

NEWSLETTER

TRINITY KIDS

January-May 2025



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Sunday School Newsletter
January-May 2025

Sunday School is from 9:30am -10:30am and Reveal Kids happens during the 11am service for 3 yr. old's through 3rd grade.

PK3 & PK4 age children will be in the gym. Classrooms for grades K-5th will be found in the north hallway of the school.

Reveal Kids starts in the sanctuary at the 11am service and the kids are then dismissed to the music room prior to the beginning of the sermon. Reveal kids will return to sit with their parents in the sanctuary after the sermon.



December 3, 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope each one of you had a very joyous and wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and I am sure each of you is looking forward to this Christmas season. It is hard to believe that we are about to begin the second half of Sunday school and Reveal Kids. I have certainly enjoyed teaching and getting to know many of the children.

I would certainly like to thank you parents for bringing your children to Sunday school/Reveal Kids as it is an honor to have the opportunity to teach them about Jesus. I would also like to thank the dedicated teachers and teacher assistants that we have every week along with the youth group students who are also faithful to assist with Sunday school.

Over the next few pages please find the schedule for Sunday school and Reveal Kids. I have enclosed some of the lesson stories for the kindergarten-5th grade students. We will be moving from the Old Testament into the New Testament with the start of 2025.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach me by phone, text, or email. You can also find me on Sunday mornings either in the Sunday school office down from the gym on the right or in one of the Sunday school classrooms.

****DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR WONDERFUL SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DURING THE SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE ON 12/21 AT 6PM.**

Blessings,

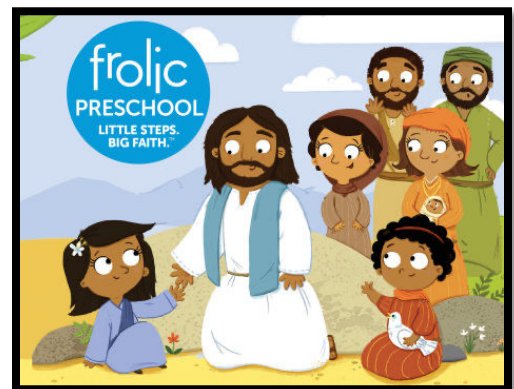
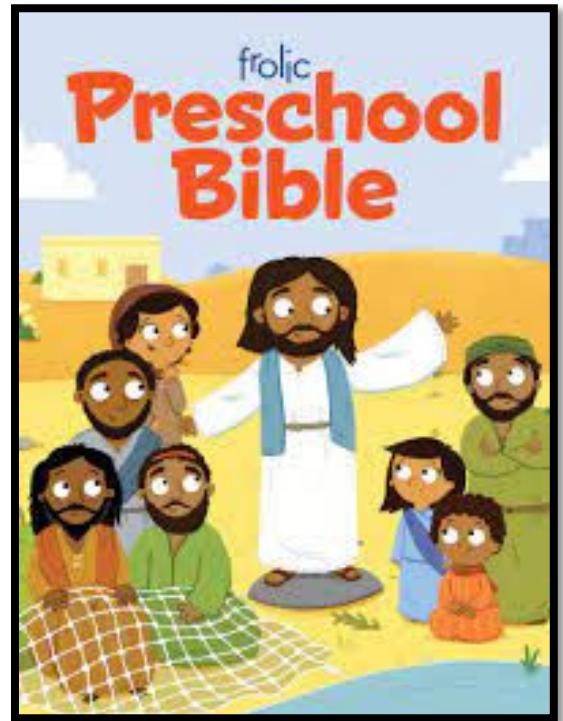
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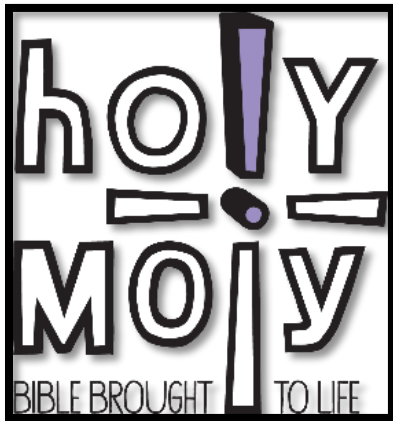
Trinity Kids Preschool

Preschool Sunday School will continue this Year with a curriculum called Frolic. Frolic is a play-based curriculum that helps young children experience Bible stories in a meaningful and memorable way. Repetition is an important part of learning during early childhood and that is why each story has two weeks of lessons so children can revisit each story and go deeper.

The following Bible stories will be covered between January and May, 2025.

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 1/5 & 1/12 | Young Jesus in the Temple |
| 1/19 & 1/26 | Jesus is Baptized |
| 2/2 & 2/9 | The Good Samaritan |
| 2/16 & 2/23 | Mary and Martha |
| 3/2 & 3/9 | The Lost Sheep and Coin |
| 3/16 & 3/23 | Man Through a Roof |
| 3/30 & 4/6 | Woman at the Well |
| 4/13 | The Easter Story |
| 4/20 | No Sunday School |
| 4/27 & 5/4 | The Holy Spirit |
| 5/11 | Recap of New Testament Stories |
| 5/18 | Last Day Party |



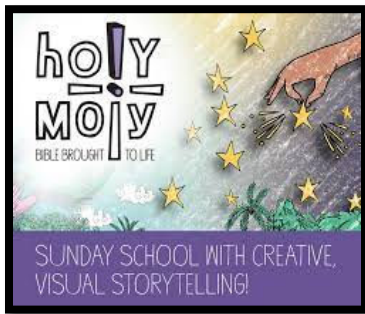


Trinity Kids

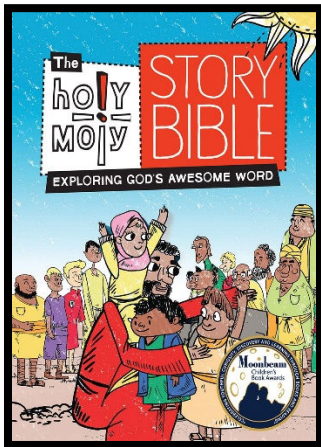
Kindergarten through 5th & Reveal Kids

3 yr. old – 3rd grade

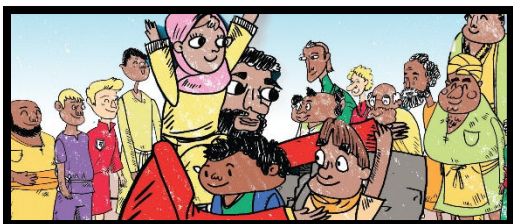
The Kindergarten's through 5th graders will continue with year #2 with a curriculum called Holy Moly. This is a curriculum that uses creative and visual storytelling to enhance the learning experience. Children participate in the story and are engaged in answering questions about the story and how the story may apply to their lives. Each week has a little different activity to keep things interesting. Some weeks children do crafts, some weeks they sing songs that relate back to the story, and some weeks they engage in Bible trivia related to the weekly story.



The following are Bible stories we will be covering from the New Testament from January-May.



| | |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 1/5 | The Magi |
| 1/12 | John the Baptist |
| 1/19 | Calling Disciples |
| 1/26 | Teach Us to Pray |
| 2/2 | Calming the Storm |
| 2/9 | Walking on Water |
| 2/16 | Zacchaeus |
| 2/23 | Water to Wine |
| 3/2 | Jesus Feeds 5,000 |
| 3/9 | Road to Emmaus |
| 3/16 | Pentecost |
| 3/23 | Saul Becomes Paul |
| 3/30 | Paul and Silas |
| 4/6 | Palm Sunday / Maundy Thursday |
| 4/13 | Good Friday / Easter Day |
| 4/20 | No Sunday School-Easter Sunday |
| 4/27 | Philip and the Ethiopian |
| 5/4 | Peter Raised Tabitha |
| 5/11 | Paul is Shipwrecked |
| 5/18 | Last Day Party |



This is the same curriculum that the Reveal Kids will follow, just a little condensed as Reveal Kids only meets for about 30 minutes each week.

THE MAGI



Jesus had a way better gift for the Magi than they had for him.

KEY VERSE

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

Matthew 2:10

1/5/25

STORY AT A GLANCE



Magi (pronounced MAJ-eye)

- Originally meant "wise men," same origin as word *magician*.
- Duties included dream interpretation, fortune telling, sorcery, and astrology.
- "The East" could mean Persia, Arabia, or Babylon, all representing Gentile wealth and wisdom.
- Outsiders whose presence suggests Jesus came for the whole world.
- Bible records 3 gifts (Matt 2:11), but does not specify number of Magi.

Jesus

- Identified as the "king of the Jews" by the Magi (Matt 2:2).
- May have been as old as 2 when Magi arrived to honor him.



Gifts

- Prophets proclaimed nations giving gifts would mark the dawn of the Messianic Age (Isa 60).
- Jesus, however, was God's gift to the world (Rom 5:15-17).



Mary and Joseph

- Warned by an angel to protect Jesus from Herod's jealousy, so escaped to Egypt (Matt 2:13-23).
- Lived in a home when Magi visited, not in a stable as often depicted.



King Herod

- Ruthlessly reigned over Judea.
- Known for building projects, including the Second Temple.



JOHN THE BAPTIST



John the Baptist was one wild guy!

KEY VERSE

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

Mark 1:9

1/12

STORY AT A GLANCE

John the Baptist

- Prophet who lives in the wilderness, eats locusts and honey, and wears rough clothing. Appearance is similar to Elijah (2 Kings 1:8).
- Many people from Jerusalem and the Judean countryside come to him to repent of their sins.
- Has disciples of his own (Mk 2:18).
- Preaches a baptism of repentance, a forerunner of Christian baptism today which emphasizes a welcome.
- Tells people he's preparing the way for someone even greater and more powerful.



Jesus

- This baptism is the first time Jesus appears in Mark's and John's Gospels. Matthew and Luke start with stories about Jesus' birth.
- Jesus' mother Mary and John's mother Elizabeth are related (Lk 1:36).
- Just leaving Nazareth to begin his ministry (Mk 1:9).
- Asks John to baptize him. John hesitates at first because he thinks that Jesus should be doing the baptizing (Mt 3:14).
- God tears open the heavens, sends the Spirit down, and proclaims Jesus "my Son" when John baptizes him.



Baptism

- Jewish writings from the era associate bathing in flowing water with asking God for forgiveness.
- Jesus' death and resurrection transformed significance of baptism. It became an important ritual from the early days of Christianity (Acts 19:3-6).
- Means "to dip" or "to immerse."



River Jordan

- Marks eastern border of promised land down to Dead Sea (Num 34:10-12).
- Parted for Israelites during their conquest of Canaan (Josh 3:14-17).
- About 25 miles (40 km) from Jerusalem at closest point to city.



Dove

- Form God's spirit takes when it comes down to Jesus.
- Often represents Holy Spirit in Christian art.
- Appears at key points in the Bible, e.g. the flood story (Gen 8:8-12).



CALLING DISCIPLES



Jesus picks some of the least likely people to be his disciples.

KEY VERSE

And [Jesus] said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

Matthew 4:19

1/19

STORY AT A GLANCE

Jesus

- Returns to Galilee after his 40 days in the wilderness when he hears that John the Baptist has been arrested (Mt 4:12).
- Calls disciples as he begins his preaching.
- In 3 gospels, the disciples follow Jesus immediately (Mk 1, Mt 4, Jn 1). In Luke, it takes longer.



Simon (called Peter) and Andrew

- Brothers who work as fishermen on the Sea of Galilee.
- Follow Jesus when he promises to show them how to fish for people (Mt 4:19).
- Jesus names Simon "Peter," which means "rock" (Lk 6:14).
- Peter becomes one of the most important disciples. Catholics name him the first Pope.



James and John

- Sons of Zebedee.
- Another pair of fishermen brothers.
- Leave behind their nets and their father in the middle of a workday.
- Jesus names them: "Sons of Thunder" (Mk 3:17).
- Are with Jesus, along with Peter, at important moments, like the Transfiguration and in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mt 17:1-2; 26:37).



Matthew

- An outcast because he works as a tax collector for Rome.
- Tax collectors could make extra money by taking too much in taxes.
- Traditionally considered the author of the Gospel of Matthew.



Mary Magdalene

- One of the women who follow Jesus.
- Jesus cured her of demons (Lk 8:2).
- Comes from Magdala on the western side of the Sea of Galilee.



Disciples

- People who leave their old lives to follow Jesus.
- Jesus gives special authority to 12 (Mt 10:1-7), but they weren't the only people who followed him.
- Can't have extra belongings or ask for money when they help people (Mt 10:8-10).



TEACH US TO PRAY



We can pray in lots of ways.

KEY VERSE

"Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name."

Matthew 6:9

1/26

STORY AT A GLANCE

Jesus

- Teaches that prayers should be simple and private so that those praying won't get distracted.
- Says that God "knows what you need before you ask" (Mt 6:8).
- Gives people the Lord's Prayer as an example of one way to pray.
- Invites believers to call God "Father" as he does, probably using the Aramaic word *Abba* like in Mk 14:36.



Hypocrites

- People who pray or do good deeds in order to attract attention.
- Won't be rewarded by God because they've already been rewarded with public approval (Mt 6:5).
- Judaism required daily prayers—but Jesus wasn't the only Jew who criticized people who prayed for show.
- Word means "actor" or "performer."



Lord's Prayer

- Taught by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7) and in Luke 11.
- Praises God, then asks for help to live as a child of God.
- Biblical text is shorter than what most Christians say today.
- Paul writes that calling God "Father" is a sign of a believer's close relationship with God (Gal 4:6-7).



Disciples

- Many people followed Jesus, but only his closest followers heard the Lord's Prayer during the Sermon on the Mount.



CALMING THE STORM



Jesus' words calm wind and waves.

KEY VERSE

They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

Matthew 8:27

2/2

STORY AT A GLANCE

Jesus

- Traveling by boat from Capernaum to the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.
- Sleeps through the storm until the disciples wake him up.
- Scolds disciples for losing faith, then calms the storm by simply talking to it.
- This is his first miracle in Matthew that doesn't involve healing. Others include the feeding of the 5000 and walking on water (Mt 14:19-21, 26-33).
- Needs a nap because he's human; can calm the storm because he's God.



Disciples

- Coming with Jesus across the lake.
- Include former fishermen who would know the danger of bad storms.
- Probably don't know how to swim.
- Panic when the storm almost sinks the boat.
- Frequently lose faith. Don't really understand who Jesus is.



Storm

- Arises suddenly, creating huge waves.
- Turns into dead calm as soon as Jesus tells it to stop.



Sea of Galilee

- Not really a sea, but a freshwater lake along the Jordan River.
- Surface area only about 64 sq mi (166 sq km).
- Also called Lake of Gennesaret or Lake Tiberias.



WALKING ON WATER



Whether we're walking on water or sinking down, Jesus reaches out.

KEY VERSE

[Jesus] said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

Matthew 14:29

2/9

STORY AT A GLANCE

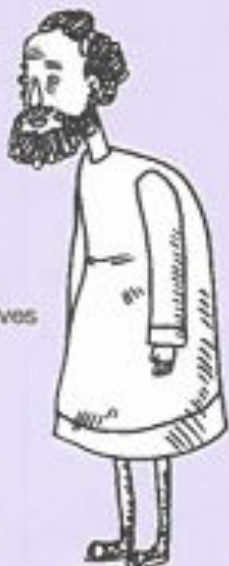
Jesus

- Spending time alone after feeding the 5000.
- Walks across Sea of Galilee to get to disciples' boat.
- Seems to echo Isaiah when he tells the disciples not to be afraid (Mt 14:27, Isa 41:10).
- Stops the wind that blew the disciples' boat away from shore.
- Scolds Peter for his doubt, but saves him from drowning.
- His power over nature shows that he is more than human.



Peter

- Disciple whom Jesus often singles out for special tasks, but who often falls short (Mt 26:69-75).
- Walks on water at Jesus' command—the only disciple who dares to try.
- Starts to sink as soon as he becomes afraid, but still believes that Jesus can save him.



Disciples

- While waiting for Jesus on the boat, get blown away from shore.
- Think Jesus is a ghost until he speaks to them.
- Recognize Jesus as God's Son after this miracle (Mt 14:33).



Sea of Galilee

- Setting for many of Jesus' teachings, including calming the storm and feeding the 5000.
- Unlike the Dead Sea's salty water that made it easy to float, the Sea of Galilee is freshwater.



ZACCHAEUS



Jesus is Zac's guest today, no matter what the grumblers say.

KEY VERSE

When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today."

Luke 19:5

2/16

STORY AT A GLANCE

Zacchaeus

- High-ranking tax collector for Rome. Tax collectors were considered sinners (Mt 9:10-13).
- Rich because he takes more money from people than is fair.
- Curious to see Jesus. Climbs a sycamore tree because he's short.
- Repents of his wrongdoing as soon as Jesus recognizes him.
- Promises to give half his wealth to the poor and to pay back anyone he cheated 4 times what he took from them.



Jesus

- Passes through the town of Jericho, where Zacchaeus lives, on his way to Jerusalem for the Passover.
- Recently told the story of the camel and the eye of the needle after meeting a rich young man who could not give up his wealth (Lk 18:24-25).
- Forgives Zacchaeus as soon as he repents.
- Says his mission is to save "lost" people just like Zacchaeus (Lk 19:10).
- According to Luke, Jesus' stay with Zacchaeus is the last event before he enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.



People of Jericho

- Gather together to see Jesus.
- Dislike Zacchaeus for cheating them and working with Rome.
- Shocked and offended that Jesus wants to stay with the tax collector.



Money

- Judeans resent the taxes the Romans take from them.
- Zacchaeus's willingness to return the money is a sign that he is ready to follow Jesus.



Sycamore Tree

- Sycamore fig, not the American sycamore tree.
- Grows in southern Africa and the Middle East.
- Up to 65 ft (20 m) tall, with wide, spreading branches good for climbing.



WATER TO WINE



A water-to-wine wedding reveals Jesus' first miracle.

KEY VERSE

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 2:11

2/23

STORY AT A GLANCE

Jesus

- Early in his ministry with his disciples.
- Knows the bride and groom will be embarrassed if they run out of wine at their own wedding, so helps them by creating a lot of wine that's better than what they could buy before.
- Performs 7 miracle "signs" in the Gospel of John that teach people to believe in him: 1) water to wine, 2) healing an official's son, 3) healing an invalid, 4) feeding 5000, 5) walking on water, 6) healing a blind man, and 7) raising Lazarus.



Wine

- Important part of the wedding celebration.
- Jesus transforms 6 big jars of water into wine for a total of 120-180 gallons (450-680 L). This is way more than the wedding party could've needed or used.
- Important in Jesus' life, especially at the Last Supper.



Mary, Mother of Jesus

- Never named in Gospel of John.
- Tells Jesus there is no more wine for the party.
- Knows that Jesus will be able to fix the problem, even when nobody else suspects how powerful he is.



Servants

- First people to see Jesus' first public miracle.
- The word *deacon* comes from the Greek word for "servant."



Cana of Galilee

- Exact location unknown. A town called Kafr Kanna in modern Israel claims to be the same place.
- Also where Jesus meets a royal official who begs him to heal his son (Jn 4:46-54).



JESUS FEEDS 5,000



1 kid's faith = 5,000 fed

KEY VERSE

Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

John 6:11

3/2

STORY AT A GLANCE

Jesus

- Talks to disciples on a mountain by the Sea of Galilee, with a big crowd of people below.
- Provides more food than people can eat, as he made more wine than people could drink at the wedding at Cana.
- This is his 4th of 7 miraculous "signs" in the Gospel of John. It is the only miracle story recorded in all 4 Gospels.



Crowd

- Want to see Jesus because they have heard about him healing the sick.
- Have nothing to eat after following Jesus out of town and into the wilderness.
- Believe that Jesus is a powerful prophet after seeing this sign.
- Want to try to make Jesus king, but Jesus knows that's not why he has come to earth (Jn 6:15).



Loaves and Fish

- Refers to the 5 loaves of barley bread and 2 fish that a boy gives to Jesus (Jn 6:9).
- Bread is important to Christianity. It is used in communion, and Jesus calls himself the "bread of life" (Jn 6:35).
- Elisha multiplied barley loaves to feed 100 people (2 Kings 4:42-44).



Disciples

- Follow Jesus to learn from him and to help him teach.
- Not earning any wages, largely supported by a group of generous women (Lk 8:1-3). Don't have a fraction of the money it would take to feed everyone.
- Want to help Jesus, but don't know how.



ROAD TO EMMAUS



We recognize Jesus when we break bread together.

KEY VERSE

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:35

3/9

STORY AT A GLANCE

Cleopas

- Walks to Emmaus with an unnamed companion. Both think of themselves as disciples of Jesus (Lk 24:13-35).
- Sad that Jesus has died; confused about rumors of Jesus' body disappearing from the tomb.
- Talks to Jesus for a long time without recognizing him.
- Quickly returns to Jerusalem to tell the 11 disciples the good news once he realizes who he has seen.



Jesus

- Has risen from the dead but, according to Luke's Gospel, hasn't yet appeared to his closest disciples.
- Keeps Cleopas and his friend from recognizing him until he breaks bread for them.
- Vanishes as soon as they realize who he is.
- Has a physical body, but able to mysteriously appear and disappear (Lk 24:31, 39).



Bread

- Jesus echoes the Last Supper when he blesses and breaks bread for Cleopas and his companion.
- Food is important in Jesus' post-resurrection stories. Eating shows he has a real body (Lk 24:42, Jn 21:13-14).



Road to Emmaus

- Route between Emmaus and Jerusalem thought to be about 7 miles (11 km), but the exact location of Emmaus is not known.



PENTECOST



Celebrate the church's global birthday!

KEY VERSE

"For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

Acts 2:39

3/16

STORY AT A GLANCE

Disciples

- Matthias has replaced Judas Iscariot as one of the 12 disciples (Acts 1:24-26).
- Lead 100+ other Jesus-followers in Jerusalem, including Jesus' family (Acts 1:14-15).
- Wait in Jerusalem after the ascension because Jesus said the Holy Spirit would baptize them there (Acts 1:4-5).
- Peter acts as their leader when he gives them a long speech (Acts 2:14-40).
- Baptize about 3,000 people from nations all across the known world in just 1 miraculous day (Acts 2:9-11, 41).



Holy Spirit

- Hebrew word *spirit* also means "wind" or "breath," so it makes sense that Luke compares the Holy Spirit's arrival to rushing wind (Acts 2:2).
- Hovers over each disciple looking like a flame, letting them speak and understand the crowd's many languages (Acts 2:3-4).
- Takes form of dove when Jesus is baptized (Lk 3:21-22).



Crowd

- Forms to see Pentecost miracle happening among the disciples.
- Many repent of their sins and receive the Holy Spirit when they hear Peter speak.



Pentecost

- Celebrated by Christians as the church's birthday as early as the 2nd century.
- Jewish festival of spring barley harvest.
- According to Jewish tradition, the day God gave Moses the law.



SAUL BECOMES PAUL



God transforms persecution by Saul to proclamation by Paul.

KEY VERSE

The Lord said to [Ananias], "Go, for [Saul] is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentile and kings and before the people of Israel."

Acts 9:15

3/23

STORY AT A GLANCE

Saul/Paul

- Devoted Pharisee who persecutes early Christians.
- Sees a vision of Jesus on the road to Damascus. Blinded for 3 days.
- Proclaims the word of Jesus after being healed.
- Writes much of the New Testament in the form of epistles (letters) that help define many Christian beliefs.
- Uses Jewish name Saul when persecuting Jewish Christians; uses Greek name Paul when preaching to Gentiles.



Ananias

- Jewish disciple of Christ living in Damascus (Acts 9:10).
- Has a vision from God telling him to help Saul, but is reluctant after hearing all the awful things Saul has done to Christians.
- Helps Saul see again by touching him and filling him with the Holy Spirit.
- Learns how to evangelize, or spread the gospel, through his words and actions.



Christians

- Members of a fragile new movement.
- Persecuted for following Jesus, who Rome executed as a criminal.
- Afraid of being killed by men like Saul, so many flee Jerusalem, where the persecution began (Acts 8:1).



Jesus

- Ascends to heaven 40 days after his resurrection (Acts 1:3-12), but appears to Saul in a vision.
- Picks Saul to spread his message. Gives Saul a chance for a new, better life.



Conversion

- When someone adopts new beliefs.
- Saul/Paul continues to see himself as a Jew and follows Jewish laws after being converted. Christianity isn't a separate religion yet.



PAUL AND SILAS



Earthquake shakes, prison breaks. Chains undone for everyone!

KEY VERSE

Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

Acts 16:26

3/30

STORY AT A GLANCE

Paul

- Also known as Saul, a persecutor of Christians, before his conversion (Acts 9:1-20).
- Calls himself Paul while traveling around Roman Empire to preach the gospel to Gentiles (non-Jews).
- Argues with other Christians because he says new converts don't have to follow Jewish laws.
- Arrested in Philippi for breaking the law forbidding Jews to convert Roman citizens.
- Beaten up and imprisoned, but sings praises to God until an earthquake opens his cell door.



Silas

- Travels with Paul to help him spread the gospel.
- Called Silvanus in Paul's letters (2 Cor 1:19).
- A leader of the early Christian movement (Acts 15:22-27).
- Roman citizen like Paul, so has rights most Jews don't have.



Jailer

- Locks up Paul and Silas in an extra secure jail cell.
- Could be executed if his prisoners escape, so very grateful Paul and Silas don't run away.
- Baptized along with all his family after hearing about Jesus.



Romans

- Live in Philippi, a Greek city near Thessaloniki.
- Paul helped Christians in Philippi and writes them a letter after he leaves the city. That letter is the book of Philippians.



Prison

- A holding place for people awaiting trial or punishment. Time in prison wasn't, itself, a sentence.
- Full of other prisoners who hear Paul's message.



PALM SUNDAY



Jesus needs us—ready or not.
Hosanna!

KEY VERSE

Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Mark 11:9

4/6

STORY AT A GLANCE

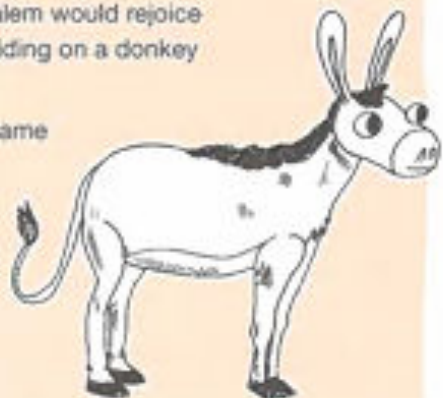
Jesus

- Enters holy city of Jerusalem as a wildly popular figure for the Passover festival.
- Roman and Jewish leaders can't ignore him after this show of popularity.
- Says that "the stones would shout out" if the Pharisees silenced the crowds (Lk 19:40).



The Donkey

- Symbol that Jesus comes in peace. A military conqueror would ride a horse.
- Fulfills prophecy that Jerusalem would rejoice when a humble king came riding on a donkey (Zech 9:9).
- Also called a colt, another name for a young, male donkey.
- Never been ridden before.
- Jesus knows where the disciples can find it for him.



The Crowds

- Greet Jesus like a king, praising him.
- Quote the words of a psalm to welcome Jesus (Ps 118:26).
- Echo words the angels said to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born (Lk 2:14; 19:38).



Coats and Palm Branches

- Crowds cut leafy branches and put them in front of Jesus' donkey.
- Cloaks on a path were a sign of honor for a new king (2 Kings 9:13).



MAUNDY THURSDAY



Jesus wants us by his side—
even when we don't understand
why.

KEY VERSE

They went to a place called Gethsemane;
and [Jesus] said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

Mark 14:32

4/6

STORY AT A GLANCE

Jesus

- Says his blood, which will soon spill, will create a covenant for forgiving sins.
- Says the words of institution for communion that Christians still repeat 2,000 years later (Mk 14:22-24).
- Dreads his coming death. Promises to obey God, but begs God to find another way.
- Doesn't fight back when the crowd comes to arrest him.



Peter, John, and James

- 3 favored disciples whom Jesus often chose for key moments (Mt 17:1; 26:37; Mk 1:29; 5:37; 13:3).
- Agree to stay with Jesus as he prays, but let him down by falling asleep.
- Don't know this is their last night with Jesus before his execution.
- Rabbinic law stated that the Passover was over when someone fell into a deep sleep.



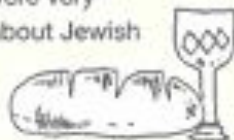
The Disciples

- Meet to eat together on the first night of Passover (Mk 14:12-15).
- All run away when Jesus is arrested. Jesus knew from prophecy that this would happen (Zech 13:7; Mk 14:27, 50).



Passover

- An annual celebration when Jews would sacrifice a lamb at the temple, then eat it for dinner to remember their escape from slavery in Egypt.
- A time of year when the Roman authorities were very concerned about Jewish revolts.



Chief Priests

- Want to arrest Jesus, but fear a riot if they do it in public during Passover (Mk 14:1-2).
- Pay Judas to betray Jesus.
- Capture Jesus with a large, armed crowd as if he were a dangerous bandit.



Garden of Gethsemane

- The place where Jesus goes to pray and await his arrest.
- An olive orchard. Name means "garden of oil."
- Prophesied in Zechariah 14:4.



GOOD FRIDAY



Jesus died to show God's love for all the world.

KEY VERSE

And they clothed [Jesus] in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Mark 15:17-18

4/13

STORY AT A GLANCE

Jesus

- Repeatedly predicted his own death and resurrection, but disciples do not understand (Mk 8:31-32; 9:30; 10:32-34).
- Betrayed by Judas and abandoned by many of his followers.
- Doesn't defend himself at trial.
- Dies for others' sins (1 Cor 15:3).
- Quotes Psalm 22:1 in his suffering.



Pilate and His Soldiers

- Condemn Jesus to the painful, public death of a common criminal.
- Worship Roman emperor as a god.
- Also crucify 2 bandits—probably rebels against the empire.
- Mock Jesus with symbols of royalty (purple cloak, crown of thorns). Call Jesus "King of the Jews," indicating that he is being executed as a political threat.
- Soldiers cast lots (wager, gamble) for Jesus' clothing (Ps 22:18; Mk 15:24).



The Scribes, Chief Priests, and Elders

- Jewish authorities who don't have the power to execute criminals.
- Mock Jesus as he dies, saying that God would save the Messiah.
- Ask Pilate to seal and guard Jesus' tomb, so the disciples can't steal his body and claim Jesus came back to life (Mt 27:62-66).



Simon of Cyrene

- Helps Jesus carry the cross.
- Not a disciple but acts like 1 by stepping up to help Jesus.
- From a town in Northern Africa (modern Libya).



Jesus' Friends

- Most of the disciples abandon Jesus because they are afraid for their own lives.
- Many women sadly and loyally watch Jesus' death.



Joseph of Arimathea

- A wealthy man who asks Pilate for Jesus' body.
- Buries Jesus in his own tomb, fulfilling prophecy that God's "suffering servant" would be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isa 53:9).
- Has to prepare Jesus' body very quickly, without proper burial rites, before the Sabbath begins.



EASTER DAY



God sends messengers to share the Easter news: Jesus is alive!

KEY VERSE

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Jehn 20:18

4/13

STORY AT A GLANCE

Mary Magdalene and the Other Women

- Watched sadly and loyally as Jesus died on the cross.
- Return to the tomb to give Jesus the proper burial rites now that the Sabbath is over—but the body is gone.
- See an angel who tells them that Jesus is risen!
- Mary Magdalene meets Jesus, who tells her to spread the good news.



The Disciples

- Hide after Jesus, their leader and teacher, was executed.
- Don't immediately believe Mary's report.
- Go looking for Jesus, but don't find him. Later, he will come to them.



Jesus

- Rises from the dead as he promised (Mt 12:40 ; 27:6).
- Appears to people after his resurrection—but they don't always recognize him at first!
- Appears to Mary Magdalene as a gardener, recalling his many parables about planting and growing.



Peter

- Runs off to see the tomb for himself when he hears Mary's report (Lk 24:12).

The Angel

- The Gospels don't agree about how many angels there were or what they looked like (Mt 28:2-3; Mk 16:5; Lk 24:4; Jn 20:12).
- Starts spreading the news that Jesus is alive.
- Scares the women when he unexpectedly appears at the tomb.



PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN



We need each other's help to understand God's Word.

KEY VERSE

The [Ethiopian] said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"

Acts 8:36

4/27

STORY AT A GLANCE

Philip the Evangelist

- 1 of 7 men appointed by the apostles to help them spread the gospel and administer the young church (Acts 6:2-6).
- Not the same person as Philip the Apostle. Sometimes referred to as Philip the Deacon.
- Notable for converting many people in a Samaritan city, including a famous magician named Simon (Acts 8:4-13).
- Later hosts Paul in his own home, where he lives with his 4 prophetic daughters (Acts 21:8-9).



Ethiopian Treasurer

- Servant in charge of the Ethiopian queen's treasury.
- Probably a "God-fearer," a gentile familiar with the God of Israel.
- Traveling on a deserted road between Jerusalem and Gaza on his way home from a pilgrimage to Israel.
- Invites Philip into his chariot, eagerly asks questions, and takes charge of his own baptism.
- 1 of the first gentile converts to Christianity.



Book of Isaiah

- Philip overhears the Ethiopian reading Isaiah 53:7-8 aloud, part of the song of the Suffering Servant. Christians have long believed this passage predicted Jesus' life.
- One of the most important Old Testament books for Christians. Jesus and the authors of the Gospels frequently quote it.



Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians

- Queen of the kingdom of Meroe, south of Egypt.
- Ethiopia was considered distant and exotic—the far edge of the world. Called Cush in the Old Testament and Nubia by the Romans.
- Candace is the queen's title, not her name.



Spirit of the Lord

- Guides Philip through his ministry with the help of an angel who points Philip down the road to Gaza (Acts 8:26).
- Transports Philip to Azotus (modern day Ashdod, an Israeli city along the Mediterranean) as soon as he has baptized the Ethiopian.



PETER RAISES TABITHA



**Tabitha gave life to others—
then Peter brought her back
to life!**

KEY VERSE

[Peter] knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.

Acts 9:40

5/4

STORY AT A GLANCE

Peter

- Leads the apostles after Pentecost.
- Travels around Judea to survey the earliest churches during a rare time of peace after Saul's conversion.
- Has already performed 1 miracle in Acts: healing a paralyzed man in Jesus' name (Acts 9:32-35).
- Heals Tabitha in the same way that Jesus healed a dead girl in Luke 8:49-56.
- This miracle helps many people in Joppa believe in Jesus.



Tabitha

- Well-loved resident of Joppa known for her charitable works and her sewing.
- Suddenly gets sick and dies.
- Associated with the widows of Joppa, but it's unclear whether she was a widow.
- Name means "gazelle," which is Dorcas in Greek. Her two names might show that she bridges the Hebrew and Greek communities.
- The only woman to be explicitly called a disciple in the New Testament (Acts 9:36).



Widows

- Prepare Tabitha for burial by mourning her and washing her body.
- Vulnerable women who were supported by early Christians through food distributions.
- Psalm 68:5 calls God "protector of widows," and Jesus condemned people who exploited them (Lk 20:46-47).



Joppa

- Modern day Jaffa, a town on the Mediterranean Sea just south of Tel Aviv.
- Port city where Lebanese cedars were brought to build Solomon's temple (2 Chron 2:16) and where Jonah tried to flee God (Jon 1:3).



PAUL IS SHIPWRECKED



Through storms, snakes, and sickness, Paul's faith saves the day.

KEY VERSE

"Do not be afraid, Paul. . . God has granted safety to all those who are sailing with you."

Acts 27:24

5/11

STORY AT A GLANCE

Paul

- Instead of being a persecutor of Christians, Paul is now persecuted as a Christian. A riot breaks out when he preaches in Jerusalem, and he is arrested.
- Traveling to Rome for trial in late fall of 59 A.D.
- Has a vision from God promising that he and everyone on the ship will reach Rome safely.
- Helps his captors and doesn't try to escape when the ship sinks.
- Cures many people on the island where they are shipwrecked.



Roman Soldiers/Sailors

- Decide to sail during stormy season despite Paul's warnings to wait.
- Are forced to spend winter on the island of Malta before they can continue their journey to Rome.
- 276 people travel on the ship, including soldiers led by a centurion named Julius.
- None drown, even though many can't swim, fulfilling God's promise in Paul's vision.



Natives

- "Barbarian" natives of Malta (a Roman-controlled island south of Sicily) who don't speak Greek or Latin.
- Remarkably kind to the castaways, helping them build a fire (Acts 28:2).
- Try to worship Paul as a god when he doesn't die from a snake bite.



Shipwreck

- This story is the most detailed biblical account we have about how people sailed.
- Paul writes that he was involved in at least 3 different shipwrecks (2 Cor 11:25).



Viper

- Natives first think Paul's snake bite must be punishment, since he survived a shipwreck only to be attacked by a viper (Acts 28:4).
- Jesus tells disciples that all who believe will be able to handle snakes and will be immune to poison as they spread the gospel (Mk 16:18).

