



“Taste and See” Stories of Hope and Faith

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"TASTE AND SEE" STORIES OF HOPE & FAITH

Lesson Book

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From the Words of Inspiration

Foundation of Salvation

“There is salvation in no one else! Under all heaven there is no other name to call upon to be saved.” Acts 4:12

“If you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9, 10

The Foundation of non-Christian Religions

“The principle that man can save himself by his own works lay at the foundation of every heathen religion . . . Satan had implanted this principle. Wherever it is held, men have no barrier against sin.”

Desire of Ages pp. 35, 36

Taste and See

“O Taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the person that trusts in him.” Psalm 34:8

“Experience is knowledge derived from experiment. Experimental religion is what is needed now. ‘Taste and see that the Lord is good.’ Some—yes, a large number—have a theoretical knowledge of religious truth, but have never felt the renewing power of divine grace upon their own hearts. These persons are ever slow to heed the testimonies of warning, reproof, and instruction... They have never tasted and learned by experience that the Lord is good.” 5T pp. 221, 222

“There is an evidence that is open to all—the most highly educated, and the most illiterate—the evidence of experience. God invites us to prove for ourselves the reality of His word, the truth of His promises. He bids us ‘taste and see that the Lord is good.’ Psalm 34:8. Instead of depending upon the word of another, we are to taste for ourselves. He declares, ‘Ask and ye shall receive.’ John 16:24. His promises will be fulfilled. They have never failed; they never can fail. And as we draw near to Jesus, and rejoice in the fullness of His love, our doubt and darkness will disappear in the light of His presence.” *Steps to Christ*, pp 111, 112

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INTRODUCTION

The focus of this course is to make disciples among non-Christian people, specifically in the 10/40 Window. It is designed to be easy to learn, easy to use, and easily reproduced by anyone, literate and oral/aural/visual learners.

“Taste and See”

The overall focus of these lessons is to “taste and see” that God is good. This personal experience of God’s love and mercy leads people to become lifelong, active *disciples* of Jesus. It is the foundation on which all faith is built.

There are many series of Bible lessons that work well for people with a Christian background. This course is different. The focus is to:

- Introduce *non-Christians* to Jesus—both literate and non-literate
- Reveal the love and power of God through mingling with people and serving them as Jesus did, especially those who are oppressed.
- Use carefully chosen Bible stories as the basis for all teaching, to lay a foundation for faith and a biblical worldview.
- Lead people to trust the Holy Spirit for understanding God’s Word and then to follow what He reveals.
- Guide people to a taste-and-see experience with the living God/Jesus.
- Encourage and enable people to immediately share with others what they are experiencing and learning.
- Introduce people to the power of prayer and the promises of the Bible and lead them to experience healing from the brokenness in their lives, including freedom from evil spirits and addictions.
- Help people recognize and address the shame and guilt in their lives and find assurance of forgiveness and honor through Jesus.
- Introduce people to the God of the Bible through learning His Stories in both the Old and New Testaments
- Guide people to experience God every day as they develop a daily devotional life
- Lead people to a personal decision and commitment to become disciples of Jesus
- Bring people into home-based fellowship groups.
- Lead people to become fully committed, active baptized Seventh-day Adventist Christians.

The lessons are based on the following **“Taste and See” Steps to Discipleship**.

- “Taste and See” God’s goodness by observing us as we mingle with them.
- “Taste and See” (experience) God’s power in their own lives through prayer.
- “Taste and See” the joy of sharing their personal testimony with others.
- “Taste and See” (know) God by hearing Bible stories (God’s Story) guided by the Holy Spirit.
- “Taste and See” God’s presence every day through some simple spiritual experiences.
- “Taste and See” the assurance and joy of salvation by choosing to become a disciple and follower of Jesus
- “Taste and See” the joy of fellowship with other disciples by learning the specific teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist church and receiving baptism
- “Taste and See” a life of spiritual growth by continuing to grow and make other disciples for Jesus.

Note to Teachers: These “Steps to Discipleship” (see above) are covered in six sections of the Lesson Book. The material in **Section 1** is foundational for everything that follows, so it is the essential starting point for the course. **Sections 2-5**, however, *can be presented in any order*. Guided by the Holy Spirit, you, the teacher, can determine what the needs or interests are of each person you are studying with. Sections 1-5 need to be completed *first* since they are the foundation for the lessons in Section 6—Preparing for Baptism.

SECTION 1: SEEING GOD’S LOVE

PREPARATION

INTRODUCTION: As any good farmer knows, it is essential to prepare the field before sowing any seed. Removing stones, pulling weeds, and tilling the soil are all part of this preparation. It is also important to prepare the soil of people’s hearts before sowing the seeds of the gospel. Prayer for the Holy Spirit, mingling with people, building bridges of understanding, finding “persons of peace,” and sharing your personal testimony are all essential parts of this preparation.

Pray, Pray, Pray

- Pray for yourself—to be strong and a powerful witness for Jesus
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you as you prepare to interact with people.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare the people you will contact
- Pray to find “persons of peace”— people who are spiritually open to new things.
- Pray as you mingle, following Jesus’ example of meeting people’s needs where they are.
- Pray to find ways to help those who are oppressed, misunderstood and mistreated
- Pray as you develop trusting relationships with people.
- Begin a prayer list of at least three to five specific people you are praying for and building relationships with.
- Pray daily for the people on your list and add to the list from week to week.
- Pray for specific opportunities to build relationships and share with people who don’t know Jesus.

Christ Mingled with People and Met their Needs

Christ’s Method Alone

“The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ.... It is only through the grace of Christ that the work of restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual can be accomplished.

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, “Follow Me.”

“There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit.”

– *Ministry of Healing* pp. 143, 144

Mingle, Mingle, Mingle

Before people can *hear* about God’s love, they often need to *see* it in action. Anyone pioneering work in a new, unreached area, must get acquainted with people and build trust-based relationships through prayer, mingling and serving as Jesus did. *The goal of mingling is always for people to “taste and see” God through your ministry.*

Here are a few suggestions of ways to mingle and serve. You will find other ways that fit with the place where you are working, the people you are working with and your own skills and abilities.

- Get to know people—their interests, needs, family concerns, joys and sorrows, etc.
- Attend family activities—weddings, funerals, birth celebrations, birthdays, etc.

- Pray with people—the sick, discouraged, lonely, downtrodden, bereaved, etc.
- Provide simple health treatments—massage, fomentations, etc.
- Get involved with people in their work—planting, harvesting, transporting goods, carrying water, etc.
- Visit the sick and the aged, offering encouragement and simple treatments.
- Become an advocate for those who are oppressed, misunderstood and mistreated
- Get involved in or help organize community functions—fairs, parades, holiday celebrations.
- Connect with children (after-school tutoring or care, coaching sports, story time).
- Offer simple classes for the community (English, finance, parenting, literacy, basic health, cooking).
- Join local organizations that provide services (e.g., Rotary International).
- Partner with those who are already serving in the community.
- Work in jails or prisons (visit, provide simple necessities, celebrate special days, provide services, etc.).
- Prepare “Bags of Love” for people with special needs (orphans, single moms, trauma victims).
- Be a birthing coach if asked and if appropriate.
- Organize and/or work with a community garden.
- Organize health activities, such as fairs, simple assessments, cooking classes, well-baby clinics.
- Arrange music concerts or art fairs.
- Organize short camps for youth (e.g., peace, art, sports or music camps, etc.).
- Help people or communities develop some kind of micro- business to improve their lives
- Pray for God to open your eyes to new opportunities.

Remember, the goal is to reveal God—his love and compassion and glory, but this is just the beginning. As you explore possibilities together, you will find many more ways to interact with your community to make a difference. Just follow the Jesus model.

BUILD BRIDGES of UNDERSTANDING

As we work with people from non-Christian backgrounds and different cultures, it is necessary to understand their belief system and some of the “roadblocks” between their culture or religion and ours. We must learn how to “build bridges” between their beliefs and ours. These are obviously specific to each religion and culture, so they will be dealt with separately. Excellent information on each of the world religions is available at this website: www.globalmissioncenters.org. An additional resource is the book by Paul Dybdahl, *Before We Call Them Strangers: What Adventists Ought to Know about Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus*. There is also a note-taking organizer in Appendix D, for you to use as you begin collecting valuable information.

LOOK FOR “PERSONS OF PEACE”

In every community, God is preparing people to receive him. These people are spiritually open and more receptive to God’s leading. Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you to these people. They may be people who respond positively to praying together. They may ask questions or initiate a discussion (not an argument) or in some other way manifest an interest in spiritual or religious topics. In some places, people have had visions or dreams or a unique experience that prepared them to respond positively. As we mingle with people, we pray for the Holy Spirit to lead us to these “persons of peace” that God has already prepared. They will be the ones who are most likely to be receptive as we share our personal testimony.

BE PREPARED TO SHARE YOUR OWN TESTIMONY

Remember the story of the demoniac in Mark 5:18-20? He knew very little about doctrine or beliefs, but Jesus sent him to witness to his own people, saying, “Tell them what the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.” What has the Lord done for **you**? What difference has the living Jesus made in your life? As you get to know people and develop a relationship with them, one of the most powerful things you can share is your personal testimony/experience. *It must be focused on Jesus—His love, mercy, and power in your life.* (See Section 2 for suggestions of how to prepare your personal testimony to share with others.)

SECTION 2: EXPERIENCING JESUS' POWER

"Taste and See"

INTRODUCTION: In order for people to have strong faith in God, they need to have a personal experience of God's power in their lives. The prophets in Scripture expected God to show His power "so that 'the nations' [non-believers] will know that you are God" (Ezekiel 36:22-24). The stories in Section 2 gave us an opportunity to share in the experiences of many people in the Bible who personally experienced God's power in their lives. Jesus manifested the power of a loving God in His many miracles of healing and deliverance. The core belief of the early believers was in the power of the resurrected Jesus (Romans 10:9, 10). The lessons in this section reveal many ways people experienced the power of God, beginning with YOU--the way you have experienced Jesus in your life.

Lesson 1: Share your own testimony/experience.

What difference has the living Jesus made in your personal life? Your testimony must be focused on Jesus—not on you or on some other person, or even on the church or the truths you learned in the Church. *It needs to be focused on Jesus and His love and power in your life.* If you were born into a non-Christian family, what was life like before you knew Jesus? What difference did Jesus make? If you were born into a Christian family or since you became a Christian, what difficulties or challenges has Jesus helped you with? What prayers has God answered?

Your testimony needs to be short— about three minutes—and you need to tell it with enthusiasm and expression. Write it on paper, or make an outline before you tell it. If possible, practice sharing it with another person who can help you tell it better.

You will have more than one experience showing Jesus' power. Always choose a testimony that is relevant to the person who is listening.

Note to the Teacher: Stories of People who Experienced God's power in their lives.

Lessons 2-12 in this section, are based on "Taste and See" Bible stories that show how Jesus' power made a difference in the lives of people who trusted him ("tasted").

These stories were chosen to show God's power in different areas of life. There are many stories in the Bible of how Jesus healed people. In our world today, many people have broken lives and need healing—physically, spiritually, and emotionally. There is also a need for healing of relationships in families, in marriages, in nations.

Many people live with shame, fear and guilt. Jesus is the healer of all of these things. He wants to heal us so that we will be able to live with honor, joy and peace. Share each story and lead people to pray for the power of God to bring healing in their own life or the life of someone whom they love.

Use the "Steps for Studying/Sharing a Story" on p. 11. After studying each story, learn the Memory Verse together as a reminder of God's power.

Lesson 2: A Converted Murderer (Acts 9:1-11, 17, 18). Saul was changed from a murderer to Paul, a follower of Jesus.

- Memory Verse: Ezekiel 36:36

Lesson 3: From Fearful to Bold (Acts 4:17-23, 29-31). The believers were afraid because of threats by leaders, but they became bold and fearless through God's power, and God worked miracles in answer to their prayers.

- Memory Verse: Psalm 34:19

Lesson 4: From Discouraged to Hopeful (Luke 24:13-32). These two men were fearful, confused and discouraged, but after they met Jesus, their hearts were warmed, and they were filled with courage and hope.

- Memory Verse: Phil. 4:6, 7

Lesson 5: Healing a Woman with a Flow of Blood (Mark 5:24-34). This woman had been ill for 12 years, but she found physical healing through the power of Jesus.

- Memory Verse: Jeremiah 17:14

Lesson 6: Healed from Evil Spirits, Curses or Generational Sins. (Luke 4:31-37) Jesus heals a demon-possessed man in the synagogue

- Memory text: Luke 4:36.

Lesson 7: Jesus Heals from Different Illnesses and Diseases. (Luke 4:38-41)

- Memory text: James 5:14.

Lesson 8: Jesus Heals from Sin, Shame and Addictions. (John 8:1-11) Jesus healed and forgave the woman taken in adultery.

- Memory text: Isaiah 1:18.

Lesson 9: Jesus Heals from Fear of the Power of Nature. (Mark 4:35-41) Peace in the Storm

- Memory text: John 14:27.

Lesson 10: Jesus Heals as we Experience God's Love. (Luke 15:11-24) The Lost Son

- Memory text: Mark 1:41.

Lesson 11: Jesus Heals as we Receive and Practice Forgiveness. (Luke 7:36-48) The Woman Anointing Jesus' Feet

- Memory text: Mark 2:5.

Lesson 12: Jesus Heals us as we Have Faith and Trust. (Mark 10:46-52) Healing Blind Bartimaeus

- Memory text: Mark 10:52.

Note to the Teacher: Guiding People to Claim the Promises of God

Memorize the text for each lesson. Continue to encourage people to meditate daily on these scriptures as they learn them. At any point in these lessons, as the Holy Spirit leads, you may encourage people to "test" God in their own lives by using questions like these:

"Would you like to have a similar personal experience with the living God/Jesus?"

"Are you willing to test Jesus to see if He is alive?"

"What would you like help with in your life? Are you anxious? Depressed? Addicted? Ill?"

"Do you want peace? Joy? Love? Do you need help with relationships? Finances? Work? Jesus can help you."

Even though people may not believe at first, lead them to begin praying for Jesus' power in their lives. Encourage them to pray morning and night for two weeks and see what happens. Introduce them to using God's Bible promises (below) as they pray.

God's Promises in the Bible

Introduction: Many times in the Bible Jesus/God promised blessings to people. Sometimes these people didn't "see" the blessing or the promise immediately. They had to believe the promise and accept it. Then they received the blessing.

A good story to show this is in Luke 17:11-19. Read and discuss this story using DBS. Then ask, "What did they want/need?" "What did Jesus do/say?" "When were they healed?" They acted on the promise first *before* they were healed; then they received the blessing. That is how we claim God's promises

Here are some promises Jesus made to His followers. Choose one of these verses to use as a prayer.

For peace: John 14:27—"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

For joy: John 15:11—"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

For hope: Psalm 42:11—"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God."

For help in trouble: Psalm 34:19—"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivers him out of them all."

For protection: Proverbs 18:10—"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe."

For anxiety: Philippians 4:6, 7—"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer... let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

For fear: Isaiah 41:13—"I the Lord your God will hold your right hand saying to you, 'Fear not; I will help you.'"

For fear of death: Psalm 23:4—"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me."

For loneliness: John 14:18—"I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you."

For feelings of shame: Romans 10:11—"The Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.'"

For temptation to evil: Romans 6:14—"For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."

SECTION 3: GETTING TO KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD THROUGH “HIS STORY”

INTRODUCTION:

The best way to get to know people is by hearing their stories. Our lives are a collection of all our own stories. As we introduce people from non-Christian backgrounds to the God of the Bible, it is important that they get to know Him before we ask them to give Him their allegiance/loyalty. His character, his identity is revealed in the hundreds of stories recorded in the Bible. The Old Testament stories show how He interacted with individuals and the nation of Israel in both positive and negative situations. The New Testament stories focus on the life of Jesus, the Son of God, who came to reveal Him to the world. The goal of studying these stories is to introduce people to God—what each story reveals about Him. Even for Christians, looking at these stories in a new way will be valuable.

Note to teachers:

These stories are chronological—beginning with the Creation story in Genesis and ending with the New Earth story in Revelation. They provide an overview of God’s dealings with people, revealing his character of love.

Some people may be more interested in the stories about Jesus, in which case, you may choose to begin with the New Testament Bible stories before you do the Old Testament Bible stories. The important thing is to use all of the stories (both Old and New Testament) as you introduce people to the God of the Bible.

The names/stories in bold print are also mentioned in the Qu’ran

The goal is to:

- Get to know and experience (“taste and see”) God through learning His Story.
- Begin building a biblical worldview and a foundation of biblical knowledge as a basis for faith and trust
- Learn to listen to the Holy Spirit as He teaches us.
- Learn to trust the God of the Bible and then to obey what we learn

Steps to Studying/Sharing a Story

1. Pray for the Guidance of the Holy Spirit
2. Read the story together (or tell the story.)
3. Have the group review it, to remember the details.
4. Re-read or re-tell it; have people close their eyes and “see” it. Then each shares what they “saw.”
5. Ask questions for the group to discuss together. Everyone can be involved in the discussion

Ask: “What does this story show/teach us about God?”

Ask: “What does this story show/teach us about people? About ourselves? About choices people make?”

Ask: “What can I learn from this story to follow or obey?”

Ask: “Who can I share this story with?”

Old Testament Stories

Lesson 1: **Creation**

Genesis 1:1-2:3 (Summary Story)

Lesson 2: The fall of **Adam** and **Eve**

Genesis 3:1-15

Lesson 3: **Cain** and **Abel**--Sin and shame fill the earth

Genesis 4: 1-12

Lesson 4: God warns **Noah**

Genesis 6:5-11

Lesson 5: **Noah** obeys God

Genesis 7:5-22

Lesson 6: God's covenant with **Noah**

Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17

Lesson 7: The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:1-9

Lesson 8: God speaks to **Abraham**

Genesis 12:1-7

Lesson 9: **Sarah** and **Abraham** Promised a Son

Genesis 18:1-15

Lesson 10: **Abraham** and **Isaac** and the Sacrificial Lamb

Genesis 22:1-18

Lesson 11: **Isaac's** family

Genesis 24-36 (Summary Story)

Lesson 12: **Jacob** and **Joseph** and his brothers

Genesis 37:1-11

Lesson 13: **Job**

Job 1, 2 (Summary Story)

Lesson 14: Birth and early life of **Moses**

Exodus 2:1-15 (Exodus 1 is the background)

Lesson 15: God calls **Moses** (the burning bush)

Exodus 3:1-12

Lesson 16: The First Nine Plagues

Exodus 7-10 (Summary Story)

Lesson 17: The Passover Instituted

Exodus 12:21-30

Lesson 18: Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 14:21-31 (Exodus 14:5-14 is background)

Lesson 19: God provides water and food

Exodus 17:1-7 (Exodus 16 is background)

Lesson 20: God gives the Law on Mount Sinai

Exodus 20:1-17

Lesson 21: Building the Tabernacle

Exodus 25-27 (Summary Story)

Lesson 22: The Day of Atonement

Leviticus 16:29-34 (Lev. 16:1-28 is background)

Lesson 23: **Gideon** and the 300

Judges 6-8 (Summary Story)

Lesson 24: **David** and **Goliath**

1 Samuel 17

Lesson 25: **David** and his Descendants

2 Samuel 7:8-17; Isaiah 9:6-7

Lesson 26: **Solomon's** Wisdom

1 Kings 3:7-9, 16-27 (Summary Story)

Lesson 27: **Jonah**

Jonah 1-4 (Summary Story)

Lesson 28: **Daniel** and his friends face captivity

Daniel 1:1-20

Lesson 29: **Daniel** Obeys God

Daniel 6 (Summary Story)

Lesson 30: Queen Esther is Faithful

Esther 2:1-18, 3, 4, 7-9 (Summary Story)

New Testament Stories

Lesson 1: Prophecy of the Suffering Servant

Isaiah 53:1-10

Lesson 2: The Angel Appears to **Mary**

Luke 1:26-38

Lesson 3: The Birth of **Jesus**

Luke 2:1-14

Lesson 4: The Visit of the Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12

Lesson 5: John Announces the Straight Path

John 1:19-28

Lesson 6: Jesus' Baptism

John 1:29-35

Lesson 7: Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

Mark 2:1-12

Lesson 8: Jesus Meets Nicodemus

John 3:1-8

Lesson 9: Jesus and the Sabbath

Mark 2:23-3:6

Lesson 10: Jesus Heals Lame, Blind, Lepers, Mute

Matthew 15:29-31

Lesson 11: Jesus with His Friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus

Luke 10:38-42

Lesson 12: Jesus Teaches about God's Kingdom

Matthew 13:31-34, 44-52

Lesson 13: Death and Resurrection of Lazarus

John 11:1-43—Summary Story

Lesson 14: Jesus is the Path, the Truth, the Life

John 14:1-11

Lesson 15: The Last Supper

Luke 22:7-22

Lesson 16: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Matt. 26:36-46

Lesson 17: Jesus Arrested and Tried

Luke 22:47-23:11—Summary Story

Lesson 18: The Death of Jesus

John 19:16-35—Summary Story

Lesson 19: The Resurrection of Jesus

Luke 24:1-9

Lesson 20: Jesus is Alive and Appears to the Disciples

Matthew 28:1-20

Lesson 21: Jesus' last words

Acts 1:4-11

Lesson 22: A Lame Man Healed by Peter and John

Acts 3:1-10

Lesson 23: Conversion of Paul

Acts 9:1-19

Lesson 24: Paul Shipwrecked

Acts 27:13-44 (Summary Story)

Lesson 25: New Heavens and New Earth

Revelation 21:1-8

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SECTION 4: EXPERIENCING JESUS DAY BY DAY

INTRODUCTION: Day by day, throughout our lives, it is important to continue experiencing Jesus' power to heal and transform us. There are six things we can do daily that will help keep us connected to Jesus and His power. *They are not magic or rituals that we have to do to please God.* No! Just as we eat good food, drink clean water, breathe fresh air and exercise to grow and be healthy and strong physically, so also we follow these basic practices to grow and be strong spiritually.

Note to teachers: In addition to a story for each lesson, there is a text to memorize as part of our meditation each day. At the end of each lesson, ask for a decision/commitment to follow this practice daily. Review and encourage accountability each week. Continue to use the Steps for Sharing a Story on p. 8.

Lesson 1: Confession and Repentance. As someone becomes a believer, it is important to repent and confess sin. Sin is like poison. The only cure is Jesus. Only as we admit our shame and sin and ask Jesus to take it away can we become strong believers. Daily we need to confess our sins to God so that he can forgive us.

Stories: Repentance: Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)
Confession: David (2 Samuel 12:13, 14)
Forgiveness: The Lost Son (Luke 15:17-21).
Memory text: Mark 1:15; James 1:5

Lesson 2: Prayer and Meditation Pray and meditate on God's Word two or three times a day.

Stories: Jesus (Mark 1:35-37)
Daniel (Daniel 6:3-10).
Memory text: Psalm 119:15.

Lesson 3: Worship and Praise. A spirit of thankfulness and praise to God is a part of the growing process.

Story: A grateful leper (Luke 17:11-19).
Memory text: Psalm 9:1, 2.

Lesson 4: Fellowship. Be part of a regular group on Sabbath and other selected days. Fellowship with other believers is important if we are to be strong.

Story: Early Church (Acts 2:41-47).
Memory text: Hebrews 10:24, 25.

Lesson 5: Love one Another. Live out Jesus' command to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:35-39). Be willing to learn to love others, even your enemies. This opens your hearts to receive more of God's love.

Story: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).
Memory text: John 15:12, 13.

Lesson 6: Live out the Great Commission. Share what you are experiencing. Sharing is like exercise: It helps you grow strong.

Story: The man with demons (Mark 5:1-20).
Memory text: Matthew 28:19, 20.

SECTION 5: BECOMING A BELIEVER

INTRODUCTION: After people begin to experience Jesus' power in their lives, and as they get to know God through His Story, they may be ready to become believers. Believers are people who choose to trust Jesus and to follow Him. They know that He will be with them always—to care for them, guide them, remove their shame, and save them from eternal death. The next Bible stories are about people who became believers.

Note to Teachers: As the Holy Spirit leads, share these stories of how people made a choice to become a believer/follower of Jesus. Lesson 6 contains three different ways to ask for a decision. Prayerfully choose the one that seems the best, or create one of your own. It is important for people to make a choice and then pray a prayer of acceptance and commitment. Continue to follow the Steps for Sharing a Story on p. 8.

Lesson 1: Man at the Foot of the Mount of Transfiguration (Mark 9:14-25). This man wanted to believe, but it was difficult. He needed Jesus' help to become a believer. We can pray his prayer too.

- Memory text: Mark 9:24.

Lesson 2: The Jailer of Philippi (Acts 16:25-34). This man observed the lives of Paul and Silas and heard their witness. He and his whole family believed, and they were saved.

- Memory text: Acts 16:31.

Lesson 3: Doubting Thomas (John 20:24-29). Thomas wouldn't believe until he saw and touched Jesus. Jesus praised people who can believe even if they don't see and touch Jesus.

- Memory text: John 20:29.

Lesson 4: The Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:10-16). This woman worshipped another god, but she became a believer after she saw God's power working in her life and the life of Elijah.

- Memory text: 1 Kings 17:24.

Lesson 5: Naaman (2 Kings 5:1-10, 14-16). Naaman worshipped other gods, but he chose to become a believer when he experienced the true God's power to heal him.

- Memory text: 2 Kings 5:15.

Lesson 6: Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:4-37—Summary Story). Nebuchadnezzar was a proud heathen king. He became a believer when he saw God work miracles.

Invitation to Become a Believer.

As the Holy Spirit leads, invite people to become believers and accept Jesus into their lives.

"You may decide to believe in Jesus now, as some do, and I will lead you through a prayer to accept Jesus. If you are not ready today, you can learn more and make your decision as you understand more of Jesus' story."

Choose one of the three decision appeals below or create your own.

- **Decision Appeal 1:** Ask, "Do you ever feel discouraged because there is sin and shame in your life? Would you like a way to escape and be saved from shame and sin?" Review the story of "The Lost Son" (Luke 15:11-24). Then say, "You can decide like the lost son to return to God. Pray this prayer, and God will accept you:"

Prayer: "I am not worthy to be Your son/ daughter. I believe You saved me from my sin and shame when You died and arose from the dead. Now I believe You will restore me to the honor of being Your child. Amen."

- **Decision Appeal 2:** “Many people have difficulty feeling certain of salvation. Ask, “Do you ever feel unsure that God loves you and will save you? Do you worry about Judgment Day? Let me tell you a story of how you can know you are saved by accepting Jesus.” Use this story of Paul (based on 1 Corinthians 15:1-9 and Romans 10:9, 10).

“Paul was a teacher and leader of many people who were new believers in Jesus. They wanted to have lives of honor. But they were not sure how to be saved from their shame and sin. Paul wanted to help them live lives that would honor God. Mostly, Paul wanted them to know that Jesus loved them and had already saved them from their shame and sin.

“Paul said, “I want to remind you of the Good News which I preached to you before. Jesus died for our sins; He was buried and He was raised to life three days later, as it is written in the Scriptures. Then He appeared to Peter and then to all 12 apostles and then to more than 500 of His followers all at once. Last of all He appeared to me.”

“This is the good news: “If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, you will be saved. Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.”

Prayer: “Jesus I believe in my heart that you arose from the dead. I want to confess with my mouth that you are Lord! I know I am now accepted into your family. Amen.”

- **Decision Appeal 3:** This appeal story may be especially appropriate for Muslims—the first and last sacrifice story.

“God created a perfect world for the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve. God gave them honor as rulers of this earth. They lived in a beautiful garden—Eden. Their lives were free of fear and shame and guilt. They lived in complete harmony with each other and God, with nature and themselves. As long as they were loyal to God, they would live forever.

“But Satan, who had started a rebellion against God in Heaven, came to Adam and Eve and tempted them to doubt God and obey Satan instead. Sadly, Adam and Eve listened to Satan and disobeyed God. As a result, the beautiful world was no longer perfect. Adam and Eve were disconnected from God and lost the honor He had given them. Now they were naked and ashamed, so they covered their nakedness and shame with fig leaves.

“God could have destroyed them immediately, but instead He gave them a second chance. He killed an animal to make them clothes of skin to replace the fig leaves. Then He made a wonderful promise, “Someday, my only Son will come to this earth and destroy the power of Satan. He will die as a sacrifice for you, and by dying He will take your shame and sin, and restore your honor and innocence.”

“For many years Adam and Eve’s descendants waited for the promised Savior to come. Finally He was born to Mary and her husband, Joseph. They named the baby Jesus.

“Amazing things happened at the time of His birth. Many people believed that the promised Savior had been born. Jesus lived on earth for more than 30 years, helping people, and restoring them to health and honor.

“One day the leaders arrested Him, mistreated Him and killed Him. When He died, His followers were confused. Why did such a good man die such a shameful death? They forgot the promise that the Savior would be sacrificed for their sins.

“After three days, Jesus came back to life, and then He ascended to Heaven. Before He left, He promised He would return some day and take them to Heaven. He also told them to tell people everywhere about His sacrifice. To accept Jesus’ sacrifice for you, I invite you to believe and accept Jesus right now.T

Prayer: “Jesus, I believe in my heart that You died as the sacrifice for my sin and arose from the dead. I want to confess with my mouth that You are Lord! I believe You have saved me from my sin and shame and will restore me to the high honor of being your son (or daughter). I believe I am now accepted into my honored position in Your family. Amen.”

SECTION 6: PREPARING FOR BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION: At this point, people will have had time to get to know the God of the Bible.

- They have seen God's love and power in your ministry
- They have tasted and experienced God's power and healing in their own lives.
- They have been encouraged to share what they are learning and experiencing with others
- They have been building a foundation on which to base their faith by experiencing God through His Story
- They have begun building a biblical worldview by learning God's Story
- They have begun experiencing a close relationship with Jesus every day.
- They have made a choice to begin trusting Jesus and accept his forgiveness.

Note to Teachers:

Now we will focus on stories and texts that are the foundation of the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, leading to baptism.

Each doctrine is taught by telling or reviewing relevant Bible stories or passages. *It may take more than one session for each lesson.* Continue to follow the "Steps to Studying a Story" on p 11. To the original questions, add one more question for each lesson. "What do these stories teach/tell us about.... (whatever the doctrine is. i.e. "God" "Jesus" "The Holy Spirit" "Heaven," etc.)

In addition, each lesson has at least one key text. Lead people to memorize the key text for each lesson to remember and meditate on in the future.

Each lesson ends with a "So what?" question, which helps the believer apply the teaching to his/her life. "What difference does this belief make in my life?" Why is important to know?

Section 1: Focus on the Supernatural

Lesson 1. There is one God, the Creator, who is powerful and merciful.

Stories: God is the Creator (Genesis 1)

There is only one God (Exodus 20:2, 3, the first and second commandments)

God is the provider and deliverer of His people (Deuteronomy 4:32-35);

Hezekiah's prayer (Isaiah 37:14-16).

Review stories from previous lessons that show God's provision, protection and mercy for Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Job, Moses, David and Daniel, etc.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 136:2, 4, 6, etc. The leader says (or reads) the first part of each verse, and the audience chants, "For His steadfast love endures forever."

Key Text: Psalm 136:26

So what?

Lesson 2: Jesus: Who is Jesus?

a. Stories: The Angel's Words to Mary (Luke 1:26-35);

Peter's Statement about Jesus (Matthew 16:13-17);

Summary (Hebrews 1:1-4; Colossians 1:15-20).

b. Key text: Matthew 16:16.

c. So what?

Lesson 3: The Holy Spirit—What does He do?

- a. Stories: At Creation (Genesis 1:1, 2)
 Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit's work (John 14:16-17, 25-27);
 The promise to Jesus' disciples at His ascension (Acts 1:4-8);
 He transforms lives (Galatians 5:22-25).
- b. Key text: Acts 1:8.
- c. So what?

Lesson 24: Angels—Good Spirits

- a. Stories: Hagar (Genesis 21:14-21)
 Jacob (Genesis 28:10-17)
 Leading Israel (Exodus 33:1, 2)
 Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)
 Peter in Prison (Acts 12:1-11)
 Surrounding God's Throne (Revelation 5:11-13)
- b. Key texts: Psalm 34:7
- c. So what?

Lesson 5. The Holy Scriptures—God's Supernatural Word.

- a. Stories: The Example of the Believers in Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 2:11-13);
 Timothy (2 Timothy 3:14-17);
 Peter's teaching (2 Peter 1:16-21).
- b. Key text: Psalm 119:105.
- c. So what?

Lesson 6: The Origin of Evil

- a. Stories: Lucifer (Satan/Devil) in Heaven (Revelation 12:7- 9; Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-17;
 Satan in Eden, Tempting Adam and Eve: (Genesis 3:1-5, 14-15).
- b. Key text: Genesis 3:15.
- c. So what?

Lesson 7: The Great Controversy Worldview (War Between God and Satan).

- a. Stories: Job (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7);
War in Heaven (Revelation 12:7-12).
- b. Key text: Revelation 12:7, 8.
- c. So what?

Section 2: Understanding Salvation

Lesson 8: Power over Evil Spirits/Powers.

- a. Stories: Jesus sends out His disciples with Power (Luke 10:17-20)
Philip in Samaria (Acts 8:4-8)
Spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- b. Key text: Ephesians 6:10, 11.
- c. So what?

Lesson 9: The Consequence of Disobedience— Guilt, Shame and Fear;

- a. Story: Adam and Eve (Genesis 3).
Review other stories we have learned that show the consequences of sin
- b. Key texts: Romans 3:10-12
Memorize: Romans 3:23.
- c. So what?

Lesson 10: The Way of Salvation #1— Through Sacrifice.

- a. Stories: Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21)
Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-5)
Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22:1-14)
Israel and the Passover (Exodus 12:1-13)
- b. Key text: Hebrews 9:22.
- c. So what?

Lesson 11: The Way of Salvation #2—Through Jesus' Sacrifice

- a. Story: The crucifixion of Jesus (Mark 15:33-39).
- b. Key text: John 1:29.
- c. So what?

Lesson 12: The Way of Salvation #3—What Must I do to be Saved?

- a. Stories: Ezekiel's message (Ezekiel 36:25-28)
Paul's Message to King Agrippa (Acts 16:19, 20)
Paul's Message to the Believers in Romans (Romans 10:8-13)
Paul's Message to the Believers in Ephesians (Ephesians 2:4-10)
Paul's Message to the Believers in Galatia (Galatians 4:4-7)
- b. Key texts: John 3:16 or Ephesians 2:8, 9.
- c. So what?

Lesson 13: The Sabbath #1—Celebrating Creation and Deliverance in the Old Testament.

- a. Stories: Creation (Genesis 1:27-2:3)
God sends manna (Exodus 16:1-8, 22-30)
The fourth commandment (Exodus 20:8- 11)
Advice to Israel (Nehemiah 13:15-19)
- b. Key texts: Deuteronomy 5:12-14 and Ezekiel 20:12
- c. So what?

Lesson 14: The Sabbath #2—Celebrating the Sabbath with Jesus

- a. Stories: Jesus' Activities on the Sabbath (Mark 1:21-32)
Jesus and his Disciples on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-27, Luke 6:1-5)
Jesus Heals in the Synagogue on the Sabbath (Mark 3:1-6, Luke 6:6-10)
- b. Key text: Mark 2:27, 28.
- c. So what?

Lesson 15: The Sanctuary—What was it and why was it Important?

- a. Stories: Building the tabernacle (Review Exodus 25-27 with visual aids)
The priest made atonement for sins (Leviticus 16:32-34).
- b. Key text: Exodus 25:8, 40.
- c. So what?

Lesson 16: The Sanctuary in Heaven and Jesus the High Priest.

- a. Story: Jesus the High Priest in Heaven (Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-16).
- b. Key text: Hebrews 4:16.
- c. So what?

Section 3--Understanding the Future

Lesson 17: Death—What Happens when People Die?

- a. Stories: Jairus' daughter (Matthew 9:8-19; 23-25);
 Lazarus (John 11:1-15);
 Paul's message of hope to the Believers in Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- b. Key text: 1 Thessalonians 4:16.
- c. So what?

Lesson 18: The Second Coming of Jesus and the Signs of the End of the World.

- a. Story: Jesus talking to His disciples (Matthew 24:3-14, 30, 31)
 Jesus' Message Before his Ascension (Acts 1:6-11)
- b. Key text: Matthew 25:31.
- c. So what?

Lesson 19: Day of Judgment

- a. Stories: Parable of the 10 virgins (Matthew 25:1-12);
 Parable of the sheep and goats (Matthew 25:31- 46);
 Parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30).
- b. Key text: Revelation 14:7.
- c. So what?

Lesson 20: Prophecy—Knowing the Future

- a. Stories: Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 41:1-36, summarized);
 Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2:1-45, summarized);
 God's promise (Joel 2:28, 29).
- b. Key texts: Amos 3:7 and 2 Chronicles 20:20.
- c. So what?

Lesson 21: Heaven and the New Earth.

- a. Stories: Isaiah's vision (Isaiah 65:17-25);
 John's visions (Revelation 21:1-4; 22:1-5).
- b. Key text: Revelation 21:1.
- c. So what?

Section 4—Being Part of the Church

Lesson 22: Baptism—Joining the Family of God.

- a. Stories: Jesus' Example with John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13-17);
The Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-38).
- b. Key text: Acts 2:38.
- c. So what?

Lesson 23: Communion service—Remembering what Jesus did for Us.

- a. Story: The Last Supper (Luke 22:14- 20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
- b. Key text: 1 Corinthians 1:26.
- c. So what?

Lesson 24: Returning Tithes and Offerings to God.

- a. Stories: Abraham (Genesis 14:14- 20);
Jacob's vow (Genesis 28:20-22);
The Widow's Mite (Mark 12:41-44);
The Believers in Corinth (2 Corinthians 8:1-15).
- b. Key texts: Malachi 3:10 and Psalm 56:12, 13.
- c. So what?

Section 5—Living the Life of a Believer

Lesson 25: Biblical Lifestyle and Healthy Eating

- a. Stories: The Original diet (Genesis 1:29)
The Food laws given to Israel (Leviticus 11)
Paul's advice to believers on principles for living (Ephesians 5:15-21)
- b. Key text: 1 Corinthians 10:31.
- c. So what?

Lesson 26: Worshipping/meeting/ fellowshiping together

- a. Stories: Tabernacle worship (Exodus 25:8)
 Jesus' example (Luke 4:16-21)
 Paul's example in Philippi (Acts 16:11-13;
 Paul's example in Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-4)
- b. Key text: Hebrews 10:24, 25
- c. So what?

Lesson 27: Sharing the message of hope.

- a. Stories: Abraham's call from God (Genesis 12:1-3)
 Jonah (the book of Jonah, summarized);
 Andrew (John 1:35-42)
 Jesus' Disciples (Acts 1:1-8)
- b. Key texts: Matthew 24:14 and Matthew 28:19, 20.
- c. So what?

Lesson 28: The Power and Importance of Prayer and Meditation.

- a. Stories: David meditated (Psalm 77:11-15);
 Daniel prayed three times a day (Daniel 6:4-10);
 Jesus' example--Praying in the early morning, (Mark 1:35)
 Jesus in Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-38).
- b. Key texts: 1 Thessalonians 5:17
 Psalm 1:1, 2.
- c. So what?

Lesson 29: Trust in God during adversity, even when prayer is not answered.

- a. Stories: Job (Job 1-2, Summary Story)
 Joseph (Genesis 37:12-36; 39-41, Summary Story)
 Daniel's Friends (Daniel 3)
 Faith "Hall of Fame" (Hebrews 11:32-39).
- b. Key texts: 2 Corinthians 12:9
 Job 13:15.
 Daniel 3:17, 18
- c. So what?

Conclusion of the Matter

In these lessons we have looked at essential beliefs that are important to make disciples and bring people to an active faith in Jesus as Seventh-day Adventist Christians. They are especially for those who come from non-Christian backgrounds.

The first goal is to bring people to a living relationship and experience with Jesus and an understanding of the basic teachings of Christianity and Adventism. We have therefore focused especially on 1) an understanding about God, 2) a biblical understanding of sin and salvation, 3) the future, 4) being a part of the Church, and 5) living as a Christian. Our goal is to cover the topics especially relevant to the assurance of salvation and living the Christian life. Other topics can be added over time, as appropriate.

Summary List of SDA Beliefs/Doctrines/Teachings

1. The Holy Scriptures are inspired by God to teach about God and guide us through life
2. The Trinity: The One God is manifested in three forms
3. God the Father is the ultimate source of everything
4. God the Son is Jesus who came to this world and lived as a man and died to save us.
5. God the Holy Spirit is the Comforter and guide given to be always with us
6. Creation: The world and all the universes were created by God
7. Human beings were created in God's image, but after sin they and their children were "infected" by sin.
8. There is a Great Controversy in the universe between God and Satan, a created being who rebelled.
9. Jesus came to this earth and lived and died and was resurrected to provide eternal life to us
10. Salvation from sin is available to anyone who believes and accepts Jesus' free gift of salvation.
11. Through the Holy Spirit, God has given people power over all the forces of evil.
12. The church is a fellowship of believers who worship together and share each others burdens
13. At the end of time God will have a remnant people with a special mission
14. God's people will be united in Christ, despite cultural, racial, gender and other differences.
15. God's people will show their commitment to Him by being immersed in baptism.
16. God's people remember Jesus' death when they celebrate the Lords' Supper.
17. God provides different spiritual gifts to believers which they use to build up the work of God
18. God has revealed special truths to his people through prophecy. He sent Ellen White as his messenger.
19. God revealed his law of love for all people through the ten commandments which he wants us to follow.
20. God has given us a special gift each week in the Sabbath—a day for rest, worship, and fellowship
21. God expects his followers to be faithful stewards of time, talents, money to support his work.
22. Followers of God will live in harmony with his guidelines for health and morals to bring glory to God
23. Marriage is a sacred institution that is a life-long commitment for the safeguarding of society.
24. Christ is ministering for us in the heavenly sanctuary.
25. Jesus will return to earth to receive his followers and take them to heaven.
26. Death is a "sleep."
27. For 1,000 years after Jesus comes, the saved will be in heaven. At the end of that time sin will be destroyed
28. God has prepared a new heaven and a new earth which will be the eternal home of the save.

APPENDIX A: Different Ways to Use Stories¹

There are many different ways to use Bible stories effectively. Pastors, teachers and others who tell Bible stories have undoubtedly used many of the ways listed below. Depending on the situation and the audience, some ways will be better than others. Our task is to find the best way of presenting these timeless stories for each group.

The bottom line is that our presentation of the story must be true to the Biblical narrative. When we are sharing the Word of God, we preserve the meaning as it is in the Bible, without commentary, explanation or embellishment. If we choose to use one of the more “adapted” storytelling methods, it is important that people understand that it is our adaptation of the words of the Bible, not the actual words of the Bible.

Remember—the majority of people that we share God’s stories with will never have an opportunity to read the Bible for themselves. All that they know of God’s word is what we share with them. It is therefore important, that we retain the accuracy of the Biblical account. It is also important that we tell/read the story the same way each time so that they can remember it accurately.

Verbatim: This is the best way of sharing the Bible stories when we want people to memorize them so that they can remember and share with others. They are “hiding God’s word in their heart,” so it is important for it to be as close as possible to the Bible. We do not believe in verbal inspiration, but we do believe that the thought and the details of the story were inspired by the Holy Spirit and recorded for our learning. (.) For this reason, we use the verbatim method when we are doing Discovery Bible Study. To improve comprehension, use a contemporary language Bible translation (not a paraphrase) in the local language. Even with contemporary language bibles there may be words that are not in use which makes it harder to understand and memorize. In that case, using a synonym is acceptable. However, tell it the same way every time, so people can remember it.

Edited Verbatim: This method retains the actual language of the Bible, but may leave out items to simplify or shorten the story. It is still accurate, but does not have difficult-to-understand details or vocabulary.

Crafted Stories: A crafted story is basically just a simplification of some parts of the story while still retaining as much of the original language as possible. It does not add details or explanations that are not in the original Bible story. In addition, it should not be longer than the equivalent of 15 verses so that people can easily learn and remember it.

Extended Stories: Extended stories are crafted stories that are created by joining two or more short stories together. For instance, the short story of the Hebrew midwives in Exodus 1 can be attached to the larger story of Israel and the King’s decree. Extended stories are helpful for introducing another story or providing a short conclusion.

Composite Stories: This is a crafted story that is created when the same story is recorded in more than one location, with some different details in each. It is still important to stick to the details that are recorded and use the actual words of Scripture as much as possible, but weave the details together into one story. This is good for many of the stories recorded in the Gospels. A composite story needs to be written down so that it is told the same every time.

Compiled Stories: These stories are built into a narrative from various parts of Scripture. The most common would be the “story” of the origin of sin which we usually create from texts in Isaiah, Ezekiel and Revelation. Out of these texts we can craft a simple story. Another compiled story might be the Creation story from Genesis 1 and 2.

Paraphrased Stories: Paraphrased stories are reworded by the storyteller in his/her own words. Bible stories for children are often paraphrased. Some stories are “lightly paraphrased.” They still retain most of the original wording with just minimal paraphrasing and simplification. Other stories are “deeply paraphrased.” The storyteller adds descriptive words, ties it to other stories, adds comments, etc. Deeply paraphrased stories are not ideal for helping people know exactly what the Bible says and then remembering it to share with others.

Recast Stories: This is a paraphrased story that is put in modern times.

Chanted, Sung Dramatized or Danced Stories: Many times stories can be chanted, sung, dramatized or danced using the actual words of Scripture. Sometimes, however, they may be put in a more poetic form, retaining the meaning.

¹ Adapted from J.O. Terry, *Basic Bible Storytelling* pp. 59-64
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APPENDIX B: EXPANDED LIST OF CHRONOLOGICAL OLD TESTAMENT STORIES

Stories of God and the Patriarchs

- Creation (Genesis 1)
- Adam and Eve (Genesis 1, 2)
- Entry of Sin (Genesis 3)
- Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-16)
- Enoch (Genesis 5:21-24)
- Increase of Sin (Genesis 6:1-12)
- Noah and the Flood (Genesis 6:13-7:24)
- God's Promise to Noah (Genesis 8)
- The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)
- The Call of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-9)
- Abraham and Sarah in Egypt (Genesis 12:10-20)
- Abraham and Lot (Genesis 13)
- Abraham Rescues Lot (Genesis 14)
- The Birth of Ishmael (Genesis 16)
- Abraham, the Covenant of Circumcision and Promise of Isaac's Birth (Genesis 17:1-18:15)
- Abraham intercedes for Sodom (Genesis 18:1-33)
- Abraham Rescues Lot (Genesis 19:1-29)
- The Birth of Isaac (Genesis 21:1-7)
- God Protects Hagar and Ishmael (Genesis 21:8-21)
- The Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22)
- The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 24)
- Birth of Esau and Jacob (Genesis 25:19-28)
- Jacob cheats Esau twice (Genesis 25:29-34, 27)
- Jacob and the angel ladder (Genesis 28:10-22)
- Jacob's sojourn in Padan Aram (Genesis 29-31)
- Joseph the dreamer (Genesis 37:1-23)
- Joseph sold into slavery in Egypt (Genesis 37: 24-36; 29:1-6)
- Joseph and Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:6-19)
- Joseph the righteous prisoner (Genesis 40:1-22)
- Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 41:1-36)
- Joseph becomes governor (Genesis 41:37-57)
- Joseph's brothers return (Genesis 42)
- Joseph's brother Benjamin returns (Genesis 43)
- Joseph's brothers and the missing cup (Genesis 44)
- Joseph reveals himself and forgives his brothers (Genesis 45, 46)
- Children of Israel become Slaves in Egypt (Exodus 1)
- Moses' birth (Exodus 1-2:10)
- Moses' Flees Egypt and is exiled (Exodus 2:11-25)
- Moses and the burning bush (Exodus 3, 4)
- Moses and the 9 plagues (Exodus 7-10)
- The Passover (Exodus 12)
- Israel crosses the Red Sea (Exodus 14, 15)
- God sends water and manna (Exodus 16:1 – 17:7)
- Wise Jethro (Exodus 18)
- God gives the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19, 20)
- Building a tent home for God (Exodus 25-27)

- The Twelve Spies (Numbers 13, 14)
- The bronze serpent (Numbers 21)
- The second set of spies and Rahab (Joshua 2)
- Israel crosses the Jordan with Joshua (Joshua 3, 4)
- The city of Jericho is taken (Joshua 5:13-15 and 26:1-27)

Stories of God and the Judges

- Israel forgets God (Judges 2:6-19)
- Deborah and Barak deliver God's people (Judges 4)
- God calls Gideon (Judges 6:11-24)
- Gideon defeats Israel's enemies (Judges 6:33 – 7:22)
- God calls Samson (Judges 13, 14)
- Samson is destroyed (Judges 15, 16)
- Ruth and Naomi (The Book of Ruth)
- Hannah and Samuel and Eli (1 Samuel 1, 3)

Stories of God and the Kings and Prophets

- The people of Israel ask for a king (1 Samuel 8)
- Saul is anointed king (1 Samuel 9, 10)
- Saul disobeys God and fails (1 Samuel 13)
- God chooses David (1 Samuel 16)
- David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
- David spares Saul's life (1 Samuel 24)
- David becomes king (2 Samuel 5:1-4)
- David is kind to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9)
- David sins with Bathsheba and Uriah (2 Samuel 11)
- Nathan the prophet and King David (2 Samuel 12)
- David dies and Solomon becomes king (1 Kings 2:1-12)
- The wisdom of King Solomon (1 Kings 3)
- Solomon Builds and Dedicates the Temple (1 Kings 8:14-30)
- The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon (1 Kings 10:1-13)
- Solomon fails (1 Kings 11:1-13)
- Israel divided into—Judah (Southern Kingdom) and Israel (Northern Kingdom)—1 Kings 12:1-24
- Israel (Northern Kingdom) turns to Idols (1 Kings 12:25-33)
- Elijah the prophet and the drought (1 Kings 17:1-5)
- Elijah the prophet and the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8-24)
- Elijah the prophet and Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18)
- Elijah the prophet and Queen Jezebel (1 Kings 19:1-18)
- Elijah goes to Heaven in a fiery chariot (2 Kings 2:1-18)
- Elisha the prophet helps a poor widow (2 Kings 4:1-7)
- Elisha the prophet raises a rich woman's son from death (2 Kings 4:8-37)
- Elisha the prophet makes the stew taste better (2 Kings 4:38-41)
- Elisha the prophet feeds 100 people (2 Kings 4:42-44)
- Elisha the prophet heals Naaman (2 Kings 5:1-19)
- Elisha the prophet finds a lost ax head (2 Kings 6:1-7)
- Elisha the prophet defeats a huge army (2 Kings 6:8-23)
- Jonah runs away from God (Book of Jonah)
- Enemies destroy Israel and take God's people captive (2 Chronicles 36:1-21).

Stories of God and Israel During and After the Exile

- Daniel and his friends are faithful to God (Daniel 1)
- Daniel interprets the king's dream (Daniel 2)
- Daniel's friends are faithful (Daniel 3)
- The king of Babylon believes God (Daniel 4)
- Babylon is destroyed (Daniel 5)
- Daniel is protected from lions (Daniel 6)
- Daniel's Vision of the Ram and the He-goat (Daniel 8)
- Ezra leads God's people back to rebuild the temple (2 Chronicles 36:22, 23; Ezra 1)
- Nehemiah returns to build the wall of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2, 4, 6).
- Esther becomes Queen of Persia (Esther 1, 2)
- Esther saves her people (Esther 4, 5:1-8, 8).

APPENDIX C: BIBLE STORIES BY TOPIC

Stories of honor and Shame

From Shame to Honor

- The creation of Adam—From dirt to ruler of the earth (Genesis 1, 2)
- Abraham—From nomad to a great name (Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-6)
- Leah—From unloved wife to mother of six sons (Genesis 29)
- Joseph—From prisoner to prime minister (Genesis 37, 39, 41)
- Nation of Israel—From slaves to covenant people (Exodus 1, 6, 12, 19)
- Naomi and Ruth—From shamed widows to grandmother and mother of a noble family (Ruth)
- Hannah—From barren woman to mother of the prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 2)
- David—From unknown son to most famous king of Israel (1 Samuel 17 – 2 Samuel 7)
- Mephibosheth—From crippled outcast to a ward of King David (2 Samuel 9)
- Job—From a sick “reject” restored to wholeness and community (Job 1, 2, 42)
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—From condemned men to government officials (Daniel 3)
- Nebuchadnezzar—From insane man to king of Babylon (Daniel 4)
- Esther and Mordecai—From hated Jews to royal officials in Persia (Esther 2:19-23, 6:1-12)
- Nehemiah and the Disgraced Nation of Israel—reversed Israel’s shame by rebuilding Jerusalem’s walls (Nehemiah 1:1 – 7:3)
- Mary and Joseph—(Matthew 1:18-25)
- Lost son—From outcast to beloved son (Luke 15:11-32)
- The woman caught in adultery—From shamed sinner to honor (John 8:1-11)
- Jesus and the crucifixion—from accused criminal to resurrected Lord (Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 24:36-53)

From Honor to Shame

- Adam and Eve—From glory to shame (Genesis 1-3)
- Saul—From honored king to disgraceful death (1 Samuel 10, 15, 31)
- David—From honored king to shamed adulterer and murderer (2 Samuel 11, 12)
- Israel—From chosen nation of God to captive exiles (2 Chronicles 36)
- Nebuchadnezzar—From king of Babylon to insane man (Daniel 4)
- Haman—from honored prime minister to shamed criminal (Esther 3:1-6, 5:9-14, 6:1-12)

Stories of Power Encounters

Power over Evil Spirits/Demons

- Jesus’ encounter with Satan in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13)
- Jesus drives out an evil spirit (Mark 1:21-28)
- Jesus heals a demon-possessed man (Mark 5:1-20)
- Jesus heals a demon-possessed man (Matthew 8:28-34).
- Jesus and Beelzebub (Matthew 12:22-29)
- Jesus and the Canaanite’s daughter (Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30)
- Jesus heals a woman with a spirit (Luke 13:10-17)
- Jesus heals a boy with a demon (Matthew 17:14-21)
- Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:9-25)
- The sorcerer Elymas meets Paul (Acts 13:1-12).
- A slave girl is delivered in Phillipi (Acts 16:16-18)

Power over Death

- The Shunammite's son is raised (2 Kings 4:8-37).
- Jesus raises a widow's son (Luke 7:11-17)
- Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-43)
- Jesus' death and the temple curtain (Matthew 27:45-56)
- Resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 28:1-20)
- Eutychus raised from the dead (Acts 20:7-12).

Power over the Forces or Nature

- Jesus calms the storm (Mark 4:35-41)
- Jesus curses the fig tree (Mark 11:12-25)
- Paul in Malta (Acts 28:1-10)

Stories of Healing

- Abraham and Abimelech (Genesis 20:1-18)
- The bronze snake (Numbers 21:4-9)
- The man of God heals (1 Kings 13)
- The widow's son is healed (1 Kings 17:7-24)
- Naaman is healed of leprosy (2 Kings 5)
- King Hezekiah is healed (2 Kings 20:1-11)
- King Nebuchadnezzar's dream and healing (Daniel 4)
- Jesus heals the sick (Matthew 4:23-25; 8:14-17)
- Jesus heals a man with leprosy (Matthew 8:1-4)
- The centurion's servant healed (Matthew 8:5-13)
- Jesus heals a paralyzed man (Matthew 9:1-8)
- Jesus heals blind and mute man (Matthew 9:27-34).
- Jesus heals the woman with the flow of God (Mark 5:24-34)

Stories of Witchcraft and Sorcery

- Pharaoh's sorcerers and Moses (Exodus 7:1-13)
- God's command (Deuteronomy 4:15-20; 18:1-14)
- Saul and the witch of Endor (1 Samuel 28)
- Jezebel and King Jehu (2 Kings 9:1-37, 10:36)
- King Manasseh and idols (2 Chronicles 33:1-20)
- Reasons of Israel's exile ((2 Kings 17:1-17)
- The king's sorcerers (Daniel 2:1-23)
- Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:4-25)
- The Jewish sorcerer (Acts 13:1-7)
- Elymas the sorcerer (Acts 13:8-12)
- Sorcerers burn their scrolls (Acts 19:8-22)

Stories of Dreams and Visions

In the Old Testament

- Abraham's dream (Genesis 15:1-21)
- Abimelech's dream (Genesis 20:3)
- Jacob's dream of a stairway to heaven (Genesis 28:10-22)
- Jacob's dream of goats (Genesis 31:1-21)
- Joseph's dreams (Genesis 37:5 – 41:40)
- Dream about Gideon (Judges 7:1-25)
- Solomon's dream (1 Kings 3:5-15)
- Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2:1-49)
- Daniel interprets dreams (Daniel 4:1-37)
- Daniel's dream of four beasts (Daniel 7:1-28)
- Prophecy on dreams (Joel 2:28)

In the New Testament

- Joseph's dream (Matthew 1:18-25)
- Magi's dreams (Matthew 2:1-12)
- Escape to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-23)
- Pilate's wife (Matthew 27:11-19)
- Paul's vision and conversion on the Damascus road (Acts 9:1-9)
- Ananias' vision (Acts 9:10-19)
- Peter's vision of food (Acts 11:1-18)
- Paul's vision of Macedonia (Acts 16:6-10)
- Paul's vision in Corinth (Acts 18:7-10)
- Paul's vision of Jesus (Acts 26:12-20)
- John's visions of Jesus (Revelation)

Stories of Women

In the Old Testament

- Eve, Wife of Adam, Mother of all living (Genesis 1, 2)
- Sarah, Abraham's wife, and Mother of Isaac, the promised son (Genesis 17, 21:1-7)
- Hagar, Abraham's second wife, Mother of Ishmael (Genesis 16; 17:20)
- Rebekah, a bride for Isaac (Genesis 24)
- Leah, First Wife of Jacob and Rachel, the Loved Wife of Jacob (Genesis 29:1-30)
- Tamar, a Mistreated Widow (Genesis 38)
- Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39)
- Jochebed, Mother of Moses (Exodus 2:1-20i)
- Miriam, Sister of Moses (Exodus 2:1-20)
- Miriam, Leader of Women (Exodus 12:31-40; 13:17-22; 14:1-31; 15:19-21)
- Rahab, Brave Woman in Jericho (Joshua 2:1-24)
- Deborah, Brave Judge of Israel (Judges 4, 5)
- Naomi, Widow and Mother-in-Law (Book of Ruth)
- Ruth, Moabite Woman who Followed God (Book of Ruth)
- Hannah, Mother of Samuel (1 Samuel 1; 2:1-10)
- Abigail, Wise and Gentle Woman (1 Samuel 25)
- Bathsheba, Mother of Solomon (2 Samuel 5:1-5, 11, 12)
- Two women with a baby (1 Kings 3:16-28)
- Queen of Sheba visits Jerusalem (1 Kings 10:1-13)

- Wicked Queen Jezebel (1 Kings 21:1-28)
- Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:7-24)
- Widow of a son of the prophets (2 Kings 4:1-7)
- The Shunammite Woman (2 Kings 4:8-37; 8:1-6)
- Naaman's wife and the Israeli maid (2 Kings 5:1-19)
- Evil Queen Athaliah (2 Kings 11:1-16)
- Queen Vashti (Esther 1)
- Queen Esther/Hadassah (Esther 2:8-23; 4)

In the New Testament

- Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-25, 39-45, 57-66)
- Mary, mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-7)
- The prophetess Anna (Luke 2:36-38)
- The Samaritan woman at the well (John 4)
- Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:40-56)
- Widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17)
- Woman at Simon's feast (Luke 7:36-50)
- Syrophenician woman (Mark 7:24-30)
- Mother of James and John (Matthew 20:20-28)
- The 10 virgins—a parable (Matthew 25:1-13)
- Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-44)
- Women at Jesus' crucifixion (Mark 15:33-47)
- The women at the empty tomb (Luke 24:1-12)
- Sapphira, She Lied to God (Acts 5:1-11)
- Dorcas (Acts 9:36-43)
- Mary and Rhoda (Acts 12:1-5, 12-19)
- Lydia (Acts 16:11-15)
- Priscilla (Acts 18:2-26)
- Daughters of Philip (Acts 21:7-9)

Parables (stories) Jesus told about the Kingdom of God

- The sower (Mark 4:10-20)
- The weeds (Matthew 13:36-43)
- The mustard seed (Mark 4:30-34)
- The yeast (Matthew 13:33)
- The hidden treasure and the pearl of great price (Matthew 13:44, 45)
- The net (Matthew 13:47-50)
- Being born again into the Kingdom (John 3:1-8)
- The coming of the Kingdom (Luke 17:20-37)
- The unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:23-35)
- Laborers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16).
- The two sons (Matthew 21:28-32)
- The tenants (Matthew 21:33-44)
- The wedding feast (Matthew 22:1-14)
- The 10 virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)

Stories of Angel Encounters

- Angel at the gates of Eden (Genesis 3:22-24)
- Hagar in the desert (Genesis 16:1-15)
- The sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22:9-19)
- Lot and the angels (Genesis 19)
- Jacob and the angel (Genesis 32:22-32)
- Balaam and the angel (Numbers 22:21-39)
- David and the angel (1 Chronicles 21:18-30)
- Daniel in the den of lions (Daniel 6:16-27)
- The Angel and Zacharias (Luke 1:5-25)
- The angel and Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)
- The angel Gabriel and Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
- The shepherds and the angels (Luke 2:8-21)
- The temptation of Jesus (Mark 1:2-15)
- The coming of the Son of Man (Mark 13:24-27)
- The final judgment (Matthew 25:31-40)
- The betrayal of Jesus (Matthew 26:47-56)
- Angel at the tomb (Matthew 26:47-56)
- An angel opens the doors of the prison (Acts 5:17-32)
- Philip and the angel (Acts 8:26-40)
- Angels in the book of Revelation (Revelation 1:1; 5:11; 7:11; 12:7, 9; 14:6, 7; 22:6, 8, 16)

Stories of Forgiveness

- Jacob and Esau (Genesis 32:1-21; 33:1-20)
- Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 50:15-22)
- Moses and the Israelites (Numbers 14:1-25)
- David and Saul (1 Samuel 26:1-25)
- The Israelites confess their sins (Nehemiah 9:1-5)
- God with King Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33)
- Hezekiah's confession and Isaiah (Isaiah 38:1-8, 21)
- Jeremiah buys a field (Jeremiah 32:1-16)
- The Lord and Nineveh (Jonah 4)
- Jesus forgives a woman (Luke 7:36-50)
- Jesus and the paralytic (Matthew 9:1-7)
- The calling of Matthew (Matthew 9:9-13)
- Jesus forgives Peter (Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-19)
- Jesus on the cross (Luke 23:26-35)
- Parable of the lost son and loving father (Luke 15:11-32)
- Parable of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:26-35)
- Paul and Ananias (Acts 9:11-19)
- God to Saul/Paul (1 Timothy 1:12-16).

Stories of Persecution

- Israel in Egypt (Exodus 2:1-12; 5 to 6:12)
- Elijah and Queen Jezebel (1 Kings 19:1-9)
- Jeremiah threatened with death (Jeremiah 26:1-12)*
- Jeremiah thrown in prison (Jeremiah 37:1-21).
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:1-30)*
- Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6:1-28)*
- Oppression rebuilding the temple (Ezra 4:1-24)
- Nehemiah rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 4-6)*
- Queen Esther and the Jewish People (Esther 3)*
- The apostles (Acts 5:12-42)*
- Stoning of Stephen (Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-59; 8:3)
- Saul/Paul after his conversion (Acts 9:19-40)
- Peter and James (Acts 12:1-19)*
- Paul is stoned (Acts 14:1-19)*
- Paul arrested in Jerusalem in the temple (Acts 21:27-36)
- Paul's story summarized (Galatians 1:11-24)*
- Heroes of the faith (Hebrews 11)*

Stories of the Sabbath

- Creation (Genesis 1:1 – 2:3)
- Manna (Exodus 16)
- Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15)
- Teaching about the Sabbath (Exodus 31:12-18)
- Sabbath regulations (Exodus 35:1-3)
- Rules for Sabbath (Leviticus 23:1-3)
- Man stoned for picking up sticks on Sabbath (Numbers 15:32-36)
- Psalm for the Sabbath (Psalm 92)
- Guidelines for guards in the temple on Sabbath (2 Kings 11:4-12; 2 Chronicles 23:3-11)
- The Sabbath is for everyone (Isaiah 56:1-8)
- Keeping the Sabbath holy (Jeremiah 17:19-27)
- Israel rebelled over the Sabbath (Ezekiel 20:10-26)
- Jerusalem's sins that brought punishment (Ezekiel 22:6-16, 26)
- Nehemiah and the Sabbath (Nehemiah 10:28-31; 13:15-22)
- Jesus taught in the synagogue (Luke 4:14-30)
- Jesus in the synagogue (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37)
- Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law (Mark 1:29-34; Luke 4:38, 39)
- Jesus and disciples in the field (Matthew 12:12-8; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-5)
- Jesus healed a man in the synagogue (Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11)
- Jesus healed a woman ill for 18 years (Luke 13:10-17)
- Jesus ate at a Pharisee's home and healed a man (Luke 14:1-6)
- Jesus healed the man at the pool (John 5:1-17)
- Jesus questioned the leaders about Sabbath (John 7:22-24)
- Jesus healed the man born blind (John 9:13-16)
- Jesus' burial on the preparation day (Mark 16:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:31-42)
- Paul preached in Perga on Sabbaths (Acts 13:14-44)
- Paul worshipped in Philippi (Acts 16:12-15)
- Paul worshipped in Athens (Acts 17:1-4)

Stories of Prayer

Gen. 20:1-3, 17-18
 Gen. 24:1-4, 12-21
 Gen. 25:20-26
 Num 11:1-3
 Judges 13:6-10
 1 Sam. 1:9-19
 1 Sam. 7:2-9
 1 Sam. 8:4-9
 1 Kings 13:1-6
 2 Kings 4:32-35
 2 Kings 6:15-17
 2 Kings 6:18
 2 Kings 19:14-19, 35-36
 2 Kings 20:1-11
 2 Chronicles 33:10-13
 Nehemiah 4:6-15
 Jeremiah 29:11-13
 Daniel 6:8-23
 Daniel 9:20-23
 Jonah 2:1-10
 Matt. 19:13
 Matt. 26:36-44
 Mark 1:35-39
 Luke 3:21-22
 Luke 5:16
 Luke 6:12-16
 Luke 9:28-36
 Luke 11:1-4
 Luke 11:5-12
 Luke 18:1-8
 Luke 18:9-14
 Luke 22:31-32
 Acts 1:21-26
 Acts 4:23-31
 Acts 6:1-7
 Acts 8:14-17
 Acts 9:11-16
 Acts 9:36-42
 Acts 10:1-7
 Acts 12:11-17
 Acts 13:1-3
 Acts 16:22-28
 Acts 20:32-21:6
 Acts 28:7-10

Abraham prayed for Abimelech
 Eleazer prayed for guidance
 Isaac prayed for Rebekah who was barren
 Moses prayed
 Manoah (Samson's father) prayed for wisdom to raise his son
 Hannah prayed for a child
 Samuel prayed for victory
 Samuel prayed for wisdom
 Man of God prayed for the King to be healed
 Elisha prayed for the dead boy
 Elisha prayed for her servant to see God's angels
 Elisha prayed for the enemy soldiers to be blind
 Hezekiah prayed for victory over the Assyrians
 Hezekiah prayed for healing and a miracle
 Manassah prayed for deliverance
 Nehemiah prayed for protection
 Pray and Seek with all your heart
 Daniel prayed three times a day
 Daniel prayed and Gabriel answered
 Jonah prayed from inside the fish
 Jesus prayed for little children
 Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane
 Jesus prayed in the early morning
 Jesus prayed at his baptism
 Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray
 Jesus prayed all night before calling his disciples
 Jesus prayed on the mount of transfiguration
 Jesus prayed and the disciples asked him to teach them
 Parable of the Insistent Friend
 Parable of the Persistent widow
 Publican and the Pharisee prayers
 Jesus' prayer for Simon Peter
 Disciples prayed for guidance
 Prayer for power after Peter and John released
 They prayed when commissioning deacons
 Peter and John prayed for the Holy Spirit
 Saul was praying after he met Jesus
 Peter prayed for Dorcas
 Cornelius prayed and God answered.
 The church prayed for Peter's release
 The church prayed and sent Paul and Barnabas out
 Paul and Silas prayed and sang in prison
 Paul prayed with believers in Ephesus and Tyre
 Paul prayed for healing

Teaching about Prayer

Matt 5:43-48
 Matt. 6:5-13
 Mark 11:22-26
 Luke 10:1-3
 Luke 21:34-36
 John 17:9
 Rom. 8:26-27

Admonition to pray for enemies
 Admonition and Lord's Prayer
 Pray with faith
 Jesus said to pray for more workers
 Pray to be able to stand
 Jesus' prayer for his disciples
 The Spirit helps us pray

Eph. 6:18	Pray at all times
Col. 1:3, 9	Paul prayed for the believers all the time
Col. 4:2-6	Asking for prayer for himself
1 Thess. 3:9-10	Pray night and day
1 Thess. 5:17	Pray continually
2 Thess. 1:11-12	Pray for God to be glorified in their lives
2 Thess. 3:1	Pray for us as we spread the message
1 Tim. 2:8	All men should pray without anger
Hebrews 13:18	Request for prayer
James 5:13-17	Pray in all occasions
3 John 2	Pray for good health

Stories of Sacrifice

Gen. 4:1-13	Cain and Abel
Gen. 8:20-22	Noah's sacrifice
Gen. 22	Abraham and Isaac and the ram
Ex. 12:1-32	Passover sacrifice
Leviticus 1	Sacrificial Service
John 1:19-24	Jesus, the Lamb of God
Mark 15:33-41, John 19:28-37	Jesus' Sacrifice

Stories of People who Made Decisions About Following God

Joshua 23:14-21	Joshua and the People of Israel
Ruth 1:1-19	Ruth chooses Naomi and her God
Luke 14:15-24	The People Called to the Great Banquet
Mark 10:17-31	The Rich Young Ruler
Luke 15:11-24	The Prodigal Son
Luke 7:36-50	The Sinful Woman
Acts 8:26-38	The Ethiopian Eunuch
Acts 16:22-34	The Philippian Jailor

Non-Story Passages for Bible Study

• Psalm 1	The Way of the Righteous
• Psalm 3	Prayer for Protection
• Psalm 8	The majesty of God in nature
• Psalm 23	The Shepherd's Psalm
• Psalm 24	Praise to the King of Glory
• Psalm 27	The Lord is my Light and Salvation
• Psalm 32	Prayer of Repentance and Confession
• Psalm 34:1-10	Taste and See that the Lord is Good
• Psalm 46	God is our Fortress and Help in Trouble
• Psalm 51:1-12	Prayer of Confession for Forgiveness
• Psalm 56	In God I Trust
• Psalm 67	Make God's name known to all people on earth
• Psalm 70	Prayer for help! (Lord, do not delay to deliver me!)
• Psalm 86:1-13	Great is God's Love
• Psalm 91:1-16	God is a refuge and fortress (God, the protector)
• Psalm 95:1-7	Let us sing songs of praise to God
• Psalm 103:1-22	Bless the Lord, O My Soul
• Psalm 121:1-8	My Help Comes from the Lord
• Psalm 127:1-5	The Lord Builds the House
• Psalm 130:1-8	My Soul Waits for the Lord
• Psalm 139:1-16	Search Me, and Know Me
• Psalm 146:1-10	Trust in God! Praise God!
• Psalm 147:1-11	God Heals the Brokenhearted
• Psalm 148:1-14	Praise the Name of the Lord!
• Psalm 150:1-6	Let Everything Praise the Lord
• Isaiah 11:6-9	Description of the New Earth
• Isaiah 43:1-3	I will be with you through fire and water
• Isaiah 49:13-16	I cannot forget you
• Isaiah 53:3-9	The Suffering Servant (Prophecy of Jesus)
• Isaiah 55:6-11	Seek the Lord
• Isaiah 58:6-11	True Fasting
• 1 Cor. 13:1-13	The Love Chapter
• Galatians 5:19-25	Works of the Flesh, Fruits of the Spirit
• Ephesians 3:14-21	Prayer for Spiritual Strength
• Ephesians 6:10-18	The Armor of God
• Philippians 2:3-11	Christ's Example of Humility
• Philippians 4:4-9	Rejoice in the Lord Always
• 1 Timothy 2:1-7	Our Calling
• 1 John 4:7-12	God is Love
• Revelation 7:9-17	Saints gathered around the throne

Appendix D: Stories for Muslim²

The stories below focus on familiar issues for Muslims. Some have been especially chosen to appeal to women. You can summarize some of them, staying true to the details recorded in the Bible. Focus on the main points of the story, especially what it teaches about *the nature and character of God, the sinfulness of people, and the nature of Jesus*. Here are the main topics covered with these stories:

- God promised a Savior, Sacrifice.
- God keeps his promises
- God provides for his people.
- God is just and merciful.
- God doesn't tolerate sin.
- God is all-powerful and all-knowing.
- God seeks a relationship with men and women, even though they have sinful natures and are imperfect.
- God especially cares for women.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Gen. 1:1-2:3 | Creation— <i>God made everything perfect and good.</i> |
| 2. Isa. 14:12-14, Eze. 28:11-19 | Origin of sin and rebellion. <i>Satan is the origin of evil</i> |
| 3. Gen. 3 | Adam and Eve's rebellion and results. <i>God provided a sacrifice to cover their shame.</i> |
| 4. Gen. 4 | Cain and Abel— <i>God knows everything. There are consequences for disobedience</i> |
| 5. Gen. 6:5-14; 7:1-5, 17, 19, 23; 8:1-3, 15-21 | Noah and the flood. <i>God doesn't tolerate sin. He saves</i> |
| 6. Gen. 11 | Tower of Babel. <i>There are consequences for defying God</i> |
| 7. Gen. 12:1-5; 17:9-11 | Call of Abraham. <i>God honored imperfect faith</i> |
| 8. Gen. 16:1-15 | Hagar and the birth of Ishmael. <i>God sees and hears</i> |
| 9. Gen. 21:1-4, 8-21 | Birth Isaac and Departure of Ishmael <i>God gave promises to Ishmael</i> |
| 10. Gen. 22:1-18; Job 1:1-5 | Isaac and Abraham. <i>The importance of substitute sacrifice</i> |
| 11. Gen. 24:1-21 | God answers Eleazer's prayer. <i>God answers prayer</i> |
| 12. Gen. 27 | Summary stories of Isaac, Jacob and Esau. <i>God cares for people even when they sin</i> |
| 13. Gen. 37, 39 | Joseph's Story. <i>God is present even in troubles</i> |
| 14. Gen. 41 | Joseph's Story. <i>God blesses the faithful</i> |
| 15. Gen. 45 | Joseph's forgave his brothers. <i>God reconciles, forgives</i> |
| 16. Ex. 2-3 | Birth and call of Moses. <i>God never forgets his people</i> |
| 17. Ex. 12:21-30 | God delivers from Egypt. <i>God provides the right sacrifice. (Passover)</i> |
| 18. Ex. 14 | God directs the people through Red Sea. <i>God delivers and guides</i> |
| 19. Ex. 16, 17 | God provides food and water in the desert. <i>God provides</i> |
| 20. Ex. 20 | God gives the 10 Commandments at Mount Sinai. <i>God gives laws and teachings</i> |
| 21. Num. 13-14 | The people rebel and then wander for 40 years. <i>There are consequences for disobeying</i> |
| 22. Josh. 1, 2 | The entrance into Canaan and the story of Rahab. <i>Men and women can make choices.</i> |
| 23. Ruth | Naomi and Ruth. <i>They had the power to make choices. God provided for them</i> |
| 24. 1 Sam. 1,2 | Hannah and Samuel. <i>God hears and answers prayer</i> |
| 25. 1 Sam. 28 | Saul and the Witch of Endor. <i>Power of evil spirits (jinn?)</i> |
| 26. 1 Sam. 17, 2 Chron. 21 | David's life of Faithfulness to God. <i>God blesses the Faithful</i> |

² Adapted from Fran Love, Jeleta Eckheart. *Longing to Call Them Sisters*. Pasadena, CA. William Carey Publishers
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27. 2 Sam. 11, 12	David and Bathsheba. <i>Sin has consequences even when we repent</i>
28. 1 Kings 17:1-6	Elijah. <i>God provides</i>
29. 1 Kings 17:7-24, 2 Kings 4:1-7	Elijah and Elisha. <i>God cares for Widows and Orphans</i>
30. 2 Kings 4:1-7, 8-36, 42-44	Elisha (multiple stories). <i>God's power and faithfulness.</i>
31. 2 Kings 5:1-14	Naaman was healed. <i>God heals and blesses</i>
32. Isa. 7:14; 49:6; 52:13-53:12; 61:1	Prophecies of the Messiah <i>God knows the future</i>
33. Luke 1:26-38, Matt. 1:18-24	Angels Announce Jesus' Birth. <i>Jesus' birth is supernatural</i>
34. Luke 2:1-20, Matt. 2	Birth of Jesus, Visit of the Magi. <i>God provides and protects</i>
35. Matt. 3, 4	The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus. <i>Jesus obeyed God</i>
36. John 2:1-11	Wedding at Cana. <i>Jesus helped his mother</i>
37. Mark 4:35-41, 6:30-52	Calming the Storm, Feeding 5,000, Walking on Water. <i>Jesus has power over nature</i>
38. Mark 5:1-20; 9:17-29	Jesus frees demonized people. <i>God has power over evil spirits</i>
39. Mark 5:21-43; John 4:46-53	Jesus heals disease. <i>Jesus has powerful over disease and death</i>
40. Mark 2:1-12, John 8:1-11	Jesus forgives the paralytic and the woman. <i>Jesus forgives sins</i>
41. Mark 12:28-34, 41-44; Mark 1:40-44	Jesus and the widow, poor and lepers. <i>Jesus defends the weak.</i>
42. John 4	Jesus talks to the Samaritan Woman <i>Jesus cares for outcasts</i>
43. John 11:11-15, 17, 20-26, 38-44	Jesus' raises Lazarus. <i>Jesus has power over death</i>
44. Mark 7:14-23; Matt. 5:43-46	Jesus' teachings. <i>Jesus teaches truth</i>
45. Luke 10:25-27	The Good Samaritan. <i>Jesus taught about loving neighbors</i>
46. Luke 15:1-7, 8-10, 11-24	The "lost" parables. <i>Jesus cares for the lost</i>
47. Luke 11:1; Matt. 6:5-15	The Lord's Prayer. <i>Jesus taught how to pray</i>
48. Matt. 18:21-35	The Unmerciful Servant. <i>Jesus taught mercy and forgiveness</i>
49. Mark 11:1-21; 14:12-26	Jesus' Triumphal Entry, Ministry in the Temple and Last Supper. <i>Jesus was a willing sacrifice.</i>
50. Mark 14:32-16:20	Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus. <i>Jesus was a sacrifice.</i>
51. Luke 24:13-35; Acts 1:3, 8-11	Ascension of Jesus. <i>Jesus returned to heaven.</i>

Worldview Issues in Popular/Folk Islam

Worldview Issue	Christian teaching or Stories
1. Fear of the Unknown	Christ is keeper and guide
2. Fear of Evil Spirits	God's power over spirits (See Stories on p. 29)
3. Powerlessness before the power of a shaman	Protection in Christ
4. Fear of the future	Hagar and the God Who Sees and Hears (Gen. 16:1-15)
5. Shame of not belonging to the "in group"	Acceptance in fellowship of believers
6. Disequilibrium	Stories of answered Prayer (See p. 35-36)
7. Sickness	Stories of Healing (See p. 30)
8. Helplessness in crisis	God sustains and delivers (See Stories with* on pp. 33-34)
9. Meaningless of life	God created us for a purpose, gifts (Ecclesiastes)
10. Vulnerability of women	God loves Women (See Stories on p. 31, 32)

APPENDIX E: ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR NURTURE AND TRAINING

1. Growing in Christ—ongoing character development
 - Continuing to practice the disciplines of a growing Christian (Section 4)
 - Continuing to study Old Testament Bible stories that reveal God’s character and His ongoing interaction with Israel, using Question and Answer methods (Section 3)
 - Continuing to study New Testament stories that reveal God to us in Jesus and the early Church (Section 3)
 - Regularly reading or listening to Scripture, using Question and Answer methods while learning to let Scripture and the Holy Spirit speak and guide
2. Building healthy families
 - NEWSTART/lifestyle
 - Building a happy marriage
 - Successful parenting
 - Family finance
3. Leadership training
 - Conflict management
 - Leading a group
 - Developing a prayer ministry
 - Reaching out to non-Christians
4. Additional studies will depend on the unique needs and challenges of each group/culture/former religion. For instance, studies dealing with the reality of evil spirits and the supernatural; payback, revenge and vengeance; karma, etc. These can be the foundation for the weekly worship/study time or for home Bible studies.
5. The goal at this stage is spiritual maturity that enables believers to be more independent as their leader moves on to pioneer work in a new place.

Mission Vision-Casting Stories and Texts for DBS and Discussion

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Gen. 12:1-3 | Call of Abraham |
| 2. Ex. 3:1-8a | Call of Moses |
| 3. Jonah 3 | Mission of Jonah, Part 1 |
| 4. Jonah 4 | Mission of Jonah, Part 2 |
| 5. Isaiah 43:10; 44:8 | You are my witnesses! |
| 6. Jeremiah 1:4-10 | Call and Mission of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:4-10) |
| 7. Luke 15:1-10 | Parables of the Lost sheep and lost coin |
| 8. Matthew 4:18-22 | Jesus calls to be “fishers of men.” |
| 9. Matt. 24:14; 28:16-20 | Jesus’ Command to GO |
| 10. Matt. 9:35-10:1, 10:5-10 | Jesus sends out the disciples |
| 11. Matt. 9:9-13 | Calling Matthew |
| 12. Matt. 5:13-16 | You are Salt and Light |
| 13. Luke 10:25-37 | The Good Samaritan |
| 14. John 4:4-14 | Jesus and the Samaritan Woman Part 1 |
| 15. John 4:15-30, 39-42 | Jesus and the Samaritan Woman Part 2 |
| 16. Mark 5:1-20 | Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man |
| 17. Matthew 25:31-46 | Called to Service |
| 18. Acts 1:1-8 | Jesus last commission to his followers |
| 19. Acts 8:26-40 | Philip and the Ethiopian |
| 20. Acts 9:15 | Call of Paul |
| 21. Romans 10:8-17 | Necessity of Sharing/Preaching the Gospel |
| 22. 1 Timothy 2:1-7 | Pray for all people |
| 23. Rev. 14:6, 7, 12 | The First Angel’s Message |

APPENDIX F: CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS BRIDGES

Cultural and Religious “Roadblocks” (Things to avoid) and “Bridges” (Ways to Connect). Here are just a few introductory thoughts to get you started. Excellent information on each of the world religions is available at this website: www.globalmissioncenters.org.

From Islam:

- Roadblocks: Trinity, Divinity of Jesus, Previous misunderstandings about the Bible, Fear of losing their identity as Muslims (Submitted Ones); the words “Christian” and “Crusade” and “Conversion” are problematic because of historical events and should be avoided.
- Bridges: Many passages in the Qu’ran attest to Jesus and affirm the Bible; Many Old Testament stories of men and women are also in the Qu’ran; Their belief that Jesus (Isa) was a prophet and is mentioned frequently in the Qu’ran; using Muslim-sensitive language (names of the prophets, religious words, etc.).

From Hinduism:

- Roadblocks: Rituals and Fear of gods and spirits, fear of losing their identity as Hindus (culturally). The word “conversion” is problematic.
- Bridges: The power of prayer and affirmation of all that is good in the Hindu culture; Bible stories of God’s power to heal and deliver; Bible stories that show God’s power over the forces of nature

From Buddhism:

- Roadblocks: No belief in the supernatural (except in Folk Buddhism)
- Bridges: The power of prayer and miracles; Health; The messages of “peace” in the teachings of Jesus—the Sabbath, the Sermon on the Mount

From Animism:

- Roadblocks: Fear of spirits and evil forces
- Bridges: Prayer and God’s power over evil forces to deliver from fear

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From the *Working Policy of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists*:

“To avoid creating misunderstanding or friction in our relationships with other Christian churches and religious organizations, the following guidelines have been set forth: We recognize those agencies that lift up Christ before men as a part of the divine plan for evangelization of the world, and we hold in high esteem Christian men and women in other communions who are engaged in winning souls to Christ.” (GC Working Policy 1995-96, Section O 75)