

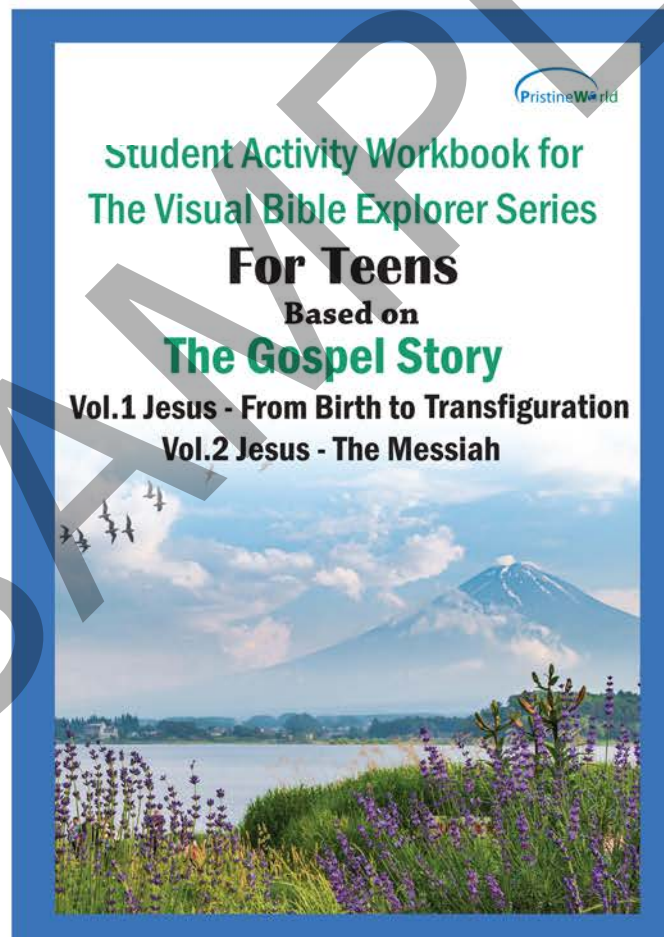
# Teacher's Guide

## for Student Activity Workbook

### For Teens

Based on

## The Visual Bible Explorer Series



## The Gospel Story

**Vol.1 Jesus - From Birth to Transfiguration**  
**Vol.2 Jesus - The Messiah**

SAMPLE



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**The Gospel Story**

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This book is designed to be used as a companion student workbook for The Visual Bible Explorer Series, The Gospel Story.

It is designed for teenage students from 13 to 17 years of age.

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Peter C.T. Lim  
September 2020

# The Gospel Story

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## Summary of Lessons for The Gospel Story Vol.1 & Vol.2

No	Lesson Title	Highlights from the Story	Bible Truth	Lesson Application
0	<b>Bible Overview and Impact</b>	<p>What is the Bible</p> <p>What are the books of the Bible.</p> <p>How do we find chapters and verses in the Bible</p> <p>The people God used to write the Bible.</p> <p>The different genres in the Bible.</p>	<p>The Bible is the word of God.</p> <p>It is authentic and is given to man for salvation and instructions on what God expects from us.</p>	<p><b>Lecture presentation only. Not in the Workbook</b></p> <p>To show the veracity of the Bible.</p> <p>To understand the impact of the Bible in the world today</p> <p>Understanding the different translations and versions</p> <p>How to use Bible tools.</p>
1	<b>Prologue to the Gospel Story</b>	<p>Brief summary of the Bible story so far.</p> <p>God's story of Redemption.</p> <p>Overview of the Old Testament.</p> <p>Prophecies of the coming Messiah.</p>	<p>God is holy. God will judge sinners but has provided a way of deliverance for the faithful.</p> <p>Prophecies given about the Messiah to prove that Jesus is the Messiah.</p>	<p><b>The workbook Lesson 1 begins from this lesson</b> (Textbook Introduction)</p> <p>To have a broad understanding of what the Bible teaches up to just before the New Testament</p>
2	<b>The Birth of John the Baptist and Jesus Foretold</b>	<p>Birth of John the Baptist foretold.</p> <p>Birth of Jesus foretold</p> <p>The reaction of Zecharia and Mary to the announcement by the Angel gives us a clue as to how we should respond when God gives us a task.</p>	<p>God has a plan for our lives.</p> <p>Nothing is impossible for God.</p>	<p>To seek God's will and trust that he will help us fulfil the task he has given to us / achieve our potential.</p> <p>(Textbook chapter 2)</p>
3	<b>The Birth of Jesus</b>	<p>Joseph obeyed God by taking Mary to be his wife.</p> <p>Angels appear to the shepherds who visit the baby Jesus.</p> <p>The Magi follow the star and worship Jesus</p> <p>King Herod is very jealous.</p>	<p>Jesus the messiah is given to all people, of high and low status, to bring Salvation for all.</p>	<p>We can learn from the reaction of Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi to what had been revealed to them about the coming Messiah.</p> <p>(Textbook chapter 4 &amp; 5)</p>
4	<b>The Baptism and the Temptation</b>	<p>Jesus is baptised by John the Baptist.</p> <p>The Holy Spirit descends like a dove on Jesus.</p> <p>After the temptation, Jesus is tempted by the devil but resists the temptation.</p>	<p>Jesus did not have to be baptised because he had no sin. But he was obedient to God in letting John baptise him.</p> <p>Worship God and obey him only.</p>	<p>Learn from Jesus; he was humble and obedient to God</p> <p>Like Jesus we are to know God's word and be able to use it to help us when we face temptation.</p> <p>Jesus resists the temptation because he was determined to be obedient to God.</p> <p>(Textbook chapter 6)</p>

No	Lesson Title	Highlights from the Story	Bible Truth	Lesson Application
5	<b>Making Fishers of Men</b>	Jesus chooses 12 men who will be his disciples and later bear witness for him and carry on his teachings. They will become the 12 apostles.	It was not because of their qualifications but their faith and willingness to follow him that led them to follow Jesus.	Understand that Jesus called them to abandon their current jobs to fulfil a higher calling that God had given them. To be willing followers of Jesus because Jesus loves us no matter what talent we have or do not have, as long as we have faith and are willing to follow him. (Textbook chapter 8)
6	<b>The Power to Heal and Forgive Sins</b>	Jesus preaches and heals many people around Galilee Jesus heals a leper. Considered as 'dirty' or sinful, Jesus touches him and heals him. Jesus heals a paralysed man Jesus forgives the paralysed man and answers his critics.	Jesus cares deeply for those who are suffering and rejected by others Jesus has the authority to forgive sins.	Consider the compassion Jesus has for a leper who wants to be healed. The paralysed man is carried by his friends. Consider the faith and loyalty of the friends who carry him to meet Jesus. In what way can we be like them? Consider the proud Pharisees. In what situations are we in danger of becoming like them? What sins do we need to confess and repent from in the last week/month/year? (Textbook chapter 9)
7	<b>The Sermon on the Mount</b>	Jesus gives the creed for all his followers. The eight blessed characteristics or the Beatitudes. He calls us to be the salt and light of the world.	Blessed are those who do what is right in God's eyes. God desires his people to live in ways that pleases him.	How can we adopt the blessed characteristics as described by Jesus. How can we live a life that will shine in the dark and be salt of the earth. (Textbook chapter 10)
8	<b>Faith, Power, and Authority</b>	Jesus heals the centurion's servant without even seeing the servant. Jesus calms a storm and then heals a demon possessed person.	Jesus is Lord over all things including illnesses, the forces of nature and evil spirits.	How can we have faith like the centurion? The centurion understood power and authority. Do we understand the power and authority God has over this world? To understand the compassion Jesus had for the demon possessed man. Two thousand pigs are not as important or valuable than one person who has been brought to salvation. (Textbook chapter 11)

No	Lesson Title	Highlights from the Story	Bible Truth	Lesson Application
9	<b>Jesus Heals a Woman and a Daughter</b>	On the way to heal a synagogue ruler's daughter, Jesus heals a woman of bleeding.	Jesus wanted to heal the lady with bleeding problems not only physically but to be accepted back into society and be healed spiritually.	Learn to place our trust in God even when others around do not believe. How can we help those who are not accepted by society. (Textbook chapter 12)
10	<b>Feeding the Great Crowd</b>	Jesus cares for the physical and spiritual needs of the people Jesus uses the offering of a little boy to perform a miracle.	Jesus is concerned for our physical well-being.	What are we willing to bring to God? Learn from the small boy, even small offerings can be used by God for the good of many people. (Textbook chapter 13)
11	<b>The Revelation and the Transfiguration</b>	Jesus asks the disciples who they believe He is. Simon Peter declares Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God.	Jesus is the Messiah promised from the Old Testament send by God to suffer and die for the sins of the world.	We are called to put our faith and trust in Jesus. What does it profit a man if he gains the world but loses his soul. How do we apply this lesson. (Textbook chapter 14)
12	<b>Compassion, Grace and Humility</b>	Combine parable of Good Samaritan and the Parables of Humility, Grace and Forgiveness.	Story of the Good Samaritan Jesus teaches us to love and help others who are in need regardless of their race, gender and differences in outlook. Those who humble themselves and acknowledge their sin before God will receive forgiveness. The proud do not receive forgiveness.	The importance of loving your neighbour. The understanding of who is our neighbour. When we have done something wrong, go to God in humility and ask Him for forgiveness. Don't be quick to judge others. Be humble and open to the teachings of God. (Textbook chapter 15 & 16)
13	<b>The Parables of Jesus - The Lost and the Found</b>	The Story of the lost sheep The story of the prodigal son	Jesus is the good shepherd. He comes and looks for those of us who are lost. But we must be willing to follow him. God is like the father of the prodigal son who loves us so much that he welcomes us back with much rejoicing when we return to him.	We are like the prodigal son when we sin. When we have done something wrong, we must quickly come back to God. (Textbook chapter 17)

No	Lesson Title	Highlights from the Story	Bible Truth	Lesson Application
14	<b>Jesus and Lazarus</b>	Jesus has three friends who are siblings; Lazarus, Mary and Martha. He is sad when Lazarus dies. Jesus explains to Martha that he can give life. He raises Lazarus from the dead to prove this.	Jesus is the Resurrection and the life. Whoever believes and puts their faith in Jesus, will receive forgiveness and be given eternal life.	Trust in God to know that he can forgive us, bring us back to the right path and give us eternal life. (Textbook chapter 18)
15	<b>Jesus and Zacchaeus</b>	The blind man in Jericho had faith and boldness in asking for God's mercy. The result was a miracle with all the witnesses praising God. A chief tax collector shows his repentance and receives forgiveness from Jesus.	When we are truly sorry for the wrong things we have done, we will show it in our actions. God will forgive and restore us when we come back to him.	It is not the proud and self-righteous people who are on the right path. It is those who are faithful and ask for mercy like the blind man who receive mercy; and those who are willing to humble even embarrass themselves (climb up a tree) and ask for forgiveness who will receive forgiveness from God. What can we do to show we are sorry for our sins? (Textbook chapter 19)
16	<b>Jesus Enters Jerusalem</b>	There is a large crowd waiting to hail him as King. But setting up a new earthly government was not what Jesus had in mind. His mission was not to free Israel from Roman rule but from the bondage of evil and sin. To fulfil God's promise to Abraham, even to Adam and Eve. Jesus tells Nicodemus that we have to be born again.	Jesus is the King of kings who came to earth to reign as king in our lives and not as an earthly ruler. God sent Jesus into the world not to condemn us but to save us from our sins because he loves us.	Are we tempted to follow a crowd without understanding? Will we follow what Jesus said by asking God to help us to be born again? Turning away from our past and asking God to help us be better people every day? (Textbook chapter 21)
17	<b>The Lord's Supper</b>	Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. Jesus explains the Passover meal and what suffering he will undergo soon. The betrayer is at the table also.	Jesus calls us to follow his example of loving and humbly serving one another with a servant's heart.	The Lord's supper explains how Jesus will soon die for our sins. His death will be the final sacrifice made to redeem believers from sin. Jesus shows his love for his disciples. He is humble and cares for each of them, even the betrayer. Jesus is determined to go to the cross. How can we be like Jesus in being humble and caring for those around us? (Textbook chapter 22 & 23)

No	Lesson Title	Highlights from the Story	Bible Truth	Lesson Application
18	<b>The Trial of Jesus</b>	<p>It is actually Ananias and Caiaphas who are on trial. By their actions, they put themselves on trial and come out looking bad. Herod Antipas is also on trial and comes out looking bad.</p> <p>Pilate can see that Jesus is innocent of the charges placed on him by the Jews, but wanting to please the Jews, he fails to execute justice.</p>	<p>We must not be afraid to stand up for what is right even if the people around us do not agree with us.</p>	<p>What can we learn from those standing by? How can we stand up for the truth when we see wrong doing?</p> <p>What can we learn from Peter's actions?</p> <p>How can we avoid doing what Judas did? (Textbook chapter 24)</p>
19	<b>The Crucifixion</b>	<p>Jesus dies for our sins. Two men are crucified next to him. One mocks him. While the other asks for forgiveness. Jesus assures him of forgiveness. Jesus gives final instructions to his beloved disciple and to his mother.</p>	<p>His suffering and death is the final and only sacrifice that is acceptable to God. Prophecies are fulfilled. The people who receive forgiveness are those who acknowledge him and ask for mercy, like the robber being crucified next to him. The proud Pharisees and robber who mocks Jesus do not receive forgiveness.</p>	<p>We must be humble, acknowledge our sins and ask Jesus for forgiveness, then we be born again and walk in close fellowship with God. (Textbook chapter 25)</p>
20	<b>The Resurrection and the Last Breakfast</b>	<p>God raises Jesus from the dead. Prophecies are fulfilled. Jesus is the Messiah-Saviour. Jesus shows his love for his disciples – he forgives and reinstates Peter as the leader.</p>	<p>God raised Jesus from the dead just as he had promised in his word given to the prophets. God loves us so much that he does not give up on us even though we have disappointed him at times.</p>	<p>God has the power to fulfil all that he has promised. We can put our trust in God. God will forgive us when we confess and repent. (Textbook chapter 26 &amp; 27)</p>
21	<b>The Great Commission and Ascension</b>	<p>The Jewish authorities bribe the Roman guards to spread a false report. Jesus gives his disciples the Great Commission. They are to spread the Good News of God's salvation. Jesus instructs them to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit and then ascends to heaven.</p>	<p>Jesus last words to his disciples were to go out into the world and bear witness to what he has done. They are to teach people to become disciples.</p>	<p>What should we do in response to the Great Commission? How can we shine our light or be the salt of the earth and bring the good news of God to people whom we come into contact with. (Textbook chapter 28 &amp; 29)</p>

# The Gospel Story Vol. 1

## Chapter 1: PROLOGUE TO THE GOSPEL STORY

Based on chapter 1 in the multimedia book

### Notes to the teacher:

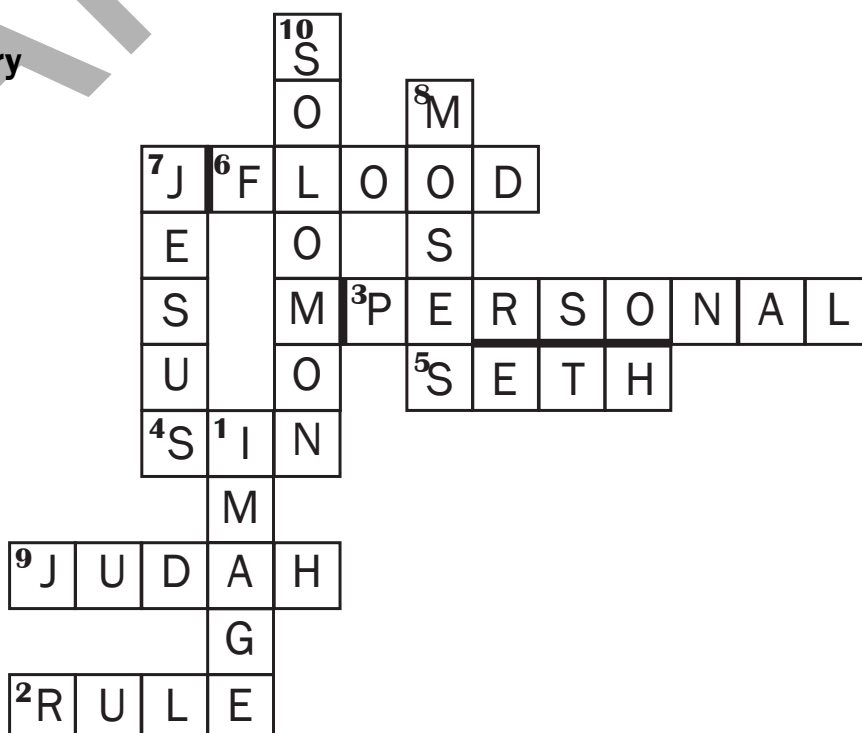
This objective of this chapter is to show that the Gospel story is not a stand-alone story in the Bible: Although it is a very central story detailing the life of Christ, it is the on-going story of God's creation and redemption of humanity. Here are some points to consider:

1. Our story here is an amalgamation of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the first four books of the New Testament.
2. It is the central part of the on-going story of God reaching out to humanity and bringing salvation to the faithful.
3. As mentioned in the introduction to the Bible; through many episodes, hundreds of characters and detailed events, the Bible stories represent a unified narrative about God, His creation of the world and His continuing efforts to bring redemption to the faithful.
4. The Gospel Story tells the story of the life and works of Jesus Christ and at many points will make reference to the Old Testament, to show that these events were prophesied.

### Make a word Puzzle

#### Prologue to the Gospel Story

- 1) image
- 2) rule
- 3) personal
4. sin
5. seth
6. flood
7. Jesus
8. Moses
9. Judah
10. Solomon



11. a) 430 Number of years the Israelites were slaves in Egypt.  
b) 1500 - years over which the Bible was written  
c) 12 tribes and 12 disciples  
d) 40 days of the Rain  
e) 7 days of creation  
f) 10 commandments  
g) 39 books of the Old Testament  
h) 27 New Testament books

12. 5 books of Law  
12 books of History  
5 books of Poetry  
5 Major of Prophets  
12 Minor of Prophets

13. 4 Gospels  
1 of History  
21 Letters or Epistles  
1 Prophecy

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# The Gospel Story Vol. 1

## Chapter 2: THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST AND JESUS FORETOLD

Based on chapter 3 in the multimedia book

### Theme/Overview of Story:

The birth of John the Baptist and Jesus foretold. God has a plan for our lives.

**Bible passage:** Luke 1:5-45, 57-66

**Activities:** Play the multimedia Chapter 3. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. Luke 1:38 (NIV)

**Bible truth and application:** God has a plan for our lives. Nothing is impossible for God. The reaction of Zechariah and Mary to the announcement by the Angel gives us a clue as to how we should respond when God gives us a task. To seek God's will and trust that he will help us fulfil the task he has given to us / achieve our potential.

### 1. Understanding the Story

#### Zechariah

1.	What the angel said	Consequences for Zechariah	Zechariah's response
	Do not be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. You are to name him John. (Luke 1:13)	He will have a son named John. (Luke 1:13)	How shall I know if this is so? I am an old man, and my wife is old also. (Luke 1:18)

#### Mary

2.	What the angel said	Consequences for Mary	Mary's response
	Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. Soon you will be with child and give birth to a boy. You are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David. His kingdom will never end. (Luke 1:30-33)	Mary will give birth to a son named Jesus (Luke 1:31). But Mary was still a virgin and not yet married (Luke 1:34). She would face public condemnation.	I am still a virgin. How then can this happen? (Luke 1:34) I am the Lord's servant, may it happen to me as you have said. (Luke 1:38)

### 3. Zechariah & Elizabeth

- Zechariah saw an angel (Luke 1:12)
- Elizabeth will bear a child in her old age (Luke 1:13b)
- Zechariah will be unable to speak until after the child is born (Luke 1:20)

#### Mary

- God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee (Luke 1:26)
- Mary will be pregnant even though she was still a virgin (Luke 1:31, 34)
- Her cousin, Elizabeth, will bear a child in her old age (Luke 1:36)

4. They were cousins.

5. God chose a simple young girl that society would not pay much attention in order that He may be glorified through a lowly, yet humble and obedient girl like Mary.

6. Ask the children to write their own thoughts of how Zechariah might teach John as he was growing up. Here is an example: God is using you to fulfil the prophecies of the Old Testament. You will be a prophet for God because you will be the one preparing the way for the one who is coming to save mankind. You are going to be the one to teach the people about salvation through the forgiveness of their sins because of God's mercy. John was called to witness and testify to the Messiah who was coming. Christians are called to be witnesses of the Messiah who has already come.

## 2. Application

1. The angel told Mary, "For no word from God will ever fail." And Mary's answer was "I am the Lord's servant, may your word to me be fulfilled." Luke 1:37-38 (NIV) God's word will not fail. Mary is obedient and trusts God's word. As a proof for Mary, the angel tells her that Elizabeth who is old and beyond child bearing age is going to have a child. Miracles are possible with God.
2. Knowing that God is faithful in keeping His plan and will never turn us away when we go to Him, we should cast all our doubts on Him and trust in His sovereign plan for us. God will not call us to do things which are against what has been taught in the Bible.

---

### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. D Refer to Luke 1:5
2. A Refer to Luke 1:5
3. D Refer to Luke 1:5
4. B Refer to Luke 1:9
5. C Refer to Luke 1:10
6. D Refer to Luke 1:13
7. E Refer to Luke 1:13
8. C Refer to Luke 1:17
9. A Refer to Luke 1:19
10. C Refer to Luke 1:26-27
11. B Refer to Luke 1:26
12. B Refer to Luke 1:27
13. B Refer to Luke 1:28
14. C Refer to Luke 1:34
15. E Refer to Luke 1:44
16. A Refer to Luke 1:59
17. C Refer to Luke 1:63-64

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **Why did Zechariah doubt the angel's message to him about he and his wife having a son? Why might you be sympathetic or critical of Zechariah at this point?**

Help the children to understand that while Zechariah should have known that nothing is impossible with God, but he was also human, and may have had some doubts.

Some points to consider:

- Luke 1:7 tells us that they 'were both very old'. This tells us that Elizabeth was probably past the normal child-bearing age.

- Perhaps Zechariah and Elizabeth, both of them being good people who lived their lives according to the laws and commands of God, and having prayed for a long time for children (as mentioned in verse 13), were surprised that God has now decided to answer his prayers, at this late stage of their lives.
- But Zechariah probably had never seen angel Gabriel before, and surely this would have been a sign that the message was from God. If the message was from God, then surely he must have known that nothing is impossible with God, as he would have read the Lord's same words in Genesis 18:14.

2. **The circumstances of John the Baptist's birth would be unusual. Why do you think God wanted this particular birth to be unusual?**

Ask the children to consider the mission of John the Baptist. Luke 1:15-17 tells us of how God will use John the Baptist and what his mission is.

Ask the children to describe in their own words how they think a miraculous birth might help John in achieving his mission.

3. **How would you compare and contrast Mary and Zechariah's response to the message of angel Gabriel.**

Points to consider:

- Zechariah doubted, or did not believe angel Gabriel's message at first (Gabriel says so in Luke 1:20).
- Mary's first response was to ask a question of clarification. When told that it would be a miraculous birth initiated by the Lord Himself, her response was to obey instantly knowing all the risks it entailed. There was little risk for Zechariah to bear as he was married to his wife Elizabeth. There would only be joy and happiness for such a birth.

4. **Why do you think Mary went to visit Elizabeth and stayed with her for 3 months?**

Points to consider:

- Continuing from the question above. While the miracle pregnancy of Elizabeth would be happy for all friends and relatives, the greater miracle pregnancy of Mary would draw suspicion and danger for Mary. Would her friends and relatives believe her story? Would her parents and more importantly, Joseph, believe her story? They would all question her faithfulness to Joseph.

Joseph obviously questioned her faithfulness as we see in the passage of Matthew 1:19-21.

- The angel told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was already 6 months pregnant, in her old age. That was a sign for her that the Lord was working in their lives. Perhaps Mary was close to Elizabeth and wanted to be comforted by her.
- Perhaps Mary needed to see for herself that Elizabeth was indeed with child and that would strengthen her faith.
- Perhaps Mary needed to get away from her own village so that she could keep her pregnancy a secret from them? Scripture is silent on this but these are possible reasons.

5. **What lessons can we learn from these characters in this story:**

Points to consider:

Zechariah

- He was a godly person, who obeyed all the laws and commands of God.
- He had doubts because after praying for a very long time to have children, he and his wife did not have children. Now suddenly God sends an angel to tell him his prayers are answered. He does not believe the angel.
- But later when he realizes that it was a message from God, he fully cooperates with the plans of God.

Mary

- Mary is faithful. She is a young girl at this stage, but she is eager to be an obedient servant of the Lord.

Elizabeth

- Elizabeth is described as a godly woman who is obedient in observing all the laws and commands of God.
- She is kind to Mary in allowing her to stay with her for 3 months.
- The fact that Mary chose to stay with them 3 months may have indicated that Mary found comfort and encouragement in Elizabeth.
- Luke 1:41-45 tells us that Elizabeth, inspired by the Holy Spirit, gave Mary such comforting and encouraging words.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 1

## Chapter 3: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Based on chapter 4 and 5 in the multimedia book

**Theme/Overview of Story:** Joseph obeyed God by taking Mary to be his wife even though she was pregnant before their marriage. Angels appear to the shepherds. The shepherds pay homage to the baby Jesus. The Magi follow the star and worship Jesus. King Herod is very jealous.

**Bible passage:** Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-20

**Activities:** Play the multimedia Chapter 4 and 5. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** To obey is better than sacrifice. 1 Samuel 15:22b (NIV)

**Bible truth and Application:** Jesus the messiah is given to all people, of high and low status. We can learn from the reaction of Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi to what had been revealed to them about the coming Messiah.

### 1. Understanding the Story

Compare the message about Jesus that came to Joseph, the Shepherds, the Magi and Herod.

	How was the message given	Content of the Message	Response
Joseph	Through an angel in a dream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife</li><li>it is the Holy Spirit that she has conceived</li><li>she will have a son, and you will name Him Jesus - because He will save His people from their sins.</li></ul>	Married Mary
Shepherds	Word of the angel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>do not be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy to everyone</li><li>The Saviour, the Messiah has been born this very night in Bethlehem</li><li>This is a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth lying in a manger.</li></ul>	They said to one another: "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has told us." They ran to the village and searched for the baby in a manger.
Magi	They have read in their scriptures		They followed the star
Herod	Consulted priests		Kill all boys aged two years and below

1. They were given the privilege to see and worship the Messiah.
2. Joseph would become the earthly father to Jesus – guiding Him in His early childhood.
3. It was probably a very alarming sight to suddenly see the sky light up and to see a bright figure right before their eyes.
4. They were so amazed.
5. They knelt down and worshipped Him.
6. Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh.
7. Prophet Micah refer to Micah 5:2 - Jesus will be born in Bethlehem, Micah live around 700 BCE.

## 2. Application

1. Ask the student to share an experience they had which they may have felt challenge to do something important, and good, and how did it turn out.

### Chapter 4

#### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. C Refer to Matthew 1:19
2. C Refer to Matt 1:20
3. D Refer to Matt 1:11-16
4. D Refer to Matt 1:21
5. E Refer to Matt 1:24
6. A Refer to Luke 2:10
7. E Luke 2:13 says 'a great army of heaven's angels' appeared singing praises to God.
8. B Refer to Luke 2:16

#### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **Shepherds were of the poorer group of people in the time of Jesus. Describe in your own words how you think they felt when they saw the angels and heard their message?**

Points to consider:

- Shepherds were usually of the poorer group of people. People seldom listened to them.
- Who is this Saviour to be born in their little village?
- Christ – the Messiah born as a baby 'wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger'? Can this be the Messiah they had been waiting for?
- Why did God give them this great vision and experience?

2. **How do you think Joseph felt when he heard the message of the angel in his dream?**

The Bible describes Joseph as a righteous man (Matt 1:19).

Points to consider:

- Looking at his reluctance to publicly disgrace Mary, he must have been very relieved to learn that what Mary had said was the truth, that this was part of God's plan.
- Being a righteous man, Joseph must have felt honoured to be called by God to do his part in God's salvation plan.
- Joseph was obedient to the Lord's instruction.

3. **What can we learn from the character of Joseph and Mary in this story?**

Joseph:

- He was kind and gentle, being reluctant to cause Mary public disgrace.
- He was a righteous man.
- He was obedient to the voice of the Lord.

Mary:

- Throughout the time when Joseph was making his decision, Mary does not take any action. She is waiting on the Lord to speak to her and guide her.
- Mary trusts in the Lord and is completely obedient to the Lord.

4. **What can we learn about God and the way God deals with humankind from this story?**

Ask the children what they have learnt from this story about God. There are many things they may describe. Below are just two possibilities:

- Mary and Joseph both have to trust in the Lord. He gives them clear instructions, but by obeying His instructions, there is danger. The Lord calls the faithful to follow Him. He does not reveal everything to them from the beginning, but calls on them to trust Him and provides for them along the way.

- The Lord reveals the birth of the Saviour to the shepherds in a glorious way. The shepherds are a poorer group of people, but they have the privilege of receiving this wonderful revelation from God.

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## Chapter 5

### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. D Refer to Matt 2:1
2. A Refer to Matt 2:1
3. D Refer to Matt 2:1
4. D Refer to Matt 2:8
5. D Refer to Matt 2:11
6. C Refer to Matt 2:12
7. C Refer to Matt 2:16
8. B Refer to Matt 2:14

Note also that Herod the Great was the father of Herod Antipas. Herod the Great died shortly after the birth of Jesus. His son Herod Antipas became the governor of Galilee and was the culprit who beheaded John the Baptist and was the Herod during the trial of Jesus. Read Chapter One of The Gospel Story Vol.1 – Introduction and Background History of the Gospel Story.

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **Give your opinion why Herod was very upset when the Magi came to Jerusalem. And why was everyone else in Jerusalem also upset ?**

From the story in the Bible we can tell that Herod was a wicked king who would commit mass murder of children because he did not want anyone to threaten his reign or to prevent anyone from taking over. Given that the Magi had come to Jerusalem asking openly where the Messiah was, it is therefore not surprising that Herod became upset. For the older children, you can ask them to research the historical story of Herod the Great. He murdered his wife and 3 sons because he thought that they were planning to overthrow him. Given Herod's tyrannical character, the people knew that if there was a threat to Herod, he would act harshly and violently against anyone whom he thought was a threat.

2. **Why do you think God allowed the Magi to visit the child Jesus.**

Points to consider:

- Jesus would not only be the King of Israel but the King of kings and the Lord of lords. It was fitting therefore that his birth should be recognized not just by the people of Israel but the Magi from a foreign land.

3. **Why do you think Herod met with the Magi secretly?**

Refer to the notes for Discussion Question 1. He did not want them to go around asking for the Messiah, or God's anointed King when he was still the earthly king.

4. **The Magi not only found Jesus but worshipped Him. What can we learn from their character?**

Points to consider:

- The Magi may or may not have been God believers in the beginning. But Matt 2:11 tells us that when they finally found the Christ child they bowed down and worshipped Him.
- A combination of what they had read, seen in the star, experienced during their travels,

the encounter with King Herod, and the encounter with the Christ Child convinced them that this Child was worthy of their worship. They bowed and worshipped the Child.

- When told in a dream not to return to Herod, they obeyed the instructions given in the dream. Matthew records it as God's instruction to them in a dream.

5. ***God is the unseen Person throughout the passage. In what ways can we detect His behind-the-scene actions.***

Points to consider:

- God allows the shepherds to see the army of angels singing praises .
- Shepherds are the first people to learn about the birth of Christ and to see Him.
- It is not the nobles and priests who first learn of this birth or who experience seeing the angels.
- The Foreign Magi learn of and visit the Christ.
- The king of Judea is not allowed to see or to harm the Christ.

6. ***How do you think Joseph and Mary felt during these events. Read the song of praise by Mary in Luke 1:46-56.***

Luke 1:46-56 is sometimes referred to as Mary's Song or The Magnificat. It is recorded not at the birth of Christ, but rather when Mary visits Elizabeth. However, it does help us understand how Mary must have felt when she knew that she was carrying the Messiah in her. You can ask the children to read these verses and how they understand it.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 1

## Chapter 4: THE BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION

Based on chapter 6 in the multimedia book

**Theme/Overview of the Story:** Jesus is baptised by John the Baptist. The Holy Spirit descends like a dove on Jesus. After the temptation, Jesus is tempted by the devil but resists the temptation.

**Bible passage:** Luke 3:1-22, Matthew 3:13-17, 4:1-11

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 6. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4 <sup>(NIV)</sup>

**Bible truth and application:** Jesus did not have to be baptised because He had no sin. But He was obedient to God in letting John baptise Him. Worship God and obey Him only. Learn from Jesus; He was humble and obedient to God. Like Jesus, we are to know God's word and be able to use it to help us when we face temptation. Jesus resists the temptation because He was determined to be obedient to God and to complete His mission.

### 1. Understanding the Story

1. (1) Baptised (3) Jordan (5) Sadducess (7) Ancestor  
(2) Sins (4) Pharisees (6) Snakes
2. Matt 4:1-2 Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for 40 days and 40 nights.

	<b>Devil said</b>	<b>Jesus said</b>
First Temptation	Matt 4:3 If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread	Matt 4:4 It is written: "man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of of God." (Deut 8:3)
Second Temptation	Matt 4:5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.  devil quoted Ps 9:11-12	Matt 4:7 "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'  Jesus quoted Deut 6:16

	<b>Devil said</b>	<b>Jesus said</b>
Third Temptation	Matt 4:8-9 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."	Matt 4:10 "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only'"  Jesus quoted                      Deut 6:13

## 2. Application

1. Ask the students to share their thoughts.
2. The devil quoted from the old Testament - but used it in a wrong context. Jesus also quoted from the Old Testament but used it in the right context.

### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. E Refer to Luke 3:1
2. D Refer to Luke 3:1
3. A Refer to Luke 3:1
4. B Refer to Luke 3:3
5. C Refer to Luke 3:4
6. E Refer to Matt 3:4
7. A Refer to Matt 3:7 Matthew records this statement to the Pharisees and Sadducees. In Luke 3:7, the same description is recorded, but did not explicitly refer to Pharisees and Sadducees. Remember that Matthew was writing more for a Jewish audience. Luke wrote for a more Gentile audience.
8. B Refer to Luke 3:11
9. D Refer to Luke 3:14
10. A Refer to Luke 3:3 and Matt 3:6
11. D Refer to Matt 3:11
12. C Refer to Luke 3:15-16
13. D Refer to Luke 3:21-22
14. B Refer to Matt 4:3
15. C Refer to Matt 4:5
16. D Refer to Luke 4:5
17. A Refer to Matt 4:10

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

#### 1. **Why do you think so many people went to listen and be baptised by John?**

No straight answer given. Some points to consider:

- Luke's story about the miraculous birth of John gives some hint to the people that this would be a special child. People knew of John's lineage. Refer to Luke 3:3.
- Again in Luke 3:2, it says 'the word of God came to John...' This indicates that John was inspired and probably this fact was recognized by the people who came to listen to him.
- John preached a message of repentance and forgiveness without the pomp and ritualistic and corrupted trappings of the Temple sacrifices in Jerusalem. This probably attracted some of the people who came.
- Even Herod Antipas had regarded John as a 'man of God' in Mark 6:19-20.
- John was fearless in condemning Herod Antipas for his sin of taking his brother's wife to be his own wife. This is forbidden by the law of Moses. At that time many people could see the corrupt practice of their leader but were afraid to speak up against him. They saw in John someone who dared to speak up even at the risk of his own life and respected such people.

2. ***In your own words, describe the mission and the message of John.***

The basic answer to this question is given in the prophecy quoted in all the Gospels.

- Matt 3:3
- Mark 1:2-4
- Luke 3:4-6
- John 1:15-27

3. ***Why did Jesus ask John to baptise Him?***

Points to consider:

- Jesus' baptism was not like others – sign of confession of sin and repentance. Jesus was sinless and did not require forgiveness.
- His baptism was His first identification with us sinners.
- His baptism marked the beginning of His public ministry.
- His baptism was an anointing for service.
- The Gospels also record that God the Father openly acknowledges Jesus as His Son. The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. John the Baptist saw and recognized the sign (John 1:32-34).
- From here on Jesus would perform many miracles.

***Why did the devil tempt Jesus since it was only the beginning of Jesus' ministry?***

Points to consider:

- The Devil knew the ultimate mission of Jesus. It was to die on the cross for the sins of the world. If Jesus could be tempted and sin, He would no longer be qualified to complete His mission and die for the sins of the world.
- If Jesus was not perfect, He would no longer be qualified to teach us the ways of God and about the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Jesus resisted the Devil and therefore was able to go on to complete His mission.

4. ***What can we learn about Jesus from the way He replied the devil?***

Points to consider:

- Jesus was determined to complete His mission; He would not take any 'short-cuts'; no easy-way-outs.
- Jesus quoted and accurately interpreted scripture to rebuke the Devil.
- In resisting the Devil's temptations, He also gave us an example to follow.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 1

## Chapter 5: MAKING FISHERS OF MEN

Based on chapter 8 in the multimedia book

**Theme/Overview of Story:** Jesus chooses 12 men who will be his disciples and later bear witness for him and carry on his teachings. They will become the 12 apostles.

**Bible Passage:** Luke 5:1-11, 27-32, 6:12-16, John 1:43-51

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 8. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7b (NIV)

**Bible truth and application:** It was not because of their qualifications but their faith and willingness to follow him that led them to follow Jesus. Understand that Jesus called them to abandon their current jobs to fulfil a higher calling that God had given them. To be willing followers of Jesus because Jesus loves us no matter what talent we have or do not have, as long as we have faith and are willing to follow him.

### 1. Understanding the Story

1. Andrew brought Jesus to meet Simon.
2. Andrew, Simon (Peter), Levi (Matthew), Philip. They were fishermen.
3. He performed a miracle.
4. "Lord, do not come close to me, I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8)
5. He was a tax collector.
6. People who are well do not need a doctor, but only those who are sick. I have not come to call those who are 'righteous', but those who are sinners to repentance (Luke 5:31)
7. He went up a hill to pray and spent the whole night there praying to God. (Luke 6:12)
8.
  - 1) Peter
  - 2) James
  - 3) John
  - 4) Andrew
  - 5) Philip
  - 6) Nathaniel
  - 7) Levi
  - 8) Thomas
  - 9) James
  - 10) Simon
  - 11) Jude
  - 12) Judas



## 2. Application

1. Ask them to consider - how fishermen & a tax collector could be called to be disciples. What was in their background that could have helped them - what was in their character - like faith.
2. Ask the students to share about how their studies & their extra curricular activities could be a preparation for something in their future. What do they think about that?
- 3.

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### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. E Refer to John 1:41
2. C Refer to Luke 5:4-8
3. B Refer to Luke 5:8-11
4. C Refer to Luke 5:8
5. D Refer to Luke 5:10
6. E Refer to Luke 5:29
7. B Refer to John 1:46
8. C Refer to John 1:51
9. B Refer to Luke 6:12-13

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **Why do you think Jesus chose 12 disciples who would be especially close to Him, from the many more followers He had?**

There is no verse in the Bible which says why Jesus chose exactly 12. However, Bible scholars have put forward many suggested reasons. Among them are:

- They represent the 12 tribes of Israel.
- Out of the many followers Jesus had, he would mentor 12 disciples. Out of the 12, He would especially teach 3. The three were Simon Peter, James and John.

2. **What do think were the qualifications that Jesus was looking for in the disciples that He selected?**

Looking at the profession of the 12 disciples whom Jesus picked we can make some observations and some conclusions:

Points to Consider:

- They all had faith in Him. In the beginning, it might have been very simple trust. They could not understand it when He told them that He was going to die and be raised up. But they followed Him in a simple and sincere manner.
- What we can observe was that most of them were fishermen, from the northern part of Israel, near Galilee. Fishermen were not necessarily highly educated people.
- Matthew Levi was probably the most highly educated person being a tax collector. Matthew certainly used his talents later when he recorded Matthew's Gospel.
- All of them were willing to go through an itinerant way of life for their Lord. They were willing to go through hardship and danger.
- With the exception of Judas, all of them later lived their lives bringing the Gospel to people of the world, thus fulfilling the Great Commission.

Ask the children, do they trust in Jesus. While they are young and under the care of their parents, God will guide them, very often, through their parents. But as they grow up, they will soon make more decisions on their own. Will they submit their decisions to the Lord Jesus?

3. **Was there a pattern in the way that Jesus called each of the disciples to follow Him? If there is, can you describe it in your own words? What can we learn from this?**

Some points to consider:

- Often Jesus would meet a physical need of the disciples, and then call them to join Him to learn how He can meet their spiritual needs.

- When He called Simon, Andrew, James and John, He performed the miracle of helping them to catch a big catch of fish first. Then He calls them to follow Him and become fishers of men.
- Sometimes He does not perform any miracle. Examples are with Philip and Matthew Levi.
- In the case of Nathaniel, he was meditating under a fig tree. Jesus tells Nathaniel He knew this and answers Nathaniel's spiritual questions. This is enough to convince Nathaniel to follow Him.
- As children we should also listen to our parents. As long as parents do not ask us to do anything against the Bible, we should obey our parents, until we are old enough to decide for ourselves.

4. ***Judas Iscariot was one of the disciples selected by Jesus. Why did Jesus choose him especially since Jesus would have known that Judas would later become the betrayer?***

Again, there is no clear cut answer to this question.

Ask the children for their opinion.

Some points to consider:

- Even Judas might have been faithful in the beginning, although the Bible tells us that later on he lost this faith. He was stealing money from their treasury.
- Much later, after being paid off by the chief priests, Judas also schemed ways of helping them to capture Jesus without the knowledge of the crowds.
- Judas would have many opportunities to repent of his evil intentions. Even after he had betrayed Jesus, He could have come to Jesus and asked for forgiveness. But he did not.

5. ***What can we learn from this story about the way God calls His people to follow Him? What should our response be when He calls us?***

Ask the children this question. This question is the crux of this story.

In what little things as He called us to follow Him?

Start from the little things to the bigger things.

Points to consider:

- God will not call to do anything that is against what is written in the Bible. In the past many people have claimed that God had called them to do things against the Ten Commandments, or against the teachings of Jesus. This cannot be from God. For the older children you can quote some examples like David Korash, the mass suicide in Jonestown and others. What they made their followers do was definitely against the word of God.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 1

## Chapter 6: THE POWER TO HEAL AND TO FORGIVE SINS

Based on chapter 9 in the multimedia book

**Theme/Overview of Story:** Jesus preaches and heals many people around Galilee. Jesus heals a leper who was considered as 'dirty' or sinful but Jesus touches him and heals him. Jesus heals a paralysed man. Jesus forgives the paralysed man and answers his critics.

**Bible passage:** Matthew 4:23-25, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:12-16

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 9. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentles and patience. Colossians 3:12 (NIV)

**Bible truth and Application:** Jesus cares deeply for those who are suffering and rejected by others Jesus has the authority to forgive sins. Consider the compassion Jesus has for a leper who wants to be healed. The paralysed man is carried by his friends. Consider the faith and loyalty of the friends who carry him to meet Jesus. In what way can we be like them? Consider the proud Pharisees. In what situations are we in danger of becoming like them? What sins do we need to confess and repent from in the last week/month/year?

### 1. Understanding the Story

1. Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in the synagogues. (Matthew 4:23)
2. "Unclean, unclean, please let me through."
3. Because he was a leper and he was considered unclean.
4. He fell with his face to the ground and pleaded with Jesus, "Lord if you want to, You can make me clean!" (Luke 5:12)
5. The man's disease left him. (Luke 5:13b)
6. "Don't tell anyone, but go straight to the priests and let them examine you; then to prove to everyone that you are cured, offer the sacrifice as Moses ordered." (Luke 5:14)
7. They were hoping to find fault with Him.
8. "My son, your sins are forgiven." (Mark 2:5)
9. "I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home!" The man got up, picked up his mat and went away praising God. (Mark 2:11-12a).

### 2. Application

1. Consider the dedicaton of the four friends. They carried their friend - hard work - believing that Jesus could heal him (faith) and broke through the roof of a crowded house to lower their friend down not caring about embarassment (perseverance).
2. The teaches of teh Law were there to find fault with Jesus. They could have helped control the crowd, since they were highly respected in society. They could have physically helped, or asked others to help. They could have praised God.

## Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. D Refer to Matt 4:23
2. A Refer to Matt 4:23
3. D Refer to Luke 5:12
4. B Refer to Luke 5:13
5. E Refer to Mark 2:1
6. D Refer to Mark 2:5
7. D Refer to Mark 2:6-7,10
8. A Refer to Mark 2:11

## Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **How do you think the followers of Jesus felt when He reached out and touched the leper?**

Leprosy was a skin disease that made a person unclean. Anyone touching such a person would become ritually unclean, according to the laws of Moses, and had to undergo a cleansing process before they could be clean again. For detailed reading, refer to Leviticus 13 and 14. Jesus freely touched the leper. This would have caused some concern amongst the on-lookers.

2. **Why did Jesus instruct the leper**

(a) not to tell anyone about his healing as Jesus was not ready to publicly declare that He was the Messiah. He knew that when people see such miracles they would immediately try to 'force' Jesus to be their political leader. Refer to John 6:14-15.

He wanted to spend more time teaching the people about the Kingdom of Heaven and also to prepare His disciples to carry on His work after He has ascended to heaven.

(b) to show himself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded? Jesus wanted the man to complete all the requirements of the Law. This is detailed out in Leviticus 14.

3. **In the story of the paralysed man being healed, why do you think the teachers of the law were also present? As they listened and watched the miracles performed by Jesus, what do you think was their heartfelt response? When are we in danger of such a response also?**

The teachers of the Law were present not because they wanted to see and learn from Jesus. When Jesus had performed an obvious miracle, there is no record of them becoming believers of Jesus. There is only a record of them being skeptical. This is recorded for us in Luke 5:21-22. Therefore they were present, most probably, to try and find fault with Jesus.

When they saw Jesus heal the paralytic, their hearts must have been hardened to not believe that this was the work of God, although all the people around them immediately gave praise to God as recorded in Luke 5:26. Perhaps there was a part of them that wanted to believe. But the record in the Bible does not tell us that they believed. They must have hardened their hearts like the way Pharaoh had hardened his heart when he witnessed the 10 plagues that almost destroyed his country.

4. **Why do you think Jesus said to the paralysed man 'my son, your sins are forgiven?' He knew that this would provoke the teachers of the law. Why didn't He just heal the man and then everybody would be happy? What does this story teach us about the character and work of the Lord Jesus?**

Jesus went about the land teaching and healing people according to the will of His Father. He did not compromise in any way to the way men thought. Even though He knew that His words would provoke a hostile response from the religious teachers, He must have felt that His words of "... your sins are forgiven" were needed by the paralysed man. The man needed inner spiritual healing as much as he needed physical healing. Jesus saw all these needs.

5. **What was the result of the healing miracle? How would you have felt if you were one of the ordinary people present observing what had happened or if you were one of the friends who had helped carry the paralysed man to meet Jesus?**

Ask the children to imagine if they were present at the scene. If there is enough time, you can also ask them to act it out.

What would their response be?

For older children you can ask them more questions. Do such scenes still happen today? Do we still witness healings today, spiritual and physical? Remind the children that God can heal people today and that He can do it in anyway He chooses, whether it be through doctors and modern medicine, or through prayer. We should not 'limit' the way God can heal us.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 1

## Chapter 7: THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Based on chapter 10 in the multimedia book

**Theme/Overview of Story:** Jesus gives the creed for all his followers. The eight blessed characteristics or the Beatitudes. He calls us to be the salt and light of the world.

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 5:3-48

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 10. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

**Bible truth and Application:** Blessed are those who do what is right in God's eyes. God desires his people to live in ways that pleases him. How can we adopt the blessed characteristics as described by Jesus? How can we live a life that will shine in the dark and be salt of the earth?

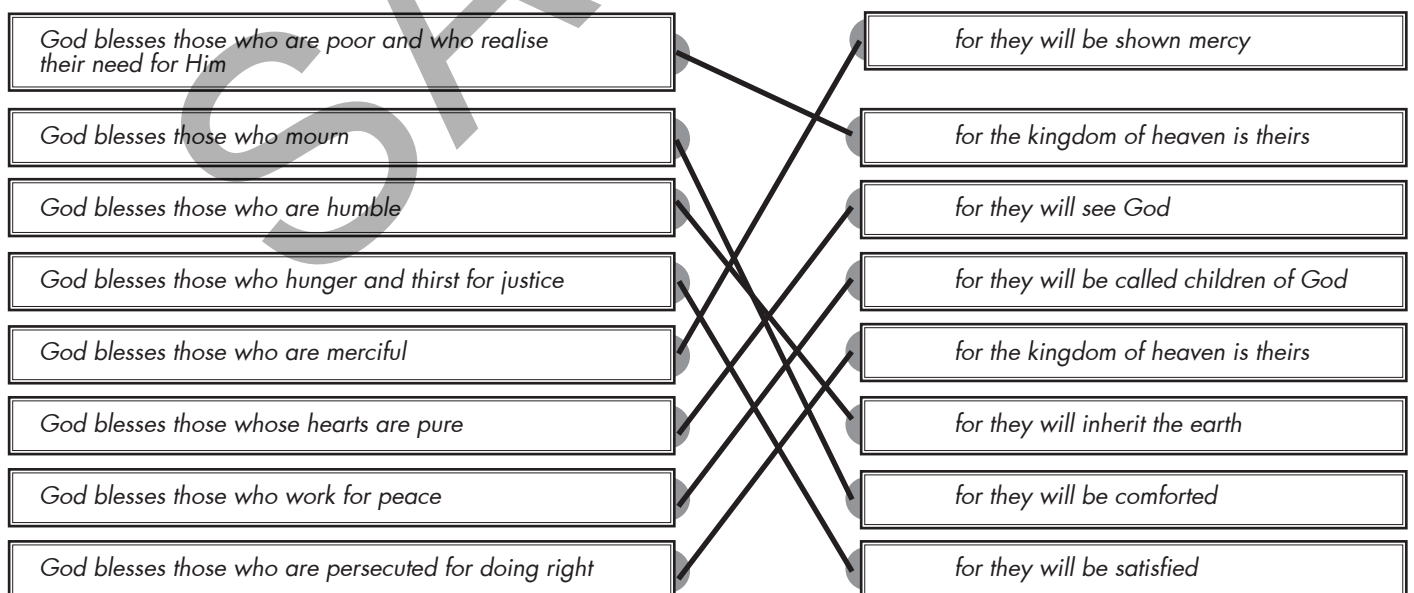
### 1. Understanding the Story

1. Blessed can mean a few things today:

- Made holy; consecrated
- Honored or hallowed in worship
- Enjoy happiness or heavenly joy/bliss
- In a secular sense – good fortune

In this context, it means more of Enjoy heavenly joy or happiness

2.



3. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift (Matthew 5:24). God wants us to be at peace with our earthly brothers and sisters.
4. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matthew 5:44)
5. So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you. (Matthew 7:12)

## 2. Application

1. Ask the students to share. Some points to consider: Salt brings flavour to food. It also preserves food and kills germs. It brings greater value to food. Light makes it possible for us to move around, avoiding pit holes or obstacles in the way. It helps us differentiate light from darkness, good from wickedness. Christians are called to provide light to the world.
2. Ask the students to share. Some points to consider: Salt has to be mixed into the food for its benefits to be produced. Salt kept in a bottle has no benefit. Light kept under an opaque object has no use. It has to be put in a high place so that its light can shine into a room

Some further references to consider: Matt 5:13-16, Mark 9:49, Colossians 4:6

3. Ask the students to share. The eight blessings that Jesus pronounced comes with a something we must do first. This gives the answer to the question. Blessed are the poor in spirit – those who know where we stand, how poor we are in God’s eyes, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the earth and etc. Now the question, how can we live out the fact that we know that we are poor in God’s eyes and that we need Him in our everyday life. How can we live a life that is humble in our attitude and actions?

### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. D Refer to Matt 5:3
2. A Refer to Matt 5:4
3. E Refer to Matt 5:5
4. C Refer to Matt 5:7
5. D Refer to Matt 5:8
6. E Jesus did not say this
7. D Refer to Matt 5:13
8. A Refer to Matt 5:15
9. D Refer to Matt 5:17
10. B Refer to Matt 5:38-42
11. C Refer to Matt 5:44
12. B Refer to Matt 22:40

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **To be “poor in spirit” is to acknowledge our spiritual poverty before God. Why is this a condition for receiving the Kingdom of Heaven?**  
 Ask the children to say in their own words how complacency can affect our walk with the Lord. If we do not acknowledge our need for God, how can our spirit be in a condition to receive teaching or guidance from the Holy Spirit? For the older children you can take them through some additional points to consider:
  - This ‘poor’ is not referring to material wealth.
  - It alludes to an Old Testament theme example Isaiah 61:1-2 and Psalms 37.
  - The ‘poor in spirit’ refers to those who are faithful, who humbly trust God, even when their loyalty results in oppression and material disadvantages.

- Close relation to those who are meek and have a humble ‘unworldly’ attitude. (Refer to Tyndale Commentary on Matthew, p.109) .
- Also ask them to read Isaiah 61:1-2.

2. **Jesus said the merciful will be shown mercy (v.7). Why do you think our treatment of others will affect God’s treatment of us?**

Ask the children to testify how God has shown them mercy. Mercy can range from little acts of kindness to bigger acts of generosity or forgiveness. Ask the children if they have shown mercy, however big or small, to anyone.

Remind the children of the great act of mercy that God has shown us when He gave us His Son Jesus Christ. To those of us who have received Jesus into our life, God has forgiven us a great debt of sin. How can we repay God? We cannot repay our debt. But we can show mercy to others.

- Ask the children if there is anyone that they need to forgive and how they can do it. This theme of showing mercy and forgiveness is repeated many times, even in Matthew:
- Matt 6:12 – The Lord’s Prayer.
- Matt 18-21-25 – Parable of the Unmerciful Servant.

3. **How can we be peacemakers in our homes, in our schools and in our circle of friends?**

Using the same process as in the other Beatitudes, ask the children:

- Have they been peacemakers in their school, home or interaction with friends?
- Ask them to give an example of what they understand as someone who is a peacemaker and someone who is not a peacemaker.
- Ask them if they know of any situations where they could act as a peacemaker and if they will pray and act on it.

4. **Describe in your own words, what you have learnt from the Beatitudes in the Sermon of the Mount and how it has challenged you to be different.**

- Ask the children to summarise what they understand of the Beatitudes.
- Ask them if they need to make any changes to the way they behave or interact with their friends from their understanding of the Beatitudes.
- Ask them if there are any prayer items they need to pray for so that they can live up to the teachings of Jesus in relation to the Beatitudes.

5. **In the old days, before there was refrigeration, salt was used to keep meat from rotting and also to give flavour to food. What do you think Jesus meant when He said “You are the salt of the earth”?**

Some points to consider:

- Salt helps to keep food in good condition for a longer time than it otherwise could.
- How can we help preserve harmony, integrity and good relationships with the people around us by being the ‘salt’ of the earth?
- Ask the children, when do we start to lose our ‘saltiness’.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 1

## Chapter 8: FAITH, POWER AND AUTHORITY

Based on chapter 11 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** Jesus heals the centurion's servant without even seeing the servant. Jesus calms a storm and then heals a demon possessed person.

**Bible passage:** Matthew 8, Mark 4-5

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 11. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** "They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him.'" Mark 4:41 (NIV)

**Bible truth and Application:** Jesus is Lord over all things including illnesses, the forces of nature and evil spirits. How can we have faith like the centurion? The centurion understood power and authority. Do we understand the power and authority God has over this world? To understand the compassion Jesus had for the demon possessed man. Two thousand pigs are not as important or valuable than one person who has been brought to salvation.

### 1. Understanding the Story

Read Matt 8:5-15

1. The Centurion was a good man who cares for the people and helped them build synagogues.
2. He had never found anyone in Israel with faith like this. The centurion was a soldier and is used to authority; to giving orders and to having them obeyed (Matthew 8:9-10). In the same way, he knew that Jesus only had to say the word and his servant will be cured. He knew that Jesus had the power and the authority to heal by just giving the word. There was no need to trouble Jesus further by making Him come to a gentile Roman's home, which was frowned upon by Jews.
3. The servant was completely healed. (Matthew 8:13b)

Read Mark 4:35-41

4. He was showing that the gospel was not just meant for Jews but for non-Jews (Gentiles) as well.
5. He was asleep.
6. Jesus stood up, turned to the sky and commanded the winds, "Be still!" Then he commanded the waves, "Be calm!" (Mark 4:39)

Read Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

7. The man looked very fierce and had been chained many times, but each time he broke his chains. He must have looked like a very scary mad and violent man (Mark 5:4)
8. Son of the Most High God (Mark 5:7). The man knew who Jesus was. Evil spirits know who Jesus is.
9. They were afraid and asked Jesus to leave their region. (Mark 5:15)
10. He let them go and the evil spirits went out of the man and entered the pigs. (Mark 5:13)
11. "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. Matthew 8:8 (NIV)

## 2. Application

1. We can put our entire trust in God, believing that He can do the impossible.
2. We can tell our friends about what Jesus has done for us.
3. Ask the students to share

### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. B Refer to Matt 8:5
2. D Refer to Matt 8:5
3. A Refer to Luke 7:4
4. E Refer to Matt 8:8
5. D Refer to Matt 8:10-13
6. A This is inferred because Jesus often taught around the Lake or Sea of Galilee example Mark 3:7
7. C Refer to Mark 4:38
8. E Refer to Mark 4:39-41
9. E Refer to Mark 5:1
10. B Refer to Mark 5:6
11. C Refer to Mark 5:9
12. E Refer to Mark 5:20

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **Why do you think the Roman officer said to Jesus “I do not deserve to have you come into my house”?**

There are two possible reasons for the Roman officer’s answer:

- Jews often refused to enter the homes of Gentiles, or non-Jews, because it would make them ceremonially unclean. The Roman officer understood this custom and may have wanted to courteously spare Jesus this inconvenience.
- From the words that he used, he probably had heard of or witnessed Jesus’ power to heal and understood that Jesus had the power to heal, even without having to come to his house. This being the case then, he may genuinely have felt unworthy of having Jesus to come into his house. His reaction then was similar to Simon Peter when Peter first realized Jesus’ power to perform miracles. This is recorded in Luke 5:4-11.

2. **Describe in your own words why you think Jesus was astonished at the Roman centurion’s speech.**

Jesus gives the reason for His amazement in Luke 7:9.

3. **What would you have done if you were on that boat with the disciples and Jesus sleeping while the storm was seriously threatening to sink the boat?**

Ask the children to answer this question in their own words. Then ask them if there are any situations they are facing now which has some similarity with the situation faced by the disciples.

- There is a storm. The boat is shaking.
- But Jesus is in the same boat as us.
- We know that He has the power to calm the storm.
- But He appears to be unaware of the danger we are facing.
- How can we pray and commit such situations to the Lord?

4. **What would you have done if you were standing next to Jesus and looking at the crazy demon-possessed man charging at you?**

Ask the children to imagine if they were with the disciples standing close to Jesus when this happened and what they would do.

5. **Why do you think Jesus allowed the demons to enter into the 2,000 pigs before they were all killed? Was there a lesson He wanted to teach?**

There is no direct answer to this question. However, when you read the whole story of what happened here we can make some observations:

- The people of the town were more concerned about the loss of the 2,000 pigs than they were about the healing of the demoniac (in Matthew’s Gospel, it specifically mentions that there were two of them).
- Were the lives of the demoniacs more important than the 2000 pigs?
- Two thousand pigs were less important to Jesus than the restoration and healing of two human lives.

6. **How do these stories shape your belief in Jesus as a man and as our Saviour?**

Ask the children to summarise the lessons they have learnt from this chapter.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 1

## Chapter 9: JESUS HEALS A WOMAN AND A DAUGHTER

Based on chapter 12 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** Jesus heals two women in this story. One has faith and comes to Jesus directly. The other is a young girl of twelve whose father has faith and approaches Jesus.

**Bible passage:** Mark 5:21-43

**Activities:** Play the story 9 of the multimedia – Jesus and Jairus’ Daughter. You can try the multimedia multiple choice questions. For the older children, you can try discussion questions.

**Memory verse:** Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” Mark 5:36

**Bible truth and Application:** Jesus wanted the lady with the bleeding problem to be healed not only physically, but also to be accepted back into society and be healed spiritually.

### 1. Understanding the Story

1. Jairus
2. daughter
3. Crowd
4. bleeding, 12
5. faith
6. dead
7. believe
8. John
9. walking
10. Mark 5:34 Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering (NIV)

### 2. Application

1. a) Women who were menstruating usually kept away from society. Jesus wanted the public to know that she had been healed so that she could re-join society and be accepted.  
b) she needed to be accepted by society.  
c) Are we aware of people who suffer from illnesses that are considered taboo? What are some illnesses that might be considered taboo? ask the students to share experiences. Mental Health illnesses, contagious diseases etc.
2. a) he desperately wanted Jesus to heal his daughter  
b) 1. He knew there was a woman in need of his healing  
2. He wanted Jairus to see a greater miracle  
c) Don’t be afraid, just believe.  
d) He brought five people into the room and healed the 12 year old girl. They did not have to see the miracle.  
e) Have faith in God. Jesus is the Son of God who heal the sick, even raise the dead.

## Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. B Refer to Mark 5:22
2. C Refer to Mark 5:22
3. C Refer to Mark 5:25
4. E Refer to Mark 5:27-28
5. D Refer to Mark 5:34
6. E Refer to Mark 5:36
7. E Refer to Mark 5:37-39 Jesus, Peter, James, John, the girl, the girl's father and mother.
8. C Refer to Mark 5:42
9. E Refer to Mark 5:37
10. B Refer to Mark 5:43

## Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

### 1. **Jairus was a ruler of the synagogue. What made him fall at Jesus' feet and plead earnestly?**

This is not a theological question. Points to consider include:

- He loved his daughter dearly and was afraid that she would die.
- He believed that Jesus could heal her.
- He was a humble man and was unafraid to publicly show his respect for the Lord Jesus.

### 2. **Why did Jesus stop and ask who had touched Him?**

Points to consider:

- The woman had shown great faith in that she believed that Jesus could heal her.
- She asked for so little in that she only wanted to touch his cloak – his outer garment.
- She received healing immediately.
- Jesus wanted to complete her healing by explaining to her that it was her faith which brought her healing, not something superstitious like touching the cloth of his cloak (for further reading, refer to Tyndale Commentary for Mark, p.161).

### 3. **In your opinion what difference did it make to the woman? The bleeding had already stopped after she touched the clothes of Jesus. Was her healing any more complete after she publicly confessed she was the one who touched Him?**

The answer is probably a 'yes' because of the fact that our Lord took the trouble to stop and ask who was it. Points to consider:

- He wanted her to publicly confess that it was her.
- Many of her friends may have known that she was suffering from this illness which caused her great shame – as women who were bleeding

in those days were considered ceremonially unclean and thus a social outcast.

- Her public confession and Jesus' public pronouncement of her healing because of her faith would have reaffirmed her in the eyes of the people. This would have helped her to be socially acceptable again ... besides being physically healed.

### 4. **Why did the people laugh when Jesus told them the child is only sleeping?**

The most obvious reason is that, these people knew that the child had died. They did not believe that Jesus could raise the dead; heal the sick, maybe; but not raise the dead.

### 5. **Why did Jesus only bring in three disciples to witness the miracle? Why did He bring them at all?**

Jesus was going to allow three of His disciples, Peter, James and John, additional revelation of God's power. Not all the disciples were allowed into the room to be eyewitnesses of the raising of the girl, although they would be close by to know that it really did happen. But the three disciples, who were given greater revelation, would also be required to provide leadership to the church later because they were eyewitnesses to these events (including the transfiguration later on).

### 6. **Why did Jesus ask the parents not to tell anyone? If you were the parent, would you have kept silent?**

The reason is probably the same one given to the disciples after the Transfiguration (Mark 9:9)- it was not time yet.

Ask the children to answer the second part of the question in their own words. What would they do, if they had received an obvious blessing or miracle from God ... would they keep quiet about it?

# The Gospel Story Vol. 1

## Chapter 10: FEEDING THE GREAT CROWD

Based on chapter 13 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** Jesus cares for the physical and spiritual needs of the people Jesus uses the offering of a little boy to perform a miracle.

**Bible passage:** Matthew 14, John 6

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 13. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. Psalm 23:1(NIV)

**Bible truth and Application:** Jesus is concerned for our physical well-being. What are we willing to bring to God? Learn from the small boy, even small offerings can be used by God for the good of many people.

### 1. Understanding the Story

Read Matthew 14:1-12

1. Because John condemned Herodias' marriage to Herod Antipas. Herod Antipas had divorced his wife and married Herodias who was married to his brother. This was against the Law given by Moses. Leviticus 18:16
2. She used her daughter Salome to ask Herod for the head of John.
3. He had made a promise in front of all his guests and he would be laughed at by his guests if he didn't fulfil it.

Read Matthew 14:13-21 and John 6:1-13

4. He wanted to spend some time with His disciples alone.
5. He asked Peter and Philip "Where can we buy enough food to feed all these people?"
6. They intended to come and make him king by force.
7. It was not His mission to be a political leader.
8. a) Herod Antipas  
b) John the Baptist  
c) Salome the daughter of Herodias  
d) Philip  
e) The disciples  
f) Philip  
g) Andrew

## 2. Application

1. Herod was probably entertaining some important guests. Drunk and smitten by Salome's beauty he wanted to impress his guests by making such an offer. Salome was manipulated by her mother to make such a ruthless request. Herod should not have put himself in such a position in the first place. He could still have said no.
2. Ask the students to share.
3. Ask the students to share.

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### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

1. D Refer to Matt 14:3
2. C Refer to Matt 14:6
3. B Refer to Matt 14:4
4. D Refer to Matt 14:1-12
5. A Refer to Matt 14:1-14
6. C Refer to John 6:7 (in the NIV, it is translated as 8 month's wages)
7. E Refer to John 6:8
8. B Refer to Matt 17:17 or John 6:9
9. C Refer to Matt 14:21 – Highlight to the children that the number 5,000 referred only to the number of men. There were in addition, women and children.
10. B Refer to Matt 14:21
11. A Refer to Matt 14:25 (in the NIV it is translated as '... during the fourth watch of the night')
12. D Refer to Matt 14:26
13. C Refer to Matt 14:30
14. B Refer to Matt 14:33

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **What do you think Herod could have done when he heard Salome's request for the head of John the Baptist on a dish?**

Ask the children, if Herod had been a good person what could he have done when this request was made. In spite of the promise that he had made in front of his friends he could have:

- Released John ... although that would have caused him a lot of trouble with his wicked wife.
- At the very least, he could have refused the request and accepted the embarrassment.
- However, there is no evidence of him being a righteous person and therefore it is not surprising that he granted the request and committed an evil crime.

2. **Why do you think Jesus was sad when he heard the news of John the Baptist and why didn't He immediately go and rescue John using all His power and influence over the people?**

This is not directly stated in the Bible but is implied in Matt 14:13, "When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place."

Points to consider:

- John had publicly proclaimed that Jesus was the Son of God, who had come from heaven. (John 3:22-36).
- Just as John was the forerunner of Jesus, Jesus knew that his persecution and death was also a sign of His coming persecution and death.
- Although He had the power to conquer all earthly forces, Jesus knew that His mission would require Him to suffer first and die on the cross. Therefore He could not use His power and authority over the armies of heaven to free John the Baptist from earthly death. To complete His mission of salvation for humankind, He would have to go through with the suffering on the cross.
- He only did what the Father wanted Him to do. (John 8:28)

3. **Why did Jesus not send the people away to buy their own food? Instead He performed a miracle by multiplying the food from a small boy.**

Points to consider:

- Jesus had compassion on the people because it was late and they were tired and hungry. Jesus not only provides for our spiritual needs but also our physical needs.
- Jesus wanted to give them a sign to remember later, that He is the bread of heaven. Just as God provided manna from heaven, Jesus would provide bread miraculously. Refer to John 6:25-35

4. **Why did Jesus perform the miracle of walking on water?**

Jesus is God in flesh (God Incarnate) and Immanuel (God with us). He had control over nature. After His time with the disciples is over, they will remember the miracles He performed and the extraordinary powers He had over nature, and rest assured that He is indeed God.

5. **What lesson was Jesus teaching His disciples in each of the stories and what can we learn from them in today's environment?**

Summarise the various lessons of the chapter and ask the children to say in their own words what they have learnt. More importantly, how they will apply what they have learnt from these lessons.

SAMPLE

# The Gospel Story Vol. 1

## Chapter 11: THE REVELATION AND THE TRANSFIGURATION

Based on chapter 14 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** Jesus brings three of His closest disciples; Peter, James and John, to a mountain top and gives them a glimpse of His glory. He appears to them standing between Moses and Elijah in glowing brightness.

**Bible passage:** Matthew 16:13-28; 17:1-13

**Activities:** Play story 11 of the multimedia – The Revelation and the Transfiguration from Matthew 17 verse 1 until verse 13. You can try the multimedia multiple choice questions 5 - 8. For the older children, you can try discussion questions 4 and 5, if there is time.

**Memory verse:** Matthew 16:26 “And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”

**Bible truth and application:** Moses and Elijah appeared next to Jesus accepting Him as their Lord. Moses represents the Law while Elijah represents the prophets. This signifies that the Law and the Prophets of the Old Testament have all pointed to Jesus as the coming Messiah.

### 1. Understanding the Story

1. a) Peter    b) James    c) John    5.

2. The Messiah, the Son of the living God

3. God the Father

4.

Q	U	H	M	Z	U	J	P	O	K	G	M
T	P	I	X	B	U	E	C	A	F	J	X
H	Z	S	Q	U	S	A	N	N	I	M	N
K	I	X	D	I	N	D	F	Y	E	G	H
L	C	M	O	P	A	X	W	O	U	L	D
W	G	O	S	E	P	X	Z	N	A	O	E
O	H	J	M	E	L	P	F	E	R	C	N
L	X	E	G	E	L	Q	U	M	K	R	Y
L	S	U	A	M	I	F	J	U	W	O	O
O	T	P	S	Q	K	A	K	N	V	S	W
F	P	X	H	T	O	T	A	K	E	S	M

## 2. Application

1. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? Ask the students to share

### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

5. C Refer to Matt 17:1
6. E Refer to Matt 17:2
7. D Refer to Matt 17:3
8. D Refer to Matt 17:5

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **Why did Jesus show His disciples this miracle of the transfiguration? Why were Moses and Elijah specifically chosen?**

Ask the children to give their own opinions.

Points to consider:

- Jesus allowed only His three closest disciples to witness this event. They were Peter, James and John.
- The disciples would have been taught the Old Testament according to Jewish customs. They would have been very impressed by the worshipful attitude of Israel's two greatest prophets toward their master, the Lord Jesus. The vision would serve as great encouragement to them.
- Jesus had said many times that He came not to abolish the Law but to fulfill it (Matt 5:17). Moses is the great law-giver who recorded the laws given by God.
- Throughout His ministry Jesus quoted many times from the prophets of the Old Testament. Elijah is considered one of the greatest of the Old Testament prophets.

2. **If you were present with the disciples and witnessed this miracle of transfiguration, what would you have done? Would you have said what Simon Peter said or something else? What lesson can you learn from this story?**

Ask the children to imagine they were present at the top of the mountain and had witnessed the transfiguration. What would their reaction be?

# The Gospel Story Vol. 2

## Chapter 12: COMPASSION, GRACE AND HUMILITY

Based on chapter 15 and 16 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** Story of the Good Samaritan

**Bible passage:** John 4 and Luke 10

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 15. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.” Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

**Bible truth and application:** Jesus teaches us to love and help others who are in need regardless of their race, gender and differences in outlook. The importance of loving your neighbour. The understanding of who is our neighbour.

### 1. Understanding the Story

Read John 4

1. He said to her “Will you give me a drink of water?” (John 4:7)
2. She had been married 5 times and the man she lived with now is her husband. (John 5:18)
3. They would have accused Jesus of going against social ethics and question His actions and words.
4. Hey Samantha, I was passing by our regular well and I saw Jesus talking to one of the neighbours. I was quite shocked as Jesus is a man and a Jew but here He was, talking to the neighbour. I overheard their conversation and Jesus said something about some water that will never make us thirsty again. I was curious so I continued to listen. Jesus said that He would be the one to give us this life-giving water. Obviously, the neighbour asked for this water. What shocked me also was when Jesus knew how many times she had been married before when He has never even spoken to her before this! After overhearing this, I went back home and texted everyone including you!

5.

Question	Pharisee	Tax Collector
1. Where did they go to pray	Temple	Temple
2. Who did they work for	God	The Romans
3. How did they pray	Praised himself	Beat his breast and asked God for mercy
4. Who asked for forgiveness	-	Tax Collector
5. Who received forgiveness	-	Tax Collector

6. She had committed adultery
7. The Law of Moses commanded them to stone such women (John 8:5). Jesus said “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” (John 8:7)  
Note: Teachers please note there is a typo in the numbering at this point
8. Let us not be so hasty to pass judgement on others. If someone who has done wrong is willing to repent, God is willing to forgive.

## 2. Application

1. Are we willing to forgive? How can we show it? How can we help others who are willing to repent without being deceived? There is always the possibility of being deceived. We have to ask God for wisdom. But his chapter shows we must be willing to forgive.’
2. Note: The Samaritans were generally hated by the Jews. So the story illustrates that sometimes, helping our neighbour can mean helping those who are not our friends.

## Answers to Multimedia Quiz

### Read John 4:1-42

1. D Refer to John 4:5
2. D Refer to John 4:9
3. C Refer to John 4:10
4. D Refer to John 4:23

### Read Luke 10:25-37

5. A Refer to Luke 10:31-32
6. B Refer to Luke 10:31-32
7. D Refer to Luke 33-34
8. C Refer to Luke 10:35

- The woman was alone. Jesus spoke to her first asking for her help to draw some water.
- Jesus then told her what He could give her – ‘living water’.
- Jesus answered her questions, and revealed that He knew about her past and present situation – having had 5 husbands and living with a man who was not her husband.
- Finally in John 4:26, He reveals to her that He is the Messiah.

## Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **What lesson can you learn about the encounter that Jesus had with the Samaritan woman? In what way was Jesus reaching out to her?**

Ask the children if they know a friend who is naughty but now wants to know about the Gospel. How would they approach such a friend and share the Good News of Jesus with him or her?

Points to consider:

- Jesus was traveling from Judea to Galilee. Most Jews would have by-passed Samaria, even though it was the shorter route, as they wanted to avoid contact with Samaritans. Jesus purposely took the route through Samaria. Refer to Map in the multimedia book.

2. **In what way would the story of the good Samaritan have been surprising to the Jewish Law expert?**

Jews had a long history of ‘bad blood’ with their Samaritan neighbours. Samaritans descended from Jews who stayed behind in Israel (when most of them were exiled to Babylon around 580s BCE) and then intermarried with non-Jews. They acknowledged the authority of the books of Moses i.e. the first five books of the Old Testament, but developed and accepted other books into their holy scriptures. Thus they had developed something like a cult form of Judaism. Most Jews derided them for having a ‘false religion’. On top of that, during the years leading up to the coming of Jesus, the Samaritans would take sides with world powers such as the Greeks and the Romans, whenever it was convenient for them, in fighting against the Jews. No doubt, they were in the bad books of the Jewish leaders and Law experts.

Tell the children about this history (in a way they would understand) and then ask them why didn't Jesus just choose an ordinary Jewish man to be the hero in the story and make it into a story of 'The Good Jew.'

3. **What can we learn from the story of the good Samaritan?**

This story emphasizes the point of who our neighbours are.

The main point to consider is that the good neighbour in the story was somebody who came into contact with a person in need. To the good Samaritan, the wounded victim was a stranger and belonged to a race of people who were constantly quarreling, sometimes fighting with his own race. The Jews always looked down on the Samaritans because of the lack of purity in Religion. In John 4:20, the woman implied that the Jews always thought they knew better. Yet, the Samaritan stopped and took some personal trouble to help the wounded Jew. The Gospel is given not only to one special group of people but to all people. For older children who want to know more about the lessons from this story, you may refer to the Tyndale commentary on the Gospel of John.

SAMPLE

# The Gospel Story Vol. 2

## Chapter 13: PARABLES OF JESUS - THE LOST AND FOUND

Based on chapter 17 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** The Story of the lost sheep. The story of the prodigal son.

**Bible passage:** Luke 15

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 17. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. Luke 15:10(NIV)

**Bible truth and Application:** Jesus is the good shepherd. He comes and looks for those of us who are lost. But we must be willing to follow him. God is like the father of the prodigal son who loves us so much that he welcomes us back with much rejoicing when we return to him. We are like the prodigal son when we sin. When we have done something wrong, we must quickly come back to God.

### 1. Understanding the Story

Read Luke 15:1-7

1. "This man welcomes sinners and even eats with them." (Luke 15:2)
2. Himself.
3. The Pharisees who thought that they have followed the Law and therefore, did not need to repent.
4. The tax collector.
5. Because He constantly taught that they were self-righteous and pointed out their faults.
6. Luke 15:20 But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him, he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. (NIV)

### 2. Application

1. He repented from his mistakes. We too should repent when we have done wrong.
2. Jesus was trying to say that those who acknowledge that they have done wrong and go to God and ask for forgiveness and repentance, God will not turn them away and in fact, He will embrace them and welcome them back home.

## Answers to Multimedia Quiz

### Read Luke 15:1-7

1. E Refer to Luke 15:1-7
2. E Refer to Luke 15:5-6

### Read Luke 15:11 – 31

3. D Refer to Luke 15:12
4. C Refer to Luke 15:15
5. B Refer to Luke 15:20
6. E Refer to Luke 15:22-23
7. E Refer to Luke 15:28-30

## Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **What would you do if you had a hundred sheep, all of them very precious, and then one of them got lost?**

Ask the children answer to in their own words. You may contextualize it for them, e.g. instead of sheep, it can be something else precious, for example if they had a pet dog or cat that they loved.

2. **Imagine you are the younger son who had just lost all your inherited money. Now you are feeding the filthy pigs which have more to eat than you. You are thinking of the luxurious house you once lived in as a son. There are many servants there, each of them well-fed and doing their jobs with pride. But now you have lost it all. What would you do?**

Ask the children to imagine they are in this position. What would they do?

3. **Imagine you were the father. You only have two sons. The younger one could not wait for you to die. So he asks for his inheritance in advance and leaves you. After a long time, he comes back home in rags and asks you to hire him as a servant. What would you do?**

Again ask the children to imagine themselves in this position. What would they do?

4. **Imagine you were the older brother. That scoundrel brother of yours had left home with his share of the property and now he comes back home. And your father is so happy. What would you do?**

You can ask some children to play the role of the lost son, one to play the jealous brother and another to play the role of the father and one to play the lost son.

5. **What was Jesus teaching the people about God the Father's love Heavenly? How should our response be? How should we respond to our Father's in Heaven's love?**

Emphasize the lesson from the earlier chapter about humility. We have to acknowledge that we are lost without God.

Jesus came to save those who are lost and who confess they are lost without God.

God has given us a way back to Him, i.e. through faith in Jesus Christ. We have to believe in Jesus, and receive Him into our lives as Lord and Saviour. It may be a good opportunity to explain this slowly to the children and ask them to pray the sinner's prayer. For those who have done so, there is no harm in doing so again.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 2

## Chapter 14: JESUS AND LAZARUS

Based on chapter 18 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** Jesus has close friends in three siblings, Lazarus, Mary and Martha. He is sad when Lazarus dies. Jesus explains to Martha that he can give life. He raises Lazarus from the dead to prove this.

**Bible passage:** John 11

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 18. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." John 11:25 (NIV)

**Bible truth and Application:** Jesus is the Resurrection and the life. Whoever believes and puts their faith in Jesus, will receive forgiveness and be given eternal life. Trust in God to know that he can forgive us, bring us back to the right path and give us eternal life.

### 1. Understanding the Story

#### a. Questions

Read John 11:1-53

1. Lazarus
2. John
3. Bethany
4. Thomas
5. four
6. two

Read John 11:17-53

7. Lord, if only You had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask Him for. (John 11:21-22)
8. I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and all those who live and believe in Me will never die. Do you believe this? (John 11:25-26)
9. Yes Lord! ... I do believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who was to come into the world. (John 11:27)

10. Ask the students to write / paraphrase the story - or write a docu-drama - just a few paragraphs.
11. Jesus had performed great miracles. The Pharisees & chief priests & Jewish rulers were afraid that the people would follow him and he could start a rebellion. Then the Romans would destroy the Temple and the nation.

## 2. Application

1. Ask the students to share
2. Ask the students to share

### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

#### Read John 11:1-16

1. A Refer to John 11:1-2
2. D Refer to John 11:1
3. C Refer to John 11:4-6
4. A Refer to John 11:16

#### Read John 11:17-37

5. B Refer to John 11:17
6. B Refer to John 11:24
7. E Refer to John 11:25-26
8. D Refer to John 11:41-43
9. E Refer to John 11:45-46
10. B Refer to John 11:49

### Answers to Discussion Questions

#### in the Multimedia

1. **Why do you think Jesus delayed 2 days in going to help Lazarus?**

This is a simple answer – ask the children and be prepared for profound answers.

From the Bible, we can derive that Jesus was going to use the event to perform the miracle of raising Lazarus to life. This would make the chief priests and High Priest very jealous of Him. But it would also be one of the signs given that Jesus is indeed the Messiah.

2. **Explain in your own way the words of Jesus in John 11:25 and 26**

Ask the children to explain in their own words. For those of us who believe in Jesus and put our trust in Him, He gives us eternal life. Ask the children if they have put their trust in Jesus as their personal Saviour and Lord.

3. **When Jesus raised Jairus' daughter to life, He told her parents not to tell anyone. Why was Jesus openly showing His power to raise the dead to life now?**

You can ask the older children (ages 11-12) this question.

Points to consider:

- When Jesus performed many of the miracles earlier, He did not want people to force Him to become their political leader
- When He raised Lazarus from the dead, it was very close to the time when Jesus would enter Jerusalem in triumph and causing the chief priests to be very jealous and result in His arrest and crucifixion. Jesus was now ready to reveal His true nature to the public.

4. **Why were Caiaphas and the Pharisees so concerned about Jesus that they were prepared to kill Him?**

The answer is given in the Bible from John 11:45-53

Points to consider:

- Jesus could perform life-raising miracles. His popularity was high as shown by the welcome the people gave Him during His entry into Jerusalem.

- The chief priests were afraid that He would lead a rebellion resulting in the Romans destroying their city, their institutions and their temple.
- Right now they wanted to keep things status quo at all cost because they were in a relatively comfortable position.
- They were not concerned if Jesus was truly the Messiah as prophesied in the Old Testament.
- They were not concerned if God was really sending them the Deliverer or the Messiah.
- This led to Jesus performing His miracle of raising Lazarus to life. And many of those who were present believed in Him. Mary and Martha's faith would have been affirmed. But not everyone believed. Some went back to the chief priests and reported what they had seen and so triggered the events that would lead to the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus.

5. **What can we learn from Mary and Martha in this story? What can we learn from Jesus in this story?**

Although the story concentrates on the miracle performed by Jesus which showed He had power from God, there are some things we can learn from the characters in the story.

Points to consider:

- Mary and Martha must both have been disappointed that Jesus arrived four days after their brother Lazarus had died and been buried in the tomb. Martha said it in John 11:21; Mary said it in John 11:32.
- Yet when Jesus arrived, Martha rushed out of her home to meet the Lord.
- When questioned by Jesus if she believed that Jesus could raise Lazarus from the dead she replied with the faith and knowledge based on what God had revealed in the Old Testament, that her brother would be raised on the day of judgment.
- When challenged by Jesus if she believed that all those who believed in Jesus would never die, she answered with a firm "Yes" and declared that Jesus is the Messiah or Christ.
- When Jesus asked them to move the stone, they knew there would be a bad smell from the decomposing body because Lazarus had been buried for four days. Yet, they showed their faith and obeyed the instructions of the Lord by moving away the stone which closed the entrance of the tomb.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 2

## Chapter 15: JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

Based on chapter 19 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** The blind man in Jericho had faith and boldness in asking for God's mercy. The result was a miracle with all the witnesses praising God. A chief tax collector shows his repentance and receives forgiveness from Jesus.

**Bible passage:** Luke 18:35-43, 19:1-9

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 19. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. Matthew 12:25 (NIV)

**Bible truth and Application:** When we are truly sorry for the wrong things we have done, we will show it in our actions. God will forgive and restore us when we come back to him. It is not the proud and self-righteous people who are on the right path. It is those who are faithful and ask for mercy like the blind man who receive mercy; and those who are willing to humble even embarrass themselves (climb up a tree) and ask for forgiveness who will receive forgiveness from God  
What can we do to show we are sorry for our sins?

### 1. Understanding the Story

Read Luke 18:35-43

1. He called out, "Jesus, Son of David! Have mercy on me!" (Luke 18:38)
2. "Be quiet blind man. Shh.. Be quiet." (Luke 18:39)
3. He called out louder "Son of David! Take pity on me!" (Luke 18:39)
4. Jesus stopped and ordered the blind man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him "What do you want me to do for you?" (Luke 18:41)

Read Luke 19:1-9

5. Zacchaeus was a short man and he was a chief tax collector (Luke 19:2-3). They perceived him as a man who liked to cheat them of their money.
6. He had heard about Jesus.'
7. Ask the students to write their thoughts
8. Rejects of the society. The people who were much hated by the society because they were cheaters or seen as unclean or unrighteous.
9. He apologized and decided to give half his belongings to the poor and pay back four times as much to those whom he had cheated. (Luke 19:8)

10. Zacchaeus had repented and willing to pay those he had cheated. He had received forgiveness and salvation. Jesus perhaps was making a 'pan' - double meaning. The name Jesus means Salvation. So salvation had come to Zacchaeus house in 2 ways.

## 2. Application

1. They were both shameless in their ways of reaching out to Jesus. The blind man who was a rejected man in society braved through the crowd shouting to Jesus. Zacchaeus, a respected tax collector climbed up a tree, knowing that he was a short man but he did not care as he wanted to see Jesus very badly. When we know we have done something wrong, let us go to God and ask for forgiveness. After that ask God to help us to overcome our weaknesses and be able to do what is right
2. The blind man and Zacchaeus received blessings in this story.

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### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

Read Luke 18:35-43 and 19:1-9

1. B The opening line of the multimedia story mentions that 'Jesus was now traveling towards Jerusalem. But along the way he passed by Jericho.' In the Bible, this is mentioned in a later passage in Luke 19:28.
2. D Refer to Luke 19:1
3. C Refer to Luke 19:4
4. C Refer to Luke 19:5
5. D Refer to Luke 19:8
6. D Refer to Luke 19:10

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. How do you think he felt, and how do you think they felt when they saw him climbing up a sycamore tree?**

Ask the children to tell the story in their own words. You can choose one to play the role of Zacchaeus, another to play the role of Jesus and perhaps one or two others to play the role of the crowd. Ask them re-enact the scene in their own words.

Points to consider:

- Tax collection was usually done via a tender. Tax collectors would bid – how much they could collect from a town. The highest bidder would be given the job. Then he would make sure he collected more so that he could pocket the difference and make a profit. They were therefore hated by the local people.
- To see this chief tax collector in his expensive clothes climbing up a tree must have been quite a sight. Such an undignified action of a short, wealthy hated person hanging on for his dear life up on a Sycamore tree was truly worth recording by the Gospel writer. People must have laughed at him when they saw him. Zacchaeus knowing he would make a fool of himself, but still going through with it, must have wanted dearly to see Jesus. To his and the people's surprise, Jesus stopped to speak to him and invited Himself to stay at his house.

2. **Why did Jesus say “Salvation has come to this house today”?**

The name Jesus was another form of the name Joshua which means ‘the Lord saves’ so perhaps this was a pun. Salvation has come to this house could have been heard as Jesus has come to this house. God is merciful and forgives those who come back to him in repentance. Jesus said this to show that even Zacchaeus, tax collector and sinner could receive salvation by his repentance and his action.

3. **What lesson can we learn from the story of Zacchaeus?**

Some of the points have been covered in Question 1. Refer to points to consider in Q1. Some additional points to consider:

- Zacchaeus was very sincere in wanting to repent. He offers to pay back four times those whom he had cheated and to give half of his wealth to the poor.
- Zacchaeus made sure he met the requirements of the Old Testament law and more. Refer to Exodus 22:1, Numbers 5:7 and 2 Samuel 12:6.
- Zacchaeus made his statement in public and spontaneously of his own free will. This shows sincerity on his part.
- The fact that Jesus said ‘Salvation has come to this house’ meant that Jesus knew that Zacchaeus was sincere, and therefore he has received forgiveness.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 2

## Chapter 16: JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

Based on chapter 21 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** There is a large crowd waiting to hail him as King. But setting up a new earthly government was not what Jesus had in mind. His mission was not to free Israel from Roman rule but from the bondage of evil and sin. To fulfil God's promise to Abraham, even to Adam and Eve. Jesus tells Nicodemus that we have to be born again.

**Bible passage:** Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 3, 12

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 21. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

**Bible truth and Application:** Jesus is the King of kings who came to earth to reign as king in our lives and not as an earthly ruler. God sent Jesus into the world not to condemn us but to save us from our sins because he loves us. Are we tempted to follow a crowd without understanding? Will we follow what Jesus said by asking God to help us to be born again? Turning away from our past and asking God to help us be better people every day?

### 1. Understanding the Story

Read Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:39-44.

1. It was Passover season.
2. Tell the city of Zion, 'Look, your king is coming to you! He is humble and rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' (Matthew 21:4-5)
3. They spread their cloaks on the road while others cut branches from the tree and spread them on the road. The crowds walking in front of Jesus and those walking behind began to shout, "Praise to David's Son! God bless Him who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God!" (Matthew 21:8-9)
4. They told him to command his disciples to be quiet. (Luke 19:39)
5. "I tell you that if they keep quiet, the stones themselves will start shouting." (Luke 19:40)
6. The time will come when your enemies will surround you. They will completely destroy you and the people within your walls; not a single stone they will leave in its place, because you did not recognise the time when God came to save you!" (Luke 19:42-44)

Read Mark 11:15-19

7. He began to drive out all those who were buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the stools of those who sold pigeons and He would not let anyone carry anything through the temple courtyards. (Mark 11:15-16)
8. Because he constantly showed that they were self-righteous and did not care for the common people.
9. A teacher who has come from God. (John 3:2)
10. One had to be born again. (John 3:3)

## 2. Application

1. Ask the students to share their thoughts. For the non-Christian students, we can say they should at least try to desist the voice of selfishness or self-ambition and to listen to their conscience which speaks to them of what is good and right. But in the context of the Bible, we can only fully achieve this when we surrender our lives to Jesus, asking for his forgiveness of our sins and then on obeying His teachings.
2. The Gospel is a continuation of God's revelation to us. Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God to us. In Genesis times, Noah and Abraham worshipped God by building an altar. In the time of Moses, God's presence was in the tabernacle that the Israelites made. The tabernacle was a kind of mobile Temple and courtyard made of tents and moveable parts. God was present in the tabernacle. During Solomon's time, the tabernacle was replaced by the Temple of Jerusalem. God was present in the Temple. All that was leading to a time when God said he would pour His Spirit into each one of the believers. This was achieved when Jesus died for our sins and rose again. On the first Pentecost Day, God gave us the Holy Spirit to dwell in each believer and follower of Jesus. So now, while we still congregate or assemble for corporate worship, we can worship God individually because our body is His Temple. He dwells in us. What does that mean to us then? We have to take care of our bodies physically, mentally and emotionally. Do not do harm to our body. Keep our bodies in good health.

To the non-Christian, this is also a good principle, that we keep our bodies in good health as that will honour God who created us. As long as we believe in a Supreme Being who created us, surely, our conscience tells us that we have to take care of what has been given to us. Ask the students to share their thoughts.

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### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

#### Read Matthew 21:1-11 and Luke 19:39-44

1. A This statement is made at the beginning of the multimedia story. We also know this because it is inferred from Mark 14:1, Luke 22:1 and John 11:55.
2. B Refer to Matthew 21:1-2
3. D Refer to Matthew 21:8
4. D Refer to Luke 19:39
5. C Refer to Luke 19:40
6. D Refer to Luke 19:42-44

#### Read Mark 11:11-19

7. B Refer to Mark 11:11
8. D Refer to Mark 11:15-16
9. D Refer to Mark 11:17. This is just one of the incidents when Jesus criticized the Pharisees and chief priests.

#### Read John 3:1-21

10. C Refer to John 3:1
11. A Refer to John 3:14 and Numbers 21:8,9

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **Why do you think the crowd in Jerusalem was eagerly waiting for Jesus?**

Ask the children to answer in their own words. Points to consider:

- John 11:56-57 and John 12:17-18 give us a strong hint. This was not long after the miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead was performed. The people were very excited and wanted to see Jesus in Jerusalem.
- Many times Jesus had avoided public display of His powers. When He multiplied the fish and bread to feed the multitude, the crowd had wanted to forcefully make Him their political leader. This is recorded in John 6:14-15. Now they wanted to do it again. We infer this because of the reaction of the chief priests and their urgency in wanting to kill Jesus.

2. **Why did Jesus enter Jerusalem on a donkey?**

Matthew 21:4-5 gives us the answer. This was to fulfill an Old Testament prophecy that the Messiah, their King would come riding on the colt of a donkey. This fact is also recorded in John 12:15. This is to fulfill the prophecy found in Zechariah 9:9.

It also shows that Jesus is a humble King.

3. **Why was Jesus so sad over Jerusalem?**

The answer is in Luke 19:41-44. He predicted the fall of Jerusalem. In AD 70, the Romans Jerusalem attacked and after a terrible battle, they destroyed Jerusalem. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were killed. It was only the second worst disaster in the national history of the Jews, second only to the holocaust brought about by the Nazis during World War 2.

Ask the children to imagine such a scenario: They knew beforehand that some people who meant a lot to them were going to face a disaster. They could warn them about it, but these people had to change their own course of action. However, everything they did to warn them would not work. These people heading for disaster just would not listen and they had no other way to save them. How would they feel? This was how Jesus must have felt, and more, because Jesus loves us. So when we reject Him, it makes Him very sad.

4. **Why did Nicodemus come to see Jesus at night?**

**Why do you think he came to see Jesus at all?  
What can we learn from his conversation with Jesus?**

We do not know exactly when this meeting and conversation took place. In fact it probably took place in an earlier visit that Jesus made to Jerusalem. However, in our story we have placed it here as a record of a conversation that possibly took place earlier. We did this because Nicodemus was one of the very few members of the ruling Sanhedrin who was not trying to kill Jesus.

This conversation contains very profound teachings by Jesus. Very detailed commentaries have been written about this conversation. However, for the sake of this study with children, we can summarise the following teachings:

- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.(NIV)
- We must be born again, invite Jesus into our life to change our way of thinking and doing things. Refer to John 3:3.
- Just as in the days of Moses when he lifted up an ugly bronze serpent (Refer to Numbers 21:8-9), Jesus had to die an ugly horrible death on the cross for our sins and those of us who believe in Him may have eternal life. Refer to John 3:15.

5. **Summarise the main lessons we can learn from this story.**

Go through the lesson notes for Question 1 to Question 4 and summarise of this lesson and the previous lesson.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 2

## Chapter 17: THE LORD'S SUPPER

Based on chapter 22 and 23 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. Jesus explains the Passover meal and what suffering he will undergo soon. The betrayer is at the table also.

**Bible passage:** Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13, 18

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 22 and 23. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verses:**

1. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.  
John 13:34 (NIV)

**Bible truth and Application:** Jesus calls us to follow his example of loving and humbly serving one another with a servant's heart. The Lord's supper explains how Jesus will soon die for our sins. His death will be the final sacrifice made to redeem believers from sin. Jesus shows his love for his disciples. He is humble and cares for each of them, even the betrayer Jesus is determined to go to the cross. How can we be like Jesus in being humble and caring for those around us?

### 1. Understanding the Story

Read Matthew 26:14-16, John 13:1-38, Mark 14:22-24

1. Judas Iscariot. 30 silver coins. (Matthew 26:15)
2. The people will follow Him and rebel against them and against Rome.
3. The Feast of Unleavened Bread. (John 13:1)
4. He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciple's feet. (John 13:5)
5. Because He told them that one of them was going to betray Him. (John 13:22)
6. He took a piece of bread, dipped it, and gave it to the betrayer. (John 13:26)

Read Mark 14:27-31, Matthew 26:47-56

7. Judas arrived with a large crowd armed with swords and clubs. (Matthew 26:47)
8. He drew his sword and struck the High Priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (Matthew 26:51)
9. The disciples left Him and ran away. (Matthew 26:56b)
10. His body His blood which seals God's covenant.
11. Jesus was not looking forward to endure the suffering that was ahead of Him. He pleaded with the Father to take it away and yet He knew that if it was His Father's will, it would have to be fulfilled. Jesus definitely knew what suffering He would soon have to go through.
12. So that they will not be seen arresting Jesus. Judas kissed Jesus on the cheeks to signal to them that He was the one.

## 2. Application

1. He washed their feet. He was teaching them that they should set an example as leaders and serve others. We should also serve others no matter who we are or who they are.
2. Jesus was showing them an example, to practice what you preach, love and pray for those who are our enemies.

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## Chapter 22

### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

Read: Matthew 26:14-16; John 13:1-38 and

Mark 14:12-25

1. C Refer to Matthew 26:14-15
2. D Refer to John 15:5
3. B John is not directly named here ... but based on the description in the Bible text, most if not all commentators have said that the verses in John 13:23-24 refers to John as 'the disciple whom Jesus loved.'
4. D Refer to John 13:29
5. A Refer to Matthew 26: 26, Mark 14:22 and Luke 22:19
6. B Refer to Matthew 26:27
7. C Refer to Mark 14:32. In Matthew 26:36, it says that after the Lord's supper they went to a place called Gethsemane. Gethsemane is a spot in the general area on the Mount of Olives.
8. D Refer to Matthew 26:29

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **What do you think was the significance of Jesus washing His disciple's feet? What is the lesson for us?**

Wealthy Jews sometimes provided servants or slaves to wash the feet of their guests, especially important guests. This task was a lowly task and usually would not be given to Jewish servants. It was usually the gentile servants or slaves who had to perform this task.

When Jesus did this for His disciples, He was showing them by example that the Christian ministry was one of servanthood and humility.

2. **What can we learn about Simon Peter's character in this story?**

Ask a few children what they think.

Points to consider:

- He could not bear the experience of the Lord washing His feet. When he asked the Lord not to wash his feet, it was not out of pride, but because he did not understand what Jesus was doing and he felt that he was of too lowly status for Jesus to perform this service for him.
- When Jesus told him that he must allow Jesus to do it or else he would not have anything to do with Jesus, Simon asked for his whole body to be washed, which was missing the point. Simon is sincere but sometimes he reacts too fast without thinking about what he is saying.
- He loves the Lord. Jesus can see this. But Simon Peter, and even the other disciples are over-confident about their own faith, declaring that they would never desert their Lord in the face of danger. Instead of declaring that he would never disown Jesus (Matthew 26:35), perhaps he should have just admitted that he was also fearful and ask the Lord to give him strength.

3. **Do you think that Jesus was giving Judas a chance to repent? What do you think Jesus was saying to Judas in this story?**

Refer to the Interesting information section given in the multimedia book. It was a custom in those days for the host to dip some bread into a sauce and offer it to their favoured guests. It was a gesture of warm friendship and love. When Jesus offered Judas the bread dipped in a dish as recorded in John 13:26-30, He was in fact telling John who the betrayer would be, and also telling Judas, 'Judas, you are my friend. I love you. You don't have to do this.' Refer to Tyndale Commentary on John 13:30. Judas had been

following Jesus for about 3 years now. Judas had many opportunities to see who Jesus really was and could have chosen to follow Him instead of betraying his Lord for some money.

4. **Explain in your own words the lesson Jesus was teaching with the Passover Meal.**

**Notes: There are many lessons here. Many sermons can be preached on all the different aspects of the Passover Meal or the Lord's Supper as we call it today.**

**But as we are teaching Sunday School children, below are some points which we feel summarise the key lessons:**

- The Lord's Supper is something that Jesus adapted from the Passover Meal. Just like the Passover Meal was eaten to remind the Jews about how God delivered them from slavery in Egypt, the Lord's Supper reminds us about how God delivered us from slavery to sin.
- A lamb was sacrificed to make the meal possible. Jesus would become the Passover Lamb, dying on the cross to take away our sins. God would forgive us and His judgment would pass-over us because of the blood shed by Jesus on the cross.
- The bread symbolizes the body of Christ – broken for us. Paul explains this symbolic meaning in greater detail in 1 Corinthians 10:16-18.
- The wine symbolizes the blood of Christ – shed to pay for our sins and redeem us.
- When we take part in the Lord's Supper we are reminding ourselves that we have accepted Christ and all that He has done to pay for our sins and we are now saved and belong to Him.
- For the older children (ages 11-12) we can also ask them to read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 where Paul teaches the right approach to taking part in the Lord's Supper.

5. **What can we learn from this story and how can we apply it in our lives today?**

Summarise the lessons from each of the questions above and the previous lesson. Ask the children to say how they can apply it in their lives.

## Chapter 23

### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

#### Read Mark 14:27-42

1. B Refer to Mark 14:29
2. C Refer to Mark 14:30
3. D Refer to Mark 13:33
4. A Refer to Mark 14:37
5. D Refer to Mark 14:43
6. A Refer to Mark 14:44-45
7. C Refer to Mark 14:47
8. E Refer to Matthew 26:53

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **What do you think Jesus was going through when He was praying at the Garden of Gethsemane?**

From the text given in Mark 14:32-42 we can see that Jesus was very troubled by what He knew was going to happen soon. This is clear proof of Jesus' humanity. Even though He is God and knows all things, He was also human and knew how terrible the suffering was going to be. In the end, Jesus would submit to the will of God.

2. **Imagine you were with the disciples of Jesus on that night. Now you are looking at Judas approaching with guards and an armed crowd. How would you feel?**

Ask the children to play some role plays. Someone could play Judas. Others could play Peter, James, John, and a representative from the High Priests. Imagine they met together that night and someone challenged Judas on why he was betraying their Lord. What would each of the characters say?

3. **What can we learn about Jesus from this story and how can we apply these lessons today?**

Points to consider:

- Jesus knew what was going to happen soon. But He had committed everything to God the Father. He trusted in God the Father.
- Jesus would not do anything out of the Father's will. He could easily call on heaven's armies to intervene on His behalf. What were a few puny Roman soldiers and some

rag-tag temple guards compared to heaven's armies.

- Judas had followed Jesus for about 3 years, eating at the same table and witnessing His miracles. It must have been very sad for Jesus to see a close friend, one of the chosen 12, to turn against Him, betraying Him for some silver (30) coins.
- Jesus loved His disciples. He tried to protect His disciples by asking the Roman soldiers to just arrest Him and leave His disciples alone.
- Above all else, Jesus submitted to the will of the Father.

SAMPLE

# The Gospel Story Vol. 2

## Chapter 18: THE TRIAL OF JESUS

Based on chapter 24 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** It is actually Ananias and Caiaphas who are on trial. By their actions, they put themselves on trial and come out looking bad. Herod Antipas is also on trial and comes out looking bad. Pilate can see that Jesus is innocent of the charges placed on him by the Jews, but wanting to please the Jews, he fails to execute justice.

**Bible passage:** Mark 14, John 18, Matthew 27

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 24. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing.  
1 Peter 3:9a

**Bible truth and Application:** We must not be afraid to stand up for what is right even if the people around us do not agree with us. What can we learn from those standing by? How can we stand up for the truth when we see wrong doing? What can we learn from Peter's actions? How can we avoid doing what Judas did?

### 1. Understanding the Story

#### a. Questions

Read Mark 14:53-65

1. The house of Caiaphas, the High Priest. Other priests and teachers of the Law. (Mark 14:53)
2. It was not very fair because firstly, they arrested Him at night. Secondly, they brought Him in without any real charge and they were just looking for reasons to accuse Him of blasphemy and even their testimonies did not match up.
3. Three times. He remembered how Jesus had said to him "Before the cock crows twice, you will say three times that you do not know me." He broke down and cried because he remembered what Jesus had said before.
4. He returned the 30 silver coins to the Temple priests and he went and hanged himself. (Matthew 27:4-5)

Read John 18:28 - 19:16

5. They did not have the power to execute anyone.
6. Subverting their nation, opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.
7. He tore at His clothes and accused Him of blasphemy.
8. Barabbas. (John 18:40)
9. They made a crown out of thorny branches and put it on His head; then they put a purple robe on Him. (John 19:2)
10. "If you set Him free, that means that you are not the Emperor's friend! Anyone who claims to be a king is a rebel against the Emperor!" (John 19:12)

## 2. Application

1. Ask the students to share
2. He showed that by washing his hands and saying that whatever happens to Jesus was not his doing but their doing. Pilate should have stood his ground and said that if he found no basis to arrest this man, he should have released Jesus instead of being pressured by the Sanhedrin to crucify Him. That would have shown good Roman justice.

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### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

#### Part 1 Read Mark 14:53-72

1. A Refer to Matthew 26:57, Mark 14:53 and Luke 22:54. John 18:13 does give an additional information which is that Jesus was first met by Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas the High Priest at that time. It does say exactly where Annas met him, but judging by the descriptions given in the Synoptic Gospels, Jesus was brought to the official House of Caiaphas – where all the chief priests and the High Priest were waiting for this illegal trial. Perhaps Annas was in the vicinity and since he was so influential, he had the first interview. This may be a little too much detail for children, so, given the choices in the multiple choice question, the House of Caiaphas would definitely be the first of all the choices available.
2. B -
3. C Refer to Mark 14:59
4. C Refer to Mark 14:66-72
5. D Refer to Matthew 27:5

#### Read John 18:28 – 19:6 & Matthew 27:24-26

6. A Refer to John 18:28
7. B Refer to John 18:31
8. A Refer to John 18:38
9. E Refer to Matthew 27:19
10. B Refer to Matthew 27:29
11. B Refer to Matthew 27:26
12. B Refer to Matthew 19:13
13. D Refer to Matthew 27:24

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **Why do you think all the witnesses who were testifying against Jesus in the House of Caiaphas could not get their stories to agree with one another?**  
They were false witnesses – giving false testimonies. (Refer to Matthew 26:60). It is a known fact that when people are making up false stories about what they have seen, they will each give their own version of the details, and it will almost be impossible for their details to corroborate or support themselves.
2. **What was the charge against Jesus in the House of Caiaphas and what was the charge against Jesus when they brought Him to Pontius Pilate. Was it the same charge? If not, how was it different?**

Ask the (older) children to differentiate three different things:

- What was the real reason the chief priests wanted to kill Jesus?
- What was Jesus accused of when He was tried by the chief priests in the Sanhedrin?
- What was Jesus accused of when He was tried by Pilate?

Points to consider:

- The real reason they wanted to kill Jesus can be found in John 11:34-57.
- Jesus was accused of blasphemy and sentenced to death by the Sanhedrin or ruling Jewish Council in a kangaroo court trial as described in Matthew 26:57-67.
- But the Jews could not execute Him without the permission of the Romans. So they brought Him to Pilate the Roman governor and accused Him of trying to subvert the nation and inciting rebellion against Caesar. Refer to Luke 22:1-2 and John 19:12.

3. **Describe in your own words how you think Pilate came to the conclusion that Jesus was not guilty of any crime?**

Points to consider:

- Jesus has not led any armed band of rebels. Instead of spreading terror, He and His disciples have only been going around the countryside preaching the Good News of God and performing miracles to heal people.
- John's Gospel gives the most information about Pilate's conversation with Jesus. Jesus tells Pilate that His kingdom is not of this world. After this Pilate seems to be convinced that Jesus was not trying to create an earthly kingdom. He tells the Jews his conclusion in John 18:38 and then again in John 19:4 and again in John 19:6.
- In John 19:12 it tells clearly that Pilate tried to set Jesus free.
- In Matthew 27:19, Pilate's wife tells him that she thinks Jesus is innocent and that she had 'suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.'
- Pilate's conscience pricked him, but it was not enough to change his course of action. He was afraid of what the Jews might do when they threatened to accuse him of helping an enemy of Caesar. This is recorded in John 19:12. So Pilate had to symbolically wash his hands in public to declare that it is not his fault that an innocent man is sentenced to death. This is recorded in Matthew 27:24. These points are important because they show that Jesus was wrongfully accused and did not deserve the death sentence.

4. **What would you do if you had been in Pilate's position? The crowds of people were threatening a riot, but you did not think the man was guilty.**

Pilate was a career civil servant. History tells us that he had been reprimanded once before by his higher authority. Now he was not willing to risk any further damage to his career by being accused of helping an enemy of Caesar ... whether it was true or not.

Explain to the children why it is important we must act on what we believe is true and according to the teachings of the Bible. Pilate should have determined the truth about the charges the Jews had put on Jesus. Once he was sure that Jesus was innocent of the charges, then he should have set Jesus free.

5. **What lesson can we learn from this story and how can we apply it in our lives?**

Summarise the main lessons from the above questions and from the multimedia book.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 2

## Chapter 19: THE CRUCIFIXION

Based on chapter 25 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** Jesus dies for our sins. Two men are crucified next to him. One mocks him. While the other asks for forgiveness. Jesus assures him of forgiveness. Jesus gives final instructions to his beloved disciple and to his mother.

**Bible passage:** Matthew 27:32-56, Mark 15:21-47, Luke 23:26-56, John 19:17-42

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 25. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)

**Bible truth and Application:** His suffering and death is the final and only sacrifice that is acceptable to God. Prophecies are fulfilled. The people who receive forgiveness are those who acknowledge him and ask for mercy, like the robber being crucified next to him. The proud Pharisees and robber who mocks Jesus do not receive forgiveness. We must be humble, acknowledge our sins and ask Jesus for forgiveness, then we be born again and walk in close fellowship with God.

### 1. Understanding the Story

Read Luke 23:26-43

1. He said, "Forgive them, Father! They don't know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)
2. This is the King of the Jews (Luke 23:39)
3. Bandit 1: Aren't You the Messiah? Save Yourself and us!  
Bandit 2: Don't you fear God? You received the same sentence He did. Ours however is only right, because we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but He has done no wrong. (Luke 23:39-41)
4. That he will be in Paradise with Him. (Luke 23:43)

Read John 19:23-27

5. They took His clothes and said to one another, "Let's not tear it: let's throw dice to see who will get it." (John 19:24)

Read Matthew 27:45-54

6. The whole country was covered with darkness. (Matthew 27:45)
7. Three hours.
8. "It is finished (John 19:30). Father! In your hands I place My spirit!" (Luke 23:46)
9. It was torn in two from top to bottom. (Matthew 27:51)
10. He saw all that was happening around him and realized only God could make those things happen.
11. Joseph and Nicodemus. (Matthew 27:57)

## 2. Application

1. Many people passed by and mocked Jesus. The Jewish leader jeered at Him. The soldiers also mocked Him. One of the criminals hurled insults at Him. Only one other criminal spoke for Jesus saying 'He has done no wrong' and asked Jesus to remember Him. He acknowledged that he was a sinner. He was humble and asked for Jesus to remember Him, indirectly asking for forgiveness. He was the one to receive mercy.
2. Ask the students to share. If it is too personal, can ask them not to name names.
3. Personal sharing

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### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

#### Read Luke 23:26-43 and John 19:23-24

1. E Refer to Matthew 27:32 and Luke 23:26. Mark 15:21 even mentions two sons of Simon, Alexander and Rufus, possibly indicating that they knew these two sons.
2. B Refer to Luke 23:33
3. C Refer to Luke 23:33
4. D Refer to Luke 23:38
5. E Refer to Luke 23:43
6. E Refer to John 19:23-24

#### Read Matthew 27:45-61 and John 19:30-37

7. A Refer to Matthew 27:45
8. C Refer to Matthew 27:45
9. D Refer to Matthew 27:51-53
10. E This is by implication because the next day was the Sabbath day and the day after that was the first day of the week. This is mentioned in Matthew 28:1.
11. E Refer to John 19:33
12. A This is by inference because this is recorded in John 19:34 which was written by the apostle John.
13. C Refer to Matthew 27:57 and John 19:38.
14. A Refer to John 19:39

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **Based on the story as described in the Bible, how do you think the people of Jerusalem felt during the crucifixion of Jesus? What different reactions might there have been?**

Many sermons have been preached on this. We offer some simplified points:

  - The event must have caused quite a stir in Jerusalem based on what the two disciples said on the road to Emmaus. Read their words in Luke 24:13-24.
  - The event took place over a Passover weekend – the single most important event in the Jewish calendar, where male Jews living all over Israel and even the Diaspora were obliged to come to Jerusalem. Jerusalem would be very crowded at this time.
  - Many of the people who had seen the miracle performed by Jesus in raising Lazarus from the dead were waiting anxiously in Jerusalem and wanted to make Him king. Read John 11:55; John 12:12-17.
  - But that does not mean that they were all faithful believers in Christ. Many of them were easily persuaded by the chief priests to call for Jesus to be executed as recorded in Matthew 27:20-25. Therefore even as we go to church, we all have to ask ourselves, are we just going to church because it is convenient, or do we have a real personal relationship with our Lord Jesus.
  - Some were cynical. Matthew 27:39-41 tells us that many of them hurled insults at the crucified Christ, saying 'Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!'

- There were many who were very sad. They mourned and wailed for Him, as recorded in Luke 23:27.
- Ask the children what our reaction is to the death and resurrection of Christ. Are we going to be cynical, or just sad or will be like His disciples – running scared?
- To Christians, the crucifixion and resurrection of the Messiah is the combined single most important event in the history of the world. It marks a turning point in the history of God’s redemption plan for humankind.
- After the disciples encountered the risen Christ and understood what Jesus had achieved in going through with this suffering, they became disciples with a mission.

2. **What lesson can we draw from the conversation between the two criminals and Jesus?**

Points to consider:

- At first, both the criminals had mocked at Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 27:44.
- Later, one of them said, “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” in Luke 23:39.
- But the other robber seems to have undergone a change of heart. Perhaps because he had seen or heard the words Jesus said on the cross. Luke 23:40-43 tells us the second criminal rebuked the first criminal, admitted his own guilt and asked Jesus to remember him. Jesus said to him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43 NIV)
- The lesson to learn here is that, if we humble ourselves and confess our sins and ask Jesus for forgiveness sincerely, He will forgive us.

3. **How did the soldiers’ attitude toward Jesus change from the beginning of the crucifixion to the death of Jesus on the cross?**

Looking at the reaction of the soldiers at the cross is also a study of how many people react when confronted with the Gospel. From open hostility to cynical ridicule by all the soldiers to humble acceptance finally by one soldier – the centurion. When confronted with the Gospel of Jesus, what will our reaction be?

Points to consider:

- Matthew 27:27-31 tells us they mocked Jesus and were very cruel toward Him.
- To some of them, they were just doing their job. After nailing Jesus on the cross, they divided His clothes and drew lots to see who would get it (Matthew 27:35).

- Some might have taken pity on Him.
  - o They got a man named Simon of Cyrene to help Him carry the cross (Mark 15:21).
  - o They offered Him wine mixed with myrrh (Mark 15:23).
- They must have seen how the Jews and the priests mocked Him while He was hanging on the cross. Jesus did not say anything in reply to the insults they hurled at Him. (Matthew 27:39-44).
- They must have witnessed the conversation between Jesus and the two criminals crucified with Him (Luke 23:39-43).
- They witnessed the conversation Jesus had with John, caring for His mother even while He was suffering on the cross. (John 19:25-26).
- They all must have witnessed how from ‘the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land.’ (Matthew 27:45).
- They must have seen all the words Jesus said to the Father; calling the Father to ‘forgive them for they know do not know what they are doing.’ (Luke 23:34). They must also have heard the desperate cry Jesus made to God, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ which means ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ (Matthew 27:46).
- And at the death of Jesus, there was a rock splitting earthquake and the opening of many tombs. (Matthew 27:52) The centurion and all the soldiers around Him became terrified!
- And yet in Matthew 27: 54 and in Mark 15:39, it was recorded only the centurion who said, “Surely this man was the Son of God.”
- The majority of the soldiers after witnessing all the signs, would still remain unbelieving. Only one soldier was touched and acknowledges Jesus for who He is.
- Will we also acknowledge Jesus and give Him our worship.

4. **Why did the Gospel writers put in their record of the crucifixion such details as the tearing of the curtain and the plunging of the spear? Can you write a list of details found in each of the Gospels and what you think their significance is?**

Remember that the Gospel writers’ main objective was to prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in Him the readers can receive eternal life. Many of the details were therefore related to:

- Showing how the death of Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. Example:
- Matthew 27:34 fulfills Psalm 69:21.
- Matthew 27:35 fulfills Psalm 22:18.
- John 19:36 fulfills Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12 and Psalm 34:20.
- And many more. Ask the older children (11-12 years) to look for more.
- Showing that Jesus really died on the cross. Many non-believers had claimed that Jesus did not really die and accused the Christians of creating a lie. So the Gospel writers gave details of the death of Jesus to prove that the resurrection was truly a miracle from God.

Some examples include:

- John 19:33-34 tells us that the soldier finds Jesus dead and uses a spear to pierce His side. Water and blood flow out. Many medical experts say that this shows the victim is dead and probably died from heart failure.
- Mark 15:21 names the children of Simon of Cyrene as Alexander and Rufus. This is a detail, perhaps as some commentators say, because these people were known to the early Christians. Rufus is mentioned by Paul in Romans 16:13 although we cannot be absolutely sure if it is the same Rufus.
- Showing the miracles the miraculous signs surrounding the death of Jesus on the cross.
- The earthquake and tombs breaking open.
- The darkness in the land in the middle of the day.
- The tearing of the curtain in the Temple 'from top to bottom'.
- Ask the older children to look for more detailed descriptions.

5. ***How does this story affect the way we live today and what should our attitude be towards God?***

When we examine all the evidence shown by the Gospel writers, what is our response to the Gospel? If we say that we believe and trust in Jesus, how will this affect the way we live today and our attitude towards God? Ask each child to share his/her thoughts and feelings.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 2

## Chapter 20: THE RESURRECTION AND THE LAST BREAKFAST

Based on chapter 26 and 27 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** God raises Jesus from the dead. Prophecies are fulfilled. Jesus is the Messiah-Saviour. Jesus shows his love for his disciples – he forgives and reinstates Peter as the leader.

**Bible passage:** Matthew 27-28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20, 21

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 26 and 27. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:**

1. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses to it. Acts 2:32 <sup>(NIV)</sup>
2. The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. Psalms 103:8 <sup>(NIV)</sup>

**Bible truth and Application:** God raised Jesus from the dead just as he had promised in his word given to the prophets. God loves us so much that he does not give up on us even though we have disappointed him at times. God has the power to fulfil all that he has promised. We can put our trust in God. God will forgive us when we confess and repent.

### 1. Understanding the Story

Read Matthew 28:1-10

1. Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James and Salome. (Matthew 28:1)
2. Ask the students to write in their own words.

Read John 20:3-29

3. Peter and John. John arrived first. (John 20:3-4)
4. Linen wrappings (John 20:5)
5. She thought that someone had taken the body away and she didn't know where they had put Him. (John 21:14)
6. Go and tell His brothers that He has risen. (John 20:17)
7. They were filled with joy.
8. Thomas was always full of doubt and always wanted to look for physical proof before believing.

Read John 21:1-14

9. They were thinking about their experience in following Jesus.
10. "Do you love me?" He was indicating the way in which Peter would die and bring glory to God.

## 2. Application

Read Matthew 28:11-15

- 1i. The Jewish priests and leaders did not believe Jesus would be raised from the dead. They were afraid the disciples would steal the body and proclaim Jesus alive to deceive people
- 1ii. There is no record of the Jewish people in general believing that Jesus was raised from the dead.
- 1iii. The disciples when they were first told that the tomb was empty also were very doubtful. Peter and John ran to the tomb to look for Jesus. It is John who is recorded as the first to believe that Jesus had truly risen from the dead.  
Ask the students to share what we can learn from here.
2. "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29
3. Jesus told Simon Peter to follow Him (John 21:19).
4. "Follow me". It means to trust in God in whatever we do.

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## Chapter 26

### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

Read Matthew 27:62-66

1. B Refer to Matthew 27:64. This was a false claim by the authorities. The disciples of Jesus were unarmed simple people from Galilee who had fled the scene when Jesus was arrested.
2. D
3. E Refer to Matthew 27:65-66.
4. D Refer to Matthew 28:1
5. A Refer to Matthew 28:2  
Refer to Matthew 28:5. If you see the multimedia interactive quiz give d as the correct answer, this is a programming error. The correct answer is a. We apologise for this programming error.

Read John 20:3-18

6. D Refer to John 20:3-4
7. E Refer to John 20:4-6
8. C Refer to John 20:15
9. E Refer to John 20:24
10. B Refer to John 20:25
11. C Refer to John 20:28
12. D Refer to John 20:29

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **Why do you think it was only the women who went to the tomb early on Sunday morning?**  
Some points for consideration:
  - The men might have been confused and afraid of being arrested.
  - The women showed their dedication to complete the burial process which they did not have time to complete when Jesus' body was buried because of the onset of Sabbath.
2. **Why were the Jewish authorities so afraid that the disciples would try to steal the body of Jesus?**  
The answer is given in Matthew 27:62-64. It is an irony that the enemies of Jesus remember what Jesus had said about His rising from the dead but His disciples seem to have forgotten it.
3. **How do you think the guards felt when they felt the earthquake and saw the angel descending from heaven?**  
They must have been very scared because they 'shook and became like dead men' or trembled and fainted as described in Matthew 28:4.
4. **Why did Peter and John run to the tomb while the other disciples stayed indoors?**  
We don't really know for sure why the other disciples stayed indoors. The Bible is silent on this. But we can ask the children what they think.

Some points to consider:

- They were afraid that the Jewish authorities were still looking for them and wanted to arrest them. There is some basis for this fear as we can read in the Bible how the Jewish authorities were paranoid about the disciples wanting to steal the body of Jesus and proclaiming Him alive.
- Peter was like a leader among the disciples and John was ‘the disciple whom Jesus loved’ and if what the women said was true, the disciples had to see it for themselves.

5. **What do you think Jesus was teaching the disciples and Thomas in this story?**

Some points to consider:

- The death and resurrection of Jesus is central to what Christians believe. Paul declares that if the resurrection had not taken place, then our faith is in vain (1 Corinthians 15:12-20). This is not just a metaphorical story with symbolic meaning. Christ Jesus rose physically from the dead with a resurrection body that would never die again.

- John records what Thomas says when he sees Jesus, ‘my Lord and my God!’ (John 20:28). Not only is Jesus the Messiah, but He is God.
- Jesus tells Thomas, ‘Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed’ (John 20:29). John records this statement by Jesus for the benefit of his readers (John 20:31) and the future followers of Jesus.
- This statement by Thomas brings John’s Gospel to the opening verse ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.’ (John 1:1).
- Jesus was teaching Thomas and the disciples and the future believers, that He is alive, He has overcome death and He is God.

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## Chapter 27

### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

Read John 21:1-25 and John 20:30-31

1. E Refer to John 21:3
2. C Refer to John 21:4
3. E Refer to John 21:11
4. A Refer to John 21:9
5. C Refer to John 21:15-17
6. B Refer to John 21:20 John had consistently referred to himself as ‘the disciple whom Jesus loved.’
7. A Refer to John 21:18
8. E Refer to John 20:31

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. **How do you think Peter and his fellow disciples were feeling at this point in time, before Jesus came to them?**

Ask the children why they think the disciples were back in Galilee fishing. Why were they back in their old occupation? Was it because they were sad and unsure of what they were to do?

Points to consider:

- In Mark 14:28; and Mark 16:7 the disciples were told to go to Galilee where they would meet Jesus after He had risen.
- Perhaps they had returned to Galilee and were waiting for Jesus.
- Going back to do some fishing may be just to do something to occupy themselves while they were waiting for Jesus.
- Simon Peter’s character does come out again. While he is not sure what to do, and perhaps he is still feeling guilty about disowning his Lord three times during the Trial, he decides to go fishing to ease his pain.
- They went back to their old job of fishing for fish, instead of the new job of being ‘fishers of men.’

2. **Why did Jesus perform a miracle for them and feed them with fish and bread?**

Points to consider:

- This miracle may have helped the disciples to recall the experience of Simon Peter and his partners recorded in Luke 5:4-9. In both stories, Jesus shows the disciples His authority over nature. For further reading refer to Tyndale Commentary on the Gospel of John.
- Jesus showed that He cared for their physical and emotional needs. A night of work without having caught a single fish would be very demoralizing.
- Jesus gave them another miraculous experience to remind them that He is indeed Lord, just in case they had any doubts, before He commissions them to bring the Gospel to all nations.

3. **Imagine you are Simon Peter. Just having denied Jesus 3 times, how would you feel if Jesus looked at you in the eye and asked you “do you love me”, not once but 3 times?**

For the older children (11-12 yrs) you can take them through this story with a little more detail if you think they can appreciate it:

- This is one of the most intimate and touching portions of the Gospel; Jesus reaffirming Peter and installing him as a leader and shepherd to the group of believers.
- In Matthew 26:33-35 Peter had declared that he loved Jesus more than all the other disciples. And in John 13:37, he declared that he would lay down his life for Jesus. During the trial, he did neither. In fact it was John who stayed with Jesus during the crucifixion. All the others had fled.
- When Jesus asked Peter, do you love me, He used the Greek term Agape (Godly, self-sacrificing love). Whereas when Peter answered, he used the Greek term Phileo (brotherly friendly love).
- So the conversation would have sounded something like this:
  - > Jesus looking at Peter said, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me (with the Godly self-sacrificing love; after all, Peter did boast that he would even die for Jesus earlier) more than these other disciples (earlier on you said that you loved me more than all the other disciples).’

- > Peter (Remembering how he had denied Jesus is now more humble) said, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you with the brotherly love (implying my love for you is not worthy to be called the Godly self sacrificing love; I used to boast about).’
- > Jesus said, ‘Take care of my followers.’
- > The question is repeated with the same words and Simon Peter responds with the same words.
- > Then for the third time Jesus asked Simon, “Do you love me?” (this time Jesus uses the word Phileo) and Peter feeling a little sad that Jesus had asked him the third time, replied, ‘Lord you know all things; you know that I love you.’
- > Jesus then tells Peter a little about what will happen in the future. John added a comment that this was said to show that his death would bring glory to God. Remember that when John wrote this Gospel, Peter had already done all the things that Jesus said he would and probably been executed. Challenge the children. Today when Jesus asks us, “do we love Him ‘more than these’,” what is our response?. Do we love Jesus more than anything else?

4. **Imagine you are John or one of the disciples there, sitting next to Jesus and Peter and listening to the conversation that was going on. What would you be thinking and feeling?**

There is no definite answer to this question. Ask the children how they would feel if they had been one of the disciples present. Jesus spoke to Peter in front of these 6 other disciples. What was the message for these other disciples?

5. **Jesus last words to Peter in this story were “Follow me”. How do you think those words would have struck Peter? How would it have struck John? How does it impact you today?**

Just after receiving a commission from Jesus, Peter receives a gentle rebuke followed by a command.

Points to consider:

- Each of us have our own calling.
- Each of us must answer the Lord’s call to follow Him.
- Let us now think about how or what the Lord instructs His other followers.

# The Gospel Story Vol. 2

## Chapter 21: THE GREAT COMMISSION AND EPILOGUE TO THE GOSPEL STORY

Based on chapter 28 and 29 in the multimedia book

**Theme/ Overview of Story:** The Jewish authorities bribe the Roman guards to spread a false report Jesus gives his disciples the Great Commission. They are to spread the Good News of God's salvation. Jesus instructs them to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit and then ascends to heaven.

**Bible passage:** Matthew 28:11-20, Luke 24:44-53, Acts 1:9-11

**Activities:** Play multimedia chapter 28 and 29. Answer all the questions in section A of parts 1 & 2. Section B (challenge questions) of Parts 1 & 2 are optional for 13-14 year olds but are highly recommended for 15-17 year olds.

**Memory verse:** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

**Bible truth and Application:** Jesus last words to his disciples were to go out into the world and bear witness to what he has done. They are to teach people to become disciples. What should we do in response to the Great Commission? How can we shine our light or be the salt of the earth and bring the good news of God to people whom we come into contact with?

### 1. Understanding the Story

Read Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:44-52, Acts 1:10-11

1. "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you."  
(Matthew 28:19-20)
2. He would be with them always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)
3. 40 days (Acts 1:3)
4. Ask the students to write
5. "Galileans, why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw Him go to heaven." They worshipped Him and went back into Jerusalem, filled with Joy, and spent all their time in the Temple giving thanks to God. (Acts 1:11)
6. Luke 1:1-4 So that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.
7. John is an eye-witness of the things Jesus did. So he writes the Gospel to testify what he has seen and that it is the truth John 21:24

## 2. Application

### a. Questions

1. Explain to the students, that God has a purpose for all of us. The fact that they have the privilege of studying in their school or attending Wesley Methodist School is a privilege already. They have received special training. How can they use this to benefit not just themselves but those whom they love and society in general.
2. Ask the students to share
3. Ask the students to share

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### Answers to Multimedia Quiz

Read Matthew 28:11-20, Luke 24:44-53 and

Acts 1:9-11

1. C Refer to Matthew 28:12-13
2. D Refer to Matthew 28:15
3. D Refer to Matthew 28:16
4. E Refer to Matthew 28:19
5. A Refer to Matthew 28:20
6. B Refer to Acts 1:10 but do take note that while the Great Commission was given in Galilee, as recorded in Matthew 28:16, the ascension of Jesus took place on Mount of Olives, near to Bethany. See also Acts 1:12. This probably happened some time after the Great Commission was given in Galilee.
7. E Refer to Acts 1:4
8. C Refer to Luke 24:53
9. D Refer to Luke 1:1-4
10. D Refer to Luke 24:27 Jesus used the scriptures of the Old Testament to explain what was said about Himself.

### Answers to Discussion Questions in the Multimedia

1. ***Even though the guards knew what the Jewish authorities asked them to do was false, why do you think they agreed to do it?***  
Points to consider:
  - They had failed in their duty to keep the tomb secure. When the ground shook and the angel appeared, the guards were so terrified that they had fainted. Failure in doing their duties could result in severe punishment for them.
  - Cooperating with the chief priests offered them a way to save their lives or at least to save them from severe punishment. Besides, they were also given a 'large sum of money' for their cooperation (Matthew 28:14-15).
2. ***Explain in your own words what is the Great Commission***  
Ask the children to explain what they understand from the passage found in Matthew 28:19-20.
3. ***Imagine yourself present with the disciples listening to the words of Jesus and watching Him ascend to heaven. What would you be feeling?***  
Ask the children to imagine themselves on Mount of Olives. Read to them Luke 24:44-51 and then ask them to describe how they would feel if they had been there.

4. ***Imagine yourself in Theophilus' position. How would you feel having read the Gospel story? What difference would it make in your life today? Would you make a decision to follow Jesus?***

The objective of Luke is similar to that of the other Gospel writers although they have written it in different styles. To present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to his readers. Having gone through the Gospel Story, ask the children, how will they respond to it. Will they accept the teachings of Jesus? Remember, if we just listen to the Word and do not put it into practice in our lives, we can become like the ground on which seeds were sowed, but after the seeds germinate, thorns grow and choke it so the seeds are not fruitful.

Or would we be like the hard ground where the seeds are is not able to germinate and the birds of the air come and pick them off.

Pray that we can become like the fertile ground where the sees and Word of God can germinate and grow, strong and in time, produce much fruit.

After reading the Gospel Story, what are areas of our lives that we feel could be changed for the better?

For those who have yet to receive Jesus, ask them if they would be willing to commit their lives to Jesus.

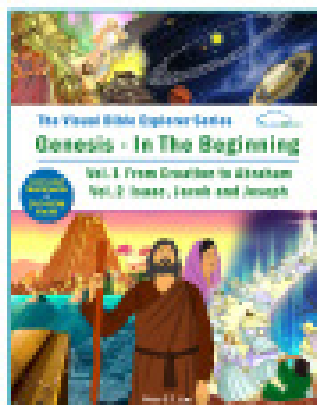
# Notes

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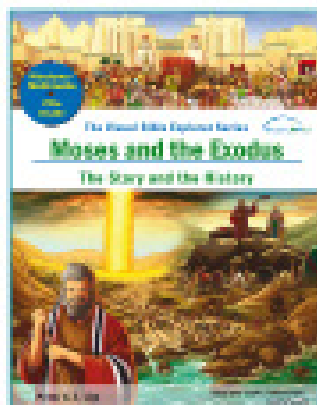
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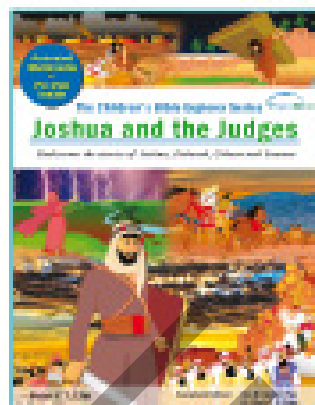
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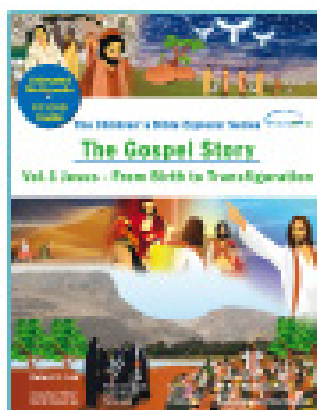
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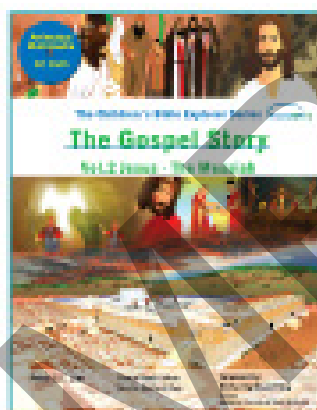
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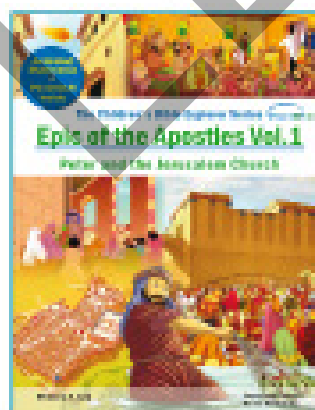
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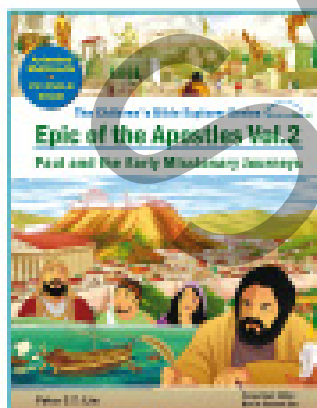
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