



STORY TAPESTRY

*Empowering women
to tell God's
amazing stories
of
love and hope*

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Panorama

Creation to Church

In the beginning before time began, there was only the one true God. When He spoke, He created the universe, heaven and earth and everything in it. Then God decided to make His special creation, man and woman. The man and woman had a perfect relationship with God. They walked and talked with Him.

But one day, the man and woman disobeyed God, and their perfect relationship with God was broken. The whole earth was cursed because of their disobedience. The man and woman had many descendants, and eventually the entire earth was populated. The people continued to disobey God, but God never forgot about them.

One day, God spoke to a man named Abraham. God said to Abraham, "I'm going to give you more descendants than there are stars in the sky. I will make them into a great nation. They will be called my people, and they will be a blessing to the whole world." Even though Abraham was an old man, he trusted God. God kept His promise and Abraham had a son. Through his son, Abraham had many descendants. They became a great nation, just as God had said. But the people still disobeyed God and were separated from Him.

God sent a spokesman named Isaiah to His people. Isaiah told the people about a 'promised Savior' who would one day come. Isaiah said, "We all have sinned against God. One day, a Savior is coming who will suffer and die for our sins. Then God will raise Him back to life again, and He will live forever. Everyone who puts their faith in Him will be forgiven for their sins and will live in perfect relationship with God forever."

Eventually, just as God said, that promised Savior came. He was a descendant of Abraham. His name was Jesus and He was perfect in every way. He healed the sick, cast out evil spirits, and performed miracles. Some people followed Jesus but others didn't. Jesus told the people, "I give eternal life to everyone who follows me, and no one can take them away from me because God and I are the same."

Not everyone liked what Jesus said and did. Those who didn't believe Jesus had Him arrested, beaten and then executed. Jesus suffered and died, just as God said He would. But, just as God also said, Jesus came back to life again. He walked and talked and ate with His followers to prove He was alive. And He promised to send God's Spirit to comfort and guide them. Then God took Jesus up into heaven.

Just as Jesus promised, He sent God's Spirit to live in and be with those people who believe in Him. The people showed themselves to be His followers by being symbolically washed in water to show they had changed their hearts and lives. They gathered together. They prayed and worshipped together. They studied His teachings and took care of each other's needs. They remembered Jesus' life by listening to stories and following His teachings. And they shared these stories with everyone they met. Today, the followers of Jesus continue to do all of these things and they wait for the day when Jesus will come to take them to live with Him forever.



Spirit World

Scripture Base:

**Job 38:4-7; Psalms 103:20-21; Psalms 148:2, 5;
Matthew 9:34; Matthew 25:41; John 1:1, 2;
Ephesians 6:11, 12; 1 Timothy 1:17; 2 Timothy 3:16;
James 2:19; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6**

This is a true story starting at the beginning of time. We know about these things, because God told people about them long ago through his spokesmen.

In the very beginning, before anything else existed, there was God. He has always existed.

He created spirit beings to be His messengers. They are called angels.

These spirit beings praised God and carried out His commands.

They sang for joy as God created the earth, to make it exactly the way He wanted it.

At some point, some of these spirit beings turned evil. They weren't happy with the positions God had given them. They disobeyed and turned against God and all the good He had given them.

These disobedient spirits became the evil spirits we know as demons. One of them called Satan, is the ruler of the rest.

These evil spirits continue to work against what God is doing here on earth, and against those who follow God's ways.

God pronounced a judgment on all these evil spirits. He said they would someday be punished in an everlasting fire.

Words/Phrases to Consider

Spirits

Spiritual beings created by God.

See Glossary for:

Angel

Disobey/ Disobedience

Evil Spirits

Satan

Spokesmen

Worldview

Most of the worldviews would consider this story to be a myth. Make sure it is not perceived in this way.

Story Crafting

This story is summarized from several scripture passages from the Old and New Testaments.

The word spirit here is not to be confused with God's Spirit.

This story explains where Satan came from. If working in the Hindu, Buddhist or Animist world, this story would be good to do. If working in a language that doesn't have the film, it would be fine to leave this story out.

Principles

Character and nature of God

God is the Creator of everything; God is good in everything He does.



Creation

Genesis 1:1-28, 31; 2:2, 3, 7-9, 15-18, 21-25

Based on NLT

Genesis 1:1-27

In the beginning *there was* God. *He spoke and when He did, He created the whole world and everything in it.* God *made* light and water. He *made* the dry ground and all *kinds of plants and trees.* God *made* the sun, the moon, and the stars. He *made all kinds of fish, birds, and animals.* Then, God created people, He *patterned them after Himself.*

Genesis 2:7-9,15

God formed a man's body from the *soil* of the ground and breathed into *him and he began to live.* Then God placed the man *in a garden of fruit trees.* God *planted* all *kinds of trees* in the garden. *They were* beautiful trees that produced delicious fruit. At the center of the garden He placed two *trees--the tree which gave life and the tree which gave the understanding* of good and evil.

Genesis 2:16, 17

God told the *man, Adam,* "You may eat any fruit in the garden except fruit from the tree which *gives the understanding* of good and evil. If you eat *this tree's* fruit, you will die."

Genesis 2:18, 21-25

God said *man shouldn't* be alone. So God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He took one of Adam's ribs and made a woman from the rib and brought her to Adam. "At last!" Adam exclaimed. "She *has* flesh and bones like me!" Adam and his wife, Eve, were naked, *but* neither of them was *ashamed.* *They had a good relationship with God.*

Genesis 1:28, 31

God blessed them and told them, "Multiply and be masters over the fish, the birds, and all the animals." Then God looked over all He had made, and saw that it was excellent in every way. *God created the world and everything in it in six days.*

Genesis 2:2, 3

The next day, the seventh day, God stopped working. God set apart one day of the week for Himself because He had finished creating the world.

Words/Phrases to Consider

'flesh and bones like me'

This phrase refers to Adam exclaiming in joy that finally he had found someone like himself. It is a less literal rendering of the Hebraic idiom, 'flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone.'

'excellent in every way'

When God saw His creation was 'excellent in every way', it implies that it was pleasing to God – He judged it suitable and fitting for its purpose.

See Glossary for:

Blessed

Relationship

Worldview

Be sure that the word 'naked' used here is appropriate. For some cultures, it is more appropriate to say, 'they didn't have clothes on'.

Story Crafting

Many oral people find it difficult to remember the 'list' of the seven days of creation in Genesis 1. Genesis 1 was actually more of a hymn, but Genesis 2 is a re-telling of the creation story in a more narrative way. Genesis 1 is summarized. More of the story is taken from the Genesis 2 account. People seem to be better able to remember the story when told this way.

The names of the rivers in Genesis 2 are left out for ease of re-telling. However, if the people group really like the rivers for some reason, include them.

Genesis 2:3 was re-worded in order to make it easier to understand and less complicated to translate. For example, instead of saying God made the seventh day 'holy', it is described as a day being 'set apart'.

The 'tree which gives the understanding of good and evil' is a name which shows action, so the audience will understand a little more of the real purpose of the tree.

Principles

Character and nature of God

Creator; relational; has the power to bless.

Church

Setting aside a 'special' day, dedicated to God which lays the foundation for church.



Disobedience

Genesis 3:1-19a , 21-24

Based on NLT

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the snake was the most *cunning* of all the *animals* God had made. Satan *entered* into the snake and he asked *Eve*, "Did God really say you must not eat any of the fruit in the garden?" "Of course we may eat it," *Eve* told him. "It's only the fruit from the tree *which gives the understanding of good and evil* that we are not allowed to eat. God says we must not eat it or even touch it, or we will die." "You won't die!" the snake *hissed*. "God knows that when you eat this fruit you will become just like *Him*, knowing everything, both good and evil."

Genesis 3:6, 7

Eve was convinced. The fruit looked *so fresh* and delicious, and it would make her so wise! So she ate some of the fruit. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. *Adam* ate it, too. At that moment, *something inside them changed*; they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they *put leaves together* to cover their *nakedness*.

Genesis 3:8-13

Toward evening, *Adam and Eve* heard God walking about in the garden, so they hid themselves among the trees. God called to *Adam*, "Where are you?" *Adam* replied, "I heard you, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked." "Who told you that you were naked?" God asked. "Have you eaten the fruit I commanded you not to eat?" "Yes," *Adam* admitted, "but it was the woman You gave me who brought me the fruit, and I ate it." Then God asked *Eve*, "How could you do such a thing?" "The *snake tricked me*," she replied. "That's why I ate it."

Genesis 3:14, 15

So *God* said to the *snake*, "Because you have done this, *you will be punished*. You will crawl in the dust as long as you live. From now on, your *descendants* and the *descendants of the woman* will be *enemies*. *You will bite his heel, but he will crush your head*."

Genesis 3:16-19a

Then *God* said to *Eve*, "You will give *birth* to children with intense pain and *suffering*." *God* said to *Adam*, "Because you ate the fruit I told you not to eat, I have placed a curse on the ground. All your life you will struggle to *live* from it. It will grow thorns and thistles. You will sweat to produce food, until *you die*."

Genesis 3:21-24

Then *God* said, "Now *people* know everything, both good and evil. What if they eat the fruit from the tree that gives life? Then they will live forever!" So *God* sent *Adam and Eve out of the garden and prevented them from returning to the tree that gave life*.

Words/Phrases to Consider

Curse

This word in the text actually means punishment, judgement, or something unpleasant is going to happen to a person. Many languages have a way to pronounce a curse on someone or something, so be sure the word chosen does not have any magical suggestions.

See Glossary for:

Descendants

Evil

Wise

Worldview

Some people may worship snakes, so it's important that the snake look like the 'bad guy' in this story.

Some people groups have heard this story, but don't believe it really happened because an animal is talking. They consider this more of a fable or folktale. Almost all Bible scholars agree the snake is Satan based on references such as Revelation 12:9; 20:2; 2 Corinthians 11:3. If needed for full understanding, an example may be added in the story that the snake is Satan.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *good* and *evil*, *naked*, *Satan*, *wise*, and *descendants* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

The story is easier to retell if punishments/curses are simplified.

The idea of woman desiring man and man dominating woman is left out because it is difficult for many hearers to understand. For the same reasons, God's banishment of man and woman from the garden is simplified.

Principles

Character and nature of God

All-knowing; separated from evil and sin; opposes sin and evil; just; one who punishes sin or disobedience; relational.

Assurance of salvation

Foundation laid by creating enmity between man and Satan with 'man' to be victorious

Devotional life

Foundation laid by man walking and talking with God and God walking and talking with man.

Prayer

Illustrates God and man communicating with one another.



Abraham's Call

Genesis 12:1-7, 15:1-6

Based on NLT

Transition:

Because of Adam and Eve's disobedience, their relationship with God was broken. Yet God did not forget His very special creation. Many years passed and God chose one of their descendants, named Abraham. This is the story of Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3

God said to *Abraham*, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and go to the land I will show you. I will make a *huge people from your descendants*. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 12:4-6

So *Abraham left* as *God* had instructed. Abraham was a very old man when he *left* his homeland. He took his wife, *Sarah* and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household and headed for the *land that God would show him*. When they arrived there, Abraham traveled through the land. *When he eventually stopped*; he set up camp beside a *great tree*.

Genesis 12:7

Then *God* appeared to *Abraham* and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." *And Abraham worshipped God* who had appeared to him.

Genesis 15:1-3

Some time later, *God* spoke to *Abraham* in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid. I will protect you, and you *will receive a great reward*." But Abraham replied, "O *God*, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since you've given me no children, a servant in my household will inherit all my wealth. You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir."

Genesis 15:4,5

Then *God* said to him, "No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir." *God* took *Abraham* outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!"

Genesis 15:6

Abraham believed *God*, and because of that, *God* considered him to be in right relationship with Him.

Words/Phrases to Consider

Righteousness/Right Relationship

The Old Testament idea of righteousness is based on the relationship between God and man, or between man and man. 'Righteousness' refers to holiness. The Contemporary English Version translates this concept in Isaiah 53:11 the following way: *He will take the punishment for the sins of others, so that many of them will no longer be guilty. In other words, 'righteousness' takes away guilt.*

See Glossary for:

Belief/Trust

Bless/Blessed/Blessing

Disobedience

Worship

Worldview

Abraham is a significant figure in both Biblical and Muslim worldviews. If working among Muslims, including Abraham in the story set will provide a bridge between the Biblical culture and their culture.

Since trees are worshipped in some cultures, be sure it is not implied that Abraham worshipped the tree in this story.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same word for *descendants*, *relationship*, and *blessed* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

God had not changed Abram's name to Abraham yet, but for the sake of simplicity 'Abraham' is used. If later it is felt that Abram's name change is important to the story set, include that story and change his name back to 'Abram' in this story.

Canaan and other locations mentioned have purposely been left out so the story would be easier to remember and retell.

The goals in this story are to set up God's promise to Abraham. The promise was that God would make him into a great nation and through this nation, all people would be blessed. This promise was kept by God. Abraham living in a right relationship with God. is also highlighted.

Principles

Character and nature of God

One who makes promises; One who blesses; relational; One who will create a people for Himself; One who leads, guides and directs; One who reveals Himself and His will; worthy of being worshipped; One who has the power to bless; One who protects and rewards; One who speaks to people; One who cares about His people; One who calls out individuals for His purposes.

Church

God will establish his people - laying foundation for church; worship.

Devotional life

Based on relationship and trust; walking and talking with God.

Prayer

A good example of communication between God and man – relevant and personal; lays the foundation for prayer.



A Son is Promised to Sarah

Genesis 18:1-5, 6-9, 10-15; 21: 1, 2

Based on NLT

Transition:

Many years passed. Abraham and Sarah were very old and still did not have any children. Sarah was now past the age of having children.

Genesis 18:1-5

God appeared to Abraham as he sat at the entrance of his tent. Abraham looked up and noticed three *Visitors* standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran to meet them and welcomed them, bowing low to the ground. Abraham said, "Rest in the shade of this tree while water is brought to wash Your feet. And since you've honored your servant with this visit, let me prepare some food to refresh you before you continue on your journey." "All right," They replied. "Do as you have said."

Genesis 18: 6-9

So Abraham ran back to the tent and said to Sarah, "Hurry! Make some bread." Then *Abraham prepared a good meal for his Guests*. "Where is Sarah, your wife?" the *Visitors* asked. "She's inside the tent," Abraham replied.

Genesis 18: 10-15

Then *God* said, "I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!" Sarah was listening to this conversation and she laughed silently to herself and *wondered* how an old woman like herself *could have a baby*. Then *God* said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, 'Can an old woman like me have a baby?' Is anything too hard for the *God*? I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son." Sarah was afraid, and said, "I didn't laugh." But *God* said, "You did laugh."

Genesis 21: 1, 2

God kept His word and did for Sarah exactly what He had promised. She became pregnant, and gave birth to a son in her old age. This happened at just the time *God* said it would.

Words/Phrases to Consider

'Wash your feet'

To wash someone's feet was an expression of honor to a guest.

Worldview

The three Visitors can be described as God and two angels. It helps to clarify who these Visitors were. Genesis 18:17-33 and Genesis 19:1-26 are supporting verses for saying that it was God and two angels.

Story Crafting

Sarah was introduced in a previous story. Make sure to use her name here.

This story is the fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham and Sarah 25 years earlier. (In the Abraham's Call story.)

In some cultures, the practice of bowing before someone may not exist or may have a different meaning. In this story, Abraham was showing respect to his guests. If this meaning is not understood by the audience, then this could be simplified to just say that Abraham respectfully greeted his guests.

Principles

Character and nature of God

God keeps His promises; God visits His people personally; God knows even our thoughts; God works in everything for His plan to be accomplished.



Abraham's Faith Tested

Genesis 22: 1-4; 6-8; 9-13; 15-18

Based on NLT

Genesis 22:1-4

One day God tested Abraham's *belief and obedience*. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied, "Here I am." "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love so much and go to the *another* land. Sacrifice him there on one of the mountains which I will *point out* to you." The next morning Abraham got up early and took two of his servants with him, along with his son Isaac. On the third day of the journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

Genesis 22:6-8

Abraham placed the wood for the *sacrifice* on Isaac's shoulders, while he carried the knife and the fire. As the two of them went on together, Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?" "Yes, my son," Abraham replied. "We have the wood and the fire," said the boy, "but where is the *lamb* for the *sacrifice*?" "God will provide a *lamb*, my son," Abraham answered. And they both went on together.

Genesis 22:9-13

When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham *prepared a place to worship* and he arranged the wood on it. Then he tied up his son Isaac and laid him on top of the wood. And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice to God. At that moment, the angel of God shouted to him, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," he answered. "I'm *listening*." "Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld even your son, your only son." Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a *bush*. So he took the ram and sacrificed it in the place of his son.

Genesis 22:15-18

Then the angel of God called again to Abraham, "This is what *God* says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, *I have promised* that I will bless you. I will multiply your descendants into *countless millions*, like the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore. *They* will conquer their enemies, and through your descendants, all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me."

Words/Phrases to Consider

Tested

This means to check to see if Abraham really trusted God or had faith in God.

Obey/ Obedience- This means to carry out or do what is required or cammanded of you.

Angel/Angel of God

See Glossary for:

Belief

Sacrifice

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *descendant, belief, bless, God, worship, and believe* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

To make it more interesting much of the dialog is included in this story.

This story identified Isaac as Abraham's son. In some cultures it may be best to say he offered his son and leave Isaac's name out.

Be sure to show this is not child sacrifice but only a way that God tested Abraham's willingness to obey Him.

Principle

Character and nature of God

God expects obedience from His people even if we don't understand; God provides everything that is needed; God is always faithful to His promises; God sends His angels to speak to people; sometimes God will ask us to give or offer to Him entirely something that is very special or precious to us.



David's Anointing

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Based on NLT

Transition:

God kept His promise to Abraham and his descendants became a huge nation. One day they demanded that God give them an earthly king so they could be like the nations. This displeased God but He allowed it. God began speaking to this nation through people known as spokesmen. Many years later, God chose a man to be king over this nation. This is how he became king...

1 Samuel 16:1-3

God said to one of his spokesmen, Samuel, "Fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be My king." But Samuel asked, "How can I do that? If the king hears about it, he will kill me." "Take a heifer with you," God replied, "and say that you have come to worship Me. Invite Jesse and his sons and I will show you which one to anoint for Me."

1 Samuel 16:4-10

Samuel did as God instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. "What's wrong?" they asked. "Do you come in peace?" "Yes," Samuel replied. "I have come to worship God. Purify yourselves and come with me." Then Samuel invited Jesse and his sons too. When they arrived, Samuel looked at the first son and thought, "Surely this is God's anointed!" But God said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. I don't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but I look at the heart." Then each of the other sons came before Samuel. But God did not choose any of them. So Samuel said to Jesse, "God has not chosen any of these."

1 Samuel 16:11-13

Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats." "Send for him at once," Samuel said. "We will not sit down to eat until he arrives." So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And God said, "This is the one; anoint him." So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And God's Spirit came powerfully upon David from that day on.

Words/Phrases to Consider

See Glossary for:

Anoint

God's Spirit

Spokesmen

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *worship* and *descendants* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

Some names are left out for ease of remembering and retelling.

The reason for Samuel going to Bethlehem is simplified as 'to worship' in order for the story to be easier to remember and retell, and to avoid detracting from the main plot line.

The section of the story in which all seven of the sons were presented to Samuel is simplified. If it is helpful to include this portion as a storytelling device, i.e. your audience really likes repetition and hearing that each son, in turn, was rejected, then you can include that section in the story.

Principles

Character and Nature of God

Keeps his promises; worthy of worship; reveals Himself and His will; talks to people; knows the thoughts and intentions of people; makes decisions differently than man; His Spirit comes upon people; calls out individuals for His purposes; His love is unfailing.

Church

Household of worship; idea of God's eternal kingdom.

Assurance of salvation

God's kingdom is eternal.

Devotional life

Walking and talking with God; worship in the home.



David & Bathsheba

2 Samuel 11:1-18, 22-25, 26, 27

Based on NLT

2 Samuel 11:1-5

One time, in the spring of the year when kings go to war, David sent his army to fight but he stayed behind. Late one afternoon, he got up after a nap and went for a stroll on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a beautiful woman taking a bath. He sent someone to find out who she was, and was told, "She is Bathsheba, the wife of one of your most honest and committed soldiers." Then David sent for her. When she came to the palace, he slept with her and then she returned home. Later, when Bathsheba discovered she was pregnant, she sent a message to David to let him know, and there was no doubt that the baby was his for she was not pregnant while her husband was home.

2 Samuel 11:6-13

So David sent word to the commander of his army to send her husband home. When he arrived, David asked her husband how the war was going. Then David told him, "Go on home and relax," but he didn't go home. He stayed that night at the palace entrance with the king's other servants. When David heard he had not gone home, he asked, "Why didn't you go home last night after being away for so long?" He replied, "The army is sleeping out in the fields. How could I go home and relax?" Then David invited him to dinner the next night and got him drunk. But even then he couldn't get the soldier to go home to his wife. Again he slept at the palace entrance.

2 Samuel 11:14-17

The next morning David wrote a letter to the commander of his army and gave it to Bathsheba's husband to deliver. The letter instructed the commander, "Place this soldier on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed." So the commander did as he was told. Bathsheba's husband was killed along with several other soldiers.

2 Samuel 11:18, 22-25

The commander of the army sent a messenger to David with a battle report. The messenger said that Bathsheba's husband had been killed along with others. "Well, tell the commander not to be discouraged," David said. "People are killed in battle! Fight harder next time!"

2 Samuel 11:26, 27

When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. When the period of mourning was over, David brought her to the palace, and she became one of his wives. Later she gave birth to a son. But God was very displeased with what David had done.

Worldview

'he slept with her'

Many languages have different expressions for sexual relationships. Use an appropriate term that not offensive to the audience.

Story Crafting

'and there was no doubt that the baby was his'

This phrase is added to the story, based on the text's explanation: 'She had just completed the purification rites after having her menstrual period.' The text includes this information to prove that the baby must have been David's---it wasn't her husband's baby.

Some names are left out for ease of remembering and retelling.

Principles

Character and nature of God

Displeased with sin.



Nathan's Story

2 Samuel 12:1-18, 24, 25

Based on NLT

Transition:

Because God was displeased with what David had done,

2 Samuel 12:1-4

He sent his *spokesman* Nathan to tell David this story: "There were two men in a certain town. One was rich and one was poor. The rich man owned many sheep and cattle. The poor man owned nothing but one little lamb. He raised and *took care of it as if it were one of his own children*. One day a guest arrived at the home of the rich man. Instead of killing an animal from his own flock or herd, he took the poor man's lamb, killed it and prepared it for his guest."

2 Samuel 12:5, 6

David was furious. He said, "Any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole."

2 Samuel 12:7-12

Then Nathan said to David, "You are that man! God says, 'I anointed you king. I gave you an entire kingdom. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. Why, then, have you *disobeyed me* and done this horrible deed? *You murdered a man and stole his wife. Because you have treated God with contempt*, from this time on, violence will always be in your family. *What you did secretly will happen to you in the open.*' "

2 Samuel 12:13, 14

Then David confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned against God." Nathan replied, "Yes, but God has forgiven you, and you won't die for this sin. *But because of what you have done*, your child will die."

2 Samuel 12:15-18

After Nathan returned to his home, *Bathsheba's baby became very sick*. David begged God to heal the child. But seven days later the baby died.

2 Samuel 12:24, 25

David comforted Bathsheba and *then* slept with her. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son. They named him Solomon, *whom God loved*.

Words/Phrases to Consider

Kingdom

The domain or area over which a king rules or reigns.

See Glossary for:

Forgive

Sin

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *anoint*, *disobeyed*, and *spokesman* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

'Because you have treated God with contempt'

To make clearer what the acts of disobedience against God were, make it explicit by saying something like 'because you have disobeyed me by murdering and committing adultery.'

Principles

Character and nature of God

Displeased with sin; uses His spokesmen to confront sin; uses stories; provides; does not like disobedience; punished sin; forgives sin; keeps promises.



Promise

Isaiah 53

Based on NLT

This story is hard to craft. We have a sample crafted story below.

Example Crafted Story

Like King David, God's people continued to sin and disobey Him. But God did not forget His people. Because of their disobedience, He allowed surrounding countries to come in and conquer them, and the people were scattered throughout the land. Before this happened, God sent a spokesman, Isaiah, to give them His message of hope. He told them:

God is going to send us a Savior. Some will hate Him and treat Him badly. He will suffer in our behalf. He's going to carry our burdens and our sorrows. He will be whipped and beaten to bring us peace.

We're kind of like sheep. You know how sheep are. They wander off the path and stray away, and we wander off God's path. We sin and disobey God. But, God is putting all of our sins onto the Savior.

In fact, He's like a lamb that is being led to the butcher. He's not going to say anything. He will be punished and killed for our sins. But the amazing thing is that He will see life again.

And because of this, many people will have restored relationship with God.

That is the message that Isaiah gave to the people, and from that time on the people waited expectantly for the Promised Savior to come.

Words/Phrases to Consider

See Glossary for:

Savior/ Promised Savior

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *disobey*, *relationship*, *sin*, and *spokesman* used in previous stories.

Choose the same term to refer to God's people throughout the story set.

Story Crafting

Commentaries agree this passage is referring to a future event. 'Prophetic past tense' is often used in translations, but refers to a future event. The verbs are changed to future tense to reflect more accurately the meaning and to simplify the story for the audience.

'Promised Savior' is used here instead of 'servant,' to make the term for Jesus' redemptive role consistent throughout the story set. (See Simeon's speech in the birth story.) Commentaries agree this 'servant' refers to the 'Messiah to come.' Use whatever term speaks most clearly to the people group. It is best to keep this term consistent throughout this story set.

'led like a lamb to the butcher'

If it seems confusing, take out this line and say, 'He will be led to die.'

'We're kind of like sheep'

If the description of people being like sheep who wandered off God's path is confusing, 'We have wandered off God's path, we have sinned,' could be used.

Principles

Character and nature of God

Punishes disobedience; reveals himself; uses His spokesmen; promises a Savior, restores relationship, and forgives; provides hope; provides means of salvation; provides peace; takes away sin; conquers death.

Assurance of Salvation

God has a plan for us to be saved from our sins and experience a relationship with Him through the Promised Savior.



An Angel Visits Mary and Joseph

Matthew 1:19-21, 24, 25;
Luke 1:26-30, 34-39, 46-50, 56
Based on NLT

Transition

After many years, God finally sent the Promised Savior. This is His story.

Luke 1:26-30

God sent *an* angel to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. The *angel* appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! *God* is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be frightened, Mary," the angel told her, "for God has decided to bless you! You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High."

Luke 1:34-39

Mary asked the angel, "But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin." The angel replied, "*God's Spirit* will come upon you. The baby born to you will be holy, and He will be called the Son of God. For nothing is impossible with God." Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to accept whatever He wants. May everything you have said come true." And then the angel left. *Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth who lived in a different town.*

Luke 1:41-50, 56

When Elizabeth and Mary saw each other, they rejoiced together. Then Mary responded, "Oh, how I praise the Lord. How I rejoice in God my Savior! For He took notice of His lowly servant girl, and now generation after generation will call me blessed. For the Mighty One is holy, and He has done great things for me. His mercy goes on from generation to generation, to all who fear Him." Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back to her own home.

Matthew 1:19-21

Joseph, *her fiancé did not want to disgrace her publicly*, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, he fell asleep, and an angel *from God* appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, descendant of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to go ahead with your marriage to Mary. The child *inside* her *was* conceived by *God's Spirit*. She will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, *because* He will save His people from their sins."

Matthew 1:24, 25

When Joseph woke up, he did *what* the angel commanded and took Mary as his wife. *But he did not have sexual relations with her until after her son was born.*

Words/Phrases to Consider

Holy

Belonging to God, consecrated to Him or like Him.

Use a word or phrase that accurately describes holy as being from God.

Mercy

This is when God shows unmerited kindness or compassion to a person.

See Glossary for:

Lord

Save

Son of God

Worldview

The use of the word 'virgin' means 'before they lived together as man and wife.' It also implies 'before they had sexual relations.' Use whatever description in the language clearly implies that Mary had not been with a man. Make sure that is appropriate for mixed audiences to hear and say. To understand Joseph's dilemma it is important to know how a culture views engagement. If crafting for an audience of Americans, add some cultural information to show of how binding engagement is.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *God's Spirit*, *angel*, *Promised Savior*, *bless*, *Savior*, *sin*, and *descendant* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

The name of the angel has been taken out in order to simplify the story.

'God's Spirit will come upon you'

Other ways to say this could be 'God's Spirit caused her to become pregnant,' or 'the power of God's Spirit made this happen.' However you say this, be sure that sexual intercourse between God's Spirit and Mary is NOT implied.

'Son of the Most High'

'The Most High' is often used in place of God's name as a sign of reverence. If the audience has a similar title for God, this may work well. If not, be sure this refers to God. If they don't, just say 'Son of God.' Use the same principle with 'Mighty One' as a title for God.

'For He, the Mighty One, is holy'

This 'holy' refers to something separate from sin or pure.

Principles

Nature and character of God

Keeps His promises; His Spirit is active; speaks and reveals His will; assures His children; speaks in dreams; uses spokesmen; sends a Savior.



Birth of Jesus

Luke 2: 21, 22, 25, 28, 30-40

Based on NLT

Transition:

A few months later, a son was born to Mary in Bethlehem.

Luke 2:21, 22, 25, 28

Eight days *after his birth*, He was named Jesus, the name given Him by the angel. His parents took Him to Jerusalem, *the special city where they worshiped God*, to present Him to God *in their place of worship*. When they got there, they met an old man who had been *waiting for the Promised Savior to come and save his people*. When *he* saw Jesus, *he* took the Child in his arms and praised God, saying:

Luke 2:30-32

"I have seen the Savior You have given to all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations."

Luke 2:33, 34

Joseph and Mary were amazed at what was being said about *Jesus*. Then *the old man* blessed them, and he said to Mary, "This child will be rejected by many, and it will be their undoing. But He will be the greatest joy to many others. And a sword will pierce your own soul."

Luke 2:39, 40

Jesus' parents returned home. There the Child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom, and *God's favor was on Him*.

Words/Phrases to Consider

See Glossary For:

Jerusalem

Wisdom

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *Promised Savior*, *angel*, *Savior*, *save*, *worship* and *blessed* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

'city where they worshipped God'

This city was named 'Jerusalem' and it will occur several times in the story set several times.

'place of worship'

'Place of worship' is used instead of 'Temple'.

The dedication of Jesus in the temple is used to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Isaiah prophecy from the Promise story.

The dedication section of the story is used so the sacrificial system of the temple would not have to be explained in the story set.

Principles

Character and nature of God

Keeps His promise; His Spirit is active; speaks and reveals His will; assures His children; sends a Savior.

Church

Going to the place of worship; worship; consecrating children.

Devotion

Worship



Jesus' Baptism

Luke 3:1-3, 10-16, 21-22, Matthew 3:7-9, 13-15
Based on NLT

Transition:

Jesus grew to be a young man. God sent a spokesman ahead of him to prepare the way for the people to receive the Promised Savior, Jesus.

Luke 3:1, 2

After some time, a message from God came to a man named John who was living out in the wilderness.

Luke 3:3

John went from place to place telling people that they should be baptized to show that they had turned from their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.

Matthew 3:7-9

Some religious leaders came to hear John, and he said, "You snakes! Who warned you to flee from God's coming wrath? Prove by the way you live that you have turned to God. Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are the descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing. God can change these stones into descendants of Abraham."

Luke 3:10-14

The crowd asked, "What should we do?" John replied, "If you have two coats, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry." Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, "Teacher, what should we do?" "Show your honesty," he replied. "Make sure you collect no more taxes than the government requires you to." "What should we do?" asked some soldiers. John replied, "Don't extort money, and don't accuse people of things you know they didn't do. Be content with your pay."

Luke 3:15, 16

Everyone was expecting the Promised Savior to come soon, and they were eager to know if John was Him. John answered their questions by saying, "I baptize with water; but Someone is coming soon Who is greater than I am—so much greater that I am not even worthy to be His slave. He will baptize you with God's Spirit and with fire."

Luke 3:21a

One day when the crowds were being baptized.

Matthew 3:13-15

Jesus Himself came to be baptized by John even though Jesus had never sinned. But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by You," he said, "so why are You coming to me?" But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.

Luke 3:21b-22

Afterwards, as Jesus was praying, the heavens opened, and God's Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are My Son. I love You and I am very pleased with You."

Words/Phrases to Consider

Voice from Heaven

'A voice from heaven' is readily accepted as being God's voice itself. It is acceptable to use 'God's voice.'

'turned from their sins and turned to God to be forgiven'

This is the NLT's way of saying 'repentance.' It is a good picture of what actually happens when we repent, and is preferred instead of using one term for 'repent.'

See Glossary for:

Baptism

Religious leaders

Worldview

Keep in mind that in many cultures and religions, people ceremonially wash often to remove sins. Specify that this is a once for all ceremony. If necessary symbolic washing may be used.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words *for spokesman, sin, Promised Savior, forgive, descendants of Abraham and God's Spirit* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

'descendants of Abraham'

Please note that 'descendants of Abraham' is the meaning of the NLT text 'children of Abraham.'

This phrase also strengthens the intra-story cohesion of using 'descendants of Abraham' for 'God's people' throughout the story set.

'with fire'

This phrase is included in the Matthew and Luke accounts, but not in the Mark account.

Commentators have differing opinions as to what 'with fire' refers to. If using 'with fire' is too confusing for the audience, it could be left out.

'even though Jesus had never sinned'

Because Jesus never sinned, this phrase was included to avoid confusion. It is supported by 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Principles

Character and nature of God

God sends His Spirit; uses spokesmen; acknowledges Jesus as His Son; keeps His promises; forgives sin; judges sin; speaks and reveals His intentions and will.

Church

Baptism; God's people includes more than just Abraham's descendants.

Devotional life

Example of Jesus praying

Sharing the Gospel

John told people to be baptized, turn from sin, and turn to God.

Prayer

As Jesus was praying, the Spirit of God descended on Him in the form of a dove.



Woman at the Well

John 4:5-19, 25-30, 42

Based on NLT

Transition:

After this, Jesus chose twelve men to be his closest followers. They traveled throughout the area and He proclaimed the message of God's Kingdom wherever they went. Many men and women started following Him.

John 4:5-8

Jesus came to a Samaritan village near a well. He was tired from the long walk and sat down beside a well. Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." He was alone at the time because his closest followers had gone into the village to buy some food.

John 4:9-15

The woman was surprised, because descendants of Abraham refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a descendant of Abraham, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" Jesus replied, "...People soon become thirsty again after drinking this water. But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes like a spring inside them, giving them eternal life/*real life which never ends*." "Please sir," the woman said, "give me some of that water. Then I won't have to come here to haul water."

John 4:16-19

"Go and get your husband," Jesus told her. "I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband— for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!" "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a spokesman from God. (**)"

John 4:25-30

The woman said, "I know the Promised Savior is coming — the One who is called Christ. When He comes, He will explain everything to us." Then Jesus told her, "I Am the Promised Savior!" Just then His closest followers came back. They were shocked to find Him talking to a woman. The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could He possibly be the Promised Savior?" So the people came streaming from the village to see Him.

John 4:42

Then *the people* said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard Him ourselves. Now we know that He is indeed the Savior of the world."

Words/Phrases to Consider

Samaritan

Samaritans are not descendants of Abraham. The descendants of Abraham hated the Samaritans. If the culture of the people being worked with has the same thing, use those names. Otherwise establish the hatred using these or generic names.

See glossary for:

Closest followers

Eternal life

Followers

Kingdom of God

Worldview

Jesus took the initiative to cross the barriers of descendants of Abraham/ Samaritan and male/female relationships to speak to this woman. Be sure the audience understands that Jesus acted appropriately and respectfully towards this woman, and that no inappropriate behavior occurred. Use respectful terms appropriate to the target culture, such as the woman calling Jesus 'sir'. Use a term in the language which is respectful and gives a positive impression of Jesus. If stating that Jesus was alone with the woman at the beginning of the story, could cause the hearer to immediately think badly of Jesus, omit that sentence. It will prevent giving a bad impression of Jesus before the audience has an opportunity to hear the conversation between Jesus and the woman.

It may be necessary to say the Samaritans were also looking forward to the arrival of the Promised Savior.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for descendant of *Abraham, worship, God's Spirit, spokesman, Savior, and Promised Savior* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

The term 'eternal life' in the story is included to clarify that the water Jesus gives becomes *like* a spring. Some languages may need clarification for the sentence to make sense to them.

The conversation between Jesus and the woman is difficult to reproduce and remember. Some of the repetition is simplified and parts of the conversation that are not directly related to the reasons for having this story in the story set have been taken out. (**) John 4:20-24 ; underlined below, may be inserted unless it is too confusing for the audience. "Tell me, where is the proper place to worship God?" asked the woman. Jesus replied, "It doesn't matter where you worship. By the power of God's Spirit people will worship God as he really is, offering him the true worship he wants."

Principles

Character and nature of God

Asks specific things of people; wants people to know Him; tells people the truth even if they don't understand it; confronts people in a loving way; gives them invitations to receive what He has for them; helps people get out of religiosity and into a true relationship with God; confronts our sin; helps people find out how to know Him.

Sharing the Gospel

When the woman found Truth, she wanted to share with the whole town.

Witnessing

It is ok for new believers to tell all the people in their community about their faith. They do not need to wait until they are trained.



Jairus' Daughter and Woman with Issue of Blood

Luke 8:40-56

Based on NLT

Transition:

Jesus continued traveling throughout the area teaching the people and performing many miracles.

Luke 8:40- 42

The crowds welcomed Jesus, because they had been waiting for Him. A man named Jairus, a leader in the local *place of worship*, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with Him to come home with him. His only daughter, who was about twelve years old was dying. As Jesus went with Jairus, He was surrounded by the crowds.

Luke 8:43-46

A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding, and she could find no cure. Coming up behind Jesus, she touched the fringe of His robe. Immediately the bleeding stopped. "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. Everyone denied it, and *one of Jesus' closest followers* said, "Master, this whole crowd is pressing up against you." But Jesus said, "Someone deliberately touched me, for I felt healing power go out from me."

Luke 8:47, 48

When the woman realized that she could not stay hidden, she began to tremble and fell to her knees in front of Him. The whole crowd heard her explain why she had touched Him and that she had been immediately healed. "*Woman*," He said to her, "your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

Luke 8:49-56

While He was still speaking to her, a messenger arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the *place of worship*. He told him, "Your daughter is dead. There's no use troubling the Teacher now." But when Jesus heard what had happened, He said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid. Just have faith, and she will be healed." When they arrived at the house, Jesus wouldn't let anyone go in with Him except three of His closest followers Peter, John, James, and the little girl's father and mother. The house was filled with people weeping and wailing, but He said, "Stop the weeping! She isn't dead; she's only asleep." But the crowd laughed at Him because they all knew she had died. Then Jesus took her by the hand and said in a loud voice, "My child, get up!" And at that moment her life returned, and she immediately stood up! Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were overwhelmed, but Jesus insisted that they not tell anyone what had happened.

Words/Phrases to Consider

See glossary for:

Faith

Master

Miracle

Worldview

The woman's bleeding would have made her unclean in that religious setting. This would explain her unusual behavior. Use words to describe her bleeding problem that are not offensive in mixed company.

The people were weeping and wailing. This shows the intensity of the mourning for a person who has died.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for place of *worship* and *closest followers* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

Be sure the translation of the phrase 'I felt healing power go out from me' does not imply that Jesus lost any of his healing power because of her touch. 'My child' does not imply that the girl is Jesus' biological daughter.

Principles

Character and nature of God

God knows every individual - even if they are poor and ill; cares about issues people go through; cares about women; challenges us to believe and trust Him; has great compassion for the people; has power over death.

Faith

God expects us to come to Him in faith, believing He will heal and help us in time of need.



Jesus Feeds 5,000

Luke 9:10-17

Based on NLT

Transition:

Jesus gave His closest followers power and authority. One day He sent them to villages where they taught the people and performed many miracles.

Luke 9:10-12

When Jesus' closest followers returned, they told Jesus everything they had done. Then He slipped quietly away with them to a nearby town. But the crowds found out where He was going, and they followed Him. He welcomed them and taught them about the Kingdom of God, and He healed those who were sick. Late in the afternoon His closest followers came to Him and said, "Send the crowds away to the nearby villages and farms, so they can find food and lodging for the night. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place."

Luke 9:13-14

But Jesus said, "You feed them." "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Or are you expecting us to go and buy enough food for this whole crowd?" There were about 5,000 men *plus women and children*. Jesus replied, "Tell them to sit down in groups of about fifty."

Luke 9:15-17

So the people all sat down. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, He kept giving the bread and fish to His *closest followers* so they could distribute it to the people. They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, His *closest followers* picked up twelve baskets full of leftovers!

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *closest followers*, *miracles*, *Kingdom of God*, *heaven*, and *blessed* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

'Bread and Fish'

The multiplying was a supernatural act or miracle. Make sure to relate it in a way that is easily understood.

Principles

Character and nature of God

Has power to perform miracles; God cares about the needs of people; God can take the little one has and increase it; God trusts His followers.



Jealous Religious Leaders

Luke 19:47, 48; 20:1-8

Based on NLT

Transition:

Many people who followed Jesus liked what He did, but not the religious leaders. They were jealous of Jesus.

Luke 19:47, 48

After that, He taught daily in the *place of worship*, but the *religious leaders* of the people tried to *think of a way* to kill Him. *But because the people listened closely to Him, they couldn't think of a way.*

Luke 20:1, 2

One day as Jesus was teaching the people and preaching *God's message* in the *place of worship*, the *religious leaders* came up to Him. They demanded, "By what authority are You doing all these things? Who gave You the right?"

Luke 20:3-8

"Let Me ask you a question first," Jesus replied. "Did John's authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human?" They talked it over among themselves. "If we say it was from heaven, He will ask why we didn't believe John. But if we say it was merely human, the people will stone us because they are convinced John was *one of God's spokesmen*." So they finally replied that they didn't know. And Jesus responded, "Then I won't tell you by what authority I do these things."

Worldview

Religious leaders had no legal right to kill a person or have a person killed.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *religious leaders*, *place of worship*, *God's message*, *baptize*, *heaven*, and *God's spokesmen* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

'Stone Us'

A method of execution.

Principles

Character and of God

Jesus wasn't afraid of the people or leaders; Jesus confronts unbelief.



Sinful Woman Forgiven

John 8:1-11

Based on NLT

Transition:

Jesus traveled to Jerusalem, the city where the descendants of Abraham worshipped God. During the day, He would teach in the place of worship.

John 8:2-6

One day, as He was teaching a crowd soon gathered, and He sat down and taught them. As He was speaking, the *religious leaders* brought a woman they had caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the very act of adultery. *Our religious law* says to *execute her by stoning*. What do you say?" They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus *didn't answer right away*.

John 8:7, 8

They kept demanding an answer, so He stood up again and said, "All right, stone her. But let those who have never sinned throw the first stone!"

John 8:9-11

When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Jesus stood up again and said to her, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No, *Master*", she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *descendants of Abraham*, *place of worship*, *Jerusalem*, *worship*, *religious leaders*, *sin*, and *Master* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

The religious leaders were trying to prove that Jesus was teaching people to disobey the Law.

The religious leaders refer to the 'Law of Moses,' but because we do not mention Moses in this story set, we have simplified the phrase to 'our religious laws.'

Note that they did not bring the man who was involved in the act. The Law requires that both persons should be stoned.

The phrase 'execute her by stoning' is included so an audience not familiar with stoning will realize that it is meant as a form of execution.

Principles

Character and nature of God

While religion condemns people, God wants to save them; God treats women and men equally.



Conspiracy and Last Supper

Luke 22:1-6, 14, 15, 19-23; John 13:3-5, 12-17;

Matthew 26:30

Based on NLT

Transition:

The religious leaders of the day were growing uneasy because Jesus made claims like, "I and the Father/God are one; He who sees Me has seen the Father/God." They were also jealous because many people believed in Him and were praising Him. They came together to plan how to put Him to death.

Luke 22:1-6

A major religious festival was drawing near. The head religious leaders were actively plotting Jesus' murder. But they wanted to kill him without starting a riot, a possibility they greatly feared. Then Satan entered into Judas, who was one of the twelve closest followers, and he went to the religious leaders to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted that he was ready to help them, and promised him a reward. So he began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus so they could arrest him quietly when the crowds weren't around.

Luke 22:14, 15

Jesus and His twelve closest followers, sat down together at the table to celebrate the meal for the religious festival. Jesus said, "I have looked forward to eating this meal with You before my suffering begins."

John 13:3-5, 12-17

Jesus knew God had given him authority over everything. He got up from the table, took off His robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then He began to wash His closest followers' feet and to wipe them with the towel He had around Him. After washing their feet, He put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Master,' and you are right, because it is true. Since I, your Master and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do for each other what I have done for you. It's true that a servant is not greater than the master. You know these things—now do them!"

Luke 22:19-23

Jesus also took a loaf of bread, thanked God for it, and gave it to His closest followers to eat. He said, "This bread represents My body, given for you. Do this in order to remember Me." After supper He took a cup of wine and said, "This wine is a symbol of God's new promise to save you—an agreement sealed with the blood I will shed for you."

Matthew 26:30

Then they sang a song of praise and went out to an olive grove on a hill just outside of the city.

Words/Phrases to Consider

'a servant is not greater than the master'

The meaning is that Jesus' followers cannot consider themselves too important to act as servants, because Jesus Himself became a servant. They also cannot expect better treatment from the world than Jesus received.

'Bread'

The audience may not understand the term 'bread.' Another 'generic' word for bread such as 'roti' or 'naan' may be used.

'Represents/Symbol'

Some Bible scholars agree that Jesus was referring to the bread and wine as symbols or representations of his body and blood. Jesus used similar figures of speech when He made statements such as, "I am the door" and "I am the bread of life."

'Song of praise'

This was most likely a song sung as part of the Passover meal known as the *Hallel*, a song of praise to God. A common way of translating this term is 'song of thanks' or 'song of praise to God.'

See Glossary For:
Father

Worldview

In cultures where the mention of wine is highly offensive or cause people to disrespect Jesus, say 'cup' or 'cup of liquid.'

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for closest *followers*, *Satan*, *Master*, *religious leaders* and *save* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

'save'

The audience does not understand what God is saving us from, make the new promise more explicit by saying something like, 'to save you from your sins,' 'to forgive your sins,' etc.

'an agreement sealed with the blood I will shed for you'

The audience may or may not be familiar with promises/covenants sealed in blood. If not, change this phrase to something like 'an agreement made possible by My death/by My allowing people to kill Me.' The scene of Jesus washing His followers' feet has been included because it seems very important in Asian cultures to highlight the idea of servant leadership. This is demonstrated well in many cultures by the word picture of washing feet. As this story was tested, many people said this was the most important part of the story.

Principles

Character and nature of God

He has provided a new covenant or promise; has a plan.

Church

Servanthood/service; Last Supper instituted; worship.

Prayer

Jesus thanked God for the elements of the Last Supper.



Jesus Betrayed

Luke 22:47-54, 63-71

Based on NLT

Transition:

Jesus and His closest followers, left the place of worship and went to a quiet place to talk and pray. Judas had secretly agreed to betray Jesus to the religious leaders so he left to meet with them.

Luke 22:47-54

While Jesus was speaking to His closest followers, a crowd approached led by Judas, who was betraying Jesus. Judas walked over to Jesus to greet him with a kiss. But Jesus said, "Judas, would you betray the Me with a kiss?" When the other closest followers saw what was about to happen, they exclaimed, "Lord, should we fight? We brought the swords!" One of them struck at the head religious leader's servant, slashing off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this." He touched the man's ear and healed him. Then Jesus spoke to the religious leaders who had come for Him. "Am I some dangerous criminal," He asked, "that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn't you arrest me in the place of worship? I was there every day. But this is your moment, the time when evil power rules." So they arrested Him and led Him to the head religious leader's home. Peter followed at a distance.

Luke 22:63-71

The guards in charge of Jesus began mocking and beating Him. They covered His eyes and said, "Tell us! Who hit You that time?" They hurled all sorts of terrible insults at Him. At daybreak all the religious leaders assembled. Jesus was led before a religious meeting, and they said, "Tell us, are you the Promised Savior?" He replied, "If I tell you, you won't believe me. And if I ask you a question, you won't answer. But from now on, I will be seated in the place of power at God's right hand." They all shouted, "So, are You claiming to be the Son of God?" And he replied, "You say that I am." "Why do we need other witnesses?" they said. "We ourselves heard Him say it."

Worldview

'Son of God'

If working in a Muslim people group that might be offended by the term 'son', or if it means only 'biological birth son' in their language, try to find a term for 'son' that does not necessarily mean 'biological birth son'.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *closest followers*, *religious leaders*, *Promised Savior*, *place of worship*, *religious meeting*, *head religious leader*, *betray*, *evil*, and *Son of God* used in previous stories.

Principles

Character and nature of God

God's Word/promises fulfilled; Jesus says He is the Son of God.



Jesus' Trial

Luke 23:1-5, 13-16, 21-24

Based on NLT

Luke 23:1-5

Then those at the *religious meeting* took Jesus to Pilate, the governor. They began to state their case, "This man has been leading our people astray by telling them not to pay their taxes to the government and by claiming He is the *Promised Savior*, a king." So Pilate asked Him, "Are you the king of *these people*?" Jesus replied, "You have said it." Pilate turned to the *religious leaders* and to the crowd and said, "I find nothing wrong with this man!" Then they became insistent. "But He is causing riots by His teaching wherever He goes!"

Luke 23:13-16

Then Pilate called together the *religious leaders*, along with the people, and he announced his verdict. "You brought this man to me, accusing him of leading a *rebellion*. I have examined him thoroughly on this point in your presence and find Him innocent. Nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty. I will have Him *whipped*, and then I will release Him."

Luke 23:21, 22

But they kept shouting, "*Kill him! Kill him!*" For the third time he demanded, "Why? What crime has He committed? I have found no reason to sentence Him to death. I will have Him *whipped*, and then I will release Him."

Luke 23:23, 24

But the mob shouted louder and louder, demanding that Jesus be *killed*, and their voices prevailed. Pilate sentenced Jesus to die as they demanded.

Worldview

In some cultures, the head religious leader's question about Jesus being the Son of God and his strong response to Jesus' affirmation that He was 'the Messiah, the Son of God' is completely appropriate. This title could be misunderstood to mean biological offspring of God. This story set does not adequately develop the concept of Jesus as Son of God. It may be advisable to use the Luke account of the trial where the head religious leader simply asks Jesus if He is the Messiah ('Promised Savior') (Luke 22:67).

The religious leaders did not have the authority to execute a death penalty, so they had to persuade the Roman governor to do it. If it is confusing to the audience why they went to the governor, make this explicit in the story.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *religious leaders*, and *Promised Savior*, used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

Jesus being 'whipped,' and being given an unjust trial are all fulfillments of prophecy from Isaiah 53.

Principles

Character and nature of God

God's word/promises fulfilled; Jesus is sinless; Jesus did nothing wrong; Jesus willingly subjected Himself to the will of the people.

Sharing the gospel

Jesus wasn't sentenced to death for His own sins, but for ours.



Jesus Carries His Cross and is Crucified

Luke 23:26-28, 31-35, 39-46, 50-56

Based on NLT

Luke 23:26-27

As they led Jesus away, a man named Simon, who was from *another town*, happened to be coming in from the countryside. The soldiers *took* him and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd *walked* behind, including many grief-stricken women.

Luke 23:28, 31

Jesus said to them, "Dear *women*, don't weep for me, but weep for yourselves and your children. *If God delivers Me up to such sufferings because I am made a sacrifice for sin, what will He do with the sinners themselves?*"

Luke 23:32-35

Two criminals were led out to be executed with Jesus. They were taken to a place called The Skull. There they drove nails through His hands and feet and nailed Him on *two planks of wood*. He was raised up—one criminal on His right, one criminal on His left. Jesus said, "Father God, forgive those *who are killing me* for they don't know what they are doing." The soldiers *threw dice to see who would win His clothes*. The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let Him save Himself if He is really God's Promised Savior."

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals hanging beside Him scoffed, "So you're the *Promised Savior*, are you? Prove it by saving Yourself and us too while You're at it!" But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come back *with power to rule*." Jesus replied, "I assure you, *when today is over, you will be with Me in heaven*."

Luke 23:44-46

By this time it was noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I *give* My spirit into Your hands!" With those words He died.

Luke 23: 50-53

There was a good *religious leader* who did not agree with what the others had done. He went to the governor and asked for Jesus' body. He took the body down from the *planks of wood*, wrapped it in a sheet of cloth and laid it in a tomb that had been carved out of rock.

Luke 23: 54-56

This was done late Friday afternoon. As His body was taken away, the women who were His *followers* went and saw the tomb where His body was placed. A huge stone was placed in front of the entrance of the tomb. Then they went home and prepared spices to put on His body for burial. Their religious day of rest had begun, so they were required by their religious laws to wait until it was over before they could go back to the tomb.

Words/Phrases to Consider

See Glossary for:

Spirit

Tomb

Worldview

If the audience does not understand 'cross', describe it as something like 'planks of wood' or 'a cross made of two planks of wood'.

Some cultures do not believe women should see a dead body. They may feel the women's actions here are either inappropriate or foreign. If so, choose to say 'some of Jesus' followers'.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *Father, sacrifice, sin, forgive, save, followers, religious leaders, Promised Savior, heaven, and killed* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

This story shows the criminal's response to Jesus as he accepted Jesus as God's Promised Savior/Messiah.

'back with power to rule'

This is an acceptable rendering of 'come into your kingdom.'

The Luke account of the *Jesus Carries His cross and is Crucified* story is used because it highlights the fulfillments of the prophecies in this story set.

Principles

Character and nature of God

God is Father

Assurance of Salvation

Jesus said, 'I assure you, you will be with me'.

Prayer

Jesus talked to the Father during His execution.



Resurrection of Jesus

Luke 24:1-7; John 20:11-18

Based on NLT

Luke 24:1-4

Very early in the morning after Jesus' death the women went to the tomb *to prepare Jesus' body according to their customs*. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. They went in, but they didn't find *His* body. Two men *dressed in dazzling robes suddenly appeared to them*.

Luke 24:5-7

The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking *in a tomb* for Someone who is alive? He isn't here! He *has* risen from the dead! Remember when He told you, that *He* must be betrayed and *executed*, and that He would rise again on the third day."

Luke 24:8-12

Then they remembered that Jesus had said this. They rushed from the tomb to tell His *closest followers* and everyone else what had happened. It was Mary Magdalene and several other women who told His *closest followers* what had happened but they didn't believe it. One of them ran to the tomb to look. He *looked* in and saw the empty linen wrappings. Then he went home again, wondering what had happened.

John 20:11-18

Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked *into the tomb*. She saw two white-robed angels. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her. "Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put Him." She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize Him. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought He was the gardener and said, "Sir, if you have taken Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will go and get Him." "Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to Him and cried out, "Teacher!" "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet *returned* to the Father. But go, find My brothers and tell them *that is where I am going*." Mary Magdalene found His *closest followers* and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them His message.

Worldview

'according to their customs'

This phrase is included in the account of the women going to the tomb because many cultures do not prepare dead bodies for burial.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *tomb*, *Lord*, *closest followers*, *believe*, *angel*, and *Father* used in previous stories.


Story Crafting

Be sure that the audience understands that Jesus was dead but is now alive.

Principles

Character and nature of God

Everything Jesus told His closest followers came true; Jesus was tender in His dealings with the women; Jesus instructs His followers to tell others His message; Jesus is no longer dead but alive.



After Resurrection

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:3-5, 8-14

Based on NLT

Transition:

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He appeared to His followers many times. He gave them important instructions about what to do.

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came to His *followers* and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. *Go and make followers of everyone you meet*, baptize them and teach them to obey all I have commanded you. *Remember*, I am always with you.

Acts 1:3-5

During the forty days after He was killed and raised from the dead, *Jesus* appeared to *His closest followers* and proved to them in many ways that He was actually alive. *Once as He* was eating a meal with them, He told them, "Do not leave the *city where you worship* until the Father (God) sends you what He promised. In just a few days you will *receive God's Spirit*."

Acts 1:8

"When *God's Spirit* has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere- *here*, throughout *the surrounding countryside*, in *the next city*, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:9-11

It was not long after *Jesus* said this that He was taken up into *heaven*. While His *followers* were watching, He disappeared into a cloud. As they were straining their eyes to see Him, two white robed men suddenly stood there among them. They said, "Why are you standing here staring at the sky? *Jesus* has been taken away from you into heaven. Someday, just as you saw Him go, He will return!"

Acts 1:12-14

The *followers of Jesus* walked back to *the city where they worshipped* and went to the house where they were staying. *There*, they met together continually for prayer, along with *Jesus' mother*, several other women, and *Jesus' brothers*.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *closest followers, Father, God's Spirit, heaven, baptize, obey, followers, city where you worship, and worship* used in previous stories.

Principles

Character and nature of God

God was faithful to His Word and sent the Holy Spirit to them; power comes from God; Jesus defied the power of gravity.

Sharing the Gospel

Take this message to all people; get power from God.



God's Spirit

Acts 1:15,16,18, 20-26; 2:1-12
Based on NLT

Transition:

The followers of Jesus stayed in the city to await God's Spirit, just as He had instructed.

Acts 1:15,16

While they were waiting, on a day when about 120 followers were present, Peter stood up and said, "Brothers, it was necessary for God's Word to be fulfilled concerning Judas who guided the religious leaders to have Jesus arrested. This was predicted long ago by God's Spirit."

Acts 1:18

"We know that he died soon after he betrayed Jesus."

Acts 1:20-22

Peter continued, "It is written in God's message that someone else should take his place of leadership. Now we must choose another man. It must be someone who has been with us all the time that we were with Jesus—from the time he was baptized, until the day He was taken from us to be with God."

Acts 1:23-26

Then they all prayed for the right man to be chosen. Matthias was chosen and became one of the Twelve, the group of Jesus' closest followers who had now become the leaders of those who followed Jesus.

Acts 2:1

Later, on the day of an important religious festival, after Jesus was raised from the dead, His followers were meeting together in one place.

Acts 2:2-4

Suddenly, there was a sound like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were meeting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and sat on each of them. Everyone present was filled with God's Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as God's Spirit gave them this ability.

Acts 2:5-12

Abraham's descendants from all over the world were in the city for the festival. They came and heard Jesus' closest followers speaking. They said, "These are local people and yet we hear them speaking the languages of the lands where we were born about the wonderful things God has done!" They stood there amazed and confused. "What can this mean?" they asked each other.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *followers*, *Spirit/God's Spirit*, *closest followers*, *religious leaders*, and *Abraham's descendants* used in previous stories.

Principles

Character and nature of God

God is Spirit; God has a plan; God endorses Jesus Who is the Master and Promised Savior.

Church

Believers gather together in one place; they are Spirit-filled.

Devotional life

Spirit-filled.



African

Acts 8:26-32, 34-39

Based on NLT

Transition:

Followers of Jesus went everywhere telling people the wonderful news about Jesus. God's Spirit gave some of them specific instructions about where to go. One of these followers was named Philip.

Acts 8:26, 27

An angel *from* God said to Phillip, "Go south down the desert road *that begins at Jerusalem.*"

Acts 8:27, 28

So he did, and he met the treasurer of *an African nation* who was now returning *to his homeland after worshipping* in Jerusalem. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the *spokesman* Isaiah.

Acts 8:29-32

God's Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage." Philip ran over and heard the man reading so he asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man replied, "How can I, when there is no one to instruct me?" And he begged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him. *This is what he was reading:*

'He was led like a sheep to the slaughter. And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, He did not open his mouth.'

Acts 8:34, 35

The *African man* asked Philip, "Was *the spokesman* talking about himself or someone else?" Philip began with this same *message from God's spokesman*, and *told him what God said about Jesus.*

Acts 8:36-39

As they rode along, they came to some water, and the *African man* said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" "You can," Philip answered, "if you truly believe." And the *African man* replied, "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God!" The *African man* ordered the carriage to stop, they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. *Then the African man went on his way rejoicing.*

Words/Phrases to Consider

Carriage

A carriage could also be referred to as a 'wagon' or some vehicle pulled by horses or oxen.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *followers*, *Jerusalem*, *worship*, *angel*, *spokesman*, *God's Spirit*, *baptize*, and *Son of God* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

This story was chosen because of its connection to the Isaiah 53 story and it models a response to Jesus followed by immediate obedience of baptism.

Principles

Church

Baptism; role of Scripture.

Sharing the Gospel

Those who believed went everywhere sharing God's message; led by the Spirit.



Paul Meets Jesus

Acts 8:1, 3; 9:1-13, 15, 17-21

Based on NLT

Transition:

Jesus' followers were going everywhere sharing about Him. Paul, a religious leader, was also traveling everywhere trying to destroy the church.

Acts 8:1, 3; 9:1-2

Paul was uttering threats and was eager to destroy the believers. He headed for another city in order to arrest believers and bring them back to Jerusalem in chains.

Acts 9:3-6

As he was nearing the city, a bright light from heaven suddenly beamed down upon him! He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Paul! Paul! Why are you persecuting me?" "Who are you?" Paul asked. The voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

Acts 9:7-12

The men with Paul stood speechless with surprise, for they heard the sound of someone's voice, but they saw no one! As Paul picked himself up off the ground, he found that he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to the city. He remained there blind for three days. Now there was a believer named Ananias in the city. Jesus spoke to him in a vision, calling, him! "Yes, Master!" he replied. Jesus said, "Go over to a certain house. When you arrive, ask for Paul. He is praying to me right now. I have shown him that you will come and lay hands on him so that he can see again."

Acts 9:13, 15

"But Master," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem!" But Jesus said, "Go and do what I say. I have chosen Paul to take my message to foreigners and kings, as well as to the descendants of Abraham."

Acts 9:17, 18

Just as God told him, Ananias went and found Paul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Paul, Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you may get your sight back and be filled with God's Spirit." Instantly something like scales fell from Paul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized.

Acts 9:19-21

Paul stayed with the believers in the city for a few days. Immediately he began telling about Jesus saying, "He is indeed the Son of God!" All who heard him were amazed. "Isn't this the same man who persecuted Jesus' followers in Jerusalem?"

Words/Phrases to Consider

'Church'

If the word 'church' conveys something different from the New Testament's definition, choose to explain the term in a phrase instead of using the word 'church'. In the New Testament, the word never actually refers to a building, but to a group of people who believe in Jesus. In the New Testament, 'church' may refer either to a group of believers who live in one place, or to a wider community of the whole church of Jesus.

'Vision'

Could be defined as a supernatural revelation; sometimes given as part of a dream as Joseph had just before Jesus' birth.

'Persecuting'

Persecution is treating someone harshly or badly because of their relationship with Jesus. Some persecution is physical, some mental, some emotional.

'Laying his hands on'

This is one of the basic ways God used people to release the power of the Holy Spirit to another person. It is not the person's power but the power of the Holy Spirit being released through that person to another for God's purpose to be accomplished.

See Glossary for:

Believers

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *heaven, Master, descendants of Abraham, followers, religious leaders, city where we worship, God's Spirit, baptize, Jerusalem* and *Son of God* used previous stories.

Principles

Character and nature of God

God's power changes people; God is powerful; God works through people who follow Jesus; God reveals Himself even to people who aren't His followers; His Spirit is active.

Prayer

God talks to people and people talk to God.

Devotions

When people harm Jesus' followers, it's the same as doing it to Jesus; Jesus' followers obey him; Jesus' followers tell others about him; people who don't know Jesus notice when others are changed by God.



Peter Heals and Raises Tabitha from the Dead

Acts 9: 32-43

Based on NLT

Transition:

Peter, one of Jesus' closest followers, continued to tell people about Jesus.

Acts 9:32-35

Peter traveled from place to place. He came to a certain village to visit the believers and met a man who *couldn't walk* and *had been* bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, "Jesus, the Son of God, heals you! Get up, and roll up your sleeping mat!" And the man was healed instantly. When the whole population of the villages saw this man walking around, they *believed in Jesus*.

Acts 9: 36-38

There was a follower of Jesus named Tabitha. She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. Tabitha became ill and died. Her body was *prepared* for burial and laid in an upstairs room. The *followers* of Jesus heard that Peter was nearby so they sent two men to beg him to come as soon as possible.

Acts 9: 39-43

Peter returned with them. As soon as he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room. The room was filled with widows who were weeping and showing him the coats and other clothes Tabitha had made for them. Peter asked them all to leave the room. Then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, "Get up, Tabitha." She opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up! He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called in the widows and all the believers, and he presented her to them alive. The news spread through the whole town, and many believed in Jesus. Peter stayed there for some time with a man named Simon.

Worldview

If according to the culture it is inappropriate for a man to be alone with a woman, help the audience understand that Peter was following God's plan for Tabitha.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *followers*, *closest followers*, *believers*, *Son of God*, *believed*, and *prayed* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

Some cultures may have difficulty with a man speaking to a dead body. Check to see if this is an issue with the people being told this story.

Principles

Character and nature of God

God gives power to those who believe Him; Jesus has power over sickness and death.

Prayer

God answers the prayers of followers of Jesus.

Church

Jesus has followers in many places.

Sharing the Gospel

When God performed miracles through the followers of Jesus, many others became followers of Jesus.



Philippian Jailer

Acts 16:12-17, 21-30, 34, 35, 40; 17:1

Based on NLT

Transition:

Before Jesus went to heaven, he had promised his followers they would have power to share about Him through all the world. And that's what they did. This is the story of the travels of two men who led many others to follow Jesus.

Acts 16:12-15

Paul and Silas went to the city of Philippi. On the day of worship, they went a short distance outside the city to a river bank, where they thought people would be meeting for prayer. They sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. One of them was Lydia, a merchant of expensive cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to them, God opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. She was baptized along with other members of her household, and she asked Paul and Silas to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in Jesus," she said, "come and stay at my home." And they agreed.

Acts 16:16-21

One day as Paul and Silas were going down to the place of prayer, they met a slave girl who was possessed by an evil spirit. She was a fortune teller who earned a lot of money for her masters. She followed Paul, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved." This went on day after day until Paul got so tired of it that he turned and said to the evil spirit within her, "I command you, in the name of Jesus, to come out." Instantly it left her. Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered. They grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. "The whole city is in an uproar because of these men!" they shouted to the city officials. "They are teaching the people to do things that are against our customs."

Acts 16:22-28

A mob quickly formed. Paul and Silas were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So he put them into the inner dungeon and chained them. Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!"

Acts 16:29-34

The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." They shared the God's message about Jesus with him and with all who lived in his household. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. The jailer fed them at his house and they all rejoiced because they believed in God.

Acts 16:35, 40; 17:1

The next morning the city officials released Paul and Silas. When Paul and Silas left the prison, they returned to the home of Lydia. There they met with the believers and encouraged them once more. Then they left to go to another town.

Words/Phrases to Consider

'Opened her heart'

This is an English figure of speech that may not be understood in all languages. This phrase means that God made her willing/able to understand and accept/believe what was being said by Paul about Jesus.

'In the name of Jesus'

This phrase, translated literally, may not carry the full intended meaning. If not, choose to say something along the lines of

- 1) 'by the name/authority of Jesus'
- 2) 'by the authority that Jesus has given me'
- 3) 'by the power which is in the name of Jesus'

'Believe in Jesus'

To make this phrase clearer use a statement such as 'believe that Jesus will save you.'

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *followers, believers, church, baptize, evil spirit, Most High God, worship, pray, believe, heaven, and saved* used in previous stories.

Principles

Church

Met in homes; baptism; encouraged and strengthened believers.

Devotional life.

Prayer and singing

Sharing the Gospel

Look for where God is at work; Spirit gives power to share.

Assurance of salvation

Believe and you will be saved.



Return

Acts 17:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10;
2:17, 18; 3:2, 6-8; 4:16-18; 5:27

Based on NLT

Acts 17:1-5

Paul and Silas *then continued to travel throughout the area near Philippi. One day they came to the city of Thessalonica. There, Paul told many people, who were descendants of Abraham, about Jesus.* He said, "This Jesus I'm telling you about is the *Promised Savior.*" Many *people believed his words.* But some of the *descendants of Abraham* were jealous, so they gathered some worthless fellows from the streets to form a mob and start a riot. They attacked the home of a *follower of Jesus*, searching for Paul and Silas so they could drag them out to the crowd.

Acts 17:6, 7

Not finding Paul and Silas there, they dragged out some of the other believers instead and took them before the city *authorities.* *They shouted, "One of these men has allowed Paul and Silas to stay in his home. Paul and Silas have caused trouble all over the world, and now they are here disturbing our city."*

Acts 17:8-10

Although the city was thrown into turmoil by these reports, the city authorities finally released Paul and Silas. That very night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away for their protection.

1 Thessalonians 2:17,18; 3:2, 6-8; 1:1

Paul never forgot about the believers in Thessalonica, In fact, he tried again and again to visit them, but he wasn't able. So later, Paul sent a friend named Timothy to encourage these believers. When Timothy returned to Paul and gave a report, Paul was overjoyed to learn that these believers were continuing to follow Jesus in spite of persecution. He decided to write a letter to these believers, a letter from himself, Silas and Timothy. He said,

1 Thessalonians 1:2

"We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly."

1 Thessalonians 1:6,7, 9, 10

"You received the message about Jesus with joy from God's Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. As a result, you became an example to all the believers in the area. These believers speak of how you turned away from idols to serve the true and living God. And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son, Jesus, whom God raised from the dead."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 5:27

"And when Jesus comes back, He himself will come down from heaven with a loud shout. First, all the believers who have died will rise. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be taken up in the clouds to meet Jesus in the air. We will be with him forever. So encourage each other with these words and read this letter to all the other believers."

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for *descendants of Abraham, Promised Savior, followers, believers, God's Spirit, believe, persecution, God's Son* and *heaven* used in previous stories.

Story Crafting

Much of the end of the story has been summarized to make it easier for the audience to remember and put into the context of a story.

This story is an example of how a 'teaching' from the Epistles may be presented in story form. This story links the teaching from 1 Thessalonians with a corresponding narrative from the Book of Acts.

Principles

Devotional life

Look forward to the Second Coming of Jesus.

Church

Persecution and suffering of believers; word of encouragement to believers.

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus' followers tell many people.

Glossary

Key Words to Consider in Bible Storying

These key words open up insights and understanding into Scripture. If they paint a wrong impression in the hearer's mind, they may color a person's entire understanding of the Good News. This glossary attempts to define the meaning of some key words in the biblical sense, as the best way to translate them is considered. In many cases are included suggestions about how to translate the word or describe it in a meaningful way to the audience. After each entry is a list of stories in which the key word is found.

Angel

If a Bible translation is available, the best option would be to use the word in the translation, unless no one outside the church understands it. If not, the challenge is to find a word that accurately conveys the meaning for the original. An 'angel' is a supernatural, spiritual being who is a messenger from God. Angels can appear to humans in human form. They are inferior to Jesus, and they often come with a specific message or to do a specific task. If there is no word in the language for 'angel' that a non-believer would understand, translate this as 'messenger of/ from God', 'envoy of God', or perhaps 'ambassador of God'. Be aware, though, that 'prophet' also conveys those meanings. 'Spirit (messenger from God)' might be added to this description.

Found in: *Spirit World, Abraham's Faith Tested, An Angel visits Mary and Joseph, Birth of Jesus, Resurrection of Jesus, and African.*

Anoint

Anointing in the Old Testament signified an act of God in which someone received divine favor or appointment to a special place, service, or function in the purpose of God (especially for kingship). Anointing often was associated with God's Spirit being given. In the story of *David's Anointing*, the act was done by a man appointed by God to do it. He filled his horn (a ram's horn) with oil and poured the oil on David's head. If the people in the area have a similar ceremony (with an appropriate word to go along with it) to appoint someone to a special task, the phrase 'anointed his head (with oil)' could be used. If they don't, you could say something like, 'He poured oil on his head to appoint him/show him as the next king.'

Found in: *David's Anointing and Nathan's Story.*

Baptism, Baptize

This word is an important term in the Bible and needs to be thought through carefully before attempting to translate. If a Bible translation is available, use what the translation uses. If the translation uses the borrowed term (as we also borrow the term from the Greek *baptizo*), but no one understands it, consider explaining the term. If working with long-term believers, see what term they feel most comfortable using. If it is necessary to find a term for some reason, a careful study of the meaning of the concept of 'baptism' is needed. The Greek word means to 'put inside or under water', or 'to wash in a spiritual sense'. John's baptism was done when a person wanted to stop sinning and obey God so God would forgive his sin. It may be stated as 'symbolic washing to show their heart has been changed'. Keep in mind that in many cultures and religions, people ceremonially wash often to remove sins. It may be necessary to specify that this is a once for all ceremony.

Found in: *Jesus' Baptism, Jealous Religious Leaders, After Resurrection, God's Spirit, African, Paul Meets Jesus and Philippian Jailer.*

Belief/Believe

This describes man's response to God's promises. It probably implies more than mental agreement, by putting one's faith/confidence in God.

Found in: *Creation to Church, Abraham's Call, Abraham's Faith Tested, Woman at the Well, Jealous Religious Leaders, Conspiracy and Last Supper, Resurrection of Jesus, Africa, Paul Meets Jesus, Peter Heals and Raises Tabitha from the Dead, Philippian Jailer, and Return.*

Believers

After Pentecost, the people who followed Jesus were also called 'believers'. This term is used in the story set to refer to Jesus' followers after Pentecost and to emphasize the fact that people became followers of Jesus through belief in Him.

Found in: *Paul Meets Jesus, Peter Heals and Raises Tabitha from the Dead, Philippian Jailer, and Return.*

Bless, Blessed, Blessing

This refers to when God helps, does good to, or favors someone or something. In the *Creation* and *Abraham* stories, the specific blessing includes God giving them the ability to reproduce and multiply. Try to avoid using a word related to luck or games of chance.

Found in: *Creation to Church, Creation, Abraham's Call, Abraham's Faith Tested, An Angel visits Mary and Joseph, Birth of Jesus, and Jesus Feeds 5,000.*

Closest Followers (also see Followers)

The twelve disciples were designated as 'closest followers' and the other disciples simply as 'followers'. Differentiate between the two groups in the same way, as well.

Found in: *Woman at the Well, Jairus' Daughter and Woman with Issue of Blood, Jesus Feeds 5,000, Conspiracy and Last Supper, Jesus Betrayed, Resurrection of Jesus, After Resurrection, God's Spirit, and Peter Heals and Raises Tabitha from the Dead.*

Descendants

Different languages have different words for 'descendants'. Some say 'children', 'generations', or 'members of the family.' Ensure that whatever word is used can mean descendants far into the future, and not just the immediate children or grandchildren. This word in the text is a collective noun with a plural sense.

Found in: *Creation to Church, Abraham's Call, Abraham's Faith Tested, An Angel visits Mary and Joseph, Jesus' Baptism, Woman at the Well, Sinful Woman Forgiven, God's Spirit, Paul Meets Jesus, and Return.*

Disobey/Disobedience

A willful act of disobedience to God. Be sure that the word used here does not mean that someone has failed to perform a religious act (i.e. alms, ritual prayer, following religious dietary rules, etc.). If necessary, you can use 'sin'.

Found in: *Creation to Church, Spirit World, Abraham's Call, Nathan's Story, and Promise.*

Eternal Life

'Eternal life' in the New Testament has two aspects:

- 1) Life that never ends;
- 2) a quality of life beginning when someone allows God to rule his life.

Some options for conveying the two-fold meaning of this phrase include:

- A) 'real life that never ends';
- B) 'new life that never ends'.

Or if the language does not have a noun for 'life'

- C) 'really live unendingly because of Him';
- D) 'He will cause such people to never come to the end of real living'.

Found in: *Creation to Church, and Woman at the Well.*

Evil

Evil is rebellion or opposition against God and his will.

Found in: *Spirit World, Creation, Disobedience, and Jesus Betrayed.*

Evil Spirit

'Evil spirit' refers to spirit beings under the authority of Satan. These spirit beings have power to oppress a human being and even take control of him. The Bible states that spirits were created by God and some became evil when they chose to disobey Him. It seems many South Asian languages do not have a term that can adequately express this. (Their 'evil spirit' may refer to a dead person's spirit that 'haunts' people.) Try to choose a word that refers to an independent spirit being that is evil and opposed to God. If there is one, use a neutral word for an independent spirit being and add a qualification like 'spirit from Satan', or 'bad/evil spirit'. Be aware that extra explanation might be necessary during the discussion time.

Found in: *Creation to Church, Spirit World, and Phillipian Jailer.*

Faith

To believe what God said even if it has not been seen or experienced yet.

Found in: *Creation to Church, and Jairus' Daughter and Woman with Issue of Blood.*

Father

If the audience would not understand that 'Father' refers to God, say 'God' or 'God, the Father'.

Found in: *Abraham's Faith Tested, Conspiracy and Last Supper, Jesus Carries His Cross and is Crucified, Resurrection of Jesus, and After Resurrection.*

Followers (also Closest Followers)

If the language has an understood term for the devoted followers of a guru, you may use that term here. The twelve disciples have been designated as 'closest followers' and the other disciples simply as 'followers'. Be sure to differentiate between the two groups.

Found in: *Creation to Church, Woman at the Well, Jesus Carries His Cross and is Crucified, After Resurrection, God's Spirit, African, Paul Meets Jesus, Peter Heals and Raises Tabitha from the Dead, and Phillipian Jailer.*

Forgive, Forgiveness

Some languages don't have an adequate word for 'forgive'. In that case, understanding what 'forgiveness' means is imperative in translating it correctly. Forgiveness involves two people, one of whom has done something wrong to the other and offended him. The one who was offended sets aside his rights and does not punish the other as he deserves. If the other accepts the forgiveness, the relationship between the two is restored and the guilt is removed.

Found in: *Creation to Church, Nathan's Story, Jesus' Baptism, and Jesus Carries His Cross and is Crucified.*

God's Spirit

The Hebrew ruach [spirit] can have the physical meaning 'wind' or 'breath'. It also can mean 'power' or 'authority' that God gives to someone to do extraordinary things. The concept of 'holy' refers to people or things belonging to God, are consecrated to Him, or are like Him. Often, however, Scripture translations use 'God's Spirit' because many languages do not have a word for 'holy' that adequately expresses the concept. Since 'holy' in many South Asian languages is a term that non-believers can't understand or a term with unwanted connotations, use 'God's Spirit'.

Found in: *Creation to Church, David's Anointing, An Angel Visits Mary and Joseph, Jesus' Baptism, Woman at the Well, After Resurrection, God's Spirit, African, Paul Meets Jesus, and Return.*

Heaven

Heaven can refer to the sky, or to the place where God and His angels live, depending on the context. When it refers to the place where God lives, it is also the ultimate destination of believers. Because it is linked so closely to the place where God is, one can replace 'the kingdom of heaven' with 'the kingdom of God'. If the language does not have an adequate word for 'heaven' or if the hearers do not understand adequately the concept of heaven at this stage, replace it with 'the place where God lives.'

Found in: *Creation to Church, Jesus' Baptism, Jesus Feeds 5,000, Jealous Religious Leaders, Jesus Carries His Cross and is Crucified, After Resurrection, Paul Meets Jesus, Phillipian Jailer, and Return.*

Jerusalem

The city where the place of worship was located for the Hebrews or Jews. This was the city that God chose for them to build the Temple or place of worship to honor him.

Found in: *Birth of Jesus, Sinful Woman Forgiveness, African, and Paul Meets Jesus.*

Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven

The domain over which God reigns or rules. This can refer to a physical place or the heart of a person since both belong to God.

Found in: *Woman at the Well and Jesus Feeds 5,000.*

Lord

Lord is another name for the Sovereign God, the I AM, Jehovah. The word 'lord' refers to the rightful owner of something. A landlord is the rightful or legal owner of land. The word 'Lord' refers to God or Jesus Who is the rightful owner of all things including people because He is the creator of all.

Found in: *An Angel Visits Mary and Joseph, Jesus Betrayed, and Resurrection of Jesus.*

Master

The original 'lord' has the connotation here of 'master', 'supreme head', 'or owner'. At a surface level, this is a title for a respected man, such as 'sir'. Any of these is an acceptable rendering.

Found in: *Jairus Daughter and Woman with Issue of Blood, Sinful Woman Forgiveness, Conspiracy and Last Supper, and Paul Meets Jesus.*

Miracle

An act or deed performed by the power of the Holy Spirit that could not be accomplished by a person's natural strength. The Holy Spirit sometimes worked through a person like Jesus when He lived on the earth in *Jesus Feeds 5,000* or through His followers as in *Peter Heals and Raises Tabitha from the Dead*. Sometimes the Holy Spirit accomplished the act or deed without a physical person.

Found in: *Creation to Church, Jairus' Daughter and Woman with Issue of Blood, and Jesus Feeds 5,000.*

Promise

A vow or pledge, either written or spoken, given by one person to another.

Found in: *Creation to Church, A Son is Promised to Sarah, Abraham's Faith Tested, David's Anointing, Conspiracy and Last Supper, After Resurrection, and Phillipian Jailer.*

Relationship

Some languages may not have one term for 'relationship', or the term has unwanted connotations. Some languages express the idea in terms of action. Relationship occurs when two persons, nations or other entities agree to have dealings with each other. In *Abraham's Call* the Lord was pleased when Abraham put his trust in Him and the Lord accepted him because of it.

Found in: *Creation to Church, Abraham's Call, and Promise.*

Religious Leaders

Both Pharisees and Sadducees were Jewish religious parties at that time. Many scribes and priests were members of one of these sects. If possible, it is best to keep these sect names as generic as possible — 'religious leaders.' If a term for 'religious leaders' is used in the major religion, be sure that those names do not refer ONLY to a member of that specific religion. Religious leaders of these days may or may not have adhered to God's Word.

Found in: *Jesus' Baptism, Jealous Religious Leaders, Sinful Woman Forgiveness, Conspiracy and Last Supper, Jesus Betrayed, Jesus' Trial, Jesus Carries His Cross and is Crucified, God's Spirit, and Paul Meets Jesus.*

Sacrifice

Something consecrated and entirely offered to God or something given up for the sake of others.

Found in: *Abraham's Faith Tested* and *Jesus Carries His Cross and is Crucified*.

Satan

The spirit that was created more beautiful, powerful and wise than other spirits but became jealous of God and wanted to be God. Find a word or phrase in the people's culture that helps them understand this.

Found in: *Spirit World, Disobedience, and Conspiracy and Last Supper*.

Save

To rescue someone or something from harm or danger. Jesus saves people from eternal death by taking their sins upon Himself on the cross.

Found in: *An Angel Visits Mary and Joseph, Birth of Jesus, Conspiracy and Last Supper, Jesus Carries His Cross and is Crucified, and Phillipian Jailer*.

Savior/Promised Savior

The wholeness of man includes both physical and spiritual aspects, and is sometimes difficult to distinguish. Savior in the New Testament is used only for Jesus as the spiritual deliverer. 'Promised Savior' is the word chosen to be used in the English version of these redemptive theme stories as the term to describe who Jesus is—the Messiah, the Christ, the Promised Savior. Later, it could be helpful to introduce other terms having similar meanings such as 'Christ', 'Messiah', 'Promised King', 'Anointed One', etc. Many aspects of Jesus' roles and character are implied in the term 'Anointed One', including his kingship over all the nations, God's representative, the means of bringing about God's victory over his enemies, and the One appointed to accomplish redemption for God's people. Translation resources say to search for a term that includes the concept of One who is specially appointed by God, and One who is savior or king. The term 'Promised Savior' seems to be the title which best fits Jesus' entry into the world. His kingship and anointing have been introduced through the stories rather than giving Him the title 'King' or 'Anointed One'. If the language does not have a noun that expresses the idea of savior, use 'the One who saves', or 'the saving person'.

Found in: *Creation to Church, Promise, An Angel visits Mary and Joseph, Birth of Jesus, Jesus' Baptism, Woman at the Well, Jesus Betrayed, Jesus' Trial, Jesus Carries His Cross and is Crucified, and Return*.

Sin

Sin refers to an act of disobedience to God. Be sure the word used does not mean that someone has failed to perform a religious act (i.e. alms, ritual prayer, following religious dietary rules, etc.) If necessary use 'disobedience.'

Found in: *Creation to Church, Nathan's Story, Promise, An Angel Visits Mary and Joseph, Jesus' Baptism, Sinful Woman Forgiven, and Jesus Carries His Cross and is Crucified*.

Son of God

The reference to Jesus being the 'Son of God' identifies that He came from God. This does NOT imply that Jesus is God's biological son or offspring but that He came from God and is one with God.

Found in: *An Angel visits Mary and Joseph, Jesus Betrayed, African, Paul Meets Jesus, and Peter Heals and Raises Tabitha from the Dead*.

Spirit

'Spirit' refers to the 'soul', or 'life', and it is the center of the inner life of man - his feelings and emotions.

Found in: *Spirit World and Jesus Carries His Cross and is Crucified*.

Spokesman/ Spokemen

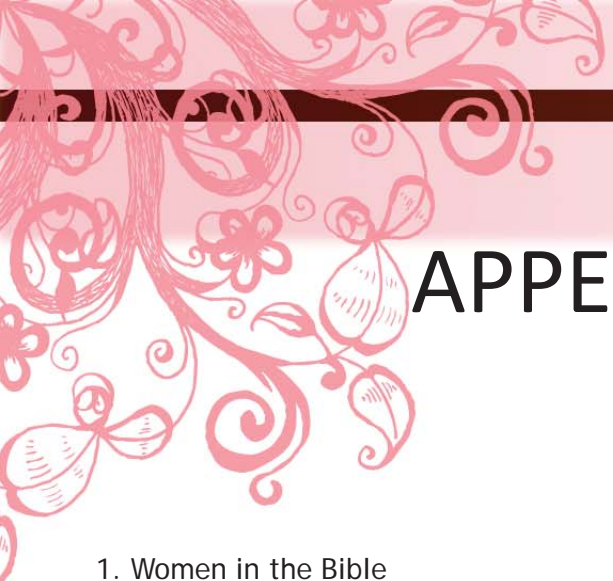
Choose a term for 'prophet' that adequately describes the prophet's function. A prophet: 1) receives a call from God; 2) gives the message he receives from God to the people; 3) has as his only priority bringing the Word of God to men. 'Spokesman' was chosen because, in English, it can convey these three meanings but doesn't carry the unwanted connotation of a fortuneteller. If a religious term is used, be sure it has a meaning an average hearer will understand. If it is too difficult to keep saying 'God's spokesman' throughout the story, use the prophet's name.

Found in: *Creation to Church, Spirit World, David's Anointing, Nathan's Story, Promise, Jesus' Baptism, Woman at the Well, Jealous Religious Leaders, and African*.

Tomb

A place where a dead body is placed.

Found in: *Jesus Carries His Cross and is Crucified and Resurrection of Jesus*.



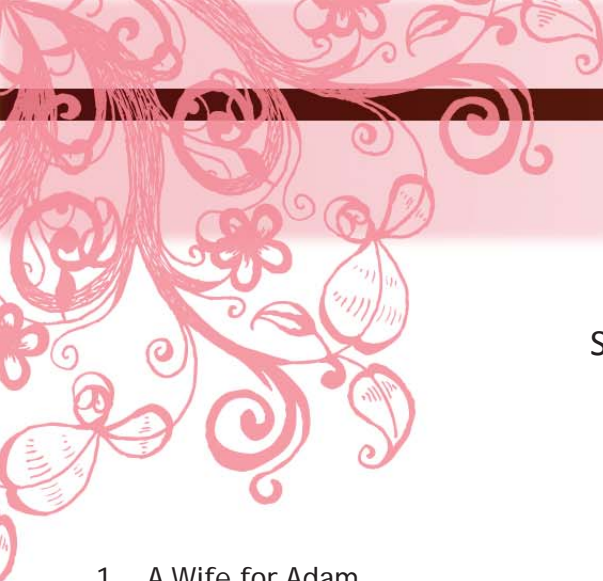
APPENDIX

1. Women in the Bible

Pages 75-79

2. Story Tapestry Training Template

Pages 81-82



Women in the Bible

Scripture references in Chronological order

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. A Wife for Adam | Genesis 2 |
| 2. Disobedience | Genesis 3 |
| 3. Sarah and Hagar | Genesis 16 and 17:20 |
| 4. Sarah, and the Promised Son | Genesis 17 and 21:1-7 |
| 5. Son of Sarah—God’s Provision | Genesis 18 |
| 6. A Bride for Isaac | Genesis 24 |
| 7. Rachel and Leah | Genesis 29:1-35; 30:1-24 |
| 8. Tamar the Widow | Genesis 38 |
| 9. Potiphar’s Wife and Joseph | Genesis 39 |
| 10. Moses’ mother and sister Miriam | Exodus 2: 1-10 |
| 11. Rahab | Joshua 2: 1-24 |
| 12. The story of Deborah | Judges 4 and 5 |
| 13. Ruth and Naomi | Ruth |
| 14. Hannah | 1 Samuel 1:2:1-10 |
| 15. Abigail | 1 Samuel 25 |
| 16. Saul and the Woman of Endor | 1 Samuel 28 |
| 17. Bathsheba | 2 Samuel 11 |
| 18. Two women and a baby | 1 Kings 3 |
| 19. The Queen of Sheba | 1 Kings 10:1-13 |
| 20. The Widow of Zarephath | 1 Kings 17:7-24 |
| 21. Queen Jezebel | 1 Kings 21:1-28 |
| 22. The Widow’s Oil | 2 Kings 4:1-7 |
| 23. The Shunammite Widow | 2 Kings 4:8-37; 8:1-6 |
| 24. The Wisdom of a Slave Girl | 2 Kings 5 |
| 25. Queen Athaliah | 2 Kings 11 |
| 26. Esther | Esther 1:8-23; 4 |
| 27. Elizabeth and Zechariah | Luke 1:5-23 |
| 28. Mary and the Birth of Jesus | Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-7 |
| 29. Mary and Joseph seek Jesus at the Temple | Luke 2:41-51 |
| 30. The Wedding at Cana | John 2:1-11 |
| 31. The Woman at the Well | John 4:1-42 |
| 32. The Widow’s Only Son | Luke 7:11-17 |
| 33. The Woman at Simon’s House | Luke 7:36-50 |
| 34. Jairus’ daughter and woman with bleeding | Luke 8:40-56 |
| 35. A Woman’s Faith | Mark 7:24-37 |
| 36. Mary, Martha and Lazarus | John 11:1-44 |
| 37. A Mother’s Request | Matthew 20:20-28 |
| 38. The Widow’s Offering | Mark 12:41-44 |
| 39. The Ten Virgins | Matthew 25:1-13 |
| 40. Women at the Death of Jesus | Mark 15:33-47 |
| 41. Women Visit the Empty Tomb | Luke 24:1-11 |



Mothers of the Bible

Scripture references in Chronological order

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Sons of Eve | Genesis 4:1-26 |
| 2. Hagar and Son, Ishmael | Genesis 16:1-16 |
| 3. Sarah and Son, Isaac | Genesis 21:1-7 |
| 4. Twin Sons of Rebecca | Genesis 25:19-34 |
| 5. Rachel and the Birth of Benjamin | Genesis 35:16-20 |
| 6. Daughter of Pharaoh finds baby Moses | Exodus 1:15-22; 2:1-10 |
| 7. Naomi, her sons and daughter-in-laws | Ruth 1: 1-22 |
| 8. Hannah, Mother of a Prophet | 1 Samuel 1:1-24 |
| 9. Two Women and a baby | 1 Kings 3:16-28 |
| 10. The Widow at Zarephath and her son | 1 Kings 17:17-24 |
| 11. The Woman of Shunem | 2 Kings 4:8-37 |
| 12. Elizabeth, Mother of John | Luke 1:5-25 |
| 13. Mary, the Mother of Jesus | Luke 1:26-45 |
| 14. The Birth of John the Baptist | Luke 1:57-66 |
| 15. The Birth of Jesus | Luke 2:1-7 |
| 16. Jesus as a boy in the Temple | Luke 2:41-52 |
| 17. The Widow's only Son | Luke 7:11-17 |
| 18. A Mother's Request | Matthew 20:20-28 |

Women who suffered

Scripture references in Chronological order

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Disobedience of Adam and Eve | Genesis 3:1-19 |
| 2. Sarah is Barren | Genesis 18:1-15 |
| 3. Rachel and Leah | Genesis 30:1-24 |
| 4. The Rape of Dinah | Genesis 34:1-31 |
| 5. Miriam Suffers from Leprosy | Numbers 12:1-16 |
| 6. The Daughter of Jephthah in Mizpah | Judges 11:29-40 |
| 7. The Sorrow of Naomi | Ruth 1:1-22 |
| 8. Wives for the Benjamites | Judges 21:1-25 |
| 9. David and Bathsheba | 2 Samuel 11:1-26 and 12:1-20 |
| 10. Amnon and Tamar | 2 Samuel 13:1-22 and 23-29 |
| 11. The Wife of King Jeroboam in Shiloh | 1 Kings 14:1-20 |
| 12. Joseph doubts Mary and the Miraculous Conception | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| 13. The Sinful Woman | John 8:1-11 |
| 14. The persistent Widow | Luke 18:1-8 |
| 15. The Widow's Offering | Mark 12:41-44 |
| 16. The Ten Virgins | Matthew 25:1-13 |
| 17. The Wife of Pilate has a Dream | Matthew 27:11-19 |
| 18. Mary Loses her Son | John 19:17-37 |



God's Stories of Comfort

Scripture references in Chronological order

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Miriam's Song | Exodus 15:19-27 |
| 2. Ruth Meets Boaz | Ruth 2:1-12 |
| 3. Hannah, Wife of Elkanah | 1 Samuel 1:1-20 |
| 4. The Widow at Zarephath | 1 Kings 17:7-16 |
| 5. The Widow's Oil | 2 Kings 4:1-7 |
| 6. The Shunammite Woman | 2 Kings 4:8-17 |
| 7. The Shunammite's Land is Restored | 2 Kings 8:1-6 |
| 8. Nehemiah Helps the Poor | Nehemiah 5:1-19 |
| 9. Elizabeth and Zechariah | Luke 1:5-25 |
| 10. The Woman from Nain | Luke 7:11-17 |
| 11. The Crippled Woman and Jesus | Luke 13:10-17 |
| 12. A Woman Suffers for 12 years | Mark 5:21-34 |
| 13. Peter, Aeneas and Tabitha | Acts 9:32-43 |

God's Stories of Wisdom through Women

Scripture references in Chronological order

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Midwives of Egypt | Exodus 1:8-21 |
| 2. Rahab and the Spies | Joshua 2:1-24 |
| 3. Deborah | Judges 4:1-16 |
| 4. Jael, a Tent-Dwelling Woman | Judges 4:17-24 |
| 5. Ruth and Naomi | Ruth 1 |
| 6. Hannah, Mother of Samuel | 1 Samuel 1:1-20 |
| 7. Abigail | 1 Samuel 25:1-44 |
| 8. Joab and the Wise Woman | 2 Samuel 14:1-33 |
| 9. The Slave Girl and Naaman | 2 Kings 5:1-14 |
| 10. Jehosheba saves Joash | 2 Kings 11:1-14 |
| 11. The Queen of Sheba | 2 Chronicles 9:1-28 |
| 12. Huldah, the Prophetess | 2 Chronicles 34:14-33 |
| 13. Esther—Request to the King | Esther 5:1-14 |
| 14. Esther Plots Haman's Disgrace | Esther 5:1-13; 7: 1-10 |
| 15. Anna, Devoted to Prayer and Fasting | Luke 2:25-40 |
| 16. Mary, Mother of Jesus at Cana | John 2:1-11 |
| 17. Mary of Bethany | Luke 10:38-42 |
| 18. The Woman who anoints Jesus | Matthew 26:6-11 |
| 19. Lydia, dealer of purple cloth | Acts 16:6-15 |
| 20. Priscilla at her Husband's side | Acts 18:18-26 |



Women who Loved

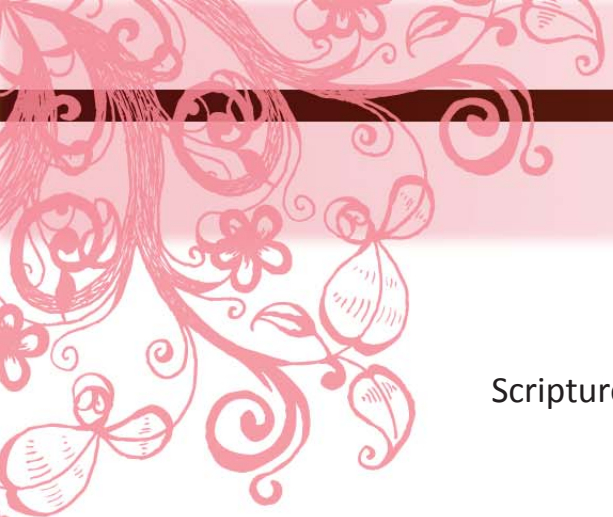
Scripture references in Chronological order

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. A Wife for Adam | Genesis 2:1-25 |
| 2. Rebecca and Isaac | Genesis 24:34-67 |
| 3. Jacob and Rachel | Genesis 39:1-30 |
| 4. A Wife for Moses | Exodus 2:11-25 |
| 5. Ruth and Boaz | Ruth 3:1-18 |
| 6. Queen Esther and the King | Esther 2:1-18 |
| 7. Mary and Joseph | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| 8. Jesus Teaches against Divorce | Matthew 19:1-9 |

Barren Women

Scripture references in Chronological order

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Sarah is Barren | Genesis 18:1-15 |
| 2. Isaac Prays for Rebecca | Genesis 25:19-34 |
| 3. Rachel is Barren | Genesis 29:3-35; 30: 1-24 |
| 4. The Mother of Samson | Judges 13:1-25 |
| 5. Hannah, wife of Elkanah | 1 Samuel 1:1-20 |
| 6. The Shunammite Woman | 2 Kings 4:8-17 (or optional vs. 8-37) |
| 7. Elizabeth and Zechariah | Luke 1:5-25 |



Stories of Deception

(Negative Moral Examples)

Scripture references in Chronological order

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Eve persuades Adam | Genesis 3 |
| 2. Sarah and Hagar | Genesis 16 and 17:20 |
| 3. Daughters of Lot conspire Evil | Genesis 19:30-38 |
| 4. Rebecca controls Jacob | Genesis 27:1-24 |
| 5. Potiphar's Wife | Genesis 39 |
| 6. Samson's Bride | Judges 14 |
| 7. Delilah | Judges 16: 4-22 |
| 8. The Woman of Endor | 1 Samuel 28 |
| 9. Solomon's Wives manipulate | 1 Kings 11:1-13 |
| 10. Queen Mother of Judah | 2 Chronicles 15: 10-19 |
| 11. Treachery of Jezebel (Naboth's Vineyard) | 1 Kings 21:1-29 |
| 12. Queen Athaliah leads her son to Evil | 2 Chronicles 22: 1-12 |
| 13. Jezebel and King Jehu | 2 Kings 9:1-29 |
| 14. Death of Jezebel | 2 Kings 9:29-37; 10:36 |
| 15. Sons of Shimeath and Shimrith Conspire against the king | 2 Chronicles 24:17-27 |
| 16. Wife of Job encourages him to betray the Lord
(uses intro from Job 1: 6-20) | Job 2:1-10 |
| 17. King Herod's Wife and daughter | Mark 6:14-29 |
| 18. Sapphira conspires with Ananias | Acts 5:1-11 |

Women Followers

Scripture references in Chronological order

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|--|------------------|
| 1. The Woman at the Well | John 4:1-39 |
| 2. A woman forgiven of her sins | Luke 7:36-50 |
| 3. The Woman of Canaan | Matthew 15:21-28 |
| 4. Mary and Martha | Luke 10:38-42 |
| 5. Mary, Martha and Lazarus | John 11:1-44 |
| 6. Woman Anoints Jesus with perfume | Matthew 26:6-13 |
| 7. Women at the death of Jesus | Mark 15:33-47 |
| 8. Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene | John 20:1-18 |
| 9. After the Ascension | Acts 1:1-14 |
| 10. Fellowship of the Believers | Acts 2:42-47 |
| 11. Tabitha of Joppa | Acts 9:32-43 |
| 12. Peter from Prison to the house of Mary | Acts 12:1-19 |
| 13. Lydia's conversion and Baptism in Philippi | Acts 16:11-15 |
| 14. Damaris of Athens | Acts 17:22-34 |
| 15. The Household of Crispus | Acts 18:5-8 |
| 16. Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus | Acts 18:24-28 |



Story Tapestry Training Template

Session 1 - Introductions

Introduce each other

Introduction to storying - ways of presenting the gospel.

Many ways to use storying - Evangelism, Discipleship, Church Planting Movement, etc.

Session 2 - Modeling stories

Panorama- Creation to Church

Spirit World

Session 3 - Modeling stories

Creation

Disobedience

Abraham's Call

Session 4 - Worldview Issues

Local beliefs

What do they believe about God

What do they believe about family, friends, etc.

Important celebrations

Important cultural values

Session 5 - Crafting Stories

A Son is Promised to Sarah

Abraham's Faith Tested

Session 6 - Review Stories

Review all stories done so far

Questions and answers regarding anything taught so far

Session 7 - Crafting and Telling

David's Anointing

David and Bathsheba

Nathan's Story

Session 8 - Crafting a story that is not a story

Promise

An Angel visits Mary and Joseph

Go back over *Spirit World*

Session 9 - Introduction to New Testament Stories

Birth of Jesus

Jesus' Baptism

Woman at the Well

Session 10 - Jesus Encounters You

Principles of telling your story (use worksheet in the manual)
Work on testimony with God's story (you can take a story from the list)
Model their story with God's story

Session 11 - Crafting and telling

Jairus' Daughter and Woman with Issue of blood
Jesus Feeds 5,000
Jealous Religious Leaders

Session 12 - Crafting and telling

Sinful Woman Forgiven
Conspiracy and Last Supper
Jesus Betrayed
Jesus' Trial

Session 13 - Crafting and telling

Jesus Carries His Cross and is Crucified
Resurrection of Jesus
After Resurrection

Session 14 - Crafting and telling

God's Spirit
African
Paul Meets Jesus

Session 15 - Crafting and telling

Peter Heals and Raises Tabitha from the dead
Philippian Jailer
Return

Session 16 - Crafting stories

Questions
Retelling of all stories back-to-back

Session 17- Commissioning

Communion (share the story *Conspiracy and Last Supper*)
Foot-washing (if possible) (share the foot washing portion of *Conspiracy and Last Supper*)
Anointing (if possible) (share the story *David's Anointing*)
Prayer

Note: crafting stories - make sure when you are crafting stories to work in small groups.
Have each person tell the story in the group.



 *Story Runners™*