



Discovery Bible Study

Creation to Christ

Introduction

Have you ever wondered if God is interested in your life? Are you interested in knowing more about Jesus? Maybe you are interested in knowing what the Bible says, but never felt comfortable going into a church? Discover the Bible is a great way to explore life's deeper questions with your friends in the comfort of your home or a local coffee shop. Around the world this approach is changing lives daily. Why not give it a go and see if the Bible has anything to say to you today?

How it works

Discovery Bible Study is an easy way to explore what the Bible has to say for yourself. So how do you get started?

We find that it works best if you gather a few friends and go through the studies together. Groups of between four and eight people are good. Everyone will have a slightly different perspective and as each person shares their insights your understanding as a group will grow. So find a comfortable location to meet, grab a coffee and dive in.

Start off by reading or listening to the Bible story. You can use this booklet or the **Discover App** for this. You might like to read the story a couple of times to get more familiar with it. When you are ready have someone in the group retell the story in their own words. Don't worry too much about getting it completely right. After they have finished anyone else can chip in and fill in any missing bits. If you are in a larger group you might like to do this bit in pairs.

Once everyone is familiar with the story, go through the questions. We always use the same four questions. They are easy to remember but surprisingly effective at helping to unpack the story. Take time to ensure that everyone has a chance to speak. If you are not sure how what someone is saying relates to the story, ask them "Where do you see that in the passage?"

For the last two questions we encourage you to make "I will" statements that you really intend to do. For example "I will stop and think before I criticise someone" or "I will tell my sister".

From session two onwards it is useful to start each study by reviewing the previous session. Chat through your "I will" statements and see how everybody got on with them. Take some time to encourage each other.

When you have finished the study ask everyone what is making them happy this week and what they are struggling with. Are there ways as a group that you can support each other?

As you tell other people about what you are learning, you may find that people ask to join your group. That's great! Rather than growing your group, however, it is better to ask them if they would like to find a few friends and start a new group themselves. As you have already seen it is very easy to do, and you don't need to be an expert to lead.

Step by step guide

Before you begin take some time to think about last week's session and how things have gone since then. Then answer these questions together

- What is making you happy this week?
- What are you struggling with this week?
- How did you get on with your "I Will Statements" from the previous session?
- Who did you tell and how did that go?

Step 1: Read the story

Read or listen to the passage

Step 2: Retell the Story

Take a few moments to retell the story in your own words. You may want to speak it out loud, or write it down. If you find you are struggling to remember it, read or listen to it again.

Step 3: Discover the Story

When you feel that you are familiar with the story, take some time to think over or discuss the following questions:

- What does this story tell me about God?
- What does this story tell me about people?
- If this is really God's word, what changes would I have to make in my life?
- Who am I going to tell?

Creation: God creates the world

Genesis 1:1-25

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the surface of the deep. The Spirit of God moved over the surface of the waters.

³ God said, “Let there be light!” and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light “day,” and he called the darkness “night.” So there was evening, and then the morning, making day one.

⁶ God said, “Let there be an expanse in the middle of the waters to divide the waters.”

⁷ So God made an expanse to divide the waters that were above from the waters that were below. And that's what happened. ⁸ God called the expanse, “sky.” So there was evening, and then the morning, making day two.

⁹ God said, “Let the waters below the sky collect together in one place so that the land may appear.” And so it was. ¹⁰ God called the land “earth” and the waters “seas.” God saw that it was good.

¹¹ God said, “Let the earth produce vegetation—plants that produce seeds and trees that produce seeded fruit—each one according to its own kind.” And that's what happened.

¹² The earth produced vegetation—plants that produce seeds and trees that produce seeded fruit—each one according to its own kind. God saw that it was good. ¹³ So there was evening, and then the morning, making day three.

¹⁴ God said, “Let there be lights in the sky to separate day from night, and to provide a way to mark seasons, days, and years. ¹⁵ They shall be lights in the sky to shine on the earth.” And that's what happened. ¹⁶ God created two great lights: the larger one in charge of the day, and the smaller one in charge of the night. He created the stars too.

¹⁷ God placed these lights in the sky to shine upon the earth, ¹⁸ to be in charge of the day and in charge of the night, and to separate light from darkness. God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ So there was evening, and then the morning, making day four.

²⁰ God said, “Let the waters be full of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the sky.” ²¹ So God created huge sea creatures and all the living things that swim and fill the waters, each one according to its own kind; and every bird that flies, each one according to its own kind. God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, “Reproduce and increase, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” ²³ So there was evening, and then the morning, making day five.

²⁴ God said, “Let the land produce living creatures, each one according to its own kind—the livestock, the creatures that run along the ground, and the wild animals, each one according to its own kind.” And that's what happened. ²⁵ God made the wild animals, the livestock, and the creatures that run along the ground, all according to their own kind. God saw that it was good.

Two

Creation: God creates humanity

Genesis 2:4-24

⁴ This is the account of the Lord God's creation when he made the heavens and the earth.

⁵ Up to this point there were no wild plants or crops growing on the earth, because the Lord God hadn't sent rain, and there was no one to cultivate the ground. ⁶ Dew came up from the earth and made the whole surface of the ground wet. ⁷ The Lord God shaped the man Adam from the dust of the ground. He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and Adam became a living being.

⁸ The Lord planted a garden in Eden, in the east. There he put the man Adam he had created. ⁹ The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow in the garden, beautiful trees and trees producing fruit that's good to eat. The tree of life was in the middle of the garden, along with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ A river flowed out from Eden to water the garden. From there it split into four branches. ¹¹ The first branch was called the Pishon and it flowed through the whole land of Havilah, where gold is found. ¹² (The gold from that land is pure. Bdelium and onyx stone are also found there.) ¹³ The second branch was called the Gihon and it flowed through the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ The third branch was called the Tigris and it flowed east of the city of Asshur. The fourth branch was called the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and care for it. ¹⁶ The Lord God ordered Adam, "You are free to eat fruit from every tree in the garden, ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because the day you eat from it you are certain to die."

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It's not good for Adam to be alone. I will make someone to help him, someone that's like him."

¹⁹ The Lord God used the ground to make all the wild animals, and all the birds. He took them all to Adam to see what he would call them, and Adam named every living creature. ²⁰ Adam gave names to all the livestock, all the birds, and all the wild animals. But Adam didn't find anyone like him who could help him.

²¹ So the Lord God put Adam into a deep sleep and as he slept the Lord God removed one of Adam's ribs and closed up the place where he took it with body tissue. ²² The Lord God made a woman, using the rib he'd taken from Adam, and presented her to Adam.

²³ "Finally!" said Adam. "Here is bone from my bone and flesh from my flesh. She shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man."

²⁴ This is the reason a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two become one being.

Three

The Fall: The first sin and its punishment

Genesis 3:1-24

¹ The serpent was more cunning than any of the other wild animals that the Lord God had made. He asked Eve, “Did God really say that you can't eat fruit from every tree in the garden?”

² Eve replied to the serpent, “We can eat from the trees in the garden, but not the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. ³ God told us, ‘You mustn't eat from that tree, or even touch it, otherwise you'll die.’”

⁴ “You certainly won't die,” the serpent told Eve. ⁵ “It's because God knows that as soon as you eat it, you'll see things differently, and you'll be like God, knowing both what is good and what is evil.”

⁶ Eve saw that the fruit of the tree appeared good to eat. It looked very attractive. She really wanted it so she could become wise. So she took some of its fruit and ate it, and she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it too. ⁷ Immediately they saw everything differently and realized they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves up.

⁸ Later they heard the Lord walking in the garden in the evening when the breeze was blowing. Adam and Eve went and hid out of sight of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ The Lord God called out to Adam, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ “I heard you walking in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid,” he replied.

¹¹ “Who told you that you were naked?” asked the Lord God. “Did you eat fruit from the tree I ordered you not to?”

¹² “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit from the tree, and I ate it,” Adam replied.

¹³ The Lord God asked Eve, “Why have you done this?”

“The serpent tricked me, and so I ate it,” she replied.

¹⁴ Then the Lord God told the serpent, “Because of what you've done, you are cursed more than any of the other animals. You will slide along on your belly and eat dust as long as you live. ¹⁵ I will make sure you and your children, and the woman and her children, are enemies. One of her children will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶ He told Eve, “I will make pregnancy much more difficult, and giving birth will be very painful. However, you will still desire your husband, but he will have control over you.”

¹⁷ He told Adam, “Because you did what your wife told you, and ate fruit from the tree after I ordered you, ‘Don't eat fruit from this tree,’ the ground is now cursed because of you. You will have to work painfully hard to grow food from it throughout your whole life. ¹⁸ It will grow thorns and thistles for you, and you will have to eat wild plants.

¹⁹ You will have to sweat to grow enough food to eat until you die and return to the ground. For you were made from dust and you will return to dust.”

²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve, because she was to be the mother of all human beings.

²¹ The Lord God made Adam and Eve clothes from animal skins and dressed them.

²² Then the Lord God observed, “Look, the human beings have become like one of us, knowing both what is good and what is evil. Now if they take the fruit from the tree of life and eat it, then they'll live forever!” ²³ So the Lord God expelled them from the Garden of Eden. He sent Adam to cultivate the ground from which he'd been made.

²⁴ After he drove them out, the Lord God placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden angels and a sword that flashed in every direction. They were to prevent access to the tree of life.

Four

The Fall: Noah's flood

Genesis 6:1-27

¹ People started to increase in number and spread out across the earth. Daughters were born to them, ² and the sons of God saw that these women were beautiful, and they took whichever ones they wanted.

³ Then the Lord said, “My life-giving Spirit will not remain in these people forever, because they are only mortal. The time they have left will be 120 years.”

⁴ There were giants on earth in those days, and also later on. They were born after the sons of God slept with the daughters of these people. Their sons became the great warriors and famous men of ancient times.

⁵ The Lord saw how terribly evil people on earth had become—every single thought in their minds was evil all the time! ⁶ The Lord was sorry he'd made human beings to live on the earth; it made him very sad to think about it. ⁷ So the Lord said, “I'm going to wipe out these people I created from the earth, and not only them but also the animals, the creatures that run along the ground, and the birds, because I'm sorry I made them.”

⁸ But the Lord was pleased with Noah.

⁹ This is the story of Noah and his family. Noah was a man of integrity, living a moral life among the people of his time. He had a close relationship with God. ¹⁰ Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹ God saw how corrupt the whole world had become, full of violent and lawless people.

¹² God recognized that the corruption in the world was due to everyone on earth living corrupt lives. ¹³ So God told Noah, “I have decided to put an end to all people on earth because they are all violent and lawless. I myself am going to destroy all of them, along with the earth.

¹⁴ Build an ark out of cypress wood. Make rooms inside the ark, and coat it with tar, both inside and out. ¹⁵ This is how to build it: the ark is to measure 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. ¹⁶ Make a roof for the ark, leaving a cubit-wide opening between the roof and the top of the sides. Put a door in the side of the ark, and construct three decks inside.

¹⁷ I myself am going to flood the earth with water that will destroy everything that breathes. Every living thing everywhere on earth will die. ¹⁸ But I will keep my agreement with you. You are to go into the ark, taking with you your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁹ Take a pair, male and female, of every kind of animal into the ark and make sure you keep them alive. ²⁰ The same applies to every kind of bird, livestock, and the creatures that run along the ground—a pair of every kind will come to you so they can be kept alive. ²¹ Take all kinds of food with you too. Store it so you and the animals will have enough to eat.”

²² Noah did exactly what God ordered him to do.

Genesis 7:1-24

¹ The Lord told Noah, “Go into the ark with all your family. I have seen how you are a man of integrity, living a moral life among the people of this generation. ² Take with you seven pairs, male and female, of every kind of clean animal, and one pair, male and female, of every kind of unclean animal. ³ In addition take seven pairs, male and female, of all the birds, so their different kinds will survive throughout the earth. ⁴ In

seven days I'm going to make it rain for forty days and nights. I'm going to wipe out from the surface of the earth all the living creatures I made.”

5 Noah did exactly what the Lord ordered him to do.

6 Noah was 600 when the flood waters covered the earth. 7 Noah went into the ark, taking with him his wife and his sons and their wives, because of the flood. 8 Clean and unclean animals, birds, and creatures that run along the ground, 9 went into the ark with Noah. They came in pairs, male and female, just as God had told Noah. 10 After seven days the floodwaters swept over the earth.

11 Noah was 600 when on the seventeenth day of the second month all the subterranean waters burst through the earth, and heavy rain poured down from the sky. 12 Rain continue to fall on the earth for forty days and nights.

13 That was the actual day when Noah, his wife, and their sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth together with their three wives went into the ark. 14 They had with them every kind of wild animals, livestock, creatures that run along the ground, and birds—everything with wings. 15 They all came into the ark with Noah in pairs—every living thing that breathes. 16 A male and a female of every creature entered, as God had told Noah. Then the Lord shut the door behind him.

17 The flood increased for forty days, lifting the ark so that it floated up from the earth. 18 The floodwaters surged and grew deeper and deeper over the earth, but the ark floated along on the surface. 19 Finally the water grew so deep that even the highest mountains were covered—all that could be seen was sky. 20 The water rose so much that it was higher than the mountains by fifteen cubits. 21 Everything living on earth died—the birds, livestock, wild animals, all creatures that run along the ground, and all the people. 22 Everything on land that breathed, died. 23 The Lord wiped out all life on earth—people, livestock, creatures that run along the ground, and birds. All were killed. The only ones left were Noah and those with him on the ark. 24 The earth remained flooded for 150 days.

Genesis 8:1-22

1 But God hadn't forgotten about Noah and all the wild animals and livestock with him in the ark. God sent a wind to blow over the earth, and the floodwaters started to drop.

2 The subterranean waters were closed off, and the heavy rainfall was stopped. 3 The floodwaters steadily receded from the earth. They had gone down so much that by 150 days after the flood began 4 the ark grounded on the mountains of Ararat. This happened on the seventeenth day of the seventh month. 5 The waters continued to drop so that by the first day of the tenth month the tops of mountains could be seen.

6 Forty days later Noah opened the window he'd made in the ark, 7 and sent a raven out. It flew back and forth until the water on the earth had dried up. 8 Then he sent a dove out to see if the waters had gone down enough to expose dry ground. 9 But the dove couldn't find anywhere to land. So it came back to Noah in the ark because water was still covering the whole earth. He reached out his hand, picked up the dove, and took it back into the ark with him. 10 He waited another seven days and sent the dove out from the ark again. 11 When it came back to him in the evening it had a freshly-picked olive leaf in its beak, so Noah knew the floodwaters were mainly gone from the earth.

12 Again he waited another seven days and sent the dove out again, but this time it didn't return to him.

13 By now Noah was 601, and by the first day of the first month, the floodwaters on the earth were gone. Noah pulled back the ark's covering and saw that the ground was drying out. 14 By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was dry.

¹⁵ Then God told Noah, ¹⁶ “Leave the ark, you and your wife, your sons and their wives. ¹⁷ Let all the animals go—the birds, the wild animals, the creatures that run along the ground—so that they can breed and increase their numbers on the earth.” ¹⁸ So Noah and his wife, his sons and their wives, left the ark. ¹⁹ All the animals, all the creatures that run along the ground, all the birds—everything that lives on land—also left, each kind leaving together.

²⁰ Noah built an altar, and sacrificed some of the clean animals and birds as a burnt offering. ²¹ The Lord accepted the sacrifice, and said to himself, “I won’t ever again curse the ground because of human beings, even though every single thought in their minds is evil from childhood. I won’t ever destroy all life again as I have just done. ²² As long as the earth exists, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, will never come to an end.”

Genesis 9:1-17

¹ God blessed Noah and his sons, and told them, “Reproduce, increase, and spread throughout the earth! ² All animals will be very afraid of you—this includes all the birds, all the creatures that run along the ground, and all the fish in the sea. You are in charge of them. ³ Every living creature that moves will be food for you, as well as all the green plants. ⁴ But do not eat meat with the lifeblood still in it. ⁵ If your blood is shed by any animal, I will call it to account; and if your blood is shed by any person, I will call that person to account. ⁶ Whoever sheds the blood of a human being will have their blood shed by human beings. For God made human beings in his image. ⁷ Reproduce, increase, and spread throughout the earth—have many descendants!”

⁸ Then God told Noah and his sons who were there with him, ⁹ “Listen, I’m making my agreement with you and your descendants, ¹⁰ and with all the animals around you—the birds, the livestock, and all the wild animals of the earth—every animal that accompanied you on the ark. ¹¹ In my agreement I’m promising you that I won’t ever again destroy all life by means of a flood—there won’t be a destructive flood like this again.”

¹² Then God said, “I’m going to give you a sign to confirm the agreement I’m making between me and you and all living creatures, an agreement that will last for all generations. ¹³ I’ve placed my rainbow in the clouds, and this will be the sign of my agreement with you and with all life on earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I make clouds form over the earth and the rainbow appears, ¹⁵ it will remind me of my agreement between me and you and every kind of living creature that floodwaters won’t ever again destroy all life. ¹⁶ I will see the rainbow in the clouds and it will remind me of the eternal agreement between God and every kind of living creature that lives on the earth.”

¹⁷ Then God told Noah, “This is the sign of the agreement I’m making between me and every creature on earth.”

Five Redemption: God's promise to Abraham

Genesis 12:1-8

¹ The Lord told Abram, “Leave your country, your relatives, your family home, and travel to the country I'm going to show you. ² I will make you the ancestor of a great nation and I will bless you. I will make sure you have a great reputation and that you are a blessing to others. ³ I will bless those who bless you; I will curse those who curse you. Everyone on earth will be blessed through you.”

⁴ So Abram left following the Lord's instructions, and Lot went with him. Abram was 75 when he left Haran. ⁵ With him went his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, together with all the possessions they had collected and the people that had joined them in Harran. They left for the land of Canaan.

When they arrived there, ⁶ Abram traveled on through the country as far as a place called Shechem, stopping at the oak tree of Moreh. At that time the country was occupied by Canaanites.

⁷ The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “I'm going to give this land to your descendants.” So Abram built an altar to the Lord there because that was where the Lord appeared to him. ⁸ Then he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel and set up camp there. Bethel was to the west and Ai to the east. He built an altar to the Lord there and worshiped him.

Genesis 15:1-6

¹ After all this had happened, God spoke to Abram in a vision, telling him, “Don't be afraid, Abram! I am your protector, and your truly great reward!”

² But Abram replied, “Lord God, what good is whatever you give me? I don't have any children, and the heir to all that I have is Eliezer of Damascus.” ³ Abram went on to complain, “Look! You haven't given me any children, so a servant from my household has to be my heir!”

⁴ But then the Lord told him, “This man won't be your heir. Your heir will be your very own son.”

⁵ The Lord took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up at the sky. See if you can count the stars! That's how many descendants you will have!”

⁶ Abram trusted what the Lord said, and so the Lord counted Abram as being in a right relationship with him.

Six

Redemption: Abraham sacrifices his son

Genesis 22:1-19

1 Sometime later God tested Abraham. He called out to him, “Abraham!”

“I’m here,” Abraham replied.

2 God told him, “Go with your son, the one you love, your only son, to the land of Moriah and sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I’ll show you.”

3 Abraham got up early in the morning and saddled up his donkey. He took two servants and Isaac with him and went to cut firewood for the burnt offering. Then he left with them to go to the place God had told him about.

4 After traveling for three days Abraham could see the place in the distance. 5 He told his servants, “Wait here with the donkey while I go with the boy and worship God. Then we’ll return.”

6 Abraham had Isaac carry the wood for the burnt offering, while he carried the fire and the knife, and they walked up together.

7 Isaac said to Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“Well, we have the fire and the wood, but where’s the lamb for the burnt offering?” Isaac asked.

8 “God will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son,” Abraham replied, and they went on walking up together.

9 When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and placed the wood on it. Then he bound his son Isaac and placed him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 Abraham picked up the knife, ready to slaughter his son.

11 But the angel of the Lord shouted to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Yes, I’m here,” he replied.

12 The angel said, “Don’t touch the boy! Don’t do anything to him, because now I know that you truly do what God tells you. You didn’t refuse to give me your son, your only son.”

13 Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in some bushes. He brought the ram over and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14 Abraham called the place “The Lord will Provide.” That’s still a saying people use today: “the Lord will provide on his mountain.”

15 The angel of the Lord shouted again to Abraham from heaven, 16 “I swear by myself, says the Lord, that because you have done this and didn’t refuse to give me your son, your only son, 17 you can be sure that I will bless you and give you many descendants. They will be as numerous as the stars of heaven and the sand of the seashore, and they will conquer their enemies. 18 All the nations of the earth will be blessed by your descendants because you did what I told you.”

19 Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they went back together to Beersheba where Abraham was living.

Seven

Redemption: The promise of Passover

Exodus 12:1-28

¹ The Lord told Moses and Aaron while they were still in Egypt, ² “This month will be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³ Tell all the Israelites that on the tenth day of this month, every man must choose a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴ However, if the household is too small for a whole lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor may choose a lamb according to the total number of people. Divide up the lamb depending on what everybody can eat. ⁵ Your lamb must be a year-old male without any defects, and you can take it either from the sheep or the goats.

⁶ Keep it until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the Israelites will slaughter the animals after sunset and before it gets dark. ⁷ They are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they have the meal. ⁸ They are to roast the meat over a fire and eat it that night, together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ You are not to eat the meat raw or boiled in water. All of it must be roasted it over a fire, including the head, legs, and its insides. ¹⁰ Make sure nothing is left until the morning. If there is anything left over, burn it by morning.

¹¹ This is how you are to eat the meal. You should be dressed ready to travel, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. You are to eat quickly—it is the Lord's Passover. ¹² That very night I will go all through Egypt and kill every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring condemnation on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood on the houses where you live will mark them out. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. No deathly plague will fall on you to destroy you when I attack Egypt.

¹⁴ This will be a day to remember for you. You are to celebrate it as a festival to the Lord for generations to come. You will observe this for all time to come. ¹⁵ For seven days you must eat only bread made without yeast. On the first day you are to get rid of the yeast from your houses. Anyone who eats anything with yeast from the first day to seventh day must be excluded from the Israelite community. ¹⁶ On both the first day and on the seventh day you are to have a holy meeting. You must not work on those days, except to prepare food. That is all you are allowed to do.

¹⁷ You are to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread because on this very day I led your tribes by their respective divisions out of Egypt. You are to observe this day for all time to come. ¹⁸ In the first month you are to eat bread without yeast from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. ¹⁹ For seven days there must be no yeast in your houses. If anyone eats something with yeast in it, then they must be excluded from the Israelite community, whether they are a foreigner or native of the land. ²⁰ You must not eat anything with yeast in it. Eat only bread without yeast in all your homes.”

²¹ Then Moses called together all the elders of Israel and told them, “Go immediately and choose a lamb for each of your families, and kill the Passover lamb. ²² Get a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin, and put some on the top and sides of the doorframe. None of you are to go out through door of the house until morning.

²³ When the Lord passes through to punish the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe. He will pass over the door, and he will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses and kill you. ²⁴ You and your descendants are to remember to observe these instructions for all time to come. ²⁵ When you enter the land

that the Lord promised to give you, you are to observe this ceremony. ²⁶ When your children come and ask you, ‘Why is this ceremony important to you?’ ²⁷ you are to tell them, ‘This is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord. He was the one who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when he killed the Egyptians but spared our households.’” The people bowed down in worship.

²⁸ Then the Israelites went and did just as the Lord had told Moses and Aaron.

Eight Redemption: The Ten Commandments via Moses

Exodus 20:1-21

1 God spoke all the following words:

2 “I am the Lord your God, who led you out of Egypt, out of the land of your slavery.

3 You must not have any other gods except me.

4 You must not make for yourself any kind of idol, whether in the form of anything in the heavens above, or on the earth beneath, or in the waters below. 5 You must not bow down before them or worship them; for I am the Lord your God and I am passionately exclusive. I lay the consequences of the sin of those who hate me on their sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons; 6 but I show trustworthy love to the thousands of generations who love me and keep my commandments.

7 You must not use the name of the Lord your God in a wrong way, for the Lord will not forgive anyone who uses his name in a wrong way.

8 Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. 9 You have six days to work and earn your living, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath to honor the Lord your God. On this day you must not do any work—not you, not your son or daughter, not your male slave or female slave or livestock, and not the foreigner who is staying with you. 11 For the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days, and then rested on the seventh day. That’s why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 Honor your father and mother, so that you may live a long time in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

13 You must not murder.

14 You must not commit adultery.

15 You must not steal.

16 You must not give false evidence against others.

17 You must not desire to have anyone else’s house. You must not desire to have their wife, or their male slave or female slave, or their ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to them.”

18 When all the people heard the thunder and the sound of the trumpet, and saw the lightning and the smoke from the mountain, they trembled with fear and stood a long way off. 19 “You speak to us, and we’ll listen,” they said to Moses. “But don’t let God speak to us, or we’ll die.”

20 Moses told them, “Do not be afraid, for God has only come to test you. He wants you to be in awe of him so that you don’t sin.” 21 The people stood a long way off as Moses went over to the thick, dark cloud where God was.

Nine Redemption: The sacrificial law

Leviticus 4:1-35

¹ The Lord told Moses, ² “Tell the Israelites that these are the rules to handle cases of those who sin unintentionally against any of the Lord's commandments and do what is not permitted.

³ If it is the high priest who sins and brings guilt on everyone, he must present to the Lord a young bull without defects as a sin offering for his sin. ⁴ He must take the bull to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting before the Lord, put his hand on its head and kill it before the Lord. ⁵ Then the high priest shall take some of the bull's blood into the Tent of Meeting. ⁶ The high priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of it seven times before the Lord in front of the veil of the sanctuary. ⁷ The priest shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of aromatic incense that stands before the Lord in the Tent of Meeting. The rest of the bull's blood he is to pour out at the bottom of the altar of burnt offering at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ⁸ Then he shall remove all the fat from the bull of the sin offering: all the fat that covers the insides, ⁹ both kidneys with the fat on them by the loins, and the best part of the liver, which he is to remove together with the kidneys ¹⁰ in the same way as the fat is removed from the bull of the peace offering. Then the priest shall burn this on the altar of burnt offering.

¹¹ But the skin of the bull, all its flesh, head, legs, insides and waste— ¹² all the rest of it—he has to take outside the camp to a place that is ceremonially clean, where the ashes are dumped, and he must burn it on a wood fire there on the ash heap.

¹³ If the whole Israelite community goes astray unintentionally, and even though they are unaware of doing what is not permitted by any of the Lord's commandments, they are all still guilty. ¹⁴ When they realize their sin, then they must bring a young bull as a sin offering and present it before the Tent of Meeting. ¹⁵ The elders of Israel are to put their hands on its head and kill it before the Lord. ¹⁶ Then the high priest shall take some of the bull's blood into the Tent of Meeting. ¹⁷ He shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times before the Lord in front of the veil. ¹⁸ He shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar that stands before the Lord in the Tent of Meeting. Then he is to pour out the rest of the bull's blood at the bottom of the altar of burnt offering at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ¹⁹ Then he shall remove all the fat from the bull and burn it on the altar. ²⁰ He shall offer this bull in the same way he did for the sin offering. This is how the priest will make them right, and they will be forgiven. ²¹ Then he shall take the bull outside the camp and burn it, just as he burned the bull previously mentioned. It is the sin offering for the whole community.

²² If a leader sins unintentionally and does what is not permitted by any of the commandments of the Lord his God, he is guilty. ²³ When he realizes his sin, he must bring a male goat without defects as his offering. ²⁴ He must put his hand on the head of the goat and kill it at the place where the burnt offering is killed before the Lord. It is a sin offering. ²⁵ Then the priest is to take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour out the rest of the blood at the bottom of the altar. ²⁶ He shall burn all its fat on the altar like the fat of the peace offerings. In this way the priest will make the man's sin right, and he will be forgiven.

²⁷ If any other Israelite sins unintentionally and does what is not permitted by any of the commandments of the Lord his God, he is guilty. ²⁸ When he realizes his sin, he must bring a female goat without defects as his offering for that sin. ²⁹ He must put his hand

on the head of the sin offering and kill it at the place of the burnt offering. ³⁰ Then the priest is to take some of its blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour out the rest of the blood at the bottom of the altar. ³¹ He shall remove all its fat like the fat of the peace offerings and burn it on the altar and it will be to be accepted by the Lord. In this way the priest will make the man's sin right, and he will be forgiven.

³² If he brings a lamb as a sin offering, he is to bring a female without defects. ³³ He must put his hand on the head of the sin offering and kill it as a sin offering at the place where the burnt offering is killed. ³⁴ Then the priest is to take some of its blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour out the rest of the blood at the bottom of the altar. ³⁵ He shall remove all its fat like the fat of the lamb is removed from the peace offerings and burn it on the altar to be accepted by the Lord. In this way the priest will make the man's sin right, and he will be forgiven.

Ten

Worship: Praise to God our shepherd

Psalm 23:1-6

1 Since the Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need.

2 He gives me rest in green fields. He leads me towards quietly flowing streams.

3 He revives me. He guides me along the right paths because that's the kind of person he is.

4 Even when I walk through the valley dark as death, I'm not afraid of any evil, because you are right there with me; your rod and your staff protect me.

5 You prepare a banquet for me before my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with olive oil. My cup is so full it overflows!

6 I'm absolutely certain that your goodness and trustworthy love will be with me all through my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Eleven

Redemption: Isaiah's prophecy of suffering servant

Isaiah 53:1-12

¹ Has anyone believed our news? Who has the Lord shown his power to? ² Like a young shoot he grew up before him, like a root growing up from dry ground. He had no beauty or glory to make us look at him; nothing about his appearance attracted us to him.

³ People despised him and rejected him. He was a man who really suffered and who experienced the deepest pain. We treated him like someone you turn away from in disgust—we despised him and had no respect for him.

⁴ However, he was the one who took up our weaknesses and loaded himself down with our pain—but we assumed he was being hit, beaten, and humiliated by God. ⁵ But he was wounded because of our rebellious acts, he was crushed because of our guilt. He experienced the discipline that brings us peace, and his wounds heal us. ⁶ All of us have wandered off, just like sheep. Each of us has gone our own way, and the Lord allowed all our guilt to fall on him.

⁷ He was persecuted and mistreated, but he didn't say anything. He was led like a lamb to be killed, and in the same way that a sheep about to be sheared is silent, he didn't say a word. ⁸ Through force and a death sentence he was killed—who cared what happened to him? He was executed, removed from the land of the living; he was killed because of my people's wickedness. ⁹ They buried him as if he was someone evil, giving him a grave among the rich, even though he hadn't done anything wrong, and he hadn't told any lies.

¹⁰ However, it was the Lord's will for him to be crushed and to suffer, for when he gives his life as a guilt offering he will see his descendants, he will have a long life, and what the Lord wants will be achieved through him. ¹¹ After his suffering, he will see the results and be satisfied. Through his knowledge my servant who does what is right will set many right, and he will bear their sins. ¹² That's why I'm going to grant him a place among the great, and give him the prize of the victorious, because he poured out his life in death and was counted as one of the rebels. He took on himself the sins of many and asked forgiveness for the rebels.

Twelve

Redemption: Miraculous birth of Jesus

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of her pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a young girl called Mary who lived in the town of Nazareth in Galilee. ²⁷ She was engaged to a man named Joseph.

²⁸ The angel greeted her. “You are very privileged,” he told her. “The Lord is with you.”
²⁹ Mary was very puzzled at what he said, and wondered what this greeting meant.

³⁰ “Don't worry, Mary,” the angel went on, “for God has shown his graciousness to you.
³¹ You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You shall call him Jesus. ³² He will be very great, and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never come to an end.”

³⁴ “How is this possible?” Mary asked. “I'm still a virgin.”

³⁵ He replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby who is to be born is holy, and will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ And Elizabeth, your relative, even she is pregnant in her old age. The woman that people said couldn't have children is already six months pregnant. ³⁷ Nothing is impossible for God.”

³⁸ “Here I am, ready to be the Lord's servant,” said Mary. “May it happen to me just as you said.” Then the angel left her.

Luke 2:1-20

¹ It was the time when Caesar Augustus issued a decree that there should be a census of everyone in the Roman Empire. ² This was the first census under governor Quirinius of Syria. ³ So everybody went to their own city to be registered. ⁴ Joseph was descended from King David, so he left Nazareth in Galilee to go to Bethlehem, the city of David, in Judea. ⁵ He went to register there, together with Mary, who was pledged in marriage to him and expecting a baby. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him up in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger because the inn had no rooms left.

⁸ Nearby some shepherds were spending the night out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone all around them. They were scared out of their wits!

¹⁰ “Don't be afraid!” the angel told them. “I'm here to bring you good news that will make the all the people really glad. ¹¹ The Savior has been born to you today, here in David's city. He is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² You will recognize him by this sign: you will find the child wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly many heavenly beings appeared, praising God, saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to the God of heaven, and on earth peace to those who please him!”

¹⁵ After the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see what's happened concerning these things the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ They hurried there and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After they'd seen for themselves, they spread the news of what had happened and what they had been told about this baby. ¹⁸ All those who heard about it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary was careful to remember all the things that had happened and often thought about them. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to watching their flocks, glorifying and thanking God for all that they'd heard and seen, for it was just as they'd been told.

Thirteen

Redemption: Jesus' baptism

Matthew 3:1-17

¹ Some time later John the Baptist appeared on the scene, proclaiming in the Judean desert, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has arrived!” ³ He was the one Isaiah spoke about when he said, “A voice is heard crying out in the desert, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord. Make the paths straight for him.’”

⁴ John had clothes made of camel hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People came to him from Jerusalem, all of Judea, and the entire Jordan region, ⁶ and were baptized in the Jordan River, publicly admitting their sins.

⁷ But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to be baptized, he said to them, “You vipers' brood! Who warned you to run away from the coming judgment? ⁸ Show by what you do that you have truly repented, ⁹ and don't presume to say proudly to yourselves, ‘Abraham is our father.’ I tell you that God could make children of Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ In fact the ax is ready to chop down the trees. Every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ Yes, I baptize you in water to show repentance, but after me is coming one who is greater than I am. I'm not worthy even to remove his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² He has his winnowing tool ready in his hand. He will clean up the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the storehouse, but he will burn the chaff with fire that can't be put out.”

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to change his mind. He told Jesus, “I need to be baptized by you, and you come to me to baptize you?”

¹⁵ “Please do so, because it's good for us to do what God says is right,” Jesus told him. So John agreed to do it.

¹⁶ Immediately after he was baptized, Jesus came out of the water. The heavens were opened, and he saw God's Spirit like a dove descending, landing on him. ¹⁷ A voice from heaven said, “This is my son whom I love, who pleases me.”

John 1:29-34

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus approaching him, and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘A man who is coming after me is more important than me, for before I ever existed he already was.’ ³¹ I didn't know myself who he was, but I came baptizing with water so that he could be revealed to Israel.”

³² John gave his evidence about him, saying, “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove and rest upon him. ³³ I wouldn't have known him except he who sent me to baptize with water had told me, ‘The one you see the Spirit descend to and rest upon, he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ I saw it happen and I declare that this is the Son of God.”

Fourteen

Redemption: Jesus tempted by the devil

Matthew 4:1-11

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

⁴ Jesus answered, “As Scripture says, ‘Human beings do not live by only eating bread, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the top of the Temple.

⁶ “If you really are the son of God, then throw yourself off,” he told Jesus. “As Scripture says, ‘He will order his angels to save you from harm. They will catch you so that you won’t fall by tripping over a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus answered, “As Scripture also says, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”

⁸ Then the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in all their glory. ⁹ He said to Jesus, “I will give you all these if you fall down on your knees and worship me.”

¹⁰ “Go away, Satan!” said Jesus. “As Scripture says, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve him, and him alone.’” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came to care for him.

Fifteen

Redemption: Jesus calmed the storm

Mark 4:35-41

³⁵ Later that day, in the evening, he said to his disciples, "Let's go across to the other side of the Sea." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, the disciples went with Jesus and got into a boat. Other boats went with them. ³⁷ Soon a terrible storm started blowing, and waves crashed against the boat, filling it with water. ³⁸ Jesus was asleep in the stern, resting his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting at him, "Teacher, don't you care that we're about to drown?"

³⁹ Jesus woke up. He told the wind to die down and told the waves, "Be quiet! Be still." The wind stopped, and the water became completely calm. ⁴⁰ "Why are you so frightened? Haven't you learned to trust me?" he asked them.

⁴¹ They were stunned and terrified. They asked each other, "Who *is* this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Sixteen

Redemption: Jesus cast out demons

Mark 5:1-20

¹ They arrived on the other side of the lake in the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus got out of the boat a man with an evil spirit came from the graveyard to meet him.

³ This man lived among the tombs, and it had been impossible to tie him up any more, even with a chain. ⁴ He had often been tied up with chains and shackles, but he simply tore the chains apart and broke the shackles into pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Day and night he was always shouting out among the tombs and in the hills nearby, cutting himself with sharp stones.

⁶ Seeing Jesus from a distance he ran and kneeled in front of him. ⁷ In a loud voice he cried out, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of Almighty God? Swear by God that you won't torture me!” ⁸ For Jesus had already told the evil spirit to leave the man.

⁹ Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“My name is Legion, because we are many!” he replied. ¹⁰ He also repeatedly pleaded with Jesus not to send them a long way away.

¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside nearby. ¹² The evil spirits pleaded with him, “Send us to the pigs so we can enter them.” ¹³ Jesus allowed them to do this. The evil spirits left the man and went into the pigs. The whole herd, about two thousand, rushed down the steep cliff into the sea and drowned. ¹⁴ The pig-keepers ran away, and spread the news all over town and in the countryside. People came out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ When they found Jesus they saw the man who had been demon-possessed sitting there, dressed, and in his right mind—the one who had the legion of evil spirits—and they became frightened! ¹⁶ Then those who had seen what had happened to the man who had been demon-possessed and the pigs told the others. ¹⁷ They began pleading with Jesus to leave their district. ¹⁸ As Jesus climbed into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ But Jesus refused, telling him, “Go home to your own people, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has been merciful to you.”

²⁰ So the man went on his way and began to tell the people of the Ten Cities everything Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed.

Seventeen

Redemption: Jesus feeds five thousand

John 6:1-37

¹ Some time later Jesus left to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (also known as the Sea of Tiberias). ² A large crowd was following him, for they'd seen his miracles of healing. ³ Jesus went up a hill and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ The time for the Jewish festival of the Passover was approaching. ⁵ When Jesus looked up, and saw a large crowd coming towards him, he asked Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed these people?" ⁶ He only asked this to see how Philip would respond, because Jesus already knew what he was going to do.

⁷ "Two hundred silver coins wouldn't buy enough bread to give everyone only a little," Philip replied.

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. ⁹ "There's a boy here who has five barley loaves and a couple of fish, but what good is that when there are so many people?"

¹⁰ "Have everybody sit down," Jesus said. There was plenty of grass there, so they all sat down, the men numbering around five thousand. ¹¹ Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and had it handed out to the people as they sat there. Then he did the same with the fishes, making sure the people had as much as they wanted. ¹² Once they were all full, he said to his disciples, "Collect what's left over so nothing is wasted." ¹³ So they collected and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves the people had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw this miracle, they said, "Surely this is the Prophet who was to come into the world." ¹⁵ Jesus realized that they were about to force him to become their king, so he left them and went up into the hills to be by himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ climbed into a boat, and headed across the water towards Capernaum. By now it was night and Jesus had not joined them yet. ¹⁸ A strong wind began blowing and the sea grew rough. ¹⁹ When they had rowed three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea, coming towards the boat. They were very frightened. ²⁰ "Don't be afraid!" he told them. "It's me." ²¹ Then they gladly took him into the boat, and immediately they reached the shore where they were going.

²² The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea noticed that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but they had left without him. ²³ Then other boats arrived from Tiberias, landing near to the place where they'd eaten the bread after the Lord had blessed it. ²⁴ Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went over to Capernaum, looking for Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶ "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "you're looking for me because you ate as much bread as you wanted, not because you understood the miracles. ²⁷ Don't be preoccupied about food that doesn't last, but concentrate on the lasting food of eternal life which the Son of man will give you, for God the Father has placed his seal of approval on him."

²⁸ So they asked him, "What should we be doing in order to do what God wants?"

²⁹ Jesus replied, "What God wants you to do is to trust in the one he sent."

³⁰ “What miracle are you going to perform for us to see so we can trust you? What are you able to do?” they asked. ³¹ “Our forefathers ate manna in the desert in fulfillment of the Scripture that says, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

³² “I tell you the truth, it wasn't Moses who gave you bread from heaven,” Jesus replied. “It's my Father who gives you the true bread of heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the one who comes from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ “Lord, please give us this kind of bread all the time!” they said.

³⁵ “I am the bread of life,” Jesus replied. “Anyone who comes to me will never be hungry again, and anyone who trusts in me will never be thirsty again. ³⁶ But as I explained to you before, you have seen me, but you still don't trust me. ³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and I won't reject any of them.

Eighteen

Redemption: Jesus healed the sick and forgave sins

Luke 5:17-26

¹⁷ One day when Jesus was teaching, the Pharisees and religious teachers who had come from all over Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem were sitting there. The power of the Lord to heal was with him so he could heal. ¹⁸ Some men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They tried to take him in and lay him in front of Jesus. ¹⁹ But they couldn't find any way through the crowd, so they went up on the roof and made a hole in the roof tiles. Then they lowered the man down on the mat, right into the crowd in front of Jesus.

²⁰ When Jesus saw the trust they had in him, he said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven."

²¹ The religious teachers and the Pharisees began to argue with that. "Who is this who's speaking blasphemies?" they asked. "Who can forgive sins? Only God can do that!"

²² Jesus knew what they were arguing about, so he asked them, "Why are you thinking to question this? ²³ What is easier? To say your sins are forgiven, or to say get up and walk? ²⁴ However, I will prove to you that the Son of man has the authority here on earth to forgive sins." Then he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you: Get up, pick up your mat, and go home."

²⁵ Immediately the man stood up in front of them. He picked up the mat he'd been lying on, and went home, praising God as he went. ²⁶ Everyone was completely astonished at what had happened, and in great awe they praised God, saying, "What we saw today was amazing!"

Nineteen

Redemption: Jesus met foreigners

John 4:1-26

¹ When Jesus realized that the Pharisees had discovered that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John, ² (although it wasn't Jesus who was baptizing, but his disciples), ³ he left Judea and returned to Galilee. ⁴ On the way he had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to the Samaritan city of Sychar, near to the field that Jacob had given his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, who was tired from the journey, sat straight down beside the well. It was around noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to fetch water. Jesus said to her, "Please could you give me a drink?" ⁸ for his disciples had gone to the town to buy food.

⁹ "You're a Jew, and I'm a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" the woman replied, for Jews don't associate with Samaritans.

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you only recognized God's gift, and who is asking you, 'Please could you give me a drink?' you would have asked him and he would have given you the water of life."

¹¹ "Sir, you don't have a bucket, and the well is deep. Where are you going to get the water of life from?" she replied. ¹² "Our father Jacob gave us the well. He drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock. Are you greater than he?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks water from this well will become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give won't ever be thirsty again. The water I give becomes a bubbling spring of water inside them, bringing them eternal life."

¹⁵ "Sir," replied the woman, "Please give me this water so I won't be thirsty, and I won't have to come here to fetch water!"

¹⁶ "Go and call your husband, and come back here," Jesus told her.

¹⁷ "I don't have a husband," the woman answered.

"You're right in saying you don't have a husband," Jesus told her. ¹⁸ "You've had five husbands, and the one you're living with now is not your husband. So what you say is true!"

¹⁹ "I can see you're a prophet, sir," the woman replied. ²⁰ "Tell me this: our ancestors worshiped here on this mountain, but you say that Jerusalem is where we must worship."

²¹ Jesus replied, "Believe me the time is coming when you won't worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²² You really don't know the God you're worshiping, while we worship the God we know, for salvation comes from the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming—and in fact it's here already—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for these are the kind of worshipers the Father wants. ²⁴ God is Spirit, so worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said, "Well, I know that the Messiah is coming," (the one who is called Christ). "When he comes he will explain it all to us."

²⁶ Jesus replied, "I AM—the one who is speaking to you."

John 4:39-42

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that town trusted in him because of what the woman said: “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when they came to see him they pleaded with him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, ⁴¹ and because of what he told them many more trusted in him. ⁴² They said to the woman, “Now our trust in him isn't just because of what you told us but because we have heard him for ourselves. We're convinced that he really is the Savior of the world.”

Twenty

Redemption: Jesus told about the Way of God

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ Once an expert in religious law stood up and tried to trap Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “What do I have to do to gain eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” asked Jesus.

²⁷ “You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and your whole spirit, and your whole strength, and your whole mind; and love your neighbor as yourself,” the man replied.

²⁸ “You’re right,” Jesus told him. “Do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But the man wanted to vindicate himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ Jesus replied, saying, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He was attacked by robbers who stripped him and beat him, and left him for dead. ³¹ It so happened that a priest was going the same way. He saw the man, but he passed by on the other side of the road. ³² Then a Levite came along. But when he got to the place and saw the man, he also passed by on the other side.

³³ Finally a Samaritan man came along. As he passed by, he saw the man and felt sorry for him. ³⁴ He went over and treated the man’s wounds with oil and wine, and bandaged them. Then he placed the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn where he took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he gave two denarii to the innkeeper and told him, ‘Take care of him, and if you spend more than this, I’ll pay you back when I return.’ ³⁶ Which one of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers?”

³⁷ “The one who showed him kindness,” the man replied.

“Go and do the same,” Jesus told him.

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ Once there was a man who had two sons,” Jesus explained. ¹² “The younger one told his father, ‘Father, give me my inheritance now.’ So the man divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son packed up what he had and left for a distant country. Here he wasted all his money living a reckless life.

¹⁴ After he’d spent everything, the country was hit by a severe famine and he was starving. ¹⁵ So he went and took a job with one of the farmers there who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He was so hungry that he would have eaten even the pig food, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ When he came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘All of my father’s workers have more than enough to eat—why am I dying from hunger here? ¹⁸ I’m going home to my father! I’ll tell him: Father, I’ve sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I’m no longer worthy to be called your son. Please treat me as one of your hired workers.’ ²⁰ So he left and went home to his father.

Even though he was still far away in the distance, his father saw him coming, and his heart went out to his son. The father ran to his son, hugging and kissing him. ²¹ The son said to him, ‘Father, I’ve sinned against heaven and against you. I’m no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 But the father told his servants, ‘Quick—bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the calf we’ve been fattening and kill it. Let’s have a feast to celebrate 24 because this is my son who was dead, but who has returned alive; he was lost but now he’s found.’ So they started celebrating.

25 Now the older son was working out in the fields. As he walked towards the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked what was going on.

27 ‘Your brother is back,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he’s come home safe and sound.’

28 The brother became angry. He refused to go in. So his father came out to plead with him.

29 He told his father, ‘Look, all these years I’ve served you, and never disobeyed you, but you never once gave me even a young goat so I could have a party with my friends.

30 Now this son of yours comes back, having spent your money on prostitutes, and you kill the fattened calf for him!’

31 ‘Son,’ the father replied, ‘you are always here with me. Everything I have is yours.

32 But we should be happy and celebrate! This is your brother who was dead, but who has returned alive; he was lost but now he’s found!’”

Twenty-one Redemption: Jesus taught how to pray

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ He also told this story about those who are so sure that they are living right, and who put everybody else down. ¹⁰ “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood up and prayed to himself, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—cheats, criminals, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my income.’

¹³ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He wouldn't even look up to heaven. Instead he beat his chest and prayed, ‘God, please be merciful to me. I am a sinner.’

¹⁴ I tell you, it was this man who went home right in God's sight and not the other. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, while those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

John 16:24

²⁴ Until now you haven't asked for anything in my name, so ask and you shall receive, and your happiness will be complete.

Twenty-two

Redemption: Jesus taught re: alms, prayer and fasting

Matthew 6:1-34

¹ “Make sure not to do your good deeds in front of people, just so they can be seen. Otherwise you won’t have any reward from your Father in heaven. ² When you give to the poor, don’t be like the hypocrites who blow their own trumpets to announce what they’re doing in the synagogues and in the streets so that people will praise them. I tell you the truth: they already have their reward. ³ When you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand’s doing. ⁴ That way what you give will be in secret, and your Father who sees what happens in secret will reward you.

⁵ When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand up and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people can see them. I promise you, they already have their reward. ⁶ But you, when you pray, go indoors and close the door, and pray to your Father in private, and your Father who sees what happens in private will reward you. ⁷ When you pray, don’t babble on meaninglessly like the foreigners do, who think they will be heard because of all the words they repeat. ⁸ Don’t be like them, for your Father knows what you need even before you ask him. ⁹ So pray like this:

Our heavenly Father, may your name be honored. ¹⁰ May your kingdom come! May your will be carried out in earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Please give to us today the food we need. ¹² Forgive our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. ¹³ Please don’t let us give in to temptation, and save us from the evil one.

¹⁴ For if you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you don’t forgive those who sin against you, then your heavenly Father won’t forgive your sins.

¹⁶ When you fast, don’t be like the hypocrites who put on sad faces and make themselves look terrible so that everyone can see they’re fasting. I tell you the truth, they already have their reward. ¹⁷ Instead, when you fast, wash your face and look smart, ¹⁸ so that people won’t see you’re fasting, and your unseen Father who sees what happens in private will reward you.

¹⁹ Don’t pile up wealth here on earth where moths and rust ruin it, and where thieves break in and steal it. ²⁰ Instead, you should store up your wealth in heaven, where moths and rust don’t ruin it, and where thieves don’t break in and steal it. ²¹ For what you value the most shows who you really are.

²² The eye is like a lamp that lights the body. So if your eye is healthy, then your whole body will have light. ²³ But if your eye is evil, then your whole body will be in the dark. If the ‘light’ you have is actually darkness, how dark is that! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters. Either you’ll hate one and love the other, or you’ll be devoted to one and despise the other. You can’t serve both God and Money.

²⁵ That’s why I’m telling you not to worry about your life. Don’t worry about what to eat, or what to drink, or what clothes to put on. Isn’t life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds—they don’t sow or reap or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth more than they are? ²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a minute to your life? ²⁸ And why are you worried about clothes? Look at the beautiful flowers in the field. See how they grow: they don’t work hard, they don’t spin thread. ²⁹ But I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory was dressed like one of these flowers. ³⁰ So if God decorates the fields like this, grass which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, won’t he do much more for you, you people who trust

so little? ³¹ So don't worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² These are all the things that the heathen chase after, but your heavenly Father knows everything you need. ³³ Seek his kingdom first, and his way of living right, and everything will be given to you. ³⁴ So don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow can worry about itself. There's already enough evil in every day."

Twenty-three Redemption: Jesus raised the dead

John 11:1-44

1 A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters Mary and Martha.
2 Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair. It was her brother Lazarus who was sick. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus: "Lord, your close friend is sick." 4 When Jesus heard the news he said, "The end result of this sickness will not be death. Through this God's glory will be revealed so that the Son of God may be glorified."

5 Even though Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, 6 and had heard that Lazarus was sick, he remained where he was for two more days. 7 Then he told the disciples, "Let's return to Judea."

8 The disciples replied, "Rabbi, just a few days ago the Jews were trying to stone you. Do you really want to go back there now?"

9 "Aren't there twelve hours in a day?" Jesus replied. 10 "If you walk during the day you don't stumble because you can see where you're going by the light of this world. But if you walk during the night you stumble because you have no light." 11 After telling them this, he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I'm going to go there and wake him up!"

12 The disciples said, "Lord, if he's sleeping then he'll get better."

13 Jesus had been referring to the death of Lazarus, but the disciples thought he meant actual sleep. 14 So Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 For your sake I'm glad I wasn't there, because now you will be able to trust in me. Let's go and see him."

16 Thomas, the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, "Let's go too so we can die with him."

17 When he arrived, Jesus learned that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days.

18 Bethany was just two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to console Mary and Martha at the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha found out that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died. 22 But I'm certain that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

23 Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

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

25 Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who trust in me will live, even though they die. 26 All who live in me and trust in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one expected to come to this world."

28 When she had said this, she went and told her sister Mary in private, "The Teacher's here, and asking to see you."

29 As soon as she heard, Mary quickly got up and went to see him. 30 Jesus hadn't arrived in the village yet. He was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 The Jews who had been comforting Mary in the home saw how she'd got up quickly and left. So they followed her, thinking she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 When Mary arrived at

the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you’d been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying as well, he was very troubled and upset. ³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

They replied, “Lord, come and see.”

³⁵ Then Jesus cried too. ³⁶ “See how much he loved him,” the Jews said.

³⁷ But some of them said, “If he could open the eyes of a blind man, couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”

³⁸ Very troubled, Jesus went to the tomb. It was a cave with a large stone placed at the entrance.

³⁹ “Remove the stone,” Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man’s sister, said, “Lord, by now there will be a terrible smell, for he’s been dead for four days.”

⁴⁰ “Didn’t I tell you that if you trusted me you would see God’s glory?” Jesus replied.

⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Jesus looked heavenwards, and said, “Father, thank you for listening to me. ⁴² I know you always listen to me. I said this because of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ After saying this, Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!”

⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of linen, and with a cloth around his face.

“Unbind him and set him free,” Jesus told them.

Twenty-four Redemption: Jesus taught how to be great

Matthew 20:20-28

²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came with her two sons to Jesus. She kneeled down before him to make a request.

²¹ “What is it you are asking me for?” Jesus said to her.

“Please appoint my sons to sit beside you in your kingdom, one on your right and the other on your left,” she asked.

²² “You don’t know what you’re asking,” Jesus told them. “Are you able to drink the cup I’m about to drink?”

“Yes, we are able to do that,” they told him.

²³ “You will certainly drink from my cup,” he said to them, “but the privilege to sit on my right or on my left isn’t mine to give. My Father is the one who has decided who that will be.”

²⁴ When the other ten disciples heard what they had asked, they were annoyed with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and told them, “You know that foreign rulers lord it over their subjects, and powerful leaders oppress them. ²⁶ It shall not be like that for you. Whoever among you wants to be the most important will be your servant.

²⁷ Whoever among you wants to be first will be like a slave. ²⁸ In the same way the Son of man didn’t come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Twenty-five

Redemption: The Lord's Supper/prediction of death

Matthew 26:26-30

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave pieces to the disciples. “Take and eat this for it is my body,” said Jesus. ²⁷ Then he picked up the cup, blessed it, and gave it to them. “Drink from it, all of you,” he told them. ²⁸ “For this is my blood of the agreement, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ However, I tell you, I won’t drink this fruit of the vine until the day I drink it new with you in the kingdom of my Father.” ³⁰ After they’d sung a song, they left for the Mount of Olives.

Twenty-six

Redemption: Jesus was betrayed and sentenced

John 18:1-40

1 After Jesus had finished speaking, he and his disciples crossed over the Kidron brook and went into an olive grove. 2 Judas the betrayer knew the place, for Jesus had often gone there with his disciples. 3 So Judas took with him a troop of soldiers together with guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They arrived there carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons.

4 Jesus knew everything that was going to happen to him. He went to meet them, and asked, "Who are you looking for?"

5 "Are you Jesus of Nazareth?" they asked.

"I am," Jesus told them. Judas the betrayer was standing with them. 6 When Jesus said "I am," they fell back and dropped to the ground.

7 So he asked them again, "Who are you looking for?"

"Are you Jesus of Nazareth?" they asked again.

8 "I already told you I am," Jesus replied. "So if I'm the one you're looking for, let these others go." 9 These words fulfilled what he had previously said: "I have not lost any of those you gave me."

10 Then Simon Peter drew a sword and struck Malchus, the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear.

11 Jesus told Peter, "Put the sword away! Do you think I shouldn't drink the cup the Father has given me?"

12 Then the soldiers, their commander, and the Jewish guards arrested Jesus and tied his hands. 13 First they took him to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the current high priest. 14 Caiaphas was the one who had told the Jews, "It's better that one man die for the people."

15 Simon Peter followed Jesus, and another disciple did so too. This disciple was well-known to the high priest, and so he entered the high priest's courtyard with Jesus.

16 Peter had to remain outside by the door. So the other disciple who was known to the high priest went and spoke to the servant girl watching the door and brought Peter inside. 17 The girl asked Peter, "Aren't you one of that man's disciples?"

"Me? No, I'm not," he replied. 18 It was cold, and the servants and guards were standing by a fire they had made, warming themselves. Peter went and stood with them, warming himself.

19 Then the chief priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and what he had been teaching. 20 "I've spoken openly to everyone," Jesus replied. "I always taught in the synagogues and in the Temple where all the Jewish people meet. I haven't said anything in secret. 21 So why are you questioning me? Ask the people who heard me what I told them. They know what I said."

22 When he said this, one of the guards standing nearby slapped Jesus, saying, "Is that any way to speak to the high priest?"

23 Jesus replied, "If I said something wrong, tell everyone what was wrong with it. But if what I said was right, why did you hit me?"

24 Annas sent him, his hands still tied, to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ As Simon Peter stood warming himself by the fire, the people there asked him, “Aren't you one of his disciples?”

Peter denied it and said, “No, I'm not.”

²⁶ One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked Peter, “Didn't I see you in the olive grove with him?” ²⁷ Peter denied it again, and immediately a cock crowed.

²⁸ Early in the morning they took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. The Jewish leaders didn't enter the palace because if they did they would become ceremonially unclean and they wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal.

²⁹ So Pilate came out to meet them. “What charge are you bringing against this man?” he asked.

³⁰ “If he wasn't a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you,” they answered.

³¹ “Then you take him and judge him according to your law,” Pilate told them.

“We're not permitted to execute anyone,” the Jews answered. ³² This fulfilled what Jesus had said about how he would die.

³³ Pilate went back into the governor's palace. He summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

³⁴ “Did you think of this question yourself, or did others talk to you about me?” Jesus responded.

³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate countered. “It was your own people and high priests who handed you over to me. What is it that you've done?”

³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it was of this world, my subjects would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from here.”

³⁷ Then Pilate asked, “So you are a king, then?”

“You say that I'm a king,” Jesus replied. “The reason why I was born and I came to the world was to give evidence for the truth. All those who accept the truth pay attention to what I say.”

³⁸ “What is truth?” Pilate asked.

Having said this Pilate went back out to the Jews and told them, “I find him not guilty of any crime. ³⁹ However, it is customary for me to release a prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release the King of the Jews?”

⁴⁰ “No, not him! We want Barabbas instead!” they shouted back. Barabbas was a rebel.

John 19:1-16

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² Soldiers made a crown of thorns and placed it on his head, and put a purple robe on him. ³ Time and again they went up to him and said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and slapped him.

⁴ Pilate went outside once more and said to them, “I'm bringing him out here to you so you'll know I find him not guilty of any crime.” ⁵ Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. “Look, here's the man,” said Pilate.

⁶ When the chief priests and the guards saw Jesus, they shouted out, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

“You take him and crucify him,” Pilate answered. “I find him not guilty.”

⁷ The Jewish leaders replied, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

⁸ When Pilate heard this he was more afraid than ever, ⁹ and he went back into the governor’s palace. He asked Jesus, “Where do you come from?” But Jesus didn’t respond.

¹⁰ “Are you refusing to talk to me?” Pilate said to him. “Don’t you realize that I have the power to have you released or to crucify you?”

¹¹ “You would have no power over me unless it had been given to you from above,” Jesus answered. “Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of the greater sin.”

¹² When Pilate heard this he tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders shouted, “If you set this man free you’re not Caesar’s friend. Anyone who sets himself up as a king is rebelling against Caesar.”

¹³ When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus outside and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called Stone Pavement (Gabbatha in Hebrew). ¹⁴ It was around noon on the preparation day before the Passover.

“Look, here is your king,” he said to the Jews. ¹⁵ “Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!” they screamed out.

“Do you want me to crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“The only king we have is Caesar,” the chief priests replied.

¹⁶ So he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

Twenty-seven Redemption: Jesus crucified

Luke 23:32-56

³² They also took two others who were criminals to be executed with him. ³³ When they reached the place called the Skull they crucified him together with the criminals, one on his right, and the other on his left.

³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, please forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing.” They divided up his clothes by throwing dice for them.

³⁵ The people stood and watched and the leaders sneered at Jesus. “He saved others, let him save himself, if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One,” they said.

³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up to him and offering him wine vinegar, saying, ³⁷ “If you're the King of the Jews, then save yourself.”

³⁸ Above Jesus was a sign on which it was written, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging there joined in the insults against Jesus. “Aren't you the Messiah?” he asked. “Then save yourself—and us too!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal disagreed and argued with him, “Don't you fear God even when you're suffering the same punishment?” he asked. ⁴¹ “For us the sentence is right since we're being punished for what we did, but this man didn't do anything wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, please remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³ Jesus replied, “I promise you today you will be with me in paradise.” ⁴⁴ By this time it was around noon and darkness fell over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

⁴⁵ The sun's light was shut out, and the Temple veil was torn in two.

⁴⁶ Jesus called out in a loud voice, “Father, I place myself in your hands.” Having said this he breathed his last.

⁴⁷ When the centurion saw what had happened he praised God and said, “Surely this man was innocent.” ⁴⁸ When all the crowds that had come to watch saw what happened they went home beating their chests in grief. ⁴⁹ But all those who knew Jesus, including the women who'd followed him from Galilee, watched from a distance.

⁵⁰ There was a man called Joseph who was good and honest. He was a member of the council, ⁵¹ but he hadn't agreed with its decisions and actions. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. ⁵² Joseph went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁵³ Once he'd taken it down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth. He laid Jesus in an unused tomb cut into the rock. ⁵⁴ It was preparation day and the Sabbath would soon begin. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee had followed Joseph and had seen the tomb where Jesus' body had been laid. ⁵⁶ They returned home and prepared spices and ointments. But on the Sabbath they rested, observing the commandment.

Twenty-eight Redemption: Jesus conquered death

Luke 24:1-35

¹ Very early on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they'd prepared. ² They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, ³ but when they went in they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering what was going on, two men suddenly appeared dressed in clothes that shone brilliantly. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed down, their faces on the ground.

They said to the women, "Why are you looking for someone who is alive among the dead? ⁶ He's not here; he's risen from the dead! Remember what he told you while you were still in Galilee: ⁷ 'The Son of man must be betrayed into the hands of evil men, be crucified, and on the third day rise again.'"

⁸ Then they remembered what he'd said. ⁹ When they returned from the tomb they reported all that had happened to the eleven disciples and to all the others. ¹⁰ Those who told the apostles what had happened were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women with them. ¹¹ But it seemed like nonsense to them, so they didn't believe the women. ¹² However, Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Bending down, he looked in and saw only the linen grave-clothes. So he went back home, wondering what had happened.

¹³ The same day two disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking about all that had happened. ¹⁵ As they discussed and debated, Jesus came up and fell into step with them. ¹⁶ But they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ "What are you discussing as you walk along?" he asked them. They stopped, their faces sad. ¹⁸ One of them, called Cleopas, replied, "Are you just visiting Jerusalem? You must be the only person who doesn't know the things that have happened in the past few days."

¹⁹ "What things?" Jesus asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet who spoke powerfully and performed great miracles before God and all the people. ²⁰ But our high priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. ²¹ We had hoped he was the one who was going to rescue Israel. It's been three days now since all this happened.

²² But then some of the women in our group surprised us. ²³ At dawn they went to the tomb and they didn't find his body. They came back saying that they'd seen a vision of angels who told them he's alive. ²⁴ Some of us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women said—but they didn't see him."

²⁵ Jesus told them, "You're so dull! How slow you are to trust in all that the prophets said! ²⁶ Didn't the Messiah have to suffer before he could enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then, starting with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them everything that was said in Scripture about himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village they were going to, Jesus made it seem as if he was going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him, saying, "Please come and stay with us. It's getting late—the day is almost over." So he went to stay with them.

³⁰ When he sat down to eat with them, he took the bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Then he disappeared from view.

³² The two disciples said to each other, “Weren't our thoughts on fire when he spoke to us, as he explained the Scriptures to us?” ³³ They got up right away and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and those who were with them meeting together, ³⁴ who said, “The Lord has really risen again! He has appeared to Simon.”

³⁵ Then those who had just arrived explained to the other disciples what had happened to them on the road, and how they had recognized Jesus when he broke bread.

Twenty-nine

Redemption: Jesus revealed self and goes to heaven

Luke 24:36-53

³⁶ While they were talking, Jesus himself stood among them, and said, “Peace to you!”

³⁷ They were startled and afraid, thinking they were seeing a ghost.

³⁸ “Why are you frightened? Why are you doubting?” he asked them. ³⁹ “Look at my hands and my feet—you can see it's me. Touch me and you'll be certain, for a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

⁴⁰ Having said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ But they still couldn't believe it because they were so elated and amazed. He asked them, “Do you have anything to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of cooked fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in front of them.

⁴⁴ Then Jesus said to them, “This is what I explained to you while I was still with you. Everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms, had to be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they were able to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “It was written like this: the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and in his name ⁴⁷ repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of all this. ⁴⁹ Now I'm going to send you what my Father promised—but wait in the city until you receive power from heaven.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out until they were near Bethany, and lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them, and was taken up to heaven. ⁵² They worshiped him, and then they returned to Jerusalem full of joy. ⁵³ They spent all their time in the Temple praising God.

Thirty

Summary: Do you want to follow the Way of God?

John 3:1-21

¹ There was a man named Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came at night to where Jesus was and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God, for nobody could do the miraculous signs you're doing unless God was with him.”

³ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “Unless you are reborn, you can't experience God's kingdom.”

⁴ “How can you be reborn when you're old?” Nicodemus asked. “You can't go back into your mother's womb and be born a second time!”

⁵ “I tell you the truth, you can't enter God's kingdom unless you are born of water and the Spirit,” Jesus told him. ⁶ “What's born of the body is body, and what's born of the Spirit is Spirit. ⁷ Don't be surprised at my telling you, ‘You must be reborn.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wants, and just as you hear the sound it makes, but don't know where it's coming from or where it's going, that's how it is for everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹ “How is this possible?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You're a famous teacher in Israel, and yet you don't understand such things?” Jesus replied. ¹¹ “I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know and give evidence regarding what we have seen, but you refuse to accept our testimony. ¹² If you don't trust what I say when I tell you about earthly things, how would you ever trust what I say if I were to tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has gone up to heaven, but the Son of man came down from heaven. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Son of man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who trusts in him will have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God loved the world, and this is how: he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who trusts in him shouldn't die, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God didn't send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Those who trust in him are not condemned, while those who don't trust in him are condemned already because they didn't trust in the one and only Son of God. ¹⁹ This is how the decision is made: the light came to the world, but people loved the darkness rather than the light, for their actions were evil. ²⁰ All those who do evil hate the light and don't come into the light, because they don't want their actions to be exposed. ²¹ But those who do good come into the light, so that what God accomplishes in them can be revealed.”

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ Enter by the narrow entrance. For the entrance is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many travel that way. ¹⁴ But the entrance is narrow, and the way is difficult that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Conclusion

We hope that you enjoyed going through the Bible together. We'd love to hear any stories of how it has changed your life. The great news is that discovering the Bible doesn't stop here. If you would like to dive deeper, there are other study series in the **Discover App**. You can also use the study questions to explore any passage that you choose.

If you have enjoyed this series, why not encourage your friends and families to get a group going and go through the studies together?



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v1.0 16 May 2024