

Luke's Account

Exploring the Life of Jesus

Advanced Level ESL

Tone Hess



Luke wrote an accurate and fascinating account of the life of Jesus based on the report of eyewitnesses. It is recorded in the historical setting of the Roman empire.

**Experience Jesus for yourself as you read these exciting stories.
Put yourself in the stories and see how they relate to your own life.**

The lessons may be used in the ESL classroom as part of an ESL lesson.

Each lesson will take approximately 20 minutes.

The lessons will expose the students to the life of Jesus. If a student shows interest in knowing more, they can be invited to a separate Bible study.

The Bible passages are taken from the New International Reader's Version (NIRV).

The students may take turns reading the passages. The teacher can help the students understand difficult words and ask some comprehension questions. There is a matching activity with vocabulary words. Then, there is a summary to aid comprehension of the text. Finally, there are discussion questions.

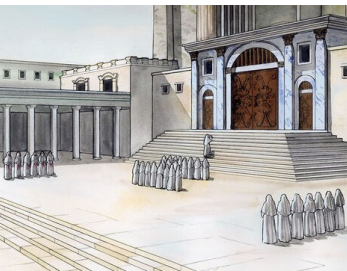
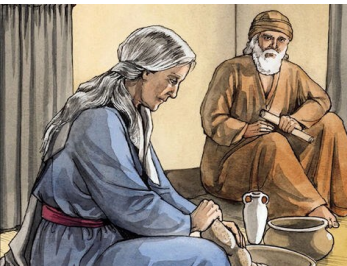
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Lesson 1

Bible Passage: Luke 1:1-10 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



Many people have attempted to write about the things that have taken place among us. ² Reports of these things were handed down to us. There were people who saw these things for themselves from the beginning. They saw them and then passed the word on. ³ With this in mind, I myself have carefully looked into everything from the beginning. So I also decided to write down an orderly report of exactly what happened. I am doing this for you, most excellent Theophilus. ⁴ I want you to know that the things you have been taught are true.

⁵ Herod was king of Judea. During the time he was ruling, there was a priest named Zechariah. He belonged to a group of priests named after Abijah. His wife Elizabeth also came from the family line of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them did what was right in the sight of God. They obeyed all the Lord's commands and rules faithfully. ⁷ But they had no children, because Elizabeth was not able to have any. And they were both very old.

⁸ One day Zechariah's group was on duty. He was serving as a priest in God's temple. ⁹ He happened to be chosen, in the usual way, to go into the temple of the Lord. There, he was supposed to burn incense. ¹⁰ The time came for this to be done. All who had gathered to worship were praying outside.

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ report	A. a place to worship God and to offer sacrifices
___ priest	B. a description of an event
___ sacrifice	C. something you burn to give good smell/scent
___ temple	D. kill an animal and offer it to God for the forgiveness of sins or to express devotion or thanksgiving
___ incense	E. a person who offered sacrifices and represented the people to God

Summary

Luke lived at the time of Jesus. Many other people had written what they saw and heard. Luke gathered information from the eyewitnesses and wrote a book to a man named Theophilus. He started his book telling about a Jewish priest, Zechariah. Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth obeyed God. They were old, but didn't have any children. Zechariah was chosen to burn incense in the temple.

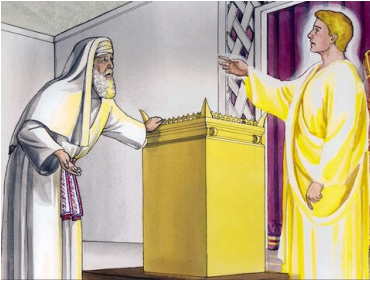
Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Luke talks about people who were eyewitnesses. Tell about a time when you heard someone talk about what they had seen. Did you believe their story? Would it be easier to believe if there were many people who had seen the same event?
2. Herod was king of Judea. Does your country have a king or a queen?
3. Zechariah and Elizabeth were careful to obey God's rules. What are some rules that you are careful to follow? What happens if you break one of the rules?
4. Zechariah burned incense in the temple. What are some smells that you like in your house?

Lesson 2

Bible Passage: Luke 1:11-25 NIRV

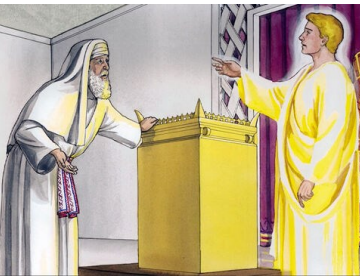
Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah. The angel was standing at the right side of the incense altar. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was amazed and terrified. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will have a child. It will be a boy, and you must call him John.



¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you. His birth will make many people very glad. ¹⁵ He will be important in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or other such drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will prepare the way for the Lord. He will have the same spirit and power that Elijah had. He will bring peace between parents and their children. He will teach people who don't obey to be wise and do what is right. In this way, he will prepare a people who are ready for the Lord."



¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is old too."



¹⁹ The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I serve God. I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you will have to be silent. You will not be able to speak until after John is born. That's because you did not believe my words. They will come true at the time God has chosen."

²¹ During that time, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the temple. They wondered why he stayed there so long. ²² When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple. They knew this because he kept gesturing to them. He still could not speak.



²³ When his time of service was over, he returned home. ²⁴ After that, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. She stayed at home for five months. ²⁵ "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days, he has been kind to me. He has taken away my shame among the people."

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ amazed	A. very scared
___ terrified	B. a revelation from God
___ delight	C. very surprised
___ vision	D. move hands to communicate
___ gesture	E. great joy

Summary

An angel came and spoke to Zechariah while he was in the temple. The angel said, "God has heard your prayer. You will have a son, and his name will be John." The angel told him that John would have a special job. He would help the people find God. Zechariah didn't believe it was possible for them to have a son now that they were old. The angel said "God has sent me to give this good news. But because you didn't believe God's message, you will not be able to speak until the child is born." Elizabeth became pregnant and she thanked God.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Zechariah was afraid when he saw the angel. Tell about a time when you were afraid.
2. The angel gave good news to Zechariah. Tell about a time when you received good news.
3. The angel said that John would give his parents joy. Who are some people that give you joy?
4. Sometimes children disobey their parents. In what ways have you disobeyed your parents?
5. When Elizabeth got pregnant , she was happy and thanked God. What is something God has done for you?

Lesson 3

Bible Passage: Luke 1:26-38 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



²⁶ In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. ²⁷ He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary.



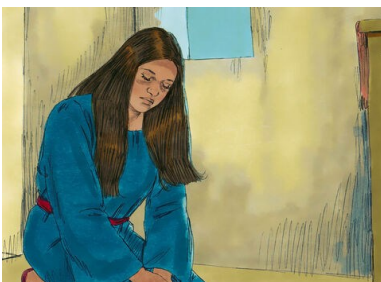
²⁸ The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

²⁹ Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. ³¹ You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. ³³ The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."



³⁴ "How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. "I am a virgin."

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. ³⁷ That's because what God says will always come true."



³⁸ "I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would." Then the angel left her.

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ virgin	A. a child, grandchild, great grandchild etc.
___ family line	B. people descended from the same ancestor
___ holy	C. a woman who has never had sexual relations
___ descendant	D. perfect, above anyone else

Summary

Mary was a virgin who was engaged to Joseph. Joseph was a descendant of King David. David had been an important king in Israel many years earlier. God had promised him that one of his descendants was going to be king forever. An angel appeared to Mary and said that she would have a son and name him Jesus. She would get pregnant by the power of God, not by a man. Her baby was going to be holy, the Son of God, and King forever. Nothing is too hard for God. Mary believed the angel and was willing to be the mother of Jesus.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Joseph was a descendant of king David. Do you know anything about your ancestors?
2. Mary found favor with God. This means that God was happy with her. What kind of people do you think find favor with God?
3. God did a miracle by causing Elizabeth and Mary to become pregnant. Do you think God can do miracles? Have you ever seen a miracle?
4. What was the difference between Mary's response to the angel's message and Zechariah's response? How do you think you would have responded?

Lesson 4

Bible Passage: Luke 1:39-56 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in Judea's hill country. ⁴⁰ There she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby inside her jumped. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she called out, "God has blessed you more than other women. And blessed is the child you will have! ⁴³ But why is God so kind to me? Why has the mother of my Lord come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as I heard the sound of your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ You are a woman God has blessed. You have believed that the Lord would keep his promises to you!"



⁴⁶ Mary said,

"My soul gives glory to the Lord.

⁴⁷ My spirit delights in God my Savior.

⁴⁸ He has taken note of me

even though I am not considered important.

From now on all people will call me blessed.

⁴⁹ The Mighty One has done great things for me.

His name is holy.

⁵⁰ He shows his mercy to those who have respect for him, from parent to child down through the years.

⁵¹ He has done mighty things with his powerful arm.

He has scattered those who are proud in their deepest thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

But he has lifted up people who are not considered important.

⁵³ He has filled with good things those who are hungry.

But he has sent away empty those who are rich.

⁵⁴ He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him.

He has always remembered to be kind

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his children down through the years.

He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago."



⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months. Then she returned home.

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ blessed	A. forgive someone who deserves to be punished
___ show mercy	B. spread out
___ give glory to	C. think too highly of themselves and don't think they need God
___ scatter	D. praise and adore
___ proud	E. have received good things from God

Summary

Mary went to visit Elizabeth. Elizabeth was so happy to see her that the baby within her jumped for joy. She said that Mary was blessed because she was the mother of her Lord and because she believed what God had said. Mary praised God because he had done great things for her. God was fulfilling the promise he made to their ancestor Abraham. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months.

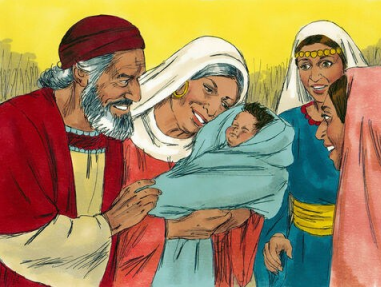
Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Elizabeth was so happy to see Mary. Have you ever been very happy to see someone?
2. Mary was blessed. In what ways do you feel God has blessed you?
3. Mary said that God does good things for humble people. What does it mean to be humble, and what does it mean to be proud?
4. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. What do you think they did together and what did they talk about?

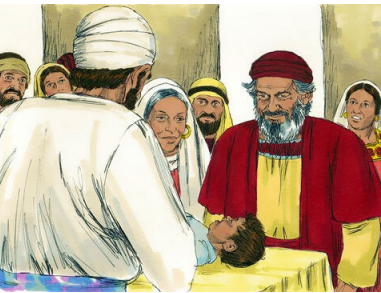
Lesson 5

Bible Passage: Luke 1:57-70, 76-80 NIRV

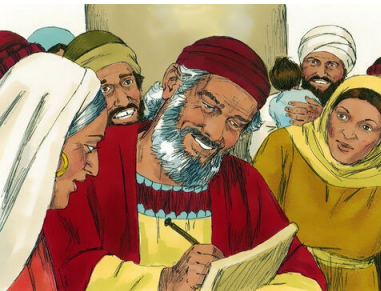
Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



⁵⁷ The time came for Elizabeth to have her baby. She gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very kind to her. They shared her joy.



⁵⁹ On the eighth day, they came to have the child circumcised. They were going to name him Zechariah, like his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother spoke up. "No!" she said. "He must be called John." ⁶¹ They said to her, "No one among your relatives has that name." ⁶² Then they motioned to his father. They wanted to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³ He asked for something to write on. Then he wrote, "His name is John." Everyone was amazed. ⁶⁴ Right away Zechariah could speak again. Right away he praised God. ⁶⁵ All his neighbors were filled with fear and wonder. Throughout Judea's hill country, people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it. And because the Lord was with John, they asked, "What is this child going to be?"



⁶⁷ John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit. He prophesied,

⁶⁸ "Give praise to the Lord, the God of Israel! He has come to his people and purchased their freedom.

⁶⁹ He has acted with great power and has saved us.

He did it for those who are from the family line of his servant David.

⁷⁰ Long ago holy prophets said he would do it.



⁷⁶ "And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God.

You will go ahead of the Lord to prepare the way for him.

⁷⁷ You will tell his people how they can be saved.

You will tell them that their sins can be forgiven.

⁷⁸ All of that will happen because our God is tender and caring. His kindness will bring the rising sun to us from heaven.

⁷⁹ It will shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.

It will guide our feet on the path of peace."



⁸⁰ The child grew up, and his spirit became strong. He lived in the desert until he appeared openly to Israel.

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ circumcision	A. move hands to communicate
___ motion	B. say what God has revealed
___ prophesy	C. a physical sign on a male that he belonged to God
___ wonder	D. pay for something
___ purchase	E. amazement

Summary

Elizabeth's son was born. When he was eight days old, people were gathered for a ceremony. They wanted to name him after his father, but Zechariah wrote that his name would be John. Right then Zechariah could speak again just like the angel had said. People could see that God was with John.

Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave thanks to God for sending a Savior just as he had promised. He said that John would prepare the people for the Lord and tell them how to find salvation and forgiveness of sin.

John grew up. He lived in the desert until he started his public ministry.

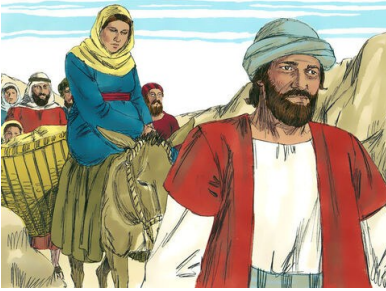
Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. In your culture, do you have a ceremony when you name a baby?
2. How do people choose names for their babies?
3. What are some things Zechariah said about his son?
4. What are some wishes you have for your children?
5. Do you think that God has a special purpose for our lives?

Lesson 6

Bible Passage Luke 2:1-12 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. ²It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³Everyone went to their own town to be listed.



⁴So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. ⁵He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. ⁶While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. ⁷She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.



⁸There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."



Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ Caesar	A. the promised Savior
___ census	B. very afraid
___ manger	C. emperor, a sovereign ruler with great power
___ Messiah	D. an official count or survey of a population
___ glory	E. a long, open box for animals to eat from
___ terrified	F. light, brightness

Summary

The Roman emperor was taking a census for all the people in his empire. Joseph and Mary had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. When they got there, there was no guest room available. They stayed in a stable where Mary gave birth to her son.

An angel from God appeared to shepherds in the field nearby. The angel announced that the Savior, the Messiah was born in Bethlehem. They would recognize him by finding a baby in a manger.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Have you ever taken part in a census? In what ways is a census being done now?
2. How do you think it was for Mary to travel just before her baby was to be born?
3. How do you think Joseph and Mary felt when they couldn't find a place to stay? How would you have felt?
4. What was the message the angel brought to the shepherds? Why do you think God sent the message to poor shepherds and not to rich and influential people?

Lesson 7

Bible Passage Luke 2:13-24 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

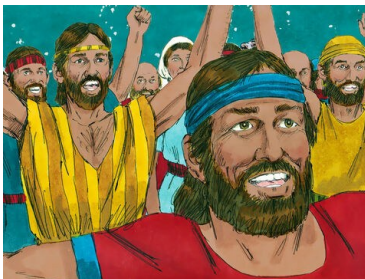


¹³ Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said,

¹⁴ "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!
And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"



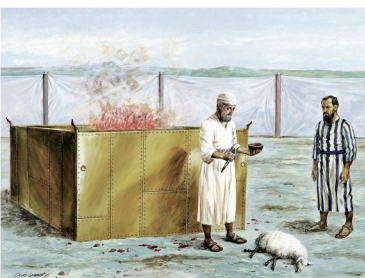
¹⁵ The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."



¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. ²⁰ The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.



²¹ When the child was eight days old, he was circumcised. At the same time he was named Jesus. This was the name the angel had given him before his mother became pregnant.

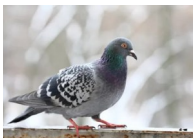


²² The time came for making Mary "clean" as required by the Law of Moses. So Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem. There they presented him to the Lord. ²³ In the Law of the Lord it says, "The first boy born in every family must be set apart for the Lord." ²⁴ They also offered a sacrifice. They did it in keeping with the Law, which says, "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ pleased with	A. something very valuable
___ treasure	B. given or dedicated to
___ dove	C. happy with
___ pigeon	D. kill an animal and offer it to God for the forgiveness of sins or to express devotion or thanksgiving
___ set apart for	E. 
___ sacrifice	F. 

Summary

The shepherds saw the sky filled with angels who were praising God. The shepherds went to the village and found Mary, Joseph and the baby. The shepherds told everyone what had happened, and they praised God. When the baby was eight days old, he was given the name Jesus, the name the angel had told Mary. Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord and to offer a sacrifice to the Lord as the law required.

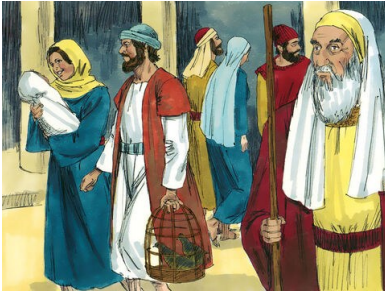
Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. The sky was filled with angels who were worshipping God. What do you think you would have felt if you were there?
2. The angel had said that this baby would be a king. Why do you think God allowed him to be put in a box that animals eat from?
3. The law of Moses required the people to follow certain rituals after a baby was born. Does your culture have any such rules?

Lesson 8

Bible Passage Luke 2:25-38 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



²⁵ In Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was a good and godly man. He was waiting for God's promise to Israel to come true. The Holy Spirit was with him. ²⁶ The Spirit had told Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ The Spirit led him into the temple courtyard. Then Jesus' parents brought the child in. They came to do for him what the Law required. ²⁸ Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,



²⁹ "Lord, you are the King over all.
Now let me, your servant, go in peace.
That is what you promised.

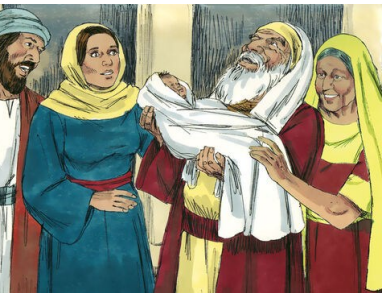
³⁰ My eyes have seen your salvation.

³¹ You have prepared it in the sight of all nations.

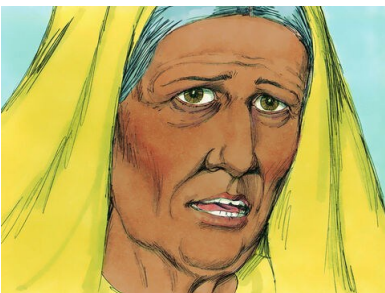
³² It is a light to be given to the Gentiles.
It will be the glory of your people Israel."



³³ The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them. He said to Mary, Jesus' mother, "This child is going to cause many people in Israel to fall and to rise. God has sent him. But many will speak against him. ³⁵ The thoughts of many hearts will be known. A sword will wound your own soul too."



³⁶ There was also a prophet named Anna. She was the daughter of Penuel from the tribe of Asher. Anna was very old. After getting married, she lived with her husband seven years. ³⁷ Then she was a widow until she was 84. She never left the temple. She worshiped night and day, praying and going without food. ³⁸ Anna came up to Jesus' family at that moment. She gave thanks to God. And she spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the time when Jerusalem would be set free.



Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ Gentiles	A. give an injury
___ to wound	B. the nations of the world
___ widow	C. a woman whose husband has died

Summary

Joseph and Mary were in the temple to present baby Jesus to God. A man named Simeon met them. Simeon was waiting for the Messiah to come. God had told him that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. God's Spirit led Simeon to the temple. He took baby Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said that now he could die because he had seen the Lord's salvation. He said Jesus would reveal God to the nations and to Israel. He said that many would speak against him and cause grief to Mary. There was also a prophet named Anna that came to them in the temple. She praised God and talked about the child to many.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Simeon had waited for the Messiah his whole life. What is something you have been waiting for?
2. What do you think it means that a sword would wound Mary's soul? How do you feel when something bad happens to your children?
3. Anna was a widow. How did she spend her time? What are some struggles that widows have?

Lesson 9

Bible Passage Luke 2:39-52 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



³⁹ Joseph and Mary did everything the Law of the Lord required. Then they returned to Galilee. They went to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong. He was very wise. He was blessed by God's grace.



⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. ⁴² When Jesus was 12 years old, they went up to the feast as usual. ⁴³ After the feast was over, his parents left to go back home. The boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But they were not aware of it. ⁴⁴ They thought he was somewhere in their group. So they traveled on for a day. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ They did not find him. So they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courtyard. He was sitting with the teachers. He was listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at how much he understood. They also were amazed at his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were amazed. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been worried about you. We have been looking for you everywhere."⁴⁹ "Why were you looking for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house."⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he meant by that.



⁵¹ Then he went back to Nazareth with them, and he obeyed them. But his mother kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. ⁵² Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people.

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ be aware of	A. an area without a roof that is completely or mostly enclosed by the walls of a large building
___ courtyard	B. something very valuable
___ treasure	C. notice

Summary

Joseph and Mary settled in the town of Nazaeth where Jesus grew up. Every year the family went to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. When Jesus was 12 years old, they went to the celebration like normal. When they left to go back home, the parents couldn't find Jesus. They looked for him for three days. The parents finally found Jesus in the temple. He was talking to the religious leaders. Jesus told his parents that he had to be in his Father's house. Then Jesus went home with his parents and he obeyed them.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Jesus' parents went to celebrate the Passover festival. What are some celebrations that you have in your culture?
2. How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they couldn't find Jesus? Have you experienced anything similar?
3. Do you think Jesus did the right thing or the wrong thing when he stayed back in the temple?

Lesson 10

Bible Passage Luke 3:1-11 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



Tiberius Caesar had been ruling for 15 years. Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea. Herod was the ruler of Galilee. His brother Philip was the ruler of Iturea and Traconitis. Lysanias was ruler of Abilene. ² Annas and Caiaphas were high priests.



At that time God's word came to John, son of Zechariah, in the desert. ³ He went into all the countryside around the Jordan River. There he preached that people should be baptized and turn away from their sins. Then God would forgive them. ⁴ Here is what is written in the book of Isaiah the prophet. It says,

"A messenger is calling out in the desert,
'Prepare the way for the Lord.
Make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley will be filled in.
Every mountain and hill will be made level.
The crooked roads will become straight.
The rough ways will become smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God's salvation.' " ([Isaiah 40:3-5](#))



⁷ John spoke to the crowds coming to be baptized by him. He said, "You are like a nest of poisonous snakes! Who warned you to escape the coming of God's anger? ⁸ Live in a way that shows you have turned away from your sins. And don't start saying to yourselves, 'Abraham is our father.' I tell you, God can raise up children for Abraham even from these stones. ⁹ The ax is already lying at the roots of the trees. All the trees that don't produce good fruit will be cut down. They will be thrown into the fire."



¹⁰ "Then what should we do?" the crowd asked.

¹¹ John answered, "Anyone who has extra clothes should share with the one who has none. And anyone who has extra food should do the same."



Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ rough	A. dip a person under water to show that they have left the old life and started a new life
___ smooth	B. what people do, say or think that is against God's perfect standard
___ repent	C. having an uneven or irregular surface
___ sin	D. admit your sin and turn away from it and turn to God
___ baptize	E. having an even and regular surface

Summary

John lived in the desert. A message from God came to him. John went around and gave God's message to the people. He told them to repent of their sins and turn to God for forgiveness. They were to get baptized to show that they had repented. The prophet Isaiah, who lived 700 years earlier, had said that John would prepare the people for God's salvation. The Jewish people thought God would accept them because they were his special people. But John said that if they didn't repent of their sin, God would judge them. The proof that people had repented was that they would do good things for other people.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. A fairytale (a made up story) often starts with "once upon a time". How does the story of John start? Why do you think it lists all the rulers?
2. How did people respond to John's message? Do you think everyone liked him?
3. Have you ever said something true to a person even though you knew he or she wouldn't like it?

Lesson 11

Bible Passage: Luke 3:12-23 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

¹³ "Don't collect any more than you are required to," John told them.

¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"

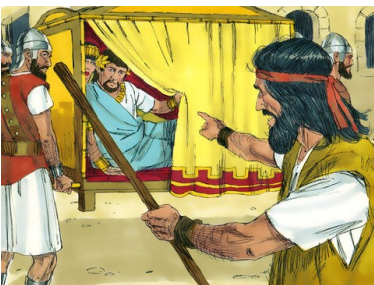
John replied, "Don't force people to give you money. Don't bring false charges against people. Be happy with your pay."



¹⁵ The people were waiting. They were expecting something. They were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Messiah. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I am will come. I'm not good enough to untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His pitchfork is in his hand to toss the straw away from his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn. But he will burn up the husks with fire that can't be put out." ¹⁸ John said many other things to warn the people. He also announced the good news to them.



¹⁹ But John found fault with Herod, the ruler of Galilee, because of his marriage to Herodias. She was the wife of Herod's brother. John also spoke strongly to Herod about all the other evil things he had done. ²⁰ So Herod locked John up in prison. Herod added this sin to all his others.



²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened.

²² The Holy Spirit came to rest on him in the form of a dove. A voice came from heaven. It said, "You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you."



²³ Jesus was about 30 years old when he began his special work for God and others. It was thought that he was the son of Joseph.

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ collect	A. a tool used to separate the wheat from the husk
___ false charges	B. bring or gather, go around and take money from people
___ threshing floor	C. 
___ pitchfork	D. untruthfully say in court that someone has done wrong
___ wheat and husk	E. a place where the wheat and husk were separated

Summary

John told people that they should do what is right and good. People asked John if he was the Messiah, but he told them that he was not. He said the Messiah is much greater than him and that he would separate the people who do what is right from the people who do what is wrong. He would punish people who do wrong. John even told the ruler, Herod, that it was not right for him to marry his brother's wife. Herod later put John in prison.

One day Jesus came to John to be baptized. The Holy Spirit came down on him in the form of a dove. A voice spoke from heaven saying that Jesus was God's son. This was the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Do you know of anyone who has been falsely charged?
2. John said that those who do wrong will be punished. How are people being punished in America? Do you think it is right to punish those who do wrong?
3. Why do you think Jesus got baptized? Did he need to repent?

Lesson 12

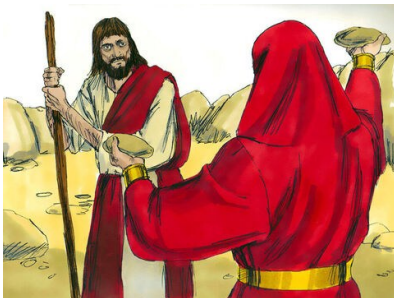
Bible Passage Luke 4:1-13 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan River. The Spirit led him into the desert. ²There the devil tempted him for 40 days. Jesus ate nothing during that time. At the end of the 40 days, he was hungry.

³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."



⁴Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Man must not live only on bread.' " ([Deuteronomy 8:3](#))

⁵Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place. In an instant, he showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶He said to Jesus, "I will give you all their authority and glory. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷If you worship me, it will all be yours."



⁸Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.' " ([Deuteronomy 6:13](#))

⁹Then the devil led Jesus to Jerusalem. He had Jesus stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰It is written,



" 'The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you.

¹¹ They will lift you up in their hands.

Then you won't trip over a stone.' " ([Psalm 91:11,12](#))



¹² Jesus answered, "Scripture says, 'Do not test the Lord your God.' " ([Deuteronomy 6:16](#))

¹³ When the devil finished all this tempting, he left Jesus until a better time.

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ desert	A. Satan, the evil one
___ devil	B. in a very short time
___ tempt	C. a dry place where no one lives
___ in an instant	D. stumble, fall or almost fall
___ trip	E. trying to get someone to do something, entice

Summary

The Spirit of God led Jesus into the desert where the devil came to tempt him. The devil tried to get Jesus to follow him and to sin against God. Jesus fasted for 40 days. The devil tried to get Jesus to make a stone become bread. Then he tried to get Jesus to fall down and worship him. Lastly, the devil tried to get Jesus to fall down from the roof of the temple to see if God would protect him. Jesus did not do what the devil wanted him to do. He used the Scriptures to answer the devil. Then the devil left Jesus.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Have you ever fasted? How do you feel when you get very hungry?
2. Some people are tempted to eat too much or drive too fast. What are some other temptations that many people face?
3. What can happen when people give in to temptation?
4. What did Jesus do when he was tempted?

Lesson 13

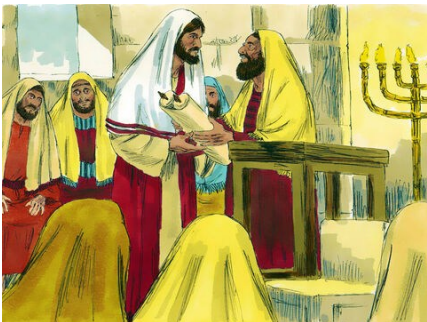
Bible Passage Luke 4:14-23 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Holy Spirit. News about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. On the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue as he usually did. He stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. Jesus unrolled it and found the right place. There it is written,



¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me.

He has anointed me

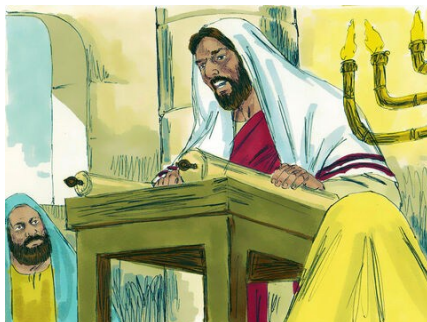
to announce the good news to poor people.

He has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners.

He has sent me so that the blind will see again.

He wants me to set free those who are treated badly.

¹⁹ And he has sent me to announce the year when he will set his people free." ([Isaiah 61:1,2](#))



²⁰ Then Jesus rolled up the scroll. He gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were staring at him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this passage of Scripture is coming true as you listen."

²² Everyone said good things about him. They were amazed at the gracious words they heard from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ synagogue	A. kind and compassionate
___ anointed	B. for sure
___ gracious	C. chosen by God
___ certainly	D. a place where Jews gathered to read the Scriptures and teach people about God

Summary

Jesus went to his hometown, Nazareth. He read from the prophet Isaiah. He said that he is the one who fulfilled this prophesy. He is chosen by God and his Spirit is on him. He brings good news to people. He will set them free and help them see clearly. People were surprised at what he said because they knew him as a child.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Jesus went back to his hometown. After moving away, have you returned to your hometown? How was it?
2. Do you think Jesus was talking about physical freedom and blindness or something else?
3. In what ways can people be in bondage to things, like addictions etc.?
4. Have you known someone as a child and were surprised when you saw him or her as an adult?

Lesson 14

Bible Passage Luke 4:24-30 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



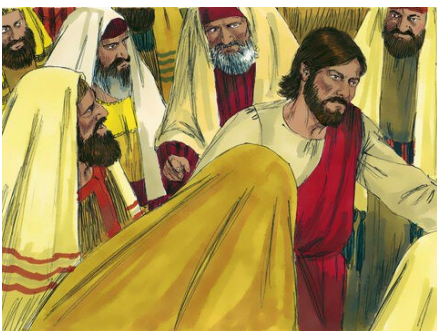
²³ Jesus said, "Here is a saying you will certainly apply to me. 'Doctor, heal yourself!' And you will tell me this. 'Do the things here in your hometown that we heard you did in Capernaum.' "



²⁴ "What I'm about to tell you is true," he continued. "A prophet is not accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I tell you for sure that there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah. And there had been no rain for three and a half years. There wasn't enough food to eat anywhere in the land. ²⁶ But Elijah was not sent to any of those widows. Instead, he was sent to a widow in Zarephath near Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel who had skin diseases in the days of Elisha the prophet. But not one of them was healed except Naaman the Syrian."



²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were very angry when they heard that. ²⁹ They got up and ran Jesus out of town. They took him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They planned to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But Jesus walked right through the crowd and went on his way.



Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ certainly	A. the outside limit of an object
___ famine	B. a rock with a steep, vertical drop off
___ edge	C. no food, hunger
___ cliff	D. undoubtedly, definitely

Summary

The people in Jesus' hometown wanted Jesus to prove who he was and to do miracles in their town. He said that he knew he wouldn't be accepted among them, and that they wouldn't believe him. He told a story about a prophet who was sent by God to help a widow who was not in Israel and also about a prophet who was sent to heal a man who was not an Israelite. He said this to show that God cares for the whole world. The people thought they were more special than people from other countries. When Jesus said this, the people got angry and tried to kill him.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Why do you think Jesus didn't want to do a miracle in his hometown?
2. Why did the people get so angry?
3. What are some things that make you angry?
4. What are some things people do when they are angry?

Lesson 15

Bible Passage Luke 4:31-44 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



³¹ Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee. On the Sabbath day he taught the people. ³² They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.

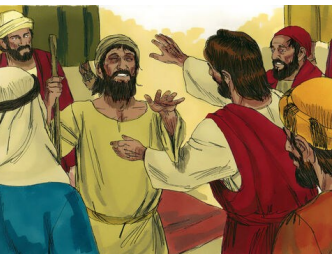


³³ In the synagogue there was a man controlled by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice. ³⁴ "Go away!" he said. "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the Holy One of God!"

³⁵ "Be quiet!" Jesus said firmly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down in front of everybody. And it came out without hurting him.

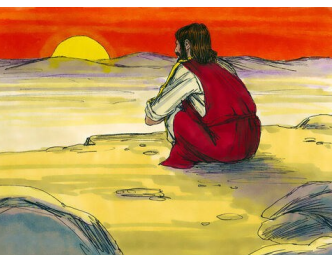


³⁶ All the people were amazed. They said to each other, "What he says is amazing! With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits. And they come out!" ³⁷ The news about Jesus spread throughout the whole area.



³⁸ Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. At that time, Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever. So they asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹ He bent over her and commanded the fever to leave, and it left her. She got up right away and began to serve them.

⁴⁰ At sunset, people brought to Jesus all who were sick. He placed his hands on each one and healed them. ⁴¹ Also, demons came out of many people. The demons shouted, "You are the Son of God!" But he commanded them to be quiet. He would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.



⁴² At dawn, Jesus went out to a place where he could be by himself. The people went to look for him. When they found him, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³ But he said, "I must announce the good news of God's kingdom to the other towns also. That is why I was sent." ⁴⁴ And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ Sabbath day	A. something is so good that it surprises you
___ amazing	B. the power or right to give orders and make decisions
___ authority	C. early in the morning when the sun rises
___ dawn	D. the Jewish day of rest

Summary

Jesus taught the people with authority. He cast evil spirits out from people. The evil spirits knew who Jesus was. People were amazed and spread the news about him. He healed a woman with a high fever. Many people came to him. He healed them and cast out evil spirits. Jesus went somewhere else to be by himself. He wanted to go to other towns to tell them about the kingdom of God.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. How do you know when someone speaks with authority on a subject?
2. The people were amazed at what Jesus did. Tell about something amazing that you have seen.
3. Many sick people came to Jesus to be healed. What do you do when you are sick?
4. Jesus went to be by himself. What do you think he did? Do you sometimes want to be by yourself? What do you like to do when you are by yourself?

Lesson 16

Bible Passage Luke 5:1-11 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



One day Jesus was standing by the Sea of Galilee. The people crowded around him and listened to the word of God.² Jesus saw two boats at the edge of the water. They had been left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.³ He got into the boat that belonged to Simon. Jesus asked him to go out a little way from shore. Then he sat down in the boat and taught the people.

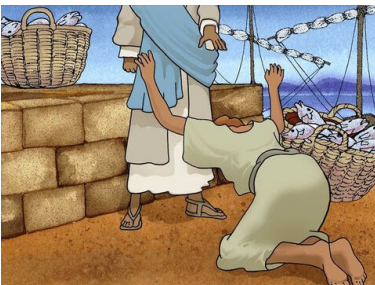


⁴ When he finished speaking, he turned to Simon. Jesus said, "Go out into deep water. Let down the nets so you can catch some fish."



⁵ 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."

⁶ When they had done so, they caught a large number of fish. There were so many that their nets began to break.⁷ So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.



⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees. "Go away from me, Lord!" he said. "I am a sinful man!"⁹ He and everyone with him were amazed at the number of fish they had caught.¹⁰ So were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who worked with Simon.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will fish for people."¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore. Then they left everything and followed him.



Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ edge	A. thinking, saying and doing things that fall short of God's perfect standard
___ motion	B. the land along the edge of a lake or the sea
___ sinful	C. communicate with the hands
___ shore	D. the outside limit of an object

Summary

Many people gathered to hear Jesus teach by the lake. He got in a boat and taught them. Simon had been fishing all night without getting any fish. Jesus told him to go out into the deep water. Simon obeyed, and they got a large amount of fish. Jesus did a miracle. Simon was convicted of his sinfulness. Jesus asked Simon, James and John to follow him. They left everything and followed Jesus.

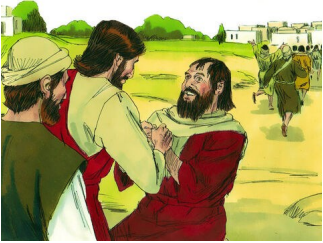
Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Some of Jesus' followers were fishermen. What do you think it is like to fish for a living?
2. Jesus did a miracle with the fish. Do you think miracles can happen now?
3. When Simon saw what Jesus did, he left everything and followed him. What are some big decisions you have made in your life? How did you make those decisions?

Lesson 17

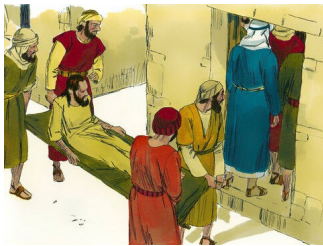
Bible Passage Luke 5:12-26 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



¹² While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along. He had a skin disease all over his body. When he saw Jesus, the man fell with his face to the ground. He begged him, "Lord, if you are willing to make me 'clean,' you can do it."

¹³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing to do it," he said. "Be 'clean!'" Right away the disease left him.

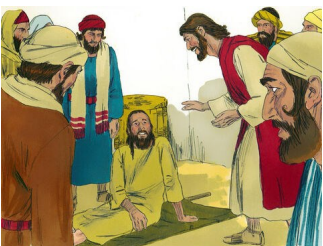


¹⁴ Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone. Go and show yourself to the priest. Offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded. It will be a witness to the priest and the people that you are 'clean.' "

¹⁵ But the news about Jesus spread even more. So crowds of people came to hear him. They also came to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But Jesus often went away to be by himself and pray.



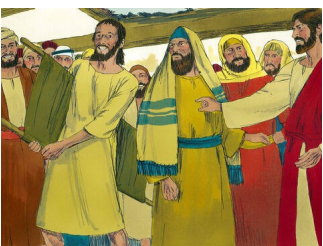
¹⁷ One day Jesus was teaching. Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. They heard that the Lord had given Jesus the power to heal the sick. ¹⁸ So some men came carrying a man who could not walk. He was lying on a mat. They tried to take him into the house to place him in front of Jesus. ¹⁹ They could not find a way to do this because of the crowd. So they went up on the roof. Then they lowered the man on his mat through the opening in the roof tiles. They lowered him into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.



²⁰ When Jesus saw that they had faith, he spoke to the man. He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

²¹ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to think, "Who is this fellow who says such an evil thing? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

²² Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ²³ Is it easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven'? Or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he spoke to the man who could not walk. "I tell you," he said, "get up. Take your mat and go home. ²⁵ Right away, the man stood up in front of them. He took his mat and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with wonder. They said, "We have seen unusual things today."



Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ beg	A. a man or a boy
___ fellow	B. move something into a lower position
___ Pharisee	C. ask for a gift
___ lower	D. a Jewish religious leader

Summary

People with a skin disease were considered unclean and couldn't be with other people. One of these men came to Jesus, and Jesus healed him. Jesus instructed him to do what the law required, so he could be clean. Many people heard about Jesus and came to be healed. One day as Jesus was teaching in a house full of people, some men carried their friend on a stretcher. They couldn't get in the door, so they lowered him from the roof. Jesus said his sins were forgiven. The religious leaders were upset, because only God can forgive sin. Then, Jesus healed the man and proved to them that he was God. People were amazed and praised God.

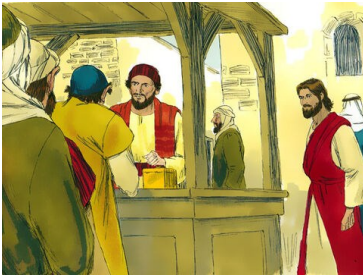
Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Are there any groups of people in your culture who are not accepted by most people? What about in America? What do you think about this?
2. The man that couldn't walk had some really good friends that carried him to Jesus. What are some characteristics of a good friend?
3. The religious leaders always tried to find something to criticize Jesus for. What do you think about this? What do you think about people who criticize others?

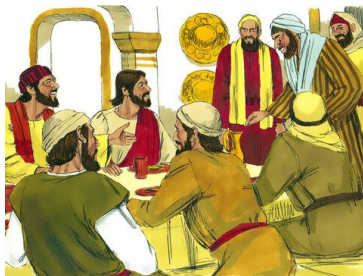
Lesson 18

Bible Passage Luke 5:27-39 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

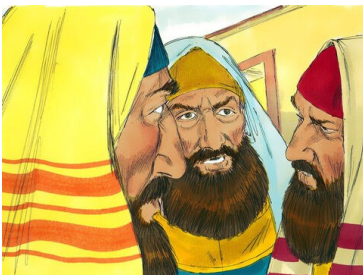


²⁷ After this, Jesus left the house. He saw a tax collector sitting at the tax booth. The man's name was Levi. "Follow me," Jesus said to him. ²⁸ Levi got up, left everything and followed him.



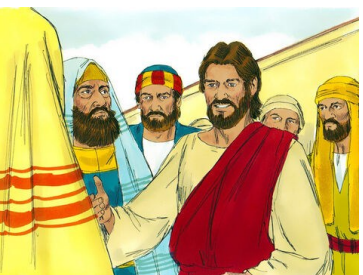
²⁹ Then Levi gave a huge banquet for Jesus at his house. A large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and their teachers of the law complained to Jesus' disciples. They said, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

³¹ Jesus answered them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor. Sick people do. ³² I have not come to get those who think they are right with God to follow me. I have come to get sinners to turn away from their sins."



³³ Some of the people who were there said to Jesus, "John's disciples often pray and go without eating. So do the disciples of the Pharisees. But yours go on eating and drinking."

³⁴ Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the groom fast while he is with them? ³⁵ But the time will come when the groom will be taken away from them. In those days they will go without eating."



³⁶ Then Jesus gave them an example. He said, "No one tears a piece out of new clothes to patch old clothes. Otherwise, they will tear the new clothes. Also, the patch from the new clothes will not match the old clothes. ³⁷ No one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins. The wine will run out, and the wineskins will be destroyed. ³⁸ No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. ³⁹ After drinking old wine, no one wants the new. They say, 'The old wine is better.' "

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ tax collector	A. suddenly break apart
___ banquet	B. a piece of cloth used to fix something that is torn
___ fast	C. a person who takes tax money from people
___ patch	D. a nice and formal meal for many people
___ burst	E. not to eat for a certain time

Summary

Jesus asked a tax collector, named Levi, to follow him. (Tax collectors worked for the Roman government. They sometimes collected too much money and kept some for themselves. The Jews felt the tax collectors betrayed their people. That is why they didn't like the tax collectors.) Levi left everything and followed Jesus. Then Levi held a banquet for Jesus and his friends. The religious leaders criticized Jesus for eating with bad people. Jesus said he came for those who realize they need to be saved from their sins. Then the leaders criticized Jesus and his followers for not fasting. Jesus said they will not fast but rather celebrate now that he is with them. He used an illustration to show that some of the old laws are not important any more.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. These days we don't have tax collectors, but we need to pay taxes to the IRS. Why do we pay taxes?
2. The tax collectors were considered bad people. How did Jesus treat them?
3. Do you sometimes fast? What are the reasons why some people fast?

Lesson 19

Bible Passage Luke 6:1-11 NIRV

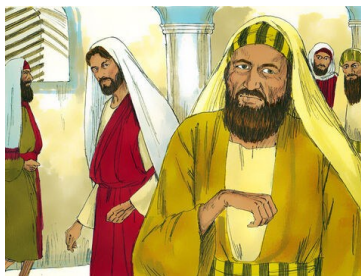
Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



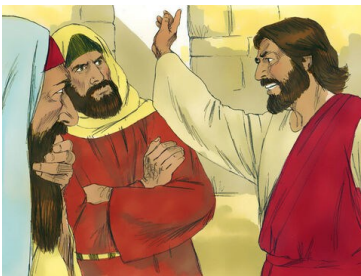
¹ One Sabbath day Jesus was walking through the grainfields. His disciples began to break off some heads of grain. They rubbed them in their hands and ate them. ² Some of the Pharisees said, "It is against the Law to do this on the Sabbath day. Why are you doing it?"



³ Jesus answered them, "Haven't you ever read about what David did? He and his men were hungry. ⁴ He entered the house of God and took the holy bread. He ate the bread that only priests were allowed to eat. David also gave some to his men." ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath day."

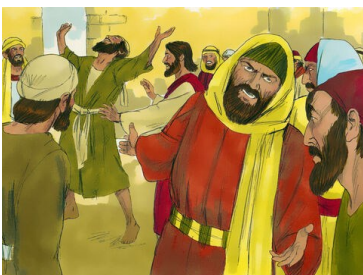


⁶ On another Sabbath day, Jesus went into the synagogue and was teaching. A man whose right hand was weak and twisted was there. ⁷ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were trying to find fault with Jesus. So they watched him closely. They wanted to see if he would heal on the Sabbath day. ⁸ But Jesus knew what they were thinking. He spoke to the man who had the weak and twisted hand. "Get up and stand in front of everyone," he said. So the man got up and stood there.



⁹ Then Jesus said to them, "What does the Law say we should do on the Sabbath day? Should we do good? Or should we do evil? Should we save life? Or should we destroy it?"

¹⁰ He looked around at all of them. Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did, and his hand had been made as good as new. ¹¹ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were very angry. They began to talk to one another about what they might do to Jesus.



Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ head of grain	A. turned around on itself so that the original shape is lost
___ rub	B. a name of Jesus, signifying that he was both God and man
___ The Son of Man	C. the top, seed-bearing part of a grain plant
___ twisted	E. to move your hand, a cloth, etc., backwards and forwards over a surface while pressing it

Summary

Jesus' disciples walked through a grainfield on the Sabbath. They ate some of the grain. The Pharisees criticized them because their law said that it was not allowed to do this on the Sabbath. Jesus told them that he has more authority than their law because he is God. On another Sabbath day Jesus healed a man's hand. Again, the Pharisees said that it is not allowed to work on the Sabbath. Jesus said that he has the authority to do good and save life on the Sabbath. The religious leaders were angry and talked about what they might do to Jesus.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. The Sabbath was the holy day of rest for the Jews. Do have any such rules that you follow?
2. Why were the religious leaders angry with Jesus?
3. Why did Jesus not follow the law?
4. Read the Bible verse below:

Jesus replied, " Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind. This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39

5. How did Jesus show that he followed this command?

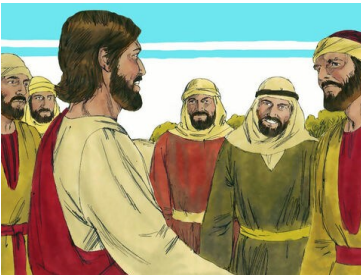
Lesson 20

Bible Passage Luke 6:12-26 NIRV

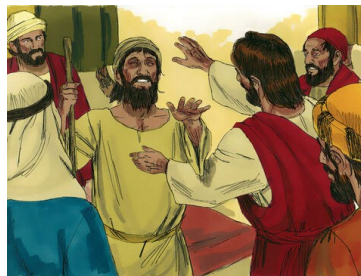
Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



¹² On one of those days, Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray. He spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called for his disciples to come to him. He chose 12 of them and made them apostles. Here are their names. ¹⁴ Simon, whom Jesus named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James, son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ Judas, son of James, and Judas Iscariot who would later hand Jesus over to his enemies.



¹⁷ Jesus went down the mountain with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there. A large number of other people were there too. They came from all over Judea, including Jerusalem. They also came from the coastland around Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had all come to hear Jesus and to be healed of their sicknesses. People who were troubled by evil spirits were made well. ¹⁹ Everyone tried to touch Jesus. Power was coming from him and healing them all.



²⁰ Jesus looked at his disciples. He said to them,

“Blessed are you who are needy. God’s kingdom belongs to you.

²¹ Blessed are you who are hungry now. You will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who are sad now. You will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when people hate you, when they have nothing to do with you and say bad things about you, and when they treat your name as something evil.

They do all this because you are followers of the Son of Man.

²³ “The prophets of long ago were treated the same way. When these things happen to you, be glad and jump for joy. You will receive many blessings in heaven.

²⁴ “But how terrible it will be for you who are rich! You have already had your easy life.

²⁵ How terrible for you who are well fed now! You will go hungry. How terrible for you who laugh now! You will cry and be sad.

²⁶ How terrible for you when everyone says good things about you! Their people treated the false prophets the same way long ago.

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ apostles	A. a person who is fanatically devoted to a cause, ideal, or religion
___ zealot	B. a messenger, referring to the 12 disciples
___ coastland	C. a person who delivered God's message to people
___ prophet	D. the land area bordering the sea or the ocean

Summary

Jesus prayed to God all night. In the morning he chose his 12 followers. Many people came to hear Jesus speak. They were healed from their sicknesses and people who were troubled by evil spirits were made well.

Jesus spoke to his disciples. He said that those who are needy, hungry and sad are blessed. He meant that when people see their need for Jesus and don't have everything they want, Jesus will satisfy them. When followers of Jesus are treated badly, they should be happy because they will receive blessings in heaven. But those who are rich and popular will be sad later because they didn't see their need for Jesus.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. How did Jesus decide who should be his 12 followers?
2. How do you make important decisions?
3. What do you think Jesus meant when he said that those who are needy, hungry and sad are blessed?
4. Why do you think some people are treated badly because of their religion?

Lesson 21

Bible Passage Luke 6:27-36 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



²⁷ "But here is what I tell you who are listening. Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who call down curses on you. And pray for those who treat you badly. ²⁹ Suppose someone slaps you on one cheek. Let them slap you on the other cheek as well. Suppose someone takes your coat. Don't stop them from taking your shirt as well. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you. And if anyone takes what belongs to you, don't ask to get it back. ³¹ Do to others as you want them to do to you.

³² "Suppose you love those who love you. Should anyone praise you for that? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And suppose you do good to those who are good to you. Should anyone praise you for that? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And suppose you lend money to those who can pay you back. Should anyone praise you for that? Even a sinner lends to sinners, expecting them to pay everything back. ³⁵ But love your enemies. Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then you will receive a lot in return. And you will be children of the Most High God. He is kind to people who are evil and are not thankful. ³⁶ So have mercy, just as your Father has mercy.

Summary

Jesus told his followers to love their enemies and to do good to those who treat them badly. Then they are followers of God and will get rewarded. God is kind to evil and unthankful people.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Read Matthew 5:45

Then you will be children of your Father who is in heaven. He causes his sun to shine on evil people and good people. He sends rain on those who do right and those who don't.

2. How does God show his kindness to evil people?
3. Do you think it is a good rule to do good to those who treat you badly?
Why or why not?
4. Do you think there are some people who always deserve God's kindness?

Lesson 22

Bible Passage Luke 6:37-49 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



³⁷ "If you do not judge other people, then you will not be judged. If you do not find others guilty, then you will not be found guilty. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good amount will be poured into your lap. It will be pressed down, shaken together, and running over. The same amount you give will be measured out to you."



³⁹ Jesus also gave them another example. He asked, "Can a blind person lead another blind person? Won't they both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ The student is not better than the teacher. But everyone who is completely trained will be like their teacher."



⁴¹ "You look at the bit of sawdust in your friend's eye. But you pay no attention to the piece of wood in your own eye. ⁴² How can you say to your friend, 'Let me take the bit of sawdust out of your eye'? How can you say this while there is a piece of wood in your own eye? You pretender! First take the piece of wood out of your own eye. Then you will be able to see clearly to take the bit of sawdust out of your friend's eye."



⁴³ "A good tree doesn't bear bad fruit. And a bad tree doesn't bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ You can tell each tree by the kind of fruit it bears. People do not pick figs from thorns. And they don't pick grapes from bushes. ⁴⁵ A good man says good things. These come from the good that is stored up in his heart. An evil man says evil things. These come from the evil that is stored up in his heart. A person's mouth says everything that is in their heart."



⁴⁶ "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and still don't do what I say? ⁴⁷ Some people come and listen to me and do what I say. I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸ They are like a man who builds a house. He digs down deep and sets it on solid rock. When a flood comes, the river rushes against the house. But the water can't shake it. The house is well built. ⁴⁹ But here is what happens when people listen to my words and do not obey them. They are like a man who builds a house on soft ground instead of solid rock. The moment the river rushes against that house, it falls down. It is completely destroyed."

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ judge	A. to move or to do something with great speed
___ pit	B. to behave in a way that makes other people believe something that is not true
___ pretend	C. give your opinion about the value or quality of someone or something (here the meaning is to negatively condemn someone)
___ sawdust	D. a large deep hole in the ground
___ rush	E. very small pieces of wood that fall as powder when wood is cut with a saw

Summary

Jesus continues to talk to his disciples. He tells them not to judge others, but to forgive them. If they give to others, they will receive blessings. He tells them to not look for faults in others but rather look at their own faults and repent. Then they will be able to help and lead others. It is what is in our hearts that determine if we speak good or bad words. We need to not only listen to Jesus, but obey him. Then we will be able to function well in difficult times.

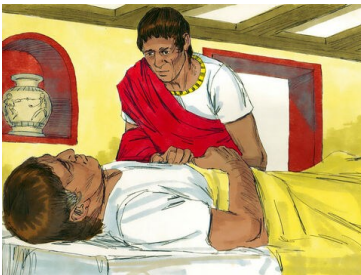
Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. Do you think it is true that we tend to see other people's faults and ignore our own faults?
2. What does Jesus say we need to do if we are to help and lead others well?
3. Jesus says that good words come from the good that is stored up in your heart. How can we store up good things in our hearts?
4. Jesus talks about listening and obeying. Are there things that you know you should do, but you don't do them?

Lesson 23

Bible Passage Luke 7:1-17 NIRV

Read the passage together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.



¹ Jesus finished saying all these things to the people who were listening. Then he entered Capernaum. ² There the servant of a Roman commander was sick and about to die. His master thought highly of him. ³ The commander heard about Jesus. So he sent some elders of the Jews to him. He told them to ask Jesus to come and heal his servant. ⁴ They came to Jesus and begged him, "This man deserves to have you do this. ⁵ He loves our nation and has built our synagogue." ⁶ So Jesus went with them.



When Jesus came near the house, the Roman commander sent friends to him. He told them to say, "Lord, don't trouble yourself. I am not good enough to have you come into my house. ⁷ That is why I did not even think I was fit to come to you. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ I myself am a man who is under authority. And I have soldiers who obey my orders. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes. I tell that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."



⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at the commander. Jesus turned to the crowd that was following him. He said, "I tell you, even in Israel I have not found anyone whose faith is so strong." ¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent to Jesus returned to the house. They found that the servant was healed.



¹¹ Some time later, Jesus went to a town called Nain. His disciples and a large crowd went along with him. ¹² He approached the town gate. Just then, a dead person was being carried out. He was the only son of his mother. She was a widow. A large crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, he felt sorry for her. So he said, "Don't cry."



¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the coffin. Those carrying it stood still. Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to talk. Then Jesus gave him back to his mother.

¹⁶ The people were all filled with wonder and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." ¹⁷ This news about Jesus spread all through Judea and the whole country.

Vocabulary

Discuss the words with your teacher and practice the pronunciation.

Match the words with their definitions.

___ commander	A. to ask for something in an anxious way because you want or need it very much
___ beg	B. a box in which a dead body is placed
___ amazed	C. an officer in charge of a particular group of soldiers
___ coffin	D. very surprised

Summary

A Roman commander sent servants to ask Jesus to heal his servant. The servant was about to die. The commander didn't want Jesus to go into his house because Jews and Romans couldn't visit each other. He asked Jesus to say a command and believed that his servant would be healed. Jesus said the commander had more faith than anyone in Israel. The servant was healed.

In another town, a man was carried out in a coffin. The mother was a widow. Jesus felt sorry for the mother and brought the man back to life. The people were amazed and praised God.

Talk about these questions in small groups.

1. What two miracles did Jesus do in this passage?
2. Jesus said the commander had great faith. What does it mean to have faith?
3. How did the commander demonstrate that he had faith?
4. Jesus felt sorry for the widow. He said, "Don't cry." Do you think Jesus cares about your troubles? How does that make you feel?