



girls **life** application[®]
STUDY BIBLE



New Living
Translation[®]
SECOND EDITION

Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.
Carol Stream, Illinois

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The Books of the Bible in Alphabetical Order

- | | |
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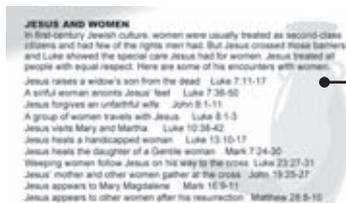
How to Use

Your Girls Life Application Study Bible

God's Word is meant for you. Whatever your life situation is right now, and whatever situations you may encounter in the future, God's Word is here to guide you, counsel you, encourage you, and help you through those circumstances. The features in this Bible are designed to help you connect God's Word with your life in a way that is meaningful, fresh, and fun! So get ready for the adventure that will last a lifetime. Here's what to look for in the Life Application Study Bible for you.



ISurvived! As you encounter new experiences, feelings, and situations, it helps to know that someone else has made it through those very same circumstances—and survived! Collected from older teens from across the country, these are their personal survival stories about how they made it through situations you may be facing right now or in the not-so-distant future.



Charts and Maps. Scattered throughout the Bible are special maps to help you locate key Bible places, as well as charts that help break down big ideas into bite-sized bits of information.

Why do I have to be so careful about what I say?



A small rudder makes a huge ship turn. . . . In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. **JAMES 3:4-5**

What Now? Ever wonder what to do when life gets sticky and you are faced with making difficult decisions? These notes will take you through a variety of real-life situations, pointing you to Scripture, so you can learn how to make good choices in tough times.



History Remix. Take a visual tour of what life was like in Bible times. See how home life, dress, customs, holidays, and other areas of daily life were different from today's. You'll find this fun, magazine-style section in the middle of the Bible.



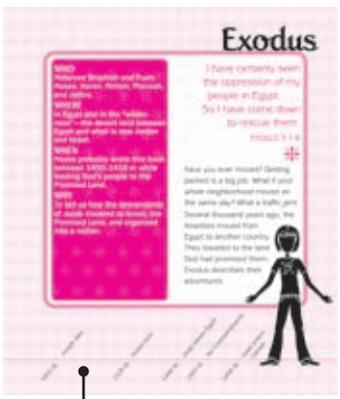
Is It OK? So, is it OK to think that church is boring? Is it OK not to like your life? What about getting a tattoo or dating? These notes are designed to give you a reality check on what the Bible has to say about questions that may be on your mind. Check it out.



Amazing Facts. Think that the Bible is just a bunch of boring stories that you have heard since you started going to Sunday school? Well, take another look. This feature points out some of the more offbeat and surprising bits of information that you may have missed. Check out these incredible facts. (And remember, they're all true!)



At a Glance. Hear from a variety of Bible women and girls about their personal faith journeys and how God worked through a specific moment in their lives to shape them and teach them. You may discover that God is teaching you the very same lesson.



I'm Not the Only One! Did you ever have one of those "this-is-so-embarrassing-I-hope-no-one-sees-it" moments? Well, guess what—you're not the only one! And to prove it, these stories have been collected from real teens and adults to help you see the lighter side of those embarrassing situations. Hopefully, you will see through these short, funny notes that God's plan for us includes the ability to lighten up and laugh at ourselves.



Book Introductions. These brief overviews will give you a snapshot of what you will read in each Bible book and the main theme of each book.

Memory Verses. What do you do when you're feeling lonely? Does God really listen to your prayers? These questions and many more point to the answers that lie in key Scripture verses throughout the Bible. Use these questions to help identify and memorize those verses that can encourage you and guide you through whatever you are facing.

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Need answers to nagging questions?
Check out the Scriptures under each topic.

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 Proverbs 18:24 732
 Proverbs 19:22 733
 Proverbs 27:6 742
 John 15:11-17 1233
 Acts 9:26-29 1258
(See also PEER PRESSURE, POPULARITY)

FUN FACTS

Exodus 16:14 84
 Leviticus 11:21-22 126
 Nehemiah 8:10 550
 Nehemiah 13:31 559
 Psalm 50:10-11 643
 Daniel 1:12 988
 Mark 7:19 1145-1146
 Acts 12:23 1262
 Revelation 3:15-16 1459

FUTURE

Psalm 31:15 630
 Proverbs 24:14 738-739
 Jeremiah 29:11 885
 John 3:16 1214
 2 Timothy 2:11-13 1398

*(See also ADVICE, ETERNAL LIFE/SALVATION)***GIFTS***(See ABILITIES)***GIVING**

Genesis 4:4 7
 Deuteronomy 14:22-23 221

Deuteronomy 15:7-11	222
Nehemiah 7:70-72	550
Proverbs 22:9	736
Malachi 3:8-10	1087
2 Corinthians 8-9	1335-1337

(See also *God's Will*)

GOALS

Psalm 20:4	622
Psalm 37:5	634
Psalm 97:10	676
Ecclesiastes 12:13-14	759
Philippians 3:12-20	1365
James 4:13-16	1428

(See also *Success*)

GOD'S COMMANDS

Exodus 20:3-17	89
Leviticus 11:21-22	126
Deuteronomy 5:19	210
Deuteronomy 6:4-9	212
Deuteronomy 15:11	222
Deuteronomy 19:14	226
Deuteronomy 27:16-18	232
Proverbs 6:20-21	718
2 John 1:6	1450

GOD'S CREATION

Genesis 1:1	3
Genesis 1:27	4
Job 12:7-9	584
Psalm 8:4-5	615
Psalm 50:10-11	643
Psalm 139:13-14	703
Jeremiah 1:5	850
Galatians 3:28	1346

GOD'S DISCIPLINE

Judges 2:3	277
Proverbs 1:1-3	711
Amos 3:6-7	1030
Zephaniah 2:2	1063
Acts 12:23	1262

GOD'S FAMILY

1 Chronicles 1:1-4	449
Isaiah 43:1	818
John 19:17-18	1241
1 Corinthians 12:12	1322
Galatians 3:28	1346
Ephesians 1:5	1354
Hebrews 13:3	1422

1 John 5:18	1448
Revelation 21:21	1475

GOD'S LOVE

Exodus 28:29	99
Psalm 17:8	620
Psalm 27:10	627
Psalm 56:8	648
Psalm 127:3	697
Psalm 136:1	701
Psalm 139:13-17	703-704
Isaiah 43:1	818
Isaiah 49:1	827
Jeremiah 1:5	850
Lamentations 4:2	925
Jonah 3:10	1044
Malachi 3:17-18	1088
Matthew 10:30	1107
Matthew 18:10	1117
John 3:14-16	1214
John 19:17-18	1241
Acts 14:21-22	1267-1268
Romans 5:8	1294
Titus 3:4-5	1403
Philemon 1:15	1406

GOD'S PLANS

Genesis 50:20	63
1 Samuel 10:21-22	319
Esther 4:14	567
Esther 8:1-2	569
Psalm 37:23	635
Jeremiah 29:11	885
Romans 8:28	1298
Romans 9:21	1299
Ephesians 1:5	1354

GOD'S POWER

Joshua 3:15-16	248
1 Kings 17:14-16	403
Job 12:7-9	584
Psalm 104:14	680
Isaiah 40:31	815
Zechariah 4:6	1073
Luke 24:5-6	1208
John 15:5	1233
Acts 1:8	1246
Ephesians 3:20	1356

GOD'S PROTECTION

Genesis 7:18	10
Exodus 2:3	66
Exodus 16:14	84

2 Samuel 22:29	373
1 Chronicles 14:10	466
Esther 8:1-2	569
Psalm 18:30	621
Psalm 23:1-4	624
Psalm 62:6-7	651
Hosea 11:4	1016
Nahum 1:7	1054
Matthew 11:28-29	1108

GOD'S VOICE

Exodus 3:4	68
Mark 1:10-11	1136
John 10:27	1227
Romans 1:18-19	1290

GOD'S WILL

Exodus 20	88-89
Micah 6:8	1050
Matthew 22:37-40	1124
1 Peter 4:1-3	1436

(See also *BELIEVING IN GOD, BIBLE, ADVICE, PRAYER*)

GOSSIP

Exodus 23:1	92
Leviticus 19:16	138
Proverbs 11:13	723
Proverbs 25:13	740
1 Timothy 5:13	1392
Titus 3:2	1403

(See also *COMMUNICATION, HONESTY, LYING*)

GRATITUDE

(See *THANKFULNESS*)

GREED

Numbers 16:8-10	175
Proverbs 28:22, 25	744
Isaiah 56:9-12	836
Luke 12:15	1189
Ephesians 5:5	1358

(See also *GIVING, MONEY AND POSSESSIONS*)

GROWING AS A CHRISTIAN

(See *SPIRITUAL GROWTH*)

GUIDANCE

(See *ADVICE*)

GUILT

Leviticus 4:3	117
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Psalm 19:12-13	622
Psalm 51	644-645
John 15:21-22	1233
Acts 13:38-39	1266
Romans 3:21-24	1293

(See also *CONFESSION, FORGIVENESS*)

HANDICAPS

2 Samuel 4:4	351
Philippians 4:13	1366

HATRED

Genesis 37	45-47
Leviticus 19:17	138
Esther 5:9-14	567
Psalm 139:21-24	704
Proverbs 6:16-19	718
Proverbs 10:12	721
Ecclesiastes 3:8	751
John 15:18-25	1233-1234

(See also *ANGER, ENEMIES, REVENGE*)

HEALING

Matthew 8:8-9	1103
Matthew 17:20	1117
James 5:14-15	1429

HEAVEN

Isaiah 25:8	797
Matthew 5:18-20	1098
Matthew 7:13-14	1102
Luke 13:29	1191
John 14:1-7	1232
Colossians 3:1-6	1373
Revelation 21-22	1474-1476

(See also *ETERNAL LIFE/SALVATION*)

HELL

Matthew 7:13-14	1102
Luke 16:19-31	1194-1195
John 14:6	1232
Romans 2:1-9	1291
2 Thessalonians 1:7-9	1384
Revelation 1:17-18	1456
Revelation 20:14	1474

HELPFULNESS

Judges 5:16-18	281
Nehemiah 13:31	559
Mark 9:41	1150
Galatians 2:10	1345
Galatians 6:2	1350

HOLY SPIRIT

Judges 3:10	278
1 Samuel 16:13	328
Matthew 12:31-32	1109
John 3:6-8	1214
John 14:26	1232
John 16:5-15	1234
Acts 2:1-4	1246
Romans 8:2	1296
2 Corinthians 5:16-17	1333

HONESTY

Psalms 24:1-6	624-625
Proverbs 6:16-17	718
Proverbs 19:1	732
Proverbs 28:6	743
Romans 12:3	1303

*(See also INTEGRITY, LYING)***HONOR (RESPECT OR PRAISE)**

Deuteronomy 5:16	210
Ezra 7:27-28	534-535
Psalms 29:1-2	627
Romans 12:10	1303
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13	1382

HOPE

Psalms 42:5-11	638
1 Corinthians 15:51-58	1327-1328
Revelation 22:12-21	1476

*(See also FAITH)***HUMILITY**

Psalms 131	698
Proverbs 11:2	723
Matthew 20:20-28	1121
Luke 14:7-11	1192
Philippians 2:5-11	1363
James 4:10	1428
1 Peter 5:5	1437

INFERIORITY

Psalms 139:13-18	703-704
Matthew 10:29-30	1107
Mark 8:37	1148
Philippians 3:12-14	1365

*(See also SELF-WORTH)***INTEGRITY**

Psalms 101:3-8	677-678
Psalms 119:113-117	693-694
Proverbs 3:1-4	714
Proverbs 20:11	734

Matthew 5:33-37	1100
Matthew 6:1-4	1100
Romans 5:3-4	1294
Philippians 3:17	1365
James 5:12	1428-1429

*(See also HONESTY, LEADERSHIP, LYING)***JEALOUSY**

Genesis 37	45-47
Proverbs 14:30	727
Song of Songs 8:6	768
2 Corinthians 11:1-2	1338
Galatians 5:19-20	1350

*(See also COMPARISONS)***JESUS' DEATH**

Leviticus 1:4	115
Leviticus 16:10	133
John 19:17-18	1241
Romans 5:8	1294

JESUS, GOD'S SON

Mark 1:10	1136
John 1:14	1212
John 3:14-16	1214
John 5:18	1217
John 14:6	1232
1 John 5:18	1448

JESUS' LIFE

Matthew 4:10-11	1095
Matthew 8:8-9	1103
Matthew 18:21-22	1118
Mark 1:10	1136
Mark 11:8-9	1153
Mark 12:10	1154
Luke 4:17-18	1172
Luke 9:62	1184
Luke 17:15-17	1196
Luke 18:16	1197
Luke 24:5-6	1208
John 1:14	1212
John 4:17-18	1216
John 6:9	1218
John 6:48	1221
John 8:12	1223
John 15:5	1233

JESUS' RESURRECTION

Luke 24:5-6	1208
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JESUS' RETURN

1 Corinthians 15:52	1327
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Quick Answers

A20

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17	1381
2 Peter 3:8-9	1442
Revelation 22:13	1476

JOY

Nehemiah 8:10	550
Psalm 1:1-3	611-612
Habakkuk 3:17-18	1060
Luke 10:21	1185
2 Corinthians 4:17-18	1332

JUDGING OTHERS

(See *CRITICISM*)

JUSTICE

Amos 5:24	1032
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KIDS

Luke 10:21	1185
Luke 18:16	1197
1 Timothy 4:12	1390

KINDNESS

Deuteronomy 15:11	222
2 Kings 7:9-10	422
John 6:9	1218
Acts 4:37	1251
Galatians 2:10	1345
Galatians 6:2	1350
1 Peter 3:8-9	1434
3 John 1:5	1452
Jude 1:22	1454

LAZINESS

Proverbs 6:6-11	717
Proverbs 10:4-5	721
Proverbs 12:24	725
Proverbs 28:19	743
2 Thessalonians 3:6-15	1385

LEADERSHIP

Exodus 3:1-4:17	68-70
Jeremiah 17:7-8	872
Matthew 20:20-28	1121
John 13:1-17	1231
Romans 12:8	1303
1 Timothy 3	1389-1390
Titus 1:7-9	1402

LONELINESS

Exodus 2:21-25	68
Psalm 68:6	654

Psalm 71:5	657
Proverbs 18:24	732
Hebrews 13:5	1422

LOVE

Jeremiah 31:3	887
Matthew 5:43-48	1100
Matthew 22:37-40	1124
John 3:16	1214
Romans 8:31-39	1298
Romans 12:9-21	1303
1 Corinthians 13:4-7	1324

LYING

Genesis 12:11-20	16-17
Exodus 20:16	89
Proverbs 6:12-19	717-718
Matthew 15:16-20	1114

(See also *COMMUNICATION, HONESTY, INTEGRITY*)

MAKING MISTAKES (FAILURE, SIN)

Genesis 3	6-7
Genesis 4:3-12	7-8
Joshua 7	252-253
Judges 2:17-19	277
1 Kings 11:1-11	394
Psalm 119:11	690
Matthew 25:45-46	1128-1129
Luke 22:55-62	1205
Romans 3:23	1293
Romans 5:8-21	1294-1295
Romans 6:23	1296
Romans 7:15-25	1296
James 4:17	1428

(See also *CONSCIENCE, CONSEQUENCES, EXCUSES, TEMPTATION*)

MANNERS

Leviticus 19:32	139
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MARRIAGE

Genesis 2:18-24	5-6
Proverbs 31:10-31	747
1 Corinthians 7	1316-1318
2 Corinthians 11:2	1338
Ephesians 5:21-24	1358
Ephesians 5:25-30	1358-1359

(See also *FAMILY*)

MATERIALISM

(See *GREED, MONEY AND POSSESSIONS*)

MEANING

Ecclesiastes 1	749–750
Ecclesiastes 2	750–751
John 10:10	1226
Galatians 3:28-29	1346
Galatians 5:13	1348
1 Thessalonians 2:4	1378

MONEY AND POSSESSIONS

Deuteronomy 8:11-20	215–216
1 Chronicles 29:10-17	483
Proverbs 15:27	728
Matthew 6:19-24	1101
Matthew 19:16-30	1119–1120
Mark 10:17-31	1151–1152
Luke 12:13-32	1189
Acts 2:42-47	1248
1 Timothy 6:10-19	1392–1393
James 2:1-9	1424

(See also *GREED*)

OBEDIENCE

Genesis 6:9-22	10
Exodus 23:13	93
Psalms 119:115	693–694
Proverbs 28:7	743
John 15:9-17	1233
Romans 13:1	1303
Hebrews 13:17	1422
1 Peter 1:14	1432
1 John 2:3-11	1444–1445

(See also *AUTHORITY, BELIEVING IN GOD*)

OCCULT, THE

Leviticus 19:26	139
Leviticus 20:6-8	139–140
Deuteronomy 18:9-14	225
1 Samuel 28:3-19	343–344
Jeremiah 10:2-3	863
Acts 19:11-20	1275

(See also *FALSE TEACHING*)

PARENTS

Exodus 20:12	89
Leviticus 20:9	140
Proverbs 13:1	725
Proverbs 15:5	727
Ephesians 6:1-4	1359

(See also *AUTHORITY, HONOR*)

PARTYING

Proverbs 5:21	717
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Romans 13:13-14	1304
1 Corinthians 10:31	1320
Galatians 5:19-21	1350
1 Peter 4:1-3	1436

(See also *DRINKING, PEER PRESSURE*)

PATIENCE

1 Samuel 13:8-14	322–323
Galatians 5:22-23	1350
Colossians 3:12	1373
James 5:10-11	1428
2 Peter 1:5-9	1440

PEACE

Psalms 29:11	628
John 14:27	1232
Romans 5:1	1294
Romans 12:18	1303
Galatians 5:22-23	1350
Philippians 4:6-7	1366
Colossians 3:15	1373

PEER PRESSURE

Psalms 119:143	694
Proverbs 18:24	732
Luke 6:22-23	1176
Romans 12:1-2	1302–1303
Colossians 2:23	1373
James 1:2-4	1423–1424

(See also *CONFORMITY, POPULARITY, TEMPTATION*)

PERSECUTION

(See *SUFFERING, TROUBLES*)

PERSEVERANCE

1 Corinthians 9:24-27	1320
Galatians 6:9-10	1351
Philippians 3:12-14	1365
Colossians 4:2	1374
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18	1382
1 Peter 5:10	1437
2 Peter 1:5-9	1440

(See also *POTENTIAL, PRAYER*)

PLEASEING GOD

Numbers 6:25	159
1 Samuel 2:26	312
Psalms 1:1-3	611–612
Psalms 95:8	674
Psalms 101:2-3	677
Matthew 6:20	1101

Romans 12:2 1302–1303
 2 Peter 1:3 1439–1440

POPULARITY

Ecclesiastes 4:13–16 754
 Mark 8:36–38 1148
 John 15:18–25 1233–1234
 James 4:4 1426
 1 John 2:15–17 1445
(See also CONFORMITY, PEER PRESSURE)

POSSESSIONS

(See GREED, MONEY AND POSSESSIONS)

POTENTIAL

Judges 13:2–16:22 292–297
 1 Samuel 16:7 328
 Philippians 1:6 1362
 Philippians 4:13 1366
(See also ABILITIES)

POVERTY

Deuteronomy 15:11 222
 Galatians 2:10 1345

PRAISE

2 Samuel 6:16 353
 1 Chronicles 16:33 469
 Nehemiah 8:10 550
 Mark 11:8–10 1153
 Luke 17:15–17 1196

PRAYER

Psalms 3:1–8 612–613
 Psalm 4:3 613
 Matthew 7:7–12 1102
 Matthew 21:21–22 1122
 Luke 11:1–13 1186
 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 1382
 James 5:16–18 1429
(See also ADVICE, CHOICES)

PREJUDICE

Esther 3:1–6 564
 Mark 6:1–6 1143
 Luke 10:25–37 1185
 Acts 10:34–43 1260
 Galatians 3:28–29 1346
 Ephesians 2:11–16 1354–1355
(See also HATRED)

PRIDE

Proverbs 6:16–17 718
 Proverbs 11:2 723

Proverbs 13:10 725
 Proverbs 18:12 732
 Proverbs 29:23 745
 1 Corinthians 3:20–21 1314
(See also COMPARISONS, HUMILITY)

PRIORITIES

(See VALUES)

PRISON

Isaiah 42:3 817
 Isaiah 61:1 842
 Hebrews 13:3 1422

PROBLEMS

(See SUFFERING, TROUBLES)

PROMISES IN GOD'S WORD

Genesis 9:13–16 14
 Exodus 12:13 78
 Joshua 1:8 246
 Psalm 91:1 672
 Psalm 121:5–6 695
 Isaiah 40:31 815
 Isaiah 43:25 820
 Romans 8:28 1298
 1 Corinthians 10:13 1320
 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 1381
 James 5:14–15 1429
 2 Peter 1:3 1439–1440
 Revelation 7:17 1462

PURITY

Psalm 1:1–3 611–612
 Psalm 86:11 668
 Psalm 119:9–20 690
 Matthew 5:27–30 1100
 John 17:17 1236
 2 Corinthians 7:1 1334
 Philippians 3:7–11 1365
(See also MARRIAGE)

PURPOSE

Psalm 139:13–14 703
 Jeremiah 1:5 850

RACE

Esther 3:6 564
 Galatians 3:28 1346

REJECTION

Judges 11:1–2 290
 Psalm 27:10 627
 Psalm 94:14 674

Isaiah 53	831-832
Matthew 13:53-58	1112
Luke 10:16	1185

REPENTING

Joel 2:12	1023
Zephaniah 2:2	1063
2 Peter 3:8-9	1442
1 John 1:9	1444

REPUTATION

(See *INTEGRITY*)

RESPECT FOR GOD

Ecclesiastes 12:1	758
Jeremiah 18:5-6	873
Haggai 1:8	1068
John 1:14	1212

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

Leviticus 19:32	139
Deuteronomy 19:14	226
Esther 3:6	564
Proverbs 12:18	725
Proverbs 16:28	728
Matthew 7:4	1101
1 Timothy 2:2	1388
James 3:5	1425

RESPONSIBILITY

Matthew 5:13-16	1098
Matthew 25:14-30	1127-1130
Romans 14	1304-1306
1 Timothy 3	1389-1390

REVENGE

Leviticus 19:18	138
1 Samuel 25:23-33	340-341
Psalms 35:1-10	632-633
Matthew 5:38-48	1100
Mark 11:25	1153
Romans 12:17-18	1303

(See also *ANGER, HATRED*)

SACRIFICE

Leviticus 1:4	115
Leviticus 16:10	133
Hebrews 9:14	1416-1417

SALVATION

(See *BELIEVING IN GOD, ETERNAL LIFE, FAITH, FORGIVENESS*)

SELF-WORTH

Genesis 1:26-27	4
Psalms 8:3-5	615
Luke 12:7	1189
John 3:16	1214
Romans 8:35-39	1298

(See also *INFERIORITY*)

SERVING GOD AND OTHERS

Joshua 24:14	272
Matthew 20:28	1121
Luke 10:25-37	1185
John 13:1-17	1231
1 Corinthians 7:35	1318
Galatians 5:13	1348

(See also *COMPASSION*)

SIN

Leviticus 1:4	115
Isaiah 1:18	772
Isaiah 43:1	818
Isaiah 43:25	820
Isaiah 61:1	842
Zephaniah 2:2	1063
Zechariah 3:3-4	1073
Matthew 7:4	1101
John 3:14-16	1214
John 19:17-18	1241
Romans 1:18-19	1290
1 Thessalonians 5:1	1381
Hebrews 9:14	1416-1417
1 Peter 4:8	1436
1 John 1:9	1444
1 John 5:18	1448

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Deuteronomy 11:16-21	218
Proverbs 13:14	726
Lamentations 3:27-33	924
John 15:1-27	1233-1234
Colossians 2:7	1372
1 Peter 2:2	1432
2 Peter 3:18	1442

(See also *BIBLE, DISCIPLINE*)

STEALING

Exodus 20:15	89
Leviticus 19:11	138
Malachi 3:8-10	1087
Ephesians 4:28	1357

STRESS

(See *SUFFERING, TROUBLES, WORRY*)

SUCCESS

Genesis 11:1-9	15
Proverbs 15:22	728
Proverbs 16:3	728
Proverbs 22:4	736
Proverbs 28:13	743
2 Corinthians 3:5	1331

(See also GOALS, THANKFULNESS)

SUICIDE

(See DEPRESSION)

SUFFERING

Job 16:1-6	588
Psalms 3:1-8	612-613
Matthew 11:28-30	1108
John 16:33	1234-1236
Romans 8:28	1298
Philippians 1:29-30	1362-1363
Philippians 3:7-11	1365
1 Peter 4:1-2	1436
1 Peter 5:10	1437

(See also DEPRESSION, DISCOURAGEMENT)

TALKING ABOUT GOD

Matthew 5:14-16	1098
Matthew 28:19-20	1134
Mark 16:15	1163
John 14:26	1232
Romans 1:16	1290
1 Corinthians 9:22	1320
2 Timothy 4:1-8	1399-1400

(See also COMMUNICATION, BELIEVING IN GOD)

TEAMWORK

Ecclesiastes 4:9	752
Isaiah 10:15	783
1 Corinthians 12:12	1322

TELEVISION

Psalms 101:2-3	677
Romans 12:2	1302-1303

TEMPTATION

Psalms 19:13	622
Proverbs 7:1-5	719
Matthew 4:1-11	1094-1095
1 Corinthians 10:13	1320
2 Timothy 2:22	1398
Hebrews 2:16-18	1409
Hebrews 4:14-16	1412
James 1:12-16	1424

(See also MAKING MISTAKES)

THANKFULNESS

Psalms 100	677
Mark 8:6	1146
Luke 17:11-19	1196
Ephesians 2:4-10	1354
Colossians 3:16-17	1373
1 Thessalonians 5:18	1382

(See also BLESSINGS)

THOUGHTS

Romans 12:2	1302-1303
Hebrews 4:12	1412

TIME WITH GOD

Psalms 63	651-652
Mark 1:35	1136
John 15:7	1233

TROUBLES

Exodus 5:13	71
Exodus 6:9	72
1 Samuel 17:48-49	330
Psalms 18:30	621
Psalms 23:1-4	624
Psalms 91:1	672
Daniel 3:17	993
Nahum 1:7	1054
Matthew 11:28-29	1108
Matthew 17:20	1117
Acts 14:21-22	1267-1268
2 Corinthians 4:17-18	1332
Galatians 6:2	1350

TRUST

1 Samuel 17:34-37	330
Psalms 34:4	631
Psalms 56:3-4, 11	648
John 20:24-31	1242-1243
1 John 4:16	1447

(See also DOUBTS, FAITH)

TRUTH

Proverbs 8:1	719
Luke 10:21	1185
John 4:17-18	1216
John 14:6	1232
Romans 1:18-19	1290
Galatians 1:6-7	1344
Colossians 2:7	1372
2 Timothy 2:15	1398
2 Timothy 3:16-17	1399
Hebrews 4:12	1412

VALUES

Psalm 119:111, 162	693, 695
Matthew 6:21	1101
Matthew 13:45-46	1112

(See also CHOICES)

WISDOM

1 Kings 3:3-14	383
Psalm 119:98-104	693
Proverbs 2-4; 8 ... 713-716, 719-720	
Proverbs 19:8	732
James 1:5-8	1424

WITNESSING

(See TALKING ABOUT GOD)

WORK

Proverbs 26:13-14	741
1 Corinthians 12:12	1322
2 Thessalonians 3:10	1385
2 Timothy 2:15	1398

WORRY

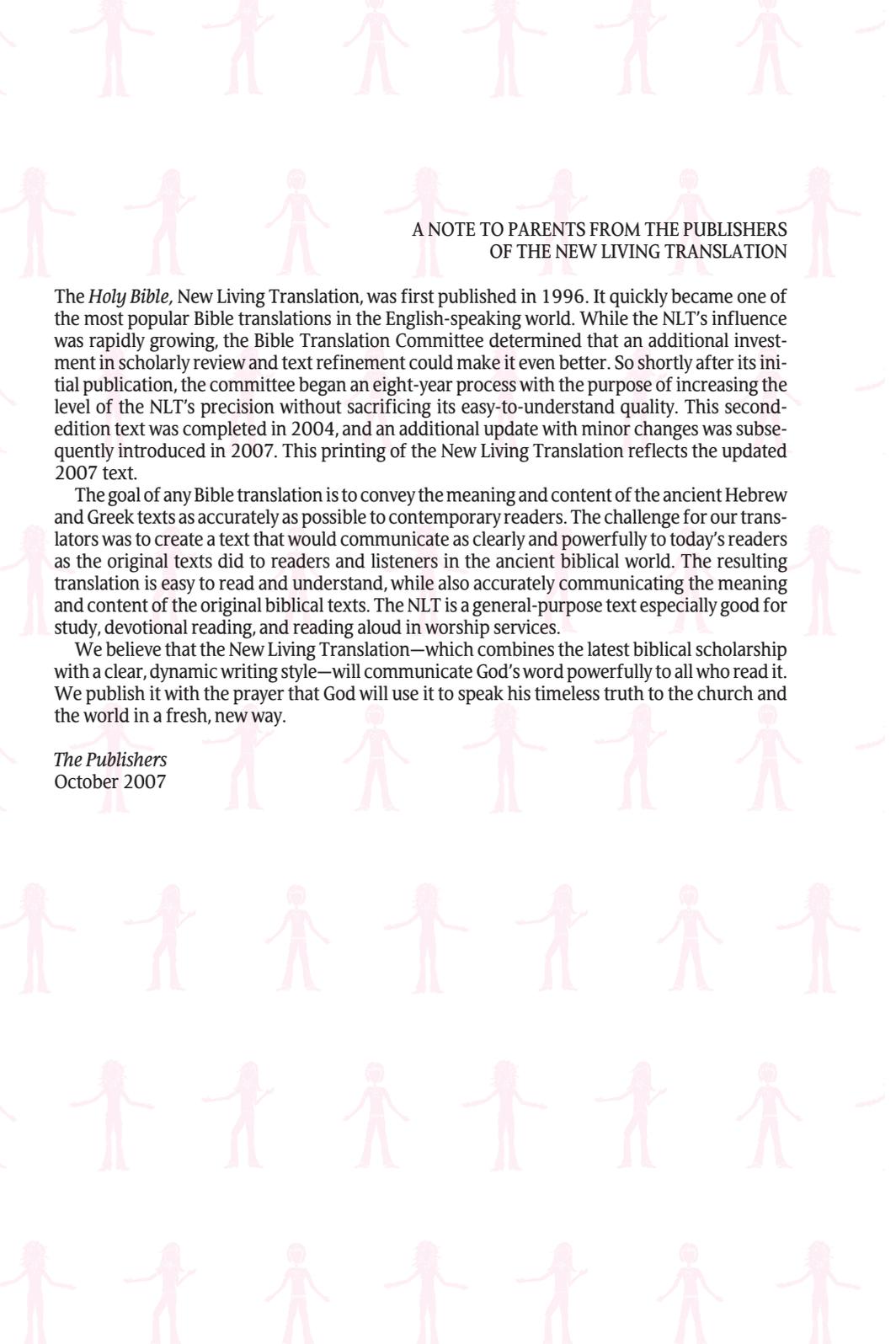
Matthew 6:25-34	1101
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(See also FEAR, SUFFERING, TROUBLES)

WORSHIP

Exodus 20:3-5	89
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(See also BELIEVING IN GOD, HONOR, THANKFULNESS)



A NOTE TO PARENTS FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF THE NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

The *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, was first published in 1996. It quickly became one of the most popular Bible translations in the English-speaking world. While the NLT's influence was rapidly growing, the Bible Translation Committee determined that an additional investment in scholarly review and text refinement could make it even better. So shortly after its initial publication, the committee began an eight-year process with the purpose of increasing the level of the NLT's precision without sacrificing its easy-to-understand quality. This second-edition text was completed in 2004, and an additional update with minor changes was subsequently introduced in 2007. This printing of the New Living Translation reflects the updated 2007 text.

The goal of any Bible translation is to convey the meaning and content of the ancient Hebrew and Greek texts as accurately as possible to contemporary readers. The challenge for our translators was to create a text that would communicate as clearly and powerfully to today's readers as the original texts did to readers and listeners in the ancient biblical world. The resulting translation is easy to read and understand, while also accurately communicating the meaning and content of the original biblical texts. The NLT is a general-purpose text especially good for study, devotional reading, and reading aloud in worship services.

We believe that the New Living Translation—which combines the latest biblical scholarship with a clear, dynamic writing style—will communicate God's word powerfully to all who read it. We publish it with the prayer that God will use it to speak his timeless truth to the church and the world in a fresh, new way.

The Publishers
October 2007



INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

Translation Philosophy and Methodology

English Bible translations tend to be governed by one of two general translation theories. The first theory has been called “formal-equivalence,” “literal,” or “word-for-word” translation. According to this theory, the translator attempts to render each word of the original language into English and seeks to preserve the original syntax and sentence structure as much as possible in translation. The second theory has been called “dynamic-equivalence,” “functional-equivalence,” or “thought-for-thought” translation. The goal of this translation theory is to produce in English the closest natural equivalent of the message expressed by the original-language text, both in meaning and in style.

Both of these translation theories have their strengths. A formal-equivalence translation preserves aspects of the original text—including ancient idioms, term consistency, and original-language syntax—that are valuable for scholars and professional study. It allows a reader to trace formal elements of the original-language text through the English translation. A dynamic-equivalence translation, on the other hand, focuses on translating the message of the original-language text. It ensures that the meaning of the text is readily apparent to the contemporary reader. This allows the message to come through with immediacy, without requiring the reader to struggle with foreign idioms and awkward syntax. It also facilitates serious study of the text’s message and clarity in both devotional and public reading.

The pure application of either of these translation philosophies would create translations at opposite ends of the translation spectrum. But in reality, all translations contain a mixture of these two philosophies. A purely formal-equivalence translation would be unintelligible in English, and a purely dynamic-equivalence translation would risk being unfaithful to the original. That is why translations shaped by dynamic-equivalence theory are usually quite literal when the original text is relatively clear, and the translations shaped by formal-equivalence theory are sometimes quite dynamic when the original text is obscure.

The translators of the New Living Translation set out to render the message of the original texts of Scripture into clear, contemporary English. As they did so, they kept the concerns of both formal-equivalence and dynamic-equivalence in mind. On the one hand, they translated as simply and literally as possible when that approach yielded an accurate, clear, and natural English text. Many words and phrases were rendered literally and consistently into English, preserving essential literary and rhetorical devices, ancient metaphors, and word choices that give structure to the text and provide echoes of meaning from one passage to the next.

On the other hand, the translators rendered the message more dynamically when the literal rendering was hard to understand, was misleading, or yielded archaic or foreign wording. They clarified difficult metaphors and terms to aid in the reader’s understanding. The translators first struggled with the meaning of the words and phrases in the ancient context; then they rendered the message into clear, natural English. Their goal was to be both faithful to the ancient texts and eminently readable. The result is a translation that is both exegetically accurate and idiomatically powerful.

Translation Process and Team

To produce an accurate translation of the Bible into contemporary English, the translation team needed the skills necessary to enter into the thought patterns of the ancient authors and then to render their ideas, connotations, and effects into clear, contemporary English. To begin

this process, qualified biblical scholars were needed to interpret the meaning of the original text and to check it against our base English translation. In order to guard against personal and theological biases, the scholars needed to represent a diverse group of Evangelicals who would employ the best exegetical tools. Then to work alongside the scholars, skilled English stylists were needed to shape the text into clear, contemporary English.

With these concerns in mind, the Bible Translation Committee recruited teams of scholars that represented a broad spectrum of denominations, theological perspectives, and backgrounds within the worldwide Evangelical community. (These scholars are listed at the end of this introduction.) Each book of the Bible was assigned to three different scholars with proven expertise in the book or group of books to be reviewed. Each of these scholars made a thorough review of a base translation and submitted suggested revisions to the appropriate Senior Translator. The Senior Translator then reviewed and summarized these suggestions and proposed a first-draft revision of the base text. This draft served as the basis for several additional phases of exegetical and stylistic committee review. Then the Bible Translation Committee jointly reviewed and approved every verse of the final translation.

Throughout the translation and editing process, the Senior Translators and their scholar teams were given a chance to review the editing done by the team of stylists. This ensured that exegetical errors would not be introduced late in the process and that the entire Bible Translation Committee was happy with the final result. By choosing a team of qualified scholars and skilled stylists and by setting up a process that allowed their interaction throughout the process, the New Living Translation has been refined to preserve the essential formal elements of the original biblical texts, while also creating a clear, understandable English text.

The New Living Translation was first published in 1996. Shortly after its initial publication, the Bible Translation Committee began a process of further committee review and translation refinement. The purpose of this continued revision was to increase the level of precision without sacrificing the text's easy-to-understand quality. This second-edition text was completed in 2004, and an additional update with minor changes was subsequently introduced in 2007. This printing of the New Living Translation reflects the updated 2007 text.

Written to Be Read Aloud

It is evident in Scripture that the biblical documents were written to be read aloud, often in public worship (see Nehemiah 8; Luke 4:16-20; 1 Timothy 4:13; Revelation 1:3). It is still the case today that more people will hear the Bible read aloud in church than are likely to read it for themselves. Therefore, a new translation must communicate with clarity and power when it is read publicly. Clarity was a primary goal for the NLT translators, not only to facilitate private reading and understanding, but also to ensure that it would be excellent for public reading and make an immediate and powerful impact on any listener.

The Texts behind the New Living Translation

The Old Testament translators used the Masoretic Text of the Hebrew Bible as represented in *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (1977), with its extensive system of textual notes; this is an update of Rudolf Kittel's *Biblia Hebraica* (Stuttgart, 1937). The translators also further compared the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint and other Greek manuscripts, the Samaritan Pentateuch, the Syriac Peshitta, the Latin Vulgate, and any other versions or manuscripts that shed light on the meaning of difficult passages.

The New Testament translators used the two standard editions of the Greek New Testament: the *Greek New Testament*, published by the United Bible Societies (UBS, fourth revised edition, 1993), and *Novum Testamentum Graece*, edited by Nestle and Aland (NA, twenty-seventh edition, 1993). These two editions, which have the same text but differ in punctuation and textual notes, represent, for the most part, the best in modern textual scholarship. However, in cases where strong textual or other scholarly evidence supported the decision, the translators sometimes chose to differ from the UBS and NA Greek texts and followed variant readings found in

other ancient witnesses. Significant textual variants of this sort are always noted in the textual notes of the New Living Translation.

Translation Issues

The translators have made a conscious effort to provide a text that can be easily understood by the typical reader of modern English. To this end, we sought to use only vocabulary and language structures in common use today. We avoided using language likely to become quickly dated or that reflects only a narrow subdialect of English, with the goal of making the New Living Translation as broadly useful and timeless as possible.

But our concern for readability goes beyond the concerns of vocabulary and sentence structure. We are also concerned about historical and cultural barriers to understanding the Bible, and we have sought to translate terms shrouded in history and culture in ways that can be immediately understood. To this end:

- We have converted ancient weights and measures (for example, “ephah” [a unit of dry volume] or “cubit” [a unit of length]) to modern English (American) equivalents, since the ancient measures are not generally meaningful to today’s readers. Then in the textual footnotes we offer the literal Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek measures, along with modern metric equivalents.
- Instead of translating ancient currency values literally, we have expressed them in common terms that communicate the message. For example, in the Old Testament, “ten shekels of silver” becomes “ten pieces of silver” to convey the intended message. In the New Testament, we have often translated the “denarius” as “the normal daily wage” to facilitate understanding. Then a footnote offers: “Greek *a denarius*, the payment for a full day’s wage.” In general, we give a clear English rendering and then state the literal Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek in a textual footnote.
- Since the names of Hebrew months are unknown to most contemporary readers, and since the Hebrew lunar calendar fluctuates from year to year in relation to the solar calendar used today, we have looked for clear ways to communicate the time of year the Hebrew months (such as Abib) refer to. When an expanded or interpretive rendering is given in the text, a textual note gives the literal rendering. Where it is possible to define a specific ancient date in terms of our modern calendar, we use modern dates in the text. A textual footnote then gives the literal Hebrew date and states the rationale for our rendering. For example, Ezra 6:15 pinpoints the date when the postexilic Temple was completed in Jerusalem: “the third day of the month Adar.” This was during the sixth year of King Darius’s reign (that is, 515 B.C.). We have translated that date as March 12, with a footnote giving the Hebrew and identifying the year as 515 B.C.
- Since ancient references to the time of day differ from our modern methods of denoting time, we have used renderings that are instantly understandable to the modern reader. Accordingly, we have rendered specific times of day by using approximate equivalents in terms of our common “o’clock” system. On occasion, translations such as “at dawn the next morning” or “as the sun was setting” have been used when the biblical reference is more general.
- When the meaning of a proper name (or a wordplay inherent in a proper name) is relevant to the message of the text, its meaning is often illuminated with a textual footnote. For example, in Exodus 2:10 the text reads: “The princess named him Moses, for she explained, ‘I lifted him out of the water.’” The accompanying footnote reads: “*Moses* sounds like a Hebrew term that means ‘to lift out.’”

Sometimes, when the actual meaning of a name is clear, that meaning is included in parentheses within the text itself. For example, the text at Genesis 16:11 reads: “You are to name him Ishmael (*which means ‘God hears’*), for the LORD has heard your cry of distress.” Since the original hearers and readers would have instantly understood the

meaning of the name “Ishmael,” we have provided modern readers with the same information so they can experience the text in a similar way.

- Many words and phrases carry a great deal of cultural meaning that was obvious to the original readers but needs explanation in our own culture. For example, the phrase “they beat their breasts” (Luke 23:48) in ancient times meant that people were very upset, often in mourning. In our translation we chose to translate this phrase dynamically for clarity: “They went home *in deep sorrow*.” Then we included a footnote with the literal Greek, which reads: “Greek *went home beating their breasts*.” In other similar cases, however, we have sometimes chosen to illuminate the existing literal expression to make it immediately understandable. For example, here we might have expanded the literal Greek phrase to read: “They went home beating their breasts *in sorrow*.” If we had done this, we would not have included a textual footnote, since the literal Greek clearly appears in translation.
- Metaphorical language is sometimes difficult for contemporary readers to understand, so at times we have chosen to translate or illuminate the meaning of a metaphor. For example, the ancient poet writes, “Your neck is *like* the tower of David” (Song of Songs 4:4). We have rendered it “Your neck is *as beautiful as* the tower of David” to clarify the intended positive meaning of the simile. Another example comes in Ecclesiastes 12:3, which can be literally rendered: “Remember him . . . when the grinding women cease because they are few, and the women who look through the windows see dimly.” We have rendered it: “Remember him before your teeth—your few remaining servants—stop grinding; and before your eyes—the women looking through the windows—see dimly.” We clarified such metaphors only when we believed a typical reader might be confused by the literal text.
- When the content of the original language text is poetic in character, we have rendered it in English poetic form. We sought to break lines in ways that clarify and highlight the relationships between phrases of the text. Hebrew poetry often uses parallelism, a literary form where a second phrase (or in some instances a third or fourth) echoes the initial phrase in some way. In Hebrew parallelism, the subsequent parallel phrases continue, while also furthering and sharpening, the thought expressed in the initial line or phrase. Whenever possible, we sought to represent these parallel phrases in natural poetic English.
- The Greek term *hoi Ioudaioi* is literally translated “the Jews” in many English translations. In the Gospel of John, however, this term doesn’t always refer to the Jewish people generally. In some contexts, it refers more particularly to the Jewish religious leaders. We have attempted to capture the meaning in these different contexts by using terms such as “the people” (with a footnote: Greek *the Jewish people*) or “the religious leaders,” where appropriate.
- One challenge we faced was how to translate accurately the ancient biblical text that was originally written in a context where male-oriented terms were used to refer to humanity generally. We needed to respect the nature of the ancient context while also trying to make the translation clear to a modern audience that tends to read male-oriented language as applying only to males. Often the original text, though using masculine nouns and pronouns, clearly intends that the message be applied to both men and women. A typical example is found in the New Testament letters, where the believers are called “brothers” (*adelphoi*). Yet it is clear from the content of these letters that they were addressed to all the believers—male and female. Thus, we have usually translated this Greek word as “brothers and sisters” in order to represent the historical situation more accurately.

We have also been sensitive to passages where the text applies generally to human beings or to the human condition. In some instances we have used plural pronouns (they, them) in place of the masculine singular (he, him). For example, a traditional rendering of Proverbs 22:6 is: “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” We have rendered it: “Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.” At times, we have also replaced third person pronouns with the second person to ensure clarity. A traditional rendering of Proverbs 26:27

is: "He who digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone, it will come back on him." We have rendered it: "If you set a trap for others, you will get caught in it yourself. If you roll a boulder down on others, it will crush you instead."

We should emphasize, however, that all masculine nouns and pronouns used to represent God (for example, "Father") have been maintained without exception. All decisions of this kind have been driven by the concern to reflect accurately the intended meaning of the original texts of Scripture.

Lexical Consistency in Terminology

For the sake of clarity, we have translated certain original-language terms consistently, especially within synoptic passages and for commonly repeated rhetorical phrases, and within certain word categories such as divine names and non-theological technical terminology (e.g., liturgical, legal, cultural, zoological, and botanical terms). For theological terms, we have allowed a greater semantic range of acceptable English words or phrases for a single Hebrew or Greek word. We have avoided some theological terms that are not readily understood by many modern readers. For example, we avoided using words such as "justification" and "sanctification," which are carryovers from Latin translations. In place of these words, we have provided renderings such as "made right with God" and "made holy."

The Spelling of Proper Names

Many individuals in the Bible, especially the Old Testament, are known by more than one name (e.g., Uzziah/Azariah). For the sake of clarity, we have tried to use a single spelling for any one individual, footnoting the literal spelling whenever we differ from it. This is especially helpful in delineating the kings of Israel and Judah. King Joash/Jehoash of Israel has been consistently called Jehoash, while King Joash/Jehoash of Judah is called Joash. A similar distinction has been used to distinguish between Joram/Jehoram of Israel and Joram/Jehoram of Judah. All such decisions were made with the goal of clarifying the text for the reader. When the ancient biblical writers clearly had a theological purpose in their choice of a variant name (e.g., Esh-baal/Ishbosheth), the different names have been maintained with an explanatory footnote.

For the names Jacob and Israel, which are used interchangeably for both the individual patriarch and the nation, we generally render it "Israel" when it refers to the nation and "Jacob" when it refers to the individual. When our rendering of the name differs from the underlying Hebrew text, we provide a textual footnote, which includes this explanation: "The names 'Jacob' and 'Israel' are often interchanged throughout the Old Testament, referring sometimes to the individual patriarch and sometimes to the nation."

The Rendering of Divine Names

All appearances of *'el*, *'elohim*, or *'eloah* have been translated "God," except where the context demands the translation "god(s)." We have generally rendered the tetragrammaton (YHWH) consistently as "the LORD," utilizing a form with small capitals that is common among English translations. This will distinguish it from the name *'adonai*, which we render "Lord." When *'adonai* and YHWH appear together, we have rendered it "Sovereign LORD." This also distinguishes *'adonai* YHWH from cases where YHWH appears with *'elohim*, which is rendered "LORD God." When YH (the short form of YHWH) and YHWH appear together, we have rendered it "LORD GOD." When YHWH appears with the term *tseba'oth*, we have rendered it "LORD of Heaven's Armies" to translate the meaning of the name. In a few cases, we have utilized the transliteration, *Yahweh*, when the personal character of the name is being invoked in contrast to another divine name or the name of some other god (for example, see Exodus 3:15; 6:2-3).

In the New Testament, the Greek word *christos* has been translated as "Messiah" when the context assumes a Jewish audience. When a Gentile audience can be assumed, *christos* has been translated as "Christ." The Greek word *kurios* is consistently translated "Lord," except that

it is translated “LORD” wherever the New Testament text explicitly quotes from the Old Testament, and the text there has it in small capitals.

Textual Footnotes

The New Living Translation provides several kinds of textual footnotes, all designated in the text with an asterisk:

- When for the sake of clarity the NLT renders a difficult or potentially confusing phrase dynamically, we generally give the literal rendering in a textual footnote. This allows the reader to see the literal source of our dynamic rendering and how our translation relates to other more literal translations. These notes are prefaced with “Hebrew,” “Aramaic,” or “Greek,” identifying the language of the underlying source text. For example, in Acts 2:42 we translated the literal “breaking of bread” (from the Greek) as “the Lord’s Supper” to clarify that this verse refers to the ceremonial practice of the church rather than just an ordinary meal. Then we attached a footnote to “the Lord’s Supper,” which reads: “Greek *the breaking of bread*.”
- Textual footnotes are also used to show alternative renderings, prefaced with the word “Or.” These normally occur for passages where an aspect of the meaning is debated. On occasion, we also provide notes on words or phrases that represent a departure from long-standing tradition. These notes are prefaced with “Traditionally rendered.” For example, the footnote to the translation “serious skin disease” at Leviticus 13:2 says: “Traditionally rendered *leprosy*. The Hebrew word used throughout this passage is used to describe various skin diseases.”
- When our translators follow a textual variant that differs significantly from our standard Hebrew or Greek texts (listed earlier), we document that difference with a footnote. We also footnote cases when the NLT excludes a passage that is included in the Greek text known as the *Textus Receptus* (and familiar to readers through its translation in the King James Version). In such cases, we offer a translation of the excluded text in a footnote, even though it is generally recognized as a later addition to the Greek text and not part of the original Greek New Testament.
- All Old Testament passages that are quoted in the New Testament are identified by a textual footnote at the New Testament location. When the New Testament clearly quotes from the Greek translation of the Old Testament, and when it differs significantly in wording from the Hebrew text, we also place a textual footnote at the Old Testament location. This note includes a rendering of the Greek version, along with a cross-reference to the New Testament passage(s) where it is cited (for example, see notes on Psalms 8:2; 53:3; Proverbs 3:12).
- Some textual footnotes provide cultural and historical information on places, things, and people in the Bible that are probably obscure to modern readers. Such notes should aid the reader in understanding the message of the text. For example, in Acts 12:1, “King Herod” is named in this translation as “King Herod Agrippa” and is identified in a footnote as being “the nephew of Herod Antipas and a grandson of Herod the Great.”
- When the meaning of a proper name (or a wordplay inherent in a proper name) is relevant to the meaning of the text, it is either illuminated with a textual footnote or included within parentheses in the text itself. For example, the footnote concerning the name “Eve” at Genesis 3:20 reads: “*Eve* sounds like a Hebrew term that means ‘to give life.’” This wordplay in the Hebrew illuminates the meaning of the text, which goes on to say that Eve “would be the mother of all who live.”

AS WE SUBMIT this translation for publication, we recognize that any translation of the Scriptures is subject to limitations and imperfections. Anyone who has attempted to communicate the richness of God’s Word into another language will realize it is impossible to make a perfect translation. Recognizing these limitations, we sought God’s guidance and wisdom throughout

this project. Now we pray that he will accept our efforts and use this translation for the benefit of the church and of all people.

We pray that the New Living Translation will overcome some of the barriers of history, culture, and language that have kept people from reading and understanding God's Word. We hope that readers unfamiliar with the Bible will find the words clear and easy to understand and that readers well versed in the Scriptures will gain a fresh perspective. We pray that readers will gain insight and wisdom for living, but most of all that they will meet the God of the Bible and be forever changed by knowing him.

The Bible Translation Committee
October 2007

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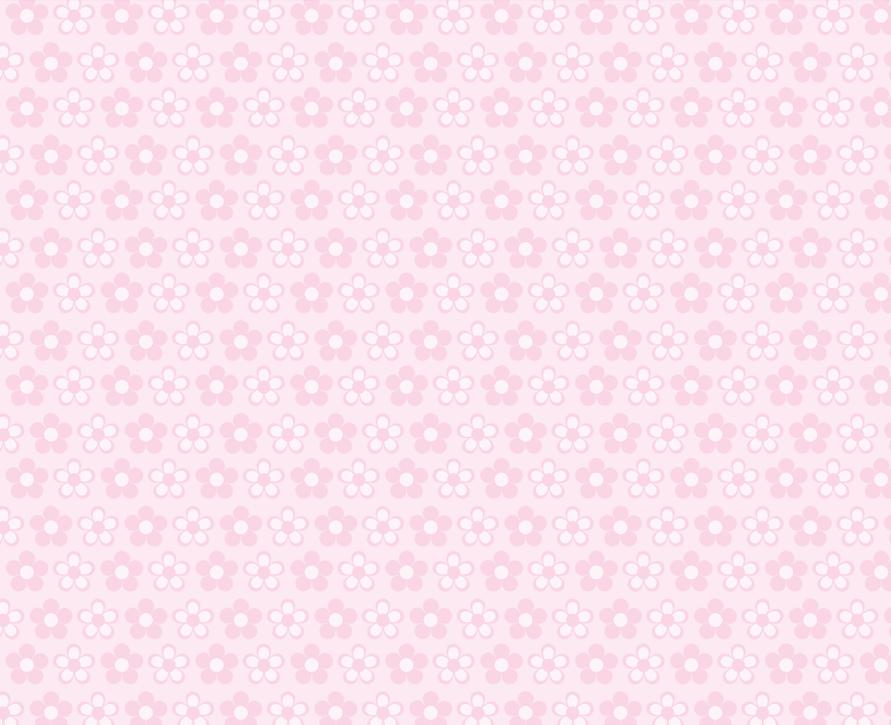
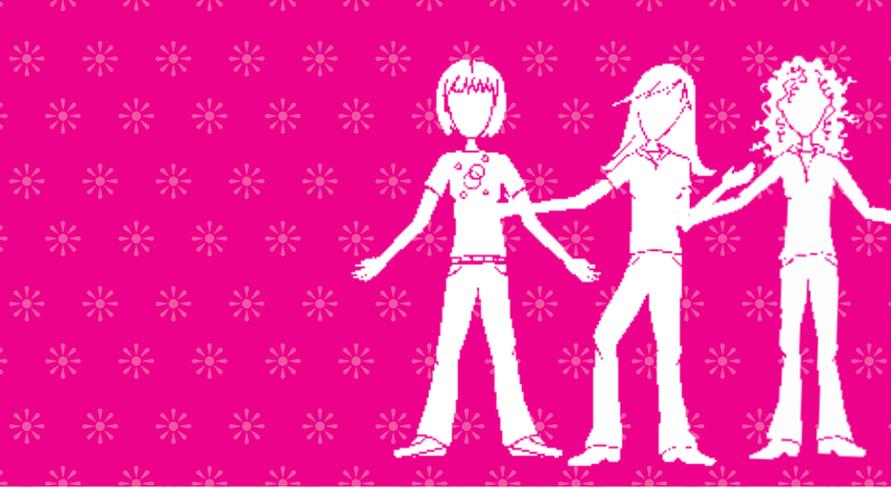
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Old Testament

Genesis

WHO

Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Lot, Melchizedek, Jacob, Esau, Joseph, and many others.

WHERE

Genesis begins with the story of Adam and Eve. Their story takes place in the Garden of Eden. Other stories in Genesis take place in the parts of the world that today are called Iraq, Israel, and Egypt.

WHEN

Moses probably wrote this book between 1450–1410 BC while leading God's people to the Promised Land of Israel.

WHY

To tell about God's creation of the world and to show that God wants people to worship and obey him.

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

GENESIS 1:31



Genesis answers questions like . . .
Where do animals come from?
Why do people hurt each other?
Where did different languages get started?

You'll learn a lot here about God, his creation, and the beginning of the human race.



Creation

undated
Noah

2166 BC
Abraham born

2066 BC
Isaac born

2006 BC

1915 BC
Jacob and Esau born

1885 BC
Joseph born

Joseph rules
Egypt

This is where God's story begins!

CHAPTER 1

The Account of Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* ²The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

³Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day" and the darkness "night."

And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

1:1 Or In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, . . . Or When God began to create the heavens and the earth, . . .

⁶Then God said, “Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth.”

⁷And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. ⁸God called the space “sky.”

And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

⁹Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what happened. ¹⁰God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened. ¹²The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

Why should I treat people with respect if they don't deserve it?



So God created human beings in his own image. GENESIS 1:27

¹³And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

¹⁴Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. ¹⁵Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened. ¹⁶God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, ¹⁸to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

²⁰Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.” ²¹So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”

²³And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

²⁴Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.” And that is what happened. ²⁵God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make human beings* in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild

animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created human beings* in his own image.

In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

²⁹Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. ³⁰And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that

1:26 Or *man*; Hebrew reads *adam*. 1:27 Or *the man*; Hebrew reads *ha-adam*.

scurry along the ground—everything that has life.” And that is what happened.

³Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

CHAPTER 2

So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed.

²On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested* from all his work. ³And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

⁴This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth.

The Man and Woman in Eden

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the LORD God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. ⁶Instead, springs* came up from the ground and watered all the land. ⁷Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person.

2:2 Or *ceased*; also in 2:3. 2:6 Or *mist*.

⁸Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. ⁹The LORD God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. ¹¹The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. ¹²The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. ¹³The second branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. ¹⁶But the LORD God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—¹⁷except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.” ¹⁹So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them

DAYS OF CREATION

First Day

Light (so there was light and darkness)

Second Day

Sky and water

Third Day

Seas and land

Fourth Day

Sun, moon, and stars

Fifth Day

Fish and birds

Sixth Day

Animals,
Man and woman

Seventh Day

God rested and
was pleased

to the man* to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. ²⁰He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs* and closed up the opening. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

²³"At last!" the man exclaimed.

"This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!
She will be called 'woman,'
because she was taken from 'man.'"

²⁴This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

²⁵Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

CHAPTER 3 The Man and Woman Sin

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

²"Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. ³"It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'"

⁴"You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵"God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

⁶The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. ⁷At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

⁸When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man* and his wife heard the LORD God

What Now?



The Sleepover

Maddy had invited her friends for a sleepover in the downstairs family room of her house. After Maddy's parents went to bed, Shelly said, "Hey, they're showing reruns of this really funny TV show soon. We should watch that." "I don't know," Maddy said. "I'm not allowed to watch that show." Shelly asked, "What's one episode?" *I guess it can't hurt to see the show just once,* Maddy thought. She didn't want to disappoint her friends. And her parents would never know.

What would you do? Check out Genesis 3: 1-7.

walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. ⁹Then the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."

¹¹"Who told you that you were naked?" the LORD God asked. "Have you eaten from the

tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?³”

¹²The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God asked the woman, “What have you done?”

“The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

¹⁴Then the LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild.

You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live.

¹⁵ And I will cause hostility between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and her offspring.

He will strike* your head, and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶Then he said to the woman,

“I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth.

And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.*”

¹⁷And to the man he said,

“Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree

whose fruit I commanded you not to eat,

the ground is cursed because of you.

All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.

¹⁸ It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made.

For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.”

Paradise Lost: God’s Judgment

²⁰Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who

live.* ²¹And the LORD God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

²²Then the LORD God said, “Look, the human beings* have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” ²³So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. ²⁴After sending them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

CHAPTER 4 Cain and Abel

Now Adam* had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, “With the LORD’s help, I have produced* a man!” ²Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel.

When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. ³When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. ⁴Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

⁶“Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? ⁷You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”

⁸One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields.”* And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.

⁹Afterward the LORD asked Cain, “Where is your brother? Where is Abel?”

“I don’t know,” Cain responded. “Am I my brother’s guardian?”

¹⁰But the LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground! ¹¹Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has

3:15 Or *bruise*; also in 3:15b. 3:16 Or *And though you will have desire for your husband, / he will rule over you.* 3:20 *Eve* sounds like a Hebrew term that means “to give life.” 3:22 Or *the man*; Hebrew reads *ha-adam*. 4:1a Or *the man*; also in 4:25. 4:1b Or *I have acquired*. *Cain* sounds like a Hebrew term that can mean “produce” or “acquire.” 4:8 As in Samaritan Pentateuch, Greek and Syriac versions, and Latin Vulgate; Masoretic Text lacks “*Let’s go out into the fields.*”

swallowed your brother's blood. ¹²No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth."

¹³Cain replied to the LORD, "My punishment* is too great for me to bear! ¹⁴You have banished me from the land and from your presence; you have made me a homeless wanderer. Anyone who finds me will kill me!"

¹⁵The LORD replied, "No, for I will give a sevenfold punishment to anyone who kills you." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to kill him. ¹⁶So Cain left the LORD's presence and settled in the land of Nod,* east of Eden.

The Descendants of Cain

¹⁷Cain had sexual relations with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain founded a city, which he named Enoch, after his son. ¹⁸Enoch had a son named Irad. Irad became the father of* Mehujael. Mehujael became the father of Methushael. Methushael became the father of Lamech.

¹⁹Lamech married two women. The first was named Adah, and the second was Zillah. ²⁰Adah gave birth to Jabal, who was the first of those who raise livestock and live in tents. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal, the first of all who play the harp and flute. ²²Lamech's other wife, Zillah, gave birth to a son named Tubal-cain. He became an expert in forging tools of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain had a sister named Naamah. ²³One day Lamech said to his wives,

4:13 Or *My sin*. 4:16 *Nod* means "wandering." 4:18 Or *the ancestor of*, and so throughout the verse. 4:25 *Seth* probably means "granted"; the name may also mean "appointed." 5:1 Or *man*; Hebrew reads *adam*; similarly in 5:2. 5:6 Or *the ancestor of*; also in 5:9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 25. 5:7 Or *the birth of this ancestor of*; also in 5:10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 26.

"Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; listen to me, you wives of Lamech. I have killed a man who attacked me, a young man who wounded me. ²⁴ If someone who kills Cain is punished seven times, then the one who kills me will be punished seventy-seven times!"

The Birth of Seth

²⁵Adam had sexual relations with his wife again, and she gave birth to another son. She named him Seth,* for she said, "God has granted me another son in place of Abel, whom Cain killed." ²⁶When Seth grew up, he had a son and named him Enosh. At that time people first began to worship the LORD by name.

**CHAPTER 5
The Descendants of Adam**

This is the written account of the descendants of Adam. When God created human beings,* he made them to be like himself. ²He created them male and female, and he blessed them and called them "human."

³When Adam was 130 years old, he became the father of a son who was just like him—in his very image. He named his son Seth. ⁴After the birth of Seth, Adam lived another 800 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ⁵Adam lived 930 years, and then he died. ⁶When Seth was 105 years old, he became the father of* Enosh. ⁷After the birth of*

Is It OK?

? Is it OK if I mope around?

- Does God really care if you have a bad attitude? Take a look at Genesis 4:6-7. Cain was a walking bad 'tude. He didn't care what others thought, and he certainly didn't try to correct his attitude problem. But look at God's warning. A bad attitude is the first step toward bigger, uglier problems. Does your attitude need adjusting?

Enosh, Seth lived another 807 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ⁸Seth lived 912 years, and then he died.

⁹When Enosh was 90 years old, he became the father of Kenan. ¹⁰After the birth of Kenan, Enosh lived another 815 years, and he had other sons and daughters.

¹¹Enosh lived 905 years, and then he died.

¹²When Kenan was 70 years old, he became the father of Mahalalel. ¹³After the birth of Mahalalel, Kenan lived another 840 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴Kenan lived 910 years, and then he died.

¹⁵When Mahalalel was 65 years old, he became the father of Jared. ¹⁶After the birth of Jared, Mahalalel lived another 830 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷Mahalalel lived 895 years, and then he died.

¹⁸When Jared was 162 years old, he became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹After the birth of Enoch, Jared lived another 800 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²⁰Jared lived 962 years, and then he died.

²¹When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah. ²²After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived in close fellowship with God for another 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²³Enoch lived 365 years, ²⁴walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.

²⁵When Methuselah was 187 years old, he became the father of Lamech. ²⁶After the birth of Lamech, Methuselah lived another 782 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²⁷Methuselah lived 969 years, and then he died.

²⁸When Lamech was 182 years old, he became the father of a son. ²⁹Lamech named his son Noah, for he said, “May he bring us relief* from our work and the painful labor of farming this ground that the LORD has cursed.” ³⁰After the birth of Noah, Lamech lived another 595 years, and he had other sons and daughters.

³¹Lamech lived 777 years, and then he died.

³²By the time Noah was 500 years old, he was the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

CHAPTER 6 A World Gone Wrong

Then the people began to multiply on the earth, and daughters were born to them. ²The sons of God saw the beautiful women* and took any they wanted as their wives. ³Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not put up with* humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal life-span will be no more than 120 years.”

⁴In those days, and for some time after, giant Nephilites lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God had intercourse with women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes and famous warriors of ancient times.

AMAZING FACTS

Methuselah lived to be 969! Noah was 950. Now that's old!

GENESIS 5:27; 9:29

⁵The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. ⁶So the LORD was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. ⁷And the LORD said, “I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them.” ⁸But Noah found favor with the LORD.

5:29 Noah sounds like a Hebrew term that can mean “relief” or “comfort.” 6:2 Hebrew *daughters of men*; also in 6:4. 6:3 Greek version reads *will not remain in*.

The Story of Noah

⁹This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. ¹⁰Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. ¹²God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. ¹³So God said to Noah, "I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth!"

¹⁴"Build a large boat* from cypress wood* and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. ¹⁵Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.* ¹⁶Leave an 18-inch opening* below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper.

¹⁷"Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes. Everything on earth will die. ¹⁸But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁹Bring a pair of every kind of animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood. ²⁰Pairs of every kind of bird, and every kind of animal, and every kind of small animal that scurries along the ground, will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹And be sure to take on board enough food for your family and for all the animals."

²²So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

CHAPTER 7 The Flood Covers the Earth

When everything was ready, the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the boat with all your family, for among all the people of the earth, I can see that you alone are righteous. ²Take with you seven pairs—male and female—of each animal I have approved for eating and for sacrifice,* and take one pair of each of the others. ³Also take seven pairs of every kind of bird.

There must be a male and a female in each pair to ensure that all life will survive on the earth after the flood. ⁴Seven days from now I will make the rains pour down on the earth. And it will rain for forty days and forty nights, until I have wiped from the earth all the living things I have created."

⁵So Noah did everything as the LORD commanded him.

⁶Noah was 600 years old when the flood covered the earth. ⁷He went on board the boat to escape the flood—he and his wife and his sons and their wives. ⁸With them were all the various kinds of animals—those approved for eating and for sacrifice and those that were not—along with all the birds and the small animals that scurry along the ground. ⁹They entered the boat in pairs, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰After seven days, the waters of the flood came and covered the earth.

¹¹When Noah was 600 years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the underground waters erupted from the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents from the sky. ¹²The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights.

¹³That very day Noah had gone into the boat with his wife and his sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—and their wives. ¹⁴With them in the boat were pairs of every kind of animal—domestic and wild, large and small—along with birds of every kind. ¹⁵Two by two they came into the boat, representing every living thing that breathes. ¹⁶A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD closed the door behind them.

¹⁷For forty days the floodwaters grew deeper, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. ¹⁸As the waters rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface. ¹⁹Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth, ²⁰rising more than twenty-two feet* above the highest peaks. ²¹All the living things on earth died—birds, domestic animals, wild animals, small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people. ²²Everything that breathed and lived on dry

6:14a Traditionally rendered an ark. 6:14b Or gopher wood. 6:15 Hebrew 300 cubits [138 meters] long, 50 cubits [23 meters] wide, and 30 cubits [13.8 meters] high. 6:16 Hebrew an opening of 1 cubit [46 centimeters]. 7:2 Hebrew of each clean animal; similarly in 7:8. 7:20 Hebrew 15 cubits [6.9 meters].

land died. ²³God wiped out every living thing on the earth—people, livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and the birds of the sky. All were destroyed. The only people who survived were Noah and those with him in the boat. ²⁴And the floodwaters covered the earth for 150 days.

CHAPTER 8

The Flood Recedes

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and livestock with him in the boat. He sent a wind to blow across the earth, and the floodwaters began to recede. ²The underground waters stopped flowing, and the torrential rains from the sky were stopped. ³So the floodwaters gradually receded from the earth. After 150 days, ⁴exactly five months from the time the flood began,* the boat came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵Two and a half months later,* as the waters continued to go down, other mountain peaks became visible.

⁶After another forty days, Noah opened the window he had made in the boat ⁷and released a raven. The bird flew back and forth until the floodwaters on the earth had dried up. ⁸He also released a dove to see if the water had receded and it could find dry ground. ⁹But the dove could find no place to land because the water still covered the ground. So it returned to the boat, and Noah held out his hand and drew the dove back inside. ¹⁰After waiting another seven days, Noah released the dove again. ¹¹This time the dove returned to him in the evening with a fresh olive leaf in its beak. Then Noah knew that the floodwaters were almost gone. ¹²He waited another seven days and then released the dove again. This time it did not come back.

¹³Noah was now 601 years old. On the first day of the new year, ten and a half months after the flood began,* the floodwaters had almost dried up from the earth. Noah lifted back the covering of the boat and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. ¹⁴Two more months went by,* and at last the earth was dry!

¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶“Leave the boat, all of you—you and your wife, and your sons

and their wives. ¹⁷Release all the animals—the birds, the livestock, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—so they can be fruitful and multiply throughout the earth.”

¹⁸So Noah, his wife, and his sons and their wives left the boat. ¹⁹And all of the large and small animals and birds came out of the boat, pair by pair.

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and there he sacrificed as burnt offerings the animals and birds that had been approved for that purpose.* ²¹And the LORD was pleased with the aroma of the sacrifice and said to himself, “I will never again curse the ground because of the human race, even though everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil from childhood. I will never again destroy all living things. ²²As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.”

CHAPTER 9

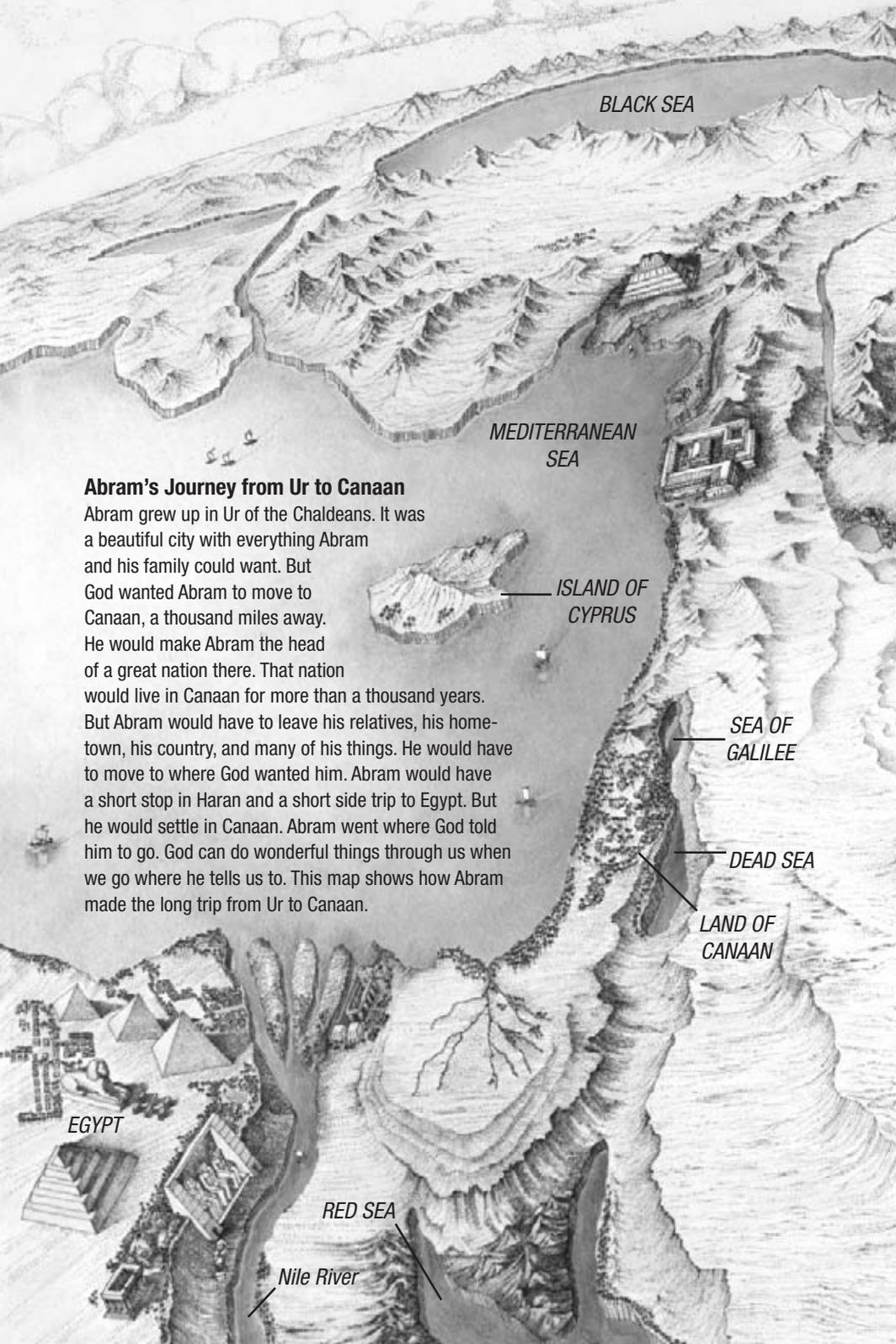
God Confirms His Covenant

Then God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth. ²All the animals of the earth, all the birds of the sky, all the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the fish in the sea will look on you with fear and terror. I have placed them in your power. ³I have given them to you for food, just as I have given you grain and vegetables. ⁴But you must never eat any meat that still has the lifeblood in it.

⁵“And I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person’s life. If a wild animal kills a person, it must die. And anyone who murders a fellow human must die. ⁶If anyone takes a human life, that person’s life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings* in his own image. ⁷Now be fruitful and multiply, and repopulate the earth.”

⁸Then God told Noah and his sons, ⁹“I hereby confirm my covenant with you and your descendants, ¹⁰and with all the animals that were on the boat with you—the birds, the livestock, and all the wild animals—every living creature on earth. ¹¹Yes, I am confirming my

8:4 Hebrew on the seventeenth day of the seventh month; see 7:11. 8:5 Hebrew On the first day of the tenth month; see 7:11 and note on 8:4. 8:13 Hebrew On the first day of the first month; see 7:11. 8:14 Hebrew The twenty-seventh day of the second month arrived; see note on 8:13. 8:20 Hebrew every clean animal and every clean bird. 9:6 Or man; Hebrew reads ha-adam.



BLACK SEA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

ISLAND OF CYPRUS

SEA OF GALILEE

DEAD SEA

LAND OF CANAAN

EGYPT

RED SEA

Nile River

Abram's Journey from Ur to Canaan

Abram grew up in Ur of the Chaldeans. It was a beautiful city with everything Abram and his family could want. But God wanted Abram to move to Canaan, a thousand miles away. He would make Abram the head of a great nation there. That nation would live in Canaan for more than a thousand years. But Abram would have to leave his relatives, his hometown, his country, and many of his things. He would have to move to where God wanted him. Abram would have a short stop in Haran and a short side trip to Egypt. But he would settle in Canaan. Abram went where God told him to go. God can do wonderful things through us when we go where he tells us to. This map shows how Abram made the long trip from Ur to Canaan.



CASPIAN SEA

Haran

Tigris River

Euphrates River

Babylon
(Babel)

PERSIAN
GULF

ARABIAN
DESERT

Ur of the Chaldeans

Matthew

WHO

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist, disciples (including Peter, James, and John), suffering woman, Gentile woman, religious leaders, Caiaphas, Pilate, and Mary Magdalene.

WHERE

In Jerusalem.

WHEN

Probably between AD 60 and 65.

WHY

To prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the eternal King.

She will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

MATTHEW 1:21



Matthew wrote about Jesus' whole life: his birth, death, resurrection. Of all the famous people who ever lived—Napoleon, George Washington, and Martin Luther King, Jr. to name a few—the one who changed the most lives is Jesus Christ. Two thousand years ago he started a spiritual revolution that is still going strong.



37 BC Herod the Great begins to rule
65 BC Jesus is born
5/4 BC Escape to Egypt
4 BC Herod the Great dies
AD 6 Return to Nazareth
AD 6/7 Judea becomes a Roman province
AD 14 Jesus visits Temple as a boy
AD 26 Tiberius Caesar becomes emperor
AD 26/27 Pontius Pilate appointed governor
AD 28 Jesus begins his ministry
AD 29 Jesus chooses 12 disciples
AD 30 Jesus feeds 5,000
Jesus is crucified, rises again, and ascends

Check it out—Jesus can change your life, too.

CHAPTER 1

The Ancestors of Jesus the Messiah

This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David* and of Abraham:

² Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

³ Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar).

Perez was the father of Hezron.

Hezron was the father of Ram.*

⁴ Ram was the father of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

⁵ Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab).

1:1 Greek *Jesus the Messiah, son of David*. 1:3 Greek *Aram*, a variant spelling of Ram; also in 1:4. See 1 Chr 2:9-10.

- Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth).
 Obed was the father of Jesse.
 6 Jesse was the father of King David.
 David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).
 7 Solomon was the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam was the father of Abijah. Abijah was the father of Asa.*
 8 Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram.* Jehoram was the father* of Uzziah.
 9 Uzziah was the father of Jotham. Jotham was the father of Ahaz. Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.
 10 Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh. Manasseh was the father of Amon.* Amon was the father of Josiah.
 11 Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin* and his brothers (born at the time of the exile to Babylon).
 12 After the Babylonian exile: Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.
 13 Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud. Abiud was the father of Eliakim. Eliakim was the father of Azor.
 14 Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Akim. Akim was the father of Eliud.
 15 Eliud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar was the father of Matthan. Matthan was the father of Jacob.
 16 Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.
 Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.
 17 All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

18 This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place,

while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement* quietly.

²⁰As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.”²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus,* for he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet:

²³ “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel,* which means ‘God is with us.’”

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

CHAPTER 2 Visitors from the East

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men* from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ²⁴“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose,* and we have come to worship him.”

³King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
 are not least among the ruling cities* of Judah,
 for a ruler will come from you
 who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’*”

1:7 Greek *Asaph*, a variant spelling of Asa; also in 1:8. See 1 Chr 3:10. 1:8a Greek *Joram*, a variant spelling of Jehoram; also in 1:8b. See 1 Kgs 22:50 and note at 1 Chr 3:11. 1:8b Or *ancestor*; also in 1:11. 1:10 Greek *Amos*, a variant spelling of Amon; also in 1:10b. See 1 Chr 3:14. 1:11 Greek *Jeconiah*, a variant spelling of Jehoiachin; also in 1:12. See 2 Kgs 24:6 and note at 1 Chr 3:16. 1:19 Greek to *divorce her*. 1:21 Jesus means “The LORD saves.” 1:23 Isa 7:14; 8:8, 10 (Greek version). 2:1 Or *royal astrologers*; Greek reads *magi*; also in 2:7, 16. 2:2 Or *star in the east*. 2:6a Greek *the rulers*. 2:6b Mic 5:2; 2 Sam 5:2.

⁷Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

⁹After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, ¹⁵and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.”*

¹⁶Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men’s report of the star’s first appearance. ¹⁷Herod’s brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ “A cry was heard in Ramah—
weeping and great mourning.
Rachel weeps for her children,
refusing to be comforted,
for they are dead.”*

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. ²⁰“Get

up!” the angel said. “Take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead.”

²¹So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. ²²But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod’s son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. ²³So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

CHAPTER 3

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, ²“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.*”

³The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming!
Clear the road for him!’”*

⁴John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. ⁶And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize,* he denounced them. “You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee God’s coming wrath? ⁸Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. ⁹Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. ¹⁰Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize with* water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be

2:15 Hos 11:1. 2:18 Jer 31:15. 3:2 Or *has come, or is coming soon*. 3:3 Isa 40:3 (Greek version). 3:7 Or *coming to be baptized*. 3:11a Or *in*.

At a Glance



Mary

My son, Jesus, has grown up so fast. I remember when he was born in Bethlehem. I had to place him in a manger where animals eat their hay, because there were no rooms for us. Then we moved into a house, where some Wise Men visited us. After that, we traveled to Egypt to keep Jesus safe from wicked King Herod. Now that Jesus is beginning his ministry, it is hard for me to let him go. But this is what God expects of me. I need to give up my desire to protect Jesus so that God's will can be done. I don't understand it yet, but I know my sacrifices will allow my son to make a much greater sacrifice someday.

Read more about Jesus' mother, Mary, in Matthew 1:18–2:15; Luke 1:26–2:40; and John 2:1–12.

his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*¹² He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat

3:11b Or in the Holy Spirit and in fire. 3:15 Or for we must fulfill all righteousness. 3:16 Some manuscripts read opened to him. 4:3 Greek the tempter. 4:4 Deut 8:3. 4:6 Ps 91:11–12. 4:7 Deut 6:16.

into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire."

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"

¹⁵But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.*" So John agreed to baptize him.

¹⁶After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened* and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

CHAPTER 4

The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. ²For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

³During that time the devil* came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

⁴But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say,

'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.*'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, ⁶and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.*'"

⁷Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the LORD your God.*'"

⁸Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹"I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

¹⁰“Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say,

‘You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.’*”

¹¹Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

The Ministry of Jesus Begins

¹²When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee.

¹³He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵ “In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee where so many Gentiles live, ¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined.”*

¹⁷From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”*

The First Disciples

¹⁸One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—

What’s a good reason for being nice to my sister and brother?



God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. MATTHEW 5:7

throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. ¹⁹Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” ²⁰And they left their nets at once and followed him.

²¹A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. ²²They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.

4:10 Deut 6:13. 4:15-16 Isa 9:1-2 (Greek version). 4:17 Or *has come, or is coming soon*. 4:25 Greek *Decapolis*. 5:3 Greek *poor in spirit*. 5:6 Or *for righteousness*.

Crowds Follow Jesus

²³Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ²⁴News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all. ²⁵Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns,* Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River.

CHAPTER 5

The Sermon on the Mount

One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ²and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

- ³ “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,* for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ⁴ God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. ⁶ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,* for they will be satisfied.

⁷ God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

⁹ God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

GALILEE

Cana

Nazareth

Sychar

Caesarea

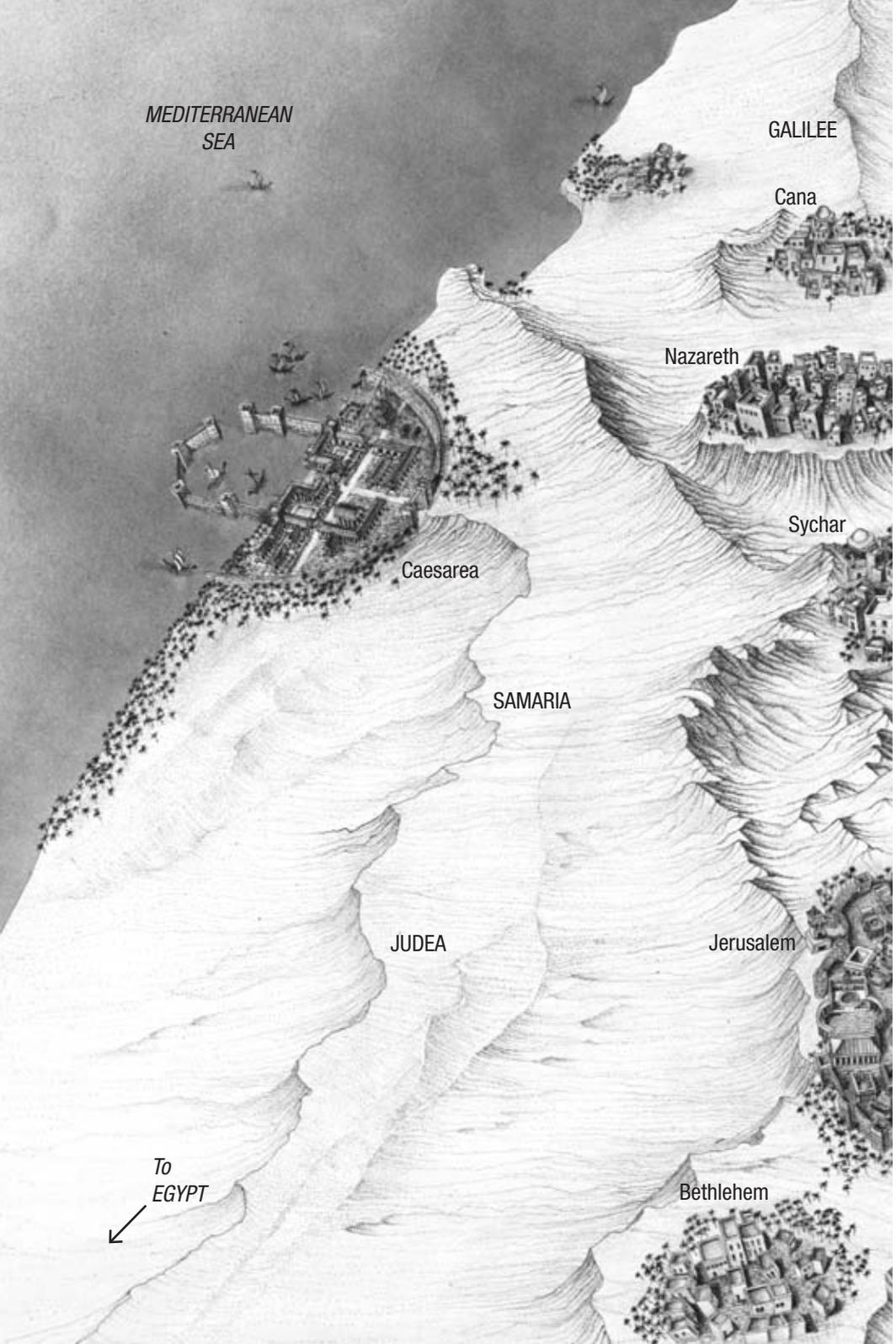
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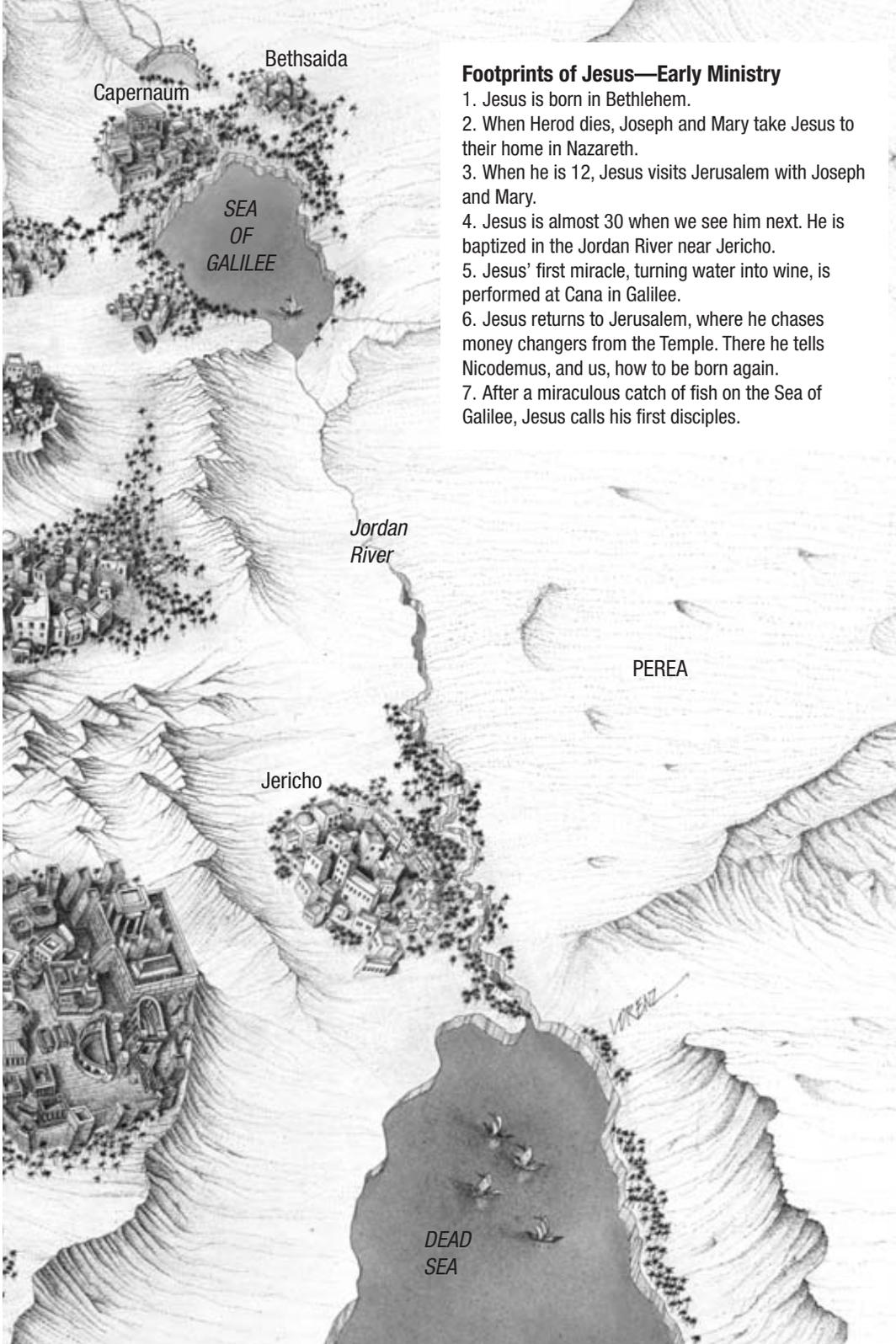
JUDEA

Jerusalem

To
EGYPT

Bethlehem





Bethsaida

Capernaum

SEA
OF
GALILEE

Jordan
River

Jericho

PEREA

DEAD
SEA

Footprints of Jesus—Early Ministry

1. Jesus is born in Bethlehem.
2. When Herod dies, Joseph and Mary take Jesus to their home in Nazareth.
3. When he is 12, Jesus visits Jerusalem with Joseph and Mary.
4. Jesus is almost 30 when we see him next. He is baptized in the Jordan River near Jericho.
5. Jesus' first miracle, turning water into wine, is performed at Cana in Galilee.
6. Jesus returns to Jerusalem, where he chases money changers from the Temple. There he tells Nicodemus, and us, how to be born again.
7. After a miraculous catch of fish on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus calls his first disciples.

¹¹“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you* and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹²Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Teaching about Salt and Light

¹³“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Teaching about the Law

¹⁷“Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. ¹⁸I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. ¹⁹So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

²⁰“But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

Teaching about Anger

²¹“You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’* ²²But I say, if you are even angry with someone,* you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot,* you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone,* you are in danger of the fires of hell.*

²³“So if you are presenting a sacrifice* at

5:11 Some manuscripts do not include *and lie about you*. 5:21 Exod 20:13; Deut 5:17. 5:22a Some manuscripts add *without cause*. 5:22b Greek uses an Aramaic term of contempt: *If you say to your brother, ‘Raca.’* 5:22c Greek *if you say, ‘You fool.’* 5:22d Greek *Gehenna*; also in 5:29, 30. 5:23 Greek *gift*; also in 5:24.

What Now?



Rumor Weed

Alicia began hanging out with some girls who lived a few blocks away. But one day they were talking about some other girls at school who weren’t as “cool” as they were. One of the other girls was really shy and didn’t have many friends. Alicia’s new friends said, “Prove that you want to be part of our group by spreading a rumor about this girl.” Alicia really liked hanging out with her new friends and wanted to stay in their group. What do you think Alicia should do? Matthew 5:14-16 will give you a clue.

the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, ²⁴leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

²⁵“When you are on the way to court with

I survived!

Christian ❀ 15

I was angry and ready to fight. I had just broken up with my girlfriend. Then I found out she was planning to go out with one of my closest friends. He was the friend who for the past couple months had been telling me that I shouldn't be wasting my time with this girl.

Now the truth was out. He had wanted to go out with my girlfriend the whole time he was advising me to break up with her.

I wanted to give him a good pounding. But I never did fight him. I knew that fighting would have hurt my relationship with God. Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 5:38-42 that revenge is not the way to settle a problem. God helped me see that even though I was hurt and angry about what my friend and ex-girlfriend had done, what was done to me was over. I couldn't go back and change what happened. The only choice I had was how I would respond to what they did. I chose not to make it worse by starting a fight with this guy, who had been my close friend.

I sent him an IM one day and told him how angry I was about what he had done. But I said that I didn't want to fight about it. He understood and said he would feel the same way. We decided that this was a great opportunity for both of us to get our focus back on God.

One more thing . . . my friend never did go out with my ex-girlfriend. And I saved my friendship with this guy by forgiving him for what he had planned to do.

Check out what God has to say about revenge in Matthew 5:38-42. Also check out Leviticus 19:18; Psalm 37:8; Proverbs 29:22; and Romans 12:18-21.



The Greatest Stories Reading Plan

Now that you have this great new Bible, where do you start? You could open the Bible to just any old place and start reading. Or you could start at the beginning and keep going until you reach the end. But if these ideas sound a bit overwhelming, try this reading plan. It is designed to take you through the best of the Bible in one year. As you read each entry, check it off so you mark your progress throughout the year. You can start it at any time, so jump right in!

Old Testament

Genesis 1:1-2:3	How It All Started	pages 3-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 2:15-3:24	Adam and Eve	pages 5-7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 4:1-16	Cain and Abel	pages 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 6:9-22	Noah Gets to Build a Boat	page 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 7:1-24	All Aboard!	pages 10-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 8:1-22	A Long Wait	page 11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 9:1-17	Rules and Rainbows	pages 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 11:1-9	The Tower of Babel	page 15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 12:1-9; 17:1-8	God's Promise to Abraham	pages 16; 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 18:1-15	Unusual Visitors	pages 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 19:15-29	Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah	pages 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 21:8-21	Hagar and Ishmael	page 25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 22:1-19	Abraham's Painful Decision	page 26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 24:1-27	A Man Named Eliezer	pages 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 24:28-67	Isaac and Rebekah	pages 28-29	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 25:19-34	Jacob and Esau	page 30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 27:1-40	Jacob Tricks His Father	pages 32-33	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 28:10-22	Jacob Meets God	page 34	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 29:14-30	Jacob's Marriages	page 35	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 32:1-33:16	Jacob Returns Home	pages 40-41	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 37:1-36	Jacob's Children	pages 45-46	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 39:1-23	Joseph in Trouble	pages 48-49	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 40:1-23	Dreams in Prison	pages 49-50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 41:1-36	Dreams in the Palace	pages 50-51	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 41:37-57	Joseph in Charge	pages 51-52	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 42:1-38	Joseph Sees His Brothers Again	pages 52-53	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 43:1-34	Back to Joseph	pages 53-54	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 44:1-34	Crisis in the Palace	pages 55-56	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 45:1-28	Finding a Lost Son	pages 56-57	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 49:1-33	Jacob's Final Words	pages 61-62	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 1:8-2:10	Moses Is Born	pages 65-66	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 2:11-25	Moses on the Run	pages 66-67	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 3:1-22	God's Burning Bush	pages 68-69	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 4:1-17	Moses Isn't Sure	pages 69-70	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 5:1-23	Resistance	page 71	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 6:1-13	Rejection	pages 71-72	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 7:1-14	A Stubborn Ruler	pages 72-73	<input type="checkbox"/>



Exodus 7:15–9:7	Five out of Ten Plagues	pages 73–75	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 9:9–10:29	Four More Plagues	pages 75–76	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 11:1-10; 12:29-36	The Ultimate Plague	pages 78; 79	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 13:17–14:31	A Narrow Escape	pages 81–82	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 15:22-27; 17:1-7	God Provides Water	pages 83; 85	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 16:1-36	God’s Unusual Food Supply	pages 83–85	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 18:1-27	Helpful Advice	pages 86–87	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 19:1-25	An Appointment with God	pages 87–88	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 20:1-22	The Ten Commandments	pages 88–89	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 32:1-29	The Golden Calf	pages 103–104	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exodus 40	Instructions about God’s Tent	pages 113–114	<input type="checkbox"/>
Numbers 12:1-16	Moses under Fire	pages 167–168	<input type="checkbox"/>
Numbers 13:1–14:4	Spying on the Promised Land	pages 168–169	<input type="checkbox"/>
Numbers 14:5–45	A Majority That Was Wrong	pages 169–172	<input type="checkbox"/>
Numbers 21:4-9	Another Hard Lesson	page 181	<input type="checkbox"/>
Numbers 22:5-38	Balaam and His Donkey	pages 183–184	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deuteronomy 29:1-29	Moses Reviews God’s Actions	pages 235–236	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deuteronomy 30:1-20	Moses Challenges the People	page 237	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deuteronomy 31:1-8	Moses Appoints New Leaders	page 238	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deuteronomy 34:1-12	The Death of Moses	page 244	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joshua 1:1-18	God Takes Over	pages 245–246	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joshua 2:1-24	Spies Visit Jericho	pages 246–247	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joshua 3:1-17	The Invasion of Canaan	pages 247–248	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joshua 5:13–6:27	The Battle of Jericho	pages 250–251	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joshua 7:1-26	Ultimate Consequences	pages 252–253	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joshua 10:1-15	The Longest Day	pages 256–257	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joshua 23:1-16	Joshua Warns the Leaders	page 271	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joshua 24:1-31	Joshua’s Last Words	pages 272–273	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judges 4:4-24	Judge Deborah	pages 279–280	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judges 6:1-40	Gideon Becomes a Judge	pages 283–284	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judges 7:1-25	Gideon and the Midianites	pages 284–285	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judges 13:1-25	The Birth of Samson	pages 292–293	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judges 14:1-20	Samson’s Riddle	pages 293–294	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judges 15:1-20	Samson and the Jawbone	pages 294–295	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judges 16:1-21	Samson and Delilah	pages 295–296	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judges 16:22-31	Samson’s Death	page 297	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruth 1:1-22	Ruth and Naomi—A Friendship	pages 303–304	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruth 2:1-23	Ruth Meets Boaz	pages 305–306	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruth 3:1-18	Ruth Finds a Husband	page 306	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruth 4:1-22	A Happy Ending	pages 307–308	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 1:1-28	A Serious Prayer	pages 309–310	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 3:1-21	God Calls Samuel	pages 312–313	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 8:1-22	The People Want a King	pages 317–318	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 9:1-21	Saul and the Lost Donkeys	page 318	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 10:1-27	Saul Becomes King	pages 319–320	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 12:1-25	Samuel Says Good-bye	pages 321–322	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 14:1-23	A Son to Make a Father Proud	pages 323–324	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 16:1-13	Samuel Appoints David	pages 327–328	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 17:1-31	David and Goliath’s Challenge	pages 328–329	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 17:32-58	David Kills Goliath	pages 330–331	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 18:1-30	Trouble between Saul and David	pages 331–332	<input type="checkbox"/>



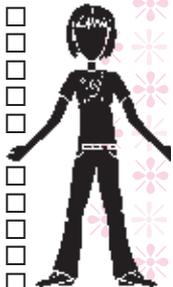
1 Samuel 20:1-42	David and Jonathan	pages 334–336	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 24:1-22	David Spares Saul's Life	pages 339–340	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 25:1-42	David and Abigail	pages 340–341	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Samuel 28:1-25	Saul and the Occult	pages 343–344	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Samuel 5:1-12	David Becomes King over All Israel	page 352	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Samuel 9:1-13	The King's Kindness	pages 355–356	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Samuel 11:1-27	David and Bathsheba	pages 357–358	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Samuel 12:1-25	David and Nathan	pages 358–359	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Samuel 13:1-19	Family Consequences of Sin	page 360	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Samuel 13:20-39	Family Revenge	pages 360–361	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Samuel 15:1-37	Family Betrayal	pages 363–364	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Samuel 18:1-18	The Death of Absalom	pages 366–367	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Kings 1:5-27	Conflict over the Throne	pages 377–378	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Kings 1:28-53	David Gives Solomon the Crown	pages 380–381	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Kings 3:1-15	Solomon's Wisdom	page 383	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Kings 3:16-28	Solomon Solves a Problem	page 383	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Kings 6:1-38	Solomon Builds the Temple	pages 385–386	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Kings 10:1-13	Solomon and the Queen of Sheba	pages 392–393	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Kings 12:1-24	Solomon's Unwise Son	pages 396–397	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Kings 17:1-24	God Takes Care of Elijah	page 403	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Kings 18:16-46	Elijah versus the Priests of Baal	pages 404–405	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Kings 19:1-21	Spiritual Burnout	pages 405–406	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Kings 21:1-29	The Stolen Vineyard	pages 408–409	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Kings 22:29-40	The Death of King Ahab	pages 410–411	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Kings 2:1-12	Elijah's Chariot	pages 414–415	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Kings 2:13-25	Elisha's Miracles	pages 415–416	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Kings 5:1-27	The Healing of Naaman	pages 419–420	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Kings 11:1-21	The King Who Was Seven Years Old	pages 427–428	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Kings 22:1–23:3	Discovery of the Lost Book	pages 443–444	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ezra 3:7-13	Rebuilding the Temple	pages 529–530	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nehemiah 2:1-20	Nehemiah Returns to Jerusalem	pages 542–543	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nehemiah 5:1-19	Nehemiah's Concern for the Poor	pages 545–546	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nehemiah 8:1-18	Reading God's Word	pages 550–551	<input type="checkbox"/>
Esther 1:1-22	The Fall of a Queen	pages 561–562	<input type="checkbox"/>
Esther 2:1-23	A Strange Way to Become Queen	pages 562–564	<input type="checkbox"/>
Esther 3:1-15	The Jews in Danger	pages 564–566	<input type="checkbox"/>
Esther 4:1-17	The Queen Decides to Help	pages 566–567	<input type="checkbox"/>
Esther 5:1-14	Esther Risks Her Life	page 567	<input type="checkbox"/>
Esther 6:1–7:10	God Protects His People	pages 567–569	<input type="checkbox"/>
Job 1:1-22	The Testing of Job	pages 573–574	<input type="checkbox"/>
Job 2:1-13	Job and His Friends	pages 574–575	<input type="checkbox"/>
Job 38:1-41	God Speaks to Job	pages 605–606	<input type="checkbox"/>
Job 42:1-17	The Rest of Job's Story	page 609	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psalms 1:1-6	Two Kinds of Lives	page 611	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psalms 8:1-9	The Values of Humans	page 615	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psalms 23:1-6	A Sheep's Song	page 623	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psalms 51:1-19	A Confession	pages 644–645	<input type="checkbox"/>



Psalm 103:1-22	What God Is Like	pages 678-679	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psalm 139:1-24	How Well God Knows Us	pages 703-704	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psalm 145:1-21	God for All People and Time	pages 706-707	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proverbs 4:1-27	Wise Words about Life	page 716	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proverbs 5:1-23	Wise Words about Sex	pages 716-717	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ecclesiastes 12:1-14	A Summary of Life	pages 758-759	<input type="checkbox"/>
Isaiah 6:1-13	God Chooses Isaiah	pages 778-779	<input type="checkbox"/>
Isaiah 53	The Suffering Servant	pages 831-832	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeremiah 1:1-9	God Calls a Prophet	pages 849-850	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeremiah 36	The Book Burning	pages 894-895	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeremiah 38:1-13	Jeremiah in the Well	pages 896-897	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ezekiel 37:1-14	A Valley of Dry Bones	page 972	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daniel 1:1-21	Coping with Pressure to Conform	pages 987-988	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daniel 2:1-24	A King's Dream	page 989	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daniel 2:25-49	The Meaning of the Dream	pages 989-990	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daniel 3:1-30	Three Friends in a Furnace	pages 990-992	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daniel 5:1-30	The Writing on the Wall	pages 995-996	<input type="checkbox"/>
Daniel 6:1-28	Daniel and the Lions' Den	pages 997-998	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jonah 1:1-2:10	Bending God's Directions	pages 1041-1043	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jonah 3:1-4:11	Wrong Motives	pages 1043-1044	<input type="checkbox"/>

New Testament

Luke 1:1-14; John 1:1-18	Beginnings	pages 1165-1166; 1211-1212	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 1:5-25	The Angel and Zechariah	pages 1165-1166	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 1:26-56	Mary and Elizabeth	pages 1166-1167	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 1:57-80	John the Baptist Is Born	pages 1167-1168	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 1:1-25	A Family Tree	pages 1091-1092	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 2:1-20	Jesus Is Born!	page 1168	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 2:21-39	Jesus' First Trip to Church	pages 1168-1169	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 2:1-12	Foreign Visitors	pages 1092-1093	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 2:13-23	Escape and Return	page 1093	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 2:41-52	Jesus in the Temple Again	pages 1169-1170	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 1:1-13	Baptism and Temptation	pages 1135-1136	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 1:19-34	John the Baptist and Jesus	page 1212	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 1:35-51	Jesus' First Disciples	pages 1212-1213	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 2:1-25	Jesus and Surprises	pages 1213-1214	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 3:1-21	Jesus and Nicodemus	page 1214	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 3:22-36;	John Gets into Trouble	pages 1214-1215;	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 3:19-20		1171	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 4:1-42	Jesus Changes a Town	pages 1215-1216	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 4:43-54	Jesus Preaching and Healing	page 1217	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 4:16-30	Jesus Rejected	page 1216	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 1:16-39	Jesus Calls People to Follow	page 1137	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 5:1-36	Miracles and a Question	pages 1173-1175	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 5:1-47	Jesus Demonstrates He Is God's Son	pages 1173-1175	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 2:23-3:19	Jesus and Disciples	pages 1139-1140	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 5:1-16	Jesus Gives the Beatitudes	pages 1095-1096	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 5:17-30	Jesus on Law, Anger and Lust	pages 1098-1100	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 5:31-48	Jesus on Relationships	page 1100	<input type="checkbox"/>



Matthew 6:1-18	Jesus on Doing Good Things	pages 1101-1102	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 6:19-34	Jesus on Money and Worry	page 1101	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 7:1-12	Jesus on Criticizing and Praying	pages 1101-1102	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 7:13-29	How Jesus Looks at Us	pages 1102-1103	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 7:1-17	Jesus and Foreigners	page 1177	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 11:1-30	Jesus Describes John	pages 1107-1108	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 7:36-8:3	Jesus and Women	pages 1176-1179	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 12:22-50	Troubles for Jesus	pages 1109-1110	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 4:1-29	Jesus Teaches about Seeds	pages 1140-1141	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 13:24-43	More of Jesus' Parables	pages 1111-1112	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 13:44-52	Even More Parables	page 1112	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 8:22-56	Jesus in Control	pages 1180-1181	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 9:27-38	The Concerns of Jesus	pages 1105-1106	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 6:1-13	Some Don't Listen; Some Need to Hear	page 1143	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 10:16-42	Jesus Prepares His Disciples	pages 1151-1152	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 6:14-29	Herod Kills John the Baptist	pages 1143-1144	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 14:13-36	Jesus: Cook, Water Walker, Healer	pages 1220-1221	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 6:22-40	Jesus Is the Bread from Heaven	page 1221	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 6:41-71	Jesus Criticized and Deserted	page 1221	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 7:1-37	Jesus Teaches and Defines Purity	pages 1145-1146	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 15:32-16:12	Jesus Feeds and Warns	pages 1114-1115	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 8:22-9:1	Peter Identifies Jesus	pages 1146-1148	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 9:28-45	Jesus Is Transfigured	pages 1182-1183	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 17:24-18:6	Who's the Greatest?	pages 1116-1117	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 9:38-50	Who's on Our Side?	page 1150	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 18:10-22	Jesus as He Teaches	pages 1117-1118	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 7:1-31	Jesus Out in the Open	pages 1221-1222	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 7:32-53	A Warrant for Jesus' Arrest	pages 1222-1223	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 8:1-20	Jesus: Forgiveness and Light	pages 1223-1224	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 8:21-59	Jesus: Giver of Freedom	pages 1224-1225	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 10:1-24	Jesus Sends Seventy Messengers	pages 1184-1185	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 10:25-42	Jesus Tells a Story and Visits Friends	pages 1185-1186	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 11:1-13	Jesus Teaches about Prayer	page 1186	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 11:14-32	Accusations and Unbelief	pages 1186-1187	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 11:33-54	Real Spirituality versus Unreal	pages 1187-1188	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 12:1-21	Religious and Rich Fools	pages 1188-1189	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 12:22-48	Jesus Warns about Worry	pages 1189-1190	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 12:49-59	Jesus Warns about Troubles	page 1190	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 13:1-21	Jesus and the Kingdom of God	pages 1190-1191	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 9:1-41	Jesus and a Blind Man	pages 1225-1226	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 10:1-18	Jesus Is the Good Shepherd	pages 1226-1227	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 13:22-35	Jesus: The King Who Grieves	page 1191	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 14:1-14	Jesus on Seeking Honor	pages 1191-1192	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 14:15-35	Jesus on Being His Disciple	pages 1192-1193	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 15:1-10	Two Parables of Losing and Finding	page 1193	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 15:11-32	A Son Who Was Found	pages 1193-1194	<input type="checkbox"/>



Luke 16:1-18	The Parable of the Shrewd Accountant	page 1194	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 16:19-31	The Rich Man and the Beggar	pages 1194–1195	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 11:1-36	Lazarus Dies	pages 1227–1228	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 11:37-57	Jesus Raises Lazarus	pages 1228–1229	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 17:1-19	Jesus and Ten Lepers	page 1236	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 17:20-37	Jesus and the Kingdom of God	page 1196	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 18:1-14	Jesus Teaches about Prayer	pages 1196–1197	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 10:1-16	Jesus on Family Matters	pages 1150–1151	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 10:17-31	Jesus and the Rich Man	pages 1151–1152	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 20:1-16	A Parable about Equal Pay	page 1120	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 10:35-52	Jesus on Serving Others	page 1152	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 19:1-27	Jesus and Zacchaeus	pages 1198–1199	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 12:1-11	A Woman Anoints Jesus	page 1229	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 21:1-17	Jesus Rides into Jerusalem	pages 1121–1122	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 12:20-36	Jesus Explains Why He Must Die	page 1230	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 12:37-50	Jesus and his Message	page 1230	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 11:20-33	Permission to Pray for Anything	pages 1153–1154	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 21:28-46	Two Parables	pages 1122–1123	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 22:1-14	Jesus Tells about the Wedding Feast	page 1123	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 20:20-40	Jesus Answers Questions	page 1202	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 12:28-37	Questions Given and Taken	page 1155	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 23:1-39	Jesus: Warnings and Grieving	pages 1124–1125	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 21:1-24	Jesus Talks about the Future	page 1203	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 21:25-38	Jesus on Being Prepared	pages 1203–1204	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 25:1-30	Parables and Being Prepared	pages 1127–1128	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 25:31-46	Jesus on the Final Judgment	pages 1128–1129	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 22:1-13	Preparing the Last Supper	page 1204	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 13:1-20	Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet	page 1231	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 13:21-38	A Sad Prediction	pages 1231–1232	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 14:1-14	Jesus Is the Way	page 1232	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 14:15–31	Jesus Promises the Comforter	page 1232	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 15:1-16	Jesus Teaches about the Vine and the Branches	page 1233	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 15:17–16:4	Jesus Warns about Troubles	pages 1233–1234	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 16:5-33	Jesus on the Holy Spirit and Prayers	page 1234	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 17:1-26	Jesus Prays	page 1236	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 14:26-52	A Repeated Prediction	pages 1158–1159	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 18:1-24	Jesus Betrayed and Abandoned	pages 1236–1240	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Matthew 27:1-10	The Religious Trial and Judas's Death	page 1131	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 23:1-12	Two Political Trials	page 1206	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark 15:6-24	Sentencing and Torture	page 1161	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 23:32-49	Jesus Crucified	page 1207	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 27:57-66	Jesus' Body Laid in a Guarded Tomb	page 1133	<input type="checkbox"/>



John 20:1-18	Jesus Is Alive!	page 1242	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 28:8-15	Reactions to the Resurrection	pages 1133-1134	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 24:13-43	Appearances of Jesus	pages 1208-1209	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 20:24-21:14	More Appearances of Jesus	pages 1242-1244	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 21:15-25	Jesus Talks with Peter	page 1244	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 28:16-20	Jesus Gives the Great Commission	page 1134	<input type="checkbox"/>
Luke 24:44-53	Jesus Says Farewell	page 1209	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Acts 2:1-13	An Amazing Gift	pages 1246-1247	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 2:14-40	Peter's First Sermon	pages 1246-1248	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 2:41-3:11	Daily Life in the Early Church	page 1248	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 3:12-4:4	Peter's Second Sermon	pages 1248-1249	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 4:5-22	Hostile Reactions	pages 1249-1250	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 4:23-37	Praying and Sharing	pages 1250-1251	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 5:1-16	Strange Events	page 1251	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 5:17-42	Arrested!	pages 1251-1252	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 6:1-15	Stephen: Special Servant	pages 1252-1253	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 7:1-29	History Review I	pages 1253-1254	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Acts 8:1-25	Benefits of Persecution	pages 1256-1257	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Acts 9:1-19	Paul Meets Jesus	pages 1257-1258	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 9:20-31	Paul's New Life	page 1258	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 9:32-42	God Uses Peter	pages 1258-1259	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 10:1-23	Peter Sees a Lesson	pages 1259-1260	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Acts 11:1-18	Gentiles Get a Chance	page 1261	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Acts 12:1-25	A Great Escape and Capital Punishment	pages 1261-1262	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 13:1-12	Paul and Barnabas: Travel and Preaching	page 1263	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 14:1-28	Response and Reaction	pages 1267-1268	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 15:1-21	A Church Conference	pages 1268-1269	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 15:22-41	The Gentiles Are Accepted	pages 1269-1270	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 16:1-15	Paul, Silas, and Timothy	page 1270	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Acts 17:1-15	Different Responses in Two Cities	pages 1271-1272	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 17:16-34	Paul in Athens	pages 1272-1273	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 19:1-20	Paul in Ephesus	pages 1274-1275	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 19:21-41	The Riot	pages 1275-1276	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 20:1-12	Sleeping in Church	page 1276	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 20:13-38	Saying Good-bye in Ephesus	pages 1276-1277	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 21:1-17	Difficult Decision	pages 1277-1278	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 21:18-36	Paul in Jerusalem	pages 1278-1279	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 21:37-22:29	Paul Speaks	pages 1279-1280	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 22:30-23:22	A Plan to Kill Paul	pages 1280-1281	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 23:23-24:27	Paul in Prison	pages 1281-1282	<input type="checkbox"/>



Acts 25:1-27	Paul Speaks to Festus	pages 1282–1283	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 26:1-32	Paul Speaks to Agrippa	pages 1283–1285	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 27:1-26	The Storm at Sea	page 1285	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 27:27-44	The Shipwreck	page 1286	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 28:1-14	The Winter on Malta	pages 1286–1287	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 28:15-31	Paul in Rome	page 1287	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Romans 12:1-21	Living Sacrifice	pages 1302–1303	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Real Love	page 1324	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Corinthians 15:1-20	The Basic Gospel	page 1326	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Corinthians 15:42-58	Destiny!	pages 1326–1328	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Ephesians 1:3-23	God's Action	pages 1353–1354	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ephesians 2:1-22	God's Plan	pages 1354–1355	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ephesians 4:1-16	Picture of the Church	pages 1356–1357	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ephesians 6:10-20	Armor of God	pages 1359–1360	<input type="checkbox"/>
Philippians 2:1-18	The Mind of Jesus	page 1363	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Colossians 2:1-15	What We Have in Christ	page 1372	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Spiritual Reputation	pages 1377–1378	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1 Timothy 4:1-16	Always Going Forward	page 1390	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Timothy 6:3-21	A Friend's Final Words	pages 1392–1393	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Timothy 1:1-18	The Importance of Examples	pages 1395–1396	<input type="checkbox"/>
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God's Gift to You

Be honest. What's the best part about Christmas, birthdays, and other special occasions? The gifts, right? (We said be honest!) Who can resist a huge box with a big red bow, or a tiny package wrapped in shimmering, shiny paper? We all like to receive gifts, and we even *expect* to get gifts on those special days, like our birthday or Christmas.

But how about getting a gift when you least expect it? You come home from school, and there it sits on the table—a brightly wrapped package with your name on it. That's a real bonus! Well, here's some good news for you. Today you are eligible to receive the greatest, most unexpected gift ever.

What is the gift?

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Did you catch that? God loves *you* so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to the earth for *you*. Through faith in Jesus, you can receive eternal life and have a relationship with the Creator of the universe (John 17:3). That's the greatest gift ever given to anyone in all history.

Why do we need it?

So what's the big deal about this gift? Good question. In a word, the answer is sin. According to the Bible, everyone who is breathing sins (Romans 3:23). What is sin? Basically, it's doing what God says is wrong (1 John 3:4) and not doing what is right (James 4:17). Sin includes lying, stealing, and murdering, but it also includes anything we say, think, or do that goes against what God commands. The bottom line is that *everyone* sins everyday. No exceptions.

So, you say, what's the big problem with that? Sin separates us from God. Because God is perfect, he can't allow anyone sinful to come into his presence. So unless something happens to change our situation and get rid of our sin problem, we all are lost, cut off, doomed. "It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore" (Isaiah 59:2). That's really bad news.

The good news is that God does not leave us there. Through Jesus, God's unexpected and perfect gift, we now can have a relationship with him. (See John 14:6.) By offering himself as the perfect sacrifice, Jesus took care of our sin problem on the cross—forever. "Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

So how do we get this gift?

You just need to accept it. And you do this by taking these three important steps:

1) *Turn from your sin.* "Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away" (Acts 3:19). This means telling God you are sorry for doing, saying, or thinking whatever is not pleasing to him.

2) *Trust in Jesus.* "We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are" (Romans 3:22). In this step, you thank God for sending his Son to die on the cross in your place, taking the penalty for your sins.



3) *Receive Christ as your Savior.* "But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). This means asking God to come into your life and to take control. You commit yourself to God.

What's next?

By accepting this gift, you become God's very own child (1 John 3:1). So here's what to do next. These steps will help your relationship with God grow deeper.

1) *Tell someone!* Tell a parent, a Sunday school teacher, or a friend about the gift and how you received it. This person should be someone who can help you along this exciting new faith journey.

2) *Begin reading God's Word (the Bible).* This will help you learn more about God and his plan for you. A reading plan is included in this Bible to help you get started.

3) *Talk daily to God through prayer.* There is no issue too big or too small for God to handle. Bring all your concerns to him in prayer, and he will listen. "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done" (Philippians 4:6).

4) *Finally, celebrate!* You have just received a gift that will never fade, break down, or wear out; it's a gift that will last forever. "So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God" (Romans 5:11).



How to Read the Bible

Now that you have your new Bible and a plan for reading it (check out “The Greatest Stories Reading Plan” in the back of this Bible), you probably are wondering: *How can I ever really understand what I’m reading?* After all, the Bible isn’t just *any* book. It is God’s Word, written to you, to help you grow closer to him and become more like Jesus. As Paul reminds us, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

When you get a handle on the fact that every word in the Bible was inspired by God (meaning that God revealed his thoughts and his plan to certain believers, who wrote it down) and that every word is there to help direct you to do what is right, you realize how important it is to understand what God is saying to you. To *understand* the Bible, you need to do more than just read it. You need to think about what you have read by asking questions and then putting into practice what God is telling you to do or think or say or change.

So how do you do that? First, select a story or passage and read through it once to get the overall picture of what is going on. Then read it a second time, asking yourself these questions: *Who? Where? When? Why?* and *What now?* The first four questions help you understand the facts about the story and what is happening. The last question helps you think about what to do now that you have read God’s Word. Let’s consider each question.

- **Who?** As you read the passage, check out the people in the story. What are they like? If these people were living in our world today, who would they be like? Put yourself in the story. Who would you be?
- **Where?** Take note of where the story takes place. Is it in the desert, in a city, or on a battlefield? How does the place make a difference in the story?
- **When?** Look at the context of the story by briefly looking at the verses surrounding the passage. What happened right before the story? What happened right after? For example, if you are reading a passage about Jesus’ life, did this event happen at the beginning of his ministry or toward the end of his life? A passage is easier to understand if you know the circumstances under which it took place.
- **Why?** Remember the point that God inspired every single word in the Bible? It’s important to think about why God put this particular passage or story in the Bible. What is God telling you through this story or passage? What is the main point?
- **What now?** This final question is your opportunity to reflect on what you should do as a result of what you have learned. This is the place where you ask yourself: *What is God saying to me or about me? What is it I should do because of what God is saying? What should I change?* This process is called application—where you are taking what you learned from a particular Bible passage and making it a part of your life. As James tells us in his book, “Don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves” (James 1:22).



As you begin your journey with God's Word, you may want to get a notebook to jot down your thoughts and your answers to these questions. It doesn't have to be fancy—any kind of notebook will do. Use your notebook to write down questions you may have as you read a particular passage that might spur further study. This will be helpful in developing a habit of Bible study that will last a lifetime.

Studying and reading God's Word *is* a lifelong process. You can read the Bible over and over again and always find something new and fresh to learn about yourself and about God. "For the word of God is alive and powerful" (Hebrews 4:12).



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