

# Leader's Guide

for *The Story of Hope–Kids Bible Study*

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**Those who use *The Story of Hope–Kids Bible Study* book are freely permitted to print and use this Leader's Guide.**

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If at all possible, you should attend a Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship (E&D) training seminar in preparation for using *The Story of Hope–Kids* (TSOH–K).

This Leader's Guide based upon the New King James Version of the Bible.

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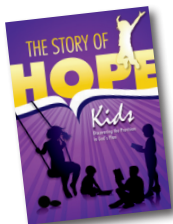
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# General Instructions

It is our concern that *The Story of Hope–Kids* (TSOH–K) study leaders might assume that they need to teach everything that appears in this Leader’s Guide. The material in this Leader’s Guide is a resource that provides much more information than you will need to teach *The Story of Hope–Kids*, in most cases. Don’t complicate the study by giving more information than is necessary for participants to understand the basic Biblical concepts. Please use this material selectively, based upon the needs of the participants in your study. In other words, be **participant-focused** in your teaching and don’t teach things that participants, at their stage of faith journey, don’t need to know. Avoid teaching material just because it is of interest to you or because it is included in this guide.

*Before you proceed with this study, be sure to read pages 4-11 in **The Story of Hope–Kids**. Familiarize yourself very thoroughly with the “Instructions” on pages 5-6.*



There are two major sections in *The Story of Hope–Kids*. It is important that you understand the relationship between these two sections and the unique contributions that each makes to the purpose of the book.

**First**—Pages 12-51 present 40 key events from The Chronological Bible Story, 20 from the Old Testament and 20 from the New Testament. This is the “good news” of God’s hope for mankind in a narrative (story) form.

**Second**—Pages 52-59 feature what we call the “Chronological Bridge to Life” (or the “ChronoBridge”). The eight important truths in the ChronoBridge are presented in the order in which they emerge out of The Chronological Bible Story. This ChronoBridge presents the “good news” in the form of eight very important concepts (or propositions).

**For your own preparation, we recommend these helpful resources:**

- *The Old Testament Story: Preparing to Tell God’s Story of Redemption, Part 1* self-study course, written by Dr. David Brooks and published by ABWE’s Center for Excellence in International Ministries.
- *The New Testament Story: Preparing to Tell God’s Story of Redemption, Part 2* self-study course, written by Dr. Larry Waters, edited by Dr. David Brooks, and published by ABWE’s Center for Excellence in International Ministries.

To order these resources: Contact us through [Info@GoodSoil.com](mailto:Info@GoodSoil.com)

# The Chronological Bible Story:

## A Narrative Presentation of God's Good News of Hope

Pages 12–51 in *The Story of Hope–Kids*

### 1 The Eternal God

The first sentence in the Bible says that there is a God and that He has always existed.

Genesis 1:1



#### 1. Read Genesis 1:1. Does this verse say there is one God or more than one god?

This verse says “God,” not two or three or many gods. Just one God.

#### 2. Which statement is true?

- The Bible begins by trying to prove that God exists.

This statement is not true.

- The Bible begins by saying that before anything at all was created, God already existed.

This statement is true.

The first words of the Bible (“In the beginning God ...”):

- are easy to understand
- assume that God exists
- do not try to prove God exists
- state simply that God is real

Does it make sense that at some previous time absolutely nothing existed and then out of nothing (and for no reason) the universe began to exist? No! Does it make sense that later on living beings all-at-once came from non-living matter? No! It takes a lot of faith to believe this!

It makes more sense to think that something or someone has always existed. This would either be a living Being or non-living matter. To believe either of these existed takes faith.

It makes even better sense to think that what has always existed is a living God who has the ability to create both non-living matter and other living beings.

The first verse of the Bible states that this is really how the universe and life began. It takes faith to believe this. As we study *The Story of Hope–Kids*, we will see evidence that proves this faith.

If this study is to be meaningful, anyone who doubts that God exists will need to be willing to consider the possibility that God does exist. This does not mean that person needs to abandon his unbelief right now, but he should be willing to put aside his unbelief temporarily and give the Bible a fair hearing. Encourage such a person to study *The Story of Hope–Kids* with an open mind and allow the Bible to speak for itself.

#### 3. Read Psalm 90:2. Everlasting or eternal means no beginning and no ending. What does this verse tell us about God?

This verse says that God has always existed and will always continue to exist. He is eternal. That means having no beginning and no ending.

God didn't start out as a kid like you. He was not born ions ago. He doesn't get older with every year that passes. He will not get sick and die.



*Before God created the universe, before the sun began to shine, before God created the earth, He existed.*

**4. As you read through the stories of the Bible, you will learn more about God. You will learn who He is and what He is like.**

Direct children to the Activity section at the bottom of page 12 and read the instructions. Explain that the Bible was given to us so that we could know about God—who He is and what He is like. Sometimes this information about God comes to us in the Bible through direct statements (such as Psalm 90:2), but often we learn about Him just by reading the stories of the Bible. In the stories we see what He has done, how He did it, and especially how He relates to men and women.

Encourage the children to think of the different ways in which God is described in *The Story of Hope-Kids*. At the end of each page discuss the word(s) that describe God in that event before moving on to the next event.

**5. In the picture is the Hebrew word for God. It is the word “Elohim” and means the “Strong One.”**

*From what we have studied in this first event, why is “Elohim” a good name for God? Only a strong being could create the universe.*

**Illustration #1:** *If you walked through the door of your home and saw a batch of freshly baked cookies (or an equivalent item appropriate to your culture) waiting for you on the kitchen table, how would you suppose they got there? Someone made them. Perhaps they also left a note, “I made these for you. Love, Grandma.”*

*That plate of cookies didn’t come out of nowhere! Someone put all the cooking ingredients into a bowl, mixed them and baked the cookies. The Maker left a note.*

*Just as the cookies had a Maker, our world had one too. It’s God. Like grandma’s note beside the plate of cookies (or a maker’s label sewn or stamped onto a t-shirt), Genesis 1:1 is God’s “Maker Label,” He’s saying, “It’s me, God. I made the world for you.”*

*The Bible gives you God’s word. He’s telling you He was here before time and before the earth began to spin. He made sure you had His “Maker Label” identifying Him as the creator.*

**Illustration #2:** *If you strewed a box of blocks over the surface of a table, would they mysteriously pull together instantly to become a tall castle? No. Even if you closed your eyes very tight and hoped really hard for the blocks to become a castle, would that work? No! The blocks need you, a builder, to build the castle block upon block. Suppose though you waited 10 minutes or 10 years for the blocks to fall into perfect order and become a beautiful castle. It still would not work. Cookies and castles do not come from nothing. It takes someone to make something.*

**How is God portrayed in Event #1?**

*Review with the student the instruction in the Activity section of Event #1 (“The Eternal God” on page 12 in *The Story of Hope-Kids*).*

*Since this is the first time that you have come to this kind of activity in the study, we recommend that you do this activity with the student. As you do, help the student to think of the answers as much as possible. This first time, you may need to provide more direction in determining the answer than will be necessary later in the study.*

*The purpose of these “bottom-of-the-page” activities are to help the student learn about God/Jesus, who He is and what He has done and still does, as the student reads and studies the Bible.*

**Tell why this name describes God: Eternal Being.**

*If necessary, re-read Psalm 90:2.*



# 2 Creation of the Universe

The Bible says God created the universe, including our earth and its heavens. God also created plants and animals.

*Genesis 1:1-25*



### 1. Creation—Day 1. Read verses 1-5.

- What was the earth like (verse 2)?

It was without form. That means the universe had no shape. It was incomplete or unformed.

It was void (empty). God had not yet caused it to be inhabited with living creatures like plants, animals, and human beings.

It was dark. Darkness is the absence of light and God had not yet created light.

*Note:* Apparently, the space around the earth was filled with some kind of unformed watery substance and is called “the deep” in this verse.

- What did God do in verses 3-5?

Just by saying the word, God called light into being. He also started times of light (day time) and darkness (night time) for the earth.

*(Leader: This would seem to indicate that the earth now was rotating on its axis and that some stationary light source on one side of the earth was providing light for the day.)*

### 2. Day 2. Read verses 6-8. What did God divide on this day?

God created a “firmament.” This word means “expanse.” This expanse divided the watery substance that surrounded the earth. God called this expanse “heaven” or atmosphere or sky. It does not mean another “Heaven” that is mentioned later in the Bible.

*The waters above that firmament probably became the clouds of water droplets that now float in the earth’s atmosphere. On the next day of creation, we’ll see what God did with the waters that God placed under the firmament or sky.*

### 3. Day 3. Read verses 9-13.

- What happened first on Day 3 (verses 9-10)?

God gathered the waters under the sky (firmament) on the surface of the earth together in such a way that dry land appeared. God then called the waters “Seas” and the dry land “Earth.”

- What happened next on Day 3 (verses 11-13)?

God then spoke and different kinds of vegetation came into existence. Full-grown trees, lush plants, beautiful flowers grew from the earth. Each tree, plant and flower came with their own seeds inside. This made it possible for more trees to grow, more plants and flowers to cover the earth.

**4. Day 4. Read verses 14-19. Why did God put lights in the heavens above the earth?**

God created the earth's sun to provide light for daytime. (Leader: It replaced the temporary light source that God provided on the first day [verses 3-5]. God no longer needed the original short-lived light He'd put in the sky.)

God created the earth's moon to provide light for nighttime.

These "lights" also were provided to mark seasons and years.

**5. Day 5. Read verses 20-23. What animals were created on this day?**

God spoke and created beautiful feathered flying birds. God also filled the waters with incredible, unusual and colorful creatures that live in the water.

**6. Day 6, part 1. Read verses 24-25. What animals were created on this day?**

God said the word and land animals appeared: cattle and sheep, dogs and cats, hippos and horses, wild animals, and creatures of all kinds and sizes. God also created creeping things that move along the ground like toads, spiders, and lizards.

**How is God portrayed in Event #2?**

**Tell why this name describes God: Eternal Being.**

## Supplemental Information

**Were the days of creation periods of 24 hours?** It is very possible that your student will ask, "What kind of days were these?" "Were they literal 24-hour days or so-called 'days' that were actually long periods of time?"

If this happens, point to the phrase "evening and morning" that is used to describe each day. It seems this phrase indicates that these were literal periods of 24 hours. Since God is powerful enough to bring the universe into existence out of nothing, it would not have been a problem for Him to have created the day-by-day things described here within the time frames of 24 hours.

*Some people have asked us how to deal with these kinds of issues that can be unnecessarily controversial. Consider these guidelines for this and other potentially story-stopping issues:*

1. *If the student appears to be emotionally attached to and/or pre-inclined toward a certain view that is not essential to understanding the overall Big Story of the Bible, ask him/her to make a note of his question and make plans to address it after you have completed this series of studies in The Story of Hope-Kids. Be sure to do as you promise.*
2. *If the student is clearly sincere, wanting to know what the Bible teaches on a subject such as this, you may want to spend more time than normal on the subject. But don't get too bogged down on one of the many topics in The Story of Hope-Kids, unless the topic is absolutely crucial to the integrity of the story.*
3. *Above all, keep the big picture of this "Story of Hope" study in view. Be alert to topics and discussions that will tend to de-focus the study from where it is intended to go.*

For your own resource and session preparation for events 1-12 (stories and teachings that are found in the book of Genesis) we recommend this helpful Bible commentary:

**The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings by Henry M. Morris (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1976).**

*This book is particularly helpful for preparation in teaching these earlier events found in Genesis.*

### 3 Creation of Human Beings

Then God created a man and a woman, Adam and Eve. God told them to rule over all on earth and not eat fruit from a certain tree.

*Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 2:7-25*



**1. Day 6, part 2. Read Genesis 1:26-27. When you compare the creation of man and woman with other creatures, what was special about the creation of human beings?**

**They were made in God's own image.**

*In these verses, the phrase "the image of God," does not mean some kind of physical image or appearance. God is a spirit (a non-material) being.*

*God gave mankind some important non-material characteristics that He Himself possesses, but God has these characteristics to a much greater degree than man does. Man, like God, has the ability to choose, the ability to love, the ability to reason, the ability to communicate, the ability to be righteous, the ability to exercise authority, and so on, but just not to the same degree as God. Animals may have some of these characteristics to some degree, but man originally was unique because he possessed more of these characteristics than animals did. This is probably what the Bible means when it says that mankind was created in God's image. It's a non-material image, not a material or physical image.*

**2. Read Genesis 1:28-31. What job did God give Adam and Eve that was not given to other creatures?**

**God gave Adam and Eve, and after them all mankind, the authority and the ability to rule over God's creation. God commanded them to do this. The "image of God" characteristics mentioned above made this possible.**

**3. Read Genesis 2:7. What does this verse tell you about the creation of Adam?**

**God took the dust of the ground and used it to put together—from head to toe—a perfectly shaped body for Adam. Then God breathed life into Adam's body and he became a living being.**

**4. Read Genesis 2:8-9. True or False? Circle one.**

**The Garden of Eden was a beautiful and fruitful garden.**

*God placed all kinds of trees in the Garden of Eden—trees that were beautiful to look at and good for food. All kinds of fruit trees grew there, loaded with tasty, edible fruit. The Garden of Eden must have been a beautiful place, where delicious food was always available.*

**5. Read Genesis 2:15-17. What one thing did God tell Adam not to do? If Adam disobeyed, what would happen?**

**God pointed Adam to a beautiful fruit tree in their paradise and said, "Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (knowing about good and bad). If you do, you will die if you disobey this command." God was giving Adam a clear choice.**



**6. Read Genesis 2:18-25. True or False? Circle one.**

**At this time, there was no reason for Adam and Eve to feel any shame.**

*Adam and Eve were both naked and they felt no shame. It was perfectly normal for them to live just the way God had made them with just their skin covering them. That was okay with them and with God.*

*(Leader: It can be argued that they sensed no shame for their nakedness because they were husband and wife. It is certainly true that physical intimacy is perfectly natural and normal for married couples. But hold this thought for now. Event number eight will shed some additional light on this subject.)*

**How is God portrayed in Event #3?**

**Tell why these names describe God: Almighty Creator, Supreme Authority**

### 4 Lucifer Falls from Heaven

Lucifer had been a beautiful angel, but led other angels to rebel against God. Lucifer became known as Satan, the Devil.

*Ezekiel 28:11-17; Isaiah 14:12-15*



*There are different views about when this event happened, but no clear evidence in the Bible to prove any of them clearly. We have purposely left when this might have happened as vague. For this study, the main purpose is not trying to pinpoint exactly when Lucifer fell.*

#### 1. Angels are spirit beings that God created to worship and serve Him.

*Read (or ask the student) to read this statement. Many people are curious about angels. Do not allow children's curiosity to get sidetracked on this topic. You may want to elaborate briefly regarding angels, but do not spend too much time on this subject. There will be more said about angels in some future events.*

#### 2. Ezekiel and Isaiah tell about Lucifer's fall from heaven. They compare him to the kings of Tyre and Babylon.

- Read Ezekiel 28:11-17. What was Lucifer like in heaven?

He appeared to be perfect in every way:

1. full of wisdom and perfect in beauty,
2. decorated with many kinds of precious stones,
3. chosen as a guardian cherub to serve God and guard God's spectacular holiness,
4. given a special job by God with direct access to God in heaven (mount of God),
5. walked among the fiery stones (gold?),
6. and was originally blameless in his ways.

- Read Isaiah 14:12-15. What did Lucifer do that caused him to be thrown out of heaven?

Lucifer wanted what he did not have so he said to himself that he would have those very things:

1. I will ascend to heaven
2. I will raise my throne above God's stars
3. I will sit on my throne on the utmost heights of God's sacred mountain.
4. I will make myself like the Most High God.
5. Lucifer intended to be like or equal with God!

#### What did God say would happen to him?

God would defeat him—bring him down to the depths of the pit. God would send Lucifer out of heaven to another place.

#### 3. Read Matthew 25:41 and Isaiah 14:15.

- Where will Lucifer, or the "devil," be sent?



There is a place of everlasting fire (a fire that will not die out) that has been prepared specifically for the devil (Lucifer) and his angels. One day God will bring Lucifer down in final defeat and send His enemy to “the depths of the pit” forever.

- **Who are the Devil’s angels?**

*Ask the student this question to see what he/she says. Unless he/she has some previous knowledge of the Bible on this subject, his/her response will only be a guess since we have not read any Bible passage that would suggest an answer to the question.*

Explain that the Devil’s angels would not be spirit beings that the Devil (Lucifer) has created because there is no indication in the Bible that Lucifer has the power to create another living being. That power is reserved only for God.

Explain (without much elaboration) that, in another place in the Bible\* (but do not take time to read the verses or cite the reference), the Bible seems to indicate that Lucifer led other angelic beings in his revolt against God. Thus, when Lucifer was cast down (or “fell”) from God’s holy presence, these angels fell with him. They are probably the evil spirits or “demons” that we will read about later in our study.

*Make brief comments here and move on. Do not allow the discussion to be diverted from the major focus of the study.*

*\*Revelation 12:7-8*

#### **4. We do not know when Lucifer rebelled against God. It happened before the next event, and could have happened much earlier.**

*This statement is designed to serve as a transition into event five.*

#### **How is God portrayed in Event # 4?**

**Tell why these names describe God: Holy God, Supreme Authority**

## **Supplemental Information**

**Were Isaiah and Ezekiel really referring to Lucifer?** As a study leader, you need to know that not all evangelical Bible scholars hold the view that Isaiah and Ezekiel were actually referring to Lucifer in their prophecies involving the kings of Babylon and Tyre.

For a more complete discussion regarding this Bible passage, read the section on the book of Ezekiel in Unit XII “God Exiles Judah” in *The Old Testament Story* Bible study course written by Dr. David Brooks (published by ABWE’s Center for Excellence in International Ministries).

To order this resource, contact us through [Info@GoodSoil.com](mailto:Info@GoodSoil.com)

Another excellent resource related to the “Satan theme” embedded in the Bible’s Big Story is:

**The Serpent of Paradise: The Incredible Story of How Satan’s Rebellion Serves God’s Purpose by Erwin W. Lutzer (Chicago: Moody Press, 1996).**

## 5 Beginning of Human Sin

God loved Adam and Eve. He said: “Do not eat from the forbidden tree.” Satan defied God and tempted Eve. She ate and caused Adam to eat. *Genesis 3:1-6*



### 1. These words are found in the last book of the Bible:

**“That old serpent, who is the devil, or Satan” (Revelation 20:2).**

*This statement says that Satan and the Devil are the same evil being as “the serpent of old.” “That serpent of old” most likely means when Lucifer (Satan/the Devil) took the body of a snake in order to tempt Eve in the Garden of Eden.*

### 2. Read Genesis 3:1-5. Satan appeared to Eve as a serpent.

- **True** or False? Circle one.

**Satan changed God’s words and made God seem unloving (compare Genesis 2:16-17 and Genesis 3:1).**

*“Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” (Or, “Surely God didn’t say that.”)*

- **True** or False? Circle one.

**Satan said God would not punish disobedience as He said (See verse 4).**

*“You shall not surely die.” (Or, “God would not and maybe even could not cause you to die.”)*

*Lucifer wanted Eve not to trust God. He wanted her to feel like God was holding back something good from her when God gave Adam and Eve one rule to live by in Eden: “do not eat from the tree of knowing all about good and bad.”*

*The Devil wanted to destroy God’s friendship with Adam and Eve by making good look bad and bad look good. That’s how he always operates.*

### 3. Read Genesis 3:6. What three features about the fruit made Eve want to eat what God had forbidden?

(1) The tree was good for food. Eve began to crave it very much (the desire of her flesh); she felt she had to have it. So, to taste this delicious food, she disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit. She broke God’s one rule.

(2) The tree was beautiful! Eve could not take her eyes off it (the desire of her eyes). She wanted what she saw. So, to have what was on this beautiful tree, she disobeyed God, took the forbidden fruit and ate it.

(3) The tree was desirable to Eve because it would make her wise.\* Eve thought that if she ate from the tree, she’d be as smart as God. So, her pride (the pride of life) made her want God-like wisdom and led her to disobey God and eat the forbidden fruit.

### 4. As you read the Bible, you will learn that to disobey what God commands is “sin.”

*The term “sin” has not been used in the first four events of The Story of Hope–Kids (other than in the title for this event). It is important now to introduce the word and to define it properly.*

**How is God portrayed in Event #5?**

**Tell why these names describe God: Holy God, Loving Father**

**Knowing Good and Evil:** Use the following information only if you think that you need to help the student understand the most important truths of this event. As always, avoid getting off track on issues that are not important.

\*Yes, in a way she would be wise. She would know both good and evil if she disobeyed God because then she would know evil from what she experienced. But the serpent did not tell her that she would have been better off not to know/experience evil (through disobedience). It would have been better for Eve to remain the way God made her— innocent of sin.

God knows good and evil, as the serpent said. But unlike Eve, God never knew evil by trying it out first. He is perfectly holy and sinless. So, when Eve disobeyed God, in a way she did become like God because she knew evil. But, she became even more unlike God because she experienced evil and forever after that also experienced the many undesirable effects of evil.

You may want to mention (but not dwell on the idea for long) that as we continue to study the Bible carefully, we'll see that there are three major ways in which men and women are tempted throughout the rest of the Bible. And even now, in our generation, we are tempted many times by the these same desires of our flesh, desires of our eyes, and our pride. These three trick us to want what we think will make us superior to others.

**1 John 2:16** – *“For all that is in the world—the lust [desire] of the flesh, the lust [desire] of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”*

### 6 Beginning of Death

**God is holy and judges fairly. When Adam and Eve disobeyed, they immediately experienced the result of their sin: separation from God.**

*Genesis 3:7-13; 5:5*



#### 1. “Death” means separation. Sin causes three kinds of death:

- spiritual (separation from God)
- physical
- eternal

*Those who have not studied the Bible much will think only of one thing when they hear the word “death”: physical death. It is important at this point to explain that death is separation and that there are three kinds of death mentioned in the Bible.*

#### 2. Read Genesis 3:7-13. After Adam and Eve sinned, they were separated from God. This is called spiritual death.

- verse 7 — they knew they were naked

*Suddenly it seemed wrong to be standing as man and wife together yet totally uncovered from head to toe. (Verses 7 & 11) Verse 7 seems to say that Adam and Eve began to cover their nakedness by stringing leaves together to wear like we wear clothing today. Even, before they thought about God coming to them, they tried to cover their bodies. Compare this with Genesis 2:25 in event three (page 14 in The Story of Hope-Kids). Before sin and death ruined everything, Adam and Eve felt comfortable, not embarrassed to see each other without clothes. That feeling was like an innocent baby who doesn’t hide from its parents while being bathed.*

- verse 8 — they tried to hide from God

*Adam and Eve tried to hide from God when they heard Him coming to them in the garden. (Verse 8) They didn’t want to be seen by Him because they knew they had broken His one rule and knew they were naked.*

*God’s coming to visit Adam and Eve in the garden had probably been a regular daily visit between good friends. It could have been like “Hi, it’s so good to see you! How was your day?” Adam and Eve had loved these visits, but now they were afraid. They probably did not just hide from God because they were naked, but also because they sensed the guilt of their disobedience. Most of us can remember dreading to meet our parents, guardians, or other people in authority over us after we disobeyed them but knew that they had discovered our disobedience. Perhaps Adam and Eve also feared their Creator God, because they were not sure what He might do because they broke His one rule.*

- verses 12-13 — they made excuses for their sin and blamed others

*Adam and Eve began to make up stories to hide their disobedience. Then, because sin ruined their good friendship with each another, they began to shift the blame to others when they answered God’s questions.*

*(Read verses 12-13 to find out who they blamed for their sin trouble.)*



### 3. Read Genesis 5:5. What other punishment did Adam receive for his sin?

*"So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died."  
(Genesis 5:5)*

*The death that Adam and Eve experienced showed how serious God takes sin.*

*God is a holy God. He has to give out what He says He will give to those who break His rules of right and wrong. He gave out death to the first two people. But it was God's grace (a kind act that is given freely) that allowed Adam to live for hundreds of years after he first disobeyed God's law.*

### 4. Read Genesis 5:8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 24, 27, and 31.

*Verse 8: Seth died. His dad was Adam.*

*Verse 11: Enosh died. His dad was Seth.*

*Verse 14: Cainan died. His dad was Enosh.*

*Verse 17: Mahalalel died. His dad was Cainan.*

*Verse 20: Jared died. His dad was Mahalalel.*

*[Verse 24: Enoch walked with God and was no more. His dad was Jared.]*

*Verse 27: Methuselah died. His dad was Enoch.*

*Verse 31: Lamech died. His dad was Methuselah.*

**Note:** *If someone asks why these people lived such long lives, simply explain that some of the results of sin took many years to show up in human beings.*

*For example, the diseases we get are the result of Adam and Eve's sin. These diseases probably came about slowly and spread gradually. And as they did, human lives were shortened.*

**Then, read Romans 5:12. Adam's disobedience affected all of us in two ways. What are the two ways?**

*(1) Adam's sinful nature was passed on to us, his human descendents. All of us have Adam and Eve's same way of thinking about sin. This sinful nature makes it easy to do bad and hard to do right.*

*(2) Sin was punished by death. Everyone will experience death (spiritual--fellowship with God is broken, physical--people's bodies die, and eternal\*--the possibility that some will live apart from God forever). We have all have sinned.*

*\*We'll talk about eternal death later at a more appropriate place in the study, so postpone discussing eternal death until then.*

**How is God portrayed in Event #6?**

**Tell why this name describes God: Just Judge**



### 7 Promise of a Satan-Conqueror

God promised that one day a special descendant of Eve would defeat Satan. Genesis 3:14-15



#### 1. Read Genesis 3:14. What changes did God make to the serpent-animal?

*We suppose from reading this story that Satan either took on the shape of a serpent or that he entered into the body of a serpent that was alive in the garden. Since the serpent was cursed by God for what happened in the Garden of Eden, it would seem that Satan entered into the body of one particular willing serpent. We use the term "serpent-animal" here to separate Satan from the animal (serpent) that Satan entered to do this evil deed.*

**Many Bible scholars think that before this time the serpent was a beautiful and charming animal that had legs and walked. From verse one in this chapter, we know that serpents were the most cunning of the animals God made. God's curse on the serpent made it (and all serpents to come later) a lowly creature that slithered on its belly in the dust of the earth.**

#### 2. Read Genesis 3:15. Check the correct sentence.

*There is no doubt that the "serpent" written about here referred to the serpent-animal and was a real snake. (See verse 14)*

*There is a change in verse 15 when God was talking to the "serpent," the snake-animal. He was really speaking to Satan, the Devil, God's main enemy who entered into the serpent.*

- **God wanted to cause hatred between people and snakes.**
- **No, something more important was happening here. This is the correct statement.**

*The word "enmity" in verse 15 means "a deep hate." God was announcing that from then on people would become haters of snakes. Many people hate snakes. Does this verse mean that snakes would be haters of people? Snakes strike at people mostly from fear to protect themselves from perceived danger. People hate and fear snakes while snakes fear people.*

*When explaining this verse, avoid: (1) Going into too much detail right now. (2) Interpreting the special prophesy in this verse. That information will come later.*

*Here are some observations from verse 15 that could be discussed now:*

*(1) From the time of Adam and Eve, right up until now an awful dislike continues between Adam and Eve's relatives (people) and snakes.*

*(2) Most Bible experts believe that the word "seed" (offspring) of the serpent is not talking about real snakes and their baby snakes born in the years to come. They think verse 15 is really talking about evil unseen devil-like creatures (demons) who work for Satan, the serpent (Revelation 12:9). That makes "your seed" mean the thousands of bad angels who joined Lucifer in his rebellion against God. (See event four.)*

*(3) Now that we've figured that "your seed" means "Satan's bad angels" or evil spirits we can agree that an unseen battle is raging. It is Satan-controlled evil spirits fighting against people. From beginning to end, the Bible writes about this struggle over and over.*



(4) Verse 15 tells about God's plan. Out of love He promised to send one day a male relative of Eve's who will definitely bruise" (or "crush" as it says in some Bible translations) the head of the serpent-Satan.

**3. The "offspring" of the woman (a descendant—one born in the same family line, but a long time later) will: (check all that are true)**

- **Be a human being**

*One day a male descendent of Eve's, "her seed," would be given the right by God to conquer God's enemy Satan. (Read the last two phrases of verse 15.)\**

- **Damage an important part of the serpent's body**

*An animal's head is a very important part of its body. God was making a grand announcement! He was saying Satan's head would someday be crushed (or bruised). God meant His enemy Satan would ultimately be defeated!*

- **Suffer less serious harm in the process of defeating the serpent**

*Eve's male relative, this Satan-Conqueror, would receive a wound to his heel. He would suffer some temporary lesser harm compared to the crushing blow the snake's head would receive one day.*

**4. This person will be the offspring (descendant) of the woman, not a man.**

*When the Bible uses the word "seed," it's usually talking about a husband and wife having a baby. It usually stands for the dad, not the mom. God only mentions the mother here in connection to the future birth of Eve's male relative.*

**Note:** Just point out this statement, let it sink in, and move on. Don't try to resolve its mystery right now.

**How is God portrayed in Event #7?**

**Tell why these names describe God: Loving Father, Kind Protector**

## Supplemental Information

**The Seed (offspring) of the Woman:** \*The original (Hebrew) language, from which this verse was translated, allows the "seed" to be a group of offspring (collective). The pronoun could be translated "it" and not always "he" (a masculine person). However, the way the verse is typically translated is the way that Christians have traditionally interpreted it.

For a more complete discussion regarding this Bible passage, read Unit III "Adam and Eve Fall" in *The Old Testament Story* Bible study course written by Dr. David Brooks (published by ABWE's Center for Excellence in International Ministries).

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### 8 Provision of Coverings

Adam and Eve tried to cover their guilt and shame with fig leaves. God replaced the leaves with clothing He made from animal skins.

*Genesis 3:7, 21*



#### 1. Read Genesis 3:7.

- Who made the coverings (clothes) in this verse?

Adam and Eve made their first clothes.

- What kind of covering did they use?

Adam and Eve made clothes out of fig leaves that were sewed together. These clothes would have been very fragile and would not have lasted very long.

#### 2. Read Genesis 3:21.

- Who made the coverings (clothes) in this verse?

God prepared the clothes.

- What kind of covering did He use?

God provided garments made from animal skins. These would have been much less fragile and would have lasted for a much longer time.

#### 3. **True** or False? Circle one.

**What God did for Adam and Eve showed they had lost their innocence forever. They would always be guilty of sin.**

*God did not scold Adam and Eve for stitching fig leaves together to cover their bodies after they sinned against Him. He supported their decision to make clothes by giving them other clothes that would last much longer.*

*God knew that Adam and Eve had lost their innocence and they would never get it back as long as they lived.*

#### 4. **True** or False? Circle one.

**Because of Adam and Eve's sin, God needed to kill one or more innocent (blameless) animals to prepare coverings for them.**

*The Bible does not tell us that God killed animals and used their skins to make clothes for Adam and Eve. God could have instantly made animal skin clothes the same way He had earlier created animals – "poof," out of nothing.*

*Here are some good reasons to believe animals died so their skins could be used for Adam and Eve's covering:*

*(1) It was Adam and Eve's sin that made them prepare coverings in the first place. They'd lost their innocence when they disobeyed God and broke His one rule.*

*(2) God had warned them that the penalty for disobedience to His command would be death.*

*(3) The animal had done nothing to deserve death. But it showed Adam and Eve in a dramatic way how their sin hurt God's other creatures.*



*Can you imagine Adam and Eve's shock and sadness when they watched innocent animals die? They saw the blood from these innocent animals and it was all because of the evil choices they had made.*

*Do you know why God did this? The guilt and shame from Adam and Eve's sin was covered by the skins of innocent animals that died for them!*

**How is God Portrayed in Event #8?**

**Tell why these names describe God: Loving Father, Kind Protector**

### 9 Expelled from Eden

God made Adam and Eve leave Eden after they disobeyed Him. They lost their privilege to live in the beautiful garden.

Genesis 3:22-24



#### 1. Read the first part of Genesis 3:22. **True** or False? Circle one.

*Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil ..."*

**Note:** This is a review of what was stated in the Supplemental Information section of event five. Please re-read that section.

Even though this may be a "repeat" of what was explained in event five, it is important enough to review it again with the student. In event five this information was presented as optional, so the student may not have been exposed to it at that time.

**Because Adam and Eve ate fruit from the forbidden tree, they now had knowledge of evil because of what they had done.**

*Before Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they only knew "good" (thoughts and actions). They did not know "bad" in any way (thoughts or actions).*

*But after disobeying God, Adam and Eve:*

- *knew all about good from their past (both in their mind—thoughts—and actions)*
- *knew all about evil because they'd tried it for the first time (actions) and it was now also in their mind—thoughts*

**If this sentence is true, how is Adam and Eve's knowledge of evil different from God's knowledge of evil?**

*God has never, ever once done anything evil. He is perfectly holy and sin-free. But because there is nothing in the universe that God doesn't know about, God knows all about evil though He has never done anything wrong.*

#### 2. Read the second part of Genesis 3:22 through Genesis 3:24.

- **Fact 1: God expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden.**

*Notice that Adam's location changed, but the work God gave him to do stayed the same.*

- **Fact 2: the second part of verse 22 tells why God expelled them.**

*Read the second part of verse 22 and then read the next point point ("3." below) because it will help you think about the meaning of the words in verse 22b ("b" means the second part of verse 22).*

#### 3. Adam and Eve were expelled from Eden as a result of their sin. It was an act of God's judgment. It was also a gracious act. Why? Read the end of verse 22 again.

- **It was an act of God's judgment.**

*The Bible doesn't clearly say the words: "God ordered Adam and Eve out of Eden because they sinned."*

*Adam and Eve's banishment from Eden was because of their sin against God, a consequence that God made sure happened. God judged them by banishing Adam and Eve from the garden.*





- **It was also a gracious act by God.**

*Go back to the second part of verse 22 and re-read: "...And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever—"*

*God's loving-kindness sent Adam and Eve out of Eden and He banned their return. Why? **He wanted to protect them!***

*Remember that there were two "special trees" in the Garden of Eden: The forbidden tree of Knowing all about Good and Bad and the Tree of Life.*

*Not much is written here about the Tree of Life. But verse 22 seems to say that if Adam and Eve had touched it, they would have lived forever.*

*Why would that have been bad? **It would have been terrible because they would have lived forever in their sinful condition.***

**God drove them from the garden to protect them from touching the tree of life as sinners. If they had touched that tree, they would have lived forever as sinners.**

*Even though Adam and Eve had to die later on (the awful judgment for their sin), to die was better for them than to live forever as sinners.*

*Now read Genesis 3:24 keeping in mind the above five points.*

*Later, as we study more of The Story of Hope-Kids, we'll learn that the real hope for all people is beyond the grave and after death.*

**How is God portrayed in Event #9?**

**Tell why these names describe God: Just Judge, Kind Protector**

# 10 The Great Flood

Over time, the human race grew and became so sinful God destroyed the earth and everyone with a flood, except for godly Noah and his family. *Genesis 6:5-8:22*



### 1. Read Genesis 6:5-7, 11-12.

#### • Why did God send the flood?

Only one family, out of all the people on earth, followed the Creator-God. Everyone else turned away from Him and did what they wanted no matter if it hurt others, themselves and God. That's the way of sin.

God is holy and hates sin. He was deeply distressed and saddened by the sinful ways people chose to live.

As the Creator of all people, God certainly had the right to stop this wickedness and violence and to punish everyone who took part in it.

As the righteous and just Judge of the world that He created, God always did exactly what was right and what was fair. People broke His laws over and over and over on purpose, so after years of holding back punishment, God judged this wicked generation by sending the flood.

#### • How serious was the problem that caused the flood?

*To understand what God saw when He looked at what was happening on earth, underline key words or phrases in your Bible that describe how bad life had become on earth.*

*(Here are some typical responses that would be accurate. The words in parenthesis are included to increase clarity.)*

"how great (worse than ever before) man's wickedness (sin) on the earth had become"

"every inclination of the thoughts (selfish, mean wicked ideas that raced through people's heads) of his heart (the deep down feelings in men, women, boys and girls) was only evil all the time (very bad all the time)"

"earth was corrupt (the people acted extremely wicked)"

"all the people of the earth (except Noah and his family) had corrupted (turned to doing evil in) their ways (in all they did)."

### 2. Read Genesis 6:8-10 and 7:1.

#### • How was Noah different from the other people?

Noah was a "righteous" man. Most of the time Noah cooperated with God and lived a life of doing what was right.

Noah was "blameless among the people of his time." Noah was far from perfect. When Noah did wrong, he took responsibility for what he had done and corrected it with God and others.

- “Noah walked with God.” What does this sentence mean?

Noah tried to live the way he knew God wanted people to live. His love for God made Noah want to stay close to God like a good friend. Noah often talked to God in prayer about many things.

### 3. Read Genesis 6:5—8:22. What kind of flood did God send? Check one box.

☐ a local flood

☒ a worldwide flood

*The evidence for a worldwide flood appears to be obvious to us, but it is important to understand that some Bible-believing scholars believe this flood was a local event that only covered one large valley where the people on earth lived at that time.*

*If the student is interested you could give them a sheet of paper with two columns:*

<i>Local Flood</i>	<i>Worldwide Flood</i>

*Ask them to read and study Genesis 6-8. Under “Local Flood,” they should list the evidence in the Bible text that seems to show that the flood was kept to one local valley. Under “Worldwide Flood,” they should list the evidence that seems to show that the flood covered the face of the entire earth.*

### 4. Read Genesis 6:15. How large was the ark?

The ark was 300 cubits (450 feet or 138 meters) long by 50 cubits (75 feet or 23 meters) wide by 30 cubits (45 feet or 13.5 meters) high. It probably had a capacity of about 1,400,000 cubic feet (40,000 cubic meters), which was about equal to 522 standard live-stock railroad cars.

*This information may be helpful, particularly if the student is skeptical about the ability of Noah’s ark to contain the animals that were taken onto the ark. You may also point out that only two or seven of every “kind” of animal were taken on the ark and that “kind” was probably a broader classification than “specie.” Also explain that some (or all) of the animals may have been very young and thus, not fully grown.*

*(Leader: The following website contains kid-appealing ways to think about the ark. We exempt ourselves from endorsing this website. [www.creationtips.com/arksize.html](http://www.creationtips.com/arksize.html))*

### 5. From this story...

- What do we learn about the people who lived on the earth?

Men and women, boys and girls are sinful. Their sinful nature encourages them to do all kinds of wrong, even very wicked actions.

People don’t have any problem turning away from God and totally disobeying His good rules.

But people also have the ability (with God’s help) to choose to love and serve God, just as Noah did.

- What do we learn about God?

God is holy; He was moved to punish people on earth for their sin.

God was just (fair) in His judging the people for their sin. The One who set up the rules for



all people on earth has the right to punish those who break those rules.

God was very patient as He waited 120 years for the people to turn back to Him from doing evil. He was also gracious because He held back from punishing the people for many years!

**How is God portrayed in Event #10?**

**Tell why these names describe God: Just Judge, Kind Protector**

### 11 Promises to Abraham

Years after the flood, God called Abraham to be the father of a large nation. Through him, all people would receive a spiritual blessing.

*Genesis 11:31—12:7*



*You may want to prevent any confusion in the mind of the student by explaining the seeming discrepancy between the name “Abram” and “Abraham.” He was originally called “Abram,” but God later changed his name to “Abraham.”*

#### 1. Read Genesis 11:31-32. Find Ur, Haran, and Canaan on the map on pages 8 and 9.

First, put your finger on the map. Slide it up and down between the cities of Ur and Haran where this story takes place. It is about 600 miles between Ur and Haran.

By sliding your finger from the Great Sea (now called the Mediterranean Sea), to Haran and down to Ur near the Persian Gulf you are creating a curved line like a crescent shape. This land of rivers and vegetation is called the Fertile Crescent. (**Note:** You may want to compare a modern map with the map on pages 8-9. Point out modern countries that exist now in this Fertile Crescent area.)

What is the name of the hot, dry, sandy, waterless place between Chaldea and Canaan? Yes, the Arabian Desert. Terah was a very wealthy man who owned large herds and flocks of animals. It would have been difficult or nearly impossible for Terah to travel across this desert with his animals and family. Terah’s family, servants and herds would have died without the water and food they found as they traveled along the Fertile Crescent.

Second, the people who lived in the cities of Ur and Haran did not love the Creator God. They replaced the real Creator God with idols. The people of Ur and Haran worshipped the Moon. Terah was a moon worshipper to the end of his life. Maybe that’s why God did not move Abraham into the land of Canaan (point to Canaan on the map) until after his moon-worshipping father died.

#### 2. Read Genesis 12:1-3. At the end of verse 3 God made one special promise:

**All families of the earth will be blessed through Abraham.**

**This promise is repeated several times in the Bible so it is very important. How could this promise happen? To learn the answer to this question, you will need to wait and see how the Bible’s story of hope develops.**

*Do not explain all that you may know about God’s promise to Abraham right now. Just be sure to point it out and emphasize it strongly enough that the student will remember this promise when it comes up in future events.*

#### 3. Read Genesis 12:4-7. What additional promise did God give to Abraham in verse 7?

In verse 7 God made this promise to Abram: “To your offspring I will give this land [Canaan].” But there was one big problem—the Canaanite people already lived in this land. Explain that we will learn later what happens.

**How is God portrayed in Event #11?**

**Tell why this name describes God: Faithful Promise Keeper**



### 12 Offering of Isaac

God would send the spiritual blessing through Abraham's son, Isaac. God tested Abraham's faith: He asked him to kill his son, but at the last minute sent a substitute sacrifice.

*Genesis 22:1-18*



#### 1. Read Genesis 22:1-14.

- Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice his son?
- Why did Abraham obey this unusual command?

*To someone who does not know much about the Bible, this event may appear bizarre and God may seem heartless. You may be wondering, "Why would God, who hates murder, ask a good father like Abraham to kill his own son?" Explain to the student that it will make a lot more sense after we have studied this story. Here's something very important to remember: our all-knowing God knew what would happen to Abraham and Isaac on that mountain long before He gave the command to hike to the top and sacrifice Isaac.*

- Read verse 5 and Hebrews 11:17-19.

#### What did Abraham believe God could do?

Abraham said, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there ... then we will come back to you." Abraham believed both he and Isaac would return alive.

These verses toward the end of the Bible, in the book of Hebrews, were written about 2,000 years after the story in Genesis 22. They help us to know just what Abraham was thinking when he laid his son Isaac on that altar of death.

- Read Genesis 22:7-14.

#### How did Abraham show his faith?

You might think it was odd for an innocent animal to die in place of a man (or woman). But this is a very common and important practice throughout the Bible. We'll talk more about this in some future events, but for now just keep this story in your mind.

#### 2. Read Genesis 22:15-18. The special blessing would come through Abraham's offspring.

*Here God promised that all nations of the earth would be blessed through Abraham's offspring.*

#### 3. Later Isaac had a son named Jacob (God renamed him Israel). Jacob (Israel) had 12 sons.

*Since we are not taking the time here to read the Bible passages that cover the remainder of Isaac's life and the birth and life of Jacob, take a few minutes to give the student a brief overview of the later life of Isaac and how Jacob came to be Isaac's special son through whom the "special blessing to all people" would come. Explain how God changed his heart and changed his name from "Jacob" (which means "schemer or trickster") to "Israel" (which means "one who struggles with God" to receive God's blessing).*

**(Note:** You might want to bring a "Name Book" to class to search for student's names and meanings. Explain briefly that people's names, like all words, have meanings. For example, William or Bill means "Protector of the Kingdom.")



**As Israel was preparing to die, what promise did he make to his son Judah in Genesis 49:10?  
A scepter is a staff held by a king that shows his royal authority.**

*Ask the student if he/she has any idea what God was saying here. Then, explain:*

**God was telling us way ahead of time that:**

(1) Even after Jacob (Israel) died, the scepter (symbol of kingly authority) would be given to one of Judah's descendants.

(2) That person who would descend from Judah would also be an important lawgiver (another way of saying this person would be a ruler).

(3) "The people" or "nations" would also be ruled by this king-lawgiver who would come through Judah.

*Don't comment much more about this, but encourage the student to remember this promise. It will come up again in some of the later events.*

*(Remember, Jacob had 12 sons. But JUDAH's future family would be the one the King would be born into.)*

**How is God portrayed in Event #12?**

**Tell why these names describe God: Supreme Authority, All-Knowing One.**

### 13 Moses Called to be a Leader

Some of Abraham's descendants (the Israelites) became slaves in Egypt. God called Moses to lead them out of Egypt into Canaan, the land God promised to Abraham. *Exodus 1:1-14; Exodus 3:1-17*



**1. God directed events in Israel's family so that his son, Joseph, became a widely known leader in Egypt. God did this to prepare the way for Israel's family to go to Egypt.**

Don't go into too much detail, but take time here to give an overview of the story of Joseph. Focus on the major experiences that occurred in his life, resulting in his rise to power in Egypt. The following statements will help tell Joseph's story.

1. Joseph's parents were Jacob (Israel) and Rachel. (Genesis 30:25)
2. Jacob wrongly favored Joseph over his other sons and gave Joseph a colorful coat. (Genesis 37:1-5)
3. Joseph proudly reported his dreams to his brothers. (Genesis 37:5-7)
4. Joseph's brothers became jealous and angry. They threw Joseph into a pit and then sold him to traders going south to Egypt. (Genesis 37:19-35)
5. Once in Egypt, Joseph was bought as a slave and worked for Potiphar, a servant of the Pharaoh (King) of Egypt. Potiphar's wife tried to have an affair with Joseph, but Joseph ran from her! Potiphar's wife then twisted what happened and lied to her husband. Joseph was sent to prison for something he did not do. (Genesis 39:1-23)
6. While in prison, God gave Joseph the ability to tell the meaning of dreams which the King's baker and butler both had. They were prisoners too. (Genesis 40:1-23)
7. God helped Joseph to tell the meaning of Pharaoh's strange dreams. (Genesis 41:1-36)
8. Pharaoh believed Joseph and put him in charge of storing food so Egyptian people would make it through a big food shortage (famine). The King put Joseph second in command under him. (Genesis 41:37-49)
9. The food shortage affected Canaan. Joseph's brothers traveled south to Egypt to buy grain for food. Though they looked Joseph straight in the eyes, they did not know he was their brother. Joseph knew them immediately but did not tell them who he was. (Genesis 42:1-17)
10. Joseph's brothers returned to Canaan with food. They also reported that their youngest brother Benjamin must be taken to Egypt on a return trip. (Genesis 42:18-38)
11. When Joseph's brothers returned to Egypt to buy more grain, they took Benjamin with them. Joseph showed them great kindness, but still did not tell them who he really was. (Genesis 43:1-34)
12. The brothers were given sacks of food to take back to Canaan. Joseph secretly had his silver goblet hidden in Benjamin's grain sack. (Genesis 44:1-17)
13. Joseph's brothers were brought back to Joseph. They were accused of taking Joseph's goblet. It was discovered in Benjamin's sack. Joseph said Benjamin must stay with him in Egypt. The brothers warned Joseph that their father would be very sad if Benjamin

did not return with them. (Genesis 44:18-34)

14. Finally, Joseph showed his brothers who he really was—the brother whom they’d long forgotten! Joseph showed God’s forgiveness to his brothers and sent for Jacob to come live in Egypt. (Genesis 45:1-25)
15. When Jacob heard that his son Joseph had become an important leader in Egypt, he happily moved there with his big family to escape hunger. The Pharaoh gave the land of Goshen to the Israelites so they had a place to live. (Genesis 46:1-7)

## 2. Read Exodus 1:1-7. What happened to Israel’s sons and their families?

“... The children of Israel were fruitful (Jacob’s sons had sons who grew up and married. They had lots and lots of kids) and increased abundantly, (more and more kids were born), multiplied (even more kids were born) and grew exceedingly mighty (became a massive large group of people, a nation of Israelites in a nation of Egyptians) and the land was filled with them (Israelites filled the country).”

*Does this Israelite population explosion tell you why the King felt threatened for the safety of his Egyptian people?*

## 3. Read Exodus 1:8-14. A new Egyptian Pharaoh (king) came to power who did not remember Joseph or the promises made to him. What happened then?

The Pharaoh tried to slow down the growth of the Israelites and ordered the Egyptians to make the Israelites into slaves and work them very hard. But this did not slow down the many babies born to the Israelites.

## 4. Read Exodus 3:1-10.

### What did God want Moses to do?

God wanted Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Even though Moses was an Israelite, he had been out of the country for about 40 years. He was qualified for this task because he had been reared in the royal palace in Egypt, as an adopted child. He was probably more educated than any other Israelite of his generation.

**Note:** You may want to give a brief overview of the life of Moses, from the time of his birth until God called him to lead Israel from Egypt. The statements below may help you.

- Moses’ parents were Amram and Jochebed. Moses was an Israelite, from the family of Levi. Moses’ brother and sister were Aaron and Miriam. (Numbers 26:59 & Exodus 6:20)
- Moses was born in the Land of Goshen, Egypt. His parents were slaves under a new Pharaoh who began to treat Israelite people very badly. (Exodus 1:8)
- The new Pharaoh thought the Israelites slaves would outnumber and out-power the Egyptians, so he ordered the nurses not to let any new born baby boys live. Two nurses named Shiphrah and Puah did not obey the Pharaoh. Pharaoh made another terrible rule: “Throw those Israelite baby boys in the River Nile.” Still the nurses did not obey. (Exodus 1:9-16)
- Jochebed hid her new baby son Moses for three months. After that she made a small basket boat, tucked Moses into it and placed the basket in the Nile River. God used Moses’ sister to watch over Moses and make sure he was safe. (Exodus 2:1-4)
- The Princess, daughter of the Pharaoh, spotted Moses’ basket-bed floating among the bulrushes on the river. She rescued Moses and accepted him into her family as her own. The Princess met Miriam and gave the responsibility of raising Moses to Moses’ mother Jochebed. A few years later, when Moses was a young child, he went to live with the Princess. (Exodus 2:4-10)
- Moses was raised as an Egyptian though he was really an Israelite. Later as a grown man, Moses, out of anger, killed an Egyptian for beating an Israelite slave. But someone had seen Moses do that awful thing. Afraid for his life, Moses escaped to a far away desert land called Midian. (Exodus 2:11-15)

- *Moses worked as a shepherd in Midian. One day God spoke to Moses from a bush that was on fire and did not burn up. He told Moses to return to Egypt where the Israelites were slaves, and to inform Pharaoh to set God's people free so they could return to the land of promise, Canaan. (Exodus 3:1-9.)*

### **What special relationship did God have with the Israelites?**

**Verse 6:** God was, “the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob (Israel).”

**Verse 10:** God told Moses that all the children which came from the time of Jacob (Israel) and down to the present time were His (“My”) people.

**Note:** “Children of Israel” = the offspring of Israel (formerly named Jacob).

### **5. Read Exodus 3:11-17. What was Moses supposed to tell the Israelites when they asked “Who sent you?”**

- **What did God say in verse 14?**

**God told Moses to tell the Israelites that “I AM” sent him.**

*Ask the student: Why didn't God just say, “Moses, tell my people God sent you”? Why did He identify Himself as “I AM?”*

*“I AM” means: God was not made by anyone! He was always alive (had no beginning) and He just keeps living on and on and doesn't stop (does not have an end). God just is—always and forever.*

*(When God used His name “I AM,” it separated Him, the one true creator-God, from all 2,000 gods of Egypt!)*

- **What did God say in verse 15?**

**God also told Moses to tell the Israelites that the “LORD” God of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, was the One who sent him (Moses).**

*Did you notice how the word LORD is typed with all capital letters? Doesn't “Lord” with capital and small letters mean the same thing? Not exactly. But both words are talking about God.*

*Whenever you read the Bible and see “LORD” with all capital letters, it means the same as “I AM,” the God that always was and will always be alive. “LORD” is English for the Hebrew word for “Yahweh” and “Jehovah.” “LORD” stands for the ONE TRUE GOD, the Creator of the heavens and the earth—the God of the Bible!*

### **How is God portrayed in Event #13?**

**Tell why this name describes God: Person to Whom You can Relate.**



## 14 The Plagues and Passover

To free the Israelites, God sent ten plagues on Egypt. The last plague caused the death of the firstborn child in every family. God protected those who showed faith in Him. *Exodus 12:1-13, 21-23*



**1. God sent 10 terrible plagues to show His power over the false gods of Egypt and to convince Pharaoh to release the Israelites. The tenth and last plague caused the death of first-born male children and animals.**

*Summarize what happened between Moses and Pharaoh and the first nine plagues. These plagues were the result of Pharaoh's refusal to release the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt. Explain how this was really a battle between the false pagan gods of the Egyptians and the true LORD Creator-God of the Israelites and the Bible.*

*Moses is now back in Egypt where his life started 80 years before. Something beyond belief is about to happen to the famous Nile River where once baby Moses floated in a basket-boat. Moses' feet will walk in the hallways of the palace where he explored as a child. He'll pass large, golden hand-made Egyptian gods which he learned about when he was young. And in mysterious Egypt, Moses will have face-to-face showdowns with the Pharaoh. Moses will do all he is told in the name of the Creator God, LORD, the Great I AM.*

*Plagues 1-9 would strike in every home throughout Egypt including the Pharaoh's beautiful palace! But God's people were totally safe. Disaster after disaster, Pharaoh had one answer for Moses and Aaron: "NO!" (Exodus 8:32)*

1. (Exodus 7:17-18; 24) The LORD God turned the Nile River to blood. The people couldn't drink polluted water. All the fish died, floated to the surface and rotted.

*Where was their god when the Egyptian people needed help?*

2. (Exodus 8:1-6) God sent thousands and thousands of hopping frogs. They ran loose everywhere and filled the Egyptian homes. They landed in beds, they hopped through the bread dough.

*Where was their god when the Egyptian people needed help?*

3. (Exodus 8:16-19) God sent hard-to-see tiny bugs called lice. They crawled up from the sand onto people's bodies—all the way to their heads. People scratched night and day. There was no relief! Even the animals were infested with the lice.

*Where was their god when the Egyptian people needed help?*

4. (Exodus 8:24) God sent millions of flying, swarms of flies to Egypt. They buzzed people faces. They crawled everywhere and pestered the Egyptians until they could not take it anymore!

*Where was their god when the Egyptian people needed help?*

5. (Exodus 9:1-7) God sent an animal illness to Egypt's herds of sheep, horses, donkeys, cattle and birds. Whole herds and flocks fell to the ground dead. No animals = no money; no animals = no food.

*But where was their god when the Egyptian people needed them?*

6. (Exodus 9:9) God sent a skin problem that bubbled up on every Egyptian—including Pharaoh! The big painful itchy bumps (boil) became a sore. The sores broke open and oozed with puss.



Where was their god when the Egyptian people needed help?

7. (Exodus 9:15-23) God caused a judgment-hailstorm to roll across Egypt. It was the worst hail storm that had ever hit. Icy hard rocks rained down on the people, on their animals and on their crops. Lightning bolts struck over and over. When the storm stopped the fields of ripened grain lay flat, totally ruined.

Where was their god when the Egyptian people needed help?

8. (Exodus 10:4,15) God sent clouds of hungry, flying locust bugs. The clouds of locusts were so big they blocked the sunshine! They landed on any crops still standing and chewed them until they were gone. The locusts also flew into homes and pestered the people. They could not be swatted fast enough.

Where was their god when the Egyptian people needed help?

9. (Exodus 10:21) During the brightness of a sunny Egyptian day God sent a massive blanket of darkness. There was total darkness. If an Egyptian waved their hand in front of their face, they would not have seen it.

Where was their god when the Egyptian people needed help?

(Leader: For a good overview of the theological significance of this conflict and the plagues, read Unit VII ("Moses Leads Israel") in The Old Testament Story course by Dr. David Brooks.)

## 2. Read Exodus 12:1-13, 21-23.

- What qualities did an animal have to have to be sacrificed? (See verse 5)

*"Your (1)lamb shall be (2)without blemish, a (3)male of (4)the first year. You may take it (5)from the sheep or from the goats."*

- What did the Israelites do with this animal's blood? (See verses 7 and 22)

*They were to take some of the blood and use a bunch of hyssop as a brush to paint the blood on the left and right doorframes, then on the top doorframe of their house. Inside the house they would eat the roasted lamb that had been sacrificed for the blood.*

*There will be a temptation to explain that these three points of blood form a crude outline of a cross. Don't go there, at this point.*

- What sign caused God to pass over a home without sending the plague of death? (See verses 12-13, 23)

*When the LORD God passed through the land of Egypt that night, if He saw the blood of the slain lamb applied to the door of a house He passed over that house— He did not execute judgment on that household.*

*The sign God needed to see was the blood painted on both sides and top of the doorframe. If He saw that, He passed over that house and did not bring judgment on those in the house.*

*When the head of the house (the father) put the blood around the door, it was like he was saying: "LORD God, when you see this blood, it shows that we believe."*

*A good discussion question here would be: "When a person put the blood of the sacrificial lamb where God said it was to go, what did that person believe to be true of the LORD God?"*

- that the LORD God is the true God.
- that God provides people with the opportunity to avoid His judgment.
- that God will be true to His promises and His word can be trusted.
- that God will protect those who show faith in Him.
- that God is an all-powerful God and more powerful than the so-called gods of Egypt.



- God told the Israelites to remember their deliverance from death. What was the name of this memorial? (See verse 27)

God told the Israelites to tell their children that this memorial is the “Passover sacrifice of the LORD.” To this day, this Passover feast is observed each year by many of the descendants of Israel.

**How is God portrayed in Event #16?**

**Tell why this name describes God: Merciful Protector**

### 15 The Israelites Leave Egypt

When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, God made a path through the Red Sea for the Israelites to continue toward Canaan, the promised land.

*Exodus 14:1-31*



**1. Read Exodus 14:1-12. Why did the boldness of the Israelites (in verse 8) change to fear (in verse 10)?**

Hundreds of chariots from Pharaoh's large army raced toward the Israelites. The Israelites were boxed in with the mountains on either side, the Red Sea ahead of them, and the enemy army behind them ready for an attack. Suddenly all their courage turned to fear.

**2. Read Exodus 14:1-2, 9. What was the name of the place where the Israelites camped? Find this place on the map on page 8.**

They camped between Migdol and the Red Sea near Pi Hahiroth, before (opposite) Baal Zemphon (or Zephon).

No one knows the exact location of these places for sure, but Pi Hahiroth was probably near the spot indicated on the map on page 8.

**3. Read Exodus 14:13-14. What did Moses say that showed his faith in God?**

Moses expected God to continue to do impossible things like He had done before. He showed it by saying, "The Egyptians you see today you will never see again." Moses believed God would deliver them from the large Egyptian army. He also said, "The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." Since the Israelites had no weapons to match Pharaoh's army, it would take their all-powerful God to defeat the Egyptians!

**4. Read Exodus 14:15-31. Look for three miraculous acts that God performed. God performed these miracles to help the Israelites escape from Egypt.**

(1) The pillar of cloud. God had sent a cloud to lead the Israelites. Where it moved they followed. When it stopped they stopped. Now the cloud moved behind the Israelites. In the darkness of night the cloud was a fire that gave light to the Israelites. On the back of the cloud there was no fire, so no light only darkness. The enemies could not see the Israelites in this darkness.

(2) The LORD separated the waters of the Red Sea and dried up the seabed to make a road-way straight to the other side of the sea. The Israelites weren't trapped after all! They could flee from the Egyptian army!

(3) After the Egyptians crossed the Red Sea safely, the LORD closed the waters. The Egyptian army that chased the Israelites onto the path which God opened through the Red Sea, were instantly destroyed, drowned as the waters of the Red Sea came crashing down on them.

**How is God portrayed in Event #15?**

**Tell why this name describes God: Merciful Protector**

# 16 The Ten Commandments

In the wilderness between Egypt and Canaan, God, the Holy One, gave the Israelites a set of laws. These laws showed He hated sin.

Exodus 20:1-17



**1. God gave a complete system of laws to the nation of Israel. The central part was called the Ten Commandments. Read Exodus 20:1-7. Name each law in two to four words.**

**First (verse 3) = Don't put any other gods before the LORD God. (Statement for study book: No gods before Me.)**

*God is our Creator. He owns us. He is the only One we should worship and obey. He should come first in our hearts. That doesn't mean it is okay for another god to come second, third or fourth. We must put all other (false) gods out of our lives and have only the LORD God as our God. The false "gods" (of Egypt and elsewhere) are not true gods at all.*

*If we put anything in our life ahead of the LORD God, we have broken the first commandment.*

**Second (verses 4-6) = Don't worship idols. (Use this statement in the study book)**

*The second commandment is much like the first one, but it is not the same. From the first commandment, we know that God does not want you to worship anyone or anything in place of God. But, this second commandment says that it is wrong to make an idol even if we use it to worship the true LORD God. The Creator LORD God of the Bible is a spirit being who cannot be seen. He cannot be made into an image of wood, stone, clay, metal, etc.*

*If we make any image and use it to worship a false god or even the true LORD God, we have broken the second commandment.*

**Third (verse 7) = Don't misuse the name of the LORD God. (Statement for study book: Don't swear saying "God.")**

*To "take the name of the LORD God in vain" means to say His holy name as a swear word or in a way that does not show respect for Him or His name. Many people do this, but that does not make it right.*

*Think about it. Would you want someone to use your name in a bad way? God deserves respect because of who He is. We should use His name in a kind, loving way.*

*If we say God's name wrongly, we have broken the third commandment.*

**Fourth (verses 8-11) = Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Statement for study book: Keep the Sabbath holy.)**

*When God finished creating the world in six days (event two on page 13), the Bible tells us that God rested on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1-3). God didn't rest because He was tired, because our all-powerful God never tires. When God "rested" on the seventh day it was to show people that He enjoyed His creation and that people need to take time to rest. God made us in such a way that we need times of rest each week.*

*In the first part of the Bible (the Old Testament) God started something He wanted the Israelites to do every seven days. He wanted them to relax and spend time thinking about Him on the seventh day, a day that He called the "Sabbath."*

*God's plan for us has changed in the last major part of the Bible (the New Testament), but God still*

*desires that we do not hurt our bodies by not resting each week. We need times to rest just like the Israelites did.*

*If we do not follow this rule that says we should rest each week, we have broken an important routine that God knew we needed and planned for our lives to help us be happy and healthy.*

**Fifth (verse 12) = Honor your father and your mother. (Statement for study book: Honor father/mother.)**

*God gave Adam and Eve, and after them all parents, the responsibility to love their children and raise them in the right way. Parents were to give orders, make decisions, and help their children obey them and make good choices.*

*Children inherit a sinful nature (a want-to-do-bad way of acting) from their parents (that came from Adam and Eve when they first disobeyed God). All children sometimes resist their parents' rules and dishonor their parents by not obeying them.*

*When (as children) we dishonor our parents by doing wrong and not showing them respect, we break the fifth commandment.*

**Sixth (verse 13) = Don't commit murder. (Use this statement in the study book.)**

*The Hebrew word in this Bible verse is translated into English to mean "kill" or "murder." The Hebrew word means "premeditated murder" or planning to take the life of another person. It does not mean people cannot kill to defend themselves.*

*Murder is serious. God made man and woman "in His own image." To murder anyone is like attacking God.*

**Note:** *It is probably wise here to avoid discussions about war, capital punishment, etc. Those are good questions that you should make note of and deal with later. But, at this point, these discussions may derail the main focus of the study.*

*In a later section of the Bible, we learn that hating people very, very much is like murder.*

*When a person plans to kill another person, he/she has broken the sixth commandment.*

**Seventh (verse 14) = Don't commit adultery. (Use this statement in the study book.)**

*The Bible mentions several sexual sins and they all break God's holy law. In this commandment, God focuses on the sin of adultery—sexual relations between a married person and someone who is not his/her spouse. A husband and wife can break God's holy laws for married people if they cheat on their marriage partner and go to bed with someone else they are NOT married to.*

*Later in the Bible we learn that it is breaking God's law if a married person thinks seriously about having sex (going to bed) with a person who is not his or her marriage partner even if it doesn't happen.*

*When people have sex with someone who is not his/her marriage partner, they break the seventh commandment.*

**Eighth (verse 15) = Don't steal. (Use this statement in the study book.)**

*God makes it clear in the Bible that we should respect what other people own and not take what is not ours. Someone else's belongings are off-limits for us to take and keep as our own.*

*When we take things to be our own that do not belong to us, we break the eighth commandment.*

**Ninth (verse 16) = Don't bear false witness against others. (Statement for study book: Don't lie about others.)**

*Don't be dishonest, don't lie. Tell the truth. God always tells the truth; be like Him.*

*Anytime we speak dishonestly (do not tell the truth), in "big ways" or with "little white lies," we break the ninth commandment.*

**Tenth (verse 17) = Don't covet things that belong to others. (Statement for study book: Don't desire others' things.)**

*The tenth commandment expands what the eighth commandment says. Not only is it wrong to steal, it's also wrong to strongly desire for ourselves the things that others have. Keeping your mind on something and wanting it for yourself is called coveting. Coveting could get you to take the next wrong step—making plans how to steal it.*

*Anytime we covet what others have, we break the tenth commandment.*

## **2. What do these laws tell us about who God is and what He is like?**

**These laws reveal to us that God is holy, just, and fair.**

*When these laws were given by the LORD God to the Israelites, they were unique, one-of-a-kind rules.*

*The people who lived around and near the Israelites in Egypt and on the way to Canaan did not have God's laws to live by because they did not know Him. That's why wrong living, like adultery, rebelling, fighting, murder, lying, stealing, idol worship and other violence continued. People did what they wanted to do because there were no standards of right and wrong to follow.*

*All of these sad ways of living seem to be true for people who do not know, respect and obey the Creator LORD God of the Bible.*

## **3. In your country, which of these laws do people often break?**

**The answer to this question will vary. But if kids think about it, sadly, most will recognize that everyone in their country/town/school have and are breaking all 10 of God's commandments.**

*Please help kids not to play the "blame game." They need to recognize their responsibility. They may point a finger to a wrongdoer, but everyone is guilty of going against God's 10 commandments.*

## **4. What do these laws tell us about what human beings are like?**

**These Ten Commandments show that all of us have failed to live by God's rules. When we honestly compare what we do with these rules, we can see that we have broken one or more of God's laws.**

## **5. How many of God's laws does a person have to break to be guilty of doing wrong—to have sinned? Think about Adam and Eve. (See event 5 on page 16 in the study book.)**

**All it takes is breaking just one of God's laws to be guilty. When Adam and Eve went against their best Friend God and broke His ONE rule, they died spiritually. That means their disobedience separated them, cut them off from being close to the holy LORD God, their Creator.**

## **How is God portrayed in Event #16?**

**Tell why this name describes God: Lawgiver with All Authority to Make Laws.**



## 17 Tabernacle in the Wilderness

God then directed Moses to build a movable place for worship. There the Israelites offered sacrifices and received forgiveness of their sins.

*Exodus 40:17-34; Leviticus 1:1-4, 10*



**1. Read Exodus 40:17-34. Compare what you read with the picture of the tabernacle on page 10. (In verse 20, the “Testimony” means the two tablets of stone with the Ten Commandments. In verse 22, the “table” was the Table of Bread.)**

*Exodus 40:17-34 describes how the pieces of furniture were arranged in the tabernacle. A couple of the objects mentioned in this passage may not be easy to understand.*

*The word “Tabernacle” refers to the two rooms in the tent-like structure beyond the Bronze Laver: the Holy Place and The Most Holy Place.*

*The “Testimony” mentioned here means the two tablets of stone on which the Ten Commandments were written. They were God’s laws for His people. As verse 20 says, these stone tablets were placed inside the Ark of the Covenant.*

*The “table” in verse 22 was the table of bread. The golden altar was the small altar that was placed in front of the veil that separated the larger holy place from the holy of holies, where the ark was located.*

*The other objects mentioned in these verses should be easy to identify on the tabernacle drawing.*

*If this is a leader-guided study, the leader should be able to explain the importance of the major parts of the tabernacle and their purpose.*

*Sixteen chapters in this book of the Bible (Exodus 25-40) are needed to describe the tabernacle completely. We encourage you to read and study these chapters so you can lead your students through an overview of the tabernacle.*

*In total, more than 50 chapters in the Bible describe the tabernacle and its functions. It’s obvious that this was an important place during the era in which it was used.*

*It’s also very important to the study of The Story of Hope–Kids. The tabernacle is a vivid object lesson that shows how sinful men and women can freely receive God’s forgiveness of their sins.*

*All of the information that you need to explain the tabernacle can be found on the following website, which we recommend very highly. We also recommend that you purchase The Tabernacle pamphlet and the Tabernacle Model Kit that are available on this site.*

*<http://www.the-tabernacle-place.com/>*

*If possible, use the tabernacle model to explain the features and functions of the tabernacle in this part of your study of The Story of Hope–Kids.*

**2. The tabernacle was a place of worship. It was also a place where a person’s sin could be atoned (covered or forgiven) by offering a sacrifice from his herds of cattle and goats, from his flock of sheep, or from his birds. The animal that was sacrificed was a substitute for the person and it would die so the person’s sin was forgiven.**

*The proper way to study the structure and furniture of the tabernacle is from the inside (where God*

*dwelt) to the outside (where sinful men approached God with their sacrifices). As you lead the student through the study, begin with the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies, and then work outward in the study to the large bronze altar that was located just inside the courtyard gate.*

**Read Leviticus 1:1-4, 10-14. What did the people do?**

*Focus on verses 1-4. Ask the student to put in his/her own words the order a person was to follow when bringing an offering.*

*Emphasize where a person was to place his hand on the head of the innocent animal.*

**Explain that in God's sight, the sin of the person offering the sacrifice was being transferred to the innocent animal. The animal would then die in place of the person (as a substitute) for that person's sins.**

**3. What is similar between what was done here and what happened in events 8 and 14 (pages 19 and 25)?**

**In both events innocent animals died because of the sin of human beings. Both times God directed this plan so that people could receive a very special benefit.**

**How is God portrayed in Event #17?**

**Tell why this name describes God: Holy God.**

## 18 Bronze Serpent

**On their way toward Canaan, the Israelites rebelled against God. God punished them with deadly serpent bites but then provided a way to cure their suffering.**

*Numbers 21:4-9*



*Look at the map on pages 8-9 in the study book. Kadesh-Barnea is on the western edge of the Arabian Desert southwest of the Dead Sea. More importantly, it's a border town on the south edge of Canaan, the Land of Promise! The Israelites were ready to cross over. Their future homeland was in sight!*

*But there was one problem. When anything went wrong on their trek toward Canaan, the Israelites turned against Moses and God! They complained and told God off. They lost all trust in Him. How could God ever take the Israelites into a land filled with hostile enemies? If they were not united now under one God it would be chaos trying to conquer Canaan.*

*God had performed miracle after miracle to get them this far. There was the great escape through the Red Sea, raining down fresh food from Heaven every morning, and making their shoes to last. Instead of being thankful, the Israelites forgot these miracles and lashed out against God when something happened they didn't like.*

*Then the Israelites compared what they now had with what they'd left behind in Egypt. What God was doing for them was not good enough.*

*God chose to do something. He turned them away from the Land of Promise, back into the dry desert. Instead of entering into Canaan, they wandered in circles in the desert for 40 years. It's on this desert wandering where we pick up today's event.*

**1. Read Numbers 21:4-9. Find each of the following parts in the story. Print the verse numbers that match the following parts of the story, beside the appropriate line.**

- Sin of unbelief and rebellion

*Verse 5: And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."*

- Judgment

*Verse 6: So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.*

- Confession

*Verse 7: Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you;*

- Prayer for deliverance

*Verse 7: ... pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.*

- God's provision

*Verse 8: Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."*



- Faith

Verse 9: So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent,

- Life

Verse 9: ... he lived.

## **2. What did an Israelite have to do to be saved from death?**

He or she had to:

Recognize that they had been bitten and were dying because they had sinned against God. Trust in God for the cure and simply look at the bronze serpent. There was nothing magical about the bronze serpent (which is mentioned in another place in the Bible). It was an act of faith, trusting God, that when a person looked at the bronze serpent he or she would be saved from dying.

## **3. Remember this event. A very important teacher later on will mention this event in the Bible's unfolding story. This teacher will explain then why this event is so important.**

*Don't get ahead of the story by saying any more at this point.*

### **How is God portrayed in Event #18?**

**Tell why these names describe God: Supreme Authority, Merciful Protector.**

### 19 Reign of King David

**After the Israelites entered Canaan, God ruled them through judges and kings. God promised that King David's kingdom would last forever through a special person in his family.** *2 Samuel 7:1-16*



*A few hundred years separate this event from the previous one (event 18). Give a brief overview of what occurred during that time.*

*Use the map on pages 8 (first to give a geographical overview) and 7 (then to zoom in on Canaan) to explain how the Israelites made their way to a place on the east side of the Jordan River, across from Jericho.*

*Explain how the Israelites (under Joshua's leadership) miraculously crossed the Jordan River, captured Jericho first and then eventually captured all major areas of Canaan. Go back to point 3. in event 11 (page 22 of The Story of Hope–Kids to review where God promised to Abraham that this would happen).*

*Explain that God and the Israelites were not displacing innocent people. The people who lived in Canaan ("Canaanites") had been living very wicked lifestyles for centuries (even burning their children as living sacrifices). The Israelites conquering Canaan was God's just judgment for the sinfulness of the Canaanites. It was only God's grace that had delayed His judgment!*

#### **1. Israel was ruled in Canaan by several judges, then by a series of kings.**

*Give a very brief explanation of the period of the judges:*

*(1) The Israelites began to live as badly as the wicked Canaanites whom they'd forced out.*

*(2) So God judged the Israelites for this sin by allowing groups of people to come in and conquer and rule them for periods of years.*

*(3) Then, God's people cried out to the LORD their God asking Him to help them with the problems they created.*

*(4) Many times God raised up new Israelite leaders. These judges led the Israelites to victory against the enemies who had invaded their land.*

*(5) Sadly though, the Israelites repeated these steps over and over.*

#### **David, the second king, was the greatest and godliest.**

*After a few hundred years of being ruled by their Judges, the Israelites demanded: "God, give us a King like the nations around us!" God gave the Israelites what they wanted. He appointed a man named "Saul" as their first king. Then later, God raised up David as Israel's second king.*

#### **Read 2 Samuel 7:1-7. What kind of "house" did David want to build for God?**

**Until now, there had been no permanent temple where people could go to worship the LORD God. The Ark of the covenant, where God came down to dwell with His people, had been "housed" in a portable tent-tabernacle that had moved from place to place for many years. Even when King David was alive, there was no temple for God to meet with His people even though David lived in a beautiful palace. David wanted to build a temple ("house") for the LORD, but his son Solomon would do that instead.**



**Note: David gathered materials and made plans for a magnificent temple in Jerusalem. His son, King Solomon, later built the temple.**

**2. “House” sometimes means a person’s descendants (people born into the same family over years and years).**

*Explain that the word “house” is used here in two different ways: a structure like the temple and the descendants of a person.*

**Read 2 Samuel 7:11-13. What kind of “house” did God promise to set up for David?**

At that time in history, a “house” was a way of describing a **royal family**— a series of powerful leaders all in the same family. God promised King David that such a series of powerful rulers (kings) would descend from him and would rule in his place long after he died. This is called the “house of David.”

*In some countries, “house” is still used that way—the “house of Windsor” for example (in the United Kingdom).*

**3. Read 2 Samuel 7:16. How long does this “house” continue after the reign of King Solomon?**

The LORD God said that David’s house and David’s throne would be established forever!

*From history we know that David’s son, King Solomon, the third King of Israel, only ruled for 40 years.*

**4. Read Genesis 49:10. What tribe was David from? Remember Israel’s promise. (See event 12 on page 23)**

King David was from the tribe of Judah.

*Remind the student that Abraham’s grandson, Jacob (whose name was changed to “Israel”), had twelve sons. When Israel’s descendants were formed into a nation, each of his sons became the head of a tribe. Just before Israel (the man) died, he said about each of his sons and their tribes that something specific would happen to each one in the future.*

*Genesis 49:10 records what Israel said would happen to the tribe named after his son Judah.*

*Discuss with the student the connection between Genesis 49:10 and the promise God made to King David about how his “house” will be forever.*

**How is God portrayed in Event #19?**

**Tell why this name describes God: Faithful Promise Keeper.**



### 20 Coming Messiah Prophecied

Throughout the Israelites' history, God inspired His prophets to tell ahead of time details about a special Israelite, King and Savior who would be born at a future time.

*Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-2, 6-7; 52:13—53:12*



#### 1. His birth: Read Isaiah 7:14.

*Verse 14: Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

**The promised conqueror of Satan would be the offspring of the woman; the father was not mentioned. (See event 7 on page 18) What is the connection between Genesis 3:15 and Isaiah 7:14?**

*(Leader: There are some difficult interpretive issues related to both of these passages, so don't press this possible connection too strongly.)*

*It would be correct to say:*

The Satan-Conqueror promised in **Genesis 3:15** would be the "Seed" (or offspring or descendant) of the woman. No mention is made of a father. Perhaps this was a hint that this Satan-Conqueror would be born through a miraculous birth—a woman would have a baby, but not by a man (virgin birth).

In **Isaiah 7:14**, God's prophet Isaiah promised a sign to the Israelites. He said that a virgin (an unmarried woman) would become pregnant (conceive) and have a Son. The name of this Son would be "Immanuel," which means "God with us."

These two promises, about things that would happen in the future, possibly are talking about the same person. *(Leader: Some evangelical Bible scholars do believe that there is a connection between these two verses.)*

#### 2. His birthplace: Read Micah 5:2.

*Verse 2: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."*

*Explain to the student that "Bethlehem Ephrathah" was a small town located in the area of Canaan that was possessed by the Israelite tribe of Judah. Locate it (Bethlehem) on the map on page 7.*

**How does this verse relate to the scepter promise in Genesis 49:10? (See event 12 on page 23)**

When Israel (the man) was close to dying, he said that a kingly ruler and lawgiver would come from the descendants of Judah and that "the people" or "nations" would obey this king.

In the previous event (event 19) we saw that (1) David was a king from the tribe of Judah\* and that (2) God promised a royal line of kings would come from David.

**\*Note:** David was from the town of Bethlehem.

Micah is writing about 300 years after King David lived. Micah seems to be saying that another Israelite Ruler would come from Bethlehem. But then Micah adds something unusual about this future Ruler. He says that this Ruler's "goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

What could that mean? Keep this phrase in your mind as we continue our study.

### 3. His ministry in Galilee: Read Isaiah 9:1-2 & 6. This is near the Sea of Galilee.

Locate Galilee on the map on page 7 in the study book. Galilee includes the towns of Capernaum, Bethsaida, and Nazareth.

The Israelites living in this area around Galilee were often overcome by enemies for several hundred years or more after King David died. Many Israelites in Galilee were taken away as prisoners of war. Non-Israelites, whom the Bible calls Gentiles, were brought to live in Galilee to replace the Israelites. Galilee was oppressed for a long time.

Isaiah is saying that a child would be born (a son given) who would one day bring light and joy back to Galilee!

### 4. His death: Read Isaiah 52:13—53:12. 46

#### What bad things would be done to the man described here?

Here are a few of them:

52:14 - His visage (what he looked like) and body would be marred (ruined) more than any man had experienced.

53:2 - He would have no form or comeliness (attractive good looks) or beauty that would cause people to be attracted to him.

53:3 - He would be despised (people would look at him like he was nobody) and rejected (people would say, "we refuse to believe what you say"); people would hide their faces from him.

53:4 - He would be smitten (struck down) by God and afflicted (hurt).

53:5 - He would be wounded (wounds so awful they would cause death) and bruised."

53:7 - He would be oppressed (pushed around and treated wrongly by others) and afflicted (made to hurt/suffer); he would be led like a lamb (not resisting the people who ruled over him) to the slaughter (killed).

53:8 - He would be cut off (killed) from the land of the living.

#### What good things would happen from his suffering?

Here are a few of them:

52:15 - He would "sprinkle many nations" (Just ask rhetorically—what could that mean?)

53:5 - His wounds and bruises would be for us—He would take the punishment that we deserve.

53:6 - God would put our sin (iniquity) on him, in a similar way to what was described in event 17 on page 28 in the study book.

53:11 - Through him (here called "God's [My] Righteous Servant") many would be "justified" because he bore (carried) their sins. Justified is something God does—He erases our record of wrongs and gives us a clean record as if we'd never done wrong.

53:12 - God would count him as "great" because of the noble thing he would do—die for the sins of many sinners (transgressors).

**5. His resurrection from death: Read Psalm 16:8-10. What does verse 10 say will happen?**

The first part of the verse ("For you will not leave my soul in Sheol [the grave]") seems to mean the part of this man that we cannot see (his spirit or soul).

The second part of the verse ("Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.") seems to mean that this man's body would not decay in the grave.

**6. His eternal kingdom: Read Isaiah 9:6-7.**

*Verse 7 indicates that the Messiah will sit upon the throne of David and over His kingdom. Every rule the Messiah makes for His Kingdom and every decision He makes will be perfect. He will rule as King forever!*

*You may want to remind the student of the promise in event 19 (page 30 in the study book) that God made to King David.*

**How is God portrayed in Event #20?**

**Tell why this name describes God: Truth Revealer.**

### 21 The Birth of Jesus Christ

At God's chosen time, He sent His Son to Earth. God's Son was born of a virgin named Mary. He would become the Special King and Savior God had promised for centuries.

*Matthew 1:1-2, 18-25; Luke 2:1-14*



**1. Read Matthew 1:1-2. This is the beginning of the genealogy of Jesus. It lists the ancestors of Jesus. What do you remember about these ancestors?**

*Abraham > Isaac > Jacob ("Israel") > Judah*

- **Abraham = See event 11 on page 22 in the study book.**

God called Abraham out of Ur of Chaldea. His father (Terah) went with him to Haran where they stopped and lived. After his father died, Abraham moved on into Canaan, the land God promised to give to Abraham and all his yet-to-be-born big family.

God promised Abraham that all the families of the whole earth would be blessed through him and his descendants.

- **Isaac = See event 12 on page 23.**

When Abraham and Sarah were too old to have children, God gave Isaac to them as a special miracle son. God tested Abraham's faith again when He asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. God stopped Abraham from doing this and gave him a ram. The ram was a substitute and died in Isaac's place. Abraham believed, from the very beginning when God first asked him to sacrifice Isaac, that Isaac would return alive with him. Abraham believed God was good and had the power to bring his son of promise, Isaac, back from the dead if he'd died.

The blessings for all of the families of the earth that God promised to Abraham would come through Abraham's son Isaac.

- **Jacob ("Israel") = See event 12 (point 3.) on page 23.**

One of Isaac's sons was Jacob. After Jacob gave his life to God, God changed his name to "Israel" ("one who struggles with God" to receive God's blessing). God worked things out so that Joseph, a very special son of Israel, would become a ruler in the country of Egypt. Later Israel's sons moved to Egypt and grew to become a very large-sized family.

- **Judah = See event 12 (point 3.) on page 23. Also, see event 19 on page 30 and event 20 (point 2.) on page 31.**

As he neared death, Israel (the man) told, way ahead of their happening, promises God made for his sons and the tribes that would come through them. To one of Israel's sons, Judah, God gave the promise that a "scepter" (a special rod a King holds to show he is the ruler) would not leave Judah's tribe. A ruler would come one day from Judah. Then people and nations everywhere would obey that ruler who carried the scepter.

**2. Read Matthew 1:18-25. Jesus was a unique child. He was different from us.**

- **It was not by Joseph, but by the Holy Spirit that Mary became pregnant with Jesus before she and Joseph were married.**

- The names of Jesus mean something special:

#### **What does “Jesus” mean?**

“Jesus” means “Jehovah (the LORD) is Savior.” Other children at this time were named “Jesus,” but the angel told Joseph that this child born to Mary would do what His name meant—“He will save his people from their sins.” A Savior is someone you need to make you safe from the trouble you are in.

#### **What does “Immanuel” mean?**

The angel said that this child would be called “Immanuel” which means “God with us.”

### **3. Read Luke 2:1-7. Compare what happened in these verses with what Micah prophesied in Micah 5:2. (See event 20) Why did Joseph have to go to Bethlehem?**

Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Joseph, to whom she was engaged, lived in the town of Nazareth. Find Nazareth on page 7 of the Bible Map in the study book.

Even though Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth, they were both from the tribe of Judah. This means they were descendants of King David. Because of that, they had to go to Bethlehem (where David was born and grew up) to report for the census that Caesar Augustus, the Roman governor, ordered. The journey from Nazareth was about 70 miles (113 kilometers). Find Bethlehem on the map on page 7.

*Review point 2. of event 20 on page 31 in The Story of Hope–Kids.*

About 700 years before Mary’s son, Jesus, was born, God’s prophet Micah said (in Micah 5:2) that a special Ruler would come from Bethlehem sometime in the future. He said this even though Bethlehem was just a very small town in the land of Judah and people usually don’t think important people come from towns that aren’t very important. He also said that this Ruler would be “from of old, from everlasting.”

*Don’t say much about this. Just let the thought sink in for now because it will be explained later in the study.*

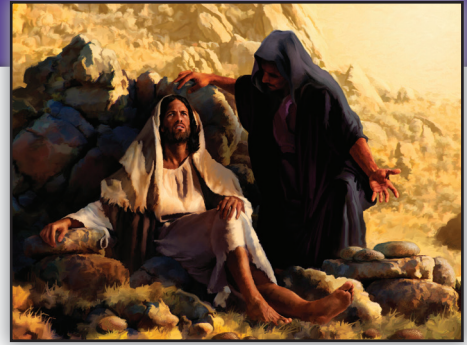
### **How is God portrayed in Event #21?**

**Tell why this name describes God: Faithful Promise Keeper.**

### 22 Temptations by Satan

**At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus was tested by Satan. Jesus resisted Satan's temptations by quoting statements from God's Word in the Old Testament.**

*Matthew 4:1-11*



*Remember following God's big story through the books of Genesis to Malachi? God's words in those books had been carefully recorded by the original writers (Moses, Joshua, David, Isaiah, Micah, etc.).*

*Men called Scribes carefully made copies of the original books—word for word—and checked and rechecked what they copied so no errors were made. Those pages were rolled up to form a Scroll.*

*When Jesus lived on this earth, these books had already become the first part of the Bible—the Old Testament. Jesus read and memorized words from the Old Testament scrolls. He knew The Old Testament very well and could quote from it.*

*Jesus grew up in Nazareth where Joseph, His earthly father, worked as a carpenter.*

*We know very little about the early life of Jesus. Luke 2:52 summarizes His life from childhood to age 30 with these words: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."*

**1. To show that Jesus was God's special Son and sinless, God's Spirit led Jesus into the desert. While Jesus was there, Satan, the greatest tempter, tempted Jesus three times.**

*Remember that Satan is very charming. He tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden. He often takes what is bad for us and tries to make it look good for us. It can be easy to believe his lies.*

**2. Read Matthew 4:1-4.**

**What was the first temptation?**

*Jesus was very hungry because He had fasted for 40 days and nights. Fasting is choosing to give up eating food so a person can use the time to think a lot about God and talk to Him in prayer.*

*Satan tempted Jesus to make bread out of stones so He would stop His fast and eat the bread because He was hungry.*

**How did Jesus answer Satan?**

*Because Jesus had learned many words in the book of Deuteronomy (8:3), He quoted them to Satan. What Jesus said sounded something like this: "There are more important things than food. Food takes care of your body's hunger. The Word of God takes care of the hunger in a person's heart. Only knowing God can satisfy that."*

**3. Read Matthew 4:5-7.**

**What was the second temptation?**

*Satan took Jesus to the top of the temple in Jerusalem and challenged Him to prove He was really the Son of God. Satan told Jesus to leap off the temple so that God's angels would rush to catch Him.*

**How did Jesus answer Satan?**

*Again, Jesus quoted from God's Words in the Old Testament (Psalm 91:11, 12 and Deuteronomy 6:16). Jesus talked sharply to Satan. What Jesus said sounded something like this,*





"Satan, you are trying to tempt 'the LORD your God' and you are wrong for trying to force God to do what you demand."

#### **4. Read Matthew 4:8-11.**

##### **What was the third temptation?**

Satan took Jesus up on a very high mountain. From there Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their glory (beauty, riches, etc.). Satan promised Jesus that he would give Jesus all those kingdoms if Jesus would just fall down and worship him.

##### **How did Jesus answer Satan?**

This time Jesus spoke sharply to Satan and told him to "get away!" Then Jesus quoted from the Old Testament where Moses said to the people of Israel, "Worship the LORD your God and Him only you shall serve." (Deuteronomy 6:13)

#### **5. How is the way Jesus responded to Satan's temptations different from how Eve responded to Satan's temptations? (See event 5 on page 16 in the study book)**

Eve gave in to Satan. Jesus resisted—He did not give in to Satan.

Eve was led to doubt what God had said to her. Jesus quoted God's Words with confidence.

Eve's disobedience to God showed her weakness. Jesus' obedience to God showed His strong trust in God.

#### **How is Jesus portrayed in Event #22?**

**Tell why this name describes Jesus: Satan Conqueror.**

God's prophet, John the Baptist, announced that Jesus of Nazareth was the special King and Savior. He was God's Lamb, who would take away the sin of the world.

*John 1:29-34*



**1. Jesus grew up in Nazareth. Joseph, His earthly father, worked there as a carpenter.**

*On the map on page 7 in the study book, point to Nazareth and then to the Jordan River where John the Baptist ministered. The two locations were not close to each other.*

**2. When Jesus was about 30 years old, He began teaching and healing people. At that time, there was a popular prophet named John (John the Baptist) who was preaching that the Messiah was coming. He was also baptizing people in the Jordan River when they repented of their sin.**

*Point to John the Baptist in the picture for event 23 on page 34 in the study book. If you have time, describe the kind of rugged man that John was.*

*John's clothes: Mark 1:6 describes what John wore: a coat made from camel's hair and a leather belt tied around his waist. He probably wore these clothes to stay warm on cold desert nights because he slept there at the end of the day when the crowds left.*

*John's diet: John ate locusts (grasshoppers) and wild honey. John lived a simple life.*

*John's ministry: His preaching about the coming Messiah brought people out to hear him. Many turned away from sin.*

**3. Read John 1:29. Do you remember what you studied about sacrificial lambs taking away sin? (See event 17 on page 28)**

*Turn back to event 17 in the study book. Review with the student what he/she remembers about the sacrifices that took place at the bronze altar near the front gate of the tabernacle.*

**Animals had to be: male, without sores or wounds, and 1 year old.**

*During the sacrifice The Tabernacle Priest laid his hands on the animal as if picking the sins off the people and putting them on the innocent animal. Then the animal was killed. Its blood covered the sins of the people. The animal paid the price of death so the people would not have to pay it. Those who offered an animal sacrifice could be forgiven and close to God again.*

**What do you think John meant when he saw Jesus and said, "Look, the Lamb of God"?**

*Be sure to give the student the opportunity to answer this question. This is one of the most important points in the study of The Story of Hope-Kids. Spend as much time as is necessary to talk about and answer this question.*

**John the Baptist taught that Jesus was the One whom God sent to die for us so that our sins could be forgiven. Just like the lambs had died for the people who offered them at the bronze altar in the tabernacle, Jesus was sent from God to be the Lamb who would take away the "sin of the [entire] world."**

*Explain that we'll see how that this all works out later in this study.*

#### 4. Read John 1:30-34. What other special things about Jesus can you find in these verses?

Even though John the Baptist was a great prophet sent from God, he taught that Jesus was “preferred” before him. (John was saying he was not the Christ.)

Even though John the Baptist was a few months older than Jesus, he taught that “He (Jesus) was before me.” Discuss what this could mean. It is saying that, in some way, Jesus existed before John.

John the Baptist had seen God’s Holy Spirit show Himself like a dove (bird) and rest on Jesus.

John said that Jesus was “the Son of God.”

#### How is Jesus portrayed in Event #23?

**Tell why these names describe Jesus: Humble Human Being, Worshipped Lamb of God.**

### Supplemental Information

In this study, why does John’s “Lamb of God” proclamation occur after Jesus’ wilderness temptations and not before? Many of us have been taught that the “Lamb of God” statement (in John chapter 1) happened immediately after Jesus was baptized and just before He was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness (where He was tempted by Satan).

But, in John chapter 1 there is no mention of Jesus being baptized (on the occasion described in John 1). And in John chapter 1, John the Baptist spoke of the phenomena (dove descending, etc) that happened when Jesus was baptized in the past tense (as something that had previously happened). Read John 1:29-34 carefully to see that.

*These events probably happened this way:*

1. Jesus was baptized (as seen in Matthew 3:16-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22).
2. At the time of Jesus’ baptism, the Holy Spirit (in the form of a dove) descended upon Jesus and God the Father spoke His words of approval from heaven.
3. Jesus was then led into the wilderness where He was tempted.
4. Then, Jesus returned to the Jordan River where John baptized.
5. And John the Baptist made the “Behold the Lamb of God” statement at that time (as given in John 1:29-34). Jesus had successfully resisted Satan’s temptations, and by doing this demonstrated He was qualified to be the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world.

### 24 Meeting with a Religious Leader

One time, Jesus told an important religious leader that he must experience a spiritual birth in order to enter God's kingdom. *John 3:1-18*



#### 1. Read John 3:1-4. What did Nicodemus think Jesus meant when He talked about being “born again”?

**Note:** Late in the Old Testament era (Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36) God promised that the old covenant God had made with Moses and the Israelites would be replaced by a New Covenant. Through this New Covenant God would provide new, spiritual blessings that were far better than the spiritual life under the Old (Mosaic) Covenant—He would sprinkle His people (symbolically) with **water** to cleanse them from their unrighteousness and He would place His **Spirit** within them. Perhaps this is the “water and spirit” birth Jesus spoke about in His dialogue with Nicodemus. Nicodemus was thinking about the life of laws under the old Mosaic Covenant, but Jesus was thinking of a much better spiritual-life where a person was cleansed from sin (unrighteousness) and was directed by God's Spirit, who lived within that person, to live pleasing to God.

What drew Nicodemus, a religious Leader from the Sanhedrin Council to talk face- to-face with Jesus? See John 3:2. It was the “signs” (the God-powered miracles) that Jesus did (John 2:23). These miracles grabbed Nicodemus' attention. Perhaps that is why he admitted, “we know that you are a Teacher from God” (John 3:2).

Nicodemus mistakenly thought Jesus was talking about becoming a little kid all over again, like the day many years before when he was born as a little baby to his parents. That sounded impossible to Nicodemus.

#### 2. Read John 3:5-8. What kind of rebirth was Jesus talking about?

Jesus said that He was speaking about a spiritual new birth, not a physical birth.

When you were born the first time to your parents, you received “people-life” (physical life) so you could live on earth.

When a person is “born again,” born the second time, that person receives “God-life” (spiritual life).

Does it surprise you that Nicodemus, who knew the Old Testament stories, was having a hard time figuring out what Jesus meant? Jesus could see this. So He spent time helping Nicodemus understand.

Jesus explained:

Receiving God's life is something you can't even see when it happens. God is a Spirit; He is invisible.

Can you see the wind when it blows? No. Neither can you see when God's life comes to live inside of you.

Jesus went on to explain that just like you can see what the wind does when it blows—it moves the tall grass, tosses the lake water into waves—you'll be able to see the difference God's life can make in you.

**Note:** Many Bible scholars believe that the phrase “born of water” in verse 5 is speaking about the water that is associated with the physical birthing process.

**3. What do you think Jesus meant when He talked about the need to be born again by the Spirit? Hint: Read John 1:10-13. “He” refers to Jesus.**

In John 1:10-13, the writer is writing about Jesus.

Being born is how a person joins a human family. Jesus came into the world but many of the Jewish people did not welcome Him as the Son of God; they rejected Him. But those people who did believe in Him and receive Him (by faith) were given the right to become members of God’s family—children of God.

This process of being born into God’s family is not a physical kind of birth. It is a God-kind-of-birth, when we become members of God’s family. This is what Jesus explained to Nicodemus in John 3.

**4. Review what happened to the Israelites with the bronze serpent in Numbers 21:4-9. (See event 18 on page 29) Now read John 3:14. Note: Son of Man is a common title for Jesus. Based on what happened to the Israelites, what do you think Jesus was predicting would happen to Him?**

*Have the student retell the story of the bronze serpent. Then read Jesus’ words: “As Moses lifted up the serpent (snake) in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man (Jesus) be lifted up.” See if the student can connect the bronze serpent event to what might happen to Jesus. But don’t explain the details of what would happen to Jesus. Explain that we’ll learn more about this later.*

**5. Read John 3:15-18. What is the main idea in these verses?**

In Numbers 21 the Israelites who looked to the bronze serpent, believing God would do what He said, were saved from physical death.

Now God has done something better for all of us. God loved us enough that He sent His Son Jesus into this world so that we might not die and stay apart from God forever, but have everlasting life. To receive this eternal life we must genuinely believe (trust) in Jesus. Those who are not trusting in Jesus now are already living under the condemnation (judgment) of God. To be under God’s judgment is to be apart from God now and forever after life on earth is over.

*Spend as much time discussing this as is necessary, especially if the student is expressing an interest in these concepts.*

**How is Jesus portrayed in Event #24?**

**Tell why these names describe Jesus: God in Human Flesh, Sin Forgiver.**



### 25 Meeting with a Samaritan Woman

Another time, Jesus explained to a woman in Samaria how God could permanently satisfy her spiritual thirst.

*John 4:3-42*



**1. In Jesus' day, most Jewish people thought they were much better than people from Samaria. Some Jews even hated the Samaritans. Religious leaders did not allow Jews to speak to these people because they thought the Samaritans were religiously unclean. Read John 4:3-9.**

*Locate Samaria on the map on page 7.*

*Explain that the Samaritans were a mixed race. They were partly Jewish and partly non-Jewish. Several centuries earlier, the foreign powers who ruled over that area then brought many foreigners into Samaria where Israelites lived. This was done so that these foreigners would marry with the Israelites and make a mixed race of people.*

*Trace, on the map on page 7, the route that Jesus and His disciples probably followed as they went from Judah to Galilee, passing through Samaria. Explain that most Jews completely by-passed Samaria and traveled instead along the east banks of the Jordan River.*

*What Jesus did by going through Samaria was radical—not at all what Jews of that time would ever have done. But by doing what He did, Jesus demonstrated that He loved all people of all races.*

**2. Read John 4:10-15. What kind of water was the woman thinking about? How was that water different from the “water” Jesus was talking about?**

**Jesus spoke about “spiritual water” that would quench or take away the woman’s spiritual thirst forever. The woman thought that Jesus was speaking about the drinking water in the well in front of them where she’d come to fill her empty drinking pot.**

*Point out how both Nicodemus and the woman of Samaria misunderstood what Jesus said. When Jesus spoke of things that were spiritual, they immediately thought of physical things. Jesus no doubt did this on purpose to get their attention so that He could explain how they could know God spiritually.*

*You may want to explain that the metaphor of “water” (spiritual or living water) is used several times in the Bible. When we do not know God and live apart from Him, we have a spiritual thirst—an understanding that something important is missing from our lives. When we, by faith, invite Jesus Christ, the Son of God, into our lives He quenches (fills) that spiritual thirst and gives us a sense of peace and satisfaction that was missing before we made this important faith response.*

**3. Read John 4:16-18. What do we learn in these verses about this woman?**

**This Samaritan woman had been married five times and was now living with a man who was not her husband. She’d lost any good reputation she may had because of her many relationships with men.**

**But, Jesus didn’t condemn the Samaritan woman. His teachings in other places made it clear that He did not approve of her lifestyle or overlook her sin.**

*You may have students in this study whose lifestyles (or whose parent’s lifestyles) are similar to this woman’s. If so, just let this story speak for itself and don’t condemn them. Love them just as Jesus did.*



#### 4. Read John 4:19-26. What did Jesus tell the woman about Himself?

Jesus let her know that He was the Messiah (Christ) that the Jewish prophets had been writing about for centuries.

*As a Samaritan (of mixed Jewish and non-Jewish heritage) the woman had enough Jewish tradition in her background that she was aware of some of the Old Testament's teachings.*

#### 5. Read John 4:28-29. How did Jesus know so much about this woman?

*Depending upon the student's background knowledge of the Bible, this may or may not be a difficult question. But let the student wrestle with it. If he/she does not yet realize that **Jesus is God** (that comes up two events later in the study), avoid the temptation to answer this question at this point. Simply explain that "we will soon learn the answer to this question."*

#### 6. Read John 4:30, 39-42. How did other Samaritans respond to Jesus? What did they decide to believe?

Many of the Samaritans believed in Jesus. What did they believe? That Jesus was the promised one of God, "Christ, the Savior of the world."

*Do you remember what we thought about in the last event? We read in John 1:10-13, that by believing in Christ the Samaritans probably were born again at this time! The woman and all the people from the village, whom she brought back to Jesus, were born spiritually into God's family.*

#### How is Jesus portrayed in Event #25?

**Tell why this name describes Jesus: Truth Revealer.**

### 26 Jesus Claims Oneness with God

Several times when Jesus declared that He was equal to and one with God, some people were greatly offended and tried to kill Him.

*John 5:16-23; John 8:48-59; John 10:22-33*



*This is a key topic in the story because the entire story is about “who is Jesus?”*

*The “trinity” is difficult for people to understand who are just beginning to study the Bible. It’s probably best not to mention the word “trinity” (since it is a theological term not found in the Bible) but rather explain the concept as simply as possible. Also, explain to the student that there are many truths about God that our limited human minds cannot understand entirely, and this is one of them.*

*See the Supplemental Information (below) for some assistance in dealing with this topic.*

**1. The Jews believed, that if an ordinary man claimed to be God or equal to God, that man committed the sin of blasphemy. The punishment for blasphemy was death by stoning.**

*Explain: We have learned some amazing things about who God is and what He is like in this study. So for someone to claim to be equal to and one with God is a very bold claim.*

**2. Read John 5:16-23. True or False? Circle one.**

**When Jesus claimed that God was His Father, He was saying that He had the same and equal nature as God.**

*Optional: In case there is some doubt about what Jesus was asserting in this passage, you might want to ask: “What does Jesus say in this passage to indicate that He had a unique relationship with God?”*

*When these Jews sought to kill Him “all the more” because He “said that God was His Father,” Jesus did not try to deny that He had claimed that God was His Father. (verses 18-19)*

*He claimed that He and God “the Father” had a special co-working relationship. (verses 17, 19-20)*

*He claimed that, just like the Father raised the dead, He (Jesus) has the power to give life to whom He will. (verse 21)*

*He claimed that the Father has committed to Him (Jesus, the Son) all judgment, “that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father.” (verses 22-23)*

*He claimed that the Father had sent Him (Jesus). (verse 23)*

**3. Read John 8:48-59. In event 1, we learned God is eternal or everlasting and has no beginning or end. What did Jesus reveal about Himself in these verses? Now read Exodus 3:14 and compare it with John 8:48-59. (See event 13 on page 24)**

*Abraham lived approximately 2,000 years before Jesus was born. That’s about the same amount of time between the time that Jesus lived on this earth and our current era.*

**In verse 58, Jesus clearly stated that “before Abraham was, I AM.” He was saying that He existed before Abraham did. But the words “I AM” indicate that Jesus was stating something more remarkable than that.**

*Look at point “5.” in event 13 on page 24 of the study book.*



Jesus was stating, in verse 58, that He was God—the very eternal “I AM” LORD God who spoke to Moses out of the burning bush.

*You may want to review the Leader’s Guide material for event 13.*

**4. Read John 10:22-33. Were the Jews correct when they thought that Jesus was claiming to be God?**

The unbelieving Jews understood Jesus’ message clearly: “I and My Father are one.” (verse 30)

The unbelieving Jews said to Jesus, “You make yourself out to be God.”

Yes, it was true that Jesus claimed to be God. He didn’t back down even when He saw rocks in their fists that the Jews wanted to use to stone Him to death.

*Tell the student:*

*“Later in our study, after we examine the life of Jesus some more, I’d like to hear what you think about Jesus of Nazareth.”*

**How is Jesus portrayed in Event #26?**

**Tell why these names describe Jesus: Authoritative Teacher, God in Human Flesh**

**The Trinity:** You want to avoid getting too technical about the trinity, at this point. It's probably best that you not even mention the word "trinity" because that may raise more questions than time would allow to answer.

However, for your own clarity in understanding, we have included (see below) the diagram that has been used for centuries to visualize the realities associated with the trinity.

The main concepts to understand are these:

- **There is only ONE God, the LORD God of the Bible who created heaven & earth.**
- **There are three distinct persons in what Bible teachers call the "Godhead."**

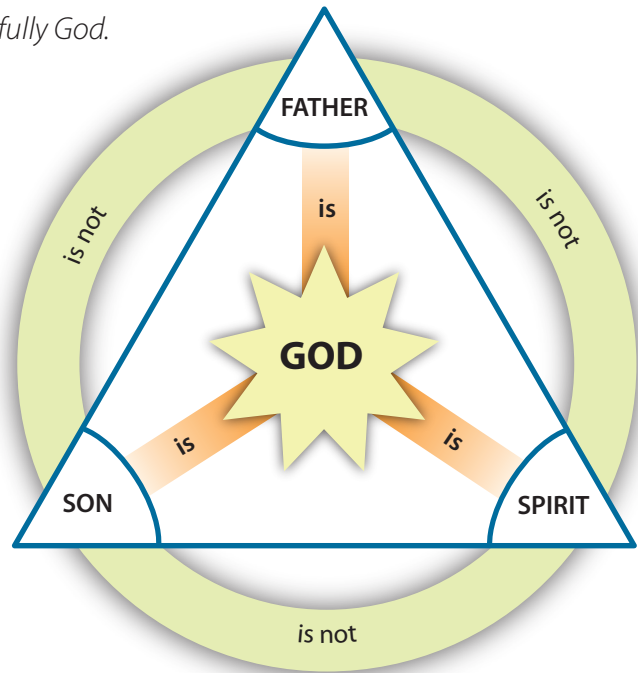
1. *God the Father – and He is fully God.*
2. *Jesus Christ ("the Son of God") – and He is fully God.*
3. *The Holy Spirit – and He is fully God.*

- **Thus, Jesus is both "the Son of God" and "God."**

**Jesus, the Son of God:** When the Bible refers to Jesus as "the Son of God" it means that Jesus has a very intimate and unified relationship with God the Father. Even though they are distinct persons, they are ONE.

This title for Jesus does not imply that there was a time when God's Son did not exist and that out of some union with some other "god" He (Jesus) was born into existence. Jesus, God's Son, has existed eternally with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

So, what happened in event 21 on page 32? The "Birth of Jesus of Nazareth" was the time in human history when God's Son (who had always existed) entered into human flesh and was born of a woman, a virgin named Mary. He became a human being so that He could identify with us and demonstrate His uniqueness by living a perfect, sinless life. In doing so, He was qualified to die as the substitute offering to pay for our sins. "Incarnation" is the theological term used for the act of God's Son becoming embodied in human flesh.



## 27 Teachings about Hell

**As Jesus moved among people, He warned them that eternal punishment in Hell was real. He told them they needed to escape it immediately. He said this sternly, but also lovingly.** *Mark 9:42-48; Luke 16:19-31*



*In our modern world, Christians sometimes are embarrassed by what the Bible teaches about Hell. It isn't a concept that is "politically correct" in our age. As you approach this topic in the study, here are a few things to keep in mind:*

1. *Do not allow yourself to approach the subject of Hell in a defensive manner. You can clearly and confidently tell kids what the Bible teaches about Hell because Jesus always told the truth no matter if it was difficult for people to accept.*
2. *Be sure to talk about the subject of Hell with tender compassion, not with an uncaring, judgmental spirit.*
3. *You may want to begin the discussion by reminding children of these two characteristics we know about God: He is 100% holy (not one dot of sin) and just or fair (treats everyone the same).*
  - (a) **HOLINESS:** *Try to think how much your sin and the sins of everyone else are disgusting to the one holy Creator LORD God. Get lost in the wonder that God is not already punishing us for the sins we have done! If you could see the big picture that God sees (that sin ruins people now and forever) and if you could see how holy God is, you would agree that God's punishment against sin is not severe for anyone who has disrespected God's holiness.*
  - (b) **JUSTICE:** *Then, if we think about the fact that God is perfectly just (that He always does what is perfectly right/fair), we would realize that it would be right for God to punish all of us for our sins right now. We have all broken the Creator LORD God's laws and are guilty. It is only God's love, kindness and mercy that holds Him back from delivering His just, fair penalty for our sins.*

**1. In an earlier event, we learned that God created an everlasting fire to punish the Devil and his angels. (See event 4 on page 15) Read Matthew 25:41. Jesus warned those who follow Satan that they will experience the same eternal punishment.**

*Jesus spoke more about this place called "Hell" than any other person in the Bible. Why? Because, as God the Son, He knew how real Hell was more than anyone who had ever lived. Because He loves everyone so much, Jesus lovingly warned people to choose God's way so they would never be sent to punishment in Hell.*

**2. Read Mark 9:42-48. What phrase did Jesus use in verse 48 to describe what Hell is like?**

**"The fire is not quenched."**

*(Teacher: Some people, even Bible-believing scholars, think that the word "fire" was only intended to be a metaphor to describe the severity of God's eternal judgment for our sins. Don't let that be a "story-stopper" for the study.)*

*While we believe that the "fire" of Hell is and will be real fire, the most important thing for an unbeliever to realize is that there is a very severe, everlasting, and conscious punishment awaiting him/her, beyond the grave if s/he does not choose to avoid it as provided for in God's wonderful story of hope.) See "Supplemental Information" for teacher enrichment at the end of this text.*

### 3. Jesus once told about a man who died and went to Hell (Hades). Read Luke 16:19-31. What did Jesus teach about Hell?

*There is some disagreement among Bible scholars about whether this was a true story of people who lived or if it was a parable. Present it as a story that Jesus told and avoid any technical “parable vs. true story” discussion. The lessons we learn from Jesus’ story aren’t affected by the nature of the story.*

**Note:** Jesus does use personal names in the story, which would seem to indicate that He was telling a true story about real people.

• **True** or False? Circle one.

**Hell is a place where people constantly know they are suffering.**

*Teacher: Ask the student to discover the answer in Luke 16 and then tell where in the story they found the answer.*

• **True** or **False**? Circle one.

**Once people are in Hell, they can escape.**

*Follow the same procedure as mentioned above.*

### How is Jesus portrayed in Event #27?

**Tell why these names describe Jesus: Authoritative Teacher, Truth Revealer.**

## Supplemental Information

**Is the fire only a metaphor?** Some would say that the idea of being burned alive is the most horrific experience that a human can imagine, so for that reason, God chose to use fire as a metaphor to describe what it will be like to be separated from Him eternally.

But, the fact that “fire” is used in numerous places in the Bible to describe Hell, would seem to suggest that it is and will be more than a metaphor—that Hell is and will be a place of literal fire. There are more than 20 references to the fires of Hell in the New Testament alone, and most of these are found in statements made by Jesus, the all-knowing Son of God who is the Creator of Hell.

**“Their worm does not die”—what does that mean?** This phrase first appears in the last verse of the book of Isaiah (Isaiah 66:24). In that context, Isaiah was looking ahead to the last two events in *The Story of Hope-Kids*—the eternal state of believers (in verses 22- 23) and the eternal state of unbelievers (in verse 24).

The “worm” mentioned here may have been a reference to maggots that infested pieces of flesh at a garbage dump site. When the garbage was burned, the maggots burned up too. In contrast, in Hell the flames of fire will not consume those who are sent there for eternal punishment.



### 28 Miracles of Jesus

Jesus healed sick and disabled people. He cast out demons and raised people from the dead. He did this to show His compassion for people who suffered and to show His divine power.

*Matthew 4:23-24; John 11:1-45*



#### 1. Jesus performed many miracles to show that He was “the Son of God,” as John the Baptist had said.

*When you read the Bible you discover that sometimes God gave certain people the ability to do miracles. A miracle is something impossible for humans to do unless God gets involved. A person can't make a miracle happen by trying real hard.*

*God gave Moses miraculous powers. (See Event #14.) He did this to show that He had appointed Moses to be the leader of the Israelites. He also did this to show His power over the false gods of Egypt.*

*Only a few others of God's prophets besides Moses had God's miracle-working powers. Those who had God's power worked for God in very difficult times, like when people were behaving at their worst and were far from God. God used miracles to get people's attention so they would listen to Him.*

*So, when Jesus started His work for God at about age 30, people already knew that a real man of God could do God-powered miracles. They were watching for that. And the miracles came beginning at Jesus' miraculous virgin-born birth. The angel announced who Jesus really was, “God with us” (Immanuel).*

*Then, John the Baptist came and told people something special about Jesus: Jesus was “the Lamb of God” and “the Son of God.”*

*To show His unique relationship to God, Jesus performed many miracles during His ministry on earth.*

#### 2. Read Matthew 4:23-24. What kinds of miracles did Jesus perform as He went throughout the region of Galilee and ministered to people?

*Locate the area of Galilee on the map on page 7.*

**Jesus healed “all kinds of sicknesses and all kinds of disease” (not just the most simple and easily cured types).**

**He healed those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics.**

*Some of these disorders were very easy to be seen, so when Jesus healed people of these kinds of problems, everyone could see the results of His healing powers.*

#### 3. Read John 11:1-4. According to Jesus, what was the reason for Lazarus' sickness?

**“This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” (verse 4) Through this miracle people would see God's awesome power working in Jesus.**

#### 4. Read John 11:5-16. What did Jesus know that His disciples did not know?

**Remember who Jesus is. As the Son of God, Jesus knew exactly what was going on back in Bethany when He was not with Lazarus. Jesus knew Lazarus had died.**

**But, until Jesus told them otherwise, the disciples thought that Lazarus was only sleeping. They did not know that Lazarus was dead.**



## 5. Read John 11:17-27.

### What did Jesus tell Martha about Himself? What did He ask her?

He told her that He was the “resurrection and the life.” People who believe in Jesus may die (physically) but they will live again. Jesus also said that those who believe in Him will never die (spiritually). See verses 25-26. He meant that when a person, who believes in Him dies, his body dies, but some day in the future his body will live again. The “real you,” the part of you inside that cannot be seen, however, will stay alive and never die.

*Jesus was promising eternal life to those who believe (put their trust) in Him.*

### How did Martha answer?

“Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” (verse 27)

*Martha was an Israelite. She knew the long ago prophecies that promised a special King of the Israelites would come one day. Martha understood that this person was Jesus and she declared that He was “the Son of God.”*

## 6. Read John 11:28-45. Look carefully at verses 40-45. Many of the Jews saw this miracle which Jesus did. How did they respond?

But “many of the Jews who ... had seen the things that Jesus did, believed in Him.” (verse 45)

### Note: Jews in the New Testament descended from the Israelites of the Old Testament.

*It is important here to explain who the Jews were (and are) because they will be mentioned often in some of the following events in the study.*

*Bible scholars know that there are some differences between the terms “Jews” and “Israelites”—they are not perfect synonyms. Don’t distinguish between the two terms. What is important is to show that God’s people, called Israelites in the Old Testament, and Jews in the New Testament were the same.*

### How is Jesus portrayed in Event #28?

**Tell why this name describes Jesus: Miracle Worker.**

### 29 Betrayal of Jesus

When Judas Iscariot (one of Jesus' twelve disciples) betrayed Him, Jesus did not supernaturally resist arrest. He willingly submitted Himself to His captors.

*Matthew 26:1-2, 14-28, 45-56*



#### 1. Before you read from Matthew 26, read the prophecy in Psalm 41:7-9.

*David wrote, hundreds of years before Christ lived, that enemies of the Messiah (Christ) would plan to kill Him. Even a very close friend of the Messiah ("who ate my bread") would be involved in this plan.*

#### 2. Read Matthew 26:1-2. What did Jesus know would happen to Him?

Jesus knew what was going to happen to Him. He knew what had been prophesied many years before. But Jesus is God, so He knew all things and He could see what was going to happen in the future.

#### 3. Read Matthew 26:14-28.

Explain that when Judas Iscariot is called "one of the twelve," this means that he was one of the twelve disciples who had followed and worked closely with Jesus for more than three years.

**Jesus predicted that His captors would break His body and shed His blood.**

*During the Passover meal with His disciples, Jesus broke bread into pieces and gave them to the disciples to eat. Then He drank juice from a cup and had the disciples drink the same. When He did that He was using the symbols of the bread and juice to explain what was going to happen to Him very soon. The bread that was broken into pieces was a symbol that His body would be broken (hurt in a terrible way). The cup of juice (wine) that they drank was a symbol of the blood that would soon spill from Jesus.*

*The bread and juice which Jesus ate and drank at His last meal with His closest followers was His way of saying, "My blood will be the payment to God so your sins can be forgiven."*

**How does Jesus' statement, in verse 28, help us understand what John the Baptist said earlier, when he proclaimed, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"? (See event 22 on page 33)**

Now that we have studied the story of the life of Jesus Christ, do you think that John the Baptist's words at the beginning of Jesus' ministry now make a lot more sense? Do you remember in the Old Testament how the lambs died on the bronze altar as a sacrifice so that the people who offered them could be forgiven of their sins? Jesus, "the Lamb of God," would become a sacrifice like those Old Testament lambs. The difference is that Jesus would die for the sins of "many"—the "sin of the world."

#### 4. Read Matthew 26:45-56. Did Jesus have the power to resist arrest?

Yes, Jesus could have prayed to the Father and twelve legions of angels would have come to deliver Him. (verse 53) A Roman legion had 6,000 men, so 12 legions of angels would have been 72,000 angels! Jesus was probably saying that He could have prayed to God the Father and a huge number of angels would have been sent to rescue Him, if He had chosen to ask God to do this.

**Why do you think that He willingly allowed Himself to be arrested?**

As wrong as it was for the soldiers to arrest an innocent man, Jesus knew that His arrest was really what God had planned. Also, the Old Testament Scriptures had promised hundreds of years before this time that this would happen. So, in order to do what God had planned, and to do what the Old Testament had said would happen, Jesus allowed the soldiers to arrest Him.

**How is Jesus portrayed in Event #29?**

**Tell why this name describes Jesus' Willing Substitute.**

## 30 Appearances Before Unjust Judges

Jesus was never proven guilty of any wrongdoing in any religious or civil court. He was unjustly beaten and condemned to die by Roman crucifixion.

*Matthew 27:1-2, 11-24*



**1. Read Matthew 27:1-2. What do we see in these verses that indicate Jesus would not receive a fair trial?**

The religious leaders “plotted against Jesus to put Him to death.” They were not planning to have him judged in a fair trial. In their minds, He was guilty and the trial was just something that they had to go through to get what they had wanted for some time.

**2. Read Matthew 27:11-14. Did Jesus deny the accusation that He was the King of the Jews?**

And the governor asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus said to him, “It is as you say.” (verse 11)

Jesus did not deny the accusation. He had come to be King, but not a political king as the Jews said He was. The religious leaders tried to make Jesus look like He was planning to gather a lot of people to overthrow the Roman government that ruled Israel at that time. There is nothing in the Bible that says Jesus was planning to do this.

**In Genesis 49:10, God promised that the scepter, a sign of royalty, would not depart from the tribe of Judah. As a descendant of Judah, Jesus was able to be the Jewish King. Review point 3 in event 12 on page 23.**

*Israel (also called Jacob) was led by God to say that something special would happen sometime in the years to come: a lawgiver-King would come one day from his son Judah. Judah became the head of a tribe called the tribe of Judah. His brothers became heads of eleven other tribes. These 12 tribes that came from Israel were later called Israelites. Joseph, the step-father of Jesus, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, both came from the same tribe of Judah—they were descendants of Judah.*

**Review points 2, 3, and 4 in event 19 on page 30. As a descendant of King David, who was also from the tribe of Judah, Jesus was able to re-establish the royal reign of King David’s family.**

*King David was from Judah’s side of the family. And David was the first King of the Jews! God made that ancient “King” promise in Genesis 49:10 come true.*

*Hundreds of years after King David died his relatives from the tribe of Judah, Mary and Joseph, became the mother (Mary) and step-father (Joseph) of Jesus.*

*After David died, his son Solomon was King of Israel for many years. Then other descendants of King David ruled over the Israelites (later known as the “Jews”).*

*But when Jesus was born, 500 years had passed since a relative of King David was King over the Israelites (the Jews).*

*Since Jesus was from the tribe of Judah (related to Israel/Jacob, Judah, King David, King Solomon, etc.), the one-king-after-another King promise of long ago was started again!*

*But just how could King David’s throne go on and on if Jesus was to be crucified?*

*Hold your questions and answers. We’ll explain later.*



**3. Read Matthew 27:15-24. What statements in these verses indicate that Jesus was not guilty of the crimes for which He was tried?**

1. The wife of the governor Pilate (who was serving as judge) begged her husband to “have nothing to do with that just Man.” God had spoken to her in a dream about Jesus. (verse 19)
2. Pilate also announced that Jesus was a “just Person (honest, truthful).” (verse 24) Out of fear for the mob, and not because he found Jesus to be guilty of any crimes, Pilate gave Jesus to the soldiers to be cruelly beaten and then crucified.

**How is Jesus portrayed in Event #30?**

**Tell why these names describe Jesus: Sinless Man, Rejected Messiah, Israel’s Promised King.**



### 31 Crucifixion of Jesus

Jesus then died on a cross as the perfect sacrificial Lamb for our sins. His death crushed Satan's head, just as God had promised to Adam and Eve.

*Luke 23:26-38; 1 Corinthians 5:7*



**1. The Jewish historian Josephus described crucifixion as “the worst kind of death.” First, a prisoner was beaten cruelly with a short, heavy whip. Then he was nailed to a cross where he suffered terrible pain and shame for hours before he died.**

*In preparation for this lesson, please read the SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION regarding crucifixion. Highlight critical information in it that you feel you should discuss with a child. Use caution when sharing some details of the crucifixion with sensitive or younger children. Yet, do not gloss over the realities of Jesus' suffering and death which demonstrates God's holy wrath against sin and that He did not spare His own Son from dying in place of sinners. Correct any faulty ideas kids may have about how Jesus died.*

**2. Read Psalm 22:1-18. King David wrote this psalm about the Jewish Messiah 1,000 years before Jesus was born and hundreds of years before crucifixion was used as a death penalty in Canaan. Look for statements that show the man described in this psalm (the Messiah) would die by crucifixion.**

*Explain: David was not describing something that he had seen for himself. He was writing this Psalm through the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit and may not have understood all that he was writing.*

**Statements that may mean the person described here would be dying by crucifixion:**

Verses 6-7: Those watching were making fun of the man who was suffering

Verse 8: The man needed to be rescued from horror of the torture

Verses 12-13: He was surrounded by enemies who were constantly attacking him

Verse 14: His life was “poured out like water” and all of his bones were out of joint.

Verse 15: His strength was gone and he suffered extreme thirst.

Verse 16: His feet had been pierced (stabbed through).

Verse 17: His bones poked through his tightly stretched skin.

Verse 18: Someone at the scene was gambling for his clothing (so he was naked at this time).

**3. Read Luke 23:26-38. What does Jesus' prayer in verse 34 tell us about Him?**

Though Jesus' body was in great pain He had a peaceful quietness on the inside. He did not hate God. He did not speak rudely against his enemies who had Him nailed to the cross.

He was more concerned about others than Himself.

Even though He had done nothing to cause Him to die on the cross, He was able to forgive those who were carrying out His crucifixion (shameful death)



**4. Read the last phrase in 1 Corinthians 5:7. What was similar between the Passover lambs that were killed in Egypt and Jesus' death on the cross? (See event 14 on page 25)**

*"For indeed (it's a fact that) Christ, our Passover (Passover Lamb) was sacrificed for us."*

Here are some of the similarities that the student should be able to understand *at this point* in the study. There are other similarities that will become clear as we continue in the study, but don't present those yet.

1. The Passover lamb was to be a male and without blemish (anything wrong with it). (Exodus 12:5)
2. The lamb did not die because of anything it had done.
3. The innocent lamb shed its blood and died in order to save others.

**How is Jesus portrayed in Event #31?**

**Tell why these names describe Jesus: Willing Substitute, Perfect Sacrifice.**

**Crucifixion:** Crucifixion provided a death that was particularly painful, gruesome and public. The way crucifixion was done varied considerably with location and time period.

The Greek and Latin words corresponding to “crucifixion” applied to many different forms of painful execution. The body could be pierced through on a stake (impaling). Or it could be fastened to a tree, an upright pole or to a combination of an upright pole and a crossbeam.

If a crossbeam was used, the condemned man or woman was forced to carry it on his or her shoulders, which would have been torn open by whipping, to the place of execution. A whole cross would weigh well over 300 pounds (135 kilograms), but the crossbeam would weigh only 75-125 pounds (35-60 kilograms).

The person executed may sometimes have been attached to the cross by ropes, but nails are mentioned in a passage of Josephus, where he states that, at the Siege of Jerusalem, “the soldiers out of rage and hatred, nailed those they caught, one after one way, and another after another, to the crosses, by way of jest.”

Josephus describes multiple tortures and positions of crucifixion during the siege of Jerusalem as Titus crucified the rebels; and Seneca the Younger recounts: “I see crosses there, not just of one kind but made in many different ways: some have their victims with head down to the ground; some impale their private parts; others stretch out their arms on the gibbet.”

At times the gibbet was only one vertical stake. This was the simplest available construction for torturing and killing the criminals. Frequently, however, there was a cross-piece attached either at the top to give the shape of a T or just below the top, as in the form most familiar in Christian symbolism. Other forms were in the shape of the letters X and Y.

The earliest writings that speak specifically of the shape of the cross on which Jesus died describe it as shaped like the letter T (the Greek letter tau), or composed of an upright and a transverse beam, together with a small peg in the upright.

In popular depictions of crucifixion, the condemned would most likely have nails in his or her wrists, as the hands do not have the structure nor the strength to carry the weight of the full body.

If the writings of Josephus are taken into account, a sedile (a small seat attached to the front of the cross) was used at times as a way of impaling the “private parts” as he wrote; this would be achieved by resting the condemned man’s weight on a peg or board of some sort, and driving a nail or spike through the genitals. If this was a common practice, then it would give credibility to accounts of crucified men taking days to die upon a cross, since the resting of the body upon a crotch peg or sedile would certainly prevent death by suspension asphyxiation. It would also provide another method of humiliation and great pain to the condemned, since nudity was almost certainly a feature of most crucifixions.

A possibility that does not require tying is that the nails were inserted just above the wrist, between the two bones of the forearm. The nails could also be driven through the wrist, in a space between four carpal bones. Another possibility is that the nails may have been driven in at an angle, entering in the palm in the crease that delineates the bulky region at the base of the thumb, and exiting in the wrist, passing through the carpal tunnel.

The length of time required to reach death could range from a matter of hours to a number of days, depending on exact methods, the health of the crucified person and environmental circumstances.



One theory suggests that the typical cause of death was asphyxiation. It is conjectured that when the whole body weight was supported by the stretched arms, the condemned would have severe difficulty inhaling, due to hyper-expansion of the lungs. The condemned would therefore have to draw himself up by his arms, or have his feet supported by tying or by a wood block. Indeed, Roman executioners could be asked to break the condemned's legs, after he had hung for some time, in order to hasten his death. Once deprived of support and unable to lift himself, the condemned would die within a few minutes. If death did not come from asphyxiation, it could result from a number of other causes, including physical shock caused by the scourging that preceded the crucifixion, the nailing itself, dehydration, and exhaustion.

Some experiments have revealed that, when suspended with arms at 60° to 70° from the vertical, test subjects had no difficulty breathing, only rapidly-increasing discomfort and pain. This would correspond to the Roman use of crucifixion as a prolonged, agonizing, humiliating death.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org>

Editorial Note: It is very possible (and perhaps likely) that the nails that bound Jesus to the cross pierced his wrists, and not the palms of his hands. The Greek word translated "hand" does sometimes refer to a larger area that could include the wrist.

But, since we do not know for sure where the nails pierced his "hands," we have instructed the artist of our images to depict the nails as having been in the palms of the hands of Jesus, rather than to contradict the expectations of most viewers and create unnecessary concerns.

### 32 A Repentant, Dying Thief

As Jesus was dying, one guilty man, who was crucified beside Him, placed his faith in Jesus and received the gift of life in a place of paradise after he died.

*Luke 23:39-47*



#### 1. Read Luke 23:39-42. Which of these were true of the criminal who repented?

*All of these statements are true about the criminal.*

##### ☒ He feared God.

<sup>39</sup> Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

<sup>40</sup> But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?"

**Note:** The Matthew 27:44 account of this event indicates that, at first, both of the criminals were involved in "heaping insults" on Jesus. Apparently something happened to cause one of the criminals to fear God and take Jesus seriously.

##### ☒ He acknowledged his own guilt.

<sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds;

##### ☒ He acknowledged Jesus' innocence.

<sup>41</sup> ...but this Man has done nothing wrong."

##### ☒ He believed that Jesus was truly a king.

<sup>42</sup> Then he said to Jesus, "Lord\*, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

**\*Note:** Some Greek manuscripts do not include the Greek word for "Lord," but simply read "Jesus, remember me..."

##### ☒ He believed in life beyond death.

<sup>42</sup> ... remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

##### ☒ He believed that Jesus could give him some kind of "kingdom favor."

<sup>42</sup> ... remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

##### ☒ He made a simple request of Jesus because he had faith in Him.

<sup>42</sup> ... remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

#### b. Read Luke 23:43. What was Jesus' promise? When did He give the promise? How certain is the promise?

**What did Jesus promise the dying thief?**

That he would be with Him (Jesus) in paradise/Heaven.

**When would the dying thief be with Jesus in Heaven?**

Jesus promised it would happen "today."

**How certain is the promise Jesus made to the thief?**

Jesus introduced His promise with these words, "I tell you the truth."

### 3. What other paradise did God provide much earlier in the Bible? (See event 3 on page 14)

1. The Garden of Eden, home to Adam and Eve. It was a beautiful place filled with gardens full of fruit to enjoy.
2. The Bible teaches that Heaven is the beautiful place where true believers go after they die. The sorry thief who believed on Jesus went to that heavenly paradise. Think how close he came to missing out on living with Jesus in God's paradise.
3. Later you will read of an even more wonderful paradise that God is preparing for those who trust in Him for the forgiveness of their sin. True believers in Jesus Christ will live there together with Jesus forever.

### 4. Read Luke 23:44-47. What did the Roman centurion conclude?

**Note:** A centurion was a Roman soldier who commanded 100 men. This centurion may have been the Roman soldier who was in charge of carrying out the crucifixion of Jesus. As a Roman centurion, probably he had seen and participated in many crucifixions, including crucifixions of men who made claims that they were the Messiah.

After guarding Jesus for three hours, the centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

### 5. Read Mark 15:33-39. What did the Roman centurion decide about Jesus?

The centurion said: "Surely he was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54, Mark 15:39)

Other historical facts in this section include:

Verses 33-34: Explain that God the Father, who is 100% holy, had to turn away from Jesus, His Son, when Jesus took all of our sins upon Himself.

Verses 37-38: Explain the reason why the "veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom." Remind the student of the veil in the tabernacle (see page 10) that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies, where God dwelt among them. Explain that there was a similar veil in the temple in Jerusalem (the temple that King David's son built for God with the materials King David had prepared). It was this temple veil that was rent at the very time that Jesus died.

Ask the student why that happened. Explain that because Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins, we can now approach God through what Jesus has done for us. The open curtain shows we can now go right to God because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. We can now have a close relationship with God!

Verse 39: Explain that the writer (Mark) of this account of Jesus' death announced that Jesus was truly "the Son of God!"

Luke (in the Luke 23:43-47) recorded that the centurion proclaimed that Jesus was "a righteous man!" The centurion was so impressed that he probably made both of these proclamations, as well as other words that showed his worship of Christ.

### How is Jesus portrayed in Event #32?

**Tell why this name describes Jesus: Sin Forgiver.**



### 33 Resurrection of Jesus

On the third day after Jesus died and was buried, God supernaturally raised Him from the dead to show His power over sin, death, and Hell.

*Luke 24:1-12, 36-43*



#### 1. Read Hebrews 2:14-15.

- What was the purpose for Jesus' death in verse 14?

"By his (Jesus) death he might break the power of him (Satan) who holds the power of death—that is, the devil (Satan) ... "Destroy the devil, the one who had the power of death.

*You may want to tie this to Genesis 3:15 (event 7, page 18). Whose foot is stomping on the serpent (Satan) in the picture? The picture stands for what Jesus did on the cross. He really didn't stomp on a snake in the grass and squish it. But Jesus really did defeat Satan at the cross.*

- In verse 15?

"And free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." Release those who have been bound by the fear of death.

#### 2. Read Luke 24:1-12. What verses show that Jesus was no longer in the tomb?

Verse 2: The tomb's stone door that had been ordered shut and sealed by the Roman Government, was open.

Verse 3: Two women who entered the tomb did not find the body of Jesus.

Verses 4-6: Two men (angel's sent from God) told the women that Jesus was "not here but is risen" (alive from the dead).

Verses 6-7: The angels reminded the women that Jesus had told them He would come alive from the dead on the third day.

Verse 12: Peter ran to the tomb but he found no body. The only thing he found were the grave clothes that had been wrapped around Jesus' dead body three days before.

#### 3. Read Luke 24:36-43. What did Jesus do to prove that He was not just a spirit and that His physical body had been raised from the dead?

Verses 36-40: Jesus showed His scarred hands and feet which were marked by the nails during the crucifixion. And He invited them to touch Him and see that He wasn't just a ghost.

Verses 41-43: Jesus asked for and ate food right in front of them.

#### 4. Because God raised Jesus from the dead, are these statements True or False?

- **T** or F: We can have confidence that what Jesus said about Himself was true.

*We can trust God because we have learned from the Bible that He is holy, just, and right. God would not have raised Jesus from the dead if Jesus was a bad person who had made false claims about His one-of-a-kind Son relationship with God the Father.*

- **T** or F: We can have confidence that God was satisfied with Jesus' death as a payment for our sins.

It is very important that the student understand the connection between the resurrection of Christ and God's satisfaction with Jesus' death as a payment for our sins. You may want to read the following paragraphs and be prepared to explain this reality in your own words.

When God raised Jesus from the grave, God was expressing His complete satisfaction with the life and death of Jesus—Jesus had accomplished exactly what His Father sent Him to earth to do.

Jesus had lived a perfectly sinless life and died for human sins. But unlike the innocent sacrificial lambs that had died down through the ages, Jesus took all of the sins of the whole world upon Himself on the cross. As Jesus died, for the first and only time, the Father withdrew from Jesus, His Son, because, at that moment, Jesus (who never had experienced sin) was taking the judgment of our sins.

At the cross God picked up every ugly, awful sin that you and everyone have ever done. God blamed those sins on Jesus. It was as if Jesus had done every sin of every person throughout all time. Jesus owned your sin as His own. Though Jesus was sinless, God made Jesus out to be totally guilty because He was taking the punishment for the sin of everyone.

One Bible writer says it this way:

<sup>21</sup>God made him who had no sin to be sin\* for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

**\*Note:** This probably means “a sin offering.”

The account of Jesus' death recorded by John, an apostle of Jesus, tells us that in His final moments Jesus spoke these words: “It is finished!” (John 19:30) Even though Jesus probably spoke Aramaic routinely, here He uttered one Greek word—“tetelestai.”

This word was a common marketplace term meaning “paid in full.” When a debt was fully paid, “tetelestai” (pronounced “tuh-tell-uh-sty”) would be written on a loan document, will, or letter. In the first century, when people had paid their debt in full, they would shout out the word “tetelestai.” It was a shout of triumph . . . a shout of victory. When Jesus said, “It is finished,” He was declaring victory. The sin debt of the entire world had been paid.

The resurrection of Jesus was kind of a receipt that God has given us—a certified proof that our sin debt has indeed been paid. But whether or not we will choose to receive that payment for our sins is another matter.

After you've paid for a bottle of soda at the store, the clerk may place a “Paid” sticker on that bottle and give you a receipt. “Tetelestai”—your bill is paid in full. You owe nothing. The debt is canceled.

When Jesus shouted “Tetelestai” He was shouting the good news: “My death paid your sin-debt in full!” Why is that good news? Think about it.

Remember that sin was passed on (Romans 5:12). It spread from Adam and Eve to everyone ever born.

Romans 6:23(a) describes the sin-debt penalty you must pay because of your guilt/sin. Death is the wages of (punishment for) sin. Death is to be apart from God forever.

Only a perfect, sinless Person could pay that sin-debt. Romans 6:23(b) says Jesus paid it! Jesus was God's last sin-payment, the perfect sacrificial lamb Who paid your sin-debt by His own death on the cross.

He did not owe the sin-debt, but picked it up so you could escape death.

And when God brought Jesus back from the dead, Jesus' resurrection was a kind of “receipt” or proof that once and for all Jesus had paid the sin-debt in full that you could never pay.

So that is why Jesus' last words are good news: “It (the sin-debt) is paid in full!”

God cancels the sin-debt for all who believe that Jesus' death counts for them.

**5. As you think about what we have studied, how would you answer this question: Who is Jesus? One great literary critic and philosopher has said that there are only three possible answers: He was a lunatic. He was a liar. He was and is the Lord as He said.**



*Remember: Jesus claimed He was One with God—He and God are One. When we read this, we have only three options:*

- 1. We can say that Jesus was a lunatic—a crazy man with grand thoughts that were not real.*
- 2. We can say that Jesus was an intentional liar—a man who repeatedly made up statements about Himself and knew exactly what He was doing.*
- 3. We can say that Jesus was who He claimed to be—the Lord God, who has the power to forgive us of our sins and give us everlasting life.*

*In preparation for the closing discussion for Event #33, read the article in the supplemental information section below. It will prepare you to lead the discussion about what some have called the “trilemma”—one crucial choice from three options.*

**How is Jesus portrayed in Event #33?**

**Tell why this name describes Jesus: Resurrected Savior.**

## Lunatic, Liar, or Lord?

Source: [www.Existence-of-God.com](http://www.Existence-of-God.com) (March 8, 2008)

Even those who are not persuaded by Christianity often have great respect for Jesus. Among those who reject the idea that Jesus was God incarnate, there are many who are still followers of him to some degree. "Jesus was a great moral teacher", some say, "but he wasn't God". According to this view, Jesus is to be followed as a great human being, but not as a divine one.

This idea that Jesus was merely a great human being, i.e. a great human being but nothing more, is, as C.S. Lewis argued in Part 2 of *Mere Christianity*, indefensible.

Jesus made the most astonishing claims, not only about God, society and ethics, but also about himself. He claimed to have the authority to forgive sins, to be the representative of all humanity come to die in order to reconcile man to God, and to be the only way for people to attain salvation.

Faced with the fact that Jesus made these claims about himself, there are three things that we might say about him: Either Jesus' claims were false and he knew it, or his claims were false and he didn't know it, or his claims were true. None of these suggests that Jesus was a great, but merely human, teacher. Anyone who has that view needs to think again.

The first thing that we might say about Jesus is that his claims were false and he knew it, in which case he was a liar. If Jesus did not believe that his claims about himself were true, then when he made those claims he was lying.

Jesus' claims about himself were so central to his teachings, though, that if they were lies then he can hardly be deemed a great teacher. If Jesus set out to systematically deceive people about who he was and how their sins were to be dealt with, then he was among the worst teachers that have ever walked the earth.

The second thing that we might say about Jesus is that his claims were false and he didn't know it, in which case he was a lunatic. If Jesus believed that his claims about himself were true, and they weren't, then he was a delusional egomaniac. If an ordinary person believes himself to be God incarnate, then that person is, put quite simply, insane.

Again, if this were the case, if Jesus taught that this is who he was and was mistaken, then he was as bad a teacher as there has ever been.

The third thing that we might say about Jesus is that his claims were true, in which case he was, and is, Lord. If Jesus believed that his claims about himself were true and they were, then Jesus was not only a great human being, but was also God on Earth.

If we take Jesus seriously, then we must take Jesus' claims about himself seriously. We cannot say that Jesus was a great teacher whom we admire and look up to, but that the most fundamental element of his teachings was a monumental error. Jesus was not a great, but merely human, teacher; he was either much less than this, or much more.

Those who respond to this argument by writing Jesus off as either a liar or a lunatic are, for all that has been said so far, just as reasonable as those who respond by accepting Jesus as Lord. This argument is an attack only on the view that Jesus was a great teacher but not God; there is nothing in it that counts against the view that Jesus was a terrible teacher. In order to show that it is better to view Jesus as Lord than as either a liar or a lunatic, it would have to be demonstrated that there is some reason to take Jesus' claims seriously.

Do we have any reason, though, to take Jesus' claims seriously? Many have argued that we do, that we have the strongest possible evidence that Jesus knew what he was talking about when it came to the supernatural. There is, it is argued, substantial historical evidence that Jesus was raised from the dead, endorsing his claims to religious authority.

The Resurrection, it is said, was a divine endorsement of Jesus' teachings, God's confirmation that Jesus' teachings were true. If this is correct, then there can be no doubt as to which of the three positions concerning Jesus outlined above is the correct one. If there is significant evidence for the resurrection, then we have to take Jesus seriously.

<http://www.existence-of-god.com/lord-liar-lunatic.html>

## 34 Ascension of Jesus

**After His resurrection, Jesus appeared many times to His disciples on earth. Then He ascended to Heaven to be with His Father.**

*1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Acts 1:6-11*



### 1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. **True** or False? Circle one.

**More than 500 people saw Jesus alive after His resurrection. Most of them were still living when Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthians.**

*In a court case two to three eye witnesses to the event/crime are enough to help a jury pardon or convict a person.*

*But there were over 500 witnesses who saw Jesus alive after He died! That's more than enough to prove the fact of Jesus' resurrection.*

*Most of the 500+ witnesses were still living in Palestine when Paul wrote that Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). If anyone reading Paul's letter doubted him, they could have checked with the people listed in the letter.*

### 2. Read Acts 1:6-8.

*Explain that this event occurred 40 days after the resurrection of Jesus. Give a brief summary of what happened during those days—meetings of Jesus with His disciples in various places. Explain that Jesus probably did much more during those days than was recorded in the Bible.*

*Explain the question about the Kingdom that followers of Jesus asked Him—their expectation that He would set up a real kingdom on earth right then. Also explain that we'll learn more about the earthly kingdom that they were expecting in a later part of our study. Their expectation was right but their timing was wrong, it was too soon.*

**Verse 8 records the last words Jesus spoke on earth. Summarize what Jesus said to His followers.**

**"I am promising to send a stay-within Friend. He is God the Holy Spirit. He will give you the right and the might to tell everyone about Me here in Jerusalem, up north to Samaria and to people everywhere on earth."**

*Jesus promised that the "Holy Spirit" would come upon His followers. The Holy Spirit is also a person of the Godhead—He (the Holy Spirit) is God, just as Jesus is God and just as the Father is God.*

*The Holy Spirit is the person of the Godhead who comes into and upon believers to give them the supernatural power that they need to serve God.*

### 3. Read Acts 1:9-11. What promise did the two men (angels) give to the followers of Jesus?

**They said that Jesus would come back to the earth.** *Two facts from their promise are important:*

*1. That Jesus would be "This same Jesus"—the same Jesus who had lived with them on earth, had died for them on the cross, and had been raised by God from the dead.*

*2. That Jesus would come back to earth "in like manner as you saw Him go." The disciples really saw Jesus go up to heaven in His real body, so the angels said He would really return in His real body and people would see Him come again.*

#### 4. A few chapters later in Acts, Jesus appears another time in the story of the Bible.

*The stoning of Stephen.*

##### **Read Acts 7:54-56. Where was Jesus at that time?**

Jesus was in Heaven, standing at the right hand of God. He knew what was happening to Stephen and was probably standing, waiting to receive Stephen in the heavenly paradise where true believers now go when they die.

##### **5. What is Jesus doing now in Heaven? Read Hebrews 7:24-25. Hint: The words “He” and “Him” (that appear in most versions of the Bible) refer to Jesus.**

Jesus “always lives” to pray (make intercession) for people who come to God through Him. Explain to the student, that “Jesus wants you to come to God through Him.” And “just like a lawyer stands up in court to talk to the judge, Jesus will intercede with God for you.”

**Note:** The King James Version word “uttermost” means “completely” or “forever.”

##### **How is Jesus portrayed in Event #34?**

**Tell why this name describes Jesus: Ascended Son of God.**



## 35 Peter Proclaims the Good News

Soon after Jesus ascended, His disciples began to proclaim the good news about who Jesus was, what He did, and why people should trust in Him as their Savior.

*Acts 2:22-36*



### 1. Ten days after Jesus ascended to Heaven, the Holy Spirit of God came upon the followers of Jesus, just as He had promised.

*Give an overview of what had happened since Jesus ascended to heaven. One hundred and twenty people gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem until the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon them to empower them. Don't go into much detail, but explain how the Holy Spirit miraculously gave the followers of Jesus the ability to speak in the languages of the people who had come to Jerusalem for the annual Pentecost feast.*

*Mention briefly that, from this time forward (even now), when a person becomes a true believer in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit of God comes to dwell immediately within him/her.*

### 2. With the power of God's Spirit upon him, Simon Peter (one of Jesus' disciples) spoke his first message about Jesus. What did Peter say about Jesus from what he personally had seen and heard? Read Acts 2:22-35.

#### • His Life. (See verse 22)

<sup>22</sup> "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

1. God said that Jesus was who He said He was—the very Son of God, fully God. Jesus was genuine by the miracles God did through Jesus.

2. "As you yourselves also know"—many of these people had seen the miracles that Jesus performed. They could not claim to be ignorant about what Jesus had done and use that as an excuse not to believe.

#### • His Death. (See verse 23)

<sup>23</sup> Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

1. The death of Jesus was part of God's plan long before it happened. The Bible says in another place that Jesus' death was planned before the world was created. (Ephesians 1:3-7)

2. But it was "lawless hands" that took Jesus and put Him to death by crucifixion. Wicked men nailed Jesus to the cross where He died.

#### • His Resurrection. (See verses 24-32) Peter quoted Psalm 16:8-10 in verses 25-28.

Then, Peter quoted from one of the psalms (songs) of the Old Testament that had been written by King David—Psalm 16:24-32.

<sup>24</sup> whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

<sup>25</sup> For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my

right hand, that I may not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.

<sup>27</sup> For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

<sup>29</sup> "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

<sup>30</sup> Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,

<sup>31</sup> he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

<sup>32</sup> This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

*King David wrote this psalm 1,000 years before Jesus lived on earth.*

• **His Ascension. (See verses 33-35)**

<sup>33</sup> Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

<sup>34</sup> "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,

<sup>35</sup> Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'"

**3. What did Peter conclude about Jesus of Nazareth? Read verse 36.**

<sup>36</sup> "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

*Simon Peter knew Jesus as well as anyone. He spent more than three years with Jesus and had watched Jesus, listened to His teachings, saw most or all of His miracles, watched Him die, spent many hours with Him after His resurrection, and witnessed His ascension into Heaven. Peter certainly knew what he was talking about.*

*It is amazing how confident Peter was when he spoke. Only 53 days had passed between the time that Peter slipped in his faith and denied Jesus until this day of Pentecost! Something very powerful and convincing must have happened during that time to make Peter so confident about who Jesus was and is. It was probably the resurrection of Jesus that strengthened his belief that Jesus was and is "both Lord and Christ."*

**How is Jesus portrayed in Event #35?**

**Tell why these names describe Jesus: Miracle Worker, Resurrected Savior, Ascended Son of God.**

### 36 Jesus' Return for Believers

Just as He promised during His earthly ministry, Jesus will return to take those who have truly believed in Him to be with Him in a heavenly paradise.

*John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*



**1. The final five events in this short version of The Story of Hope–Kids have not happened yet. This event is the first of those five events. Up until now, we have studied Bible history. But now we will see how the Bible moves from Bible history (past events) to Bible prophecy (future events).**

**2. Before His death, what did Jesus tell His disciples to comfort them? Read John 14:1-3.**

*Explain what was happening in this passage: the disciples of Jesus were upset because He was talking about leaving them.*

**Jesus comforted them with four promises:**

**1. In Heaven ("My Father's house") there are many dwelling places (places where people dwell or live) or mansions.**

**Note:** Some translations say "mansions" and some say "dwelling places." If they are "dwelling places" in God's house (Heaven), then we can be sure that they are like mansions we have here on earth!

**2. I am going to prepare a place just for you.**

**3. Just as I am going away, I will come back again and take you to be with Me.**

**4. Where I am (in the Father's House), you will be with Me.**

**3. To learn more about this return of Jesus for believers (that we call "the rapture"), read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.**

• **What will happen to Jesus' followers who have already died?**

**Verses 13-14 – God will bring them with Him when He returns. This means that they are with Him in Heaven now.**

**Verse 16 – "The dead in Christ shall rise first." God will bring believers with Him who have already died. So believers who have already died will rise first.**

*This means that when a believer dies, the part of the person we call the "spirit" or "soul" goes to Heaven to be with Jesus and God the Father. But the body of a believer remains on earth. When Jesus returns, the spirits (souls) of these believers will return with Him, but their bodies will be raised (in a new form that will never again die). At that time, their spirits (souls) will be united with their bodies that were just resurrected.*

• **What will happen to Jesus' followers who are still alive when He returns?**

**Verses 15-17 – These followers will be "caught up" together with the believers who had already died and all will meet the Lord Jesus in the air. The followers who are alive will go up suddenly in the air to be with Jesus and join those who had died believing in Jesus. From then on they will be with the Lord Jesus forever.**

*The word "rapture," that often is used as a name for this event, comes from the Latin word for "caught up" (Latin = rapiemur).*



#### 4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-57. What else do these verses say about the return of Jesus?

*These verses give more information about what will happen when Jesus returns for believers.*

Here are some of the key points:

1. “We will not all sleep”—believers who are alive when Jesus returns will not die. When Jesus returns for believers, their bodies will be “changed” into bodies that will not deteriorate or die. These new bodies are just right for Heaven.
2. This event when Jesus comes back, called the “rapture,” will happen very quickly—“in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye.”
3. A trumpet sound will be heard just before this event happens.
4. When this event happens, death will be defeated—there will be no more death for those who really believe in Jesus Christ. “Death ... will be “swallowed up in victory.”

*You may want to ask the student: “If Jesus were to return right now for those who truly trust in Him, would you be ready for Him?”*

**How is Jesus portrayed in Event #36?**

**Tell why this name describes Jesus: Ascended Son of God.**

### 37 Jesus' Return as King

Soon after His return for believers, Jesus will come back with those He took to Heaven and will reign as King over the whole earth.

*Revelation 19:11-19; Revelation 20:1-6*



**1. The book of Revelation is written in a way that uses many symbols to explain what is going to happen in the future. As we understand what the symbolic words mean, we can see four major facts. Read Revelation 19:11-19.**

- **Jesus will return to the earth. (How do we know this is the Jesus we have studied?)**

*There are several symbols in these verses that can be connected to prophecies in the Old Testament that talk about the Jewish Messiah (Christ). But keep this discussion simple: focus on the words and phrases that show this rider is Jesus.*

1. We already know that Jesus is called “The Word of God” in John 1:14. The names “Faithful” and “True” would also fit Him.

2. Even though Jesus is not identified as the rider on this white horse, He is the only Person who could be called by the name “KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”— the last and best King and LORD.

3. The robe dipped in blood may mean the blood that came from His body when He died on the cross as our “Lamb of God.”

*\*Note: This return is different from the one in event 36. In that “return” Jesus will not come all the way down to the earth, as He will here. When He returns in event 36 to take true believers to Himself, they will be caught up to meet Him in the air.*

- **Jesus will be accompanied by the armies of heaven. (Who will be in these armies?)**

These armies of heaven are not identified in this passage so we must think about who they might be. They could be angels. But people who have studied the Bible carefully feel that they will be the believers who have joined Jesus in Heaven. Even though they are described as “armies,” this passage does not say they will be involved in the fight. The power of the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS is enough to defeat the evil forces.

- **Jesus then will defeat those who oppose Him. (Who are these enemies of Jesus?)**

In the years before this event takes place, the human race will become more and more wicked, turning far away from God. This time will be similar to what it was like before the Great Flood (event 10). There will be one very powerful and evil human leader who sways many kings of the world to challenge God and oppose anyone who stands up to do what is right and would honor God. This evil leader, the kings and those who follow him are the godless people who will be defeated by Jesus Christ when He returns to the earth.

- **When Jesus defeats His enemies, God will be just in carrying out His wrath on them. (Why is this judgment just and fair?)**

At the beginning of this event (verse 11), the Bible says the “Faithful and True” rider on this white horse will “judge and make war” with justice. This will be a righteous war!

As God deals with what human beings are doing on earth, His holiness, His mercy, and His



justice are being tested continually.

1. Because God is holy, our sins offend Him more deeply than our minds can ever imagine.
2. Because He is a merciful God, He holds back from giving us immediately the judgment we deserve because of our sins.
3. Because God is just, our sins must eventually be judged.

*At different times in the Bible, such as the Great Flood of Noah's time, God's longsuffering mercy was tested until He had to show His just and righteous wrath on the transgressors (those who sinned against God). God was right in judging these people.*

*That's what we see in verse 15!*

## **2. Read Revelation 20:1-3. Who is the "old serpent" and what will happen to him? (See events 4, 5 and 7)**

These verses make it clear that this "dragon, that serpent of old" is the same as the Devil, also known as Satan. This is the same evil being who deceived Adam and Eve and tempted Jesus.

God will send an angel to bind Satan and keep him in a pit for 1,000 years.

*Discuss with the student what life on earth would be like without the evil Satan tempting people, even though people would still have sinful natures. That's exactly what will happen for 1,000 years, at a future time in history.*

## **3. Read Revelation 20:4-6.**

**What will take place on the earth for 1,000 years?**

Jesus Christ will reign as king on this earth for 1,000 years. Those who have truly believed in Jesus Christ will reign with Him in places of honor and leadership.

**Throughout the Bible it is predicted that Jesus will reign as a king sometime in the future. (See events 12, 19, 21, 30 and 34)**

*It is not necessary to review everything that has appeared throughout this study showing that Jesus would eventually reign as a king. But it is important for the student to realize that this theme begins early in the Bible and is woven through the Scriptures to the very end.*

*Discuss with the student as many of these "statements that Jesus would reign as king" as you feel necessary. Here are some of the more obvious ones:*

1. Many centuries before, God prophesied through the man Israel (Jacob) that a king and lawgiver would "not depart from" the tribe of Judah. (See point 3 in event 12)
2. God promised to David (ancestor of Joseph and Mary, earthly parents of Jesus) that his kingdom would last forever. (event 19)
3. When Jesus was born, an angel told the shepherds that the baby was "Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11 in event 21)

**Note:** We didn't study Matthew 2:1-2, but that passage indicates that God had in some way informed the wise men from the East that Jesus was "born King of the Jews."

4. When Pilate asked Jesus if He (Jesus) was the King of the Jews, Jesus did not deny it. (event 30)
5. When Jesus went back to Heaven after the resurrection, His disciples had expected Jesus to set up His kingdom on earth at that time. The angel who spoke to them did not rebuke them for their expectation but only explained that it wasn't the time for that. (event 34)

## **How is Jesus portrayed in Event #37?**

**Tell why this name describes Jesus: Satan Conqueror.**



## 38 Satan's Final Destiny

Near the end of Jesus' kingdom, Satan will make a final attempt to lead a rebellion against God. But Satan will fail, and God will throw him into the lake of fire that God prepared earlier for him.

*Revelation 20:7-10*



**1. Before his final punishment, Satan will be bound for a period of 1,000 years. Read Revelation 20:1-3.**

*Read this passage, which went with the previous event, in order to connect this current event to the previous one.*

**2. At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan will be released temporarily. What will Satan do at that time? Read Revelation 20:7-9.**

It is difficult to explain exactly what this prophecy means. For example, we don't know who "Gog and Magog" will be.

But the main idea of these verses seem clear—Satan will immediately begin to deceive people again as soon as he is released from being bound in the pit. It appears that he will start a huge rebellion against "the saints (followers of King Jesus) and the beloved city (probably Jerusalem)."

*This rebellion against the earthly kingdom of Jesus Christ will be the last thing he does.*

**3. Read and review Isaiah 14:15 and Matthew 25:41.**

In **Isaiah 14:15**, Isaiah prophesied that Lucifer (Satan) would "be brought down to Sheol\*, to the lowest depths of the Pit."

\***Sheol** = Hebrew word for "the abode of the dead"

*It may be that this phrase about the Pit is predicting what we'll soon read in Revelation 20:10.*

In **Matthew 25:41** Jesus said that God had prepared "everlasting fire" for the Devil and his angels. When Jesus spoke those words, Satan ("the devil") was still free to roam about, but "everlasting fire" was already awaiting him.

**Read Revelation 20:10. What do we learn here about Satan's final punishment? (See event 4 on page 15)**

**1. The devil (Satan) will be cast into a "lake of fire and brimstone\*."**

\***Note:** Brimstone is sulphur, which burns with an extremely hot blue flame that is nearly invisible and produces the highly unpleasant smelly gas called sulphur dioxide.

**2. Two evil persons are thrown into this lake of fire before Satan—the "beast" and the "false prophet." "The beast" was a human person, the leader of the rebellion against God whom the KING OF KINGS defeated when He returned to earth (see event 37). The "false prophet" was probably a false religious leader who helped the beast by deceiving people into believing that the beast was some kind of god.**

*See Revelation 19:19-20.*

**3. Satan will be tormented and his punishment will continue "day and night forever and ever." And everyone else who is sent there will also experience the same thing.**

**4. Read and review Genesis 3:15. What is the connection between Genesis 3:15 (in the third**



**chapter of the Bible) and the final destiny of Satan described here (in the third chapter from the end of the Bible)? (See event 7 on page 18)**

Soon after Adam and Eve first disobeyed God, God said that judgment would come upon Satan. God used a word picture that described how a special male descendant of Eve would inflict a crushing blow to Satan's head. God would send a Satan- Conqueror to defeat Satan.

When Jesus died on the cross to pay for the sins of the world, Satan's judgment was sealed. God had provided a perfect way for sinners to be forgiven and released from Satan's powerful, evil grip.

Even though the final defeat and doom of Satan did not come at the time Jesus died on the cross, in God's time it will come.

**How is Jesus portrayed in Event #38?**

**Tell why this name describes Jesus: Satan Conqueror.**

### 39 Dreadful Destiny for Unbelievers

Then at the end of earthly time, unbelievers will stand in front of God to be sentenced to eternal punishment for their sins. *Revelation 20:11-15*



**1. As this event begins, what will happen to the earth and heaven that now exist? Read Revelation 20:11 and compare it with 2 Peter 3:10.**

They go away! There will be no place for them. They flee from the face of the One who sits upon this throne.

2 Peter 3:10-13 explains the future fiery destruction of the current earth and its heavens in more detail, but don't go there unless the discussion requires it.

*Just explain that this passing away of the current earth and its heavens is mentioned in other places in the Bible. It will be God's method of freeing the earth of sin and its curse. In the next event the reason for that will become clear.*

**2. Who do you think will be the Judge on this great white throne? Read Revelation 20:11-12a (first phrase of verse 12).**

Some Bible versions say that the people being judged here are "standing before God." Other versions read "standing before the throne."

Verse 11 makes it clear that God\* is on this judgment throne. Only He has the power to cause the earth and heaven flee away.

*\*Note: Earlier in the Bible (John 5:22), it says that God the Father has given all judgment to the Son (Jesus). Jesus will be the Judge on the great white throne.*

**3. Books will play important roles when unbelievers stand before the Judge at this "Great White Throne Judgment." Read Revelation 20:12-13.**

**What will unbelievers be judged for from "the books"?**

Although the passage does not clearly tell us, most Bible scholars believe that "the books" mentioned here contain records of the thoughts, decisions, and actions of everyone who has ever lived, from Adam and Eve until the end of Christ's earthly kingdom.

These books will not be to help God remember because He has perfect and complete knowledge of all that has happened on earth. The "books" will probably serve as a record that cannot be disputed by the people who stand before God. God is just and righteous in the execution of His judgment.

*Note: Verse 14 can be confusing. Sometimes people think that God will evaluate their "good works" to determine whether or not they go to Heaven or Hell. If necessary, explain that, at this point, the destiny of the people at this judgment will have already been decided. The amount of their punishment will be what God, the Judge, will evaluate. The Bible does teach that there will be different levels of punishment for unbelievers that will last forever.*

**What was written in "the Book of Life"?**

The "Book of Life" is a special book and not at all like the other books. It is a record of everyone who has trusted in God's Son, Jesus Christ, as his/her personal Savior.

It is not a record of “works” (good things people have done) but a record of names— the names of all the people who have received God’s gift of eternal life.

*This is a good place to reinforce the truth that the eternal destiny of these people (Heaven or Hell) will not be determined by all the things they have done which are recorded in “the books,” but by whether or not their names are listed in “the Book of Life.”*

#### 4. Read Revelation 20:14-15. Who will be cast into the lake of fire?

- According to verse 14?

In verse 13 we are told that “Death and Hades” deliver up the dead that are in them. Then, in verse 14 we read that “Death and Hades” will be cast into the lake of fire. But, who are these “Death and Hades” people?

“Death” here probably means the bodies of those who have died and “Hades” (another name for “Hell”) probably means the spirits (“souls”) of these same people who died.

*So, these verses are teaching that the spirits of people who have gone to Hell will be united with resurrected bodies and these people will stand before God in those bodies. Then, these people (with bodies and spirits that will last forever) will be cast into the lake of fire.*

- According to verse 15?

<sup>15</sup> “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

#### How is Jesus portrayed in Event #39?

**Tell why this name describes Jesus: Just Judge.**

## Supplemental Information

**What is the “first death”?** If living forever in the lake of fire is the “second death,” what is the “first death?”

The term the “first death” does not appear in the Bible. But the fact that the term the “second death” does appear, it is clear that the Apostle John (who wrote the book of Revelation) had a first death in mind.

The “first death” that John was thinking of may be a combination of spiritual death and physical death. These were experiences that happened on earth and lasted for a time. In contrast to this “first death,” the “second death” will happen in the world to come and will be eternal.

Remember that “death” is separation; it does not mean the end of life (conscious existence).

When Adam and Eve first sinned, they died spiritually. They became separated from God, but continued to have a conscious existence.

When Adam, Eve, and others died physically, their spirits departed (separated) from their bodies. But their spirits continued to have conscious existence beyond the grave.

At the time that unbelievers will be cast into the lake of fire, their “second death” will begin. It will be an eternal death, an eternal conscious separation from God.

### 40 Joyful Destiny for Believers

**But God's story ends with wonderful news. Everyone who has trusted Jesus as his or her Savior will enter a beautiful paradise where there is no sin and they will live there eternally with God.** *Revelation 21:1—22:5*



*Explain that the paradise theme runs all the way through the Bible. That's because God has always wanted men and women (and children too!) to enjoy life in a place that has been created and blessed by God.*

#### 1. How will believers enjoy God's eternal paradise? Read Revelation 21:1-3.

- ☐ They will go up to heaven to enjoy paradise, or...
- ☒ God will bring paradise down for them.

*Most people, including people who have been believers for many years, have a mental picture of God's people (believers) living forever in a heavenly paradise with fluffy white clouds all around them. It is true that the current paradise, where believers now go when they die, may be somewhere "out there" beyond this solar system or even outside of this universe.*

*But, the eternal paradise where believers will live will be on a completely remade earth surrounded by new heavens. God created Earth for man to inhabit and enjoy so it should not surprise us that God will create a new earthly paradise for mankind's eternal home.*

#### 2. Read Revelation 21:4—22:5 to learn more about this eternal paradise.

*Before you read, point out the questions below to be thinking about as you work through these verses.*

##### • Who is "the Lamb"? (See verse 14)

*"Lamb" is the most used name for Jesus in the book of Revelation. It appears 29 times, while "Jesus Christ" appears only seven times and "Christ" appears four times.*

*Verse 14 connects "the twelve apostles" to the Lamb, so there is no doubt that Jesus is the Lamb in this passage.*

*Question for the student: "Where else did we see Jesus clearly identified as a lamb?" (See event 23 on page 34.)*

##### • What will not be found in the new, holy city?

*The passage clearly says that there will be...*

1. No tears
2. No death
3. No sorrow
4. No crying
5. No pain
6. No sinners – cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murders, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars

7. No night
8. Nothing that defiles or causes an abomination or a lie
9. No more curse on the earth

*Spend some time on this point. Ask: "Which of these (perhaps two or three of them) would you be most happy to see gone forever?"*

• **What are some of the most spectacular features of this new city?**

There are several good answers, such as...

1. Its beauty—"as a bride adorned for her husband"
2. The absence of the things mentioned in the answer to the last question
3. Its sparkling radiance
4. Its walls, gates, and foundations
5. Its massive size
6. The presence of God the Father and the Lamb (Jesus)
7. The river of water of life
8. The tree of life and its fruit

*Spend some time on this point. Ask: "Which physical characteristic of this Holy City, the New Jerusalem, impresses you the most?"*

• **Who will be allowed to live in this new paradise? Read Revelation 21:27.**

**"...only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life."**

*Review the Book of Life in the previous event.*

**3. How long will they live there? Read Revelation 22:5.**

**"Forever and ever" (22:5)**

**4. Do you think that your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life? Check One.**

☐ Yes      ☐ No      ☐ Not Sure

**What are the reasons for your answer?**

*Encourage the student to place a check mark by the answer that truly reflects what he/she believes.*

*If the answer is "Yes," then discuss his/her basis for this conclusion.*

*If the answer is "No" or "Not Sure," then also discuss the basis for his/her conclusion.*

*The next section in the book (pages 52-60) is designed to help students understand more clearly and embrace God's gift of eternal life—to move from spiritual death to eternal life.*

**How is Jesus portrayed in Event #40?**

**Tell why this name describes Jesus: Worshipped Lamb of God.**



**Resource Book:** In order to understand the paradise theme that runs through the Bible, we strongly recommend:

Heaven by Randy Alcorn (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2004).

Also, the Randy Alcorn's website provides a wealth of free information on this subject that is so important to anyone interested in *The Story of Hope-Kids*.

<http://www.epm.org/resources-eternity.html>

# **The Chronological Bridge to Life:**

## **A Chronological-Propositional Presentation**

### **of God's Good News of Hope**

Pages 52–59 in *The Story of Hope–Kids*

**Note:** If you lack confidence in teaching and discussing the basic doctrines of the Bible, we encourage you to get a good book on basic theology or basic Bible doctrines and study the sections in that book related to theology proper (the doctrine of God), anthropology (the doctrine of man), hamartiology (the doctrine of sin), Christology (the doctrine of Jesus Christ), and soteriology (the doctrine of salvation).

Contact: [Info@GoodSoil.com](mailto:Info@GoodSoil.com)

## **Eight Important Truths from The Bible's Story of Hope**

### **Chronological Bridge to Life**

**God**

#### **What we have learned about our Creator:**

*The way you approach this discussion about God depends on the student's current understanding of God. In order to dialogue appropriately and intelligently with him/her about God, you need to understand his/her view of God (or god or gods or spirits or whatever) and be knowledgeable about how that view differs from and/or agrees with the Bible's LORD God, the Creator of heaven and earth.*

*The key words about God on pages 12-32 ("Tell why this name describes God.") should have brought his/her views about God into open dialogue. Thus, at this point, all you will probably need to do is to summarize what the Bible says about God.*

*There are at least two options for leading students through a study of the top half of this page (the summary statements):*

- 1. Ask the student to read the summary statements in the box prior the class and to indicate from what he/she has not checked, which statements he/she would like to understand better. Spend the time in class helping him/her to clarify those specific concepts.*
- 2. You read each of the statements slowly and clearly and ask the student to check (as you read) the statement(s) he/she understands. Then focus on those specific statements that are not checked in your teaching/discussion.*

*The objective on this page is to summarize the Bible's view of who the true LORD God is and what He is like and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

#### **Check the box beside each point you understand.**

*Teach and discuss these truths about God, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on to the next point about Man.*

#### **The Bible says:**

**He is eternal. This means He has always existed and will exist forever.**

**He is holy. He is without sin at all.**

**He is the creator who created the world and everything in it.**

**He is all-powerful.**

**He gave people commands to obey.**

**He is a fair Judge and must punish disobedience.**

**Do you believe what the Bible teaches about God?**

Check one box: **Yes**    **No**

**The Bible says: “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)**

*Explain that this one Bible verse summarizes much of what we have learned about God. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain, do so and move on with the study.*

*Emphasize the first phrase—“The Bible says . . .”*

*Explain that these are not just your ideas, but this is a very brief summary of what the Bible teaches about God.*

*Read the statement and direct the question at the end of the paragraph directly, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, “Roger, do you believe this?”*

*If the response is, “Yes,” then move on with the study. Or, you might want to ask the student what he/she learned about God through this study that was new to him/her.*

*If the answer is, “No” or “I’m not sure,” then it would be appropriate to ask him/her to share his thoughts—such as, “Roger, I’m interested in knowing what you are thinking.” Or, “What in this statement do you agree with and what in this statement do you disagree with.”*

*Encourage him/her to feel free to speak openly about his/her doubts. In a culture where students do not want to disappoint their instructors, there will be a strong tendency for the student to give you the answer that he/she knows you want to hear. Be alert to this tendency and lovingly probe to be sure that the response is an honest one. An insincere but instructor-pleasing response is the worst possible thing that could happen here. Underneath an “I’ll tell you what you want to hear” kind of response may be (1) a need for a clearer explanation or (2) an unspoken disagreement with what the Bible says. This is a good time to get clarity on his/her present beliefs.*

*So what do you do if the student is not convinced of the Biblical view of God?*

*Explain that you understand his/her concerns and that it’s OK—that you will be praying for him/her as he/she continues to think about this and that you will pray specifically that God will give him/her the faith to believe what the Bible says. Explain that his/her doubts do not and will not affect your relationship with him/her.*

*But then, move on to page 53 and continue with the study. There’s only one thing that you would do differently from this point on—don’t ask the “Do you believe what the Bible teaches about . . .” question beside the list of statements about each key truth on pages 53-59.*

*If the student doesn’t believe in the Bible’s view of God, then his/her beliefs regarding man, sin, death (God’s judgment for sin), Christ, the cross, faith, and life, are irrelevant. But, it is still a good idea to summarize them for and with him using the content on pages 53-59.*

### Chronological Bridge to Life

# Man

#### What we have learned about human beings:

*As is true with each of these eight important truths in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case "human beings."*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this page is to summarize the Bible's view of mankind (human beings) and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

#### Check the box beside each point you understand.

*Teach and discuss these truths about Man, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on to the next point about Sin.*

#### The Bible says:

**We are made by God.**

**God loves us and wants us to enjoy Him.**

**God gives us the responsibility to obey Him.**

**He also made us so that we can choose to disobey.**

**God deserves that we obey Him completely.**

**He loves us even when we disobey Him.**

#### Do you believe what the Bible teaches about Man?

*Check one box: Yes    No*

#### The Bible says: "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7)

*Explain that this one Bible verse summarizes much of what we have learned about human beings. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain, do so and move on with the study.*

*Emphasize the first phrase—"The Bible says . . ."*

*Explain that these are not just your ideas, but this is a very brief summary of what the Bible teaches about mankind (human beings).*

**Note:** *If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in The Story of Hope-Kids, do not ask the question "Do you believe what the Bible teaches about Man?" beside the key statements.*

*Read the statements about human beings and direct the question beside the truths, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, "Roger, do you believe this about Man?"*

*If the response is, "Yes," then move on with the study.*

*If the answer is, "No" or "I'm not sure," then follow the procedure previously mentioned. Continue to summarize the remaining truths using the content on pages 54-59.*

# Chronological Bridge to Life

## Sin

### What we have learned about disobedience to God:

*As is true with each of these eight important gospel truths in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case "disobedience to God."*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this page is to summarize the Bible's view of disobedience to God and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

### Check the box beside each point you understand.

*Teach and discuss these truths about Sin, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on to the next point about Death.*

### The Bible says:

**God created, loved, and provided for Adam and Eve but they rebelled against Him.**

**They disobeyed God when they ate from the one tree whose fruit He told them not to eat.**

**Disobeying God is called *sin*.**

**Adam and Eve's sin ruined their perfect relationship with God.**

**Everyone inherited their sinful nature; all have sinned.**

**God, who is a holy and just Judge, must punish sin.**

**The punishment for sin is death.**

### Do you believe what the Bible teaches about Sin?

Check one box: **Yes**      **No**

### The Bible says: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

*Explain that this one Bible verse summarizes much of what we have learned about sin. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain, do so and move on with the study.*

*Emphasize the first phrase—"The Bible says ..."*

**Note:** *If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in The Story of Hope-Kids, do not ask the question "Do you believe what the Bible teaches about Sin?" beside the key truths. But do continue to the next section of the study.*

*Read the statement and direct the question beside the truths, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, "Roger, do you believe this about Sin?"*

*If the response is, "Yes," then move on with the study. Or, you might want to quickly review the first three truths in a way similar to this:*

*"So far we've seen that the one true God is our Creator and we answer to Him. We have learned that He made us in His image and that we are spiritual beings who have rebelled against Him and brought on ourselves His righteous judgment."*

*If the answer is, "No" or "I'm not sure," then follow the procedure previously mentioned.*

# Chronological Bridge to Life

## Death

**What we have learned about God's penalty for sin:**

*As is true with each of these eight essential gospel truths in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case "death."*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this page is to summarize the Bible's view of death and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

**Check the box beside each point you understand.**

*Teach and discuss these truths about Death, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on to the next point about Christ.*

**The Bible says:**

**Adam and Eve died *spiritually* (became separated from God) the moment they sinned. All people since Adam and Eve are born spiritually dead.**

**Adam and Eve died *physically* (when one's spirit separates from the body) as do all their descendants.**

**Physical death is not the end. After a person dies, he or she will appear before God, the just Judge.**

**People suffer eternal death and conscious punishment when they do not choose God's provision for sin.**

**Do you believe what the Bible teaches about Death?**

*Check one box: **Yes**      **No***

**The Bible says: "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27)**

*Explain that this one Bible verse summarizes much of what we have learned about death. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain, do so and move on with the study.*

*Emphasize the first phrase—"From the Bible we learn . . ."*

**Note:** *If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in The Story of Hope-Kids, do not ask the question "Do you believe what the Bible teaches about Death?" beside the key truths. But do continue to the next section of the study.*

*Read the statement and direct the question beside the truths, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, "Roger, do you believe this?"*

*If the response is, "Yes," then move on with the study. Or, you may want to review using a summary statement such as this:*

*"Let's put this all together. We've seen that God is the Creator and all people are to obey Him. But, all men are sinners and face death as a result of their sin. That's the bad news, but now we come to the good news."*

*If the answer is, "No" or "I'm not sure," then follow the procedure previously mentioned.*



# Chronological Bridge to Life

# Christ

### What we have learned about Jesus Christ:

*As is true with each of these eight essential gospel truths in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case "Christ."*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this page is to summarize the Bible's view of Jesus Christ and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

### Check the box beside each point you understand.

*Teach and discuss these truths about Christ, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on to the next point about Cross.*

### The Bible says:

**After Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to send Someone who would conquer Satan.**

**God kept His promise and sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from judgment.**

**Jesus was born of a virgin named Mary.**

**Jesus lived a completely perfect life and showed through His claims and miracles that He is God.**

**Jesus is both God and man in one perfect person. He is truly unique and the only way to eternal life.**

### Do you believe what the Bible teaches about Jesus Christ?

Check one box: **Yes**      **No**

### The Bible says: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" (John 14:6)

*Explain that this one Bible verse summarizes much of what we have learned about Jesus Christ. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain, do so and move on with the study.*

*Emphasize the first phrase—"From the Bible we learn . . ."*

**Note:** *If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in The Story of Hope-Kids, do not ask the question "Do you believe what the Bible teaches about Christ?" beside the key truths. But do continue to the next section of the study.*

*Read the statement and direct the question beside the truths, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, "Roger, do you believe this?"*

*If the response is, "Yes," then move on with the study. Or, you might want to review like this:*

*"OK, let's review: We've seen that God is the Creator and all people are to obey Him. But, all men are sinners. They are guilty and face death as a result of their sin. God kept His promise of a Savior and His name is Jesus, the promised rescuer. Now let's see what we learned about how He has provided for our forgiveness so that we could be restored to God."*

*If the answer is, "No" or "I'm not sure," then follow the procedure previously mentioned.*

### Chronological Bridge to Life

#### Cross

#### What we have learned about Christ's death and resurrection:

*As is true with each of these eight essential gospel truths in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case the "Cross."*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this page is to summarize the Bible's view of the cross and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

#### Check the box beside each point you understand.

*Teach and discuss these truths about the Cross, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on to the next point about Faith.*

#### The Bible says:

**God loves us even when we sin and provides the only way for us to be forgiven.**

**In the Old Testament, God established sacrifices so sinners could have their sins forgiven.**

**Then God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the one perfect and final sacrifice for sin.**

**Jesus willingly died in our place, for our sins, on a cross, to rescue us from death and give us eternal life.**

**Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead showing God accepted Jesus' sacrifice as payment for our sins.**

#### Do you believe what the Bible teaches about the Cross?

Check one box: **Yes**      **No**

#### The Bible says: "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed." (1 Peter 2:24)

*Explain that this one Bible verse summarizes much of what we have learned about Christ's death and resurrection. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain, do so and move on with the study.*

*Emphasize the first phrase—"From the Bible we learn . . ."*

**Note:** *If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in The Story of Hope-Kids, do not ask the question "Do you believe what the Bible teaches about Christ's death and resurrection?" beside the key truths. But do continue to the next section of the study.*

*Read the statement and direct the question beside the truths, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, "Roger, do you believe this?"*

*If the response is, "Yes," then move on with the study. Or, you may want to review like this:*

*"Let's review: God is our Creator, we are accountable to Him and guilty of sin and death as the result of our sins. But God loves us and provided a Savior who died in our place so that we can come to Him."*

*If the answer is, "No" or "I'm not sure," then follow the procedure previously mentioned.*

## Chronological Bridge to Life

### Faith

#### What we have learned about trusting Jesus Christ:

*As is true with each of these eight essential gospel truths in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case "Faith."*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this page is to summarize the Bible's view of Faith and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

#### Check the box beside each point you understand.

*Teach and discuss these truths about Faith, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on to the next point about Life.*

#### The Bible says:

**The Gospel of Jesus Christ offers eternal salvation that does not require people to work for or earn it.**

**No sinful human being could ever earn salvation.**

**God provided the way to pay our punishment for sin through the death of His Son Jesus.**

**Because Jesus was punished for sin instead of us, God offers salvation to us as a free gift.**

**God promises to forgive us if we repent (quit trusting the good things we do) and believe (trust) in His Son, Jesus Christ, alone to save us.**

#### Do you believe what the Bible teaches about Faith?

Check one box: **Yes**      **No**

#### The Bible says: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

*Explain that these Bible verses summarize much of what we have learned about faith in Jesus Christ. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain, do so and move on with the study.*

*Emphasize the first phrase—"From the Bible we learn . . ."*

**Note:** *If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in The Story of Hope-Kids, do not ask the question "Do you believe what the Bible teaches about trusting Jesus Christ?" beside the key truths. But do continue to the next section of the study.*

*Read the statement and direct the question beside the truths, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, "Roger, do you believe this?"*

*If the response is, "Yes," then move on with the study. Or, you may want to review like this:*

*"Roger, starting with God, tell me the story as though you are the teacher and I am your student who needs to understand the story of God. Put it in your own words and take me through the bridge words." (Listen carefully to him to see if he really understands the gospel. Share with Roger when you came to put your trust in Christ and then ask him when he came to really understand the story and put his trust in Jesus alone to forgive his sins.)*

*If the answer is, "No" or "I'm not sure," then follow the procedure previously mentioned.*

### Chronological Bridge to Life

Life

#### What we have learned about eternal life:

*As is true with each of these eight essential gospel truths in the ChronoBridge to Life, the way you approach this page will depend upon the student's view of this concept, in this case "Eternal Life."*

*Follow one of the procedures mentioned previously or create an approach that works better for you and the student with whom you are working.*

*The objective on this page is to summarize the Bible's view of Eternal Life and to check to be sure that the student understands that view clearly and correctly.*

#### Check the box beside each point you understand.

*Teach and discuss these truths about Eternal Life, as is needed. If the student understands these well, then move on to the last page, "My Personal Faith Response."*

#### The Bible says:

**When we repent and trust in Jesus, we pass from spiritual death to spiritual life.**

**This new spiritual life God gives is eternal and will never be taken from us.**

**We have new desires and want to love, obey, worship and serve God from our hearts.**

**We know our names are recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life and when we die we go into God's presence.**

**There we will enjoy life eternally in a beautiful, sinless, pain-free paradise on a perfectly restored new Earth.**

#### Do you believe what the Bible teaches about Eternal Life?

*Check one box: Yes      No*

**The Bible says: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'" (John 11:25-26)**

*Explain that these Bible verses summarize much of what we have learned about eternal life. Ask the student to read this verse aloud. If you think that you need to explain, do so and move on to the last page.*

*Emphasize the first phrase—"From the Bible we learn . . ."*

**Note:** *If the student did not express faith in the Bible's view of God in your discussion on page 52 in The Story of Hope-Kids, do not ask the question "Do you believe what the Bible teaches about eternal life?" beside the key truths.*

*Read the statement and direct the question at the end of the paragraph directly, in a heart-to-heart kind of way, to the student—such as, "Roger, do you believe this?"*

*If the response is, "Yes," then move on the last page.*

*If the answer is, "No" or "I'm not sure," then follow the procedure previously mentioned.*

# A Personal Faith Response

Pages 60 in *The Story of Hope-Kids*

## Overview of a Typical Way to Use This Page

Before you use page 60 in *The Story of Hope-Kids*, you might want to download and read the free article “What Must I [Really] Do to Be Saved?” from this page of our website:

<http://www.goodsoil.com/resources/free-ed-resources/>

This final page in *The Story of Hope-Kids* was designed so that it could be used in a variety of ways, depending upon what is most appropriate for a specific Bible study, student and/or culture. Here is an example of one way it could be used:

If the student answers “Yes” to the “Do you believe this?” questions on pages 52-59 and those individual faith responses seemed to be sincere, then this page would just serve as a capstone for all of those positive responses.

**But, you may ask, “What final faith-response step should the student take at this point, if any?”**

**First:** If he/she does truly believe (trust) what the Bible teaches about God, mankind, sin, death, Christ, the cross and resurrection, faith in Jesus Christ, and eternal life, then he/she is a “believer”—and a recipient of God’s gift of eternal life.

*The Bible clearly teaches that it is by believing (trusting) in what God has done for us through Jesus Christ that we are saved from our sins. The tricky (and crucial) matter here is to distinguish between “head belief” which does not save and “heart belief” which does.*

**Second:** It is probably helpful to lead the student to do something here to mark (in his/her own memory) his/her overall faith response to God’s free offer of salvation. But if you do this, be sure to clarify that signing a form or praying a prayer is not what saves; it’s his/her faith in Jesus Christ that saves.

**Here’s one suggestion:**

- Ask him/her to read aloud the statements at the bottom of page 60.
- Focus on the last statement (“I am trusting Jesus Christ alone ...”). Ask if he/she can sincerely make that statement. If so ...
- Then, ask if he/she would like to talk to God now and thank Him for what He has done for him. If so, (1) you lead in prayer first and (2) then invite him to talk to God to thank Him for what God has done for him.

**What do you do if the student is not willing or ready to embrace God’s gift of eternal life?**

By all means, don’t coerce or pressure him/her. You may want to pray with him, at this time, for God to give him/her faith to believe. Explain that he/she can contact you at any time to discuss the matter further. Perhaps, you might want to set up another appointment for the near future in order to discuss the matter again.

**Personalize the following words of Jesus. Instead of “the world,” “whoever,” and “he who,” put in your name.**

*Explain to the student how to personalize the following Bible verses and illustrate it by doing it for him/her. The highlighted words should help you to think through how this would be done.*

## John 3:16-18

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that [if] whoever [person's name] believes in Him [person's name] should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. <sup>18</sup> [If] He who [person's name] believes in Him [he/she] is not condemned; but [if] [person's name] does not believe [he/she] is condemned already, because [person's name] has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**Example:** <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that if John Doe believes in Him John Doe should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. <sup>18</sup>If John Doe believes in Him he is not condemned; but if John Doe does not believe he is condemned already, because John Doe has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

## A Personal Faith Response Commitment:

**I now understand that the God of the Bible is the one True God. He is perfect and holy.**

I now see myself much differently than I did before because of what I have learned from what the Bible teaches. I now understand that I was born with a sinful nature. I have disobeyed God continually. My sin grieves God very much even though He made me and loves me. I know my sin has separated me from God. The right (just) punishment for my sin is to be separated from God eternally in Hell, a place the Bible says is full of torment.

I understand that the death and resurrection of God's Son Jesus Christ is the only way for me to be forgiven, to escape the punishment for my sins, and to receive God's gift of eternal life.

**I am now trusting Jesus Christ and His death on the cross and no one or nothing else as the only way God can forgive my sin.**

*Be sure that the student understands that he/she is forgiven of his/her sins (and receives God's free gift of eternal life and becomes a member of God's family) when he/she believes (from the heart) and that no external deed or act on his/her part is necessary for salvation.*

### Basic Steps In Following Jesus

If the student becomes a believer during this Bible study process, or was a believer prior to the study, show him/her a copy of *The Way to Joy-Kids*. Encourage him/her to continue your Bible study series using *The Way to Joy-Kids*.

### Begin Your Basic Steps as a Follower of Jesus Christ

Lesson 1: *The Story of Hope Review*

Lesson 2: *The ChronoBridge to Life Review*

Lesson 3: *Salvation Assurance & Security*

Lesson 4: *The Bible*

Lesson 5: *Prayer*

Lesson 6: *The Holy Spirit*

Lesson 7: *Personal Holiness*

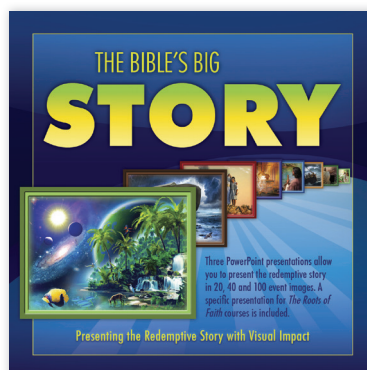
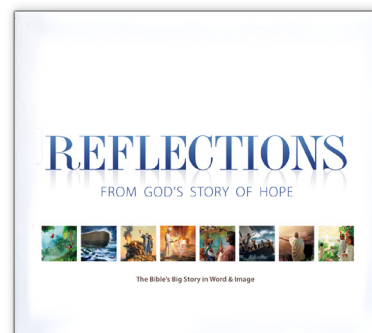
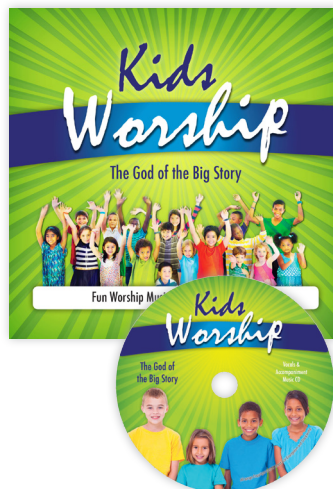
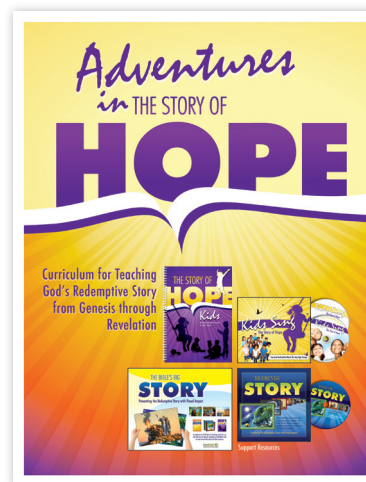
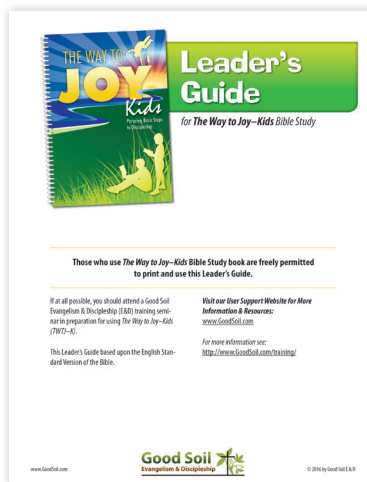
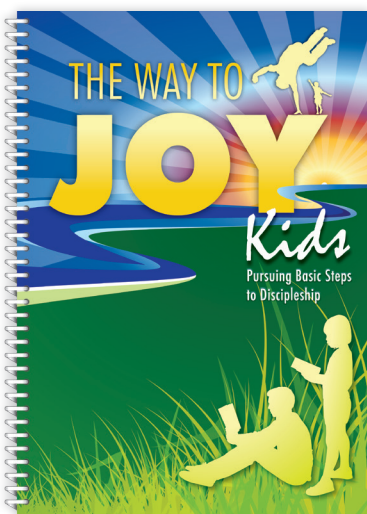
Lesson 8: *Witnessing*

Lesson 9: *The Local Church*

Lesson 10: *God's Plan for You*



# ➔ Additional Resources for Ministry with Kids



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