

# The Growing in Faith Bible



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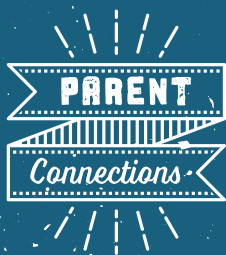
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# Explanation of Features

*The Growing in Faith Bible* is specially made for children ages 6 through 10. The following features are designed to help parents and children better understand God's Word and His people.



## PARENT CONNECTIONS

Teach your children the important message and theme in each book of the Bible, raising them to be a child of Jesus Christ, their Savior.



## BIBLE NARRATIVES

Discover 125 of the Bible's most important narratives, and see how God loves, forgives, guides, and protects us in our everyday lives. And see God's Word come to life in beautiful artwork!

You can read through all these stories in order by using the Bible Narratives Reading Plan on page 1867.



## CHARACTER SKETCHES

Get to know a collection of important people in the Bible—seventy-eight of them! Learn about their family members, the work each did, where you can find their stories in the Bible, and much more!

## CHRIST CONNECTIONS

See those places in the Old Testament that point ahead to Jesus, the coming Savior, and what they teach us about God's plan to save us through Jesus. In the New Testament, see those places where Jesus reveals Himself to be God's Son.

## BIG QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Stop and consider those big questions—Did God create life? Did Jesus really work miracles? Did Jesus really rise from the dead?—and see the answers the Bible gives us.

## BIG WORDS

Learn what these important Bible words mean, how to say them, and what each one teaches us about our God and Savior.



**CHRIST  
CONNECTIONS**

**BIG?**  
QUESTIONS  
AND  
ANSWERS





Genesis is the Bible's book of beginnings. God tells us how He created our world. He tells us about the first humans, how sin entered the world, and how He made His first promise to send His Son to save us.

He tells us about how badly people treated one another and how He decided to send a terrible flood to destroy everybody—but then saved Noah and his family by showing him how to build a great ark.

Then we read of God's plan to raise a nation of believers from an old man and his wife. By the end of the book, we see that God kept His promise by building a nation from Abraham's descendants.

## WHO WROTE GENESIS?

Adam and Eve told their children what happened to them and about the promises God gave them. Their children and grandchildren carefully passed these family stories on to their children. Later, Moses wrote these stories down in the Book of Genesis.

## HOW DO WE SEE GOD'S LOVE IN GENESIS?

God created a beautiful, perfect home for the first people, Adam and Eve. Even after they broke His rules, God promised to send His Son, Jesus, to save them and all of us. Over and over again, no matter how bad people get, God remembers His promise and repeats it to believers.

### Bible Narratives in Genesis

God Creates the World	God Calls Abram	Jacob's Family
God Creates Adam and Eve	Abram's Visitors from Heaven	Jacob Returns Home
Sin Enters the World	God Rescues Lot	Joseph's Dreams
Cain and Abel	God Tests Abraham	Joseph's Troubles
Noah Builds the Ark	Isaac and Rebekah	Joseph Feeds Egypt
God's Promise to Noah	Jacob and Esau	Joseph Forgives His Brothers
The Tower of Babel	Jacob's Dream	

### Characters in Genesis

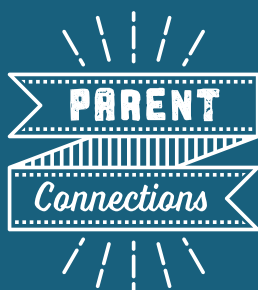
Adam; Eve; Cain; Abel; Noah; Abraham; Sarah; Lot; Isaac; Rebekah; Esau; Jacob/Israel; Twelve Tribes—Jacob's Twelve Sons; Joseph

### Christ Connections in Genesis

The First Gospel Promise	Joseph Sold into Slavery
Abraham Offers Isaac	

### Big Questions and Answers in Genesis

Did God create life or did life evolve?	What were the first humans like?
What about dinosaurs?	Why blame me for Adam's sin?
Are there two different creation stories?	Did people really live 900 years?
Why did Adam and Eve have to work?	How could all the animals in the world fit in the ark?
Why isn't it God's fault? He put the tree there.	Where did all the floodwater come from?



## Our Beginning

Has your child ever asked you to tell about the day he was born or recount stories from his early years? Children love to know where they came from.

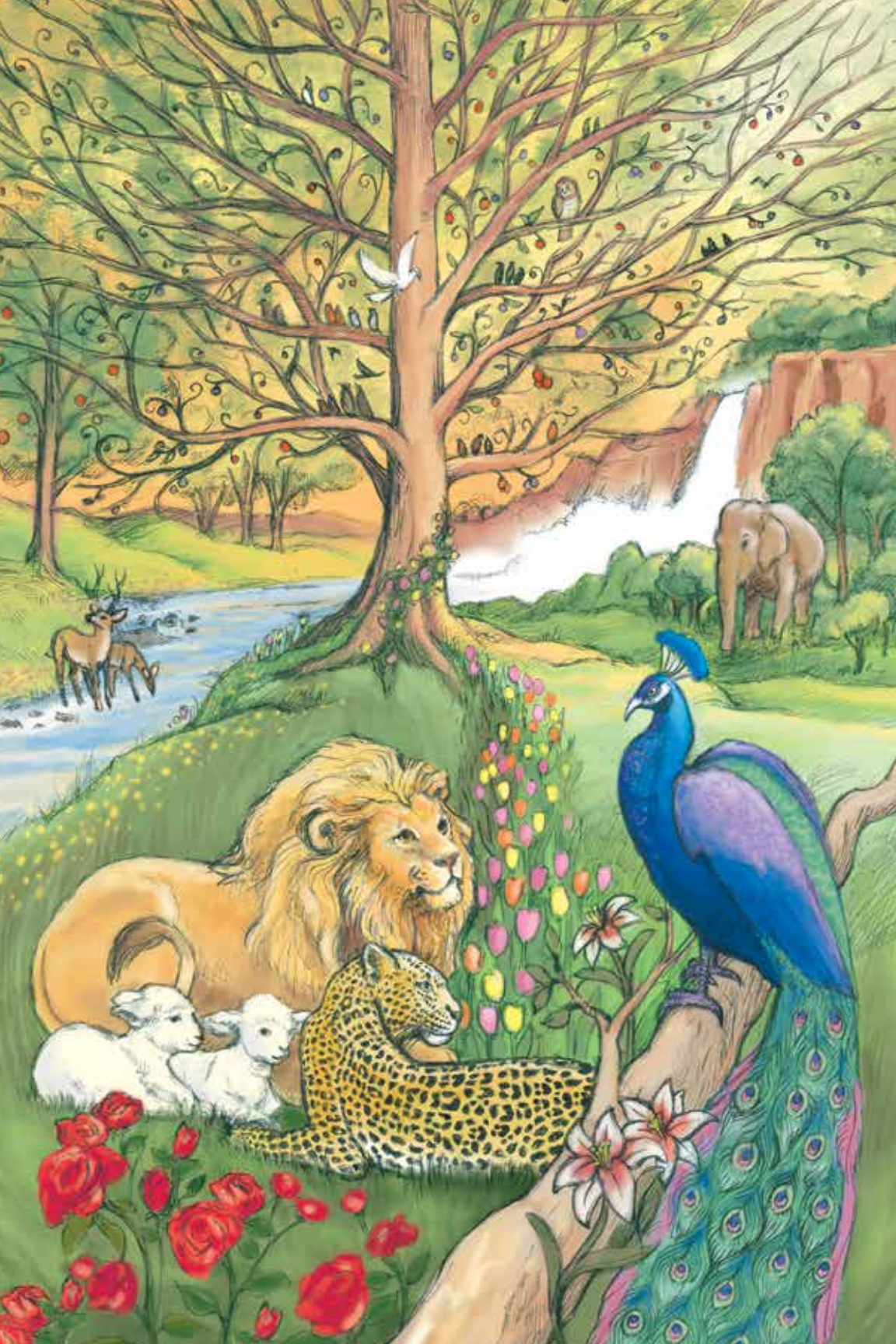
Genesis is the story of where our human family came from. It shows how God created this amazing world. It explains how the world got to be in the mess it is today and what God decided to do about it.

It is tempting for adults to think of the first chapters of Genesis as a myth or fairy tale. But if we do, we remove the reason God the Father sent Jesus to save us. Besides, for Jesus, these events were very real.

When He talked about His return on Judgment Day, Jesus said, "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:26–27).

Clearly, if Jesus treated the words of Genesis as fact, we need to think of them the same way—and read them to our children the same way.







# God Creates the World

Genesis 1

Where is your favorite outside place?

**G**od made the mountains, hills, rivers, and lakes. He made the forests and grassland. He made trees and flowers. He made birds, fish, cats, and dogs. Let's talk about how He made them.

In the beginning, there was only God. Nothing else. Then God spoke, and suddenly the heavens and the earth were here. But the earth was covered with water, and darkness was everywhere. So God said, "Let there be light." And immediately, light appeared. God separated the light from the darkness so that each day there will be time for darkness and time for light. God called the time of light Day, and He called the time of darkness Night. This was the first day.

The second day, God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters." Some water moved up above, and some moved down below and left a space behind. God called that new space Sky.

On the third day, God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place so the dry ground can appear." God called the waters Seas, and He called the dry land Earth. But the land was bare and empty. So God spoke, and all kinds of plants grew out of the land—fruit trees, leafy shade trees, pretty flowering trees, and evergreen trees. Bushes, vines, and prairie grass appeared. God made tulips, roses, and lush, green grass.

On the fourth day, God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to separate the day from the night." So He made the sun to light up the day. He made the moon and stars to light the night.

On the fifth day, God said, "Let the waters be filled with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the sky." All kinds of fish appeared—great and small. God also made

whales and dolphins to play in the oceans, and He filled the rivers and lakes with all kinds of fish. He filled the sky with all kinds of birds—sparrows, robins, cardinals, owls, hawks, and eagles.

On the sixth day, God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures." He made wild beasts like lions, elephants, and zebras; livestock like horses, cows, and pigs; and crawling things like worms, spiders, and ants.

Then last of all, God said, "Let us make humans in Our image." So God made a man and a woman. Since they were made in God's image, they were able to know God. They could love Him and talk to Him. And just like God, they were good, caring, and kind.

God looked at everything He made, and He said that it was very good. Then on the seventh day, God stopped creating things and rested.

So one day each week, we stop and rest. We come to church and Sunday School to thank Him for creating us, to talk about all the things He does to take care of us, and to remember all the good gifts He gives to us.



**LET'S PRAY:** Heavenly Father, You made such a wonderful world, and You made me too. Thank You for sending Your own Son, Jesus, to save me. Amen.

## GENESIS 1:20



**Q: Did God create life or did life evolve?**

**A:** Some people say the earth is very old and animals evolved over millions of years. They say small animals slowly changed into bigger ones. Fish turned into frogs, frogs turned into reptiles, reptiles turned into dinosaurs, and dinosaurs turned into birds. They say gorillas evolved into humans.

But the Bible tells us our wise and powerful God created all life in the first six days. God's amazing creation lets us use science to understand many things. Science shows us how carefully God created us and all the different kinds of animals and plants. But science can't show us God. Only the Bible can do that.

So what should you do if you are confused about whether God created the world or it evolved? Go back to the Bible and let God tell you. Over and over, the Bible talks about how God created the world and the life that lives on it.

birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill

the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” <sup>29</sup> And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

## GENESIS 1:24



**Q: What about dinosaurs?**

**A:** Have you ever heard that dinosaurs died millions of years before humans came?

The Bible teaches us God made land animals and humans on the sixth day. That means people and dinosaurs lived at the same time.

You will never find the word *dinosaur* in the Bible because it is a very new word that wasn't even made up until long after the Bible was written.

But does the Bible describe animals that could be dinosaurs? Read about two huge animals in Job 40:15–19 and Job 41:33 and see what you think.

So what happened to the dinosaurs? Noah took them on the ark, but some scientists believe that in the new world after the flood there wasn't enough food for them. In time, they all died off. But all around the world, old civilizations told stories about dragons. Could dragons have been the dinosaurs that lived after the flood?

## Bless



(1) To give someone gifts for that person's spirit or life—like joy and forgiveness or food and clothes. (2) To pray for God to give people good things. (3) To give God glory and praise.

## The Seventh Day, God Rests

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

## The Creation of Man and Woman

- <sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

### GENESIS 2:4

**Q:** Are there two different creation stories?

**A:** Some people say Genesis 1 and 2 tell us two different stories that can't both be true. In chapter 1, God created trees and animals first, then humans. But in chapter 2, He created Adam first, then all the plants and animals, and then Eve.

But chapters 1 and 2 are not talking about the same thing. Chapter 1 shows us what God made on each day of the first week of creation. Chapter 2 shows how God made man and woman on the sixth day of that week. It says God formed Adam's body from the ground and then breathed into Adam's nostrils to make him live.

But God knew it was not good for Adam to be all alone. So He brought Adam every kind of bird and land animal He had already formed. Adam named each kind, but realized none of them could be his partner, so God created Eve.



## Adam

**NAME:** The name *Adam* means "earth" or "ground" because God formed Adam's body from the ground.

**PARENTS:** Adam was the first human, so he did not have a father or mother. The Bible calls Adam the son of God (see Luke 3:38). God formed his body and gave Adam His own breath to make him a living creature.

**HOME:** God put Adam in the Garden of Eden. He lived there until he ate the forbidden fruit. Then he was driven away to raise crops in the land east of Eden.

**SPOUSE:** Eve

**CHILDREN:** Cain, Abel, Seth, and many more. Cain killed Abel and then turned his back on God. God chose Adam's son Seth to carry on the family line that would lead to Jesus, God's Son, our Savior.

**JOB:** Adam farmed the ground out of which God had formed his body.

**WHERE IS ADAM IN THE BIBLE?**  
Genesis 1–5

### IMPORTANT FACTS:

- Adam chose names for each kind of animal.
- Adam knew the serpent was lying to Eve in the Garden of Eden (see 1 Timothy 2:14), but he did not speak up to protect her. He even ate the fruit she handed him, knowing he would die.
- Adam believed God's promise to send a Savior, and he taught that promise to his children and grandchildren after him.
- Adam died when he was 930 years old (see Genesis 5:5).
- Adam lived so long he could have talked with Noah's father.



Exodus describes how Jacob's family became slaves in Egypt. God raised up Moses to bring out His people. God showed His great power over Egypt through ten plagues and the pathway He opened through the Red Sea. Israel traveled to Mount Sinai, where God gave His Ten Commandments and the design for His tabernacle.

## WHO WROTE EXODUS?

Moses wrote Exodus.

## HOW DO WE SEE GOD'S LOVE IN EXODUS?

God brought His people Israel out of slavery and provided the food they needed in the wilderness. Even though God used His mighty plagues to force Pharaoh to release Israel, He gave Pharaoh many chances to obey before his nation was destroyed.

### Bible Narratives in Exodus

Birth of Moses	Crossing the Red Sea	Worship in the Tabernacle
Moses and the Burning Bush	God Provides Manna and Quail	The Golden Calf
Moses and the Plagues	The Ten Commandments	
The Passover		

### Characters in Exodus

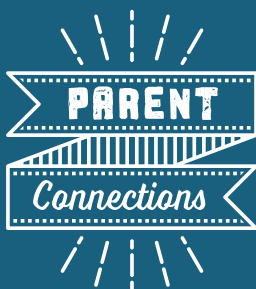
Moses; Aaron

### Christ Connections in Exodus

The Burning Bush	The Pillar of Cloud and Fire
The Passover Lamb	The Tabernacle

### Big Questions and Answers in Exodus


If God really loved Pharaoh, why did He harden Pharaoh's heart?	Did God break His own law against murder when He sent the flood?
Were the plagues real miracles or just natural events?	



## Life's Journey

As Christians, our lives on earth are like the Israelites when they were slaves in Egypt. We sin and are slaves to Satan, who won't set us free, just as the Israelites weren't free in Egypt. God is the only one who can free us from Satan and our sin. This Scripture also shows us how the waters of Baptism are like the Red Sea, setting us free from our desires to sin and giving us new lives in Christ.

The remainder of your child's life on earth—and your own—is similar to Israel wandering in the wilderness. Our Lord Jesus provides our daily needs and guides us to the Promised Land of His eternal presence in the new heavens and the new earth.

This Book of Exodus reminds us that God guides us every step of the way through our life's journey. He is always present to provide our needs, protect us from harm, and keep us on the right path. Each day, we pray for our daily bread, just as the children of Israel awoke each day looking for the manna, the bread of life. 

This book also reminds us parents that our children are looking to us to model what life in Jesus Christ should look like—just as the Israelites' children looked to their parents. Do we show thankful, trusting hearts, or are we constantly complaining that we don't have enough? Do we show the priority of worship in our lives and of learning the Bible in Bible class? Or do we send mixed signals that learning God's Word in Sunday School is for children, but grown-ups don't really need God's Word?

We model a faith life not just by what we do on Sunday mornings, but also by what we do each day of the week as we show our faith in God or tell others about how generous our God is. On the other hand, we are modeling a lack of faith when we express our doubts about His care or gripe about the things He is not giving us.



# Birth of Moses

Exodus 2:1–10

Describe how it feels to be bullied.

**A**t the end of Genesis, Israel (Jacob) moved his family to Egypt, where Joseph could take care of them. When Jacob died, Joseph and his brothers took Jacob's body back to the Promised Land and buried him with his parents. The twelve brothers went back to Egypt and lived there until they died. Their children and grandchildren stayed in Egypt, growing into the nation God had promised Abraham long before.

Many years later, a new pharaoh became king in Egypt. He didn't remember how Joseph, an Israelite, saved Egypt during the seven bad years. He just knew Israel had grown big and strong, and he was afraid of them. He decided to make sure they wouldn't be stronger than he was by making them his slaves. He had his people be mean to the Israelites and make them do hard and dirty work. It made the Israelites very sad to be bullied and treated so badly.

God saw how badly the Egyptians were treating His people, the Israelites. God loved the Israelites and blessed them. They became a very great nation and became very strong from all the hard work they were forced to do. Pharaoh became so scared of the Israelites that he decided to do something really bad. He commanded that every Israelite baby boy should be thrown into the Nile River.

God wanted His people, the Israelites, to live and stay strong. An Israelite woman who trusted God and wasn't afraid of Pharaoh's law had a baby boy and hid him until he was too old to keep hidden any longer. She made a basket that would float in the river out of plants that grow along the shore and tar. She put her baby in the basket and placed it in the river among the plants and told her daughter Miriam to follow along the bank to watch and see what would happen to him.



That same morning, Pharaoh's daughter came out to wash herself in the river. She saw the basket floating among the river plants. When her servant brought her the basket, she looked inside and saw a crying baby. She knew it was a little Israelite boy. Her father would have wanted her to pull out that baby and throw him into the river. But she felt sorry for him. She took him from the basket and carried him into Pharaoh's house as her own son. She named him Moses, which means "draw out," because she pulled him out of the water.

God sometimes does funny things to people who try to go against Him. Pharaoh was feeding, clothing, teaching, and raising the very Israelite boy God had chosen to lead Israel out of Egypt when he grew up.

The same thing later happened to Jesus when He was little. A king ordered his soldiers to kill every baby boy. But God kept Jesus safe by having Joseph take Mary and Jesus to Egypt to hide there.

There are times when it is not easy to be God's child. But God is always with us. He sends angels to protect us, and He gives us all we need to stay strong in faith and joyful even when life is hard and sad.

**LET'S PRAY:** Lord God, Pharaoh tried very hard to hurt Your people and destroy the baby You chose to set Your people free. Thank You for protecting Moses. Thank You also for protecting Jesus when He was a little child and another king tried to kill Him. Remind me You will always protect me too. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed him.<sup>10</sup> When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, “Because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”<sup>11</sup>

### Moses Flees to Midian

<sup>11</sup>One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people.<sup>2</sup> <sup>12</sup>He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.<sup>13</sup> When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, “Why do you strike your companion?” <sup>14</sup>He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” <sup>15</sup>When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

<sup>16</sup>Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock. <sup>17</sup>The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. <sup>18</sup>When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, “How is it that you have come home so soon today?” <sup>19</sup>They said, “An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock.” <sup>20</sup>He said to his daughters, “Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.” <sup>21</sup>And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. <sup>22</sup>She gave birth to a son, and he

called his name Gershom, for he said, “I have been a sojourner<sup>3</sup> in a foreign land.”

### God Hears Israel’s Groaning

<sup>23</sup>During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. <sup>24</sup>And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. <sup>25</sup>God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

### VERSE FOR LIFE

**EXODUS 2:23–24** The people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

### The Burning Bush

**3** Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” <sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>5</sup> Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup> And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>1</sup> Moses sounds like the Hebrew for draw out. <sup>2</sup> Hebrew brothers. <sup>3</sup> Gershom sounds like the Hebrew for sojourner.

## The Burning Bush

One day, Moses was watching sheep near Mount Horeb when he noticed a bush burning on the mountain. As he came near, the Angel of the Lord told him to take off his sandals, “For the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”

This was no normal angel. They can’t make the ground holy; only God can do that. This Angel told Moses, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob” (Exodus 3:6). This was the Lord appearing to Moses.

God had seen the Egyptians mistreating His people and had come down to rescue them and bring them up to the Promised Land.

**ONE LAST THING:** When the time was right, God came down to earth and became human to save us from our sins.



## Holy

- (1) Perfect, without sin.
- (2) Set apart or special.



<sup>7</sup>Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,<sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.<sup>9</sup> And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

<sup>10</sup>Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup>He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

<sup>13</sup>Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.”<sup>1</sup> And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” <sup>15</sup>God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The LORD,<sup>2</sup> the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.” <sup>16</sup>Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, “I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, <sup>17</sup>and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.”’” <sup>18</sup>And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.’ <sup>19</sup>But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand.<sup>3</sup> <sup>20</sup>So I will stretch out my hand and

<sup>1</sup> Or I AM WHAT I AM, or I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE <sup>2</sup>The word LORD, when spelled with capital letters, stands for the divine name, YHWH, which is here connected with the verb *hayah*, “to be” in verse 14 <sup>3</sup>Septuagint, Vulgate; Hebrew *go*, not by a mighty hand



Luke was written for a Gentile reader. It focuses on Jesus' healing miracles, which makes sense since Luke was a doctor.

## WHO WROTE LUKE?

The doctor Luke wrote the Gospel that carries his name. Luke never met Jesus in person, but he was a traveling companion with Paul on his missionary journeys. Luke interviewed eyewitnesses of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and carefully wrote a narrative out of these stories as the Holy Spirit led him.

## HOW DO WE SEE GOD'S LOVE IN LUKE?

Luke likes to show us Jesus' love for the poor, for women, for Gentiles, and for tax collectors and other sinners. As Jesus said, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

### Bible Narratives in Luke

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold	The Presentation of Jesus	Jesus Heals Ten Lepers
Gabriel Visits Mary	The Boy Jesus in the Temple	Jesus and Zacchaeus
Mary Visits Elizabeth	Jesus Is Rejected at Nazareth	Jesus Prays in the Garden
The Birth of John the Baptist	Jesus Drives Out Demons	On the Road to Emmaus
The Birth of Jesus	The Good Samaritan	Jesus Appears to His Apostles
The Angels and the Shepherds	The Lord's Prayer	Jesus Ascends into Heaven
	The Prodigal Son	

### Characters in Luke

Gabriel; Mary; Elizabeth; Zechariah; Simeon; Anna; Zacchaeus

### Christ Connections in Luke

Jesus' Transfiguration      The Things Written about the Christ

### Big Questions and Answers in Luke

Did Jesus really have to die?

### Dedication to Theophilus

**I**nasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, <sup>2</sup>just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, <sup>3</sup>it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup>that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

### Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

<sup>5</sup>In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, <sup>6</sup>of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>7</sup>And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>8</sup>But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

<sup>9</sup>Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, <sup>10</sup>according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>11</sup>And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. <sup>12</sup>And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>13</sup>And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. <sup>14</sup>But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>15</sup>And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>16</sup>for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. <sup>17</sup>And he will turn many of the children of

Israel to the Lord their God, <sup>18</sup>and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

<sup>19</sup>And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." <sup>20</sup>And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>21</sup>And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." <sup>22</sup>And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. <sup>23</sup>And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. <sup>24</sup>And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

<sup>25</sup>After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, <sup>26</sup>"Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

### Birth of Jesus Foretold

<sup>27</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>28</sup>to a virgin betrothed<sup>2</sup> to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>29</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>30</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>31</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor

<sup>1</sup> Greek *Zacharias* <sup>2</sup> That is, legally pledged to be married <sup>3</sup> Some manuscripts add *Blessed are you among women!*



# The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

Luke 1:5–25

Have you ever prayed and asked God to do something for you but then given up when nothing happened?

**W**hen it was almost the time God wanted to send His Son into the world, He sent an angel named Gabriel (GAY-bree-uhl) to the temple in Jerusalem. Gabriel appeared to a priest who was burning incense in the Holy Place, the front room of the temple. The priest's name was Zechariah (zek-uh-RYE-uh). Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, both loved God and trusted His promise to send the Savior. Many years before, Zechariah had prayed that God would give them a child, but now they were very old, and no child had ever come.

When Gabriel suddenly appeared, Zechariah was terrified. The angel told him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.”

The angel told him that his son would be great, and he would go before the Lord as His mighty messenger. He would prepare God's people to receive His Son, whom He had promised so long ago to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden after they had eaten the forbidden fruit.


This great promise surprised Zechariah very much. He answered, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” He didn't believe God's promise because he thought Elizabeth was way too old to have a baby.

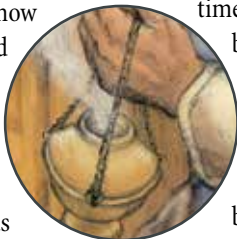
The angel answered, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” Sure enough, when

the angel left him, Zechariah came out of the temple but couldn't say a word.

When his time to serve at the temple ended, he returned home and Elizabeth became pregnant, and the baby started growing inside her.

Sometimes, we pray for things, as Zechariah did, and it seems like God doesn't hear—or He doesn't care. But God hears all our prayers, and He promises to answer all of them. Sometimes, He gives us the things we ask for because those are best for us. Sometimes, He says no because He wants to give us something better than we could ever think of. Sometimes, He wants us to wait—like Zechariah—because His time has not come yet.

But whatever His answer might be, you can be sure it will be the very best for you. 



**LET'S PRAY:** Lord God, sometimes it is hard to keep praying—especially when we pray so hard and nothing seems to happen. Give me faith to trust in You and to believe Your promise to answer all my prayers. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## Gabriel

**NAME:** The name *Gabriel* means “strong man of God.” (The same Hebrew root word is used for David’s “mighty warriors.”)

**PARENTS:** Angels do not have parents. All angels were created by God during the six days of creation in Genesis 1. The Bible often calls angels the “sons of God.”

**HOME:** The holy angels live in heaven with God. As Gabriel told Zechariah, “I stand in the presence of God” (Luke 1:19).

**SPOUSE AND CHILDREN:** God created angels as spirit creatures who do not have physical bodies, although they sometimes take human form. They neither marry nor are given in marriage, and they do not give birth to angel babies. All the angels that exist were created in the first six days of creation.

**JOB:** God specially chose Gabriel to bring His messages to Daniel, Zechariah, and Mary.

### WHERE IS GABRIEL IN THE BIBLE?

Daniel 8–9; Luke 1

### IMPORTANT FACTS:

- In Daniel 8, God gave Daniel a vision that he tried to understand but couldn’t. God sent Gabriel to explain that the vision described events that would happen to God’s people between the Old and New Testaments.
- In Daniel 9, Daniel studied the writings of the prophet Jeremiah and realized Judah had been in captivity seventy years, as Jeremiah had foretold. When Daniel prayed for God to bring the exiles back to Jerusalem, God sent Gabriel with the answer and a prophecy about the coming of the promised Christ.
- In Luke 1, God sent Gabriel to the temple in Jerusalem to announce to the priest Zechariah that his wife, Elizabeth, was going to have a son. They were to name him John, and he would go before

the Messiah—or Christ—to prepare the way for Him.

- Six months later, God sent Gabriel to Nazareth to tell the Virgin Mary that God had chosen her to be the mother of His Son.
- Humans and angels are two completely separate creatures.

Humans do not become angels when they die.

Perhaps this false idea came because our spirits leave our bodies when we die. But at the resurrection, our spirits will reenter our resurrected bodies.

with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>2</sup> will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant<sup>3</sup> of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

### VERSE FOR LIFE

**LUKE 1:37** Nothing will be impossible with God.

<sup>1</sup> Greek *since I do not know a man* <sup>2</sup> Some manuscripts add *of you* <sup>3</sup> Greek *bondservant*; also verse 48



## CHARACTER



# Mary

**NAME:** The name *Mary* is a New Testament form of the Old Testament name *Miriam*. Miriam was Moses' sister.

**PARENTS:** The Bible does not tell us the name of Mary's mother or father. She was a descendant of King David and a cousin of Elizabeth.

**HOME:** Mary's home was in Nazareth.

**SPOUSE:** Mary was married to Joseph, the carpenter from Nazareth.

**CHILDREN:** Mary's firstborn son was Jesus. The Bible mentions that Jesus had brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas—and sisters. If these children were Joseph and Mary's sons and daughters, they would have been Jesus' half brothers and sisters. If they were Joseph's children by a first wife who died before Joseph took Mary as his wife, they would have been Mary's stepchildren and Jesus' stepbrothers and stepsisters.

**JOB:** Mary was the mother of Jesus Christ.

## WHERE IS MARY IN THE BIBLE?

Matthew; Mark; Luke; John

## IMPORTANT FACTS:

- Mary was betrothed (promised) to Joseph when the angel Gabriel announced that God chose her to be the mother of His Son.

- Mary visited Elizabeth and Zechariah after she became pregnant with Jesus.
  - Mary gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem as the prophet Micah had predicted (Micah 5:2).
  - When Jesus was forty days old, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to be presented to the Lord.
  - Shortly after the Wise Men visited Jesus, Mary and Joseph took Him and fled to Egypt to escape King Herod the Great.
  - After Herod the Great died, Mary and Joseph returned from Egypt to Nazareth, where Jesus was raised.
  - When Jesus was twelve years old, Mary and Joseph mistakenly left Jerusalem without Him after the Passover celebration. When they discovered He was missing, they searched Jerusalem frantically until they found Him in the temple three days later.
  - Mary was at the wedding in Cana when Jesus turned water into wine.
  - Mary was at the cross on Good Friday, watching Jesus die for our sins.
- Jesus put Mary under the care of His disciple John, son of Zebedee.
- In the ten days between Jesus' ascension into heaven and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Mary met with Jesus' disciples to pray in the Upper Room.

## Mary Visits Elizabeth

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should

come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be<sup>1</sup> a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

## Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>1</sup> Or *believed, for there will be*



Matthew, Mark, and Luke all teach us a lot of things that happened in Jesus' life. But John teaches us many other wonderful things Jesus said and did that aren't found in the other three Gospels. Put them all together, and Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John teach us all we need to know about the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

## WHO WROTE JOHN?

The apostle John, son of Zebedee and brother of James, wrote this Gospel.

## HOW DO WE SEE GOD'S LOVE IN JOHN?

More than the other three Gospels, John shows us the Son of God, who became a man, Jesus of Nazareth, and died and rose again to restore us to life with the Father. John does not include nearly as many of Jesus' miracles as the other Gospels do, but he lets us hear what Jesus said after some of His miracles, and His words show us just how much He loves us.

### Bible Narratives in John

Jesus Changes Water into Wine

Jesus Is Arrested

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

Jesus before Pontius Pilate

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

The Crucifixion and Jesus' Last Words

Jesus Heals a Man Who Can't Walk

Jesus Appears to Thomas

The Good Shepherd

Jesus Restores Peter

Jesus Raises Lazarus

### Characters in John

Nathanael; Nicodemus; Thomas; Mary and Martha; Lazarus; Philip the Apostle; Mary Magdalene

### Christ Connections in John

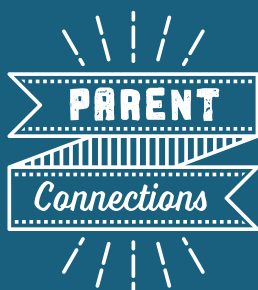
Jesus Calls God His Father

Jesus Tells His Disciples He Is the Son of God

Jesus and Abraham

### Big Questions and Answers in John

Was Jesus really dead?



## Knowing about Jesus Is Not Enough

After writing two chapters speaking about Jesus' resurrection, John wrote these amazing words: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30–31).

Think about what John is saying. By the Holy Spirit's guidance, John carefully chose specific signs and the accompanying teachings of Jesus and recorded them. John's purpose was that everyone who sees Jesus' signs and reads Jesus' words would see Him as God's one and only Son, the Savior, the Christ promised first to Adam and Eve in the garden and then to the nations throughout the Old Testament.

But simply knowing that information is not enough—because clearly, the demons recognized Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God. The purpose of the Holy Spirit for this Gospel, and each of the Gospels, is to create faith, the belief and trust in Jesus that gives us forgiveness and eternal life in Jesus' name.

That is where you come in as parents—God's representatives to your precious child. As you speak with your child about the faith, don't confine it to mere facts that reside in the mind alone. Faith—saving faith—is not simple head knowledge. It is a living faith, a trust, a relationship with the eternal Son of God, who makes us alive through His life, death, and resurrection. You can model that sort of living faith to your child as more and more you grasp who Jesus Christ is for you and what He has done so that we might not perish apart from Him but have eternal life even now by His death and resurrection.

## The Word Became Flesh

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life,<sup>1</sup> and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own,<sup>2</sup> and his own people<sup>3</sup> did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

## Grace

God's great love for sinful mankind.



<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son<sup>4</sup> from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.<sup>5</sup> <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth

came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God,<sup>6</sup> who is at the Father's side,<sup>7</sup> he has made him known.

## The Testimony of John the Baptist

<sup>19</sup>And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight<sup>8</sup> the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

## Behold, the Lamb of God

<sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but for

## VERSE FOR LIFE

**JOHN 1:29** Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

<sup>1</sup> Or was not any thing made. That which has been made was life in him <sup>2</sup> Greek to his own things; that is, to his own domain, or to his own people <sup>3</sup> People is implied in Greek <sup>4</sup> Or only One, or unique One <sup>5</sup> Or grace in place of grace <sup>6</sup> Or the only One, who is God; some manuscripts the only Son <sup>7</sup> Greek in the bosom of the Father <sup>8</sup> Or crying out, 'In the wilderness make straight' <sup>9</sup> Isa. 40:3



## Nathanael

**NAME:** The name *Nathanael* means “gift of God.”

**PARENTS:** The Bible does not tell us the name of Nathanael’s mother or father.

**HOME:** Nathanael was from the town of Cana in Galilee (see John 21:2).

**SPOUSE AND CHILDREN:** The Bible does not tell us if Nathanael got married or had any children.

**JOB:** The Bible does not tell us what Nathanael did before Jesus called him. Jesus chose him to be one of the twelve disciples.

### WHERE IS NATHANAEL IN THE

**BIBLE?** Nathanael is mentioned by name in John 1 and 21.

### IMPORTANT FACTS:

- Philip told Nathanael he had met the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. Nathanael didn’t think very much of Nazareth. He said, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip answered, “Come and see” (John 1:46).

When Nathanael was coming up to meet Jesus, Jesus said, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” (v. 47).

Nathanael was surprised and asked Jesus, “How do You know me?” (v. 48).

Jesus answered, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you” (v. 48).

We aren’t sure what that meant, but Nathanael was doing something under the fig tree that only he knew about—perhaps praying or thinking hard about the Bible. So when Jesus mentioned it, Nathanael knew He had to be God. Nathanael answered, “Rabbi,

You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” (v. 49).

- Jesus chose Nathanael to be one of His twelve disciples.
- Jesus had other disciples outside of His Twelve, many of whom are not named.
- Many people who study the Bible believe that Nathanael was also called Bartholomew.
- According to tradition, Nathanael was put to death for preaching the Good News about Jesus Christ.

this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup> And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup> And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son<sup>1</sup> of God.”

### Jesus Calls the First Disciples

<sup>35</sup> The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “**What are you seeking?**” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup> He said to them, “**Come and you will see.**” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.<sup>2</sup> <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus<sup>3</sup> was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup> He brought

<sup>1</sup> Some manuscripts *the Chosen One* <sup>2</sup> That is, about 4 P.M. <sup>3</sup> Greek *him*





# Jesus Heals a Man Who Can't Walk

John 5:1–17

Have you ever met someone who couldn't walk? What are some things you couldn't do anymore if you couldn't walk?

**T**he Bible tells us that Jesus healed people who were blind or deaf or had leprosy. In this reading, Jesus healed a man who was not able to walk. It happened in Jerusalem.

This man was lying by a pool called Bethesda (buh-THEZ-duh). He was with a large group of people who were blind, lame, or paralyzed. Since these people couldn't see or move around well, they weren't able to work or hold jobs. So they gathered here by this pool.

They were here because they had heard stories that God sent an angel to this pool from time to time. When the water got stirred up, everyone made their way to the water as fast as they could go, and whoever was the first person to get into the water was supposed to be healed.

Jesus came through the courtyard and saw this man. He knew that he had been there a long, long time. Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be healed?"

The man answered, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me."

Jesus told him, "Get up, take your bed, and walk." And by the power of His words, Jesus healed the man right away. He got up on his feet, picked up his bed, and started walking. Some Jews saw the man carrying his bed, and they asked him why he was breaking the rules, carrying a load on the Sabbath Day.

The man answered, "The man who healed me, that man said to me, 'Take up your bed, and walk.'" They asked who healed him, but he didn't know. Jesus had disappeared into the crowds.

A little later that day, Jesus found the man in the temple and told him, "See, you are well!

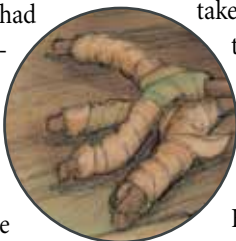
Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you."

The man went away and told the Jews that Jesus was the man who had healed him and told him to carry his bed. That made some of the Jewish leaders really mad at Jesus. They thought He was breaking the Sabbath rules by working all these miracles. They tried to argue with Him and treat Him in a very mean way.

Jesus told them that God His Father always takes care of His children, and Jesus does too.

This made the Jews even more angry. Jesus wasn't just breaking their Sabbath rules. When He called God His own Father, He was making Himself equal to God. They clearly understood that Jesus was claiming to be God's Son, but they didn't want to believe that to be true.

Jesus did such tremendous things to help people who were hurting—like this man who couldn't walk. Healing this man was another sign that showed that Jesus is the Christ, and people should believe in Him to have a new life.



**LET'S PRAY:** Lord Jesus, thank You for healing the man so he could get up and walk. Keep me strong in faith so no sin will keep me from You. Amen.



## VERSE FOR LIFE

**JOHN 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

<sup>25</sup>“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup>For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup>And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup>Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice <sup>29</sup>and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

## Witnesses to Jesus

<sup>30</sup>“I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. <sup>31</sup>If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. <sup>32</sup>There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. <sup>33</sup>You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. <sup>34</sup>Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. <sup>35</sup>He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. <sup>36</sup>But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. <sup>37</sup>And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, <sup>38</sup>and you do

## Jesus Calls God His Father

Did Jesus ever call Himself the Son of God? Through His miracles, Jesus showed Himself to be the Son of God in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In John, Jesus not only performed signs but also called Himself God's Son and called God His Father.

In John 5, the Jewish leaders were upset because Jesus had healed a lame man and commanded him to carry his mat home on a Sabbath Day, the day of rest.

Jesus answered, “My Father is working until now, and I am working” (John 5:17). Then, He went on to give a long sermon to them, explaining that He does only what God the Father does. He said, “Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life” (vv. 5:23–24). To prove that He is God's Son, Jesus taught that the Son's words were equal to the Father's words. He also taught that He is God's Son by stating that the Father sent Him; for only a father sends his son as his full and equal representative.

**ONE LAST THING:** Near the end of the sermon, Jesus said, “I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me. . . . How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?” (vv. 43–44).

not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. <sup>39</sup>You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, <sup>40</sup>yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. <sup>41</sup>I do not receive glory from people. <sup>42</sup>But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. <sup>43</sup>I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. <sup>44</sup>How can



you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? <sup>45</sup>Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. <sup>46</sup>For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. <sup>47</sup>But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

### Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

**6** After this "Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. <sup>5</sup>Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii<sup>1</sup> worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. <sup>11</sup>Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup>When

the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

<sup>15</sup>Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus <sup>b</sup>withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

### Jesus Walks on Water

<sup>16</sup>When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup>got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup>The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup>When they had rowed about three or four miles,<sup>2</sup> they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. <sup>20</sup>But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup>Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

### I Am the Bread of Life

<sup>22</sup>On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. <sup>23</sup>Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup>So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

<sup>25</sup>When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man

<sup>1</sup> A denarius was a day's wage for a laborer <sup>2</sup> Greek twenty-five or thirty stadia; a stadion was about 607 feet or 185 meters <sup>3</sup> For 6:1-13 see parallels Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17 <sup>b</sup> For 6:15-21 see parallels Matt. 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52


## TOPICAL PRAYERS

### My Home and Family

#### For My Parents

Heavenly Father, thank You for the life You gave me with my mother and my father. Thanks for everything they give to me and teach me as I'm growing. Help me to love them, serve them, and obey them, and keep their faith in You strong all their lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### For My Brothers and Sisters

Lord God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Brother and our Savior. Teach me to love my brothers and sisters, and help them to love me.  Make us patient and kind, forgiving one another for Jesus' sake, so we may live together in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### For My Grandparents

Heavenly Father, thank You for my grandparents. First for how they raised my mother and father, but also for how they love me. Give them good health and strength as You choose, so we may enjoy being together for many years. But most of all, give them a strong faith in Jesus, so we can be together forever with You in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### For Children without a Family

Lord God, our heavenly Father, I thank You for my family, but I know that some children do not

have a family to care for them, protect them, and love them. For each of these boys and girls, watch over them with Your fatherly eyes. Give them everything they need. But most of all, teach them about their Savior, Jesus Christ, and the family they have in the Church here on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### For My Needs

#### When I'm Sick

Lord God, I don't like being sick and not feeling good. I ask You to heal me and make my body better, so I may have the strength and energy to take care of other people. Thank You for the people who are taking care of me, and help me to show them my thankfulness and love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### When I've Been Sick for a Long Time

Heavenly Father, I have been sick a long, long time. I don't feel good, and I don't feel very patient. Please heal my sickness soon, if that would be best for me. Most of all, strengthen my faith in Jesus, who suffered and died to take away my sins, so I may trust in You and wait until You choose to make me better; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### When I'm Scared

Lord God, heavenly Father, please help me; I'm scared. Remind me that You are stronger than anything You created—and You control everything

that happens. Take away my fear, for Jesus' sake, and give me quiet trust in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### When I'm Lonely

Heavenly Father, sometimes I feel all alone and lonely. But that is how Jesus, Your Son, felt when You left Him all alone on the cross and punished Him for our sins. Because He took away all my sin and made me Your child in Baptism, You are always with me—and I am never really all alone. Give me faith and joy in Your family at church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### For My Future

Heavenly Father, You know everything that will happen, so nothing ever surprises You. Thank You for promising to be with me always for Jesus' sake. When I'm scared, remind me that Jesus took away all my sins and that You are there to comfort me and take care of me no matter where I go; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Thanksgiving

### For My Life

Lord God, because of Jesus, my Savior, I know You love me and will always take care of me. Thank You for all the good gifts You give to me, especially my life—here on earth, and forever with You in heaven. By Your Holy Spirit, guide me to

love You and everyone around me; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### For My Savior

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your own Son, Jesus, to be my Savior. You punished Him for all my sins when He suffered and died on the cross, so I can live with You forever. Keep me thankful always, that I may gladly tell others how Jesus saved them too; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### For My Faith

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to create faith in me through Your Word and my Baptism. Teach me to love Your Bible, which teaches me about my Savior, Jesus, and all He did for all of us. Make my faith strong, especially during hard times, so I can be confident You will always be with me; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### For All the Things God Gives

Lord God, You give us more gifts than we could ever realize—the clothes we wear, the food we eat, the house that keeps us warm, dry, and safe. Thank You for my mother and father, my brothers and sisters, my friends, neighbors, and classmates. Thank You for promising to take care of all my needs all through my life. But most of all, thank You for giving us Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom we pray. Amen.

## THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

In the Book of Genesis, we learn about Jacob, whose name was later changed to Israel (Genesis 35:10). From his twelve sons—Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph, and Benjamin—came the twelve tribes of Israel who dwelled in the Promised Land. Joshua 13–22 tells about the land assigned to each of the tribes.

