don't obey me, what should I do?" God commanded, "Throw your staff to the ground!" Moses threw his staff to the ground and it became a snake. Moses was afraid and ran away from the snake, but God said, "Reach out your hand and grab it by the tail!" Moses grabbed it and it reverted to being a staff again. God said, "Do this and the Israelites will believe you. Put your hand in your shirt." He put his hand in his shirt and pulled it out again, he saw that his hand turned white with leprosy. God ordered further, "Put your hand in your shirt one more time." Moses put his hand in his shirt one more time and pulled it out again, and saw that his hand was healed, like normal.

Moses said, "But, ever since I was a child, I haven't known how to speak." God commanded him, "Go ahead and leave. Whenever you have to speak we will tell you what to say."

Moses pleaded with God, "Oh God, please send someone else to go!" Right then, God was really angry with Moses and replied, "You have an older brother, named Aaron, he is eloquent, you can have him speak for you, and we will be with the both of you. Take this staff along with you, too; through this staff you will be able to various miracles.

Moses left to go to his people in Egypt; he carried the staff of God along with him as well.

Moses told his older brother and the Israelites about what God had commanded him to say, and performed some miracles for them to see as well. They all believed and worshiped God, for they understood that God had seen their misery and was delivering them for sure.

# 118 Moses Before the King of Egypt

Exodus 7 - 12

Moses and Aaron went in to meet the king and said, "God has commanded, permit my people to leave and worship us at the mountain." The king answered, "Who is your God that we should do as you say? We don't know God, nor will we permit you to leave."

On that same day, the king ordered the taskmasters who were over the Israelites, "Do not provide straw for them to make bricks like before, let them go find straw for themselves. But, you must force them to make the same amount of bricks as before. Probably they are just really lazy! That's why they demand to leave to go worship their God like this."

When the Israelite foremen heard the king's orders, they said to Moses and Aaron, "You have caused the king to hate us! We're really miserable!" Moses brought God's word answering them, "We will deliver all of you from this difficult labor by our power, and lead all of you into the land that we promised to give all of you!"

God told Moses and Aaron, "Take the staff, throw it down before the king." Aaron threw the staff down in front of the king and his officials, and the staff became a serpent. But the king called in the enchanters of Egypt and they used their spells to do the same thing. They threw their own staffs down and those staffs all became serpents as well, but the staff of Aaron swallowed up all of their staffs! But the king still was hardhearted, and was unwilling to listen to Moses and Aaron.

After that, God commanded Moses, "Go meet the king at the riverbank and take the staff with you. Tell the king, 'Let us go!' But the king will not listen." So Aaron took the staff and struck the river in front of the king, and the river turned into blood. All of the fish in the Nile River died, the river water had a bad stench and the Egyptians could not drink the water. But the king remained hardhearted and did not listen.

After that, God used Moses to perform as many as 10 miracles, in order to force the Egyptian king to allow the Israelites to leave the country. Egypt suffered various plagues, like frogs all over the country, mosquitoes swarming and biting people, and there was an infestation of flies biting them. There was a plague of cholera that destroyed all of the livestock, boils covered the bodies of man and animal alike, great hailstones fell on the animals, on people, and on their fields, destroying them completely. There was a swarm of locusts that came and ate up what was left of the fields and a deep darkness rested on Egypt for a period of three days.

The king was still unwilling to allow the Israelites to leave, even though none of the plagues touched the Israelites at all. Moses informed the king, "In the middle of the night, God will pass through Egypt. All of the firstborn of Egypt will die, starting with the firstborn of the king who would rise to power, all the way to the firstborn of the servant, as well as the firstborn among the animals. But the Israelites will not die." But God caused the king to be hardhearted and unwilling to allow them to leave Egypt.

God commanded the Israelites, have each family take a good lamb and sacrifice it at sundown and take the meat and prepare a special feast. You must take the animal's blood and brush it on the door jams on both sides, and above the door where you will be eating the meat. At night time, we will pass through Egypt and will kill all the firstborn, both of people and of the animals. The blood that you brush on the frame of the door will be a sign signifying that all of you are staying in that house. When we see the blood, we will pass over all of your houses, so none of you will die while we are judging Egypt.

In the middle of the night, God killed all of the firstborn, both of people and animals. In the night the king heard the loud weeping and wailing of the people in the whole land of Egypt. The king called Moses and Aaron at night and said to them, "Hurry up and lead the Israelites out of our country! Then, give us your blessing!"

# 119 Leaving Egypt, Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 13 - 14

The Egyptians were fed up, and forced the Israelites to leave immediately. The Israelites asked for treasures from the Egyptians and they were willing to give them whatever they asked for; it was an enormous amount, innumerable.

The Israelites traveled out of Egypt, and were approximately 2,000,000 in number. There were many other peoples who left along with them, as well as great herds of animals. An angel of God led them in a pillar of cloud during the day, and in a pillar of fire at night.

God commanded Moses, "All of you must make camp in front of the sea. The Egyptian king will think that you are all lost, wandering around in the area, and unable to find your way out of the wilderness. We will cause the king to harden his heart and chase after all of you. But then, we will strike and destroy the king and his entire army." The Israelites did as God commanded.

The Egyptian army, including the cavalry and the king's chariots, chased after the Israelites and caught up with them at the place where they had made camp by the sea. Upon seeing this, the Israelites were terrified and cried out to God. They complained to Moses, "Were there no tombs in Egypt that you should lead us out into the wilderness to die like this?" Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid of anything! This day you will see God save all of you!"

God told Moses, "Go ahead and set out. Lift up your staff toward the sea and strike the sea to split it apart so there will be a path to walk on the bottom of the sea." Moses lifted his staff toward the sea and all night long God caused a strong wind to blow, pushing the water away and evaporating it. The surface of the water split apart and the Israelites followed the path along the bottom of the sea, with great walls of seawater on both sides of them!

The pillar of cloud that was in front of them before was now positioned behind them, between the Egyptian army and the Israelite army. The pillar of cloud caused it to be dark on one side and provided

light at night on the other. So the two armies were separated from each other.

In the morning, when the Israelites had all arrived on the other side of the sea safely, God lifted the pillar of cloud that was holding them back. The entire army of the king of Egypt chased after from behind and went into the middle of the sea. God caused their army to be in disarray and caused the wheels to fall off the chariots, unable to go forward.

God told Moses, "Lift your hands toward the sea so that the waters of the sea would cover the Egyptian army." Moses lifted his hands toward the sea and the waters of the sea returned to their original place. The Egyptians drowned in the middle of the sea - all dead.

The Israelites saw the bodies of the Egyptians washed up on the seashore. They saw the mighty power of God, so for this reason they greatly feared him and followed after Moses, his servant.

# 120 The Ten Commandments

Exodus 19 - 20

The Israelites walked from the Red Sea to a mountainous area and made camp at the foot of Mount Sinai. Moses went up to meet God, and God called to Moses from the top of the mountain, "You must tell the Israelites, "If all of you will obey our commandments, then all of you will become our own people, a holy nation."

Moses returned and told the whole group about this and they answered in unison, "We are willing to obey God." Moses brought their answer to God and God told Moses, "Go and tell them to purify themselves and wash their clothes today and tomorrow. They must all get themselves ready beforehand because on the third day we will descend on Mount Sinai in order to meet all of you. You must put a boundary around the mountain and tell the people, you must not go up the mountain before the appointed time for any reason, if anyone touches the mountain too early, that person will die."

On the third day early in the morning, there was thunder, lightening and a thick cloud on the mountain, and the sound of a trumpet blast as well. All of the people will terrified, shaking uncontrollably with fear.

Moses led the people to meet God, but they stood at the foot of the mountain, afraid to go up close to God, because there was smoke rising from the mountain, like smoke coming out of a furnace, and the whole mountain was shaking violently. God came down on the mountain and stayed in the fire.

God called Moses from the top of the mountain, and Moses went up to meet God all by himself. When God spoke, his voice was like thunder. God commanded the Israelites, you must remember we are the God who led you out of Egypt -

1. You must not worship any other gods except us.
2. You must not engrave any images as your gods.

3. You must not use our name as a curse word or a word to make fun.
4. Remember the day of rest as a special day.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. Don't kill people.
7. Don't commit adultery.
8. Don't steal or rob from anyone.
9. Don't lie to anyone at all.
10. Don't covet the possessions of others.

All of the people heard the thunder claps and the trumpet blasts, as well as saw the lightning and the smoke billowing up from the top of the mountain. They were shaking in fear and stood at a distance, only Moses dared to go up and meet God.

# 121 The Holy Tent and the Golden Calf

Exodus 23 - 32

God said to Moses, "Come up to us on top of the mountain and wait here for a while. We will give the tablets of stone upon which we have engraved the law and you must take it to teach the people." Moses went up to the mountain with Joshua, his servant, and stayed there for 40 days.

God commanded Moses, you must build a holy tent and holy equipment for use within the tent as well. All of those things must be made from mahogany, a good wood, and covered with pure gold. You must make:

- *A box that has a cover* which is the place where we will meet you.
- *A table* for placing bread as an offering to us.
- *A lamp stand* for illuminating our holy tent.
- And *an altar* for burning incense to us.

You must make a holy tent and put all the holy equipment inside. You must make the tent from woven cloth with threads of purple, red, and dark blue mixed together. And you must make a curtain as a barrier dividing the tent into two parts; the holy place will be in front and the most holy place will be in the rear, which is the place where you must put our box.

Take the two tablets of stone and put them inside the box and take the box and place it behind the curtain. You must place the table in front of the curtain on the right hand side and you must place the lamp stand on the left hand side. You must place the altar to burn the incense in the middle right in front of the curtain.

You must make another altar for sacrificing animals to us and you must place that altar in front of the holy place on the outside.

When the people saw that Moses was taking so long to come down from the mountain, they came and met Aaron, who was the older

brother of Moses, and said, "Please make us an idol to lead us on because we don't know what has become of Moses."

Aaron told them, "Remove your gold earrings and give them to me." Aaron took all the earrings and made a calf idol. After that they cried out, "This is the God who led us out of Egypt!" Aaron built an altar in front of the calf idol, the people rose early in the morning and made sacrifices to that idol, and ate and drank and danced happily.

God told Moses, "Hurry up! Go back down, the people are sinning very seriously! They have stopped obeying us and we want to destroy them!" Moses answered God, "Please don't be too quick to do that. You have led them out of Egypt with your mighty power, if you destroy them, other countries on this Earth will surely laugh and mock you and say that you have led them out of Egypt only to kill them in the wilderness!" So God changed his mind and did not kill the Israelites.

Moses came back down from the mountain holding the two tablets of stone. Moses saw the calf idol and saw the people dancing and partying. He was furious with them and threw the tablets of stone and they broke into tiny pieces. He took the calf idol and melted it down, grinding the remains into powder and had the Israelite people all drink the water. That day many people died because they made a calf idol and worshiped it as well.

# 122 Israelites Enter Jericho and the Promised Land

Joshua 1 - 6

Moses, the servant of God, died. God told Joshua, the assistant to Moses, "Lead all the people across the Jordan river and enter into the land we promised to give all of you."

At that time Joshua sent two men secretly as spies and ordered them, "Go and investigate the land and especially the city of Jericho." They set off for the city of Jericho and went to stay in the house of a prostitute named Rahab. That woman received the two spies with joy because she understood that God was helping them.

The king of Jericho sent men to arrest those two men because he heard that they were spies. Rahab led them to hide on her roof so that they would not be arrested and told them, "I already know that God will give this land over to you. Because I have helped the two of you with kindness, when you attack this city, please help my family!" They promised to help her.

At that time the gates of the city were shut tight because they were afraid of the Israelites. God commanded Joshua, "We will give this city of Jericho over into your hands. All of you must walk around the city one time each day. You must do this for six days. You must have seven religious leaders hold trumpets, ready to blow them and walk in front. On the seventh day, you must walk around the city seven times, and then have the religious leaders blow their trumpets. When they blow the trumpets, all the people must cry out loudly and the walls of the city will collapse on the spot and then every person must invade the city."

The Israelites followed this instruction; every day they walked around the city one time, on the seventh day they got up early and walked around the city seven times. On the seventh time, when the religious leaders blew their trumpets, Joshua ordered the people, "Cry out, victory! We have conquered the city! Destroy the city and everything within the city as an offering unto God, but be sure to keep the lives of Rahab's family safe because she hid our spies."

The people cried out victory and the religious leaders blew their trumpets. When the people heard the trumpet blasts, they cried out in unison and then the walls of the city collapsed right on the spot! Each person advanced into the city and overtook it. Joshua ordered the two men that were his spies, "Go to the house of the prostitute and lead her and her family out and protect her, just as you promised her."

So, they destroyed the city of Jericho completely. Not a man nor an animal survived. From that day forward, God helped them to conquer the Promised Land and no king, army, people or city could stand up to them until finally they had complete control of the entire Promised Land.

# 123 Israelites Asks for a King, King Saul

1 Samuel 9-15

The Israelites controlled the whole land of Canaan and lived there for hundreds of years. In the beginning, they were at peace and were prosperous as well. But their children in the following generations had forgotten the various miracles that God had performed and stopped worshiping him. They turned to worship false gods that man had made from gold, silver and wood. Because they were unfaithful to God, they began to experience misery, sickness, and different problems about which God had warned them in advance.

In order to straighten out the Israelites, God appointed various representatives of his again and again to come and save them from hardship and from their enemies as well. But each time when everything was well again, the Israelites returned to worshiping false gods as before.

After that, there was a representative of God who was named Samuel that brought God's message to the Israelites. He led the Israelites to defeat their enemies and led them to have many years of peace. Despite all of this, the Israelites were not satisfied and demanded to have a king to govern over them instead. They discarded God as their king and asked God to appoint a man as king. God was not happy at all, but he agreed to their demands.

So, God showed Samuel a man who was qualified according to the desires of the people, whose name was Saul. He was handsome and was taller in stature than others in Israel. Samuel called all the leaders of Israel to meet together in order to participate in a ceremony to anoint the new king. When they had met together, Samuel took oil and poured it on Saul's head in order to anoint him as king. Then they partied happily because they had their new king.

In the beginning, God was with King Saul, and poured out his Spirit to rest upon him so that he had victory over his enemies. But in a short period of time, Saul stopped trusting on him and continually thought about his own power and honor. He did not obey God. He turned to trusting in sacrificing animals as a religious activity instead.

Because Saul had discarded God and trusted in himself and his religious acts like this, God also discarded him and removed his Spirit from him, leading him to take responsibility for himself. From that time forward, the Israelites did not have victory over their enemies any longer and the Israelites were more miserable than before.

# 124 King David

1 Samuel 16 - 31

God told Samuel, we have rejected King Saul. Go and anoint a new king whom we will show you. He is a man that can be a king after our own heart and at a later date, he will become king in place of Saul. Samuel left and God showed him a youth, named David, and Samuel anointed him.

After that, David's older brothers went out to fight in Saul's army. Among the enemies of the Israelites, there was a champion soldier named Goliath. He was three meters tall and incredibly strong. Every day he came out from the camp and threatened the Israelite army saying, "Choose someone to come and fight me. If he can kill me, we will become your servants, but if I win, all of you will become our servants instead. I defy you today. Is there anyone who dares to come out and meet me?" The Israelite soldiers were greatly terrified; there wasn't anyone who dared to fight Goliath.

At that time, David went out to see how his older brothers were doing at the battle front, and happened to hear Goliath terrifying them. He asked the soldiers, "Isn't there anyone brave enough to fight him? If one is able to kill Goliath, what will he receive as a reward?" They answered, "Whoever is able to kill him, the king promises to give great wealth, to give the daughter of the king to him in marriage, and his family will be free from paying all taxes."

David answered, "Who is this person who dares to defy the armies of God!" He rushed to meet the king and the king gave David permission to fight Goliath. But, because he was not used to wearing the armor or handle a sword, he went out to fight with only his sling.

Right then, Goliath came out and threatened as every other day, but this time, David ran out to meet him. Goliath yelled, "Come close to me! I will take your meat and give it to ferocious animals to eat!" David put his hand in his pouch and took out a small stone and put it in his sling, then shot it, hitting Goliath right in the middle of his forehead! He fell down face forward. David ran up and took Goliath's sword out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head. When the

armies of their enemy saw that their champion was dead, they were frightened and ran away, and the Israelite army chased after them!

From that time forward, God helped David at all times and he continued to always have victory over his enemies. But God was not supporting King Saul any longer. The people really loved David and always praised him. Many years later, King Saul and his sons all died together while they were in battle with their enemies. At that time, the Israelites promoted David to be their king, and God promised to David that there would be one of his descendants to rule over all nations forever; he would be the son of God that would come down and save mankind.

# 125 Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

1 Kings 18

God sent Elijah his messenger to Israel in order to discipline the king and the people because they had betrayed him and had turned to false gods, that is, the god Baal. God gave Elijah power to do various miracles. He made the rain to dry up for a period of three years in order for the people to repent.

At the end of that three-year period of famine, Elijah went to meet the king and said, "Go call your prophets of Baal to meet me on the mountain with the Israelites." The prophets numbered 450 people and came up onto the mountain to meet Elijah with the entire populace. Elijah told the people, "How long are you going to waver? If God truly is God, then worship him, but if Baal is God, then go ahead and worship Baal!" But the people remained silent.

But Elijah continued, "Have all of the prophets take a cow, chop it into small pieces and put them on a pile of wood, but don't start a fire and I will do the same. After that, call upon Baal and I will call upon God, as well. The God that answers by fire, that God truly is the real God!" The people shouted, "God!"

So, the 450 prophets of Baal began first, calling out, "Oh, Baal, please answer us!" But there was no answer. They yelled even louder dancing around the altar and cutting themselves until they bled and still nothing happened. Elijah mocked them, "Try to yell even louder. Maybe Baal is sleeping or busy or went out to the bathroom, and he is unable to hear you!" They continued to yell for an entire day, but nothing happened whatsoever.

In the evening Elijah called to the people, "Come close to me." He took 12 stones and built an altar and put wood and the pieces of meat on the altar. After that, he told them, "Go and bring four containers and pour it on the altar." They did that. He said again, "Go and pour water on it again." And they did that. "Go and pour water on it one more time!" They poured water on it for a third time and the meat and the wood and the ground was soaked with water all around the altar as well.

Elijah prayed to God, "Oh, God, show these people that only you are the true God." Suddenly, fire from God fell down and burned the whole offering as well as the wood, the rocks, the ground, and caused all of the water to completely dry up! When the people saw this, they worshiped God and cried out, "It's you, God, that is the real God." Elijah told them, "Grab all of the prophets of Baal." And they did that. Elijah sliced the necks of all the prophets right on the spot.

# 201 The Birth of John

Luke 1

When King Herod was ruling in Judah, there were two good people who were husband and wife, who obediently followed all the commands of God. The husband was a religious leader who served God in the Temple. His name was Zechariah. He and his wife were very old and were childless.

One day when Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, an angel showed itself to him causing him to be afraid and to shake strongly. The angel told Zechariah, "Stop being afraid! God has heard the prayers of both of you. Your wife will give birth to a son and you must name him John. That man will serve God and he will not drink wine and will be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb. He will lead the Israelites to repentance and lead them to be prepared to receive God's son that is soon to come.

Zechariah answered the angel, "How can I know that this thing will take place because my wife and I are very old!" The angel replied, "Because you would not believe God's word, you will become mute, not being able to speak until your son has been born."

At that time, the people were waiting for him to come out of the Temple, and was wondering why he was taking so long, but when he came out, he could not speak. So, they understood that he must have seen a vision. After that, his wife became pregnant and was overjoyed because she no longer felt disgraced.

When she was full term, she gave birth to a son. The relatives and neighbors wanted to name him after his father, but his mother objected, "No! He must have the name John." The relatives were confused because this name was strange, so they went to ask his father. The father asked for a slate and wrote, "This child's name is John." They were all really confused.

Right then, suddenly, his father could speak as before and he praised God. The neighbors were terrified and wondered what would come of this boy one day.

The child, John, grew up both physically and spiritually. He only lived in the wilderness and when he became an adult, he began to prophesy and declare the gospel of God to the Israelites.

## 202 Son of God Comes Down to Earth

Matthew 1, Luke 2

Thousands of years passed by from the time that Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden. It came to pass that there was in Israel a woman named Mary, the fiancé of a man named Joseph. One day an angel went into Mary's house, greatly frightening her. The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary! God is really pleased with you! You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, whom you must name, 'Jesus.' That son will be the Son of God and will govern over the people of Israel forever."

Mary asked, "How can this happen, since I've never had sex with any man?" The angel replied, "The Spirit of God will descend and rest upon you and the power of God will accomplish this." Mary answered, "I am God's servant, may it be done just as you have said!" Then, the angel left her.

Therefore, before Joseph and Mary were married and had sex together, Mary was pregnant by the Spirit of God already, causing Joseph to become quite upset. But, because he was a good person, he decided to break off the engagement quietly, so Mary wouldn't lose face. As he was thinking this, all of the sudden he dreamed he saw an angel from God come and tell him, "Joseph! Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife! The son that is in her womb was conceived of the Spirit of God. She will give birth to a son, and you must name him, 'Jesus,' that son will rescue people from their sins."

And then, Joseph awoke, and he obeyed the command of God. He took Mary to be his wife, but did not have sex with her until she gave birth to a son to whom they gave the name, "Jesus."

At that time, the king ordered that all the people register in each of their districts of birth for the census, so Joseph and Mary, his wife, went to their district of birth to register as well. When they arrived at their district of birth, Mary was full-term, she gave birth to her first born, and wrapped him in a cloth, and laid him in a manger, because the house was too crowded, there was absolutely no room for them.

This happened according to the word that God promised through his messenger from hundreds of years earlier saying, "Look! A virgin woman will give birth to a son - who is God himself! He's God who came down from heaven to live with people on earth."

## 203 Jesus is Baptized and Tempted

Matthew 3-4

When Jesus was grown and had turned 30 years old, he hadn't yet begun to preach the gospel. He walked from Galilee, which was the district of his birth, to find John at the Jordan River. There John was preaching the gospel and prophesying about the kingdom of God as well as baptizing people in water symbolizing their repentance. Jesus came to receive baptism from John as well.

But John knew already that Jesus was the Son of God and objected, "It is I who should receive baptism from you, why do you seek this from me?"

Jesus answered, "Just go ahead and do it, and my Father will be pleased." So John agreed. When Jesus was finished being baptized, he came out of the water and suddenly the skies parted and the Holy Spirit of God descended like a dove and rested on Jesus. Then, the Father spoke from above the sky, "This is my beloved Son, I am really pleased with him!"

Right then, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to tempt him. After fasting for a period of 40 days, he became hungry. Satan came to tempt Jesus, "If you truly are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread!" But Jesus answered, "No, in the Bible, it is written people should not live by bread alone, but must live according to every command of God."

Then, Satan took Jesus to the city of Jerusalem and had him stand on the top of the Temple and tempted him, "If you truly are the Son of God, throw yourself down to the bottom, because in the Bible it is written, angels will under gird the Savior." Jesus answered, "In the Bible it is also written, we must not test God whatsoever!"

Satan led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and pointed out the nations and wealth of the entire world. He tempted him saying, "If you bow and worship me, I will give you all of these treasures!" But Jesus refused, saying, "In the Bible it is written that you must worship God and him only. You get out of here!" At that time, Satan left Jesus and angels came and served him.

## 204 Jesus Chooses Disciples and Preaches the Gospel

Matthew 4

When Jesus left the wilderness, he returned to Galilee and stayed in a city near the seaside. From that time on, Jesus began to preach to the people, "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" Jesus taught the people about truth and in every place he cured the people's diseases as well.

When Jesus walked along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, who were fishermen, throwing their nets. One was named Peter, and his younger brother was called Andrew. He said, "Follow me, I will teach you to fish people, instead." The two men left their nets immediately and followed him.

Jesus walked ahead a little further and saw two more brothers, James and his younger brother, John, preparing their nets in the boat with their father. He called to the two, and they abandoned their boat and their father, and followed Jesus.

After that, Jesus chose eight other disciples in order that they would be with him; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector, another James and Thaddeus, Simon the zealot, and Judas, who betrayed him.

Jesus walked throughout the entire district of Galilee with his disciples and preached the Gospel about the Kingdom of God to the people. He cured all kinds of diseases and all kinds of handicaps; he cleansed all of the diseases of all people. Jesus' name became increasingly popular from one day to the next. Many large crowds from all the districts and places nearby came looking for Jesus as well.

# 205 Jesus Has Authority Over Nature and Evil Spirits

Mark 4:35 - 5:20

One evening, Jesus and his disciples got down into a boat to cross the sea. When they arrived at the middle of the sea, all of the sudden a strong storm began raging and waves were beating against the boat, causing water to flow in nearly filling the boat. But Jesus was asleep on a pillow in the boat's bow. The disciples awakened Jesus saying, "Teacher, we're dying! Teacher, aren't you going to pay attention?"

Jesus got up and ordered the storm and the sea, "Be quiet!" Then, the storm subsided and the surface the water became smooth as well. After that, Jesus asked his disciples, "Why were you afraid? Don't you have any faith?" The disciples were terrified and wondered, "Who is this person that even the storm and the seas obey his orders like this?"

Jesus and his disciples arrived at the opposite shore. Immediately as Jesus got up from the boat there was a demon-possessed man coming out of the grave yard walking towards him. There was no one who was able to restrain him, even tying him up with chains wouldn't work. All night and all day he screamed continually and cut himself with rocks as well. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran up to him and bowed before him.

Jesus commanded him saying, "Hey, unclean spirit, leave this person!" The demon screamed, "Oh, Jesus, what do you want to do to me? I beg you, do not torture me!" Jesus asked the demon, "What is your name?" The demon replied, "My name is army, because we are many."

Nearby, there was a large herd of pigs foraging at the base of the hill. Jesus expelled the demons from that man and sent them into the herd of pigs, 2,000 head in all. The herd went down the side of the hill straight into the sea and drowned - all dead. When the people there saw Jesus and the man who used to be demon-possessed sitting quietly, dressed, and in his right mind they were struck with great fear.

Therefore, all of the people came and begged Jesus to leave their region. While Jesus was climbing into the boat, he told the man that was delivered, "You must go back home and live with your family again, and tell them about all the good things that God has done for you." Jesus and disciples took the boat back to the shore on the other side of the sea.

## 206 Jesus Has Authority to Forgive Sins

Luke 5: 17-26

Once, Jesus was teaching people in a village near the sea and some religious leaders came and sat to listen to him as well. Jesus, filled with the authority of God, healed people with diseases, making them well. Then suddenly there was a paralyzed man being carried on a stretcher in order to bring him close to Jesus. But because there were too many people, they were unable to get close to him so they lifted the paralytic on to the roof, peeled away the roofing tiles, and lowered him down into the midst of the crowd right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Friend, I forgive your sins!" The religious leaders were thinking to themselves, this Jesus is surely assuming that he is equal to God, which is why he spoke these words! Only God can forgive sins!

Jesus, knowing their thoughts said, "Why are you thinking like this? If I say to the paralytic, 'I forgive your sins,' or say, 'Get up and walk,' which phrase is easier to say? But I want all of you to know that I have authority to forgive people's sins." He turned to the paralytic and said, "Get up, take your stretcher and walk on home." Immediately the paralytic got up in front of all the people, took his stretcher and went back home, all the while praising God.

All who were present were awe struck and praised and magnified God. They were terrified and said to one another, "Today, we have seen a real miracle!"

## 207 Jesus Has Authority Over Sickness and Death

Mark 5:21-43

While Jesus was teaching the people and healing their diseases making them well, a religious man pleaded with Jesus, "My daughter is seriously ill and is near death! Please come and heal her and make her well again." Jesus went with him. Many people followed Jesus as well, pushing and crowding around him.

At that moment, there was a woman who had a bleeding disorder for 12 years already. She had spent all the money she had to get cured from her disease, but she just got sicker. She heard them talk about Jesus, so she thought to herself, "If only I could touch his shirt, I will be healed for sure!" So she pushed her way through the crowd, and touched his shirt from behind.

Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she knew that she had been healed. Jesus knew immediately that some power had gone out of him; he asked, "Who touched me?" The disciples answered, "People are shoving and pushing against you from every direction, why do you ask who touched you?" Jesus looked around and saw the woman shaking in fear. Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well."

While he was still speaking, someone came and told him, "The daughter of the religious man is dead, there's no need for you to come after all." Jesus told the religious man, "Don't be afraid, only believe." When they arrived at the religious man's house, Jesus went into the house and saw people crying and sobbing. He asked them, "Why are you crying like this? This child is not dead, she's only asleep!"

They mocked him, but he went into the room where she was lying, grabbed her hand, and ordered her, "Get up!" The girl immediately got up and walked! All of the people were really amazed.

## 208 Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15

Many tax collectors and evil people continually sought out Jesus in order to listen to his teaching. But the religious leaders always complained, "This guy likes to hang out and eat with sinners!" Jesus answered them with this parable; there was a man who had two sons. The youngest son said to his father, "Dad! Please give me my portion of the inheritance!" The father gave the inheritance to him.

So, then, the younger son gathered his belongings and set out to a far country. In that country, the younger son squandered all his money. At that time, a famine hit the country and the younger son was broke and hungry, too. He went to work for someone in that country who hired him to look after his pigs in the field. He was so hungry that he even wanted to eat the pigs' food!

Then, he came to his senses and thought to himself, "My father's servants have plenty to eat, but as for me, I am starving to death. I will go back home and admit to my father, "I have done wrong." Right then, the younger son returned to his father. When his father saw him coming from afar, he was filled with great compassion for his son and ran out to receive him, hugging and kissing him. The younger son said to his father, "I have committed a sin against God and you as well. I am not worthy for you to call me your son any longer, please place me as one of your servants."

The father ordered his servants, "Go get the nicest clothes and put it on my son quickly and get a ring and new shoes for him to wear. Then, go and kill the calf for us to have a party to celebrate. This, my child, was lost and now I have found him again." They had a great party of celebration.

At that time the older son was working in the fields, and when he was returning and near home he heard the sound of music and saw people dancing and asked a servant, "What's going on here?" The servant answered, "Your younger brother has returned, your father has butchered the calf and prepared a feast because the younger son has

returned safely." The older son was angry and refused to go in the house.

The father left to go outside and pleaded with him to come in, but the son said, "I have served you many years already, I have never done anything wrong to you, but you have never butchered a calf in order for me to celebrate with my friends whatsoever! But when my younger brother returned, you prepared a feast for him even though he completely destroyed your wealth!" The father answered, "Son, you are with me always, right? Everything I have, is yours. But, now we must rejoice because my son, was lost, but I have found him again."

## 209 The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16

One day, Jesus was teaching the people, and he said, "No one can serve two masters, because he will hate one and love the other, be loyal to one and despise the other. You can not worship and serve both God and money." The religious leaders mocked Jesus because they really loved money.

Jesus told them, "There was a rich man, he had fine clothing made from the best material. He lived a happy life with plenty of delicious food every day. And there was another man who was poor whose name was Lazarus. He had sores all over his body and always slept at the gate of the rich man. Lazarus craved to eat the crumbs of food that fell from the rich man's table. And, dogs came and licked his sores, as well.

"One day the poor died and angels brought his soul to paradise. The rich man also died, and they brought his body and buried it in a tomb. In the place of the dead, the rich man suffered miserably; he lifted up his head and saw Lazarus from afar, in a peaceful place near Grandfather Abraham. He cried out to Abraham, "Father! Have mercy on me. Please ask Lazarus to dip his finger in water and put a little water on my tongue, because in this fire it's really hot." Abraham replied, 'Son, please remember that when you were still alive, you knew only happiness, but Lazarus knew only suffering. Now, Lazarus is happy and well, while you are sick and in pain. Not to mention the fact that there is a huge gulf between you and us, even if one wanted to cross he wouldn't be able to.'

"The rich man pleaded, 'Father! Please send Lazarus back to my 5 brothers. Have Lazarus tell them to wake up so that they won't come to this miserable place, too.' Abraham answered, 'Moses and all the messengers of God have already warned them, let your brothers follow their words.' The rich man objected, 'No! Only if someone returns from the dead and speaks to them will they repent.'

"Abraham answered further, 'If they won't follow Moses' warnings, and all the messengers of God, even if someone rises from the dead, they still will not believe.'"

# 210 Jesus Announces His Death

Matthew 16

When Jesus' work on earth was nearly completed, Jesus intended to reveal to his disciples what was about to happen to him in the near future. So one day, Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do all the people say that I am?" His disciples answered, "Some people say that you are the messenger, Elijah, some others say you are John who baptized the people with water, and yet others say you are one of the messengers from ancient times who has been reincarnated."

Jesus asked them further, "Who do all of you say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Savior, the Son of the living God!" Jesus replied, "Blessed are you Peter! Because, you know this not because you learned it in any school, but because God has revealed this to you, and I will build my church on this firm foundation rock. Evil spirits will not have authority over this church." Jesus forbade them not to tell anyone that he was the Savior.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to the city of Jerusalem, and there, all the religious leaders would arrest him, and abuse him causing him to suffer greatly, to the point of killing him, too. But, three days later, he would rise again.

Peter pulled Jesus aside from the others and rebuked him, "That can't happen, master! There's no way that can happen!" But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Hey, Satan! Get away from me! For you are hindering my way, your thoughts are not the thoughts of God, but are only the thoughts of man."

Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to come after me, he must deny himself. If anyone wants to preserve his life, he will lose his life, but if anyone loses his life for my sake, he will gain life. If anyone gains the whole world as a possession for himself, but loses his life, of what benefit is that?"

# 211 The Last Meal

Luke 22

In the first month each year, the Israelites celebrate a special ceremony called, the Feast of Passover. This is a ceremony reminding them about the last night that the Israelites were in Egypt, when God killed all the firstborn of Egypt, but the Israelites survived. God passed over their houses because they had sacrificed a sheep and brushed its blood on the door frames of their houses.

In the first month, Jesus was in Jerusalem with his disciples when the day of the Feast of Passover arrived. At that time the religious leaders were looking for a way to kill Jesus, but it was nearly impossible because they were afraid of the crowds who loved Jesus. But, Satan entered Judas, one of the disciples among Jesus' 12 disciples. So he went to discuss with the religious leaders in order to betray Jesus and lead them to arrest him at a time when the crowds could not see. The religious leaders were extremely happy and agreed to pay him a lot of money, according to his demands.

At the time Jesus told Peter and John, "Please go and find a place to prepare the Passover feast for us." They asked him, "Where should we prepare the feast? Jesus answered, "There is a large room on the upper floor with all of the items already prepared; go and prepare the feast there." So they went and saw the place and prepared everything.

At sundown, Jesus sat at the table and feasted with his disciples - the twelve disciples that he had called to be his apostles. Jesus said, "Before I suffer, I've greatly desired to celebrate this Passover Feast with you all, because I will not celebrate it again until we celebrate it together in the kingdom of God."

Jesus took the bread, thanked God, then broke it and gave it to them saying, "This is my body that is sacrificed for all of you, eat it in order to remember me." When they had finished the feast, he followed the same pattern. He took the cup and said, "This is my blood that is poured out for all of you; through this blood, God has entered a new

covenant with all of you. But, the one who will betray me is sitting at the table with me!" So they began to ask, who's thinking of doing this?

Peter insisted, "My Lord, I'm already prepared and willing to be imprisoned or to die with you!" But Jesus answered, "Oh, Peter, I tell you that before the cock crows tomorrow, you will disown me three times."

# 212 Jesus Arrested on the Mount of Olives

Luke 22

While Jesus and his disciples were still celebrating the Passover Feast, Judas left the house before them. After that, Jesus left the house with his disciples and went to the Mount of Olives a little distance from the city. When they arrived, Jesus said to them, "Pray to God so you won't give in to temptation."

Jesus walked on a bit further from them, and knelt and prayed, "Oh Father! If you are willing, don't force me to suffer like this, but it's not necessary to do my will, but do whatever you want." Then, an angel from heaven came down to help encourage him. He tried to pray even harder, with great sorrow, so much so that his sweat was as great drops of blood falling to the ground.

Jesus got up and went back to the disciples, seeing them all asleep; they were all filled with sorrow, too. He said, "Why are you all sleeping? Get up and pray to God so that you won't give in to temptation." While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd of people arrived, led by Judas! He kissed Jesus, and he asked him, "Do you kiss me to betray me?"

When the disciples saw what was about to happen they asked Jesus, "Should we pull out our swords and stab them?" All of the sudden one of the disciples took a swing at the ear of one of the servants of the religious leaders with a sword, cutting the ear off. Jesus rebuked them, "That's enough!" He touched the man's ear and healed it as good as new.

Jesus asked the religious leaders, "Am I a common thief that you've all come with swords and clubs to arrest me like this?" They arrested him and took him back into the city. The disciples abandoned Jesus and ran away but Peter was following him from a distance.

They brought Jesus into the house of the highest religious leader. A fire was burning in the courtyard and people were sitting around it; Peter was sitting amongst them as well. A servant girl saw him sitting in the face of the light from the fire and said, "This guy is one of Jesus' gang!" Peter objected, "No! I've never known him!" A

moment later another person saw him and said, "You are one of his gang." He answered, "No! Not me."

About one hour later a different person accused him, "This guy certainly is one of Jesus' followers, because he's a Galilean just like him." Peter answered, "I don't know what you are talking about!" While he was still speaking a cock crowed. Jesus turned towards Peter, and he remembered the words that Jesus had said that he would deny him three times before the cock crowed. Immediately Peter went out of that place and wept bitterly.

# 213 Jesus Gives His Life On the Cross

Luke 23, 24:32-56

"Crucify him! Crucify him!" The screams of the crowd resounded, demanding that the authorities take Jesus and execute him. The governor asked, "Why? What wrongful act has he committed to deserve to be crucified like this?" But the crowd just kept yelling louder and louder, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

The disciples were shocked, and asked each other, "What's he done wrong, that this crowd wants to kill him? It was this Jesus who cured their diseases, performed mighty miracles and taught them the way of life. Why do they want to kill him like this?" Because the religious leaders were jealous of Lord Jesus, that's why they incited the people to conspire with them to put Jesus to death.

Seeing that the crowd would not give up, the governor decided to give in to them and commanded them to crucify Jesus. The soldiers brought Jesus into the fortress, disrobed him, and beat him with a whip. They took thorns and made a crown out of them and put it on his head, spat upon him, and beat him on the head with a club. Then, they took Jesus to be crucified.

Jesus carried his own cross out of the city up to a small hill. Arriving at the hill's summit, they crucified Jesus by pounding nails right through his wrists and through his heels, in order to hang him on the cross, and the soldiers took his clothes, tore them up, cast lots and divided them among themselves. They crucified two bandits along with Jesus as well.

Crowds of people and the religious leaders walked past, mocking and despising and shaking their heads at him saying, "Save yourself! If you truly are the son of God, come down from that cross!" Even the bandits that were being crucified with Jesus mocked him as well.

The whole sky turned pitch black, from noon until 3 pm. Then, Jesus screamed loudly and died. Right then, there was an earth quake and boulders split apart!

When the centurion saw the earthquake and all of these wonders take place, he was terrified and said, "This person truly was the Son of God!"

## 214 Jesus Comes Back to Life

Matthew 27:57 - 28:15; Mark 15:1-2, 16:10-14; Luke 24:37-42

After Jesus died on that particular evening, the governor released his body to a wealthy man who was one of Jesus' disciples as well. He took the body and wrapped it in a new cloth, then put it in his own tomb. Then, he rolled a large boulder to block the entrance to the tomb. Two women who were also disciples of Jesus were there, too, sitting in front of the tomb's entrance.

The next day, the religious leaders went to the governor and said, "We remember some words that this deceiver spoke while still alive that, 'Three days after I die I will come back to life.' For this reason, please sir, command them to guard the tomb until the third day, so that his disciples won't sneak in and take the body and tell the people that he's come back to life." The governor agreed, and they went together to seal the tomb and place soldiers there to stand guard.

Early in the morning on Sunday, three women who were disciples of Jesus bought perfumed spices and brought them to perfume Jesus' body. At sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and asked each other, "Who will help roll the boulder away from the entrance of the tomb for us?" Then, suddenly there was a great earthquake and an angel of God came down from heaven and rolled the boulder away from the entrance to the tomb, and went ahead and sat right on the boulder! The soldiers were shaking with fear and fainted as dead men. The angels told the women, "Don't be afraid, I know that you have come looking for Jesus whom they crucified. He is not here! God has raised him to life again, just as he told you he would. First come and look at the place where they placed his body, then quickly go tell his disciples that he has already come back to life!"

The women ran out of the tomb, greatly surprised, full of joy and happy to bring this news to the disciples. Then, all of a sudden Jesus met them, and said, "Hello!" They embraced his feet and worshiped him. Jesus said, "Don't be afraid! Please go tell the brethren that they will see me too."

They took this news and told it to the disciples. All of them were mourning and sobbing their hearts out. When they heard the Jesus had come back to life, and heard that they had seen him, they didn't believe it. Suddenly, Jesus appeared and showed himself to his disciples. They were full of joy and fear. Jesus asked, "Why are you afraid like this? Why did you still doubt? Look at my hands and feet - it really is me! Go ahead and touch me - a ghost doesn't have flesh and blood like me." And then, Jesus showed them his hands and his feet, and went ahead and ate some roasted fish with them.

# 215 Jesus Ascends to Heaven

Acts 1; Matthew 24, 28; Mark 16; Luke 21

Jesus came back to life for real! For a period of 40 days Jesus showed himself to his disciples and taught them about the kingdom of God. Jesus appointed the disciples as his apostles, commanding them, "Go and lead all peoples to be my disciples, baptize them in water, and teach them to do everything I've commanded you. God will forgive all who believe, but those who do not believe, they will be condemned."

The disciples were confused and asked Jesus, "Are you at this time going to establish the kingdom of God on earth?" He answered, "No, only God knows the time that he has appointed for that, but you will be filled with the power of God's Spirit, and then you will be witnesses of me in every place all over the earth. All who believe will perform these signs: they will exorcise demons by my power, they will speak in new tongues, they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover. Know that I will be with you."

When Jesus was finished speaking, suddenly God raised Jesus up to the sky, and clouds hid him from their sight. Instantly an angel came and said, "Why are you standing and gazing up into the sky like this? Jesus will return in the same way that you saw him return to heaven."

Then, the disciples remembered the prophecies of Jesus, "There will be many wars and plagues and earthquakes taking place. All people will despair and evil acts will greatly multiply. My servants will preach the gospel to all peoples, enduring great persecution, and then I will return.

"I will return just as lightening flashes, they will see me come on the clouds in the sky, filled with power and great glory. At that time I will send my angels to go and gather all who believe on the Lord God and then, I will sit on a glorious throne and all nations and peoples will gather together before me.

"I will judge all peoples and separate the believers from the unbelievers. To the believers I will say, 'You may enter the kingdom of God!' To the unbelievers I will say, 'Fall into the lake of fire that burns forever, the fire that was prepared as a judgment for Satan and his angels!' "

The disciples were filled with wonder and excitement and returned to Jerusalem to wait for the power of God's Spirit, given for spreading the gospel in every place on the earth.