

Topic: John's Birth

Lesson 1

Scriptures: Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

Time Period: LIFE OF CHRIST

Concept: The promised Messiah, Seed, and King has been born! He will live and work as a man, preach the word, die on a cross and be raised from the dead for our sins.

After 400 years of silence, King Herod was King of Judea and there was a priest named Zechariah. His wife's name was Elizabeth. Elizabeth and Zechariah both loved the Lord and obeyed all His laws. But they had no children and were getting old... too old to have children.

One day when Zechariah was at work in the temple an angel, Gabriel, appeared to him. The angel scared Zechariah and he was afraid. Gabriel said, "Do not be afraid, God has sent me to give you good news. You and your wife are going to have a son, and you shall name him John. He will be great and do great work for the Lord God."

Zechariah was not really sure about what the angel Gabriel had just told him. He and Elizabeth had no children and were both very old. He questioned Gabriel, "How do I know that what you are saying is really true?" Gabriel told him he was sent from God. He also told Zechariah that since he did not believe him he would not be able to speak until the day these things happen.

It came to pass that Elizabeth did have a child, a son. Everyone was so happy for Zechariah and Elizabeth, they finally had a son. They all asked, "Are you going to name him Zechariah, like his father?" Elizabeth said, "No, we will name him John." They all thought that was strange because usually little boys were named after their father. They all said to Zechariah, "There is no one in your family named John, what do you want to name your son?" Remember, Zechariah could not speak because he didn't believe the angel Gabriel. So he motioned for

some paper and something to write with. He wrote on a piece of paper "His name shall be John!". Immediately God opened his mouth and he was able to speak. The first thing Zechariah did was thank God for the wonderful gift.

Jesus Connection: Like all the prophets in the Old Testament, John was used by God for a special purpose. God sent John to tell the people about the coming Savior. John's job was to remind the people of what God had said in the past and to prepare the hearts of the people to meet Jesus in the future.

Big Picture Question: What was John going to do?

Big Picture Answer: Prepare the way for Jesus and tell the people Jesus was coming.

His Name Shall Be John
(Tune: Zacchaeus)

Zacharias was a man of God
And a man of God was he.
He saw an angel of the Lord
Who gave him very good news.
And he said "You will have a son,
And his name shall be John,
His name shall be John."

Zacharias wasn't sure.
He didn't believe the angel,
The angel said, "I come from God,
So now you will not speak."
Elizabeth said, "I'm going to have a baby."
But Zacharias could not speak
Zacharias could not speak.

The child was born and everyone said,
"What is his name,
Did you name him like his dad?
Is Zacharias his name?"
And she said, "His name shall be John."
But everyone was confused,
Everyone was confused.

The people asked Zacharias,
"What is his name?"
He could not speak so he wrote
John is his name!
And his mouth was opened, so he said
"Thank you God for my son."

Topic: An Angel Visits Mary

Lesson 2

Scriptures: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

The Angel Gabriel that told Zechariah about baby John was sent by God to a woman named Mary as well. Mary was a young woman who was engaged to be married to Joseph, but they had not yet married. Gabriel came to Mary and said, "Blessed are you, for God is with you." The angel Gabriel frightened Mary, but he told her to not be afraid. Gabriel told Mary that God had chose her to carry out His special plan.

Gabriel told Mary, "You will have a Son, He will be named Jesus. He will be great, and He will be the Son of God, He will save the people." Mary was confused, "How can I have a child when I am not married?" she asked Gabriel. Gabriel told her that God could do anything, "With God all things are possible." he said. Then Mary said she was happy that God chose her to be the mother of His Son.

Joseph her husband to be was not so happy. It would be awful for Mary to be pregnant. They were not married. He thought he should hide Mary so people could not see her.

Then an angel also appeared to Joseph in a dream. He told Joseph not to hide Mary, but to marry her. The angel said that this baby would be special. He would be the Son of God, and He would save His people from their sins. When Joseph awoke from his dream he did exactly what the angel had told him. He went and married Mary and did not put her away or hide her. Joseph was happy be a part of God's special plan too.

Jesus Connection: All the way back in Genesis God said he would send his son. One of the promises to the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob) was that God would send a "seed" who would be a blessing and redeem his people. Jesus fulfills the prophecies of the coming Savior.

Through His life, death and resurrection, Jesus fulfilled God's plan of redemption that God planned from the beginning of the world.

Big Picture Question: What part did Mary and Joseph have in God's plan?

Big Picture Answer: God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' parents on earth.

Topic: Christ's Birth
Scriptures: Luke 2:1-20

Lesson 3

Baby Jesus had not yet been born to Mary. Mary and Joseph, her husband, had to take a trip to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem the city was very full of people. They could not find any place to spend the night. Mary's baby was due any time and they needed to find a place for her to rest.

Mary and Joseph found a stable, a barn, to sleep in. While they were in the barn it came time for Mary's baby to be born. God's Son, Jesus, was born in the stable with all the animals. Mary wrapped her baby in a blanket and laid him in a manger. A manger is what the animals eat out of.

An angel of God then appeared to some shepherds in a field who were watching after their sheep. They saw the angel, and were afraid. The angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring good news. There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." The angel was telling them that the person that they had been waiting for and heard about all their lives was finally here, He was going to save the world from their sins. The angel told the shepherds they could find baby Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem.

The angel left, and the shepherds couldn't wait to find baby Jesus. They got to Bethlehem as fast as they could and found Him in the stable with his mother Mary and His father Joseph. When they saw him they told everyone about how the angel had come to him and what the angel had said about this baby. Everyone was so excited about baby Jesus. Mary was so proud of her new baby and she remembered all the great things that had been said about him.

Jesus Connection: The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was God's son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins and to be their king.

Big Picture Question: Why was Jesus born?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus came to save people from their sins.

Jesus was Born in Bethlehem
(Tune: This is the Way)

Jesus was born In Bethlehem,
Bethlehem, Bethlehem,
Jesus was born in Bethlehem
To Mary and Joseph.

There was no room in the Inn,
in the Inn, in the Inn
There was no room in the Inn,
He was born in a stable.

Mary wrapped Him up so tight,
up so tight, up so tight,
Mary wrapped Him up so tight,
And laid Him in the manger.

Angels sang, "The Savior's born,
Savior's born, Savior's born"
Angels sang, "The Savior's born"
To the shepherds.

All the people were so glad,
were so glad, were so glad,
All the people were so glad
To see God's only Son.

Topic: Flight to Egypt
Scriptures: Matthew 2:1-23

Lesson 4

When Jesus was about two years old, wise men from the east had come looking for Jesus so they could worship Him. They had been following a star that had appeared when Jesus was born, knowing it would lead them to Him. They arrived in Jerusalem and were asking people if they knew where they could find the child Jesus. The King, Herod, was troubled that they were looking for Jesus so they could worship Him.... Herod thought he was the only king, not Jesus.

Herod called all his priests and scribes together and asked them where this child could be found. They told him that the prophets had said he would be born in Bethlehem, and He would become a ruler over God's people. This made Herod even more angry. He secretly called the wise men to him and asked how long ago they had seen this star they were following. Then he sent them on to Bethlehem, saying "Go and search for the child. When you find Him, tell me so that I can go and worship Him too." But Herod was lying, he didn't want to worship the new King - he wanted to kill him!

So the wise men went on their way and followed the star until it led them right to the house where Jesus was. They were so happy to see Jesus, they fell down and worshipped Him. They gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. When it was time for the wise men to go, God warned them in a dream not to tell Herod where Jesus was.

God also sent an angel to Joseph, Jesus' father, in a dream. He told Joseph, "Go and take Jesus and His mother and go to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you it is safe; King Herod is searching for the child to kill him." Joseph took Jesus and Mary and they left for Egypt that very night.

When Herod realized that the wise men were not coming back, or sending him word of where Jesus was, he became very angry! King Herod was worried that people were worshiping Jesus, he was the king and did not want anyone to take that from him. Herod made an evil plan to kill all of the little boys in Bethlehem, two and under, so he could get rid of this child that would grow up to be a king. But, Joseph had already taken Mary and Jesus and left for Egypt. God was keeping his son safe!

Years later King Herod died. God finally sent word to Joseph that he and his family could leave Egypt. Joseph, Mary and Jesus went to live in a town called Nazareth. God protected and took care of His Son, Jesus. He will take care and protect us too if we obey Him.

Jesus Connection: The wise men came to worship Jesus as King. Jesus is the King who will rule forever, as God promised to King David in 2 Samuel 7. Jesus is the true king worthy of our worship.

Big Picture Question: Why did the wise men visit Jesus?

Big Picture Answer: The wise men came to worship Jesus as King.

Topic: Jesus in the Temple
Scriptures: Luke 2:41-52

Lesson 5

Every year in Jerusalem there was a feast called the Passover Feast. All the people went to Jerusalem to worship God and remember how He had saved them from Pharaoh in Egypt. When Jesus was twelve years old He was old enough to go with Joseph and Mary. They went to Jerusalem in a big group of people. When the feast was over Joseph, Mary, and their friends started back home.

Joseph and Mary thought Jesus was with them in their group, but He was not. It was a day before they realized Jesus was not with them. They immediately started back to Jerusalem to find Jesus. They looked for three days and then finally found Him in the temple. Joseph and Mary were so happy to finally find Jesus, and they thanked God that He was safe.

When they found Jesus, He was with the teachers, both asking and answering questions. They were all amazed at how much Jesus knew. Mary asked Jesus, "How could you stay here? Your father and I have been looking for you everywhere. We were very worried." Jesus said to her, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know I was doing my Father's business." His father was God, but Joseph and Mary did not understand what He meant.

Joseph and Mary took Jesus home with them to Nazareth. Jesus obeyed His mother and father. He continued to grow in wisdom, and found favor with God and men.

Jesus Connection: Jesus went to the temple to worship because He knew His purpose on earth. He came to be about God's business - teaching, suffering, dying for our sins, and rising again. As God's Son, Jesus died on the cross and was raised to save us from our sins.

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus go to the temple?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus went to the temple to be in His Father's House.

Topic: John's Ministry, Jesus Baptized Lesson 6

Scriptures: Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:2-11; Luke 3:1-23; John 1:19-28

The child John, born to Zechariah and Elizabeth, grew to be a man. He lived in the wilderness and ate locusts and honey. His clothes were made of camel's hair and he wore a leather belt around his waist. John preached to all the people in Judea. He told them they needed to follow God and obey His Word. John told the people they needed to repent and do good. John told them they needed to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins.

Some of the people who were listening to John preach wanted to cause trouble. They asked John, "Who do you think you are to preach to us? Are you the Christ, or a prophet?" John rebuked them and asked them why they were there. John knew they just wanted to cause trouble. He knew they didn't want to obey God or His Words.

Many of the people who came to hear John did want to obey God. John baptized them in the Jordan River, and they confessed their sins. John told the people that one would come after him who was mightier than he was. John told them that he was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. He told the people that Jesus was coming, and He would save them if they would obey Him.

John had been very busy baptizing people, getting them ready for Jesus' coming. One day when John was baptizing people in the Jordan River, Jesus came to him. Jesus asked John to baptize Him. John tried to stop Him and said, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" Jesus answered, "Please do it now, it is right for Me to do this." So John baptized Jesus.

Immediately as Jesus came up from the water, the heavens were opened. Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down on Him, like a dove. Suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, In

whom I am well pleased. God was proud of His Son for doing what was right. God is proud of us when we obey Him too. We should always try our very best to do things that please God.

Jesus Connection: Jesus' baptism shows us that Jesus completely obeys God. His baptism is a sign that He would obey God and take on the punishment for the sins of the world. His baptism points to His death on the cross. He is the only one who can save us.

Big Picture Question: Why was Jesus baptized?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus was baptized to show the people He was willing to obey God.

Topic: Jesus is Tempted

Lesson 7

Scriptures: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

After Jesus had been baptized, He went out into the wilderness where He would be alone. The devil wanted to try to hurt Jesus, so he went to the wilderness to tempt Jesus. He wanted Jesus to do something that would not please God.

Jesus had been fasting for forty days and nights. He had not had any food to eat, and He was hungry. The devil thought since Jesus was hungry that he might be able to get Him to do something wrong. He said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, make these stones become bread. Jesus was smarter than the devil. He said to him, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Jesus knew it was important for Him to do only the things God said.

The devil really wanted to try and hurt Jesus. He took him to Jerusalem and set Him at the highest point of the temple. He said, "If you are the Son of God, jump. God will send His angels to save you so You won't get hurt." Jesus knew the devil was trying to trick Him. He told the devil "It is written: Do not test the Lord your God." Jesus would only obey God.

The devil thought he would try once more to tempt Jesus. This time he took Jesus up on a high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and how beautiful they were. The devil said to Jesus, "All these things I will give to You if You will fall down and worship me." Jesus was angry and said to him, "Go away, Satan! You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve."

The devil decided that Jesus would never obey him. Jesus loved God, and would only do things that God had asked Him. The devil left Jesus alone. God sent His angels to come and take care of Jesus.

Jesus Connection: Jesus responded to the devil's tempting with Scripture and faith. Although Jesus was tempted, He never sinned. Jesus was perfect and righteous. Jesus was that perfect sacrifice for us when He died on the cross.

Big Picture Question: How did Jesus deal with temptation?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus used the words of God to beat temptation and the devil.

Topic: Water to Wine
Scriptures: John 2:1-12

Lesson 8

Jesus and His mother, Mary, went to a wedding in Cana. At the wedding there was a big feast with lots of food and wine. There were lots of people at this wedding, and they had drunk all the wine. Mary knew her son was special, so she went to Jesus and told Him that they were out of wine. Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do about it?"

There were six huge water pots at the feast. Jesus told the servants to fill the pots with water. The servants did just as Jesus said. Then Jesus told them to take some out of the pot and take it to the man who was in charge of the feast.

He took a drink and said the wine was very good. He asked them why they saved the best wine for last, usually people put out the best wine first. The man in charge of the feast did not know that Jesus turned the water to wine, but the servants knew. What Jesus did was called a miracle. Jesus performed miracles to show people His power, that He was truly the Son of God. Turning the water into wine was Jesus' first miracle.

Jesus Connection: Jesus performed miracles to show his power and to show that He was the Son of God.

Big Picture Question: How did Jesus turn the water to wine?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus performed the water to wine miracle to show his power over nature. No one else could do this on earth.

Topic: Jesus Cleanses the Temple
Scriptures: John 2:13-25

Lesson 9

Do you remember how God had saved the Israelites from the death plague while they were slaves under Pharaoh in Egypt? Remember how God's children put blood on their doorposts, when God saw the blood he passed over their house leaving them safe and alive. The Israelites celebrated this event, it was called the Passover.

Jesus was in Jerusalem celebrating the Passover too. He went into the temple, the place where they worshipped God, and saw something that made Him very angry. People were in the temple buying and selling things like sheep, goats and doves. Is this something that should be done in God's house? Of course not! God's house is meant to be a place where we worship God... not go shopping!

Jesus was so angry that He made a whip with cords and he chased all those who were buying and selling out of the temple. He turned over the tables of the money changers and scattered the money all over the temple. Jesus told them to get out of His father's house, it was a place to worship not to do business.

Jesus Connection: Jesus also celebrated Passover, and when people weren't using the temple properly he wanted others to see that the temple was only a place for worship.

Big Picture Question: What was the temple supposed to be used for?

Big Picture Answer: The temple is a place to worship God.

Topic: Boy in Capernaum Healed
Scriptures: John 4:46-54

Lesson 10

People came in large crowds to listen to Jesus. They had never heard anyone else teach as He did. They saw the great miracles Jesus did and how He healed the sick. People just wanted to be around Him. They would follow Jesus everywhere He went, especially people who were sick or knew someone who was sick. They came to Jesus to ask Him to make them well.

A man who was one of the king's officers had heard Jesus was in Cana (where Jesus had performed his first miracle, turning water into wine), he had a sick son and he desperately wanted to see Jesus. He did not live in Cana, but Capernaum, so he had to travel about a day to see Jesus. The man didn't mind, he just wanted his son to be well. He had faith that Jesus could heal him. When he found Jesus he begged Him to heal his son who was about to die.

Jesus said, "Unless I show you people miracles, you do not believe in me!" This man did believe in Jesus' power to save. He begged Him again to come and heal his son. Jesus told him to go home, that his son lives. He believed what Jesus told him, and so he headed home to see his son.

The next day when he arrived home his servants ran out to meet him. They were so excited and saying, "Your son lives, your son lives!" The man asked, "When did he get better, when did his fever go away?" They answered, "Yesterday at the seventh hour." The father knew it was at the exact time that Jesus had told him, "Your son lives." Because of this, the man and his whole house believed in Jesus and His great power.

Jesus Connection: The official wanted Jesus to deliver his son from death. It took faith for the official to believe Jesus' words - that his

son was healed. In healing the official's son, Jesus showed His authority and power as God's son - the promised Messiah.

Big Picture Question: What did the official want Jesus to do?

Big Picture Answer: The official wanted Jesus to heal his son.

Topic: Great Catch of Fish

Lesson 11

Scriptures: Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

Jesus was very busy performing miracles and teaching about God. People had begun to follow Him everywhere He went. Jesus had been with a group of people in Galilee preaching to them and healing the sick. He tried to leave them to preach in other places, but they did not want Him to leave. They followed Him to the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus saw two boats beside the lake, the fisherman had left the boats and were washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats that belonged to Simon Peter and his brother Andrew. He asked that they push Him out into the water, away from the land. Jesus sat down in the boat and began preaching to the people once again.

When Jesus stopped speaking, He said to Simon Peter and Andrew "Launch your boat out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch of fish." Simon Peter said to Him, "Master, we have fished all night, and we caught nothing! But as you ask, I will do." Simon Peter and Andrew let their nets down into the water as Jesus had commanded. Their net began to fill with fish, so many fish that the net began to break. They called for their partners in the other boat, James and John, to help them. They came and filled both boats with fish, so many fish that the boats began to sink.

When Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John saw this great miracle they were amazed at what Jesus had done. Jesus told them "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men". And the men brought their boats back to land and left all they had and began to follow Jesus.

Jesus Connection: Jesus called disciples to follow Him so they could go out and teach to the entire world. Jesus came to save people from their sins!

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus want His disciples to do after he showed them the great catch of fish?

Big Picture Answer: He wanted the disciples to leave everything and follow Him.

Topic: Jesus Heals the Paralytic (Roof)

Lesson 12

Scriptures: Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26

Jesus went to many cities preaching about God and performing miracles. One day Jesus was visiting and teaching in a city called Capernaum. There was a man who lived in Capernaum, and he was paralyzed. He couldn't use his legs. This man could not walk, run, or jump as you and I can. But he did have four friends who cared about him very much. They had heard about Jesus and the miracles he had done. They knew Jesus was in Capernaum, and that He could heal their sick friend. They went and got their friend, and put him on a bed to carry him to the house where Jesus was.

When the men got there, a huge crowd was gathered listening to Jesus teach. The house was so full that people were standing in the doorways and even out in the street. All the people had heard so much about Jesus and his miracles that everyone wanted to see him. Oh no, what were the friends going to do? With the house so full they would never get their friend close to Jesus.

So the men took their friend up to the roof. They cut a hole in the roof of the house, tied ropes to the corners of his bed, and carefully lowered him down into the house - right in front of Jesus! Jesus could see the faith of the paralyzed man and his friends. He knew how much they believed in His power. He looked at the paralyzed man and said, "Your sins are forgiven you." Then Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Stand up, pick up your bed, and go home." The man immediately stood up, took his bed, and walked away.

Some of the people at the house did not like Jesus. They did not believe in Jesus' power and said only God could perform such miracles. They did not believe Jesus when He said He was God's Son. But there were also lots of people who believed Jesus was the Son of God and

they followed Him. They were so amazed at what Jesus had done for this man and they praised God.

Jesus is so powerful! The sick man had faith - he knew Jesus had the power to heal him and make him walk again. Because of that belief Jesus forgave his sins and healed his legs. If we believe in Jesus He can heal us too. Jesus can heal us from the sickness of sin. He will help us to serve God as we should.

Jesus Connection: The paralyzed man had a great need - to be healed. Jesus knew this and did something even greater; Jesus forgave his sins and then he healed the man. Because Jesus is God's son, He has the power to forgive and to heal. Jesus offers forgiveness to those who know and love Him.

Big Picture Question: What did the paralyzed man need?

Big Picture Answer: The paralyzed man needed to be healed AND forgiven.

Topic: Jesus Heals at the Bethesda Pool
Scriptures: John 5:1-47

Lesson 13

In Jerusalem there was a pool called Bethesda. This is where the sick, blind, paralyzed, and lame went and waited for the water to move. An angel would come down and stir up the water in the pool. The first person in the water after the stirring of the water, was made well. There was a man who sat at the pool who had been sick for thirty-eight years. Jesus saw him sitting at the pool and asked him "Do you want to be made well?" The man answered, "Yes, but I have no one to help me into the water. Every time I try to get into the water another steps in front of me. Jesus said to him "Arise, take up your bed, and walk." Immediately the man was made well, he took up his bed and began to walk. What a miracle! Jesus is so awesome and powerful!

This miracle was done on the Sabbath day. The Jews believed you could not do any work on the Sabbath, it was a day of resting. The Jews saw that the man was cured. Instead of being happy for him they were angry because he was carrying his bed. They considered carrying your bed work. The man explained to them that the One who healed him told him to carry his bed. The Jews asked who healed him, but the man did not know.

Later the man saw Jesus in the temple. He went and told the Jews it was Jesus that healed him. The Jews didn't like Jesus. They did not like what Jesus preached, they did not like that He claimed to be the Son of God. The Jews wanted to kill Jesus for healing this man on the Sabbath day. Jesus defended Himself to the Jews. This made them even more angry. They did not believe Jesus was the Son of God, they wanted to kill Him.

Jesus did not let the Jews scare Him. He proclaimed all the more who He was, God's Son! He told the Jews they would never accept Him because they wanted praise from men and not God. Even though the

Jews threatened to hurt Jesus, or worse, kill Him, He never denied the truth. We must be just like Jesus, we cannot be scared into not standing up for what is right and true.

Jesus Connection: Jesus performed the miracle of healing the man by the pool to continue to show the people that He was the Son of God. Jesus didn't care that this made the Jews angry, He wanted them to see that they should serve God's law and His Son.

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus heal the man beside the pool?

Big Picture Answer: He had compassion on him and wanted to show others that he was the Son of God through his miracles.

Topic: The 12 Apostles Chosen

Lesson 14

Scriptures: Mark 3:13; Luke 5:1-11,6:12-16; John 1:35-51

Jesus was very busy teaching about God, healing people, and performing miracles. Jesus knew one day He would be going back to Heaven to be with His Father, God. Jesus knew when He was gone He would need men to continue doing His work. Jesus had to find some men to help Him do just that! These men would be called Apostles or Disciples.

We have already had a lesson about some of the men that were chosen to be Jesus' first Apostles. Do you remember Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John? Remember how Jesus had filled their nets with tons of fish. Remember when they got back to the shore they left all they had and followed Jesus. Well, these four men were Jesus' first Apostles.

Philip was another of Jesus' Apostles. Philip told his friend Bartholomew (Nathanael) about Jesus. He told him He was the Son of God. Bartholomew also became an Apostle.

In all Jesus chose 12 men to be His Apostles. They were Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John, next was Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, another James, Simon, Thaddeus, and Judas. After Jesus died the Holy Spirit (God's word) would come to them. It made them to understand many things about God. They also were able to heal people and perform miracles as Jesus did. They helped to spread God's Word throughout the whole world.

Jesus Connection: Jesus taught His disciples to teach others about Him. The good news about Jesus was too great not to share with the entire world! Jesus came to save us from our sins.

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus ask his disciples to do?

Big Picture Answer: Follow Him and tell others about Him.

The 12 Apostles
(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

Jesus called them one by one,
Peter, Andrew, James and John,
Next, came Philip, Thomas too,
Matthew and Bartholomew.

Chorus-

Yes, Jesus called them,
Yes, Jesus called them,
Yes, Jesus called them,
He called them one by one.

James the one they called the less,
Simon, also Thaddeus,
Twelfth apostle Judas made,
Jesus was by him betrayed.

Matthias then took Judas' place,
To preach to men of every race,
Paul three preaching trips did make,
And went to Rome for Jesus' sake.

Topic: The Sermon on the Mount; Wise Man/ Foolish Man
Lesson 15

Scriptures: Matthew 7:24-28

Jesus was the best teacher that ever lived. One day Jesus was teaching to people and He told them a story about 2 men who built houses. This was Jesus' story.

Jesus told them that the person who obeys God is like the wise man who built his house on a rock. A storm came and its strong winds beat against the house. It rained so much that it began to flood. But because the wise man built his house upon a rock his house stood firm. It did not fall! Like the rock it was strong.

Then Jesus told them that the person who does not obey God is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. When the same storm came upon his house with the hard rain and strong winds his house fell flat! SMASH!

Let's think about the 2 men in this story. One built his house on the rock and when the storms came it stood firm! One built his house on sand and when the storms came his house went SMASH! In this story Jesus is the rock because He is strong and He will always stand. If you build your life/house on God's plan and obey God, no matter how bad things get, you will stand strong. You will be like the wise man who built his house on the rock. But if you don't build your life/house on Jesus you fall flat just like the foolish man's house. Which man do you want to be like? The one who built his house on the rock (Jesus) or the one who built his house on the sand (without Jesus)?

When Jesus was teaching to the people and telling them the story of the wise/foolish man, He also taught people how to live, how to love each other, and how to love God.

Jesus taught about the blessings of believing in Him:
The poor in spirit are blessed, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
Those who mourn are blessed, for they will be comforted.
The gentle are blessed, for they will inherit the earth.
Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are blessed, for they will be filled.
The merciful are blessed, for they will be shown mercy.
The pure in heart are blessed, for they will see God.
The peacemakers are blessed, for they will be called sons of God.
Those who are persecuted for righteousness are blessed, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Jesus Connection: Jesus wants us to build our life on His plan so we can be like the wise man who built his house on the rock. Jesus also tells us to love our enemies and pray for them.

Big Picture Question: Should we build our house/life on the rock or the sand? How does Jesus want us to treat others?

Big Picture Answer: We should build our house/life on the rock which is God's plan! Jesus wants us to love others and pray for them.

Topic: Jesus Heals the Centurion's Slave
Scriptures: Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

Lesson 16

Jesus was visiting the city Capernaum teaching people about God, and healing many of the sick. A Centurion, a Roman Soldier, came to Jesus asking if He could help him. The soldier had a slave who was very special to him. He was paralyzed, which means he could not walk, he was in a lot of pain and he feared he was about to die. He begged Jesus to come and make him well again. Jesus saw how much he believed in His power, He told him that he would come and make his slave well.

The soldier was grateful, but he said to Jesus, "I am not worthy that you should come to my house, just say it and I know my slave will be made well again." He told Jesus how he too had power over people, he was in charge of 100 soldiers. He said, "If I tell someone to go, they go. If I tell someone to do something, he does it." The soldier knew Jesus power was much greater than his own. He believed if Jesus just said, "Your slave is well." that he would be.

When Jesus heard the man He was amazed at the words he spoke. Jesus said to the man, "Never have I seen such great faith!" Then He said to the soldier, "Go home, as you believe, let it be done." When the soldier arrived home his slave was alive and well.

Jesus Connection: The Centurion Man had great faith that Jesus could heal his slave. We can have great faith in Jesus as well for Him to heal us from our sins and to always be with us.

Big Picture Question: What is faith?

Big Picture Answer: Believing that Jesus has great power to heal and that He is always with us.

Topic: Parable of the Sower

Lesson 17

Scriptures: Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15

Jesus traveled from one town to another, preaching the good news of the kingdom of God. One day, He was sitting by the Sea of Galilee. Such large crowds had gathered that He got into a boat and sat down to teach.

Jesus used parables or stories to teach the people many things. While teaching He told them this parable.

Jesus said, "A sower went out to sow his seed. As he was sowing, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where there wasn't much soil. It sprang up quickly since the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up it was burned up. Because it had no root, it withered and died. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. Still other seed fell on good ground. When it sprang up, it produced crop: sometimes 100, sometimes 60, and sometimes 30 times more that what was sown."

Then Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Teacher, what does this mean?" So He said, "The secrets of the kingdom of God are for you to know. But to others, everything is in parables. This is so that, 'seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor understand.'"

Jesus continued and told the disciples, "the sower is the one who sows the word of God. The seed that fell along the path are those people who have heard the word and don't understand it. The Devil comes and snatches the word away from their hearts, that that they will not believe and be saved.

The seed that fell on the rocky ground are those people who hear the word and welcome it with joy. But they have no roots in the word, so when hard times come, they stumble.

Now the seed that fell among the thorns - these are the people who hear the word and go on their way. Then they are choked with the worries, riches, and pleasures of life and they produce no fruit.

But the seed that falls on the good ground - these are the people who hear and understand the word with an honest and good heart. They hold on to it, and it bears fruit in their lives - sometimes 100,60, or 30 times what was sown."

Jesus Connection: When people hear the truth about Jesus, not everyone believes in it. Some don't understand, some believe for selfish reasons, and only want part of Jesus because they love other things more. Jesus wants us to love and obey all of his word.

Big Picture Question: What was the seed being sown?

Big Picture Answer: The seed was the word of God.

Topic: Jesus Calms the Sea

Lesson 18

Scriptures: Matthew 8:23-37; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

Jesus had been teaching the people all day long by the Sea of Galilee. When evening came He sent the people away because He was tired. He got into a boat with His Apostles and said, "Let's cross over to the other side." Jesus laid down in the boat and fell asleep.

As they were on the water a great storm came upon them. The wind was blowing very hard and tossing the boat around. The waves were getting bigger and bigger and the water was coming into the boat. The boat began to sink. The Apostles were very afraid thinking they may drown. Jesus was still sleeping.

The Apostles woke Jesus up and said, "Don't you care, we are about to die!" Jesus said, "Why are you afraid?" They had seen all Jesus' power, didn't they realize He would take care of them?

Jesus said to the storm, "Peace, be still!" As Jesus said those words, immediately the storm stopped. The Apostles were once again amazed at Jesus' power. "Even the wind and the waves obey Him," they said. They had never known anyone like Jesus before. Jesus did these things so His Apostles would believe in Him and want to follow Him.

Jesus Connection: Who is Jesus? Jesus' disciples knew He was a good man and a good teacher; but when Jesus calmed the wind and the waves, He showed the apostles that He is also God. God rules the sea and stills its waves (Psalm 89:9)

Big Picture Question: What does Jesus have power over?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus has power over the wind and the waves and over all creation.

Topic: Casting out Demons Lesson 19

Scriptures: Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-17; Luke 8:26-37

Jesus came to a place called Gerasenes. When He arrived there He met a man who was controlled by demons. Demons are bad spirits from Satan. This man did not live in a house like you and I, he lived in caves. The demons in this man were very strong. People tried to chain the man up, but the demons would break the chains. He did not wear clothes, and he would cry all night and cut himself with rocks because of the demons that lived inside his body. He was a very sad man, and many people were afraid of him.

When the man saw Jesus, he ran to Him and worshipped Him. He knew Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus told the demons to come out of the man's body. Jesus asked the demons their name, and they said, "Legion- because we are so many." The demons were afraid of Jesus. Even though they were very strong they knew Jesus was even stronger!

Legion, the demon, did not want to leave the man's body. Legion asked Jesus to please let them go into some pigs that were eating nearby. Jesus sent the demons into the pigs. The pigs ran as fast as they could and fell off a cliff into a lake where they drowned. When the men who owned the pigs saw what happened they ran and told everyone in the city. They came to Jesus and found the man who had been wildly dressed now acting normal. They were very afraid and asked Jesus to leave.

The man thanked Jesus for all the He had done for him. He asked Jesus if he could go with him. Jesus told the man it would be best if he stayed behind to tell the people of the great things He had done for him. Jesus proved He has power over Satan and that He is the Son of God.

Jesus Connection: We can have hope in a world full of evil because Jesus has power over evil. No one else had the strength to control the demon possessed man except for Jesus. Jesus used His power to free the man. Jesus is God. He has power over everything, including evil. Jesus came to earth to destroy Satan by dying on the cross.

Big Picture Question: What does Jesus have power over?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus has power over evil.

Topic: Jairus' Daughter Lesson 20

Scriptures: Matthew 9; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56

There was a man named Jairus who had a little girl, she was his only daughter. She was 12 years old and she was very sick. Jairus went to see Jesus because she was about to die. Jairus begged Jesus to come and touch his daughter so she would be made well. Jesus went with him and a crowd of people followed.

As they were walking some people came running up and said, "It is too late, your daughter has died. Jesus does not need to come." Jesus said to Jairus, "Do not be afraid, believe." When He arrived at the house everyone was crying and screaming. Jesus said, "Why are you crying, she is only asleep."

The people all laughed at Jesus. Jesus sent everyone out of the house except for His Apostles- Peter, James, and John, and the mother and father of the girl. Jesus took the girl by the hand and said, "Little Girl, get up." Immediately the girl got up and walked. He told them to get their daughter something to eat. Jesus commanded her parents not to tell anyone what had happened.

Jesus Connection: Jesus, the promised Messiah has power to heal all the sick and bring the dead back to life. He will heal us too from our sins if we obey Him.

Big Picture Question: What does Jesus have power over?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus has power over sickness and death.

Topic: Jesus Feeds the 5,000

Lesson 21

Scriptures: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14

Good news travels fast! The good news that Jesus could perform miracles spread quickly. Crowds of people followed Jesus everywhere He went. They came to hear his teaching and to be healed. They kept coming and coming. Sick people, crippled people, curious people, and needy people came to Jesus and His disciples. They were so busy helping and teaching people they didn't even have time to eat.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Come with me. We will go to a quiet place to be alone. There we will get some rest." They left by boat, but the people still followed them to where they were going and ran to meet them there. When Jesus and his disciples got to the shore, a huge crowd was waiting for them. Even though he was tired, Jesus felt sorry for them. He knew they were like sheep without a shepherd. He knew they needed him. So, Jesus taught them.

By now, it was getting late. Jesus, his disciples, and the people had not eaten all day. The disciples said to Jesus, "Send the people home so they can get something to eat." But Jesus answered, "You give them food to eat." The disciples answered, "We can't get enough food for all these people to eat." There was about 5,000 men there, and women and children.

Then one of the disciples, Andrew, said, "Here is a boy with five loaves of bread and two fish. But that is not enough food to feed all the people."

Jesus said to his disciples, "Tell all the people to sit on the ground in groups." Jesus took the loaves of bread and the fish and He thanked God for them. Then He divided the bread and gave it to His disciples to give to the people. He did the same thing with the fish.

Everybody ate until they were full!. When everyone had finished eating the disciples gathered up all the food that was left. They still had twelve baskets full of bread and fish!

The people saw this miracle that Jesus had done and many of them understood that He was from God. Jesus showed He is the son of God. Jesus is so powerful He can do anything!

Jesus Connection: By feeding the 5,000 Jesus provided for the physical needs of the crowd. The next day, Jesus calls himself the Bread of Life. Only Jesus is able to satisfy our souls by providing us with forgiveness, friendship with God, and eternal life.

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus feel sorry for the people?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus felt sorry for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

Topic: Jesus Walks on Water

Lesson 22

Scriptures: Matthew 14:22-32; Mark 6:45-52, Luke 9:10-17; John 6:16-21

After Jesus fed the 5,000 people with only 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread, He told His disciples to get into a boat and cross the sea, and He would meet up with them later. Jesus went up the mountain alone so He could pray to God.

The disciples were out in the middle of the sea. The wind was beginning to blow very hard and the waves were getting bigger and bigger, crashing into the disciples boat. How scary that must have been. But then the disciples saw something that frightened them even more. They saw a man walking toward their boat on the water. When the disciples saw that the man was walking on top of the water and not sinking, they thought they were seeing a ghost. "It's a ghost!" they screamed.

Then they heard a voice, "It is I, Jesus, do not be afraid." Peter, one of the disciples, said "Jesus, if it's really you call me out of the boat so I can walk to you on top of the water too." Jesus said to Peter, "Come."

Peter climbed out of the boat and began to walk to Jesus. He too was walking on top of the water and not sinking! Then he noticed how hard the wind was blowing and how hard the waves were hitting him and he began to get scared. Peter began to sink in the water, he cried out, "Jesus, save me!"

Jesus stretched out His hand and caught Peter, "Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt?" The two got into the boat and immediately the wind stopped. The all those who saw this worshipped Jesus, saying, "You are the Son of God."

At first, Peter had faith that with Jesus' help he could walk on the water. Then, when he began to get scared he forgot how powerful Jesus was, he began to sink. We should always remember that with Jesus' help we can do anything!

Jesus Connection: Jesus has power over water and all creation. Jesus also wants us to have full faith in Him to lead us where we need to go. We have no reason to doubt that He will always be with us.

Big Picture Question: Why did Peter start to sink?

Big Picture Answer: Peter started to sink because he let doubts of how strong the wind and waves were distract him from how powerful Jesus was.

Topic: Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind, The Ten Lepers
Scriptures: Luke 17:11-19; John 9:1-34

Lesson 23

Jesus and His disciples were out one day and they saw a man who was blind. Do you know what it means to be blind? If you are blind, you cannot see. It would be like being in the dark all the time. You wouldn't be able to see all the beautiful things God made. You wouldn't know what a tree looked like, or flowers, clouds, sun, you wouldn't even know what people looked like. Can you imagine not even being able to see where you were walking? That would be very scary!

When Jesus' disciples saw the blind man they asked Him what this man did wrong that he was born blind. "Did this man do something bad, or was it because his parent's did something bad?" they asked. Jesus answered them, "This man was born blind not because he or his parents did something bad, he was born blind so you could see God's glory and power through him."

Jesus spit on the ground and made mud with his spit and the dirt from the ground. Then He took the mud and He put it on the eyes of the man that was blind. Jesus told the blind man to go and wash the mud off his eyes in the pool of Siloam. The man went and washed his eyes and when he came back to Jesus and His disciples he could see! What an awesome thing Jesus had done for this man. He was blind and now he could see. When the people asked the man who healed him, he told them Jesus. Even though this was a great miracle, there were people who did not like that Jesus healed this man. They were angry. They did not like Jesus because He said He was God's son.

As Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem continuing to heal people and preach, He stopped at a village. Jesus met ten lepers. Lepers were people who had a terrible skin disease. They would have very painful deep sores all over their body. Lepers were considered unclean, and no one was to be around them for fear that they would become a leper

too. When a priest saw that the sores on their body had healed, he would allow them to go around other people again.

The lepers stood far away from Jesus, but they called out to Jesus and said, "Jesus, have mercy on us!" Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priest.

As the lepers were walking, their skin became clean and their leprosy left them. Jesus had healed them. When the lepers saw that their leprosy was gone they were so happy. Nine of the lepers just continued on their way, but one of the lepers came back to thank Jesus. He fell on his face and he praised God for healing him.

Jesus asked, "Were there not ten of you? Where are the others? Only you have come back to glorify God!" Then Jesus told the man to get up from the ground, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Jesus is our Great Healer!

Jesus Connection: The prophet Isaiah wrote that the promised Messiah would open blind eyes (Isaiah 35:5;42:7). He was here! Jesus was the promised Messiah and he could open the eyes of the blind and heal the sick. As sinners, we are blind to the truth about God until Jesus opens our eyes and saves us.

Big Picture Question: What does Jesus have power over?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus has power over sickness.

Topic: Good Samaritan
Scriptures: Luke 10:25-37

Lesson 24

One day Jesus was talking to some men. They asked Jesus what they could do to have eternal life. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and you should love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus replied. One man asked, "Well, who is my neighbor?" Jesus answered the man by telling him a story.

A man was going to Jericho when he was attacked by robbers. They beat him, took his clothes, and left him to die.

A priest came by on the road. He saw the man, but did not want to get involved, so he crossed over to the other side of the road. Next a Levite rode by and saw the injured man, but he also crossed over to the other side of the road.

Next a Samaritan who was also traveling on the road came upon the injured man. The injured man was a Jew, and the Jews and the Samaritans did not like each other. What do you think the Samaritan did? Would he stop to help a man who he was not supposed to like? When the Samaritan saw the man he immediately went over to him. When he saw how badly he was hurt, he felt sorry for him. He put medicine on the man's wounds and bandaged them up. He put the injured man on his donkey and took him to an inn. He cared for him through the night, and the next day he gave the innkeeper money and told him to look after the man until he was better.

The Samaritan told the innkeeper if the money he gave him was not enough he would give him more when he returned. After telling this story Jesus looked at the man and said, "So which of these three men do you think was a neighbor to the man?" The man replied, "The one

who was kind to him and showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to the man, "Go and do the same."

Jesus Connection: Jesus told the story of the *Good Samaritan* so that we would see how we are to treat others with love and mercy.

Big Picture Question: What does Jesus want us to learn from the *Good Samaritan*?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus wants us to love others.

Topic: Mary and Martha
Scriptures: Luke 10:38-42

Lesson 25

Jesus went to visit his friends Mary and Martha. Mary and Martha were sisters. Martha was excited that Jesus was coming to her house. Martha had been very busy preparing for Jesus' visit. I am sure she had been cleaning her house all day so it would be perfect when He arrived. And while Jesus was there she was very busy taking care of everything everyone needed. She was probably making the food, and setting the table, getting drinks ready....just like we do when we have guests at our homes. Martha wanted everything to be perfect for Jesus.

But her sister Mary was not helping her at all. Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet listening to Him teach about God. Mary did not care if the house was clean or if the food was burning, all she wanted to do was hear Jesus talk.

Martha was getting upset with Mary. While she was working hard, Mary was sitting at Jesus feet. Martha thought Mary should be helping her. She said to Jesus, "Don't you think that my sister should be helping me? I am doing all the work. Tell her to help me."

Jesus said, "Martha, you are worried about too many things, things that don't really matter. Mary is doing what is right, she is choosing to hear about God and she will be rewarded for that."

Martha and Mary both loved Jesus very much, they just showed it in different ways. It wasn't wrong at all for Martha to try to be the best host to Jesus she could be. But Mary had chosen the better way by wanting to hear God's word. That is the most important thing we can do. We need to show Jesus and God how much we love them by listening to their Word, and obeying it.

Jesus Connection: Jesus isn't concerned with all the things we do to fill our time, He simply wants us to take time to listen to what He has to say.

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus say Mary had chosen the better way?

Big Picture Answer: Mary was listening and obeying His word instead of working.

Topic: Rich Young Ruler Lesson 26

Scriptures: Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30

There was a young man who came to Jesus and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what do I have to do to have eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "You must keep God's commandments." "Which ones?" he asked. Jesus told him, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not lie. Obey your father and mother, and You must love your neighbor."

The young man told Jesus that he obeyed all these commandments of God's since he was a child. He asked Jesus, "What else do I need to do?" Jesus told the man he should sell everything he owned and give to the poor. Jesus told him he would have treasure in Heaven if he would give up all he had and follow Jesus.

The young man heard Jesus but was very sad. This young man was a ruler and he had lots of possessions and money. He did not want to give up all he had. He wanted to follow Jesus but not enough to give up everything. If we want to follow Jesus and go to heaven we have to be willing to do whatever Jesus asks us to do, even when it is something hard. Jesus promises if we do as he asks we will have eternal life and live forever and ever in heaven with God.

Jesus Connection: The rich young ruler loved his possessions more than Jesus. Jesus asks us to be willing to give up everything and follow Him because He is the one worthy of following. When we know and love Jesus, He is our treasure and He will lead us to eternal life.

Big Picture Question: Why did the rich young ruler walk away sad?

Big Picture Answer: He loved his wealth and possessions more than he loved Jesus.

Topic: Zacchaeus Lesson 27
Scriptures: Luke 19:1-10

Jesus was visiting in the town of Jericho. There was a man there named Zacchaeus who was a tax collector and he was very rich. He heard Jesus was in the town and wanted to see him. As usual, a big crowd was gathered to Jesus and because Zacchaeus was short he could not see him.

Zacchaeus ran ahead of the crowd and climbed up into a sycamore tree so he could catch a glimpse of Jesus as he passed by. When Jesus got to the place where Zacchaeus was, he stopped and looked up in the tree at Zacchaeus. Jesus spoke to him and said, "Zacchaeus come down from that tree, I would like to go to your house today!"

Zacchaeus was so excited he jumped from the tree to meet Jesus. When the people saw Jesus with Zacchaeus they complained because Zacchaeus was a tax collector, and they did not like him. They called him a sinner. Zacchaeus said to Jesus, "I give half of my goods to the poor, and if I have taken anything from anyone I will repay them four times as much!"

Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to this house. The Son of Man has come to seek and save the lost." Jesus was pleased that Zacchaeus wanted to do good and follow Him. Jesus said that God sent Him to the world to find people who were lost and sinning and teach them what was right. Jesus wanted to help people know God even when other people thought they were too bad to be helped. We also, should teach all our friends and neighbors and never think that they are "too bad" to change and follow God. That is the job God gave us!

Jesus Connection: Jesus ate with Zacchaeus to show that He came to save everyone - not just those who thought they were already doing what was right.

Big Picture Question: Who all did Jesus come to save?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus came to save all those who were lost. No one is ever "too bad" to change and follow God.

Zacchaeus Song

Zacchaeus was a wee little man
And a wee little man was he
He climbed up in a sycamore tree
For the Lord he wanted to see

And when the Savior passed that way
He looked up in the tree
And said, 'Zacchaeus, you come down!
For I'm going to your house today!
For I'm going to your house today!'

Zacchaeus was a wee little man
But a happy man was he
For he had seen the Lord that day
And a happy man was he;
And a very happy man was he

Tune:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxe9jO0scgA>

Topic: Widow Gives Two Coins

Lesson 28

Scriptures: Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4

Jesus was in the temple teaching and He said to the people to beware of the people who go around and seek attention for themselves, and who want to be recognized, to beware of those who want for themselves the best seats in the temple and at the feasts...those who put themselves first and lift themselves above others.

As Jesus was teaching, he was sitting across from the treasury, that is where people would come and give money to the Lord...like we do, after the Lord's supper. He was watching the people put in their money. Many who were rich put in a lot of money. Then He saw a poor widowed woman (this meant her husband had died). He noticed she did not have a lot of money to give like some of the people before her did. The widow threw 2 coins into the treasury, hardly the amount others had given.

Jesus called his disciples together and said, "This poor widow woman gave so much more than all the others." How could she have given more? The others put in a lot of money and she only gave 2 small coins. Jesus explained, "They all put in a lot of money because they had a lot of money to give. This poor widow, had only 2 coins, it was all of her money. She gave everything she had to the Lord."

Jesus Connection: Jesus gave up everything He had in heaven to come to earth and save us from our sins. Jesus even gave his life by dying on the cross. Because of His sacrifice we can serve Him and give Him everything we have because we know God takes care of His children and rewards those who seek Him.

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus say that the widow had given more than all the others?

Big Picture Answer: She had given all that she had to live on.

Topic: Jesus Raises Lazarus Lesson 29 Scriptures: John 11:1-54

Jesus' friends, Mary and Martha, had a brother named Lazarus. He too, was a very good friend of Jesus'. Jesus loved Lazarus very much. Lazarus became very sick so Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus to tell Him of Lazarus' illness. When Jesus heard, he waited two days before he went to him.

When Jesus arrived Lazarus had already died. Lazarus had been dead for four days. When Martha heard Jesus was back in town she ran to meet Him. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know whatever you ask God to do, He will do it." Jesus said to her, "Martha, your brother will live again." Jesus told Martha that whoever believes in Him will live. Martha told Jesus she believed in Him.

Martha ran home to get Mary and tell her Jesus had come. When Mary got to where Jesus was she fell at His feet and crying said to Him, "If You had been here my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw how sad Mary was it upset Him too. Jesus asked where they had buried Lazarus, so they took Him to Lazarus' tomb. When Jesus got to the tomb where Lazarus was buried, He cried.

Jesus went to the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled in front of the door. Jesus told them to move the stone away from the door. Martha said to Him, "Jesus, he has already been dead four days." Then they rolled the stone from the door, and Jesus lifted up His eyes and talked to God, His Father. He thanked God for listening to Him, and He told God He wanted to show all the people there that He was His Son. Then he said with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out of the tomb!" Then an amazing thing happened. Lazarus who had been dead, was now alive. He walked right out of the tomb just as Jesus had told him to! God is so powerful!

Many of the Jews who saw this began to believe in Jesus. They believed that He was who He said He was-God's Son. Still others, did not believe. They were afraid of Jesus and angry with Him. Then, from that day, they began to make plans to kill Jesus. Because of this, Jesus had to leave and go into the wilderness.

Jesus Connection: When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He showed that He has power over death. Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life". Because Jesus died and was raised from the dead for us, He offers life in heaven with Him to those who know and obey Him.

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus wait to go to Bethany?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus waited so that the people would know his power over death.

Topic: Mary Anoints Jesus

Lesson 30

Scriptures: Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-10

The leaders and scribes in the temple were becoming very angry with Jesus. They did not like the things He taught, especially that He was the Son of God. They were so angry with Him they began to make plans to kill Jesus.

Jesus was at a friend's house and Mary, the sister of Martha, who loved Jesus very much brought a bottle of very expensive oil with her. She took the bottle of oil and poured it on Jesus's head and began to wipe the oil on Jesus' feet and rub it in with her hair.

Judas, one of the apostles, was angry and asked why she wasted this very expensive oil. "We could have sold that for a lot of money and helped the poor!" Judas wasn't saying this because he was really wanting to help the poor. Judas was the apostle who Jesus put in charge of the money, and he had been stealing some of that money from the Lord. Judas was only thinking about himself, not the poor. Jesus knew what was really in Judas' heart.

Jesus told Judas to leave Mary alone. Jesus knew the Jewish leaders were planning to kill Him, and he told His apostles that there would always be poor people to help but that he was not always going to be there. Jesus knew He didn't have much time left here on earth. He told them that Mary did this to prepare Him for when He died and for when He was buried. Jesus told His apostles that Mary would always be known for this loving act she did for Him, and that wherever His word was taught the story would be told of what Mary had done for Him.

Mary loved Jesus very much and was willing to give the best of what she had to Jesus. That is what Jesus wants us to do to, give Him our very best.

Jesus Connection: Pouring the very expensive oil on Jesus was not a waste, it was worship. By allowing Mary to anoint Jesus, He was showing that He was more valuable than anything. Jesus knew He would soon die for sinners, be buried, and rise from the dead on the third day.

Big Picture Question: What did pouring the oil all over Jesus do?

Big Picture Answer: It prepared Jesus' body for His death and burial.

Topic: Triumphant Entry Lesson 31

Scriptures: Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19

Remember in our last class we talked about how Mary poured the oil on Jesus and rubbed it on His feet with her hair. Well the next day Jesus was going to Jerusalem. Jesus sent two of His disciples to get a young donkey for Him to ride into the city on. He told them when they went into the city they would find a donkey tied up on which no one had ever ridden on. He told them to untie it and bring it to them. He told them if anyone asks why they are taking the donkey to tell them that the Lord needed it.

The disciples went into the city and just as Jesus had said they saw a donkey tied up. They untied it and some people nearby asked, "What are you doing? Why are you untying that donkey?" The people knew it did not belong to them. The disciples did as Jesus said, and told the people, "The Lord has need of this donkey." So the people allowed them to take the donkey. The disciples laid their clothes on the donkey, and Jesus sat on the donkey and rode it into Jerusalem.

Many people who believed in Jesus heard He was coming and were very excited. They cut branches from the palm trees and took their clothes and laid them along the road, waiting for Jesus to arrive. They were so happy to see Him and they all shouted, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" People were amazed at Jesus, and asked, "Who is this?" Many people said, "He is Jesus, from Nazareth, a prophet." Many people, including the disciples were confused about who Jesus really was and exactly what He was there to do. From there, Jesus went into the temple with His disciples.

Jesus Connection: During Jesus' triumphal entry, the people welcomed Him as king. Jesus was the Messiah the prophet Zechariah spoke about: "Look, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious,

humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."
Zechariah 9:9

Big Picture Question: Who did the people say Jesus was?

Big Picture Answer: They said He was the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

Topic: Judas Plans to Betray Jesus Lesson 32

Scriptures: Matthew 26:3-16; Mark 14:1-2,10-11; Luke 22:1-6

The Feast of the Passover was near. Do you remember what the Passover Feast was for? Do you remember when God sent plagues upon Egypt? The water turned to blood, frogs, flies, locusts were everywhere. Remember how God sent darkness on the land, and then the death of the firstborn. Remember how God told Moses to have the children of Israel put blood on their doorposts and when the death angel came and saw the blood he would "pass over" their home and leave them all alive. Well, the Passover Feast was a celebration in Jerusalem every year for the Jews to remember how God took care of them.

Lots of people had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The Jewish leaders were starting to hate Jesus more and more everyday. They did not want the people to follow Him, that is why they planned to kill Jesus.

Do you remember Judas? He was the disciple who got angry when Mary poured the oil on Jesus feet and washed them. Do you remember how he stole money that did not belong to him? Judas was not following Jesus, he was only pretending too. Judas let the devil into his heart. He went to the leaders who hated Jesus and asked them, "What will you give me if I hand Jesus over to you?" Judas was so selfish and loved money so much that he was willing to hurt his friend Jesus. The Jewish leaders told him they would give him thirty pieces of silver. Judas was excited that he was going to make some money, so from that moment on he looked for a good time to trick Jesus.

Judas was supposed to be Jesus' disciple. He was greedy and let his love of money and himself get in the way of following Jesus. We don't ever want to be like Judas and hurt Jesus.

Jesus Connection: God loves His people and set up a feast each year for His people to remember and celebrate how He had delivered them. As Jesus' disciples prepared for Passover, Jesus prepared to die. His death on the cross is the one sacrifice we all need to take away our sins. Jesus protects those who trust and obey God from wrath.

Big Picture Question: Why did Judas want to trick Jesus?

Big Picture Answer: Judas let the devil into his heart and cared more about money than he did his friend.

Topic: Lord's Supper Lesson 33

Scriptures: Matthew 26:20-30; Mark 14:17-26; Luke 22:14-23; John 13:18-30

Jesus and His disciples went to a house to prepare and eat the Passover. It was evening, and he sat down at the table with the 12 disciples. While they were eating Jesus told them that He knew one of them was going to betray Him. Do you remember which of the disciples planned to trick Jesus and betray Him? They were all very sad to hear Jesus say this and all asked Him, "Is it me?". Jesus told them it would be better for that man to have never been born than to betray Him. Judas asked, "Is it me?" and Jesus answered him, "Yes."

Jesus knew this was the last time He would be with all His disciples before He died. Jesus gave them a memorial to remember Him by. Jesus took some of the bread at the table and blessed it, or prayed for it, and then He broke it and gave some to each of His disciples. "Take this, and eat it. This is My body." Jesus said. Then He took the cup from the table and blessed it too. He also told His disciples to drink it. He told them it was His blood that He was going to give so people could be forgiven of their sins.

Jesus wanted His disciples to keep this memorial to remember what He was about to do for them. Jesus knew He was going to be put on a cross and die for the sins of all the people, even ours. We still practice this memorial today. Every Sunday we take what is called the Lord's Supper. This is the reason we do it. Jesus asked His disciples to do it and continue to do it until He comes again. We too, are Jesus' disciples so we keep this memorial just as Jesus asked us to do.

Jesus Connection: God loves His people and makes covenants with them. Jesus made a new covenant by dying on the cross and He wants us to

remember that covenant and his sacrifice each week when we partake of the Lord's Supper.

Big Picture Question: Why do we take the Lord's Supper every Sunday?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus told us to take the Lord's Supper to remember His death and His sacrifice on the cross for our sins.

Topic: Betrayal and Arrest

Lesson 34

Scriptures: Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-52; Luke 22:40-53; John 18:12-27

After Jesus gave His disciples the Lord's supper, He took a few of them: Peter, James, and John, with Him to a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus knew He was about to die, and He wanted to pray and talk to His Father. Jesus asked His disciples to sit and wait for Him while He went to pray. Jesus was very sad. He asked God to please make Him not have to die, but He also told God if He had to die, He would. Jesus wanted to do whatever God wanted Him to do, even if that meant He had to die.

Jesus prayed and when he went back to check on Peter, James, and John they were sleeping. Jesus was angry, He said, "Couldn't you watch for just one hour while I prayed?"

He went a second time to pray again. Again He came back and found His friends asleep. So He went away again and began to pray more. He went back to the disciples and told them to wake up. "I am getting ready to be betrayed! My betrayer is coming, we need to go!"

As He was speaking, along came Judas, His disciple, to Jesus with a large group of soldiers. They had clubs and swords. Remember Judas agreed to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Judas told the soldiers they would know who Jesus was because when he saw Him he would kiss Him on the cheek.

Judas went up to Jesus and said, "Hello, Teacher!" and kissed Him on the cheek. The soldiers then grabbed Jesus. Peter pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of one of the soldiers. Jesus touched the soldiers ear and healed it.

Jesus asked the soldiers why they were coming after Him with swords and clubs. He said, "You saw Me everyday teaching in the temple and never did you touch Me." Jesus knew all of this was happening because it was God's plan.

The soldiers then led Jesus off to see the High Priest, Caiaphas. Peter followed behind Jesus at a distance, but the other apostles ran away. They told Jesus He was under arrest because He said He was God's Son and they did not believe Him. They thought Jesus was lying.

Jesus Connection: Even though Jesus didn't want to go through the pain and hurt of dying, He knew it was God's plan for Him to die on the cross for our sins.

Big Picture Question: Why didn't Jesus fight back when the soldiers arrested him?

Big Picture Answer: He knew it was God's plan for Him to die.

Topic: Sanhedrin and Peter's Denial

Lesson 35

Scriptures: Matthew 26:57-75; Mark 14:53-15:1; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12-27

Remember last class we talked about how Jesus was arrested and taken to the high priest's house? Remember how Peter followed behind to see what was going to happen to Jesus, but the other two disciples ran away? Earlier that day before Jesus went to pray He told his beloved disciples that they would all be made to stumble because of Him. That made Peter upset, and he said, "I would never stumble because of you Lord!" Jesus told Peter that he would, and that he would deny he even knew Him. Jesus said to him, "Peter you will deny me this very night. Before the rooster crows two times you will have said three times that you do not know me!" Peter was upset and said, "I will not Lord, even if I have to die with you!"

When Jesus was arrested and taken to the high priest's house he was treated very badly. They questioned Jesus as to whether He was God's Son. Jesus said He was. They called Jesus a liar and wanted to kill Him. The people inside the house shouted to kill Him, they hit Him and spit on Him. While Jesus was inside being beaten and spit upon, Peter was outside in the yard. A servant girl came to him, and said, "Weren't you with Jesus?" Peter denied Jesus and said, "I don't know what you are talking about!"

Then a little later another girl said to those around, "I saw this man, he was with Jesus." Peter said a second time, "I do not know the Man!" Remember how Peter said he would never deny Jesus, even if he had to die with Him? Peter was scared so he was pretending not to know Jesus. Then again, others said to Peter, "Yes, you do know Jesus! You do know Him!" Peter was angry and began to curse and said, "I do not know the Man! Then Peter heard a rooster crow, and at that moment he remembered what Jesus had told him. "Before the rooster crows

twice, you will have denied you know me three times." Peter was so sorry, he ran away crying.

The Jews were not allowed to put people to death, so they sent Jesus to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate so they could ask that Jesus be killed.

Jesus Connection: All the disciples ran away when Jesus was put in prison and being hurt because they were scared. Following Jesus can be scary and hard, but we must trust that God is always with us and He tells us to follow Him no matter what.

Big Picture Question: Why did Peter deny Jesus?

Big Picture Answer: He was scared when he saw how badly Jesus was being treated and acted like he didn't know who Jesus was.

Topic: Jesus Before Pilate, Barabbas Lesson 36

Scriptures: Matthew 27:1-31; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-19:16

Jesus was tried by the Jewish leaders, and they wanted Jesus to be put to death. They were not allowed to put anyone to death so they took Jesus to Pilate and asked that Pilate put him to death.

Judas, Jesus' betrayer, seeing what had been done to Jesus was sorry for what he had done to Jesus. He took the thirty pieces of silver he was given by the Jewish leaders and gave it back to them. Judas told them he had sinned, and he threw the silver on the ground in the temple and then left. Then Judas went out and killed himself.

Jesus was taken before Pilate and questioned again. Pilate said that he did not think Jesus did anything wrong. Pilate said he didn't think Jesus deserved to die. Pilate did not want to make the people angry so he told them that he would let one prisoner go free. Knowing Jesus was innocent he thought the people would let Jesus go free. Pilate brought out the worst criminal he could find. A man named Barabbas. Barabbas was a very bad man, and Jesus hadn't done anything wrong...Pilate thought for sure they would chose to let Jesus go.

The people hated Jesus so much they choose to let the evil Barabbas go. Pilate was shocked! When Pilate asked what he should do to Jesus the people shouted, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" which means to kill Jesus.

Pilate did not want to kill Jesus. He believed Jesus had done nothing wrong. Pilate wanted to make his people happy too. He washed his hands and said he thought Jesus was innocent, but he would allow the people to do with Jesus what they wanted. Pilate did not stand up for Jesus, he was afraid. The people then took Jesus and led him away to be killed, crucified on a cross.

Jesus Connection: Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent and had done nothing wrong, but the people were so hard of heart that they didn't care and wanted to free Barabbas - a criminal, instead of Jesus - a perfect man.

Big Picture Question: Why was Jesus innocent?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus was perfect and had never sinned or done anything wrong.

Topic: Crucifixion and Burial

Lesson 37

Scriptures: Matthew 27:26-66; Mark 15:23-47; Luke 23:32-49; John 19:18-30

After Pilate gave Jesus over to the people He was treated very badly. Jesus' clothes were taken from Him, and He was put in a purple robe, like a king would wear. They were doing this to make fun of Jesus for saying He was God's Son, that He was a King. Then they put a crown on His head. It was not a beautiful crown like an earthly king would wear. It was not gold with jewels all around it. They took small branches with long thorns on them and twisted it into a crown. They put it on Jesus' head. The thorns were pushed into Jesus' head and hurt him badly, they made His head bleed. They put a reed in His right hand, and they bowed down to Him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews." Then they spit on Him and took the reed from His hand and hit Him in the head with it. They took the robe off of Jesus and put His own clothes back on Him and led Him away to be crucified. Can you imagine how Jesus must have felt? He took all of that pain and never complained.

Jesus was so weak from being beaten that He could not carry the cross that He was going to be hung on. A man named Simon had to carry the cross for Jesus. When Jesus got to the place where He was going to be crucified He was put on the cross. Pilate made a sign and placed it above Jesus head that read. JESUS OF NAZARETH. THE KING OF THE JEWS. The Roman soldiers drove nails through His hands and through His feet to attach Him to the cross. Then they lifted the cross and dropped it in the ground.

Lots of people were there to see Jesus crucified. They continued making fun of Him and saying mean things to Him. Jesus did have some true friends who were there too. Jesus' mother Mary, His aunt, His friend Mary Magdalene, and His dear friend and disciple John. They too, had to listen to all the ugly things people were saying about Jesus. They said things like, "You can save others, but You cannot save

Yourself! If you are God's Son then call to Him, surely He will save You! Come down off that cross and then we will believe in You!"

Jesus was so full of love that He asked God to forgive the people for what they were doing to Him and for the things they said about Him. Jesus could have come off the cross if He wanted to, but if He did He would not be doing what God wanted. God wanted Jesus to give Himself so all the people could be saved through His death. Remember how in the old days animals were sacrificed to God? God wanted Jesus to be the very last sacrifice. Jesus was going to pay for everyone's sins, even yours and mine. If Jesus stayed on the cross and did what God wanted Him to do He would take all the sins of the world on Himself so those people that sinned could be forgiven by God.

Jesus stayed on that cross because He loved us so much. At one point He called out to God and said, "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?" Then Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and then He gave up His spirit, Jesus died.

As soon as Jesus died, the veil in the temple was torn in two. There was a great earthquake, so great it split the rocks! When the people saw this they were afraid and said "This really was the Son of God!"

A man, that same night, went to Pilate and asked if he could have Jesus' body. That man's name was Joseph. He took Jesus' body and wrapped it in a clean cloth. He laid Jesus' body in his own new tomb, and he rolled a big rock in front of the door of the tomb.

Jesus had finished the work God had given Him to do on earth. He came to earth as a man and taught us how we should live. Jesus never sinned and He was perfect! Then He willingly died on the cross so we could be forgiven of our sins. But....this is not the end...it's only the beginning!

Jesus Connection: The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus is the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. He was the perfect and final sacrifice.

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus die on the cross?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus died for our sins so that we could have an opportunity to live with Him in Heaven.

Topic: Resurrection

Lesson 38

Scriptures: Matthew 28:2-15; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-11; John 20:1-18

Pilate had Jesus put to death on a cross. Jesus was buried in a tomb, and a large stone was rolled over the opening of the tomb. After Jesus' death, the Jewish leaders remembered that Jesus said He would die and then come back to life in three days. They were worried, so Pilate placed guards outside the tomb to keep watch.

Jesus was put on the cross and died on a Friday, that following Sunday Jesus had been in the tomb for three days. There was a great earthquake, and an angel came from heaven and rolled the stone from the tomb and sat on top of the stone. The angel was bright as lightning and had on clothes as white as snow. The soldiers guarding the tomb shook and fell to the ground like dead men because they were so scared.

That same Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene and Mary came to the tomb with spices to anoint Jesus' body. On the way to the tomb they talked about how to move the large stone that covered the tomb. When they arrived at the tomb, they saw that the stone was already rolled away from the tomb.

When they looked into the tomb, Jesus was gone. The angel appeared to them and asked why they were looking for Jesus in the tomb, he told them Jesus was alive! He told the women to go and tell Jesus' disciples that He had risen from the dead, and was alive! They ran from the tomb with fear and great joy!

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary ran to tell Jesus' disciple what they had seen and heard. They told them that Jesus was not in the tomb and they did not know where He was or who had taken Him. The disciples did not believe it and ran to the tomb. John out ran Peter and came to the tomb first but stopped and did not go in. Peter

immediately went into the tomb. Peter saw the cloths that Jesus was wrapped in were lying there and the handkerchief that covered his head was folded up and lying in another spot. John came into the tomb and saw it too. Seeing it they believed.

Jesus Connection: The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus is the center of the gospel. God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice so on the 3rd day, He raised Jesus from the dead! Jesus now reigns as king over all creation.

Big Picture Question: What did the angel say about Jesus?

Big Picture Answer: The angel said that Jesus had risen, just as He said He would.

Topic: Jesus Appears to Disciples, Thomas Believes Lesson 39
Scriptures: Mark 16:12-14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-29

Jesus' special friends and disciples were together in a room on the first day of the week after Jesus had been raised. The doors were locked because they were afraid that the people who killed Jesus would try to hurt them, too.

Suddenly Jesus came and stood in the room with them! He didn't come through the door - it was locked! He didn't come through the windows - they were shut. He just appeared!

Jesus said, "Peace be with you." The disciples were afraid! They thought He was a ghost, so He showed them His hands and His side that has scars from when He was on the cross. Jesus once again said to them "Peace be with you" and asked for some fish to eat with them! He ate with them and told them that the Father sent Him to die on the cross so that people everywhere could have their sins forgiven. The disciples then remembered the promises that had been made through Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms and were amazed that Jesus had fulfilled His promise!

Now Thomas, one of His disciples, had not been with them when Jesus came and the other disciples were telling him "We have seen the Lord! He is Alive!". But Thomas was sad, he knew Jesus had died and he didn't believe He had come back to life. Thomas said "I won't believe that Jesus is alive unless I see Him and touch Him".

Later Thomas and the other disciples were again together in a house with all the doors locked so that no one could get in. But suddenly, Jesus appeared in the room! Jesus knew that Thomas still didn't believe He was really alive. So Jesus looked at Thomas and said "Come and see me, touch my hands and feel my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas then answered "My Lord and My God!" He believed and knew for sure Jesus was alive!

Jesus Connection: The Bible is all about Jesus! The Patriarchs, Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms all talk about how Jesus is coming. The Old Testament points forward to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection - the time when Jesus would bring God's promised salvation for sinners.

Big Picture Question: Who did Jesus say was blessed?

Big Picture Answer: Those who believe without seeing are blessed.

Topic: Ascension, Matthias Chosen

Lesson 40

Scriptures: Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-26

Time Period: EARLY CHURCH

Concept: After Jesus was raised He went to sit at the right hand of God. He had chosen Apostles to go into all the world and preach the good news of Jesus, our Savior and King.

After Jesus had risen from the dead, He spent 40 days talking to His disciples and promised them the gift of the Holy Spirit, who would help them with everything Jesus had asked them to do and would lead them out into the world to preach the good news to all the nations. This great work is the *Great Commission* - "To preach the good news of Jesus to all people and all creation. Whoever believes will be saved, but those who do not believe will not be saved."

One day Jesus and His friends went far out of the city and He blessed them and was carried up into the air into Heaven. Soon Jesus was covered by clouds and His disciples couldn't see Him anymore, but they kept looking up.

Suddenly two angels stood beside them in white robes and the angels asked them "Why do you stand here looking into the sky?" They then said "Jesus will come back someday the same way you saw Him go up into Heaven." Then Jesus' disciples went to Jerusalem to pray and worship God!

One day in an upper room all the disciples and followers of Jesus were gathered together and Peter rose up. He said "the scripture had to be

fulfilled that Judas would give Jesus over to be arrested. Now let another take his place, a man who is a witness of Jesus being raised from the dead. He must be one of the men who was part of our group during all the time John was baptizing people until the day Jesus was taken up from us into Heaven."

Then they chose two men, one called Joseph Barsabbas (Justus) and the other was Matthias. They prayed for the Lord to choose which man should be an apostle to take Judas' place. Then they used lots to choose between them, and the lots showed Matthias was the one. So he became an Apostle.

Jesus Connection: The good news about what Jesus has done is too great to keep to ourselves. Before Jesus went back to heaven, He gave His disciples a job - to preach to people everywhere to obey Jesus and learn what He has done for us.

Big Picture Question: What does Jesus want His disciples to do?

Big Picture Answer: Jesus wants His disciples to go out and preach the gospel to all people.

Topic: The Holy Spirit, Church Begins

Lesson 41

Scripture: Acts 2:1-47

It had been a few days since Jesus had been taken up into heaven. The 12 Apostles (they chose Matthias to take Judas' place) were gathered together when suddenly the house was filled with the sound of a strong mighty rushing wind! As they watched in wonder, tongues of fire seemed to rest on each person's head! And the 12 Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit! All of them began to speak in different languages as the Holy Spirit directed. Some languages had never even been heard or spoken before!

Hearing the commotion, a huge crowd gathered outside, and the Apostles began to speak to them. People had gathered from all over - Asia, Egypt, Libya and Crete, from Rome and Arabia - but they were all hearing the Apostles telling them in their own native language the mighty works of God!

Some people were amazed and confused saying "What does this mean?". But others just wanted to make fun of what was happening and mocked "They have been drinking too much wine."

Then Peter stepped forward. "Listen! We are not drunk, but have been filled with the Holy Spirit! Just a few weeks ago Jesus of Nazareth died on a cross. Yet any one of us can tell you that God has raised Jesus to life! This was all part of God's plan! He has kept His promises. You know that Jesus was sent to you by God, for He worked many miracles and showed you many signs. But God planned that Jesus would

be handed over to you, so you rejected Him and had Him killed by evil men. Yet death could not hold him! God made this Jesus whom you crucified, Lord and Messiah!"

When the people heard this they were sad, knowing they had done wrong and asked what they could do to make it better? Peter answered "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and your sins will be forgiven and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you AND for those who are far away. God's great gift is for everyone!"

That day about 3,000 people believed His word and were baptized! Then everyone of them was devoted to the word of God and were helping the sick and poor and worshiping and praising God together. These were the first Christians, Christ's church!

Jesus Connection: Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit. The coming of the Holy Spirit meant the Apostles could begin their work to share the gospel with the entire world. God gives the Holy Spirit to those who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit gives us power to do God's work, and He changes us to be more like Jesus.

Big Picture Question: How did Peter say the people could be saved?

Big Picture Answer: People should repent, confess, and be baptized for their sins to be saved.

Topic: Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar

Lesson 42

Scripture: Acts 3:1-26

Peter and John were going up to the temple to pray, and a man lame from birth was sitting outside the gates. He couldn't walk and spent every day there, hoping for a spare coin or two. Seeing Peter and John passing by, he looked up hopefully and asked to receive any money.

Peter stopped. "I'm afraid I don't have any money, but I can give you something far better!" As the lame man looked confused, Peter continued "In the name of Jesus Christ, I order you to get up and walk!" Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up. Immediately his legs were made strong and leaping up he began to walk. He entered the temple with them walking, leaping and praising God! And all the people saw him and recognized him as the man by the gate and were filled with wonder and amazement as to what had happened to him.

Jesus Connection: The Holy Spirit gave the apostles power to keep working. Peter healed a man who was lame with the power of Jesus' name.

Big Picture Question: How was the lame man healed?

Big Picture Answer: With God's power, Peter healed him in the name of Jesus.

Topic: Ananias and Sapphira Lesson 43

Scripture: Acts 5:1-11

Many came to believe in Jesus. They pulled together, sharing what they had. Some even sold houses or land so that the money could be used where it was most needed. But, a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold part of their land. They decided they would keep some of the money for themselves and give the rest to Peter, believing he would never know.

But when Ananias brought the money, Peter looked him in the eye and said, "Why have you lied and kept some back? The land was yours before you sold it, and the money was yours too. Why lie? You haven't just lied to me but to God himself!" And Ananias fell down dead on the spot!

His wife, Sapphira came in unaware of what had happened to her husband and Peter asked her if she had given him all of the money. When she also answered "Yes" he sighed. "Oh, Sapphira, how could you lie like that? Can't you hear that sound?" (There were footsteps outside the room) "Those men have just buried your husband, and now they will carry your body away too!" And at that, Sapphira fell down dead!

Ananias and Sapphira lied and died in Acts 5 and their story spread far and wide filling everyone with great fear.

Jesus Connection: God changed the hearts of believers, and they shared what they had with others so no one was needy. God calls us today to share what we have with others as well and give with a grateful heart.

Big Picture Question: Why did Ananias and Sapphira die?

Big Picture Answer: Ananias and Sapphira died because they lied about giving all the money they had, when they were really only give part of it back to God.

Topic: Saul to Paul

Lesson 44

Scripture: Acts 7 - 9

In Acts 7 Stephen, a good and wise man, in charge of distributing everything among the new Christians was hated because he was able to perform many wonders. He was taken before the Jewish council and false witnesses were given against him. Stephen replied that the "Son of Man was standing at the right hand of God" and that made them even more angry. So they dragged him out and the city and stoned him to death.

One of those onlookers was named Saul, he hated the followers of Jesus. He wanted to stop the preaching and believed he was doing God's will. Many Christians had to flee to avoid imprisonment but they still spread the Word of God wherever they went.

Some of those Christians fled to the city of Damascus, and Saul set off to arrest them. Suddenly, a blinding light from Heaven flashed down. Saul fell to the ground, covering his eyes. Then he heard a voice saying "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said "Who are you, Lord?" And he said "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter into the city and you will be told what you must do."

Saul stood up, but when he opened his eyes, he couldn't see! He was now blind. His guards had to take him by the hand and lead him into the city. There he stayed for three days without eating or drinking.

God had great plans for Saul. So he sent a Christian named Ananias to the house where Saul was staying. When Ananias got there, he put his hands on him and said "Jesus sent me that you might see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit!" And immediately, something like scales fell from his eyes and he could see again. Then he rose up and was baptized.

Saul - who later became known as Paul - began to preach the good news of Jesus in Damascus. People were amazed, for he had once been the greatest enemy of the Christians. But while his enemies became his friends, his old friends soon became his enemies and he needed to escape. So disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the city wall, lowering him down in a basket. He then returned to Jerusalem and went on to become a great apostle and preacher of Jesus!

Jesus Connection: Jesus appeared to Saul and changed him inside and out. Jesus called Saul, who was once an enemy of Christians, to spend the rest of his life telling people the gospel and leading them to trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Big Picture Question: What did the Lord tell Ananias that His plan for Saul was?

Big Picture Answer: Saul (who would later become Paul) would take the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles, kings, and the Israelites.

Topic: Ethiopian Eunuch/Servant Lesson 45

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

Among one of the many Christians who had to flee to avoid imprisonment was Philip. He had been called by an angel to travel south from Jerusalem and on his journey, Philip came across a powerful and wealthy man, the treasurer to the Queen of Ethiopia. This man "the Ethiopian Eunuch/Servant" was reading from the book of Isaiah as he traveled in his carriage.

The Ethiopian was frustrated. He was reading Isaiah's words about how God's servant was led like a sheep to the slaughter and he wanted to know whom the prophet was talking about. Philip went over to the Ethiopian and asked him if he understood what he was reading. He replied "How can I unless someone guides me?" So he invited Philip to sit with him and read the scripture.

So Philip began to tell him all about the good news of Jesus. When they came upon some water, the Ethiopian asked "See here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And they stopped the chariot and they both went down into the water, and Philip baptized the Ethiopian. When they came up out of the water, the spirit of the Lord carried Philip away to preach in another place, and the eunuch saw him no more but went on his way rejoicing!

Jesus Connection: Jesus wants us to preach the word of God to others so that they have an opportunity to repent and be baptized so they can live with God in Heaven forever.

Big Picture Question: What did the servant know he needed to do after reading the scripture?

Big Picture Answer: The Ethiopian servant knew he needed to be baptized and obey God's word to be saved.

Topic: Dorcas and Cornelius Lesson 46

Scripture: Acts 9:36-43, Acts 10

Now in the city of Joppa was a disciple named Tabitha, which also means Dorcas. She was full of good works and spent most of her days helping the poor, for whom she made clothes. Sadly, she became ill and passed away. The other Christians mourned her bitterly. They tenderly washed her body and placed it in a room to await burial.

Tabitha's (Dorcas) friends sent a message to Peter, begging him to come. When he entered the room where her body was, Peter was met by a crowd of weeping widows, showing all the tunics and garments Dorcas had made when she was with them. Peter soothed them, then sent them out from the room. Once he was alone, he fell to his knees and prayed with all his heart. Then he turned toward the dead woman, saying "Tabitha, get up!"

She opened her eyes and sat up! Peter took her hand and called in the saints and widows and showed her alive! She had been raised from the dead. Amazed and overjoyed, they could hardly believe their eyes! When the news spread many more people began to believe in Jesus.

One day while Peter was praying on the roof he fell asleep and had a strange dream. In his dream, hung before him a huge white sheet being lowered from heaven by its corners. It was filled with all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. Looking closely Peter realized they were all animals that Jews were forbidden to eat, for they were considered "unclean". Then he heard God's voice saying, "Get up, Peter. Kill and

eat." He responded, "Surely not, Lord." "I have never eaten anything unclean." The voice spoke again, "Do not call impure what God has made clean." This happened three more times, then the sheet was pulled back up to heaven.

Peter awoke from the dream to the sound of knocking. Downstairs there were three men sent by an officer named Cornelius. Although they were Romans, Cornelius and his family believed in God. God told him to have Peter into his house. These men were not Jews, but Gentiles, and Peter now understanding the vision invited them in. Peter went to Cornelius' house and preached the good news and told them "God doesn't show favoritism, he will welcome anyone who believes and tries to follow his laws."

While he was talking the Holy Spirit came and God gave the Gentiles the same gift given to Jesus' apostles. God's message is for ALL men!

Jesus Connection: God wants the word of God to be spread to ALL men! Not just the Jews/Israelites who were his chosen people in the Old Testament. Jesus died for all men.

Big Picture Question: Who is the gospel for?

Big Picture Answer: The gospel and God's message is for all men!

Topic: Peter Freed from Prison Lesson 47

Scripture: Acts 12

King Herod put Peter in prison. He decided to kill Peter because some angry men did not want Peter to keep preaching about Jesus. The night before his trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers. His hands were bound tightly with chains. More guards stood at the entrance. They didn't want Peter to escape!

Suddenly, light filled the cell and an angel appeared. The angel said "Quick, get up!". The chains fell right off Peter's wrists. Then the angel said "Get dressed and put on your sandals." Peter did so, wrapped his cloak around himself and followed the angel. They walked out of the prison and past all of the guards. Peter didn't fully understand what was going on and thought it was a vision. But the gate to the city even opened by itself to let them in! Then the angel disappeared. Peter then knew it was the Lord who had sent the angel to rescue him.

Peter then quickly went to a house where some other believers in Jesus were praying for him. Peter knocked on the door, and a servant girl, Rhoda came to the door to answer. When she heard Peter's voice she was so excited she forgot to open the door and let him in! When Peter was finally let into the house, he explained to everyone what had happened. They all praised God together for answering their prayers and rescuing Peter.

Jesus Connection: Peter was rescued from being killed because God needed him to continue to preach the good news to the world. God is always with us too in hard times.

Big Picture Question: How was Peter rescued?

Big Picture Answer: God and his angels led him out of the prison safely.

Topic: Paul's 1st & 2nd Journey, Paul & Silas in Jail, Philippian Jailer
Lesson 48 Scripture: Acts 13-18

God told Paul and Barnabas ("Son of Encouragement") to go on a journey to spread the good news to people who had not yet heard about Jesus. They went first to Cyprus, where a false prophet spoke against them. But Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit condemned him, saying "The hand of the Lord is against you and you will be struck blind!" Sure enough, he was struck blind and the proconsul (island governor) was so amazed that he became a Christian.

Next they sailed to the land that we know as Turkey, going from town to town, preaching the good news. They went first to synagogues, but if the Jews wouldn't listen, they taught the Gentiles. This was their first journey to preach. They made many friends, and many enemies, but were preaching Jesus to all men!

After some days traveling, Barnabas left Paul and went to another place to preach. Paul then took Silas on his Second Missionary Journey. Paul and Silas were in Philippi getting ready to leave to go to Macedonia to preach. In that city of Philippi, they were followed around by a slave girl who was possessed by a spirit. She ranted and raved so much that, in the end, Paul commanded the spirit to leave her in the name of Jesus. The spirit instantly left her, but her owners were angry with Paul and Silas, for she was no longer able to foretell the future and make them money. So the owners had Paul and Silas sent to jail.

In jail at midnight, Paul and Silas were lying in the stocks (chains around hands and feet). They weren't afraid, but were singing hymns to God! The other prisoners could hardly believe what they were hearing. Then suddenly, there was a great earthquake and the doors of the jail came open. The chains on Paul and Silas came off!

The jailer was afraid all the prisoners had escaped and decided it would be better if he had just died than be punished for losing the prisoners. But Paul cried out "Don't hurt yourself! We are still here!" The jailer took Paul and Silas out of the jail and took them home to take care of them. He wanted to know about Jesus. Everyone in the jailer's family heard the good news about Jesus, believed, and were baptized!

Paul and Silas continued their journey through many lands telling people the wonderful news of Jesus. He spent time in Athens, where the people loved debating, and in Corinth, where he earned a living making tents, then traveled to Ephesus and Caesarea, before staying for a while in Antioch at the end of his second missionary journey.

Jesus Connection: Paul obeyed the Great Commission to tell the world about Jesus. Paul shared the gospel with the non-Jews and many people believed in Jesus and were saved from their sins.

Big Picture Question: Why did Paul go on journeys?

Big Picture Answer: Paul went to preach the good news of Jesus all over the world.

Scripture: Acts 19-28

Paul was in Ephesus on his third missionary journey when trouble erupted. The people in that city worshipped idols and when Paul started preaching and many became Christians, they stopped buying the idols. This made the silversmiths very angry and soon the whole city was in an uproar! After this angry mob, Paul realized it would be safer if he left the city so he set off to return to Jerusalem, first heading to Macedonia and Greece.

On Paul's way to Jerusalem, he stopped in the city of Troas and was preaching. The Christians there were thrilled Paul was among them and they crowded into an upstairs room to listen to him, and he talked late into the night. One of his listeners was a young man named Eutychus. He wanted to hear everything Paul had to say, but got very sleepy. He was even sitting in the window hoping the fresh air would help him stay awake, but he eventually fell asleep and fell out of the window down to the hard ground! When people realized what happened, they rushed down and found him dead. Paul, coming behind them, knelt by Eutychus, gathered him in his arms and said "Don't worry. He's alive!" The people could hardly believe what happened, Paul had brought Eutychus back to life and they were filled with joy at the miracle!

Paul continued to sail across the seas, going where God wanted him to go. After Paul was back in Jerusalem, trouble broke out because they didn't like Paul preaching that everyone could follow Jesus. They wanted to kill Paul, but the commander ordered his soldiers to take

Paul to the Roman fort. Paul was then sent to the Jewish council so they could work it out, but they only argued among themselves so Paul was sent back. When the Roman commander learned of a plot by some Jews to kill Paul, he snuck Paul out of the city and took him to the Roman headquarters where he was kept under guard for several years. In the end, Paul appealed to have his case heard by Emperor Caesar himself, as was his right as a Roman citizen. At last, Paul was on his way to Rome.

On his way to Rome, Paul was shipwrecked, but just as God had promised, everyone was safe. They stayed on the island for three months after the ship had crashed before setting sail again for Rome. While Paul waited for his case to be heard, Paul was allowed to live by himself with a soldier to guard him. Although he was not allowed out, he could have visitors and he continued to spread the message of Jesus to new people. He also wrote many letters to the Christians he had met during his travels to encourage them and help them as they set up their churches. Paul did a great work in spreading the gospel!

Jesus Connection: Paul shared the gospel with people who didn't know Jesus, and he encouraged believers to keep loving Jesus. As people heard the message of Jesus, their hearts and lives were changed. The good news of Jesus is powerful and life-giving!

Big Picture Question: What happened to Eutychus?

Big Picture Answer: He fell out of a window and died. But Paul - with God's power brought him back to life.

Eutychus Song

Tune: "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

There was a man upstairs in church

Upstairs in church

Upstairs in church

There was a man upstairs in church

Who sat down in the window

He stayed so long he went to sleep

Went to sleep

Went to sleep

Stayed so long he went to sleep

And fell out of the window

Paul went down and picked him up

Picked him up

Picked him up

Paul went down and picked him up

And made him whole again

Now this man's name can you guess

Can you guess

Can you guess

This man's name can you guess

Oh Yes!

His name is Eutychus!

Topic: Put on God's Armor; The Good Fight

Lesson 50

Scripture: Ephesians 6; 1 Timothy 6:11-20; 2 Timothy 2, 4:7

Time Period: LETTERS TO THE CHRISTIANS

Concept: Jesus' disciples preached the good news of Jesus to all of the world. Some of His followers wrote letters to Christians all over the world to encourage them as they obeyed Jesus and those words encourage us and teach us how to live like Jesus.

Paul told the Ephesians, "Be strong in the Lord. Our enemies aren't made of flesh and blood, so put on every piece of God's armor. Then you can stand firm, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist and the breastplate of righteousness. And, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace, and take up the shield of faith. And take up the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times." We are to put the whole armor of God so we can fight against the temptations of the devil.

Towards the end of his life, Paul wrote to one of his special friends, Timothy. Timothy: "I am suffering and have been chained like a criminal, but the word of God cannot be chained. I am willing to endure for the sake of God's chosen people so that they too may obtain the salvation that comes through Christ Jesus and brings eternal glory. Remind everyone of this saying:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny who he is.”

Paul, knowing he was going to die soon, told Timothy that he had suffered greatly but also said, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now I look forward to my reward, which the Lord will give me on the day of his return - a reward not just for me but for all who eagerly await his coming!” Because of Jesus we have hope of eternal life in heaven with Him!

Jesus Connection: Paul wrote many letters to the Christians around the world to encourage them in their walk with Jesus. He tells us to put on the Armor of God to stand against the devil and he tells us that we are to fight the good fight of faith so we can one day be with Jesus in heaven.

Big Picture Question: Why do we need to put on the armor of God?

Big Picture Answer: So we can stand firm against the devil who is trying to lead us away from Jesus.

Topic: Fruit of the Spirit & God is Love

Lesson 51

Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23; Hebrews 11-12

Paul spoke in many of his letters to the Christians about the love of God. The apostle John told us and wrote "God is love." He also said "For God loved us so much that He sent His only Son into the world to die on the cross so that we might have eternal life through Him." Since He loves us so much, we are to make sure that we show love to one another. This is how we can show God's love to others and God can live in us.

One of the best ways for us to show God's love is by becoming more like Him! In Paul's letters to the Galatians, he tells them the Fruit of the Spirit. "But the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law" This is the best way for us to show God's love to others, living by His fruit!

Jesus Connection: Jesus showed us how to live and he continues to tell us how to live by giving us qualities he wants us to have - those qualities are the Fruit of the Spirit, and they will help us be more like Jesus.

Big Picture Question: How can we show God's love to others?

Big Picture Answer: We show God's love by possessing the Fruit of the Spirit - qualities of Jesus that He wants us to have too.

Topic: Revelation - John's vision, Jesus is coming back!

Lesson 52

Scripture: Revelation 1, 21-22

The very last book of the Bible is the book of Revelation. The author of this amazing book, John, had a vision to share. He had a vision and was to send this message to seven churches. In his vision he saw "seven golden lamp stands, and among them was a being like the Son of Man, dressed in a long robe, with a golden sash around His chest. His head and hair were white as snow, and His eyes were like blazing fire. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face shone like the brightest sun." John fell at His feet but the Son of Man said "Do not be afraid, I am the first and the last (Alpha and Omega). I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades!"

John had another vision and found himself before the throne of God. He saw a rainbow resembling an emerald encircling the throne. It was surrounded by twenty-four other thrones on which set twenty-four elders, dressed in white with crowns of gold. From the throne came flashes of lightning and thunder, and before the throne were seven burning torches of fire. Around it were four living creatures - one like a lion, one like an ox, one with the face like a man, and one like an eagle in flight - all covered with eyes. They each had six wings and chanted "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" John also saw a Lamb standing in the center of the throne, and the four beings and all the elders bowed down in praise and were joined by a multitude of angels and all the creatures in heaven and on earth.

John also saw that a terrible time was coming and days would be dark, but was reminded that all earth will be destroyed and God's kingdom will reign. Only God can defeat Satan, and God is always the victor! John at the very end of the book wrote that he saw "a new heaven and a new earth, and I saw the holy city coming down out of heaven like a beautiful bride." He heard a voice saying "Now God's home is with his people! He will live with them. They shall be His people, and He will be their God. There will no more death, grief, crying or pain. He will make all things new! For He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end." He closes by saying those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter into the mighty kingdom of Heaven! Jesus then reminds us with His final words "I am coming soon!"

May it be so! Come, Lord Jesus, come soon!

Jesus Connection: The book of Revelation reminds us that God always wins and defeats Satan. Jesus loves His church and reminds us to turn away from our sin and remain faithful to Him.

Big Picture Question: Is Jesus coming back to save his people?

Big Picture Answer: Yes! Jesus is coming soon to save all those who obey his word.