



## A Study Guide

© Clark Lasse  
International Student Christian Organization  
University of Arkansas

**The Hope**  
**Chapter 1: In the Beginning**

**I. The method and scope of Creation.** (Genesis 1:1-2:3)

A. God's material for creation: Gen. 1:1

1. In the OT, the word "create" (translated from the Hebrew word "barah") is used almost exclusively of God's creative activity. It generally means, "to create out of nothing." Since it has that sense in Gen. 1:1 what materials would you say God used when he first created the universe? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Genesis 1:3 describes God's first creative act in forming the earth. Describe how God did it. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews (a book of the NT part of the Bible) 11:3 reads "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible." How does this NT writer interpret what we read in Gen. 1:3? \_\_\_\_\_

3. After reading the entire narrative what does it claim is the scope of God's creative activity? \_\_\_\_\_  
Can you think of anything that does not owe its existence to the creative activity of God? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Colossians 1:16-17 reads, "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. What does this New Testament writer conclude about the scope of God's creative acts? \_\_\_\_\_

**II. The sequence and time frame of Creation.**

A. Seven days? Or seven ages?

1. Find the common phrase in each of these verses: Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23 & 31--\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Based on this, what the definition of "a day"? Exodus 20:11 reads, "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." In this verse Moses is recording God's description of the "creation week". Does God describe the week of creation as seven days or seven ages? \_\_\_\_\_

2. The first six days of creation:

Find and write in your own words what Genesis 1 says was created on:

Day 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Day 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Day 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Day 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Day 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Day 6: \_\_\_\_\_

3. According to Gen. 1:11-12 where was life first created? \_\_\_\_\_  
How does this contrast with what evolution claims? \_\_\_\_\_

**III. The Climax (pinnacle or zenith) of creation:**

A. God's blueprint for Mankind.

1. According to Gen. 1:26-27 what pattern did God follow as he made mankind? \_\_\_\_\_  
After creating them, what did God then do for the man and woman? \_\_\_\_\_  
He also gave them what instructions? \_\_\_\_\_

B. God evaluates his work.

1. How does the Lord God feel about all that he had made according to 1: 31? \_\_\_\_\_ In what way does this phrase differ from the words describing God's assessment of what he had created on the other five days of creation? (1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25) \_\_\_\_\_ What can we conclude from this? \_\_\_\_\_

C. God provides for the first man and woman. (Gen. 2:4-9, 18-25)

1. According to Gen. 2:7 what else was unique about the creation of man? \_\_\_\_\_

2. From Gen. 2:8-9 and Gen. 2:18-22, identify two ways God provided in a special way for Adam. \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was Adam's assessment of the second provision? (v.23) \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. What can we learn about the nature of the Creator God through what we observe of His creation?

2. Psalm 33:8 "Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him." What does the Psalmist declare should be the response of all the people of the world be to this Creator-God?

3. The Bible is full of references to the ongoing activity of God in the world He made. Read Psalm 139:13-14: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Name at least two ways from this Psalm that God's ongoing involvement in His creation directly affects you.

4. After what you've learned in this lesson about God, as the creator of everything, including you, do you think He can be trusted to have answers when you have questions about the nature of reality and how to live in this world? According to how God is described in this lesson, to whom do you think you should be you accountable for the way you live your life?

## Scripture Texts for Chapter 1

### Genesis 1:1-2:3

1<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2<sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." <sup>7</sup>So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning--the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup>to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground

according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." <sup>29</sup>Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup>And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

<sup>31</sup>God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.

2<sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. <sup>2</sup>By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup>And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

### Genesis 2:4-9; 18-25 (various selections)

<sup>4</sup>This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens...<sup>7</sup>the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

<sup>8</sup>Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup>And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food...

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup>The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called 'woman,'  
for she was taken out of man."

<sup>24</sup>For this reason a man will leave his father and mother  
and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup>The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.



**The Hope**  
**Chapter 2: The Choice**

**I. Adam and Eve are given a choice. (Gen. 2:8-25)**

A. God gave Adam and Eve a beautiful place to live.

1. Describe the place God made for Adam to live in (v. 8-9): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Identify the trees that were in the middle of the garden. \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think is the significance of each tree? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How was the garden watered? (v. 10-14) \_\_\_\_\_

4. What was Adam's responsibility in the garden? (v. 15) \_\_\_\_\_

B. God gave Adam and Eve one simple command.

1. What one restriction did God place on the man's use of the fruit of the trees in the garden? (v. 17) \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did God say would be the consequence for Adam if he failed to obey God's command? (v. 17) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you think God gave Adam this simple command? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What risk was God taking? \_\_\_\_\_

C. The first couple starts well.

1. Read Gen. 2:25. What does this verse reveal about the spiritual condition of Adam and Eve at this point in the story? \_\_\_\_\_ What does the absence of shame say about their relationship with God?

\_\_\_\_\_ About their relationship with each other?

\_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. Has God given us any commands that He wants us to obey? If so, what are some of them?

2. God had a purpose in giving Adam and Eve a simple command in the Garden of Eden. Do you think His purpose in giving us commands to obey is different for us than it was for Adam and Eve? If so, in what way? Have you ever failed to keep one of God's commands? If so, what does this say about your relationship with God?

**II. Adam's situation is complicated by the presence of another spiritual being. (Gen. 3:1; Ezekiel 28; Rev 12)**

A. An enemy of God appears on the scene.

*Arriving at an accurate understanding of what the Bible says about this enemy of God would require examining far more passages from the Bible's text than we have time to consider here. For now we will look at just a few texts that will help give us some insight into the nature of this evil being. The texts we will consider are included in the selections from Scripture included with this lesson.*

1. In Genesis 3:1 which character is introduced to us for the first time in the narrative? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Ezekiel 28:11-17. Many students of the Bible believe this record of God's message to the King of Tyre is an allegory or analogy of what happened to Satan. Describe what Satan was like before "wickedness was found in him." \_\_\_\_\_

3. What led to Satan's downfall? (v. 17) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Read Revelation 12:7-9, 12. What is the scenario described in these verses (Michael is one of the most powerful angels who remained loyal to God)? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What other names does the dragon go by? \_\_\_\_\_ What does Satan attempt to do in this war? \_\_\_\_\_ What happens to Satan? \_\_\_\_\_ What are the consequences for the earth and its people? (v. 9 & 12) \_\_\_\_\_

6. How was Adam's choice like that of Satan described in the verses you've read about him? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Satan's activities still affect us today.

1. Read Ephesians 6:12. What does this author say is still true for people today? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read 1 Peter 5:8. What does Peter say Satan seeks to do to people? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read 2 Corinthians 11:14. What ability does the author attribute to Satan? \_\_\_\_\_ How might this ability help Satan achieve his purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. How are the choices you've made to disregard God's laws like those of Adam and Satan?

2. We will see in the next lesson how Satan's presence in the Garden of Eden complicated the situation there considerably. Judging from what you learned about Satan in this lesson, in what ways do you think Satan's presence in the Garden of Eden might complicate the situation for Adam and Eve?

## Scripture Texts for Lesson 2

### Genesis 2:4-3:1 (various selections)

<sup>4</sup>This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens...<sup>7</sup>the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

<sup>8</sup>Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup>And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground-- trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup>but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup>The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called 'woman,'  
for she was taken out of man."

<sup>24</sup>For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup>The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

### Ezekiel 28:11-17

<sup>11</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>12</sup> "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

"'You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. <sup>13</sup> You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared.

<sup>14</sup>You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. <sup>15</sup> You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. <sup>16</sup> Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. <sup>17</sup> Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth...

### Revelation 12:7-9, 12

<sup>7</sup>And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. <sup>8</sup> But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. <sup>9</sup>The great dragon was hurled down-- that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him...<sup>12</sup> Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

### Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

### 2 Corinthians 11:14

...for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

### 1 Peter 5:8

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

## The Hope

### Chapter 3: The Deadly Disease

*The portion of the Bible which is the focus of this lesson is one of its most important chapters. From this chapter we learn the origin of what the Bible calls sin. Sin is man's willful determination to disobey God's commands and chart his own course for life. It originated from the choice made by Adam and Eve described in this chapter. Their choice had devastating consequences for all of their posterity, including us.*

#### I. Adam and Eve are confronted with a choice. (Genesis 3:1-5)

A. Satan tempts them to disobey God.

1. Who does the Bible says this creature called "the serpent" represents? (from the last lesson) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was Satan trying to persuade Eve to do? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Until this point how would you describe Eve's attitude toward God? As trust and obedience, skepticism and reluctance, or anger and rebellion? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Satan used a three-pronged strategy to manipulate Eve's thinking. Identify the phrase from these verses which reflects each of these strategies.
  - a) question God's word (v. 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) deny God's word (v. 4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) distort God's word--substitute for God's word a LIE (v.5) \_\_\_\_\_
5. What part of what Satan said to Eve was not true? \_\_\_\_\_

#### For further reflection:

1. Before Satan appeared in the Garden of Eden, what did Adam and Eve depend on for determining how to act? How did that change after they encountered Satan? What is the basis for *your* standard of behavior? (*Record your answers on the back of this sheet*)

#### II. Adam and Eve make their choice. (Genesis 3:6)

A. They believe and act on Satan's lies –

1. Why was the fruit so appealing to Eve? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Were there any facts about the fruit that she was neglecting to consider in her choice? \_\_\_\_\_
3. After thinking about what Satan had said to her, what did Eve choose to do with the fruit? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ What was Adam doing while the conversation between Satan and Eve was taking place? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ What do you think he should have been doing for Eve? \_\_\_\_\_

#### For further reflection:

The Bible says that everyone has an inner sense of what is right and wrong that has been put in our hearts by God. Identify some common lies we choose to believe when we do things we know are wrong. What are some common truths that we neglect to consider when we do something wrong?

#### III. The disobedience of Adam and Eve comes at great cost. (Genesis 3:7-24)

A. Their disobedience reaps devastating consequences.

1. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God they experienced many new emotions. What emotions do you see expressed in the following statements?
  - a) v. 7: "...they realized they were naked...": \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) v. 8 "...and they hid from the Lord...": \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) v. 10 "I was afraid...": \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) v. 12 "the woman You put here, she gave me...": \_\_\_\_\_
2. God pronounced some hard punishment for Adam and Eve in Gen. 3:16-19. But according to v. 22-24 what final action did God take because of their disobedience? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did the Garden of Eden symbolize? \_\_\_\_\_ In light of this why was it so significant that God banned them from the Garden? \_\_\_\_\_
4. The New Testament gives us further insight into what happened to humanity as a result of the choice Adam and Eve made. Read these statements taken from Romans 5:12, 18-19. "Therefore... sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned... Consequently... the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men... For... through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners..." Describe in your own words what Adam's disobedience caused to happen for the entire human race \_\_\_\_\_

#### For further reflection:

Read Isaiah 59:1-2. "Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God..." How is the truth of this verse illustrated in the story of the sin of Adam and Eve? What serious consequences can people expect from their disobedience to God based Isaiah 59:1-2 and Rom. 5:18-19?

#### IV. God initiates his plan to rescue mankind.

A. God displays kindness in a context of judgment – Genesis 3:7, 15, 21

1. According to Gen. 3:7 what did Adam and Eve do to attempt to repair the damage that had been done? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ In v. 21 what did God do to provide a temporary solution to their problem? \_\_\_\_\_
2. This act signified two very important principles. First, our sin ultimately results in \_\_\_\_\_. Second, our sin requires the \_\_\_\_\_ of another's life to pay the penalty for our sin.
3. In Genesis 3:15 God makes a very important promise. According to that promise, one day Satan's head would be \_\_\_\_\_ by one of Eve's \_\_\_\_\_. In other words God would one day send a \_\_\_\_\_ to rescue people from their own sin and from Satan's tyranny. The Bible tells the story of that deliverer!

## Scripture Texts for Lesson 3

### Genesis 3:1-24

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" <sup>4</sup>"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup>And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup>So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, 'Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.' <sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

<sup>17</sup>To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup>It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

<sup>20</sup>Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

<sup>21</sup>The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

<sup>22</sup>And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." <sup>23</sup>So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup>After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.



**The Hope**  
**Chapter 4: Prelude to the Promise**

*The story of the flood is not unique to the Bible, but what it reveals about the heart of God for mankind, and the lessons it teaches us about faith in God, certainly are. This lesson helps us explore some of these insights.*

**I. Mankind goes from bad to worse.** (Genesis 6:5-22)

A. People persist in their rebellion against God. (v. 5-7)

1. According to v. 5, how does God evaluate the moral and spiritual condition of people during this time? \_\_\_\_\_
2. From v. 11-12 who bears the responsibility for the moral corruption of people? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did God feel about he saw in the behavior of people? (v. 6) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did God determine the solution had to be? (v. 7 and 13) \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was His reason? \_\_\_\_\_

B. God chooses a deliverer. (v. 8-17)

1. What do you think the text means in v. 8 when it says that "Noah found favor" with God? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why do you think God showed him such favor? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What three words/phrases describe Noah's character? (6:9) \_\_\_\_\_  
Tell what you think each of these phrases means: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Read Hebrews 11:7. "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith." What explanation does this verse give for Noah's righteous character? \_\_\_\_\_

D. God acts in grace toward the human race. (v. 18-22)

1. In addition to His decision to bring such sweeping judgment on a rebellious human race, clearly God's desire was to provide for the \_\_\_\_\_ of mankind. How would he accomplish this? \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. God gave Noah some specific instructions. How thoroughly did he carry them out (v. 22)? What relationship does this commitment on Noah's part have to his faith in God? What does this relationship between faith and action say about the status or vitality of *your* faith in God? (*Record your answers on the back of this sheet*)
2. In what specific ways do you think God has shown you His favor? Why do you think He does this?

**II. God gives mankind a fresh start** (Genesis 7:11-24; 8:13-20; 9:1-18)

A. Noah and his family survive. (Genesis 7:11-24)

- 1 For how long did the flood waters continue to rise on the earth? (7:17) \_\_\_\_\_ How much of the earth was covered? (v. 19) \_\_\_\_\_ What perished as a result? (v. 21-23) \_\_\_\_\_  
Who survived? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Noah continues in obedience and faith (Genesis 8:13-20)

1. What signal did Noah wait for before coming out of the ark? (Gen. 8:15-18) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What qualities of Noah's life would have influenced him to make this decision? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did God want the occupants of the ark to do when they left it? (8:17) \_\_\_\_\_

C. God re-establishes His covenant with Noah. (Genesis 9:1-18)

1. After Noah and his family came out of the ark, God pronounces a blessing on Noah. (9:1-3) Identify some differences between this blessing and the blessing He gave Adam in Gen 1:28-30? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What were the instructions that God gave Noah and his family? What were the restrictions He placed on them? (9:4-7) \_\_\_\_\_  
How did these differ from those given to Adam in Gen. 2:15-17? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What covenant promise did God make? (v. 11) \_\_\_\_\_  
What was the sign of this covenant promise? (v. 12-17) \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

What does Noah's life teach us about the importance of our personal obedience to God? How does God respond to us when we respond in faith and obedience to Him?

**For further Study:** The passage of Scripture that describes the building of the tower of Babel and the scattering of people from there all over the earth is found in Genesis 11:1-9. For additional study read this passage and describe the ways in which man's actions here were similar to those of Adam and Eve and the human race as God described it in Noah's time. How are these characteristics similar to what you see in people today?

## Scripture Texts for Lesson 4

### Gen 6:5-22

<sup>5</sup>The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. <sup>6</sup> The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. <sup>7</sup>So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them." <sup>8</sup>But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>This is the account of Noah: Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. <sup>10</sup>Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

<sup>11</sup> Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. <sup>12</sup> God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. <sup>13</sup> So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. <sup>14</sup> So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. <sup>15</sup> This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. <sup>16</sup> Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. <sup>17</sup> I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. <sup>18</sup> But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. <sup>19</sup> You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. <sup>20</sup> two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. <sup>21</sup> You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

<sup>22</sup> Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

### Gen 7:11-24

<sup>11</sup>In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month--on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. <sup>12</sup> And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

<sup>13</sup> On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. <sup>14</sup> They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. <sup>15</sup> Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. <sup>16</sup> The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

<sup>17</sup>For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. <sup>18</sup>The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. <sup>19</sup>They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. <sup>20</sup>The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet. <sup>21</sup>Every living thing that moved on the earth perished--birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the

earth, and all mankind. <sup>22</sup>Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. <sup>23</sup>Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. <sup>24</sup> The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

### Gen 8:13-20

<sup>13</sup>By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. <sup>14</sup>By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. <sup>15</sup>Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup>"Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. <sup>17</sup>Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you--the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground--so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it." <sup>18</sup>So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. <sup>19</sup>All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds--everything that moves on the earth--came out of the ark, one kind after another. <sup>20</sup>Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

### Genesis 9:1-19

<sup>1</sup>Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. <sup>2</sup>The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. <sup>3</sup>Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. <sup>4</sup>But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. <sup>5</sup>And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. <sup>6</sup>Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed for in the image of God has God made man. <sup>7</sup>As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: <sup>9</sup> "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that was with you--the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you--every living creature on earth. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

<sup>12</sup>And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: <sup>13</sup>I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. <sup>16</sup>Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."



**The Hope**  
**Chapter 5: Blessed to Be a Blessing**  
**Genesis 12, 16, 17, 21**

*Abraham is a key figure in the Bible's story of God's plan to send a deliverer to save mankind from the penalty and power of sin. He is not only the father of the nation of Israel, but because of his faith in God and in God's plan, he is also recognized as the father of all who place their faith in Jesus Christ, God's promised deliverer. This lesson introduces us to this important character. It aims to help us better understand his role in God's plan and learn from his example of faith.*

**I. God Calls Abram.** (Genesis 12:1-9; Gen. 15:1-6)

A. God calls Abram to an unknown land. (Genesis 12:1-9)

1. What did God ask Abram to do in v. 1? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What promises did God make to Abraham in vv. 2-3? He said: I will \_\_\_\_\_;  
I will \_\_\_\_\_; I will \_\_\_\_\_;  
and through you all \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Abram do in response to God's command and promise? (v. 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Identify some circumstances in Abraham's life that might have made it difficult for him to act on his faith in God's promise? (v. 4) \_\_\_\_\_

B. God promises Abram a son. (Gen. 15:1-6)

1. What was Abram afraid of in Genesis 15:3? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was God's response to Abram (v.4) and how was Abram convinced that God was right (v.5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Give a simple definition of each of the following key words in verse 6:
  - a. believed: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. credited to: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. righteousness: \_\_\_\_\_
4. What do you think this statement in v. 6 means? Why do you think it is a significant statement? \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Abram has a son—birth of Ishmael—son of Hagar.** (Gen. 16:1-12, 15-16)

A. Abram takes matters into his own hands. (Genesis 16:1-4)

1. How long had it been since God had given his promise to Abraham? (v. 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Describe the plan Sarai proposed to Abram. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you think this plan was inspired by faith in God or not? Why? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think Abram agreed to Sarai's proposal? \_\_\_\_\_  
Had Abram been acting in faith, how would he have responded to Sarai's suggestion? \_\_\_\_\_

B. There were consequences to Abram's action.

1. What were they? (16:4-6) \_\_\_\_\_ (16:9-12) \_\_\_\_\_
2. How does Abram's fateful decision still affect the world today? \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Abraham has a second son—birth of Isaac —"son of God's promise"** (Gen. 17:1-2, 15-23; 21:1-10)

A. God repeats His covenant with Abraham (Gen. 17:1-2, 15-23)

1. In v. 2 God says. "I will establish my covenant between Me and you and I will multiply you exceedingly." How did God say He would fulfill this promise to Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Abraham request instead (v. 18)? \_\_\_\_\_  
What was God's response (v. 19-21)? \_\_\_\_\_

B. God fulfills His promise (Genesis 21:1-14).

1. How did God fulfill His promise to Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_ How did Sarah and Abraham respond? \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. Read Hebrews 11:8-10. "By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country... For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God." Explain what it means to have faith as seen in the life of Abram. What are some obstacles to faith for us today?

2. The statement in Genesis 15:6 became a cornerstone of Christian teaching as explained in the New Testament by the apostle Paul. Read Romans 4:1-5 and 4:18-5:1. According to what Paul says in these verses, how does the statement God made about Abram in Gen. 15:6 relate to the faith of someone who chooses to follow Jesus? What happened to Jesus and why is it significant for the faith of his followers? (Romans 4:25-5:1)

3. Sometimes, like Abram, we get easily discouraged when our prayers are not answered immediately. What lessons can we learn from Abraham's experience that can help us overcome such discouragement?

4. Abram's experience in this incident that became a crisis provides some life lessons for us. In your own life, why do you think it would be important for you to pray and seek God's wisdom *before* making a decision?

## Scripture Texts for Lesson 5 Part 1

### Gen 12:1-7

<sup>1</sup>The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup>"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

<sup>4</sup>So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. <sup>5</sup>He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

<sup>6</sup>Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

### Genesis 15:1-6

<sup>1</sup>After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

<sup>4</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

<sup>6</sup>Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

### Gen 16:1-12, 15-16

<sup>1</sup>Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; <sup>2</sup>so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. <sup>3</sup>So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. <sup>4</sup>He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. <sup>5</sup>Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me." <sup>6</sup>"Your servant is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. <sup>8</sup>And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered. <sup>9</sup>Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." <sup>10</sup>The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count."

<sup>11</sup>The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. <sup>12</sup>He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility

toward all his brothers."

<sup>15</sup>So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. <sup>16</sup>Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

### Gen 17:1-2, 15-23

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

<sup>15</sup>God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her." <sup>17</sup>Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" <sup>18</sup>And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

<sup>19</sup>Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. <sup>20</sup>And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. <sup>21</sup>But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year." <sup>22</sup>When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him. <sup>23</sup>On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or bought with his money, every male in his household, and circumcised them, as God told him.

### Gen 21:1-14

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. <sup>2</sup>Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. <sup>3</sup>Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. <sup>4</sup>When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. <sup>5</sup>Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

<sup>6</sup>Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." <sup>7</sup>And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." <sup>8</sup>The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast.

<sup>9</sup>But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, <sup>10</sup>and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." <sup>11</sup>The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. <sup>12</sup>But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. <sup>13</sup>I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring."

<sup>14</sup>Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba.

Note: Have someone in the group look up and read Romans 4:1-5 and Romans 4:18-5:1 when you get to question 2 in the "For further reflection" section.

**The Hope**  
**Chapter 5: Blessed to Be a Blessing-Part 2**  
**Genesis 22**

*In the last lesson we were introduced to Abraham, whom the Bible refers to as the father of the nation of Israel, and as the father of all who place their faith in Jesus Christ, God's promised deliverer. We learned how God began to fulfill his promise to Abraham by giving him a son. In this lesson we learn about how God provided Abraham with both a crucial object lesson for faith, and at the same time, a vivid portrayal of His plan to provide a Deliverer for mankind.*

**I. The Testing of Faith** (Genesis 22:1-4)

A. Abraham's faith is severely tested

1. According to v. 1-2. What did God ask Abraham to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
Based on what these verses say, explain why you think this test of Abraham's faith was especially severe. \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. Why do you think God would ask Abraham to make such a sacrifice? What do you love most in life? Would God be justified in asking you to "sacrifice" or give up what is precious to you to prove your faith in Him? Why or why not?

**II. The Power of Faith** (Genesis 22:3-12; Romans 4:18-25)

A. Abraham's faith takes action.

1. What does Abraham do in response to God's command? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does this tell you about his trust in God? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Read Gen. 22:5-8 again and identify the ways Abraham demonstrated this trust in God: \_\_\_\_\_
4. What do you think Isaac was thinking after his father told him that God would provide the lamb for the sacrifice? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How do you think this changed after Abraham bound him and laid him on the altar? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How did Isaac demonstrate his faith? \_\_\_\_\_

**III. The Object of Faith: "The Lord Will Provide."** (Genesis 22:13-19)

A. God provides a sacrificial ram.

1. What took Isaac's place on the altar? \_\_\_\_\_ Where did it come from? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Because of God's provision what did Abraham call that place? \_\_\_\_\_  
What saying resulted from this experience? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did God promise Abraham in response to Abraham's act of faith? \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. Because of man's disobedience, sin became a deadly disease we all have. What does Romans 3:23 tell us?
2. According to Romans 6:23 what do we deserve because of our sin? Does God offer an alternative to death for all who have sinned? What is it?
3. According to John 3:16 how did God provide a way to escape the penalty for sin and receive what he has offered? Who is God's son? What does God promise you if you put your trust in His son?
4. The ram died in Isaac's place. Whom did God send to die in our place because of our sin (John 1:29, Romans 5:6-8, 1 Peter 2:24)?
5. Read Romans 10:9. How do we receive God's provision for our greatest need (which is, the forgiveness of our sin by God)?

## Scripture Texts for Lesson 5 Part 2

### Gen 22:1-19

<sup>1</sup> Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

<sup>2</sup> Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

<sup>3</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

<sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son, Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, <sup>7</sup> Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

<sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. <sup>9</sup> When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

<sup>12</sup> "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

<sup>13</sup> Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

<sup>15</sup> The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup> and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup> and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

<sup>19</sup> Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba.

### Romans 3:23

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

### Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

### John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

### Romans 5:6-8

<sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### 1 Peter 2:24

<sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

### Romans 10:9

...if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**The Hope**  
**Chapter 6: People of the Promise-Part 1**  
**Genesis 37, 39-41**

*As summarized in the beginning of Chapter Six of The Hope, God reiterated his covenant and promise of blessing to Abraham's son, Isaac, and to Isaac's son, Jacob. God gave Jacob twelve sons who became the patriarchs of the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel as it is described in the Bible. Joseph was the eleventh born of Jacob's sons and his favorite. This lesson explores in more detail the early life of Joseph. Joseph is a key figure in God's plan to rescue mankind, serving as a figure or model of what the coming deliverer would be like.*

**I. Joseph brothers hate him.** (Genesis 37:3-28)

A. Special treatment. (Genesis 37:3-4)

1. What aroused the anger of Joseph's brothers toward him? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did his brothers treat him as a result? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Dreams of grandeur. (Genesis 37: 5-11)

1. Describe each of Joseph's two dreams: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Jacob and Joseph's brothers interpret them to mean? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did this affect their attitude toward Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_

C. The brothers' revenge. (Genesis 37:12-28)

1. What is the errand that Jacob sends Joseph to do? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When Joseph's brothers saw Joseph coming what action did they determine to take? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What changed their minds? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did they decide to do instead? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How did they explain Joseph's disappearance to his father: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. Describe how you would have felt had you been in Joseph's place when all this happened?
2. How would these feelings have changed for Joseph had he been able to see his circumstances from God's perspective?

*Joseph was taken to Egypt and sold as a slave to an Egyptian named Potiphar who was the captain of Pharaoh's guard. God blessed Joseph for his faithfulness there, but again Joseph was mistreated and falsely accused. He ended up in prison. His circumstances must have seemed hopeless to Joseph, but God was working behind the scenes. You can read about this part of Joseph's story in Genesis 39. The next section of this lesson will help us see how God worked to prepare Joseph for what was in store for him.*

**II. God continues to be with Joseph** (Genesis 40:1-41:45)

A. Joseph's character is tested again. (Gen. 40:1-23)

1. Was Joseph angry at God because of his circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Whom did Joseph meet while in prison? \_\_\_\_\_ Why were they sad (v. 4-6)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Joseph use this opportunity to share about God with his friends (v. 7-8)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Describe the dream each man had (v. 9-11, v. 16-17): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What interpretation did God give Joseph for each dream? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What favor did Joseph ask the cupbearer to do for him (v. 14)? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Did the Cupbearer remember to do this (v. 23)? \_\_\_\_\_ How could this have affected Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. God's greater plan for Joseph unfolds. (Gen. 41:1-45)

1. Describe Pharaoh's dreams? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who do you think gave this dream to Pharaoh? \_\_\_\_\_ How did God rescue Joseph from the prison (v. 8-14)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Joseph tell Pharaoh about his ability to interpret dreams (v. 16)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What was the meaning of each dream (v. 28-31)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did Joseph suggest to Pharaoh to prepare for what was coming? (v. 33-36) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why do you think Pharaoh selected Joseph for this task? (v. 37-39) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Pharaoh gave Joseph, the name Zaphenath-Paneah (41:45), meaning "savior of the world" or "preserver of the age." How is Joseph's life becoming another picture of God's promise to send a "deliverer"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. How does the story of Joseph illustrate how God works behind the scenes to accomplish things we sometimes are unaware of? As you look at your life, what can you see in your circumstances that you may not understand but which may be part of how God is working to accomplish a greater purpose? What do you think that purpose might be?



## Scripture Texts for Lesson 6 Part 1

### Genesis 37:3-28

<sup>3</sup> Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. <sup>4</sup> When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: <sup>7</sup> We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." <sup>8</sup> His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

<sup>9</sup> Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." <sup>10</sup> When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" <sup>11</sup> His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

<sup>12</sup> Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, <sup>13</sup> and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them."

"Very well," Joseph replied. <sup>14</sup> So Jacob said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.

When Joseph arrived at Shechem, <sup>15</sup> a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?" <sup>16</sup> He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?" <sup>17</sup> "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. <sup>18</sup> But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. <sup>19</sup> "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. <sup>20</sup> "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams." <sup>21</sup> When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. <sup>22</sup> "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

<sup>23</sup> So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe--the richly ornamented robe he was wearing-- <sup>24</sup> and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. <sup>25</sup> As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

<sup>26</sup> Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? <sup>27</sup> Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. <sup>28</sup> So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

### Genesis 40:1-23

<sup>1</sup> Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. <sup>2</sup> Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, <sup>3</sup> and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. <sup>4</sup> The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them.

After they had been in custody for some time, <sup>5</sup> each of the two men--the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison--had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. <sup>6</sup> When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. <sup>7</sup> So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?" <sup>8</sup> "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them."

Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams." <sup>9</sup> So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, <sup>10</sup> and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes. <sup>11</sup> Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and put the cup in his hand."

<sup>12</sup> "This is what it means," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days. <sup>13</sup> Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. <sup>14</sup> But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. <sup>15</sup> For I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon."

<sup>16</sup> When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, "I too had a dream: On my head were three baskets of bread. <sup>17</sup> In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."

<sup>18</sup> "This is what it means," Joseph said. "The three baskets are three days. <sup>19</sup> Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat away your flesh."

<sup>20</sup> Now the third day was Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: <sup>21</sup> He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand, <sup>22</sup> but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation. <sup>23</sup> The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

### Genesis 41:1-32

<sup>1</sup> When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile, <sup>2</sup> when out of the river there came up seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds. <sup>3</sup> After them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt, came up out of the Nile and stood beside those on the riverbank. <sup>4</sup> And the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up. <sup>5</sup> He fell asleep again and had a second dream: seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk. <sup>6</sup> After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted--thin and scorched by the east wind. <sup>7</sup> The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream.

<sup>8</sup> In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him. <sup>9</sup> Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I am reminded of my shortcomings. <sup>10</sup> Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he imprisoned me and the chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard. <sup>11</sup> Each of us had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. <sup>12</sup> Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream. <sup>13</sup> And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was hanged."

<sup>14</sup> So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh. <sup>15</sup> Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

<sup>16</sup> "I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."

<sup>17</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "In my dream I was standing on the bank of the Nile, <sup>18</sup> when out of the river there came up seven cows, fat and sleek, and they grazed among the reeds. <sup>19</sup> After them, seven other cows came up--scrawny and very ugly and lean. I had never seen such ugly cows in all the land of Egypt. <sup>20</sup> The lean, ugly cows ate up the seven fat cows that came up first. <sup>21</sup> But even after they ate them, no one could tell that they had done so; they looked just as ugly as before. Then I woke up. <sup>22</sup> In my dreams I also saw seven heads of grain, full and good, growing on a single stalk. <sup>23</sup> After them, seven other heads sprouted--withered and thin and scorched by the east wind. <sup>24</sup> The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven good heads. I told this to the magicians, but none could explain it to me."

<sup>25</sup> Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. <sup>26</sup> The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. <sup>27</sup> The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine.

<sup>28</sup> "It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. <sup>29</sup> seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, <sup>30</sup> but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. <sup>31</sup> The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. <sup>32</sup> The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.

<sup>33</sup> "And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. <sup>34</sup> Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. <sup>35</sup> They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. <sup>36</sup> This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine."

<sup>37</sup> The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. <sup>38</sup> So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" <sup>39</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. <sup>40</sup> You shall be in charge

of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you."

<sup>41</sup> So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." <sup>42</sup> Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. <sup>43</sup> He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and men shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

<sup>44</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt." <sup>45</sup> Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt.



**The Hope**  
**Chapter 6: People of the Promise-Part 2**  
**Genesis 41-45, 50**

*In the last lesson we were introduced to Joseph, who is one of many key figures in God's story of mankind's deliverance. We saw how God had worked through difficult circumstances to bring Joseph to a critical position of leadership and influence. This lesson looks further into how God worked through Joseph in that position of influence to accomplish His purpose.*

**I. God begins to fulfill His promise to Abraham through Joseph.** (Gen. 41:46-57)

A. Having been blessed by God, Joseph now becomes a blessing.

1. What did God promise he would do through Abraham (read Genesis 12:2-3 if you need to refresh your memory)? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe the influence Joseph was having in Egypt according to Gen. 41:46-57. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ As one of Abraham's descendents, how was God's promise to Abraham being fulfilled through Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

Joseph learns some valuable lessons in Egypt. Notice the names Joseph gave his two sons (Gen. 41:51-52) What are the reasons he mentions for giving them these names? What do these reasons tell us about what Joseph learned from his experiences in Egypt?

**II. Joseph meets his brothers again under much different circumstances.** (Gen. 42:1-28)

A. Joseph's brothers arrive in Egypt.

1. When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food, whom did they leave behind? (v. 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why was Joseph reminded of his dreams in v. 9? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you think Joseph was so severe with his brothers? (v. 16) \_\_\_\_\_

4. What does he say he wants to know about them? (v. 19) \_\_\_\_\_ Why would he want to know this? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Joseph's brothers are unaware of who Joseph is.

1. What do the brothers conclude about why Joseph is treating them this way? (v. 21-23) \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Joseph do for his brothers before they returned to Canaan? (V. 25) \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think he did this? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What do the brothers think when they discovered what had happened? (v. 28) \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Joseph reveals his true identity.**

A. Joseph's brothers return to Egypt. (Gen. 43:1-5, 15-34)

1. What did Joseph want done to his brothers when he saw them this second time? (v. 16) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ What did his brothers think when this happened? (v. 18) \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did Joseph treat the brothers? (v. 24-27) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What especially moved Joseph during this "family reunion"? (v. 29) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why were the brothers so surprised? (v. 33) \_\_\_\_\_

B. Joseph gives his brothers one final test. (Gen. 44:1-18, 33-34)

1. Why do you think Joseph chose to have his special cup secretly put into *Benjamin's* sack of grain? \_\_\_\_\_

2. As punishment for the brothers' crime, what did Joseph demand should be done? (v. 17) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who offered to be a substitute for Benjamin? (v. 33-34) \_\_\_\_\_ Refer to Gen. 37:26-27. What does this

verse say about Judah? Why was it important to Joseph that Judah respond as he did? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Joseph tells his brothers who he really is. (Gen. 45:1-15)

1. How did Joseph's brothers respond to him when he announced his true identity to them? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What reason did Joseph give his brothers for his presence in Egypt? (45:5-7) \_\_\_\_\_

3. In what ways did Joseph prove to his brothers that he had truly forgiven them? \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Joseph refuses to hold a grudge.** (Gen. 50:15-21)

A. Joseph's brothers fear his revenge.

1. What did his brothers fear would happen after Jacob died? (v. 15) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers? \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. Read Romans 8:28. How is the principle stated here illustrated in the experience of Joseph? Of Jesus as described in 1 Peter 2:21-25?

2. Explain how the experiences of Joseph illustrate the truth of the following statement:

God is more interested in how you respond to your circumstances than He is in changing your circumstances.

3. Describe a change of character or some other positive development you have seen in your own life. What difficult or challenging circumstances or relationships did God use to bring about that change?

4. Identify a person in your life (don't mention his or her name to the group) that you feel has wronged you in some way. What steps have you taken or should you take to forgive that person?

5. Given what you have learned thus far about who Jesus is and why he came, identify at least two ways you think Joseph was a picture of who Jesus is. ( Describe events in Joseph's life or some of his character strengths that illustrate things that were also true of Jesus.)

## Key Texts for Lesson 6-Part 2

### Genesis 41:46-57

<sup>46</sup> Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt. <sup>47</sup> During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. <sup>48</sup> Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. <sup>49</sup> Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure.

<sup>50</sup> Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. <sup>51</sup> Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." <sup>52</sup> The second son he named Ephraim and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."

<sup>53</sup> The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, <sup>54</sup> and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food. <sup>55</sup> When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you." <sup>56</sup> When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. <sup>57</sup> And all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world.

### Genesis 42:1-28

<sup>1</sup> When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you just keep looking at each other?" <sup>2</sup> He continued, "I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die." <sup>3</sup> Then ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. <sup>4</sup> But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him. <sup>5</sup> So Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain, for the famine was in the land of Canaan also.

<sup>6</sup> Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the one who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. <sup>7</sup> As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he asked.

"From the land of Canaan," they replied, "to buy food."

<sup>8</sup> Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. <sup>9</sup> Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

<sup>10</sup> "No, my lord," they answered. "Your servants have come to buy food. <sup>11</sup> We are all the sons of one man. Your servants are honest men, not spies."

<sup>12</sup> "No!" he said to them. "You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

<sup>13</sup> But they replied, "Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more." <sup>14</sup> Joseph said to them, "It is just as I told you: You are spies! <sup>15</sup> And this is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. <sup>16</sup> Send one of your number to get your brother; the rest of you will be kept in prison, so that your words may be tested to see if you are telling the truth. If you are not, then as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies!" <sup>17</sup> And he put them all in custody for three days.

<sup>18</sup> On the third day, Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: <sup>19</sup> If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison, while the rest of you go and take grain back for your starving households. <sup>20</sup> But you must bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and that you may not die." This

they proceeded to do.

<sup>21</sup> They said to one another, "Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come upon us." <sup>22</sup> Reuben replied, "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood." <sup>23</sup> They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter. <sup>24</sup> He turned away from them and began to weep, but then turned back and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken from them and bound before their eyes.

<sup>25</sup> Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to put each man's silver back in his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey. After this was done for them, <sup>26</sup> they loaded their grain on their donkeys and left. <sup>27</sup> At the place where they stopped for the night one of them opened his sack to get feed for his donkey, and he saw his silver in the mouth of his sack. <sup>28</sup> "My silver has been returned," he said to his brothers. "Here it is in my sack. Their hearts sank and they turned to each other trembling and said, "What is this that God has done to us?"

### Genesis 43:1-5, 15-34

<sup>1</sup> Now the famine was still severe in the land. <sup>2</sup> So when they had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, "Go back and buy us a little more food." <sup>3</sup> But Judah said to him, "The man warned us solemnly, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.' <sup>4</sup> If you will send our brother along with us, we will go down and buy food for you. <sup>5</sup> But if you will not send him, we will not go down, because the man said to us, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.'"

<sup>15</sup> So the men took the gifts and double the amount of silver, and Benjamin also. They hurried down to Egypt and presented themselves to Joseph. <sup>16</sup> When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Take these men to my house, slaughter an animal and prepare dinner; they are to eat with me at noon."

<sup>17</sup> The man did as Joseph told him and took the men to Joseph's house. <sup>18</sup> Now the men were frightened when they were taken to his house. They thought, "We were brought here because of the silver that was put back into our sacks the first time. He wants to attack us and overpower us and seize us as slaves and take our donkeys." <sup>19</sup> So they went up to Joseph's steward and spoke to him at the entrance to the house. <sup>20</sup> "Please, sir," they said, "we came down here the first time to buy food. <sup>21</sup> But at the place where we stopped for the night we opened our sacks and each of us found his silver--the exact weight--in the mouth of his sack. So we have brought it back with us. <sup>22</sup> We have also brought additional silver with us to buy food. We don't know who put our silver in our sacks."

<sup>23</sup> "It's all right," he said. "Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks; I received your silver." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

<sup>24</sup> The steward took the men into Joseph's house, gave them water to wash their feet and provided fodder for their donkeys. <sup>25</sup> They prepared their gifts for Joseph's arrival at noon, because they had heard that they were to eat there.

<sup>26</sup> When Joseph came home, they presented to him the gifts they had brought into the house, and they bowed down before him to the ground. <sup>27</sup> He asked them how they were, and then he said, "How is your aged father you told me about? Is he still living?"

<sup>28</sup> They replied, "Your servant our father is still alive and well." And they bowed low to pay him honor.

<sup>29</sup> As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, he asked, "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son." <sup>30</sup> Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep. He went into his private room and wept there.

<sup>31</sup> After he had washed his face, he came out and, controlling himself, said, "Serve the food."

<sup>32</sup> They served him by himself, the brothers by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews, for that is detestable to Egyptians. <sup>33</sup> The men had been seated before him in the order of their ages, from the firstborn to the youngest; and they looked at each other in astonishment. <sup>34</sup> When portions were served to them from Joseph's table, Benjamin's portion was five times as much as anyone else's. So they feasted and drank freely with him.

#### **Genesis 44:1-18, 33-34**

<sup>1</sup> Now Joseph gave these instructions to the steward of his house: "Fill the men's sacks with as much food as they can carry, and put each man's silver in the mouth of his sack. <sup>2</sup> Then put my cup, the silver one, in the mouth of the youngest one's sack, along with the silver for his grain." And he did as Joseph said.

<sup>3</sup> As morning dawned, the men were sent on their way with their donkeys. <sup>4</sup> They had not gone far from the city when Joseph said to his steward, "Go after those men at once, and when you catch up with them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid good with evil?'" <sup>5</sup>

Isn't this the cup my master drinks from and also uses for divination? This is a wicked thing you have done.'" <sup>6</sup> When he caught up with them, he repeated these words to them. <sup>7</sup> But they said to him, "Why does my lord say such things? Far be it from your servants to do anything like that!" <sup>8</sup> We even brought back to you from the land of Canaan the silver we found inside the mouths of our sacks. So why would we steal silver or gold from your master's house? <sup>9</sup> If any of your servants is found to have it, he will die; and the rest of us will become my lord's slaves."

<sup>10</sup> "Very well, then," he said, "let it be as you say. Whoever is found to have it will become my slave; the rest of you will be free from blame." <sup>11</sup> Each of them quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it. <sup>12</sup> Then the steward proceeded to search, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. <sup>13</sup> At this, they tore their clothes. Then they all loaded their donkeys and returned to the city.

<sup>14</sup> Joseph was still in the house when Judah and his brothers came in, and they threw themselves to the ground before him. <sup>15</sup> Joseph said to them, "What is this you have done? Don't you know that a man like me can find things out by divination?"

<sup>16</sup> "What can we say to my lord?" Judah replied. "What can we say? How can we prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servants' guilt. We are now my lord's slaves--we ourselves and the one who was found to have the cup."

<sup>17</sup> But Joseph said, "Far be it from me to do such a thing! Only the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave. The rest of you, go back to your father in peace."

<sup>18</sup> Then Judah went up to him and said: "Please, my lord, let your servant speak a word to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, though you are equal to Pharaoh himself. <sup>33</sup>...please let your servant remain here as my lord's slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. <sup>34</sup> How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come upon my father."

#### **Gen 45:1-15**

<sup>1</sup> Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!" <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup> So then, it was not you who

sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me--you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.' <sup>12</sup> You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. <sup>13</sup> Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

<sup>14</sup> Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

#### **Gen 50:15-21**

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup>'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

<sup>18</sup> His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

#### **Rom 8:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

#### **1 Peter 2:21-25**

<sup>21</sup> ... Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." <sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.



**The Hope**  
**Chapter 6: People of the Promise-Part 3**  
**Exodus 3-8**

*In our survey of "God's story" we are now seeing God's dealings with His people who have multiplied to become a nation known now as the Israelites. Having been in Egypt for 400 years, and now serving as slaves to the Pharaoh of Egypt, the Israelites are desperately crying out to God for deliverance. In The Hope the narrators describe God's intervention to preserve Moses and prepare him for his role as Israel's deliverer. In this lesson we continue our study with Moses' first recorded personal encounter with God.*

**I. God reveals His plan to Moses**

A. God gets Moses attention. (Exodus 3:1-15)

1. In Exodus 3:1-2 what caught the attention of Moses? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did Moses stop to look at it (v. 3)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When God spoke to him, what did He want Moses to realize? (verse 5-6) \_\_\_\_\_

B. God reveals His concern for his people.

1. Identify four statements in v. 7-8 which reveal this concern?
  - a. I have \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. and have \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. I \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. I have \_\_\_\_\_
2. When Moses asked God what his name was, what name did God give him? \_\_\_\_\_  
What does this name reveal to us about who God is? (v.14-15) \_\_\_\_\_

C. God sends Moses to lead His people out of Egypt. (Exodus 3:16-22)

1. What did God instruct Moses to say to the elders of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What message was Moses to bring to Pharaoh? (v. 18) \_\_\_\_\_  
How did God say Pharaoh would respond to Moses' message? (v. 19) \_\_\_\_\_
3. How would God compel Pharaoh and the Egyptians to comply with his plan for Israel? (v. 20-21) \_\_\_\_\_  
What would the result be? \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

Read the following verses: Psalm 145:13-15; Matthew 11:28-30 (*included with the scripture segments attached to this lesson*). Do you think God has the same concern for people today that he had for Israel in this story? Why or why not?

**II. Pharaoh resists God's mandate.**

A. Moses delivers a mandate to Pharaoh. (Ex. 5:1-9)

1. What four-word message did he give? (Ex. 5:1) \_\_\_\_\_! What was the reason God gave for wanting them to "go"?

B. Pharaoh's resists.

1. Why does Pharaoh reject Moses' message? (5:2) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Pharaoh accuse Moses and Aaron of doing? (5:4-5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did he do to the people of Israel as a result? (5:9) \_\_\_\_\_

C. Moses gets discouraged. (Ex. 5:22-6:1)

1. Why did the situation seem so bleak to Moses? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What promise did God make again to Moses? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Pharaoh and Egypt begin to experience God's judgment. (Exodus 7:1-8:19)

1. Describe the first three plagues that God caused to afflict Egypt: Ex. 7:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
8:2 \_\_\_\_\_; 8:16) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What truth about God did He want Pharaoh to realize through the plague of blood? (v. 17) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Pharaoh's magicians do? (v. 22) \_\_\_\_\_
5. How did Pharaoh respond? (v. 22-23) \_\_\_\_\_
6. The Egyptian magicians were also able to mimic the plague of frogs. But who did Pharaoh summon to make the frogs go away? (v. 8) \_\_\_\_\_ What did Pharaoh promise to do if they would do this?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why do you think he summoned Moses and Aaron to do this and not his magicians? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What happened when the Egyptian magicians tried to mimic the plague of gnats? (v. 18) \_\_\_\_\_
9. What were the magicians beginning to recognize that Pharaoh remained blind to? (8:16-19) \_\_\_\_\_

E. God reveals a glimpse of his world wide plan. (Exodus 9:13-16)

This pattern of interaction was repeated through six more cycles of plagues. Pharaoh would promise to let Israel go to worship God, then he would harden his heart and refuse to let them go.. Then God would bring judgment on the land of Egypt in the form of another plague. But God had a bigger purpose than just delivering His people from bondage to Egypt. What did His plan include? (9:15-16)

**For further reflection:**

We noted above God's greater purpose for the acts of judgment He brought against Pharaoh and Egypt (Exodus 9:16). In your opinion, has that purpose been achieved? How has God's stated purpose affected your life?



## Key Scripture Texts for Lesson 6-Part 3

### Ex 2:23-3:22

<sup>23</sup> During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. <sup>24</sup> God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. <sup>25</sup> So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

<sup>1</sup> Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. <sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight--why the bush does not burn up."

<sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. <sup>8</sup> So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey--the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup> And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup> Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.

<sup>16</sup> "Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob-- appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. <sup>17</sup> And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites--a land flowing with milk and honey.' <sup>18</sup> The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.'

<sup>19</sup> But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. <sup>20</sup> So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go. <sup>21</sup> And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. <sup>22</sup> Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and

for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians."

### Exodus 5:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert.'" <sup>2</sup> Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go."

<sup>3</sup> Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword."

<sup>4</sup> But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!" <sup>5</sup> Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working." <sup>6</sup> That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and foremen in charge of the people: <sup>7</sup> "You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw. <sup>8</sup> But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don't reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.' <sup>9</sup> Make the work harder for the men so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies."

### Exodus 5:22-6:1

<sup>22</sup> Moses returned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? <sup>23</sup> Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all."

<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country."

### Exodus 7:14-8:19

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. <sup>15</sup> Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the water. Wait on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake. <sup>16</sup> Then say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the desert. But until now you have not listened. <sup>17</sup> This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. <sup>18</sup> The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.'"

<sup>19</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt--over the streams and canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs--and they will turn to blood. Blood will be everywhere in Egypt, even in the wooden buckets and stone jars.'" <sup>20</sup> Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood. <sup>21</sup> The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. Blood was everywhere in Egypt. <sup>22</sup> But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said. <sup>23</sup> In-stead, he turned and went into his palace, and did not take even this to heart. <sup>24</sup> And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile to get drinking water, because they could not drink the water of the river. <sup>25</sup> Seven days passed after the LORD struck the Nile.

**Exodus 7:14-8:19 (continued)**

<sup>8:1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. <sup>2</sup> If you refuse to let them go, I will plague your whole country with frogs. <sup>3</sup> The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs. <sup>4</sup> The frogs will go up on you and your people and all your officials.'"

<sup>5</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your staff over the streams and canals and ponds, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.'" <sup>6</sup> So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land. <sup>7</sup> But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

<sup>8</sup> Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Pray to the LORD to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD."

<sup>9</sup> Moses said to Pharaoh, "I leave to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile." <sup>10</sup> "Tomorrow," Pharaoh said. Moses replied, "It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like the LORD our God. <sup>11</sup> The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile."

<sup>12</sup> After Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, Moses cried out to the LORD about the frogs he had brought on Pharaoh. <sup>13</sup> And the LORD did what Moses asked. The frogs died in the houses, in the courtyards and in the fields. <sup>14</sup> They were piled into heaps, and the land reeked of them. <sup>15</sup> But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

<sup>16</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,' and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats." <sup>17</sup> They did this, and when Aaron stretched out his hand with the staff and struck the dust of the ground, gnats came upon men and animals. All the dust throughout the land of Egypt became gnats. <sup>18</sup> But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not. And the gnats were on men and animals.

<sup>19</sup> The magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.

**Exodus 9:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me, <sup>14</sup> or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. <sup>15</sup> For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. <sup>16</sup> But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth

**Matthew 11:28-12:1**

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**Psalms 145:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. <sup>14</sup> The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. <sup>15</sup> The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. <sup>16</sup> You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.



**The Hope**  
**Chapter 6: People of the Promise-Part 4**  
**Exodus 11-13**

*This lesson helps us study more closely what is one of the highest climaxes in the story of God's intervention in Israel's existence. He brings His people, Israel, out of Egypt with a mighty act of deliverance. God gave Israel a way of remembering this defining moment in their history. He did this because this defining moment is also meant to foreshadow God's mightiest act of deliverance, which would take place thousands of years later. This study helps us see the connection between these historical events.*

**I. Israel is spared again when God unleashes His final plague.**

A. Israel prepares to leave Egypt. (Exodus 11:1-10)

1. What did God tell Moses to instruct the people to do when Pharaoh let them go? (v. 2) \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did the people of Egypt view Moses and the Israelites after all these plagues? (v. 3) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Moses tell Pharaoh would now happen to break the pride of Pharaoh and Egypt? (v. 4-6) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did God allow Pharaoh to respond with a hardened heart? (v. 9) \_\_\_\_\_

B. God sends his death angel. (Exodus 12:1-30)

1. God instructed the people of Israel to have a special meal on the night the last plague would strike Egypt. Briefly identify the important things God told them to do as part of this celebration: v. 3-5: \_\_\_\_\_; v. 6 \_\_\_\_\_; v. 7 \_\_\_\_\_; v. 8-9 \_\_\_\_\_; v. 10 \_\_\_\_\_; v. 11 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was the special significance of putting the lamb's blood on the door frame of each house? (12:12-13 and 21-23) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did God call this special meal? \_\_\_\_\_ Why did He give it this name? \_\_\_\_\_

C. God delivers Israel and establishes an annual commemoration.

1. How did God want the Israelites to remember this night? (12:17-20 & 24-28) \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did this final plague of judgment affect the attitude of Pharaoh and the Egyptians toward Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

Read 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 and 1 Peter 1:18-19. What is the connection that these New Testament authors see between the Passover lamb and Jesus Christ? How does Jesus become a "Passover lamb" to us?

**II. Pharaoh and Egypt face yet another dreadful act of God's judgment.** (Exodus 13:18-14:31)

A. God prepares Israel and Egypt for a big lesson. (Exodus 13:18-14:12)

1. What two reasons did God give for punishing Egypt as he was about to do? (Exodus 14:4) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What mistake did Pharaoh think he had made with Israel and what did he do to correct it? (v. 5-9) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What reason did Moses (who is recounting this story) give for Pharaoh's decision? (v. 8) \_\_\_\_\_
4. What conclusion did the people of Israel come to when they saw Pharaoh's army pursuing them? (vs.10-12) \_\_\_\_\_

B. God intervenes to deliver Israel. (Exodus 14:13-31)

1. What two promises did Moses make to the people in response to their fear? (14:13, 14) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was required of the people for these promises to be fulfilled? (v. 14) \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did God prevent Pharaoh's army from attacking Israel before they crossed the Red Sea? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When God removed the pillar of cloud and fire, what did the Egyptian army do? \_\_\_\_\_ How did God slow them down? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What did the Egyptians realize was happening? (v. 25) \_\_\_\_\_
6. After all of the Israelites were safely to the other side, what did God cause to happen to Pharaoh's army? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What do you think God meant when he said He would "gain glory" from this act of judgment against Egypt? (v. 4, 18) \_\_\_\_\_
8. What did God want Pharaoh and the people of Egypt to learn from this? (v. 4, 18) \_\_\_\_\_
9. How did this experience of God's miraculous deliverance affect the people of Israel? (v. 31) \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. Throughout this story what did God plainly declare to be his purpose in all of it? Do you think the purpose God states for this remarkable act of deliverance applies in everything God does?
2. What does God reveal about himself and his purpose for our lives in this story? What significance does this purpose have for your life? When we face circumstances that seem overwhelming, what do you think God wants us to remember about Him?
3. Based on how Israel responded to God's intervention (14:31), what does this story tell us about how God wants us to respond to Him when he acts in our behalf?
4. In what ways do you think this story about Israel's deliverance serves as an analogy of God's plan and purpose for mankind? (*How is the human race like Israel in Egypt? How is Israel's response to Moses' leadership like the response God wants people to have today? How is the deliverance God brought to Israel like the deliverance God offers people now?!*)

## Key Scripture Texts for Lesson 6-Part 4

### Exodus 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD had said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely." <sup>2</sup> Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbors for articles of silver and gold." <sup>3</sup> (The LORD made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's officials and by the people.)

<sup>4</sup> So Moses said, "This is what the LORD says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. <sup>5</sup> Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. <sup>6</sup> There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt--worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. <sup>7</sup> But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any man or animal.' Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. <sup>8</sup> All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, 'Go, you and all the people who follow you!' After that I will leave." Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD had said to Moses, "Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you--so that my wonders may be multiplied in Egypt." <sup>10</sup> Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country.

### Exodus 12:1-36

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, <sup>2</sup> "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. <sup>3</sup> Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. <sup>4</sup> If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. <sup>5</sup> The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. <sup>6</sup> Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. <sup>7</sup> Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. <sup>8</sup> That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire--head, legs and inner parts. <sup>10</sup> Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. <sup>11</sup> This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

<sup>12</sup> "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn--both men and animals--and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

<sup>14</sup> "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD--a lasting ordinance. <sup>15</sup> For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. <sup>16</sup> On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat--that is all you may do.

the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite

<sup>17</sup> "Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. <sup>18</sup> In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. <sup>19</sup> For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel, whether he is an alien or native-born. <sup>20</sup> Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread."

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. <sup>22</sup> Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. <sup>23</sup> When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

<sup>24</sup> "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. <sup>25</sup> When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. <sup>26</sup> And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' <sup>27</sup> then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.'" Then the people bowed down and worshiped. <sup>28</sup> The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

<sup>29</sup> At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. <sup>30</sup> Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead. <sup>31</sup> During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested. <sup>32</sup> Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me."

<sup>33</sup> The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" <sup>34</sup> So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. <sup>35</sup> The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. <sup>36</sup> The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

### Exodus 13:18-14:31

<sup>18</sup> ...God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle. <sup>19</sup> Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place." <sup>20</sup> After leaving Succoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. <sup>21</sup> By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. <sup>22</sup> Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

<sup>14:1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and <sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all

Baal Zephon. <sup>3</sup> Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' <sup>4</sup> And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So the Israelites did this.

<sup>5</sup> When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" <sup>6</sup> So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. <sup>7</sup> He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. <sup>8</sup> The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. <sup>9</sup> The Egyptians--all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops--pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

<sup>10</sup> As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup> They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup> Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

<sup>13</sup> Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. <sup>16</sup> Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup> I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. <sup>18</sup> The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

<sup>19</sup> Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, <sup>20</sup> coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, <sup>22</sup> and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

<sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. <sup>24</sup> During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. <sup>25</sup> He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

<sup>26</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." <sup>27</sup> Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. <sup>28</sup> The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen--the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

<sup>29</sup> But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. <sup>30</sup> That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. <sup>31</sup> And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

#### **1 Peter 1:17-19**

<sup>18</sup>For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

#### **1 Corinthians 5:7-8**

<sup>7</sup>Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast--as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

**The Hope**  
**Chapter 7: Called to Walk in the Ways of God**  
**Exodus 18-20, 32-34**

In the last two lessons we saw the process of preparation God took Moses and the Hebrew people through before they were ready to be led out of Egypt. Now God begins to form the Hebrew people into a nation set apart to Him and His purpose.

**I. God continues to glorify himself by providing for His people.**

*God had provided miraculously for physical needs of the Hebrew people during their brief travels in the desert. (The account of this period is found in Exodus 16-17) But the people had spiritual needs as well, which were far more critical than their physical needs. They needed a purpose, a moral code, and spiritual leadership all of which God also graciously provided.*

A. God reveals his purpose for Israel. (Ex. 19:1-8)

1. How did God describe what he wanted Israel to be? (19:5-6) Explain why each of these descriptions is significant.

2. What condition did God ask them to keep? (v.5) \_\_\_\_\_

3. How did the people respond to what God had said to them through Moses? (v. 8) \_\_\_\_\_

B. God provides for their spiritual direction.; 20:1-17)

1. The heart of the code of conduct God gave Israel (Exodus 20:1-17) is known as the \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Exodus 20:1-17 and list these 10 commandments: i.) v. 3 You must have no \_\_\_\_\_

ii.) v. 4 You must not make or worship an \_\_\_\_\_ iii.) v. 7 You shall not \_\_\_\_\_

v.) v. 8 Keep the \_\_\_\_\_ holy. v.) v. 12 Honor your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ vi.) v. 13 Do

not \_\_\_\_\_ vii.) v. 14 Do not \_\_\_\_\_ viii.) v. 15 Do not \_\_\_\_\_ ix.) v. 16 Do not \_\_\_\_\_

x.) v. 17 Do not \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. God later gave Israel two commands that Jesus said summarized the entire law. The first was "Love God with all your heart." The second was "Love your neighbor as yourself". Which of the "ten commandments" helps us fulfill the first of these? Which ones help us fulfill the second?

2. Is it possible for anyone to keep all these commandments perfectly? Why? God gave a system of animal sacrifices to the Hebrew people which they could follow to temporarily cover their sin. Based on what you've learned so far, how would God eventually provide for people so they wouldn't have to rely on their own faulty efforts, or on an inadequate system of sacrifices to cover their sin?

**II. The people abandon their commitment to God's leadership. (Exodus 32)**

A. The people rebel against God and Moses. (Ex. 32:1-13)

1. Moses had stayed on the Mountain of God for 40 days and nights, receiving all the laws and ordinances God was giving him for the people of Israel. Summarize the actions of the people while he was there: (Ex 32:1-6) \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was God's initial response to their rebellion? (32:7-10) \_\_\_\_\_

3. How did Moses react to God's anger toward Israel? (v. 11) \_\_\_\_\_ What were the grounds of his appeal? (v. 11-13) \_\_\_\_\_

B. Moses confronts Aaron and the people about their rebellion (Ex. 32:19-35)

1. What action did Moses take against the people for their rebellion? (v. 26-28) \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Moses do for the people that demonstrated his strength of character as a leader? (v. 30-31) \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

In what ways in this lesson do you see Moses serving as a "deliverer" for Israel? Which of these actions or traits do you think are also true of the "deliverer" God promised would one day come to redeem mankind?

**III. Moses intercedes for the Hebrew people.**

A. Moses grows in his grasp of God's purpose (33:1-3, 15-17)

1. God had proposed a compromise in 33:1-3. What was it? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Moses recognize was the critical missing element of this proposal? (v.15-16) \_\_\_\_\_

Why was this element so important to God's purposes? (v. 16) \_\_\_\_\_

B. Moses grows in his devotion to God (33:15-3, 34:5-10)

1. How did Moses express his strong desire to know God more intimately? (v. 18) \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did God reveal and proclaim to Moses in response to his request? (34:5-7) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What request did Moses make of God? (v. 8-9) \_\_\_\_\_

4. How did God answer Moses request? (v. 10) \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. Because of the stature in character that Moses displayed, God made an important prediction about a future leader who the people were to watch for and listen to. According to Deuteronomy 18:17-20 how would they recognize that leader? Based on what you've learned so far about God's plan for a coming deliverer, who do you think that leader was?

2. What character qualities do you see in Moses that you would like to be true of you? What do you think is the secret to developing these characteristics?

## Scripture Texts for Lesson 7

### Exodus 19:1-8

<sup>1</sup> In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt--on the very day--they came to the Desert of Sinai. <sup>2</sup> After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

<sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup>'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

<sup>7</sup> So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. <sup>8</sup> The people all responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has said." So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

### Exodus 20:1-21

<sup>1</sup>And God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup> "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>3</sup>"You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup>but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup>"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>"You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>"You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>"You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

<sup>18</sup>When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance <sup>19</sup>and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." <sup>20</sup>Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

<sup>21</sup>The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

### Exodus 32:1-14, 19-35

<sup>1</sup> When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." <sup>2</sup> Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." <sup>3</sup> So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

<sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD." <sup>6</sup> So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. <sup>8</sup> They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

<sup>9</sup> "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. <sup>10</sup> Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "O LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'" <sup>14</sup> Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

<sup>19</sup> When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. <sup>20</sup> And he took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it. <sup>21</sup> He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"

<sup>22</sup> "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. <sup>23</sup> They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' <sup>24</sup> So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

<sup>25</sup> Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. <sup>26</sup> So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him. <sup>27</sup> Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.'" <sup>28</sup> The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the



people died.<sup>29</sup> Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

<sup>30</sup> The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."<sup>31</sup> So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold."<sup>32</sup> But now, please forgive their sin--but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written."

<sup>33</sup> The LORD replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book."<sup>34</sup> Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin."<sup>35</sup> And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

### **Exodus 33:1-3, 15-23**

<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.'<sup>2</sup> I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.<sup>3</sup> Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way."

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."<sup>16</sup> How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

<sup>17</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."<sup>18</sup> Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."<sup>19</sup> And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."<sup>20</sup> But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

<sup>21</sup> Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock."<sup>22</sup> When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by."<sup>23</sup> Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

### **Exodus 34:5-10**

<sup>34:5</sup> Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD.<sup>6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,<sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."<sup>8</sup> Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.<sup>9</sup> "O Lord, if I have found favor in your eyes," he said, "then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance."<sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said: "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the LORD, will do for you."

### **Deuteronomy 18:17-20**

<sup>17</sup> The LORD said to me: "What they say is good."<sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him."<sup>19</sup> If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account."

**The Hope**  
**Chapter 8 (Part 1): The Birth of the Messiah**

**I. The Deliverer's birth is foretold.** (Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38)

- A. The Old Testament foretells the birth of the Deliverer (Messiah) centuries beforehand.
1. Read Isaiah 7:14 and write the two most important things this verse says about Christ's birth: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Read Matthew 1:18-25. What observations does Matthew make about Mary and the child she was to bear which fulfill this OT prophecy? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. In Luke's account of the angel's announcement (Lk. 1:26-38) what does he report that also confirms this prophecy of Isaiah? (v. 26, 32) \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. (These words were written about 700 years before the birth of Jesus) What do these verses predict about the coming Messiah? \_\_\_\_\_
  5. In Luke 1:30-33 the angel Gabriel gives Mary a message about the special child she would give birth to. In what ways is this message similar to what Isaiah prophesied 700 years earlier? \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Angels announce the birth of the Messiah.
1. Referring again to Luke 1:26-38, would you describe Mary's reaction to Gabriel's message as disbelief or faith? Why? (v. 29, 34, 38)? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What explanation did Gabriel give Mary to account for what was going to happen to her? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Gabriel says the child born to Mary would be known as what? \_\_\_\_\_  
What position of privilege and responsibility would this child be given? \_\_\_\_\_  
What do you think is the significance of this fact? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Both Matthew and Luke report that the child was to be given a specific name. What was that name and what was its significance? (Lk. 1:31, Matt. 1:21) \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

In this lesson we've considered just a few of the remarkable claims the Bible makes about the identity and character of Jesus. Which of these claims do you find most difficult to accept? Why? Which of these gives you the most hope or encouragement? Why?

**II. The Birth of Jesus** (Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-20; Matt. 2:1-16)

- A. God moves nations and people to accommodate Jesus' birth. (Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-20)
1. Where did Mary and Joseph live before Jesus was born (Luke 1: 26)? \_\_\_\_\_ In what town was Jesus born (Luke 2:1-7)? \_\_\_\_\_ How did God arrange for Joseph and Mary to move to Bethlehem (Lk. 2:1-3) \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Where did the Jewish leaders expect the Messiah to be born (Matt. 2:3-6)? \_\_\_\_\_ On what did they base this belief? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Compare Micah 5:2 to what the religious leaders reported to Herod (Matt. 2:6) about the coming "ruler" and his place of birth. How did the prophet Micah describe the coming ruler? \_\_\_\_\_  
How did the religious leaders describe him? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. In your opinion which of these descriptions was true of Jesus? Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Even in his birth, people who encountered Jesus took a stand in their view of Him. (Matt. 2:1-16)
1. God chose two groups of people to be among the first witnesses to the Messiah's birth (Luke 2:8 and Matt. 2:1-2). Who were they? \_\_\_\_\_ How were they similar? \_\_\_\_\_  
How were they different? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Why do you think God chose each group for the special role they each had? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. According to Matthew's description, how did Herod respond to the birth of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
How did the magi respond to it? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. According to Luke's account, would you describe the response of the shepherds as one of disbelief or faith? \_\_\_\_\_  
On what do you base your conclusion? \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. Bethlehem was a small, humble town in Israel; the stable was a place suited for animals not people; Mary and Joseph were humble and poor people; the shepherds were among the lowliest in society at the time. Why do you think God chose people and circumstances like these to witness and accommodate the coming of the one who would be called Son of God (refer to 1 Corinthians 1:27-29)?
2. What would you say was unique or unusual about the circumstances Jesus' birth? How does this change or confirm the ideas you may have had until now about who Jesus is?
4. As we've seen in this lesson, even in his birth people were forced to respond to Jesus in one of two ways. What are those responses? Read John 1:10-12. Until now, what has *your* response been to what you've been learning about who Jesus is? How has this study influenced your viewpoint?

## Key Texts for Lesson 8-Part 1

### Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

### Isaiah 9:6-7

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

### Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-which means, "God with us."

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them." <sup>6</sup>So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.

### Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup>"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For nothing is impossible with God."

<sup>38</sup>"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

### Luke 2:1-20

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This

was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to his own town to register. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

### Micah 5:2

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

### Matthew 2:1-16

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup>"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother

**Matthew 2:1-16 (cont.)**

Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

<sup>13</sup>When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." <sup>14</sup>So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup>where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." <sup>16</sup>When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

**John 1:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

**1 Cor 1:27-29**

<sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him.

**The Hope**  
**Chapter 8 (Part2): The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus**

*We concluded our study last semester with a look at the birth of Jesus. His birth was truly remarkable, not just for the way it happened, but for the way it was foretold and because of all the people who were involved in the events surrounding it. Jesus' unique birth is but the beginning of a unique life. His uniqueness will be further highlighted in this lesson as we begin our study of the ministry of Jesus, especially with two of the important occurrences that took place at its inception.*

**I. Jesus is baptized by John (Mark 1:1-12)**

A. John's role is a special one.

1. What was the purpose of John's message? (v. 2-4) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was the essence of John's message about Jesus? (v. 7-8) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What happened to Jesus immediately after he was baptized that made his baptism unique? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ To whom did the "voice from heaven" belong? \_\_\_\_\_ What did the voice from heaven declare about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Jesus is confronted by Satan himself. (Luke 4:1-15)**

A. Jesus encounters his arch enemy.

1. Describe Jesus' physical, emotional, and spiritual condition at the time of this encounter: \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Satan try to take advantage of Jesus' vulnerability at this point? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Satan challenges Jesus.

1. What was the first thing Satan called into question about Jesus' identity? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you think Satan was really interested in making sure Jesus was properly fed? \_\_\_\_\_ What was Satan really tempting Jesus to do? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Jesus concede to Satan in this first temptation? \_\_\_\_\_ What did Jesus' implicitly claim by answering Satan the way he did? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was Satan challenging with the second temptation of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How was Satan distorting truth in what he claimed about himself here? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What would Jesus have conceded had he given in to this temptation? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What did Jesus reveal about himself in his response to this second temptation? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did he imply here about Satan's response to God? \_\_\_\_\_
7. In what way did Satan's third temptation challenge Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

What tactic made this temptation more deceptive than the previous two? \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Jesus rises to the challenge.**

A. Jesus successfully resists Satan's temptations.

1. What did each of Jesus' responses to Satan have in common? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Given this fact, on what did Jesus base his authority? \_\_\_\_\_  
On whom did Jesus rely for the provision of his needs? \_\_\_\_\_ To whom was Jesus accountable? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Jesus' victory in this confrontation has profound historical and redemptive significance.

1. Read Gen. 1:28 and 3:1. What had God given Adam to equip him to carry out his task on the earth (1:28)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ What form did Satan take when he tempted Eve (3:1)? \_\_\_\_\_ What did the fact that Satan appeared *as a beast* imply about his relationship to Adam? \_\_\_\_\_  
By yielding to Satan's temptation, what did Adam concede to Satan? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Read Rom. 5:12-19. What was Adam's contribution to the human race? \_\_\_\_\_  
What was Jesus' contribution? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Whom did both Adam and Jesus have to confront? \_\_\_\_\_ Contrast the results of their respective encounters with Satan. \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Jesus' victory over Satan sets the stage for his public ministry (Luke 4:16-22)**

A. Jesus' uniqueness is recognized.

1. What was different about Jesus after his return from the wilderness and his confrontation with Satan? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Jesus say the nature of his public ministry would be? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was Jesus claiming about himself by saying the OT passage he quoted from Isaiah had been fulfilled in the hearing of the audience in the synagogue that day? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did the people observe in Jesus that amazed them? \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal application:**

1. Jesus' last response to Satan is more precisely translated "Do not put the Lord your God on trial". In light of this, what are we calling into question about God when we yield to temptation?
2. Based on how Jesus responded to Satan's temptation what should we do when we are tempted to act in disobedience to God? Why do you think it is important to know God's Word?
3. Read Genesis 3:1-6. What similarities do you see between the tactics Satan used to deceive Adam and Eve and those he used to tempt Jesus? Based on 1 John 2:15-17, how are Satan's tactics similar to those he uses on us today?

## Key Texts for Lesson 8-Part 2

### Mark 1:1-12

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>It is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"- <sup>3</sup>"a voice of one calling in the desert, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."

<sup>4</sup>And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup>John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, <sup>13</sup>and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan.

### Luke 4:1-15

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

<sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"

<sup>5</sup>The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. <sup>7</sup>So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

<sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

<sup>9</sup>The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup>For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; <sup>11</sup>they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

<sup>12</sup>Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. <sup>14</sup>Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup>He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

### Luke 4:16-22

<sup>16</sup>He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup>The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup>Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, <sup>21</sup>and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup>All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips

### Romans 5:12-19

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned- <sup>13</sup>for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! <sup>16</sup>Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. <sup>17</sup>For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. <sup>19</sup>For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

### 1 John 2:15-17

<sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For everything in the world-the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup>The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

### Genesis 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" <sup>4</sup>"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

### Genesis 1:28

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

## The Hope

### Chapter 9, Part 1: Jesus Appoints His Twelve Disciples

*Early in his public ministry, Jesus identified twelve men whom he would appoint as apostles. He spent a great deal of time with these men. They had the privilege of learning from him, watching him in action, praying with him and eventually seeing him die and then witnessing his resurrection. They came from simple backgrounds, yet through their personal experiences with Jesus, were transformed into men that each contributed to the establishing of a movement that has encompassed the world and affected the lives of billions of people. This lesson gives us a little window into how it all began for them.*

#### I. Jesus calls the first disciples (Luke 5:1-11)

A. Jesus singles out Simon.

1. After Jesus had finished his teaching, what did he ask Simon to do? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What do you think Simon thought about his suggestion? Why did he think this? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think Simon was willing to do it anyway? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Simon's perception of Jesus is dramatically altered.

1. What was the result of following Jesus' advice? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did this affect Simon Peter and the other men who had helped him haul in the catch of fish? (v. 9) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was Simon Peter's response to Jesus after this happened? \_\_\_\_\_  
How did Jesus react to Peter? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was the end result of Peter's encounter with Jesus? (v. 11) \_\_\_\_\_

#### **For further reflection:**

1. Why do you think Peter felt the way he did after this first encounter with Jesus? In what ways is his emotional response similar to the response some people might have to Jesus today?
2. Why do you think Jesus' response to Peter had such an impact on him? How do you think Jesus' response to Peter might encourage people who feel the way Peter did when they first begin to learn about Jesus?

#### II. A tax collector's life takes a radical turn. (Luke 5:27-35)

A. Levi (Matthew) meets Jesus.

1. What hints do you see in this description of Levi's early encounter with Jesus that he was socially very well connected? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do you think Levi made such a seeming instantaneous decision to follow Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What do you think Matthew's motive was for inviting his friends to a party and having Jesus and his other disciples come, too? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Jesus capitalizes on a strategic opportunity to teach.

1. The religious leaders criticized Jesus for two things. What were they? (v. 30, 33) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Jesus say about his mission in his response to the criticism of the religious leaders? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **For further reflection:**

1. What can we learn from Matthew's example about bringing people into contact with Jesus?

#### III. Jesus appoints and commissions his twelve apostles. (Luke 9:1-6; Mark 3:16-19)

A. The disciples participate in their first "internship." (Luke 9:1-6)

1. What did Jesus send the disciples to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
How did he equip them to do this? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did he instruct them to provide for themselves during this time? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Jesus selects his twelve disciples. (Mark 3:16-19)

1. In light of what you've learned so far, what did these men have in common? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **For further reflection:**

1. What qualified these men to be a disciple of Jesus? What do you think qualifies you to be one?

#### IV. Jesus emphasizes the challenges of being his follower. (Luke 9:18-26, 57-62; Matthew 16:13-21)

A. Jesus affirms his identity. (Luke 9:18-20; Matthew 16:13-21)

1. What were people saying about who Jesus was? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What had the disciples (Peter at least) come to believe about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Jesus say Peter had learned this? (Matt. 16:17) \_\_\_\_\_

B. Jesus calls on his disciples rise to the challenge and join him in his mission. (Luke 9:21-26, 57-62)

1. What did Jesus predict would happen to him? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe what Jesus said should be the commitment of one of his followers? (Luke 9:23) \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Jesus promise would be the disciple's reward? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Describe what a follower of Jesus can expect from following him? (Luke 9:58, 60, 62) \_\_\_\_\_

#### **For further reflection:**

Does being a follower of Jesus seem to you like a calling you have the desire or ability to undertake? How do you think Jesus expects his disciples or us to fulfill this calling? What appeals to you about being a disciple of Jesus?

## Scripture Texts for Lesson 9 Pt. 1

### Luke 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup> One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, <sup>2</sup> he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

<sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." <sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

### Luke 5:27-35

<sup>27</sup> After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, <sup>28</sup> and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

<sup>29</sup> Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. <sup>30</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>32</sup> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

<sup>33</sup> They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking." <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Can you make the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them?" <sup>35</sup> But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

### Luke 9:1-6

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had called the twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, <sup>2</sup> and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. <sup>3</sup> He told them: "Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. <sup>4</sup> Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>5</sup> If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them." <sup>6</sup> So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.

### Mark 3:16-19

<sup>16</sup> These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); <sup>17</sup> James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder); <sup>18</sup> Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot <sup>19</sup> and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

### Luke 9:18-26

<sup>18</sup> Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" <sup>19</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

<sup>20</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

<sup>21</sup> Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. <sup>22</sup> And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup> What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? <sup>26</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

### Matt 16:13-21

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

<sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ. <sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

### Luke 9:57-62

<sup>57</sup> As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup> Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

<sup>59</sup> He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

<sup>61</sup> Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." <sup>62</sup> Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."



**The Hope**  
**Chapter 9 (Part 2): Jesus Teaches with Authority**

*This lesson and the next will survey some selections from the teaching of Jesus. We can only scratch the surface in two lessons, but perhaps your curiosity will be aroused enough to further explore his teaching on your own.*

**I. The characteristics of a follower of Jesus** (Matthew 5:1-16)

A. Jesus' keys to true happiness. (v. 1-12)

1. Who is this teaching addressed to? \_\_\_\_\_. What do you think distinguished this group from the "crowd"?

2. Jesus gives nine descriptions of a disciple. Choose one description from each group of three and describe in your own words what each trait you chose should look like in the life of a follower of Jesus.

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_

3. For each of the traits you chose above Jesus identified a specific reward. He also said that the person so rewarded was blessed. Identify each corresponding reward and say why you think each is a "blessing" to its recipient.

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_

B. The disciple's role in the world. (v. 13-16)

1. Jesus said his followers are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

2. How are these analogies descriptive of the role followers of Jesus are to have in the world? \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. Which of the traits of a follower of Jesus do you see in your own life? Which do you feel are least evident? Do the rewards Jesus promises motivate you to further develop these characteristics in your life? Why or why not?

2. What steps can you take to become a saltier follower of Jesus? What steps can you take to be more of a source of light to those around you?

**II. The priorities of a follower of Jesus.** (Matthew 6:1-21)

A. Motives for righteous deeds. (v. 1-4)

1. Where do hypocrites perform their acts of righteousness? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the motive of the "hypocrites" when they do this? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who is the "Father in heaven" referring to? \_\_\_\_\_ How does the Father want followers of Jesus to carry out their acts of righteousness? (v. 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Who does the follower of Jesus want to notice his or her righteous deeds? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Guidelines for praying. (v. 5-14)

1. What motivates a hypocrite to pray? (v. 5, 7) \_\_\_\_\_

2. What should motivate a follower of Jesus to pray? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What would you say is the prevailing theme of the model of prayer which Jesus gives his followers? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Motives for fasting. (v. 16-18)

1. What are the hypocrite's motives for fasting? \_\_\_\_\_ What is their reward? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What should motivate a follower of Jesus to fast? \_\_\_\_\_

D. The mindset of a follower of Jesus (v. 19-21)

1. Where should a follower of Jesus be "storing up treasure?" \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. What do you think Jesus means when he says "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also"? Where are you storing up treasure? What does this say about where your heart is?

2. What does it mean to "seek first God's kingdom"? What does Jesus promise will happen to his followers if they make seeking the kingdom of God and God's righteousness their first priority?

**III. The actions of a follower of Jesus.** (Matthew 7:1-29)

A. The prerequisite for judging rightly. (v. 1-6)

1. What does Jesus say is usually the problem with people who pronounce judgments on others? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Before we render judgment on others what must be done first? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Finding true life. (v. 7-14)

1. Jesus tells his followers to ask, seek and knock. What should we be asking for and seeking? (v. 11) \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_

2. V. 12 is one of Jesus' most well-known and most misquoted teachings. Explain in your own words what he is instructing his followers to do. Why does Jesus say following this piece of instruction is important? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you think Jesus described the gate and road that leads to life as narrow? \_\_\_\_\_  
What do you think the narrow gate and road refers to? \_\_\_\_\_

C. The evidence of a true follower. (v. 15-29)

1. How is a true messenger of God to be recognized? \_\_\_\_\_

2. In v. 21 Jesus identifies the primary qualification for guaranteeing one's place in the kingdom of heaven. What is that qualification? \_\_\_\_\_ What actions do not guarantee a place in His kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. What does the parable Jesus tells in v. 24-27 have to do with "doing the will of God"?

2. After studying this sample of Jesus teaching do you share the same opinion of it that v. 28-29 describes? Why or why not?

## Scripture Texts for Lesson 9-Part 2

### Matthew 5:1-16

<sup>1</sup> Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. <sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

### Matthew 6:1-21, 31-33

<sup>1</sup> "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

<sup>5</sup> "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

<sup>9</sup> "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

<sup>16</sup> "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

<sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also..."

<sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

### Matthew 7:1-29

<sup>1</sup> "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup> Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

<sup>6</sup> "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.

<sup>7</sup> "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup> If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! <sup>12</sup> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

<sup>13</sup> "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

<sup>15</sup> "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. <sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

<sup>24</sup> "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

## The Hope

### Chapter 9 (Part 3): Jesus Teaches with Authority (continued)

*In the last lesson we looked at what is perhaps Jesus' best known teaching—"The Sermon on the Mount". In this lesson we'll consider some other of his more familiar teachings in which he describes in vivid imagery what becoming his follower requires of a person and what it will produce in his life.*

#### I. Jesus teaches a teacher. (John 3:1-21)

A. An unexpected guest pays Jesus a visit.

1. In light of who Nicodemus was, why do you think it was unusual for him to visit Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why do you think Nicodemus chose to visit him at night? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why do you think Nicodemus was so interested in meeting Jesus? (v. 2) \_\_\_\_\_

B. A mystery of Jesus' kingdom is explained.

1. What was Jesus implying about Nicodemus in his response to him? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you see in Nicodemus' first question that tells you he wasn't understanding Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you think Jesus was talking about in what he said about being born "of the Spirit"? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Jesus expresses surprise at Nicodemus' failure to comprehend his meaning. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Jesus reveals the purpose of his coming.

1. Who was Jesus claiming to be? (v. 13) \_\_\_\_\_ What do you think Jesus meant by "being lifted up?" \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does Jesus promise will be gained by those who believe in Him? (v. 16) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Jesus say was the mission of God's Son in the world? (v. 17) \_\_\_\_\_ What is the condition a person must meet in order to avoid condemnation? \_\_\_\_\_

#### For further reflection:

1. What do you see in Jesus' interaction with Nicodemus that encourages you as a sincere seeker of truth?

2. To what natural phenomenon did Jesus compare himself in v. 19? What did he say the two responses to him would be (v. 20-21)? Until now which of these reactions to the light of Jesus has your response been most like? Which response do you think is the right one?

#### II. Four kinds of soil. (Matthew 13:1-12, 16-23)

A. Jesus describes what life in his kingdom is like.

1. Identify the four different kinds of soils which Jesus mentions in this parable about his kingdom. Based on Jesus' own explanation of these soils (v. 19-23), describe the kinds of responses people can have to the message of God's kingdom.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does Jesus say the farmer's seed represents? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the criteria which determines the fruitfulness of the "seed" in a person's life? (v. 19, 23) \_\_\_\_\_

#### For further reflection:

1. Which of these soils best pictures where you are in your spiritual journey? Explain why you think so.

2. Which soil do you think God desires your life to resemble? Why? What do you think it will take to make this happen?

#### III. The Father's heart for lost people. (Luke 15:1-32)

A. Recovering lost items of great value. (v. 1-10)

1. Who seemed to be most attracted to Jesus' teaching? (v. 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Who seemed to most resist it? \_\_\_\_\_ Why do you think this was the case? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jesus tells two parables about items of great value that were lost and then recovered. For these first two parables tell what was lost, what the owner did to find it and then what the owner did after he found what he'd lost.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

3. In each case what did the lost item represent? \_\_\_\_\_ What did the actions of each owner after recovering their lost items reveal about God's reaction to "one sinner who repents"? \_\_\_\_\_

B. A lost son is found. (v. 11-32)

1. Generally an inheritance was not distributed to heirs until the estate's owner dies. By asking for his share of the inheritance early, what was the son implying about his wishes regarding his father? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Did the younger son make any effort to honor his father in the way he lived? \_\_\_\_\_ What did he do instead? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Describe the circumstances which led to the younger son's change of heart: \_\_\_\_\_  
What realization prompted his decision to return to his father? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How did the father respond to the younger son's return? \_\_\_\_\_ Did this surprise you? \_\_\_\_\_

#### For further reflection:

1. What do the first two parables tell you about how God views you? Do you think you are precious to him? What effort did God make to "find" you? What happens to a person when he is "found" by God?

2. At this time in your life, would you describe yourself as more like the younger or the older son? What does the father's response to the younger son's return reveal about God's heart toward us? What was flawed in the older son's response to the younger son's return?

## Scripture Texts for Lesson 9-Part 3

### John 3:1-21

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

<sup>3</sup> In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." <sup>4</sup> "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

### Matt 13:12, 16-23

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. <sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear."

<sup>10</sup> The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?"

<sup>11</sup> He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.... <sup>16</sup> But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. <sup>17</sup> For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

<sup>18</sup> "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the

man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. <sup>22</sup>

The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

### Luke 15:1-32

<sup>1</sup> Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup> and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

<sup>8</sup> "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' <sup>10</sup> In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

<sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

<sup>31</sup> "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

## The Hope

### Chapter 9 (Part 4): Jesus demonstrates his authority over nature

*Jesus performed many extraordinary miracles, demonstrating his uniqueness and confirming his authority to speak as he did. Again, there is so much that we simply won't be able to cover given the limitations and scope of this study, but through the miracles we'll consider here, we will certainly be able to gain a clearer understanding of who Jesus truly was.*

#### I. Jesus displays his creative power.

A. Jesus changes water into wine (John 2:1-11).

1. What did he mean when he said to his mother "My time has not yet come?" \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you think were some of the factors which motivated Jesus to perform this miracle? \_\_\_\_\_

3. According to v. 11 what was the result of this miracle for Jesus personally? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What does "revealed his glory" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

What aspects of Jesus' nature did this miracle display? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Jesus multiplies meager resources to meet astronomical needs (John 6:1-15).

1. What did Jesus ask his disciples to do and why did this seem utterly impossible to them? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was the solution the disciples were able to come up with? \_\_\_\_\_

Was this solution adequate? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why did Jesus ask them to solve what seemed to them such an impossible problem? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you think is significant about the fact that the disciples collected 12 baskets of leftovers? \_\_\_\_\_

5. According to v. 14-15 how did the crowd respond to what they had witnessed? What does this tell you about what they expected in a Messiah? \_\_\_\_\_

#### For further reflection:

1. What impact did the changing of water to wine have on the disciples? How do you think God wants you to respond to what this miracle reveals about Jesus?

2. What do you think the disciples learned about Jesus from the miracle of feeding the crowd of 5,000 people? Does what this miracle reveals about Jesus attract you to Him? Why or why not?

3. Do you think Jesus was pleased with the reaction of the crowd to this miracle? Instead, how do you think he would prefer that people respond to him?

#### II. Jesus displays his controlling power.

A. Jesus walks on water. (Matthew 14:22-33).

1. When they disciples first saw Jesus coming toward them, why do you think they concluded what they did about him? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did Jesus reassure them? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you think Peter asked what he did of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

4. When Peter acted on Jesus' invitation, (v. 29-30) what happened to Peter at first? \_\_\_\_\_

How was Peter's crisis resolved? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What was Jesus' analysis of Peter's problem (v. 31)? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did the disciples who witnessed this conclude about Jesus (v. 33)? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Jesus calms a raging storm (Mark 4:35-41)

1. While facing this storm, what do you think the disciples were thinking or asking themselves? \_\_\_\_\_

How would this have changed had they been able to see their situation from God's perspective? \_\_\_\_\_

2. These fishermen had been through storms before. What was different about this one? \_\_\_\_\_

What did their question for Jesus in v. 38 reveal about their expectations of him? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why was Jesus asleep in the stern of the boat while all this was happening? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Jesus do when awakened by the disciples? \_\_\_\_\_ What happened when Jesus rebuked the storm? \_\_\_\_\_ What did this display about his nature? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why were the men in the boat so terrified at the sudden disappearance of the storm? \_\_\_\_\_

What did their question about Jesus reveal about their views of him at this point? \_\_\_\_\_

#### For further reflection:

1. Peter's experience of walking on the water with Jesus illustrates how people often tend to interact with God. After asking Jesus to do something extraordinary for him, he ended up getting himself into trouble. Why did this happen? What should Peter have done instead? How is his response like what ours often is when we try to step out in faith and be obedient to God?

2. After rebuking the storm, Jesus expressed disappointment in the disciples. Why? What kind of response in this situation would have been a response of faith for the disciples? If someone present could have quoted Psalm 107:23-32 immediately after this event, what conclusions might they have drawn about Jesus?

3. We have read about four miraculous deeds that Jesus did to demonstrate his authority and ability to intervene into the normal flow of natural events. What response to these acts of power do you think Jesus wanted from his disciples then . . . and from you now?

## Scripture Texts for Lesson 9-Part 4

### John 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup>On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, <sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

<sup>4</sup> "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

<sup>6</sup> Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

<sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, <sup>9</sup> and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside <sup>10</sup> and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

<sup>11</sup> This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

### John 6:1-15

<sup>1</sup> Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), <sup>2</sup> and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" <sup>8</sup> Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, <sup>9</sup> "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. <sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

<sup>12</sup> When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

<sup>14</sup> After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." <sup>15</sup> Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

### Matthew 14:22-33

<sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup> After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. <sup>25</sup> During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." <sup>28</sup> "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup> "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

<sup>32</sup> And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

### Mark 4:35-41

<sup>35</sup> That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." <sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. <sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

<sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

<sup>41</sup> They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

### Psalms 107:23-32

<sup>23</sup> Others went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. <sup>24</sup> They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep. <sup>25</sup> For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. <sup>26</sup> They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. <sup>27</sup> They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their wits' end.

<sup>28</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. <sup>29</sup> He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. <sup>30</sup> They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.

<sup>31</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. <sup>32</sup> Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.

## The Hope

### Chapter 9 (Part 5): Jesus demonstrates his authority over sickness, sin and death

*The miraculous and barrier-breaking nature of Jesus public ministry marks him as truly unique among religious leaders. But His authority to forgive sin and His power even over death can't be explained in any other way than to say that Jesus was truly God in human form.*

#### I. Jesus' healing ministry breaks barriers.

A. Jesus breaks geographical barriers in his healing work. (Luke 7:1-10)

1. What was the ethnic and cultural background of the man described in this story? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did the centurion send elders of Israel to present his request to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you think Jesus was amazed at this man's faith? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Although Jesus never visited or even met the centurion's sick servant what happened to the servant? \_\_\_\_\_  
What does this demonstrate about Jesus' ability to heal? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Jesus breaks cultural and religious barriers in his healing work. (Luke 17:11-19)

1. Identify two cultural or religious factors in v. 11-14 that were potential barriers to Jesus ability to heal the ten lepers: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who came back to thank Jesus after discovering the ten men had been healed? \_\_\_\_\_ Why would this have been unexpected or unusual? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Jesus say was the secret to the Samaritan's healing? (v. 19) \_\_\_\_\_ In the question he asked in v. 17-18 what do you think Jesus was implying about the faith of the other nine men? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Jesus breaks all natural barriers in his healing work. (John 11:17-46)

1. What happened to Lazarus before Jesus arrived at his home? \_\_\_\_\_ How did Martha react to Jesus' delay? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Jesus assure her would happen? \_\_\_\_\_ Did she understand this? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Jesus claim about himself in v. 25? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did he promise to those who would believe in Him? \_\_\_\_\_

5. In the end what happened to Lazarus? \_\_\_\_\_ What does this illustrate to you about Jesus' healing power? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What was the response of those who witnessed this event? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **For further reflection:**

1. What barriers in your life and in the lives of people today do people believe prevent God from working powerfully in them?
2. When Jesus works in our behalf, what do you think the appropriate response of faith would be?
3. If Jesus was able to give life to dead people, what will he be able to do for you? What pre-requisite must you have before he will work in your life the way he did in the lives of the people we've considered in this lesson?

#### **II. The Purposes of Jesus' Healing work**

A. Jesus heals to confront and silence his critics. (Luke 5:17-26)

1. What was unique about this situation that was attracting the crowd of people to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did the friends of the paralytic exhibit their faith? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Jesus say to the paralytic? \_\_\_\_\_ What did this indicate about what He saw was the most important need of the paralytic? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why did the religious leaders object to Jesus' declaration? \_\_\_\_\_

5. How did Jesus silence their criticism? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did this prove about the identity of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Jesus heals as a reward of faith. (Luke 8:42b-48)

1. What had the woman been suffering from? \_\_\_\_\_ What do you think she had tried to do about this condition before hearing about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why do you think the woman tried just to touch Jesus' garment rather than ask for his personal and full attention? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you think Jesus was so insistent that whoever had touched him for healing be found out? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Jesus say was the reason for the woman's healing? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Jesus heals to glorify God. (John 9:1-11)

1. What was the condition of the man Jesus encountered in this story? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What were the disciples assuming in the question they asked Jesus in v. 2? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What reason did Jesus give for the man's blindness? \_\_\_\_\_

4. After the man was healed, how did people respond to what had happened to him? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ To whom did the man give the credit for what had happened to him? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **For further reflection:**

1. Does the fact that Jesus was able to perform such amazing miracles convince you that He has the authority to forgive your sin? Why or why not?
2. Do you think Jesus minds being bothered with the needs we bring to his attention? Explain.
3. Many people would say that for the man to suffer from blindness for so many years in order for God to display his power was unfair to this man. Would you agree or disagree? Why? How have you responded when you feel you don't "deserve" the "bad" things that have happened to you?

## Key Texts for Lesson 9-Part 5

### Luke 7:1-10

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. <sup>2</sup>There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. <sup>3</sup>The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. <sup>4</sup>When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, <sup>5</sup>because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." <sup>6</sup>So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. <sup>7</sup>That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>8</sup>For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

<sup>9</sup>When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." <sup>10</sup>Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

### Luke 17:11-19

<sup>11</sup>Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

<sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup>One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

<sup>17</sup>Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" <sup>18</sup>Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

### John 11:17-46

*[Several days earlier Jesus had been informed of his friend Lazerus' severe illness. So he had traveled to Lazerus' home.]*

<sup>17</sup>On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup>and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup>"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

<sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup>and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>"Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

<sup>28</sup>And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." <sup>29</sup>When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

<sup>32</sup>When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

<sup>34</sup>"Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. <sup>35</sup>Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup>Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

<sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" <sup>38</sup>Jesus, once more

deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup>"Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

<sup>40</sup>Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

<sup>43</sup>When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

<sup>45</sup>Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. <sup>46</sup>But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

### Luke 5:17-26

<sup>17</sup>One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. <sup>18</sup>Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. <sup>19</sup>When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

<sup>20</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." <sup>21</sup>The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

<sup>22</sup>Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>23</sup>Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? <sup>24</sup>But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>25</sup>Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. <sup>26</sup>Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

### Luke 8:42b-48

<sup>42b</sup>As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. <sup>43</sup>And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. <sup>44</sup>She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

<sup>45</sup>"Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." <sup>46</sup>But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

<sup>47</sup>Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. <sup>48</sup>Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

### John 9:1-11

<sup>1</sup>As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

<sup>3</sup>"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. <sup>4</sup>As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. <sup>7</sup>"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

<sup>8</sup>His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>"How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded. <sup>11</sup>He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."





## The Hope

### Chapter 9 (Part 6): Jesus confronts the Jewish religious leaders

*Almost from the outset of his public ministry Jesus was encountering people who didn't approve of Him. Opposition and hostility gradually escalated reaching its climax at the end of his earthly life. In this lesson we'll take a closer look at how Jesus handled some of the earlier conflicts that took place between himself and the religious leaders of his day.*

#### I. Jesus' public ministry generates opposition.

A. Jesus asserts his authority over the Law. (Mark 2:23-28)

1. What did the Pharisees accuse Jesus' disciples of doing? \_\_\_\_\_ Read Exodus 31:12-18. In light of this OT teaching on the Sabbath, why do you think the Pharisees were offended by this? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What point was Jesus making by referring to the OT story he used in his response? \_\_\_\_\_

3. According to v. 27 what purpose did Jesus say the Sabbath was to serve? Do you think Jesus would assert this same purpose for the rest of the OT Law? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_ What did Jesus mean by the second half of this statement? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why did Jesus say the son of man is Lord of the Sabbath? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who does his reference to "the son of man" refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

B. The Pharisees' scrutiny of and opposition to Jesus intensify. (Mark 3:1-6)

1. After establishing his authority over the law, Jesus is again scrutinized by the Pharisees. Why were some of the people watching to see if Jesus would heal on the Sabbath? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was Jesus saying about the purpose of the Sabbath in his question for the crowd (v. 4)? \_\_\_\_\_  
Was Jesus breaking the Sabbath by healing the man? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who was guilty of breaking the Sabbath this time (v. 6)? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **For further reflection:**

What was the pitfall of the Jewish religious leaders regarding their practice of the Sabbath and how can we avoid it in our practice of it? How should the Sabbath principle be practiced in your life?

#### II. Jesus challenges the Pharisees' abuse of the OT law (Matthew 15:1-20)

A. God's law and man's tradition are contrasted by Jesus.

1. What religious tradition were the disciples ignoring according to the religious leaders who confronted Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
In response to their accusation, what laws of God did Jesus show them they were breaking? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What tradition had they established which forced people to break these commands (v. 5)? \_\_\_\_\_  
What was the end result (v. 6)? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Jesus gets to the heart of the matter.

1. The OT prophet Isaiah was highly respected among Jewish religious leaders. Do you think they would have agreed with how Jesus was applying what Isaiah had said? \_\_\_\_\_ In your own words, what was he saying to them? \_\_\_\_\_

2. In v. 11 and v. 16-20 Jesus identified the heart of the Pharisees problem. On what were the Pharisees putting the emphasis? \_\_\_\_\_ According to Jesus why was this missing the mark? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **For further reflection:**

Jesus pointed out repeatedly that the religious leaders of the day were focusing on the wrong things. If Jesus were interacting with religious people today, how do you think his assessment would change? Where is the focus of religiosity in your own life? Where should it be?

#### III. Jesus confronts the hypocrisy of the religious leaders. (Luke 11:37-54)

A. At a dinner with a Pharisee Jesus "turns up the heat."

1. What was Jesus' host surprised about when Jesus sat down to eat with him? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jesus pointed out that the Pharisee's surprise at this was a symptom of a deeper problem. What was this problem (v. 39)? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jesus made three more severe indictments regarding the religious practice of the Pharisees. What were they?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Jesus "adds insult to injury" in his pronouncement of judgment.

1. Another group was offended by the accusations Jesus had made of the Pharisees. Who were they? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Identify the error Jesus pointed out in v. 46 that these leaders were making: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Though it is expressed a little ambiguously in v. 47-48, Jesus indicts the Pharisees for trying to appear supportive of opposite viewpoints regarding OT prophets. What do you think these were? \_\_\_\_\_

What did this reveal about their religious practice? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Again in v. 52 Jesus accused the teachers of the law of a horrendous error. What do you think he meant when he told them they had "taken away the key to knowledge"? \_\_\_\_\_

What had this resulted in? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **For further reflection:**

What do you think Jesus' level of tolerance was for people who tried to make a good impression on others, while being full of corruption and impure motive on the inside? What would such a dichotomy look like in a person's life today? What would Jesus want to find in our lives instead?

## Key Texts for Lesson 9-Part 6

### Mark 2:23-28

<sup>23</sup>One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

<sup>25</sup>He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? <sup>26</sup>In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup>So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

### Mark 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. <sup>2</sup>Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. <sup>3</sup>Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."

<sup>4</sup>Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent.

<sup>5</sup>He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. <sup>6</sup>Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

### Matt 15:1-20

<sup>1</sup>Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, <sup>2</sup>"Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!"

<sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? <sup>4</sup>For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' <sup>5</sup>But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' <sup>6</sup>he is not to 'honor his father' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. <sup>7</sup>You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

<sup>8</sup>"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

<sup>9</sup>They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."

<sup>10</sup>Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. <sup>11</sup>What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'"

<sup>12</sup>Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" <sup>13</sup>He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. <sup>14</sup>Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

<sup>15</sup>Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."

<sup>16</sup>"Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. <sup>17</sup>"Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? <sup>18</sup>But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'"

### Luke 11:37-54

<sup>37</sup>When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. <sup>38</sup>But the Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised. <sup>39</sup>Then the Lord said to him "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. <sup>40</sup>You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? <sup>41</sup>But give what is inside [the dish] to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

<sup>42</sup>"Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

<sup>43</sup>"Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.

<sup>44</sup>"Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which men walk over without knowing it."

<sup>45</sup>One of the experts in the law answered him, "Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also."

<sup>46</sup>Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

<sup>47</sup>"Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your forefathers who killed them. <sup>48</sup>So you testify that you approve of what your forefathers did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. <sup>49</sup>Because of this, God in his wisdom said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.' <sup>50</sup>Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, <sup>51</sup>from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

<sup>52</sup>"Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering."

<sup>53</sup>When Jesus left there, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, <sup>54</sup>waiting to catch him in something he might say.

### Exodus 31:12-18

<sup>12</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>13</sup>"Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy.'

<sup>14</sup>"Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. Anyone who desecrates it must be put to death; whoever does any work on that day must be cut off from his people. <sup>15</sup>For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must be put to death. <sup>16</sup>The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant. <sup>17</sup>It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he abstained from work and rested."

<sup>18</sup>When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

## The Hope

### Chapter 10 (Part 1): Jesus' Final Week

*The entry to Jerusalem marked two important events in Jesus' ministry: It marked the final week of Jesus' life before His crucifixion and it also marked a shift in His teachings which dealt more with the religious leaders. It was also during this time that Jerusalem was preparing for the Passover celebration. We learned about the Passover last semester when we covered the book of Exodus.*

#### I. Jesus arrives in Jerusalem

- A. The triumphal entry to Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11)
1. What was Jesus' "mode of transportation" as He entered Jerusalem (v.7)? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What did the crowd do when they saw Him? (v.8, 9) a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Refer to the following passages: I Kings 1:33, 36-38 and II Kings 9:13. Based on these passages, what do you think the crowd hoped Jesus would be for them? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Based on what you have learned about Jesus up to this point, what do you think Jesus' true purpose was? \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Jesus spends His remaining time in Jerusalem confronting the religious leaders (Matthew 21:12-13, 28-46)
1. Why did Jesus clear out the temple (v.13)? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Read the parable of the two sons (verses 28-32). According to Jesus, which kinds of people did the first son represent? \_\_\_\_\_  
The second son? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Now read the parable of the tenants in the vineyard (v. 33-46).
    - a. Who did the landowner represent? \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. Who are the farmers/tenants? \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. Who are the servants? \_\_\_\_\_
    - d. Who is the son? \_\_\_\_\_
    - e. What does the vineyard represent? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. How did the religious leaders perceive Jesus' teachings and what did they do (v.45, 46)? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. The plot to kill Jesus (Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16)
1. What did the religious leaders decide they should do with Jesus (v.4)? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Why did they decide not to do it during the Feast (v.5)? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Who was going to betray Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. What was the betrayer's asking price in exchange for Jesus (v.14)? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Further Reflection:

1. In Luke 19:41-44, the author recorded a scene where Jesus, upon entering Jerusalem, saw the city and wept over it. What does Jesus' response indicate to you about His heart for us?
2. In light of what you learned about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, how does the event encourage your faith?
3. As the vineyard owner entrusted the care of his property to the tenants, so God entrusts us with a stewardship also. What stewardship does He entrust to us and what does this parable teach us about how we should manage it?
4. If Jesus unconditionally chose Judas to be one of the twelve disciples even though He knew Judas was going to betray Him, do you think He would set any conditions before choosing you to be His disciple? Why or why not?

#### II. The Passover

- A. The Passover meal (Luke 22:14-23);
1. Look carefully at Luke 22:19-20 again. Do you think Jesus was teaching cannibalism? \_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What is the symbolic meaning of the bread? \_\_\_\_\_  
The wine? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. What is the importance of this "new covenant"? \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Jesus predicts Peter's denial (Matthew 26:31-35)
1. What did Jesus say would happen to Him (v.31)? \_\_\_\_\_  
To His disciples? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What did Jesus say next that gave hope that it was not the end of His disciples? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. How did Peter respond to this (v.33)? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. What was Jesus' prediction about Peter (v.34)? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Further Reflection:

1. As the events surrounding Jesus' trial unfolded, what Jesus had predicted about Peter is exactly what happened to him. God knows our hearts better than we do ourselves. We think we are strong and committed, but when faced with a challenge can easily compromise or fall. How should the awareness of our own vulnerability when our faith is challenged affect how we encourage or comfort someone facing difficult circumstances?

## Key Texts for Lesson 10-Part 1

### Matthew 21:1-13; 28-46

<sup>1</sup>As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

<sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: <sup>5</sup>"Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup>The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

<sup>12</sup>Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. <sup>13</sup>"It is written," he said to them, " 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.' "

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' <sup>29</sup>" 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

<sup>31</sup>"Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. <sup>32</sup>Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him."

<sup>33</sup>"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

<sup>35</sup>The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. <sup>36</sup>Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. <sup>37</sup>Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' <sup>39</sup>So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

<sup>40</sup>Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" <sup>41</sup>"He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: " 'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes?' <sup>43</sup>"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. <sup>44</sup>He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. <sup>46</sup>They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

### Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16, 31-35

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>"As you know, the Passover is two days away--and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified." <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup>and they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. <sup>5</sup>"But not during the Feast," they said, "or there may be a riot among the people."

<sup>14</sup>Then one of the Twelve – the one called Judas Iscariot – went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup>and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. <sup>16</sup>From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: " 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

<sup>32</sup>But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." <sup>33</sup>Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." <sup>34</sup>"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." <sup>35</sup>But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

### Luke 22:14-23

<sup>14</sup>When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup>For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

<sup>17</sup>After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup>For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

<sup>19</sup>And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." <sup>20</sup>In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. <sup>21</sup>But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. <sup>22</sup>The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him."

<sup>23</sup>They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

### I Kings 1:33, 36-38

<sup>33</sup> [King David] said to them: "Take your lord's servants with you and set Solomon my son on my own mule and take him down to Gihon...." <sup>36</sup>Benaiah son of Jehoiada answered the king, "Amen! May the LORD, the God of my lord the king, so declare it. <sup>37</sup> As the LORD was with my lord the king, so may he be with Solomon to make his throne even greater than the throne of my lord King David!" <sup>38</sup> So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites went down and put Solomon on King David's mule and escorted him to Gihon.

### II Kings 9:13

<sup>13</sup>They hurried and took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, "Jehu is king!"

### Luke 19:41-44

<sup>41</sup>As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it <sup>42</sup>and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace--but now it is hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup>The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. <sup>44</sup>They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

**The Hope**  
**Chapter 10 (Part 2): Jesus' Final Week (continued)**

**I. Jesus' Final and Finest Hours**

A. Washing of the disciples' feet (John 13:1-17)

1. According to verse 1, what was different about this display of Jesus love for his disciples? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was Peter's response when Jesus knelt down to wash his feet? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Peter seemed shocked that Jesus would wash his feet. Given that washing feet was a servant's task, what would you have thought had you been Peter or one of the other disciples when Jesus washed your feet? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Jesus state as his reason for washing the disciples' feet (verses 14-16)? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Carefully re-read the conversation between Jesus and Peter (v. 6-10). Clearly Jesus intended the foot-washing to be a symbol or analogy of something much more significant than washing feet. What do you think it was meant to be a picture of? \_\_\_\_\_

B. The vine and the branches (John 15:1-17)

1. Who is the vine? \_\_\_\_\_ Who are the branches? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What happens to the branch that doesn't remain in the vine? \_\_\_\_\_

How does this figurative lesson apply practically in our relationship with Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What happens to the branch that remains in the vine? \_\_\_\_\_

Again, how does this figurative lesson apply practically with our relationship with Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Jesus now gives a command. What is it (v.12)? \_\_\_\_\_ In John 13:34, Jesus described this command as "new". What was new about it? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Jesus' prayer (John 17:1-5)

1. In verses 1-5, Jesus used a specific word repeatedly. What is that word and what do you think Jesus' use of it says about what most concerned Him as He prayed? \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. How should we be applying the principle Jesus taught the disciples in his example of washing the disciples' feet?
2. The word "glorify" means "to make known or to put on display someone's true nature." How had Jesus done this for His Father? How did Jesus want His Father to do this for Him? What does this teach us about how we can glorify God in our lives?

*There are several excellent films which portray what many people refer to as the "Passion of the Christ", including the now famous film by that title. From these you can get an accurate description of the events which led up to Jesus' arrest and trial. We will not spend too much time on this event here, but instead draw your attention to a few important details.*

**II. The Crucifixion**

A. A dilemma of divine proportion (Luke 23:32-46)

1. Two criminals were crucified together with Jesus. Compare their attitudes toward God and toward Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_

What evidence of faith do you see in the response of the second criminal? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did Jesus respond to his faith? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Luke notes a significant event that took place in the temple immediately followed Jesus' death on the cross.

What was that event? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Read Hebrews 9:1-8. What purpose did this curtain serve in the temple? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was allowed to enter the "most holy place" and how often? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What was the priest to do when he entered this sacred room? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you think God was declaring by tearing the "curtain of separation" in the temple from top to bottom? \_\_\_\_\_

B. "It is Accomplished" (John 19:28-30)

1. What emphatic declaration did Jesus make just before He "gave up His spirit"? \_\_\_\_\_

2. The Greek word that John used to communicate this declaration literally means "paid in full" and it is in the perfect tense which means the action has been fully completed. Explain what you think Jesus meant in this declaration. \_\_\_\_\_

**For further reflection:**

1. The thief didn't have an opportunity to live a new and changed life as a follower of Jesus, yet Jesus told him he would be with Him in heaven. Be prepared to share in your group what this says about what is required for a person to go to heaven.
2. What does Jesus declaration—" [the debt] has been paid in full"—tell you about what is required for you to go to heaven?
3. Read Hebrews 10:19-23. What does the author tell us Jesus accomplished for us? What freedom does this now give us?

## Key Texts for Lesson 10-Part 2

### John 13:1-17

<sup>1</sup>It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

<sup>2</sup>The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup>Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup>so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup>After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

<sup>8</sup>"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

<sup>9</sup>"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

<sup>12</sup>When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup>"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup>I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup>Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

### John 15:1-17

<sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup>"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup>"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I

have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

### John 17:1-5

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: <sup>2</sup>"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup>Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

### John 19:28-30

<sup>28</sup>Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup>A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. <sup>30</sup>When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

### Luke 23:39-46

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup>We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

<sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

<sup>44</sup>It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, <sup>45</sup>for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

### Hebrews 9:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. <sup>2</sup>A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lamp stand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. <sup>3</sup>Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, <sup>4</sup>which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant... <sup>6</sup>When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. <sup>7</sup>But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

### Hebrews 10:19-23

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

## The Hope Chapter 11: Jesus is Alive!

*The death of Jesus was certainly a unique event. but it is meaningless without the equally unique event of Jesus resurrection from death. Take a moment to discuss in your group why you think it was so important that Jesus be raised again from death. What would be different about his story if he hadn't come back to life?*

### I. The first witnesses to Jesus' resurrection.

A. Jesus is buried and the tomb secured. (John 19:36-42; Matthew 27:62-66)

1. Who asked permission to arrange for Jesus' burial? \_\_\_\_\_ Who assisted him with these arrangements (Jn. 19:39)? \_\_\_\_\_ What did these men do in the burial process that helps validate the fact that Jesus really was dead when they placed him in the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did the religious leaders anticipate the disciples might do with Jesus body after his burial? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why did they think this might happen? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What precautions did they take to prevent it? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Mary Magdalene makes a confusing yet thrilling discovery. (John 20:1-9)

1. When did Mary Magdalene come to visit Jesus' tomb? \_\_\_\_\_ What did she discover when she arrived there? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did she respond to this discovery? \_\_\_\_\_ What had she concluded about the situation when she brought the news to the disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did the disciples do in response to Mary's report? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you think they concluded after arriving at the empty tomb? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Mary meets some unexpected visitors. (John 20:10-18)

1. After the disciples returned home, what did Mary then encounter? \_\_\_\_\_ What did they ask Mary? \_\_\_\_\_ Why did they ask this? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Even after her initial interaction with Jesus, what did Mary still believe had happened to him? \_\_\_\_\_

Who did she think Jesus was at this point? \_\_\_\_\_

3. When did Mary finally recognize who this visitor was? \_\_\_\_\_ Why do you think this was the case? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Jesus instruct Mary to do? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Mary report to the disciples this time? \_\_\_\_\_

### **For further reflection:**

1. When Mary found the empty tomb she came to a conclusion about why it was empty. Describe the process that was required to change her mind about this. What do you think were the factors that most influenced this change? How are these factors the same or different from those God has used to change your views about who Jesus is?

2. What was unique about the way Jesus referred to his disciples in John 20:17? How do you think Jesus would refer to you? Why? How does this strengthen your faith in God?

### II. Disbelief and doubt dispelled.

A. The religious leaders face a threatening obstacle. (Matthew 28:11-15)

1. What report did the guards who had been stationed at the tomb bring to the religious leaders? \_\_\_\_\_ Why did this create such a problem for them? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was the solution they suggested to solve the problem? \_\_\_\_\_

B. A "visiting scholar" explains himself. (Luke 24:13-35)

1. What did the two disciples on the road to Emmaus assume about Jesus (v. 18)? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you think these men understood who Jesus truly was (as they remembered him)? \_\_\_\_ What do you see in their response to Jesus' question here that supports your answer? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How did Jesus evaluate their summary of recent events? \_\_\_\_\_

What corrections to that summary did he make? \_\_\_\_\_

4. At what point did these men recognize who this "visiting scholar" really was? \_\_\_\_\_ Why do you think it happened at this particular moment? \_\_\_\_\_

5. How had the disciples felt while listening to Jesus' explanation of all that had taken place (v. 32)? \_\_\_\_\_ What did they say was the cause of this feeling? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Another doubter is confronted. (John 20:24-31)

1. Did Thomas believe what the other disciples reported to him? \_\_\_\_ What did Thomas say would convince him that their claim was true? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was unusual about the way in which Jesus appeared to the disciples the next time they were together? \_\_\_\_\_ Whom did he directly address this time and with what message? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Did you think Thomas was convinced by this? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

### **For further reflection:**

1. As with Mary, for the men on the road to Emmaus the turning point in their belief about Jesus came at a particular moment. In what ways were their encounters with Jesus similar to that of Mary? What were the key factors in the process which resulted in the recognition of Jesus' true identity by these men? How has God used factors like these to change your views of who Jesus is?

2. What did Jesus identify as the basis for Thomas' belief? What encouragement did Jesus offer people today for their faith in Him? How does this encourage you in your faith?



## Scripture Texts for Lesson 11

### John 19:38-42

<sup>38</sup>Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. <sup>39</sup>He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. <sup>40</sup>Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. <sup>41</sup>At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup>Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

### Matthew 27:62-66

<sup>62</sup>The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. <sup>63</sup>"Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' <sup>64</sup>So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." <sup>65</sup>"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." <sup>66</sup>So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

### John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

<sup>3</sup>So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup>as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup>(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

<sup>10</sup>Then the disciples went back to their homes, <sup>11</sup> but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. <sup>13</sup>They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

<sup>17</sup>Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

### Matthew 28:11-15

<sup>11</sup>While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup>When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, <sup>13</sup> telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came

during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' <sup>14</sup>If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." <sup>15</sup>So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

### Luke 24:13-35

<sup>13</sup>Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup>but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup>He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup>"What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup>but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup>In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup>but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

<sup>25</sup>He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup>As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

<sup>33</sup>They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup>and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup>Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

### John 20:24-31

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." <sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup>Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

## The Hope

### Chapter 12: The Apostles are commissioned and the church is born

#### I. Jesus' vision for reaching the world.

Jesus stated his vision and command for reaching the world multiple times, each time with a slightly different emphasis. We'll consider three of these commissionings in the following questions.

A. From disciple of Jesus to discipler of nations. (Matt. 28:18-20)

1. On what basis did Jesus now issue this command? \_\_\_\_\_ How had he proven this to be true? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What three objectives were his disciples to accomplish? \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus promise to do for his disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Fulfilling an ancient purpose (Luke 24:44-49)

1. What did Jesus say the OT had foretold about Himself and his mission? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the role of the disciples to be in this mission? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Jesus' plan for reaching the world. (Acts 1:6-8)

1. What strategy did Jesus give the apostles for carrying out the mission he was giving them? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What role were the disciples to have in this, and how would God empower them to achieve it? \_\_\_\_\_

#### For further reflection:

1. Identify some of the tasks which must be implemented in order to fulfill the mandate Jesus gave his disciples and us. In what ways do you think you can contribute to the carrying out of this mandate? If you don't feel adequately prepared in any of these areas, what steps can you take to become better prepared to do your part in fulfilling this mandate?

2. How can you incorporate the strategy of Jesus for the witness of the church into your personal strategy as one of his witnesses?

#### Note:

The first chapters of Acts describe the dramatic transformation that took place in the lives of the apostles and the company of 120 disciples who were with them when the Holy Spirit came on them on the day of Pentecost. This empowerment of the Holy Spirit provided the fuel for the birth and rapid expansion of the church which the rest of the remarkable documentary of Acts records.

#### II. The Holy Spirit comes in power.

A. The anticipated moment arrives. (Acts 2:1-12)

1. In what form did the Holy Spirit appear when he came to the disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Luke 3:16. What is said in this verse that would have helped the apostles recognize what was happening to them? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What other audible sign accompanied this initial filling of the Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_ Why was the crowd so amazed at what they were observing? (v. 6-8, 11b) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does Luke notice about the demographic makeup of the crowd? \_\_\_\_\_

4. In light of Jesus vision for reaching the world why do you think this fact was significant for what was happening at this moment? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Peter rises to the occasion. (Acts 2:13-14, 22-40)

1. How were the critics reacting to this unusual event? (v. 13) \_\_\_\_\_

On what grounds did Peter dismiss their criticism \_\_\_\_\_

2. This exchange gave Peter an opportunity to give an explanation of what these observers were witnessing. State Peter's conclusion (v. 36): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Summarize the reasons he gives to support this conclusion: a. (v. 22-24, 32) \_\_\_\_\_

b. (v. 33) \_\_\_\_\_

C. The floodgates are opened. (2:37-41)

1. What evidence do you see in the response of the listening crowd now, that indicates the Holy Spirit is at work? \_\_\_\_\_

How does Peter answer their question? (v. 38, 40) \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does Peter say the result will be if they respond as he has instructed (v. 38)? \_\_\_\_\_

On what does he base this assertion (v. 39)? \_\_\_\_\_

#### III. The Church is born.

A. The church is launched with phenomenal impact. (Acts 2:41-47)

1. What was the numerical impact of this first display of the Spirit's power: \_\_\_\_\_ What four ingredients did the Holy Spirit use to nourish this new movement? \_\_\_\_\_

2. As you read the description of this new community of faith, what do you find striking about it? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Describe the impact the newly formed church was having on its community. \_\_\_\_\_

#### For further reflection:

1. What does the Pentecost event teach us about the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church? In your life?

2. What should the role of the Holy Spirit in a witnessing lifestyle and community look like? How should it look in your life?

3. In what ways should the church that immersed from Pentecost be a model of what the church should be like today? What steps could we take to help the church today become more like the church in the days and weeks following Pentecost?

## Key Texts for Lesson 12

### Matthew 28:16-20

<sup>16</sup>Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

### Luke 24:44-49

<sup>44</sup>He said to [his disciples] "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup>He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

### Acts 1:6-8

<sup>6</sup>So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

### Acts 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. <sup>7</sup>Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup>(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" <sup>12</sup>Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

### Acts 2:13-14, 22-47

<sup>13</sup>Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." <sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup>These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!....

<sup>22</sup>"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup>This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

<sup>25</sup> David said about him:

"I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, <sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy one see decay. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence."

<sup>29</sup>"Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.

<sup>31</sup> Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. <sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand <sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." "

<sup>36</sup>" Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." <sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

### Acts 2:41-47

<sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

### Luke 3:15-16

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."