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Midnight Mom Devotional Bible





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Tyndale House Publishers
Carol Stream, Illinois

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7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Contents

Alphabetical Listing of Bible Books	A6
Books of the Bible	A7
Welcome to Your Filament-Enabled Bible!	A8
To You, Momma, Before We Begin	A9
How to Know Jesus Personally	A11
How to Use the <i>Midnight Mom Devotional Bible</i>	A13
A Note to Readers	A15
Introduction to the New Living Translation	A17
 Old Testament	 1
New Testament	953
 <i>Dust, Dirt, and Mud</i> Reading Plan	 1303
<i>When You Feel like an Outsider</i> Reading Plan	1304
<i>The Lord Sends Helpers</i> Reading Plan	1305
<i>Peace in God's Word</i> Reading Plan	1306
<i>The Lord Knows Your Sorrows</i> Reading Plan	1307
Features Index	1309
Tyndale Verse Finder	1311
Contributors	1333

Alphabetical Listing of Bible Books

Acts.....	1095	James.....	1249	Nehemiah.....	473
Amos.....	895	Jeremiah.....	739	Numbers.....	135
1 Chronicles.....	393	Job.....	501	Obadiah.....	905
2 Chronicles.....	425	Joel.....	889	1 Peter.....	1255
Colossians.....	1201	John.....	1061	2 Peter.....	1263
1 Corinthians.....	1151	1 John.....	1269	Philemon.....	1233
2 Corinthians.....	1167	2 John.....	1275	Philippians.....	1195
Daniel.....	861	3 John.....	1277	Proverbs.....	621
Deuteronomy.....	177	Jonah.....	909	Psalms.....	535
Ecclesiastes.....	653	Joshua.....	213	Revelation.....	1283
Ephesians.....	1187	Jude.....	1279	Romans.....	1133
Esther.....	491	Judges.....	239	Ruth.....	263
Exodus.....	57	1 Kings.....	329	1 Samuel.....	269
Ezekiel.....	813	2 Kings.....	361	2 Samuel.....	301
Ezra.....	461	Lamentations.....	803	Song of Songs.....	663
Galatians.....	1179	Leviticus.....	103	1 Thessalonians.....	1207
Genesis.....	3	Luke.....	1021	2 Thessalonians.....	1213
Habakkuk.....	925	Malachi.....	949	1 Timothy.....	1217
Haggai.....	935	Mark.....	995	2 Timothy.....	1223
Hebrews.....	1235	Matthew.....	955	Titus.....	1229
Hosea.....	877	Micah.....	913	Zechariah.....	939
Isaiah.....	671	Nahum.....	921	Zephaniah.....	929

Books of the Bible

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis.....	3	2 Chronicles.....	425	Daniel.....	861
Exodus.....	57	Ezra.....	461	Hosea.....	877
Leviticus.....	103	Nehemiah.....	473	Joel.....	889
Numbers.....	135	Esther.....	491	Amos.....	895
Deuteronomy.....	177	Job.....	501	Obadiah.....	905
Joshua.....	213	Psalms.....	535	Jonah.....	909
Judges.....	239	Proverbs.....	621	Micah.....	913
Ruth.....	263	Ecclesiastes.....	653	Nahum.....	921
1 Samuel.....	269	Song of Songs.....	663	Habakkuk.....	925
2 Samuel.....	301	Isaiah.....	671	Zephaniah.....	929
1 Kings.....	329	Jeremiah.....	739	Haggai.....	935
2 Kings.....	361	Lamentations.....	803	Zechariah.....	939
1 Chronicles.....	393	Ezekiel.....	813	Malachi.....	949

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew.....	955	Ephesians.....	1187	Hebrews.....	1235
Mark.....	995	Philippians.....	1195	James.....	1249
Luke.....	1021	Colossians.....	1201	1 Peter.....	1255
John.....	1061	1 Thessalonians.....	1207	2 Peter.....	1263
Acts.....	1095	2 Thessalonians.....	1213	1 John.....	1269
Romans.....	1133	1 Timothy.....	1217	2 John.....	1275
1 Corinthians.....	1151	2 Timothy.....	1223	3 John.....	1277
2 Corinthians.....	1167	Titus.....	1229	Jude.....	1279
Galatians.....	1179	Philemon.....	1233	Revelation.....	1283



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- ③ Follow the prompts to learn how it works, and enjoy exploring!

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To You, Momma, Before We Begin

Momma, right now you are holding the most important book you will ever carry in your hands: the Holy Bible. The Word of God is alive and powerful. It reveals the heart, plan, and promises of God for you. It teaches us God's voice, and through it, we learn to hear Him speaking regularly. It is full of wisdom to lead you to the one who made you just so He could be with you and show you His eternal love. This book holds the keys to life, not only for you but also for your family. There is no greater parenting resource, no greater book of encouragement, and no greater source of peace than the unchanging truth of the Word of God.

We believe that the Lord led you to these pages. He led you to His Word so that you might find Him in the middle of your motherhood and see that He has been calling to you, leading you, and loving you through some of your hardest, heaviest, and most hidden seasons of life. He was with you when all was well, and His grace and mercy held you together when it seemed as though everything was falling apart. As the psalmist says,

I can never escape from your Spirit!
I can never get away from your presence!
If I go up to heaven, you are there;
if I go down to the grave, you are there.
If I ride the wings of the morning,
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,
even there your hand will guide me,
and your strength will support me.
I could ask the darkness to hide me
and the light around me to become night—
but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.
To you the night shines as bright as day.
Darkness and light are the same to you.

PSALM 139:7-12

In this very moment, the Lord is with you, and it is our joy to point you to the light of His Word for every moment of motherhood. That is the heart of our ministry.

We are Susan and Becky, a mother-daughter team living in the foothills of the Gloss Mountain mesas in northwest Oklahoma and praying for mommas just like you all over the world. But this legacy of prayer began many years ago in a small New England church by the coastal waters of Narragansett Bay. As a young teenager, Susan was given her first Bible and found a deep love for the Word and prayer. Inspired by the faithful prayers of her Irish grandmother, Catherine Powers; her two favorite aunts, Mary Benevides and Rose Ramos; and a beloved mentor in the church, Mary DeCosta, Susan experienced the powerful impact of intergenerational prayer from a young age.

When Becky was born, Susan dedicated many of her midnight hours awake with Becky to prayer. Susan prayed for her family and for other mothers who were awake in their own homes with their own children.

Today, Susan and Becky continue this legacy of intergenerational prayer through the Midnight Mom Devotional, a ministry that reaches millions of mothers each night. The Midnight Mom Devotional legacy spans over 100 years of praying mommas and grandmothers who carry the light of God's Word into every midnight moment of motherhood.

The invitation offered in the *Midnight Mom Devotional Bible* is for moms and grandmas to begin, or continue, their own legacies of intergenerational prayer.

We have found that midnight isn't just a time on the clock. Entire chapters of our stories can feel like midnight. Entire seasons of our lives can be dark and lonely. The *Midnight Mom Devotional Bible* isn't just for moms awake at all hours of the night. The Midnight Momma is the mom who needs the Lord no matter the hour or the season. The Lord walks with each of us—not only when our children are young, not only when we are awake at night, but from the moment the dream of being a mom is born in our hearts. Momma, He walks with you always.

As you read through Scripture, our prayer is that you would find Him, the one who has been drawing your heart, writing your story, and holding you close even when you felt all alone. We pray you will hear the Lord calling you even now to come encounter the promise of His presence, the peace of His love, and the power of prayer to transform your heart and the lives of your loved ones.

Tonight we pray for the momma who is holding the Midnight Mom Devotional Bible in her hands. Lord, may she find fresh hope and inspiration for her journey. Please meet her on each page. We ask in Jesus's name, amen.

**Who is a part of your legacy of prayer? And whom are you laying
a foundation of prayer for in your family?**



How to Know Jesus Personally

God wants all of us to experience a life that has meaning, direction, love, and peace. God makes this kind of life possible through a personal relationship with his Son, Jesus. But before you accept Jesus as your Savior, here are five truths that will help to clarify what God wants for you:

1. God has a plan for your life.

"No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven" (John 3:27). God created you and has a good plan for you. To know that plan, you must get to know God personally and learn to listen to his direction. God's plan always unfolds in the context of a relationship with him.

2. God's plan gives meaning.

"Jesus replied, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty'" (John 6:35). Many people seek meaning and purpose for their lives but never find it because they look for meaning in the wrong things and the wrong people. When you follow God's plan for your life, the most important part of which is to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you will find meaning and purpose in all that you do.

3. God's plan gives direction.

"Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, 'I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life'" (John 8:12). Without God's direction, you may not know what to do with your life. You may try a lot of things, hoping to find meaning in each one. But if you have God in your life, he will lead you and show you how to make your life count for him and his Kingdom.

4. God's plan brings peace.

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid" (John 14:27). When you follow Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you will be at peace with God. You will also be filled with God's peace. So when troubles come, you will be able to have peace as you endure hardships.

5. God's plan is for you to have an eternal relationship with him.

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Before Adam and Eve sinned (Genesis 3), they had a good relationship with God, and they weren't ashamed to enter his presence. But after they sinned, their relationship with God

changed, and they were ashamed to draw near to God. Sin had separated them and all their descendants—including you—from God. But God did not want sin to keep people from having a relationship with him. So he provided a way for people to be cleansed of their sins and live with him in heaven forever. He sent his only Son, Jesus, as the perfect payment for the sins of all people.

So How Do You Enter a Relationship with God?

You are important to God, whether you are aware of it or not. Throughout your entire life, he has been reaching out to establish a relationship with you. He has done everything necessary to break down whatever barriers might stand in the way. But as is true of any relationship, part of the burden falls on you.

First, you need to recognize that you have been separated from God by sin. “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard” (Romans 3:23). “As the Scriptures say, ‘No one is righteous—not even one’” (Romans 3:10). Since everyone has sinned, no one deserves eternal life with God. And no one can work hard enough to earn it. So God gives eternal life to everyone who believes that Jesus Christ is his Son. Before you can appreciate what Jesus has done for you, you need to recognize that you are a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness. If you never acknowledge this, you will never receive God’s forgiveness and the eternal life he freely offers.

Second, you need to ask God to forgive you. “Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault” (Colossians 1:22). If you recognize that you are a sinner, then you may be ready to ask God to forgive you. Do you believe that Jesus is the eternal Son of God, who died to pay the penalty for your sins? If you do and you have never thanked Jesus for dying for you, thank him right now in a simple prayer: “Lord, thank you for paying for the sins I have committed. I give my life to you. Teach me the right way to live. Amen.”

Third, you need to turn from your sins and embrace a new calling. “Those who have been born into God’s family do not make a practice of sinning, because God’s life is in them. So they can’t keep on sinning, because they are children of God” (1 John 3:9). As a Christian, you may sin from time to time. But you cannot continue to live a sinful lifestyle. Putting your faith in Jesus means that you are choosing to turn away from your old sinful nature. It also means that you are choosing to live to please God. You can please God by obeying the commands he has given in the Bible, which include, above all, the commands to love God and love other people. Your obedience demonstrates that you belong to Jesus, that you are alive in him and living the eternal life that he has made possible.

How to Use the *Midnight Mom Devotional Bible*

We are confident that you will encounter the living God on the pages of this Bible and that your journey through Scripture will be led by the Spirit of the Lord. We have included book introductions, prayers, devotions, reading plans, and theme articles to encourage you as the Lord leads you through His Word. We hope that you will read God's Word and come to know how wide, long, high, and deep God's love for you and your family really is (Ephesians 3:18). We also hope that the additional prayers and devotions you find on these pages will encourage your heart and show you just how close the Lord is to you in your motherhood.



BOOK INTRODUCTIONS

At the beginning of each of the 66 books of the Bible, you will find an introduction specifically written with mommas in mind. Each one begins by introducing the context and main ideas of the book to prepare you to dive into the story. We've also made sure to highlight how the books of the Bible speak directly to your joys and concerns as a momma. Each introduction includes a list of key stories or passages you may want to read and concludes with historical details about who wrote the book and when they wrote it.



PRAYERS

In the margins beside the Scripture text, you will find 300 prayers for modern motherhood. These prayers encourage you to lean into the promises of Scripture. Each prayer is connected to a specific passage of Scripture and includes a prompt for sharing your hopes, wants, and needs with the Lord. Journaling space is available under each prayer for your own reflections. We hope these prayers will help you connect with the Lord and lead you deeper into relationship with Him.



DEVOTIONS

Throughout this Bible, you will find 50 devotions written for mommas and designed to bring you encouragement and fresh hope. These devotions focus on a specific passage of Scripture and are meant to draw you deeper into understanding how God's Word can speak to you about what's going on in your heart and life. Each one concludes with a prayer crafted to resonate with the themes of the Bible passage and devotion in order to help you connect with the Lord. Journaling space is also included for you to add your own prayers and reflections.



READING PLANS

We have created 5 one-week reading plans specifically for mommas in their mid-night moments. Each reading plan explores a different topic across Scripture, including sorrow, feeling like an outsider, the messy places of daily life, needing and giving help, and finding peace in every situation. Every reading plan has seven stops that focus on a Scripture reading, offer a devotion on the passage and its theme, and conclude with a connected prayer and prompt, along with journaling space. At the bottom of each stop, we've included the page number for the next stop so you can find it easily. You can learn more about the reading plans, their themes, and the location of each stop along the way on pages 1303–1307.



THEME ARTICLES

You will find three full-color articles woven into the pages of this Bible to guide you further into understanding each of the main themes of this Bible's prayers and devotions: Presence, Peace, and Prayer. The first theme article focuses on God's presence and all the ways He shows up for us and is with us. The second theme article concentrates on God's peace and how the Word teaches us about peace with God, peace with others, and peace within ourselves. Finally, the third theme article focuses on the role prayer plays as our most powerful tool in the Christian walk. We hope these articles will give you an enriched view of these three main topics of our devotional content so that as you read Scripture, you can be aware of God's presence, experience His peace, and feel encouraged to reach out to Him in prayer.



FILAMENT BIBLE APP

If you find yourself wanting to dig even deeper into your reading and study of God's Word, the Bible you are holding is equipped to do just that. This Bible works with the Filament Bible app, which uses your phone or tablet to transform this Bible into a powerful study experience. There's more than meets the eye on every page of this Bible inside the Filament Bible app. Turn to page A8 to learn more and to access instructions for downloading the app onto your preferred device.

A Note to Readers

The *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation (NLT) is one of the best-known Bible translations in the English-speaking world. The NLT is the result of many years of work by a committee of top biblical scholars and linguists. The NLT Bible Translation Committee (BTC) was first commissioned in the late 1980s. The BTC scholars were committed to creating a fresh Bible translation that was both accurate and understandable. For over eight years this committee of twelve worked hand in hand with over ninety additional scholars to carefully craft the translation using the best Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic texts. They incorporated the latest linguistic and cultural insights to create a translation that is profoundly accurate without sacrificing readability.

The goal of the BTC was to convey to contemporary readers the meaning and content of the ancient texts as accurately and clearly as possible. The result is a translation that seeks to communicate as powerfully to people today as the original texts communicated to readers and listeners in the biblical world. Since written copies were scarce in the ancient world, people regularly received Scripture by listening to it as it was read aloud. Therefore, the NLT translation process included reading the text aloud to ensure that it would communicate effectively and beautifully, whether read in public or in private. The NLT is the result of an exacting scholarly translation process, designed to ensure that it is accurate, understandable, and audibly enjoyable for all uses—from sermons to teaching to serious Bible study to group discussions to everyday reading for all ages and stages of life.

The New Living Translation communicates God's word powerfully to all who read or hear it. Our continuous prayer is that God uses it to speak his timeless truth to the church and the world.

THE PUBLISHERS

For more on the New Living Translation, including a description of the translation process and a list of the NLT scholars, visit newlivingtranslation.com.

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.

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.

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. (A list of these scholars can be found online.) 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, with minor changes subsequently introduced in 2007, 2013, and 2015.

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. 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.
- 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. 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.
- 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.
- 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. 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 Jewish 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 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

In the Old Testament, 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 Gospels and Acts, the Greek word *christos* has normally been translated as “Messiah” when the context assumes a Jewish audience. When a Gentile audience can be assumed (which is consistently the case in the Epistles and Revelation), *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

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis

Home. As Momma, you understand the importance of that word. Home is where our stories begin. It's where we raise our families. It's where we do our best to make sure the people we love feel safe, secure, and seen. It's where we share meals, hold important conversations, and grow together. Home is more than a house. It's God's beautiful idea and His very first act of creation.

Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Momma, in the very beginning, God created a space for us to dwell in. The very first act of creation was to establish a home for humankind, a place where we would live. In Genesis, you'll see the power of reflecting the Father's heart for your family in the place you call home as well.

As you read through this book, you'll notice the importance God places on home and family. In the beginning, you'll read how God made the Garden of Eden, a special place where Adam and Eve could be with Him. You will learn how the Lord instructed Noah to provide shelter for his family from the coming waters that would cover the world. You'll see how Abram (later called Abraham) and his family found a home in the place where the Lord called them to go. And as you read Joseph's story, you will see that sometimes our homes change—but you'll also see that God always has a good purpose and plan, even when we are in transition.

Hold tight to these truths: Home is God's good idea. Home is a shelter from the storms outside and a haven from the chaos of life. Home is anywhere God has called us and our families, even the places where we least expected to find ourselves.

Momma, may you see the power of reflecting the Father's heart for your family in the place you call home, and may the Lord bless you as you study His Word.

KEY STORIES

- God creates the heavens and the earth | GENESIS 1–2
- The first humans sin, and God tells about His plan to rescue them | GENESIS 3
- Noah's family survives the great Flood, and God makes a promise | GENESIS 6–9
- God calls Abraham and makes promises to his family | GENESIS 12–22
- Joseph journeys to Egypt, and his family follows | GENESIS 37, 39–50

WHO WROTE GENESIS?

Moses

WHEN WAS GENESIS WRITTEN?

Around 1400 BC



For the Momma Who Is Making a Beautiful Home for Her Family

GENESIS 1:1

In the very first verse of the very first book of the Bible, we see that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Everything that would take place in the story of humankind would happen in this home He created for us. God created everything we would need: the sun, moon, and stars to track our days; streams and rivers to nourish the earth; good food and a family to share it with. The home He created reveals His love for us, His children.

All our stories begin at home. As mommas, we reflect the Father's heart when we provide homes for our families and use the creativity He placed within us to build them. When we view home not only as a location but also as an idea straight from God's heart, it puts into perspective the importance and true meaning of our homes. Just as the Lord began to unfold His plan for saving us in His family's first home, the Garden of Eden, the Lord unfolds His plan for our families in our homes.

Momma, whether you spend much of your time at home or most of your waking hours away, the love you pour into your family in your home matters. The Lord calls His creation of home good, so let's ask Him to bless our homes tonight.

Tonight we pray for the momma who is making a beautiful home for her family. Lord, it doesn't have to be fancy or filled with expensive things. It simply has to be filled with love for her family. The love they share is beautiful, even if it feels less than perfect sometimes. Lord, please fill our homes with Your presence. Please meet with us here. We ask in Jesus's name, amen.

Lord, You see every need in my home. Please help me with these:

The Account of Creation

1 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.

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.

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

**Translation Notes* 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, . . .* 1:26a Or *man*; Hebrew reads *adam*.

Cross-References 1:1 John 1:1-2 1:7 Ps 148:4 1:13 Ps 65:9-13 1:19 Ps 74:16 1:23 Gen 8:19

Day 1

The Creation of Man

GENESIS 1:26–2:7

When God reached down into the dirt and made the first human, He created Adam in His image and likeness. Everything that has ever happened and will ever happen to us began in the dirt.

As mommas, it seems like we are always sweeping dust out of the corners of our homes, wiping dirt off little faces, or washing mud out of the knees of children's clothing. Dirt is a very common part of our daily lives. We may get our hands dirty digging in gardens in the spring and summer or tending the houseplants that we care for year-round. We may live along dusty roads or in large urban areas where spaces are set aside for trees, grass, and bushes that grow in the dirt. The next time you notice that dirt surrounds us, remember how God created the first human and how our story began.

Tonight we pray for the momma who takes care of the dusty places in her home and in her life. Lord, she watches carefully over her family to make sure that they are safe, fed, and clean. Bless her in her daily tasks, helping her remember that even the dust has significance and that You are close beside her. We ask in Jesus's name, amen.

Lord, please help me see the dusty places that need Your touch.



The next day in this
reading plan is on page 1074.

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.

²⁸ Then 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."

²⁹ Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. ³⁰ And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life." And that is what happened.

³¹ Then 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.

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

⁴ This 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, ⁵ neither 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. ⁶ Instead, springs* came up from the ground and watered all the land. ⁷ Then 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.

⁸ Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. ⁹ The 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.

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

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

¹⁸ Then 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." ¹⁹ So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man* to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. ²⁰ He 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.

²¹ So 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. ²² Then 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.'"

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

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

The Man and Woman Sin

3 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One

*Translation Notes 1:26b As in Syriac version; Hebrew reads all the earth. 1:27 Or the man; Hebrew reads ha-adam. 2:2 Or ceased; also in 2:3. 2:6 Or mist. 2:19 Or Adam, and so throughout the chapter. 2:21 Or took a part of the man's side.

Cross-References 1:27 Matt 19:4 1:29 Ps 104:14, 27 2:2 Heb 4:4 2:7 1 Cor 15:45 2:14 Dan 10:4 2:22 1 Cor 11:8-9 2:24 1 Cor 6:16 3:1 Rev 12:9

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 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?"

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 you will 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.

Cain and Abel

4 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!"

*Translation Notes 3:8 Or Adam, and so throughout the chapter. 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."

Cross-References 3:4 John 8:44 3:13 1 Tim 2:14 3:15 Rom 16:20 3:20 1 Tim 2:13 3:24 Rev 2:7; 22:2, 14

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 portions 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 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,

“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.

The Descendants of Adam

5 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* 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,

**Tonight we
pray for the
momma who
is thankful
for the family
You have
given her.**

GENESIS 5:1

Please bless her
family tonight. We
ask in Jesus’s name,
amen.

Lord, I am praying for
these family members:

*Translation Notes 4:8 As in Samaritan Pentateuch, Greek and Syriac versions, and Latin Vulgate; Masoretic Text lacks “Let’s go out into the fields.” 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.

Cross-References 4:5 Heb 11:4 4:8 Matt 23:35 4:14 Ps 51:11 4:23 Exod 20:13 4:25 Luke 3:38 5:2 Mark 10:6

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.

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

A World Gone Wrong

6 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 lifespan 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.

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.

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

*Translation Notes 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*. 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].

Cross-References 5:21 Luke 3:37-38 5:32 Gen 10:1 6:12 Ps 14:1-3 6:14 1 Pet 3:20

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.

The Flood Covers the Earth

7 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 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.

The Flood Recedes

8 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

*Translation Notes 7:2 Hebrew of each clean animal; similarly in 7:8. 7:20 Hebrew 15 cubits [6.9 meters]. 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.

Cross-References 6:21 Gen 9:9-16 7:1 Heb 11:7 7:13 2 Pet 2:5 7:23 Matt 24:38-39

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,¹⁵ 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."

God Confirms His Covenant

9 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 covenant with you. Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth."

¹²Then God said, "I am giving you a sign

of my covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come. ¹³I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. ¹⁴When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, ¹⁵and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life. ¹⁶When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth." ¹⁷Then God said to Noah, "Yes, this rainbow is the sign of the covenant I am confirming with all the creatures on earth."

Noah's Sons

¹⁸The sons of Noah who came out of the boat with their father were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham is the father of Canaan.) ¹⁹From these three sons of Noah came all the people who now populate the earth.

²⁰After the flood, Noah began to cultivate the ground, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹One day he drank some wine he had made, and he became drunk and lay naked inside his tent. ²²Ham, the father of Canaan, saw that his father was naked and went outside and told his brothers. ²³Then Shem and Japheth took a robe, held it over their shoulders, and backed into the tent to cover their father. As they did this, they looked the other way so they would not see him naked.

²⁴When Noah woke up from his stupor, he learned what Ham, his youngest son, had done. ²⁵Then he cursed Canaan, the son of Ham:

"May Canaan be cursed!

May he be the lowest of servants to his relatives."

²⁶Then Noah said,

"May the LORD, the God of Shem, be blessed,
and may Canaan be his servant!

²⁷ May God expand the territory of Japheth!
May Japheth share the prosperity of Shem,*
and may Canaan be his servant."

*Translation Notes 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.* 9:27 Hebrew *May he live in the tents of Shem.*

Cross-References 8:21 Gen 3:17 9:6 Gen 1:26 9:16 Gen 17:11 9:23 Hab 2:15

²⁸Noah lived another 350 years after the great flood. ²⁹He lived 950 years, and then he died.

10 This is the account of the families of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the three sons of Noah. Many children were born to them after the great flood.

Descendants of Japheth

²The descendants of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

³The descendants of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

⁴The descendants of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Rodanim.* ⁵Their descendants became the seafaring peoples that spread out to various lands, each identified by its own language, clan, and national identity.

Descendants of Ham

⁶The descendants of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

⁷The descendants of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The descendants of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.

⁸Cush was also the ancestor of Nimrod, who was the first heroic warrior on earth. ⁹Since he was the greatest hunter in the world,* his name became proverbial. People would say, "This man is like Nimrod, the greatest hunter in the world." ¹⁰He built his kingdom in the land of Babylonia,* with the cities of Babylon, Erech, Akkad, and Calneh. ¹¹From there he expanded his territory to Assyria,* building the cities of Nineveh, Rehoboth-ir, Calah, ¹²and Resen (the great city located between Nineveh and Calah).

¹³Mizraim was the ancestor of the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites, ¹⁴Pathrusites, Casluhites, and the Caphtorites, from whom the Philistines came.*

¹⁵Canaan's oldest son was Sidon, the ancestor of the Sidonians. Canaan was also the ancestor of the Hittites,* ¹⁶Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, ¹⁷Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, ¹⁸Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites. The Canaanite clans eventually spread out, ¹⁹and the territory of Canaan extended from Sidon in the north to Gerar and Gaza in the south, and

east as far as Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, near Lasha.

²⁰These were the descendants of Ham, identified by clan, language, territory, and national identity.

Descendants of Shem

²¹Sons were also born to Shem, the older brother of Japheth.* Shem was the ancestor of all the descendants of Eber.

²²The descendants of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.

²³The descendants of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

²⁴Arphaxad was the father of Shelah,* and Shelah was the father of Eber.

²⁵Eber had two sons. The first was named Peleg (which means "division"), for during his lifetime the people of the world were divided into different language groups. His brother's name was Joktan.

²⁶Joktan was the ancestor of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, ²⁷Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, ²⁸Obal, Abimael, Sheba, ²⁹Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were descendants of Joktan. ³⁰The territory they occupied extended from Mesha all the way to Sephar in the eastern mountains.

³¹These were the descendants of Shem, identified by clan, language, territory, and national identity.

Conclusion

³²These are the clans that descended from Noah's sons, arranged by nation according to their lines of descent. All the nations of the earth descended from these clans after the great flood.

The Tower of Babel

11 At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. ²As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia* and settled there.

³They began saying to each other, "Let's make bricks and harden them with fire." (In

*Translation Notes 10:4 As in some Hebrew manuscripts and Greek version (see also 1 Chr 1:7); most Hebrew manuscripts read *Dodanim*. 10:9 Hebrew *a great hunter before the Lord*; also in 10:9b. 10:10 Hebrew *Shinar*. 10:11 Or *From that land Assyria went out*. 10:14 Hebrew *Casluhites, from whom the Philistines came, and Caphtorites*. Compare Jer 47:4; Amos 9:7. 10:15 Hebrew *ancestor of Heth*. 10:21 Or *Shem, whose older brother was Japheth*. 10:24 Greek version reads *Arphaxad was the father of Cainan, Cainan was the father of Shelah*. Compare Luke 3:36. 11:2 Hebrew *Shinar*.

Cross-References 10:10 Gen 11:9 10:19 Gen 14:2 10:32 Gen 9:19 11:2 Gen 10:10

this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.)⁴ Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world."

⁵But the LORD came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶"Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! ⁷Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."

⁸In that way, the LORD scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. ⁹That is why the city was called Babel,* because that is where the LORD confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.

The Line of Descent from Shem to Abram

¹⁰This is the account of Shem's family.

Two years after the great flood, when Shem was 100 years old, he became the father of* Arphaxad. ¹¹After the birth of* Arphaxad, Shem lived another 500 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹²When Arphaxad was 35 years old, he became the father of Shelah. ¹³After the birth of Shelah, Arphaxad lived another 403 years and had other sons and daughters.*

¹⁴When Shelah was 30 years old, he became the father of Eber. ¹⁵After the birth of Eber, Shelah lived another 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁶When Eber was 34 years old, he became the father of Peleg. ¹⁷After the birth of Peleg, Eber lived another 430 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁸When Peleg was 30 years old, he became the father of Reu. ¹⁹After the birth of Reu, Peleg lived another 209 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁰When Reu was 32 years old, he became the father of Serug. ²¹After the birth of Serug, Reu lived another 207 years and had other sons and daughters.

²²When Serug was 30 years old, he became the father of Nahor. ²³After the birth of Nahor, Serug lived another 200 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁴When Nahor was 29 years old, he became the father of Terah. ²⁵After the birth of

Terah, Nahor lived another 119 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁶After Terah was 70 years old, he became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

The Family of Terah

²⁷This is the account of Terah's family. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran was the father of Lot. ²⁸But Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, the land of his birth, while his father, Terah, was still living. ²⁹Meanwhile, Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah. (Milcah and her sister Iscah were daughters of Nahor's brother Haran.) ³⁰But Sarai was unable to become pregnant and had no children.

³¹One day Terah took his son Abram, his daughter-in-law Sarai (his son Abram's wife), and his grandson Lot (his son Haran's child) and moved away from Ur of the Chaldeans. He was headed for the land of Canaan, but they stopped at Haran and settled there. ³²Terah lived for 205 years* and died while still in Haran.

The Call of Abram

12 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

⁴So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. ⁵He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran—and headed for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, ⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as Shechem. There he set up camp beside the oak of Moreh. At that time, the area was inhabited by Canaanites.

*Translation Notes 11:9 Or *Babylon*. *Babel* sounds like a Hebrew term that means "confusion." 11:10 Or the ancestor of; also in 11:12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24. 11:11 Or the birth of this ancestor of; also in 11:13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25. 11:12-13 Greek version reads "When Arphaxad was 135 years old, he became the father of Cainan. ¹³After the birth of Cainan, Arphaxad lived another 430 years and had other sons and daughters, and then he died. When Cainan was 130 years old, he became the father of Shelah. After the birth of Shelah, Cainan lived another 330 years and had other sons and daughters, and then he died. Compare Luke 3:35-36. 11:32 Some ancient versions read 145 years; compare 11:26 and 12:4.

Cross-References 11:13 Luke 3:35 11:31 Acts 7:4 12:1 Heb 11:8

⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants.*" And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There he built another altar and dedicated it to the LORD, and he worshiped the LORD. ⁹Then Abram continued traveling south by stages toward the Negev.

Abram and Sarai in Egypt

¹⁰At that time a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner. ¹¹As he was approaching the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai, "Look, you are a very beautiful woman. ¹²When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife. Let's kill him; then we can have her!' ¹³So please tell them you are my sister. Then they will spare my life and treat me well because of their interest in you."

¹⁴And sure enough, when Abram arrived in Egypt, everyone noticed Sarai's beauty. ¹⁵When the palace officials saw her, they sang her praises to Pharaoh, their king, and Sarai was taken into his palace. ¹⁶Then Pharaoh gave Abram many gifts because of her—sheep, goats, cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

¹⁷But the LORD sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸So Pharaoh summoned Abram and accused him sharply. "What have you done to me?" he demanded. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? ¹⁹Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' and allow me to take her as my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and get out of here!" ²⁰Pharaoh ordered some of his men to escort them, and he sent Abram out of the country, along with his wife and all his possessions.

Abram and Lot Separate

13 So Abram left Egypt and traveled north into the Negev, along with his wife and Lot and all that they owned. ²(Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold.) ³From the Negev, they continued traveling by stages toward Bethel, and they pitched their tents between Bethel and Ai, where they had camped before. ⁴This was the same place where Abram had built the altar, and there he worshiped the LORD again.

⁵Lot, who was traveling with Abram, had

also become very wealthy with flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and many tents. ⁶But the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks and herds living so close together. ⁷So disputes broke out between the herdsman of Abram and Lot. (At that time Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land.)

⁸Finally Abram said to Lot, "Let's not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsman. After all, we are close relatives! ⁹The whole countryside is open to you. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want the land to the left, then I'll take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, then I'll go to the left."

¹⁰Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the LORD or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram. ¹²So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain. ¹³But the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the LORD.

¹⁴After Lot had gone, the LORD said to Abram, "Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west. ¹⁵I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants* as a permanent possession. ¹⁶And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted! ¹⁷Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you."

¹⁸So Abram moved his camp to Hebron and settled near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. There he built another altar to the LORD.

Abram Rescues Lot

14 About this time war broke out in the region. King Amraphel of Babylonia,* King Arioch of Ellasar, King Kedorlaomer of Elam, and King Tidal of Goiim ²fought against King Bera of Sodom, King Birsha of Gomorrah, King Shinab of Admah, King Shemeber of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (also called Zoar).

*Translation Notes 12:7 Hebrew *seed*. 13:15 Hebrew *seed*; also in 13:16. 14:1 Hebrew *Shinar*; also in 14:9.

Cross-References 12:7 Gal 3:16 12:20 Gen 20:1-18 13:15 Gal 3:16

Tonight we pray for the momma who believes that every promise You have given her will be fulfilled.

GENESIS 12:7

Lord, please help her when things seem impossible, even now. We ask in Jesus's name, amen.

Lord, I believe in these promises:

³This second group of kings joined forces in Siddim Valley (that is, the valley of the Dead Sea*). ⁴For twelve years they had been subject to King Kedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled against him.

⁵One year later Kedorlaomer and his allies arrived and defeated the Rephaites at Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzites at Ham, the Emmites at Shaveh-kiriathaim, ⁶and the Horites at Mount Seir, as far as El-paran at the edge of the wilderness. ⁷Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (now called Kadesh) and conquered all the territory of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites living in Hazazon-tamar.

⁸Then the rebel kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Bela (also called Zoar) prepared for battle in the valley of the Dead Sea.* ⁹They fought against King Kedorlaomer of Elam, King Tidal of Goiim, King Amraphel of Babylonia, and King Arioch of Ellasar—four kings against five. ¹⁰As it happened, the valley of the Dead Sea was filled with tar pits. And as the army of the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into the tar pits, while the rest escaped into the mountains. ¹¹The victorious invaders then plundered Sodom and Gomorrah and headed for home, taking with them all the spoils of war and the food supplies. ¹²They also captured Lot—Abram's nephew who lived in Sodom—and carried off everything he owned.

¹³But one of Lot's men escaped and reported everything to Abram the Hebrew, who was living near the oak grove belonging to Mamre the Amorite. Mamre and his relatives, Eshcol and Aner, were Abram's allies.

¹⁴When Abram heard that his nephew Lot had been captured, he mobilized the 318 trained men who had been born into his household. Then he pursued Kedorlaomer's army until he caught up with them at Dan. ¹⁵There he divided his men and attacked during the night. Kedorlaomer's army fled, but Abram chased them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶Abram recovered all the goods that had been taken, and he brought back his nephew Lot with his possessions and all the women and other captives.

Melchizedek Blesses Abram

¹⁷After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

¹⁸And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High,* brought Abram

some bread and wine. ¹⁹Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing:

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth.

²⁰ And blessed be God Most High,
who has defeated your enemies for you."

Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered.

²¹The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give back my people who were captured. But you may keep for yourself all the goods you have recovered."

²²Abram replied to the king of Sodom, "I solemnly swear to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, ²³that I will not take so much as a single thread or sandal thong from what belongs to you. Otherwise you might say, 'I am the one who made Abram rich.' ²⁴I will accept only what my young warriors have already eaten, and I request that you give a fair share of the goods to my allies—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre."

The LORD's Covenant Promise to Abram

15 Some time later, the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great."

²But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since you've given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. ³You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir."

⁴Then the LORD said to him, "No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir." ⁵Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!"

⁶And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith.

⁷Then the LORD told him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession."

⁸But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, how can I be sure that I will actually possess it?"

*Translation Notes 14:3 Hebrew *Salt Sea*. 14:8 Hebrew *Siddim Valley* (see 14:3); also in 14:10. 14:18 Hebrew *El-Elyon*; also in 14:19, 20, 22.

Cross-References 14:6 Gen 21:21 14:18 Heb 5:6, 10; 7:1 14:20 Heb 7:1-2 15:6 Rom 4:3, 9, 22

⁹The LORD told him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰So Abram presented all these to him and killed them. Then he cut each animal down the middle and laid the halves side by side; he did not, however, cut the birds in half. ¹¹Some vultures swooped down to eat the carcasses, but Abram chased them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a terrifying darkness came down over him. ¹³Then the LORD said to Abram, "You can be sure that your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. ¹⁴But I will punish the nation that enslaves them, and in the end they will come away with great wealth. ¹⁵(As for you, you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.) ¹⁶After four generations your descendants will return here to this land, for the sins of the Amorites do not yet warrant their destruction."

¹⁷After the sun went down and darkness fell, Abram saw a smoking firepot and a flaming torch pass between the halves of the carcasses. ¹⁸So the LORD made a covenant with Abram that day and said, "I have given this land to your descendants, all the way from the border of Egypt* to the great Euphrates River—¹⁹the land now occupied by the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, ²¹Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites."

The Birth of Ishmael

16 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. ²So Sarai said to Abram, "The LORD has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal. ³So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.)

⁴So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt. ⁵Then Sarai said to Abram, "This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she's pregnant she treats me with contempt. The LORD will show who's wrong—you or me!"

⁶Abram replied, "Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.

⁷The angel of the LORD found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. ⁸The angel said to her, "Hagar, Sarai's servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

"I'm running away from my mistress, Sarai," she replied.

⁹The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority."

¹⁰Then he added, "I will give you more descendants than you can count."

¹¹And the angel also said, "You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means 'God hears'), for the LORD has heard your cry of distress. ¹²This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey! He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives."

¹³Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the LORD, who had spoken to her. She said, "You are the God who sees me."* She also said, "Have I truly seen the One who sees me?" ¹⁴So that well was named Beer-lahai-roi (which means "well of the Living One who sees me"). It can still be found between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵So Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named him Ishmael. ¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old when Ishmael was born.

Abram Is Named Abraham

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am El-Shaddai—'God Almighty.' Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. ²I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants."

³At this, Abram fell face down on the ground. Then God said to him, ⁴"This is my covenant with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations! ⁵What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham,* for you will be the father of many nations. ⁶I will make you extremely fruitful. Your

Tonight we pray for the momma who feels unseen.

GENESIS 16:13

Lord, thank You that You are the God who sees us just as You saw Hagar in the wilderness. We pray in Jesus's name, amen.

Lord, I thank You for seeing these needs in my life:

*Translation Notes 15:18 Hebrew *the river of Egypt*, referring either to an eastern branch of the Nile River or to the Brook of Egypt in the Sinai (see Num 34:5). 16:13 Hebrew *El-roi*. 17:5 *Abram* means "exalted father"; *Abraham* sounds like a Hebrew term that means "father of many."

Cross-References 15:13 Acts 7:6 16:5 Gen 31:53 16:11 Exod 3:7-8 16:15 Gal 4:22 17:5 Rom 4:17

descendants will become many nations, and kings will be among them!

⁷"I will confirm my covenant with you and your descendants* after you, from generation to generation. This is the everlasting covenant: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸And I will give the entire land of Canaan, where you now live as a foreigner, to you and your descendants. It will be their possession forever, and I will be their God."

The Mark of the Covenant

⁹Then God said to Abraham, "Your responsibility is to obey the terms of the covenant. You and all your descendants have this continual responsibility. ¹⁰This is the covenant that you and your descendants must keep: Each male among you must be circumcised. ¹¹You must cut off the flesh of your foreskin as a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹²From generation to generation, every male child must be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. This applies not only to members of your family but also to the servants born in your household and the foreign-born servants whom you have purchased. ¹³All must be circumcised. Your bodies will bear the mark of my everlasting covenant. ¹⁴Any male who fails to be circumcised will be cut off from the covenant family for breaking the covenant."

Sarai Is Named Sarah

¹⁵Then God said to Abraham, "Regarding Sarai, your wife—her name will no longer be Sarai. From now on her name will be Sarah.* ¹⁶And I will bless her and give you a son from her! Yes, I will bless her richly, and she will become the mother of many nations. Kings of nations will be among her descendants."

¹⁷Then Abraham bowed down to the ground, but he laughed to himself in disbelief. "How could I become a father at the age of 100?" he thought. "And how can Sarah have a baby when she is ninety years old?" ¹⁸So Abraham said to God, "May Ishmael live under your special blessing!"

¹⁹But God replied, "No—Sarah, your wife, will give birth to a son for you. You will name him Isaac,* and I will confirm my covenant with him and his descendants as an everlasting covenant. ²⁰As for Ishmael, I will bless him also, just as you have asked. I will make him extremely fruitful and multiply his descendants. He will become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. ²¹But my covenant will be confirmed

with Isaac, who will be born to you and Sarah about this time next year." ²²When God had finished speaking, he left Abraham.

²³On that very day Abraham took his son, Ishmael, and every male in his household, including those born there and those he had bought. Then he circumcised them, cutting off their foreskins, just as God had told him. ²⁴Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised, ²⁵and Ishmael, his son, was thirteen. ²⁶Both Abraham and his son, Ishmael, were circumcised on that same day, ²⁷along with all the other men and boys of the household, whether they were born there or bought as servants. All were circumcised with him.

A Son Is Promised to Sarah

18 The LORD appeared again to Abraham near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. One day Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent during the hottest part of the day. ²He looked up and noticed three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran to meet them and welcomed them, bowing low to the ground.

³"My lord," he said, "if it pleases you, stop here for a while. ⁴Rest in the shade of this tree while water is brought to wash your feet. ⁵And since you've honored your servant with this visit, let me prepare some food to refresh you before you continue on your journey."

"All right," they said. "Do as you have said."

⁶So Abraham ran back to the tent and said to Sarah, "Hurry! Get three large measures* of your best flour; knead it into dough, and bake some bread." ⁷Then Abraham ran out to the herd and chose a tender calf and gave it to his servant, who quickly prepared it. ⁸When the food was ready, Abraham took some yogurt and milk and the roasted meat, and he served it to the men. As they ate, Abraham waited on them in the shade of the trees.

⁹"Where is Sarah, your wife?" the visitors asked.

"She's inside the tent," Abraham replied.

¹⁰Then one of them said, "I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!"

Sarah was listening to this conversation from the tent. ¹¹Abraham and Sarah were

*Translation Notes 17:7 Hebrew *seed*; also in 17:7b, 8, 9, 10, 19. 17:15 *Sarai* and *Sarah* both mean "princess"; the change in spelling may reflect the difference in dialect between Ur and Canaan. 17:19 *Isaac* means "he laughs." 18:6 Hebrew 3 *seahs*, about half a bushel or 22 liters.

Cross-References 17:7 Gal 3:16 17:12 Luke 1:59; 2:21 17:24 Rom 4:11 18:10 Rom 9:9

both very old by this time, and Sarah was long past the age of having children. ¹²So she laughed silently to herself and said, "How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so old?"

¹³Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, 'Can an old woman like me have a baby?' ¹⁴Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁵Sarah was afraid, so she denied it, saying, "I didn't laugh."

But the LORD said, "No, you did laugh."

Abraham Intercedes for Sodom

¹⁶Then the men got up from their meal and looked out toward Sodom. As they left, Abraham went with them to send them on their way.

¹⁷"Should I hide my plan from Abraham?" the LORD asked. ¹⁸"For Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him. ¹⁹I have singled him out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just. Then I will do for Abraham all that I have promised."

²⁰So the LORD told Abraham, "I have heard a great outcry from Sodom and Gomorrah, because their sin is so flagrant. ²¹I am going down to see if their actions are as wicked as I have heard. If not, I want to know."

²²The other men turned and headed toward Sodom, but the LORD remained with Abraham. ²³Abraham approached him and said, "Will you sweep away both the righteous and the wicked? ²⁴Suppose you find fifty righteous people living there in the city—will you still sweep it away and not spare it for their sakes? ²⁵Surely you wouldn't do such a thing, destroying the righteous along with the wicked. Why, you would be treating the righteous and the wicked exactly the same! Surely you wouldn't do that! Should not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?"

²⁶And the LORD replied, "If I find fifty righteous people in Sodom, I will spare the entire city for their sake."

²⁷Then Abraham spoke again. "Since I have begun, let me speak further to my Lord, even though I am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose there are only forty-five righteous people rather than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?"

And the LORD said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five righteous people there."

²⁹Then Abraham pressed his request further. "Suppose there are only forty?"

And the LORD replied, "I will not destroy it for the sake of the forty."

³⁰"Please don't be angry, my Lord," Abraham pleaded. "Let me speak—suppose only thirty righteous people are found?"

And the LORD replied, "I will not destroy it if I find thirty."

³¹Then Abraham said, "Since I have dared to speak to the Lord, let me continue—suppose there are only twenty?"

And the LORD replied, "Then I will not destroy it for the sake of the twenty."

³²Finally, Abraham said, "Lord, please don't be angry with me if I speak one more time. Suppose only ten are found there?"

And the LORD replied, "Then I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten."

³³When the LORD had finished his conversation with Abraham, he went on his way, and Abraham returned to his tent.

Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed

19 That evening the two angels came to the entrance of the city of Sodom. Lot was sitting there, and when he saw them, he stood up to meet them. Then he welcomed them and bowed with his face to the ground. ²"My lords," he said, "come to my home to wash your feet, and be my guests for the night. You may then get up early in the morning and be on your way again."

"Oh no," they replied. "We'll just spend the night out here in the city square."

³But Lot insisted, so at last they went home with him. Lot prepared a feast for them, complete with fresh bread made without yeast, and they ate. ⁴But before they retired for the night, all the men of Sodom, young and old, came from all over the city and surrounded the house. ⁵They shouted to Lot, "Where are the men who came to spend the night with you? Bring them out to us so we can have sex with them!"

⁶So Lot stepped outside to talk to them, shutting the door behind him. ⁷"Please, my brothers," he begged, "don't do such a wicked thing. ⁸Look, I have two virgin daughters. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do with them as you wish. But please, leave these men alone, for they are my guests and are under my protection."

⁹"Stand back!" they shouted. "This fellow came to town as an outsider, and now he's

Tonight we pray for the momma who, just like Abraham, is interceding for those who are lost.

GENESIS 18:32

Lord, she is praying for her lost family members to find You. We pray in Jesus's name, amen.

Lord, I am praying for my lost family and friends:

acting like our judge! We'll treat you far worse than those other men!" And they lunged toward Lot to break down the door.

¹⁰But the two angels* reached out, pulled Lot into the house, and bolted the door. ¹¹Then they blinded all the men, young and old, who were at the door of the house, so they gave up trying to get inside.

¹²Meanwhile, the angels questioned Lot. "Do you have any other relatives here in the city?" they asked. "Get them out of this place—your sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone else. ¹³For we are about to destroy this city completely. The outcry against this place is so great it has reached the LORD, and he has sent us to destroy it."

¹⁴So Lot rushed out to tell his daughters' fiancés, "Quick, get out of the city! The LORD is about to destroy it." But the young men thought he was only joking.

¹⁵At dawn the next morning the angels became insistent. "Hurry," they said to Lot. "Take your wife and your two daughters who are here. Get out right now, or you will be swept away in the destruction of the city!"

¹⁶When Lot still hesitated, the angels seized his hand and the hands of his wife and two daughters and rushed them to safety outside the city, for the LORD was merciful. ¹⁷When they were safely out of the city, one of the angels ordered, "Run for your lives! And don't look back or stop anywhere in the valley! Escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away!"

¹⁸"Oh no, my lord!" Lot begged. ¹⁹"You have been so gracious to me and saved my life, and you have shown such great kindness. But I cannot go to the mountains. Disaster would catch up to me there, and I would soon die. ²⁰See, there is a small village nearby. Please let me go there instead; don't you see how small it is? Then my life will be saved."

²¹"All right," the angel said, "I will grant your request. I will not destroy the little village. ²²But hurry! Escape to it, for I can do nothing until you arrive there." (This explains why that village was known as Zoar, which means "little place.")

²³Lot reached the village just as the sun was rising over the horizon. ²⁴Then the LORD rained down fire and burning sulfur from the sky on Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁵He utterly destroyed them, along with the other cities and villages of the plain, wiping out all the people and every bit of vegetation. ²⁶But Lot's wife looked back as she was following behind him, and she turned into a pillar of salt.

²⁷Abraham got up early that morning and hurried out to the place where he had stood in the LORD's presence. ²⁸He looked out across the plain toward Sodom and Gomorrah and watched as columns of smoke rose from the cities like smoke from a furnace.

²⁹But God had listened to Abraham's request and kept Lot safe, removing him from the disaster that engulfed the cities on the plain.

Lot and His Daughters

³⁰Afterward Lot left Zoar because he was afraid of the people there, and he went to live in a cave in the mountains with his two daughters. ³¹One day the older daughter said to her sister, "There are no men left anywhere in this entire area, so we can't get married like everyone else. And our father will soon be too old to have children. ³²Come, let's get him drunk with wine, and then we will have sex with him. That way we will preserve our family line through our father."

³³So that night they got him drunk with wine, and the older daughter went in and had intercourse with her father. He was unaware of her lying down or getting up again.

³⁴The next morning the older daughter said to her younger sister, "I had sex with our father last night. Let's get him drunk with wine again tonight, and you go in and have sex with him. That way we will preserve our family line through our father."

³⁵So that night they got him drunk with wine again, and the younger daughter went in and had intercourse with him. As before, he was unaware of her lying down or getting up again.

³⁶As a result, both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their own father. ³⁷When the older daughter gave birth to a son, she named him Moab.* He became the ancestor of the nation now known as the Moabites.

³⁸When the younger daughter gave birth to a son, she named him Ben-ammi.* He became the ancestor of the nation now known as the Ammonites.

Abraham Deceives Abimelech

20 Abraham moved south to the Negev and lived for a while between Kadesh and Shur, and then he moved on to Gerar. While living there as a foreigner, ²Abraham

*Translation Notes 19:10 Hebrew *men*; also in 19:12, 16. 19:37 *Moab* sounds like a Hebrew term that means "from father." 19:38 *Ben-ammi* means "son of my kinsman."

Cross-References 19:11 Deut 28:28-29 19:17 Gen 19:26 19:22 Gen 13:10 19:29 2 Pet 2:7-8

introduced his wife, Sarah, by saying, "She is my sister." So King Abimelech of Gerar sent for Sarah and had her brought to him at his palace.

³But that night God came to Abimelech in a dream and told him, "You are a dead man, for that woman you have taken is already married!"

⁴But Abimelech had not slept with her yet, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? ⁵Didn't Abraham tell me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'Yes, he is my brother.' I acted in complete innocence! My hands are clean."

⁶In the dream God responded, "Yes, I know you are innocent. That's why I kept you from sinning against me, and why I did not let you touch her. ⁷Now return the woman to her husband, and he will pray for you, for he is a prophet. Then you will live. But if you don't return her to him, you can be sure that you and all your people will die."

⁸Abimelech got up early the next morning and quickly called all his servants together. When he told them what had happened, his men were terrified. ⁹Then Abimelech called for Abraham. "What have you done to us?" he demanded. "What crime have I committed that deserves treatment like this, making me and my kingdom guilty of this great sin? No one should ever do what you have done! ¹⁰Whatever possessed you to do such a thing?"

¹¹Abraham replied, "I thought, 'This is a godless place. They will want my wife and will kill me to get her.' ¹²And she really is my sister, for we both have the same father, but different mothers. And I married her. ¹³When God called me to leave my father's home and to travel from place to place, I told her, 'Do me a favor: Wherever we go, tell the people that I am your brother.'"

¹⁴Then Abimelech took some of his sheep and goats, cattle, and male and female servants, and he presented them to Abraham. He also returned his wife, Sarah, to him. ¹⁵Then Abimelech said, "Look over my land and choose any place where you would like to live." ¹⁶And he said to Sarah, "Look, I am giving your 'brother' 1,000 pieces of silver* in the presence of all these witnesses. This is to compensate you for any wrong I may have done to you. This will settle any claim against me, and your reputation is cleared."

¹⁷Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants, so they could have children. ¹⁸For the LORD had caused all the women to be

infertile because of what happened with Abraham's wife, Sarah.

The Birth of Isaac

21 The LORD kept his word and did for Sarah exactly what he had promised. ²She became pregnant, and she gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age. This happened at just the time God had said it would. ³And Abraham named their son Isaac. ⁴Eight days after Isaac was born, Abraham circumcised him as God had commanded. ⁵Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born.

⁶And Sarah declared, "God has brought me laughter.* All who hear about this will laugh with me. ⁷Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse a baby? Yet I have given Abraham a son in his old age!"

Hagar and Ishmael Are Sent Away

⁸When Isaac grew up and was about to be weaned, Abraham prepared a huge feast to celebrate the occasion. ⁹But Sarah saw Ishmael—the son of Abraham and her Egyptian servant Hagar—making fun of her son, Isaac.* ¹⁰So she turned to Abraham and demanded, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son. He is not going to share the inheritance with my son, Isaac. I won't have it!"

¹¹This upset Abraham very much because Ishmael was his son. ¹²But God told Abraham, "Do not be upset over the boy and your servant. Do whatever Sarah tells you, for Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted. ¹³But I will also make a nation of the descendants of Hagar's son because he is your son, too."

¹⁴So Abraham got up early the next morning, prepared food and a container of water, and strapped them on Hagar's shoulders. Then he sent her away with their son, and she wandered aimlessly in the wilderness of Beersheba.

¹⁵When the water was gone, she put the boy in the shade of a bush. ¹⁶Then she went and sat down by herself about a hundred yards* away. "I don't want to watch the boy die," she said, as she burst into tears.

¹⁷But God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, "Hagar, what's wrong? Do not be afraid! God

*Translation Notes 20:16 Hebrew 1,000 [shekels] of silver, about 25 pounds or 11.4 kilograms in weight. 21:6 The name Isaac means "he laughs." 21:9 As in Greek version and Latin Vulgate; Hebrew lacks of her son, Isaac. 21:16 Hebrew a bowshot.

Cross-References 20:7 1 Sam 7:5 20:18 Gen 12:1-18 21:10 Gal 4:30 21:12 Rom 9:7

John

John was a disciple of Jesus—but not just any disciple. He was the one whom Jesus loved. This is how John chose to identify himself at the end of his Gospel account (see John 21:20–24). John was many things: a fisherman, a son, a brother, and a follower of Jesus. Yet among all these identities, he chose to recognize himself as one who was loved by God. John's understanding of God's love, for John and for the world, shaped the Gospel he wrote.

John's intent for writing his Gospel is clear: “so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name” (John 20:31).

At the center of an encounter Jesus had with a Pharisee about the Good News, John records these words of Jesus: “This is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). Love. It was God's love for the world that compelled the Father to send His Son. It was God's love for the world that led Jesus to the cross. And it was God's love for you that brought you out of the grip of sin and shame and into a saving relationship with Him. As you read the Gospel of John, allow the love of God to flood your heart—and remember that you may be many things, but most importantly, you are the one whom Jesus loves.

KEY STORIES

- Jesus meets a Pharisee late at night | JOHN 3:1-21
- Jesus meets a Samaritan woman | JOHN 4:1-42
- Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead | JOHN 11:1-44
- Jesus teaches about the Holy Spirit | JOHN 16:5-15
- Jesus prays for us | JOHN 17
- Jesus's arrest, trial, crucifixion, and burial | JOHN 18–19
- Jesus appears to His disciples | JOHN 20:11–21:25

WHO WROTE JOHN?

John

WHEN WAS JOHN WRITTEN?

Before AD 90

Prologue: Christ, the Eternal Word

1 In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

² He existed in the beginning with God.

³ God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except
through him.

⁴ The Word gave life to everything that
was created,*
and his life brought light to everyone.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never
extinguish it.*

⁶God sent a man, John the Baptist,* ⁷to tell
about the light so that everyone might believe
because of his testimony. ⁸John himself was
not the light; he was simply a witness to tell
about the light. ⁹The one who is the true light,
who gives light to everyone, was coming into
the world.

¹⁰He came into the very world he created,
but the world didn't recognize him. ¹¹He came
to his own people, and even they rejected him.
¹²But to all who believed him and accepted
him, he gave the right to become children of
God. ¹³They are reborn—not with a physical
birth resulting from human passion or plan,
but a birth that comes from God.

¹⁴So the Word became human* and made
his home among us. He was full of unfailing
love and faithfulness.* And we have seen his
glory, the glory of the Father's one and only
Son.

¹⁵John testified about him when he
shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was
talking about when I said, 'Someone is com-
ing after me who is far greater than I am, for
he existed long before me.'"

¹⁶From his abundance we have all received
one gracious blessing after another.* ¹⁷For
the law was given through Moses, but God's
unfailing love and faithfulness came through
Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. But

the unique One, who is himself God,* is near
to the Father's heart. He has revealed God
to us.

The Testimony of John the Baptist

¹⁹This was John's testimony when the Jewish
leaders sent priests and Temple assistants*
from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?"

²⁰He came right out and said, "I am not the
Messiah."

²¹"Well then, who are you?" they asked.
"Are you Elijah?"

"No," he replied.

"Are you the Prophet we are expecting?"*

"No."

²²"Then who are you? We need an answer
for those who sent us. What do you have to
say about yourself?"

²³John replied in the words of the prophet
Isaiah:

"I am a voice shouting in the wilderness,
'Clear the way for the LORD's coming!'"*

²⁴Then the Pharisees who had been sent
²⁵asked him, "If you aren't the Messiah or Eli-
jah or the Prophet, what right do you have
to baptize?"

²⁶John told them, "I baptize with* water, but
right here in the crowd is someone you do
not recognize. ²⁷Though his ministry follows
mine, I'm not even worthy to be his slave and
untie the straps of his sandal."

²⁸This encounter took place in Bethany, an
area east of the Jordan River, where John was
baptizing.

***Translation Notes** 1:3-4 Or and nothing that was created was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything. 1:5 Or and the darkness has not understood it. 1:6 Greek a man named John. 1:14a Greek became flesh. 1:14b Or grace and truth; also in 1:17. 1:16 Or received the grace of Christ rather than the grace of the law; Greek reads received grace upon grace. 1:18 Some manuscripts read But the one and only Son. 1:19 Greek and Levites. 1:21 Greek Are you the Prophet? See Deut 18:15, 18; Mal 4:5-6. 1:23 Isa 40:3. 1:26 Or in; also in 1:31, 33.

Cross-References 1:1 1 Jn 5:20 1:9 1 Jn 2:8 1:12 Rom 8:15-16, 29 1:14 Col 2:9 1:17 Exod 31:18 1:19-20 Luke 3:15 1:21 Mal 4:5 1:23 Isa 40:3

Day 4

When Your Own People Reject You

JOHN 1:1-18

Every Gospel begins, each in a different way, by making the case that Jesus is the Messiah, God's Son sent by the Father to rescue His people. Matthew opens with the genealogy of Joseph, Mary's husband, pointing out that the people should have accepted Jesus because He was in David's family. Luke begins with the events leading up to Jesus's birth in Bethlehem, showing that He fulfilled Old Testament prophecies. Mark leads with a retelling of John the Baptist's message about who Jesus was. However, the Gospel of John starts before creation and says, "He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him" (John 1:2-3).

But for many people, even that explanation was not sufficient. John declares that "he came to his own people, and even they rejected him" (John 1:11). He was cast aside by the people who were His family by lineage—even though John the Baptist testified on His behalf; even though Jesus was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. They treated Him as if He were an outsider, when in fact He was the center of it all.

Momma, the Lord understands when we feel like outsiders. It can happen in our families, it can happen in our workplaces, and it can happen in situations where we never expected it. We can still be pushed aside and rejected. He understands the pain this experience creates.

Tonight we pray for the momma who feels like an outsider. Lord, we are grateful that You understand the depth of the pain of this rejection. Please help her heart heal. We ask in Jesus's name, amen.

Lord, I feel like an outsider when . . .



Jesus, the Lamb of God

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.' ³¹I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel."

³²Then John testified, "I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. ³³I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God.*"

The First Disciples

³⁵The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. ³⁶As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷When John's two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus.

³⁸Jesus looked around and saw them following. "What do you want?" he asked them.

They replied, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

³⁹"Come and see," he said. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.

⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. ⁴¹Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means "Christ").

⁴²Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, "Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas" (which means "Peter").

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me." ⁴⁴Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown.

⁴⁵Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses* and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth."

⁴⁶"Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

"Come and see for yourself," Philip replied.

⁴⁷As they approached, Jesus said, "Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity."

⁴⁸"How do you know about me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus replied, "I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you."

⁴⁹Then Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!"

⁵⁰Jesus asked him, "Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this."

⁵¹Then he said, "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.*"

The Wedding at Cana

2 The next day* there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. ³The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

⁴"Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

⁵But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons.* ⁷Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, ⁸he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.

⁹When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. ¹⁰"A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

¹¹This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

¹²After the wedding he went to Capernaum for a few days with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples.

*Translation Notes 1:34 Some manuscripts read the Son of God. 1:41 Messiah (a Hebrew term) and Christ (a Greek term) both mean "anointed one." 1:42 The names Cephas (from Aramaic) and Peter (from Greek) both mean "rock." 1:45 Greek Moses in the law. 1:51 Greek going up and down on the Son of Man; see Gen 28:10-17. "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. 2:1 Greek On the third day; see 1:35, 43. 2:6 Greek 2 or 3 measures [75 to 113 liters].

Cross-References 1:29 1 Cor 5:7 1:33 Acts 1:5 1:40 Mark 1:16 1:42 1 Pet 2:5 1:43 John 12:20-22 1:45 Ezek 34:23-24 1:51 Gen 28:12 2:4 John 8:20 2:6 Mark 7:3-4 2:9 John 4:46 2:11 John 4:54 2:12 Matt 12:46-50

Jesus Clears the Temple

¹³It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem.

¹⁴In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. ¹⁵Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. ¹⁶Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, **"Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"**

¹⁷Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me."^{*}

¹⁸But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it."

¹⁹**"All right,"** Jesus replied. **"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."**

²⁰"What!" they exclaimed. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?" ²¹But when Jesus said "this temple," he meant his own body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

Jesus and Nicodemus

²³Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. ²⁴But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew all about people. ²⁵No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person's heart.

3 There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. ²After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

³Jesus replied, **"I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, * you cannot see the Kingdom of God."**

⁴"What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

⁵Jesus replied, **"I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. * ⁶Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. * ⁷So don't be surprised**

when I say, 'You* must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

⁹"How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰Jesus replied, **"You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? ¹¹I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. ¹²But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man* has come down from heaven. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life."**

¹⁶**"For this is how God loved the world: He gave* his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."**

¹⁸**"There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son."**

¹⁹**And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. ²⁰All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants."**

John the Baptist Exalts Jesus

²²Then Jesus and his disciples left Jerusalem and went into the Judean countryside. Jesus spent some time with them there, baptizing people.

²³At this time John the Baptist was baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there; and people kept coming

*Translation Notes 2:17 Or "Concern for God's house will be my undoing." Ps 69:9. 3:3 Or born from above; also in 3:7. 3:5 Or and spirit. The Greek word for Spirit can also be translated wind; see 3:8. 3:6 Greek what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 3:7 The Greek word for you is plural; also in 3:12. 3:13 Some manuscripts add who lives in heaven. "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. 3:15 Or everyone who believes will have eternal life in him. 3:16 Or For God loved the world so much that he gave. 3:21 Or can see God at work in what he is doing.

Cross-References 2:13-22 Matt 21:12-17 2:13 Deut 16:1-6 2:19 Acts 6:14 2:23 John 11:47-48 3:2 Matt 22:16 3:3 John 1:13 3:5 Ezek 36:26-27 3:14 Num 21:8-9 3:16 Rom 5:8 3:20 Eph 5:11-13 3:22 John 4:1-2



For the Momma Who Believes in Jesus

JOHN 3:1-21

It seems too simple to be true that “everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). It should be harder than this. Surely there must be more to it. But that is the essence of the Good News: God loved the world and gave His Son so that those who believe can have eternal life.

We try to make it harder, but it really isn’t complicated. Believing in Jesus as God’s only Son who was given for the sins of the world is the summation of the eternal love story between God and the people He created. We get to share that relationship, receive the incredible gift of forgiveness, and participate in the gift of eternal life.

Because He is holy, only the holiness of His perfect Son could step into the gap and cover our sinful and disobedient nature. Now when the Father looks upon us, He sees the holiness of our Savior, not the sinful acts we have committed. This amazing story of redemption is the foundation for all Christian belief. God loved the world. He gave His Son. Now we can have eternal life with Him.

Momma, believe and receive the gift of forgiveness offered to you. Receive eternal life.

Tonight we pray for the momma who believes in You. Lord, she believes that Your Son died for her sins and rose from the grave because You love her. Help her know that it is not complicated—but remind her that this grace cost the life of Your only Son. May she decide right now to believe. We ask in the name of Your Son, Jesus, amen.

Lord, I believe in Jesus Christ, Your only Son, and I ask for Your forgiveness and accept Your gift of eternal life.

to him for baptism. ²⁴(This was before John was thrown into prison.) ²⁵A debate broke out between John's disciples and a certain Jew* over ceremonial cleansing. ²⁶So John's disciples came to him and said, "Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us."

²⁷John replied, "No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves know how plainly I told you, 'I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.' ²⁹It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the bridegroom's friend is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. ³⁰He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

³¹"He has come from above and is greater than anyone else. We are of the earth, and we speak of earthly things, but he has come from heaven and is greater than anyone else.* ³²He testifies about what he has seen and heard, but how few believe what he tells them! ³³Anyone who accepts his testimony can affirm that God is true. ³⁴For he is sent by God. He speaks God's words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit. ³⁵The Father loves his Son and has put everything into his hands. ³⁶And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment."

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

4 Jesus* knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John ²(though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—his disciples did). ³So he left Judea and returned to Galilee.

⁴He had to go through Samaria on the way. ⁵Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. ⁷Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." ⁸He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

⁹The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans.* She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

¹⁰Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift

God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

¹¹"But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water?" ¹²And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

¹³Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

¹⁵"Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

¹⁶"Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

¹⁷"I don't have a husband," the woman replied.

Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband—¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

¹⁹"Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. ²⁰So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim,* where our ancestors worshipped?"

²¹Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. ²³But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

²⁵The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶Then Jesus told her, "I Am the Messiah!"*

²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman,

*Translation Notes 3:25 Some manuscripts read *some Jews*. 3:31 Some manuscripts do not include *and is greater than anyone else*. 4:1 Some manuscripts read *The Lord*. 4:9 Some manuscripts do not include this sentence. 4:20 Greek on this mountain. 4:26 Or "The 'I Am' is here"; or "I am the LORD"; Greek reads "I am, the one speaking to you." See Exod 3:14.

Cross-References 3:24 Matt 4:12 3:28 Mal 3:1 3:34 Luke 4:18 4:1 John 3:22, 26 4:6 Gen 33:19 4:9 Ezra 4:1-3 4:10 Jer 17:13 4:15 John 6:34 4:20 Deut 12:5-14 4:22 2 Kgs 17:28-41 4:25 Deut 18:15 4:26 Mark 14:61-62

Tonight we pray for the momma who has been sick for a long time.

JOHN 5:5-8

Lord, she has waited and continues to wait for her healing to come. Please heal this momma. May she be well and whole. We ask in Jesus's name, amen.

Lord, I need healing for this:

but none of them had the nerve to ask, "What do you want with her?" or "Why are you talking to her?" ²⁸The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone. ²⁹"Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" ³⁰So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

³¹Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, "Rabbi, eat something."

³²But Jesus replied, **"I have a kind of food you know nothing about."**

³³"Did someone bring him food while we were gone?" the disciples asked each other.

³⁴Then Jesus explained: **"My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. ³⁵You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe* for harvest. ³⁶The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! ³⁷You know the saying, 'One plants and another harvests.' And it's true. ³⁸I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest."**

Many Samaritans Believe

³⁹Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" ⁴⁰When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, ⁴¹long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. ⁴²Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world."

Jesus Heals an Official's Son

⁴³At the end of the two days, Jesus went on to Galilee. ⁴⁴He himself had said that a prophet is not honored in his own hometown. ⁴⁵Yet the Galileans welcomed him, for they had been in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration and had seen everything he did there.

⁴⁶As he traveled through Galilee, he came to Cana, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a government official in nearby Capernaum whose son was very sick. ⁴⁷When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son, who was about to die.

⁴⁸Jesus asked, **"Will you never believe in me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?"**

⁴⁹The official pleaded, "Lord, please come now before my little boy dies."

⁵⁰Then Jesus told him, **"Go back home. Your son will live!"** And the man believed what Jesus said and started home.

⁵¹While the man was on his way, some of his servants met him with the news that his son was alive and well. ⁵²He asked them when the boy had begun to get better, and they replied, "Yesterday afternoon at one o'clock his fever suddenly disappeared!" ⁵³Then the father realized that that was the very time Jesus had told him, **"Your son will live."** And he and his entire household believed in Jesus. ⁵⁴This was the second miraculous sign Jesus did in Galilee after coming from Judea.

Jesus Heals a Lame Man

5 Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. ²Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda,* with five covered porches. ³Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches.* ⁵One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, **"Would you like to get well?"**

⁷"I can't, sir," the sick man said, "for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me."

⁸Jesus told him, **"Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!"**

⁹Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, ¹⁰so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, "You can't work on the Sabbath! The law doesn't allow you to carry that sleeping mat!"

¹¹But he replied, "The man who healed me told me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

¹²"Who said such a thing as that?" they demanded.

*Translation Notes 4:35 Greek *white*. 5:2 Other manuscripts read *Beth-zatha*; still others read *Bethsaida*. 5:3 Some manuscripts add an expanded conclusion to verse 3 and all of verse 4: *waiting for a certain movement of the water; 'for an angel of the Lord came from time to time and stirred up the water. And the first person to step in after the water was stirred was healed of whatever disease he had.*

Cross-References 4:29 Matt 9:37 4:37 Job 31:8 4:42 1 Jn 4:14 4:44 Luke 4:24 4:46-54 Matt 8:5-13 4:46 John 2:1-11 4:48 1 Cor 1:22 4:50 Matt 8:13 5:1 Lev 23:1-2 5:8 Mark 2:11 5:10 Neh 13:15-20

¹³The man didn't know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. ¹⁴But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, "Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you." ¹⁵Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.

Jesus Claims to Be the Son of God

¹⁶So the Jewish leaders began harassing* Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. ¹⁷But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I." ¹⁸So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God.

¹⁹So Jesus explained, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. ²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing. In fact, the Father will show him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished. ²¹For just as the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants. ²²In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge, ²³so that everyone will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him.

²⁴"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

²⁵"And I assure you that the time is coming, indeed it's here now, when the dead will hear my voice—the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live. ²⁶The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son. ²⁷And he has given him authority to judge everyone because he is the Son of Man.* ²⁸Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God's Son, ²⁹and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment. ³⁰I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.

Witnesses to Jesus

³¹"If I were to testify on my own behalf, my testimony would not be valid. ³²But someone else is also testifying about me, and I assure you that everything he says about me is true. ³³In fact, you sent investigators to listen to John the Baptist, and his testimony about me was true. ³⁴Of course, I have no need of human witnesses, but I say these things so you might be saved. ³⁵John was like a burning and shining lamp, and you were excited for a while about his message. ³⁶But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me. ³⁷And the Father who sent me has testified about me himself. You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face. ³⁸and you do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one he sent to you.

³⁹"You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! ⁴⁰Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

⁴¹"Your approval means nothing to me, ⁴²because I know you don't have God's love within you. ⁴³For I have come to you in my Father's name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them. ⁴⁴No wonder you can't believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God.*

⁴⁵"Yet it isn't I who will accuse you before the Father. Moses will accuse you! Yes, Moses, in whom you put your hopes. ⁴⁶If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. ⁴⁷But since you don't believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

6 After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. ²A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. ³Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. ⁴(It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) ⁵Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he

*Translation Notes 5:16 Or persecuting. 5:27 "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. 5:44 Some manuscripts read from the only One.

Cross-References 5:14 John 8:11 5:18 Phil 2:6 5:19 John 14:10 5:24 1 Jn 5:13 5:29 Dan 12:2 5:37 Deut 4:12 5:39 Rom 2:17-20 5:41 John 12:43 5:46 Deut 18:15, 18 6:1-13 Matt 14:13-21

Tonight we pray for the momma who needs a miracle.

JOHN 6:18-20

Lord, may she know that You are with her when the seas are rough with blowing winds. Please help her through this storm. May she recognize You. We ask in Jesus's name, amen.

Lord, I need a miracle.

asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?"⁶ He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

⁷Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money* to feed them!"

⁸Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. ⁹"There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"

¹⁰"Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. ¹²After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted." ¹³So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

¹⁴When the people saw him* do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!"¹⁵ When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.

Jesus Walks on Water

¹⁶That evening Jesus' disciples went down to the shore to wait for him. ¹⁷But as darkness fell and Jesus still hadn't come back, they got into the boat and headed across the lake toward Capernaum. ¹⁸Soon a gale swept down upon them, and the sea grew very rough. ¹⁹They had rowed three or four miles* when suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water toward the boat. They were terrified, ²⁰but he called out to them, "Don't be afraid. I am here!"²¹ Then they were eager to let him in the boat, and immediately they arrived at their destination!

Jesus, the Bread of Life

²²The next day the crowd that had stayed on the far shore saw that the disciples had taken the only boat, and they realized Jesus had not gone with them. ²³Several boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the Lord had blessed the bread and the people had eaten. ²⁴So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went across to Capernaum to look for him. ²⁵They found him on the other side of the lake and asked, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you

want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. ²⁷But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man* can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval."

²⁸They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?"

²⁹Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

³⁰They answered, "Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do? ³¹After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"³²

³³Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. ³⁴The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁵"Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day."

³⁶Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

³⁷But you haven't believed in me even though you have seen me. ³⁸However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. ³⁹For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. ⁴⁰And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. ⁴¹For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."

⁴²Then the people* began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴³They said, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his father and mother. How can he say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

⁴⁴But Jesus replied, "Stop complaining about what I said. ⁴⁵For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws

*Translation Notes 6:7 Greek *Two hundred denarii would not be enough*. A denarius was equivalent to a laborer's full day's wage. 6:14a Some manuscripts read *Jesus*. 6:14b See Deut 18:15, 18; Mal 4:5-6. 6:19 Greek *25 or 30 stadia* [4.6 or 5.5 kilometers]. 6:20 Or *The 'I Am' is here*; Greek reads *I am*. See Exod 3:14. 6:27 "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. 6:31 Exod 16:4; Ps 78:24. 6:41 Greek *Jewish people*; also in 6:52.

Cross-References 6:9 2 Kgs 4:43 6:14 Acts 3:22 6:19 Job 9:8 6:22-23 Mark 6:47-51 6:27 Rom 6:23 6:29 1 Jn 3:23 6:31 Num 11:7-9 6:33 John 6:41, 50 6:39 John 10:28-29 6:42 Luke 4:22

them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up.⁴⁵ As it is written in the Scriptures,* 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.⁴⁶ (Not that anyone has ever seen the Father; only I, who was sent from God, have seen him.)

⁴⁷"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸Yes, I am the bread of life! ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died. ⁵⁰Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh."

⁵²Then the people began arguing with each other about what he meant. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" they asked.

⁵³So Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. ⁵⁴But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷I live because of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸I am the true bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did (even though they ate the manna) but will live forever."

⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

Many Disciples Desert Jesus

⁶⁰Many of his disciples said, "This is very hard to understand. How can anyone accept it?"

⁶¹Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining, so he said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what will you think if you see the Son of Man ascend to heaven again? ⁶³The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But some of you do not believe me." (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn't believe, and he knew who would betray him.) ⁶⁵Then he said, "That is why I said that people can't come to me unless the Father gives them to me."

⁶⁶At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. ⁶⁷Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?"

⁶⁸Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom

would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. ⁶⁹We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.*"

⁷⁰Then Jesus said, "I chose the twelve of you, but one is a devil." ⁷¹He was speaking of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, one of the Twelve, who would later betray him.

Jesus and His Brothers

7 After this, Jesus traveled around Galilee. He wanted to stay out of Judea, where the Jewish leaders were plotting his death. ²But soon it was time for the Jewish Festival of Shelters, ³and Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, where your followers can see your miracles! ⁴You can't become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!" ⁵For even his brothers didn't believe in him.

⁶Jesus replied, "Now is not the right time for me to go, but you can go anytime. ⁷The world can't hate you, but it does hate me because I accuse it of doing evil. ⁸You go on. I'm not going* to this festival, because my time has not yet come." ⁹After saying these things, Jesus remained in Galilee.

Jesus Teaches Openly at the Temple

¹⁰But after his brothers left for the festival, Jesus also went, though secretly, staying out of public view. ¹¹The Jewish leaders tried to find him at the festival and kept asking if anyone had seen him. ¹²There was a lot of grumbling about him among the crowds. Some argued, "He's a good man," but others said, "He's nothing but a fraud who deceives the people." ¹³But no one had the courage to speak favorably about him in public, for they were afraid of getting in trouble with the Jewish leaders.

¹⁴Then, midway through the festival, Jesus went up to the Temple and began to teach. ¹⁵The people* were surprised when they heard him. "How does he know so much when he hasn't been trained?" they asked.

¹⁶So Jesus told them, "My message is not my own; it comes from God who sent me. ¹⁷Anyone who wants to do the will of God will know whether my teaching is from God or is merely my own. ¹⁸Those who speak for themselves want glory only for themselves,

*Translation Notes 6:45 Greek in the prophets. Isa 54:13.

6:69 Other manuscripts read you are the Christ, the Holy One of God; still others read you are the Christ, the Son of God; and still others read you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. 7:8 Some manuscripts read not yet going. 7:15 Greek Jewish people.

Cross-References 6:45 Jer 31:33-34 6:51 Heb 10:10 6:56 1 Jn 2:24 6:62 Eph 4:8 6:69 Luke 9:20 6:71 Matt 26:14 7:2 Lev 23:34 7:7 John 15:18 7:13 John 9:22-23 7:15 Matt 13:54

but a person who seeks to honor the one who sent him speaks truth, not lies.¹⁹ Moses gave you the law, but none of you obeys it! In fact, you are trying to kill me."

²⁰The crowd replied, "You're demon possessed! Who's trying to kill you?"

²¹Jesus replied, "I did one miracle on the Sabbath, and you were amazed.²² But you work on the Sabbath, too, when you obey Moses' law of circumcision. (Actually, this tradition of circumcision began with the patriarchs, long before the law of Moses.)²³ For if the correct time for circumcising your son falls on the Sabbath, you go ahead and do it so as not to break the law of Moses. So why should you be angry with me for healing a man on the Sabbath?"²⁴ Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly."

Is Jesus the Messiah?

²⁵Some of the people who lived in Jerusalem started to ask each other, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill?"²⁶ But here he is, speaking in public, and they say nothing to him. Could our leaders possibly believe that he is the Messiah?²⁷ But how could he be? For we know where this man comes from. When the Messiah comes, he will simply appear; no one will know where he comes from."

²⁸While Jesus was teaching in the Temple, he called out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I come from. But I'm not here on my own. The one who sent me is true, and you don't know him.²⁹ But I know him because I come from him, and he sent me to you."³⁰ Then the leaders tried to arrest him; but no one laid a hand on him, because his time* had not yet come.

³¹Many among the crowds at the Temple believed in him. "After all," they said, "would you expect the Messiah to do more miraculous signs than this man has done?"

³²When the Pharisees heard that the crowds were whispering such things, they and the leading priests sent Temple guards to arrest Jesus.³³ But Jesus told them, "I will be with you only a little longer. Then I will return to the one who sent me.³⁴ You will search for me but not find me. And you cannot go where I am going."

³⁵The Jewish leaders were puzzled by this statement. "Where is he planning to go?" they asked. "Is he thinking of leaving the country and going to the Jews in other lands?" Maybe he will even teach the Greeks!³⁶ What does he mean when he says, 'You will search for me but not find me,' and 'You cannot go where I am going'?"

Jesus Promises Living Water

³⁷On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me!³⁸ Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'³⁹ (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given,* because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

Division and Unbelief

⁴⁰When the crowds heard him say this, some of them declared, "Surely this man is the Prophet we've been expecting."⁴¹ Others said, "He is the Messiah." Still others said, "But he can't be! Will the Messiah come from Galilee?"⁴² For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David, in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born."⁴³ So the crowd was divided about him.⁴⁴ Some even wanted him arrested, but no one laid a hand on him.

⁴⁵When the Temple guards returned without having arrested Jesus, the leading priests and Pharisees demanded, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

⁴⁶"We have never heard anyone speak like this!" the guards responded.

⁴⁷"Have you been led astray, too?" the Pharisees mocked.⁴⁸ "Is there a single one of us rulers or Pharisees who believes in him?"⁴⁹ This foolish crowd follows him, but they are ignorant of the law. God's curse is on them!"

⁵⁰Then Nicodemus, the leader who had met with Jesus earlier, spoke up.⁵¹ "Is it legal to convict a man before he is given a hearing?" he asked.

⁵²They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Search the Scriptures and see for yourself—no prophet ever comes* from Galilee!"

[The most ancient Greek manuscripts do not include John 7:53–8:11.]

*Translation Notes 7:30 Greek his hour. 7:35 Or the Jews who live among the Greeks? 7:37-38 Or "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from the heart of anyone who believes in me.'" 7:39 Several early manuscripts read But as yet there was no Spirit. Still others read But as yet there was no Holy Spirit. 7:40 See Deut 18:15, 18; Mal 4:5-6. 7:42 See Mic 5:2. 7:52 Some early manuscripts read the prophet does not come.

Cross-References 7:19 John 1:17 7:20 John 8:48, 52 7:22 Gen 17:10-13 7:27 John 9:29 7:29 John 17:25 7:31 John 2:23 7:33 John 13:33 7:37 Isa 55:1 7:42 2 Sam 7:12 7:46 Matt 7:28 7:48 John 12:42 7:51 Deut 1:16 7:52 Isa 9:1-2

⁵³Then the meeting broke up, and everybody went home.

A Woman Caught in Adultery

8 Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, ²but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. ³As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

⁴"Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"

⁶They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. ⁷They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, **"All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!"** ⁸Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

⁹When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. ¹⁰Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, **"Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"**

¹¹"No, Lord," she said.

And Jesus said, **"Neither do I. Go and sin no more."**

Jesus, the Light of the World

¹²Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, **"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."**

¹³The Pharisees replied, "You are making those claims about yourself! Such testimony is not valid."

¹⁴Jesus told them, **"These claims are valid even though I make them about myself. For I know where I came from and where I am going, but you don't know this about me. ¹⁵You judge me by human standards, but I do not judge anyone. ¹⁶And if I did, my judgment would be correct in every respect because I am not alone. The Father* who sent me is with me. ¹⁷Your own law says that if two people agree about something, their witness is accepted as fact.* ¹⁸I am one witness, and my Father who sent me is the other."**

¹⁹"Where is your father?" they asked.

Jesus answered, **"Since you don't know**

who I am, you don't know who my Father is. If you knew me, you would also know my Father." ²⁰Jesus made these statements while he was teaching in the section of the Temple known as the Treasury. But he was not arrested, because his time* had not yet come.

The Unbelieving People Warned

²¹Later Jesus said to them again, **"I am going away. You will search for me but will die in your sin. You cannot come where I am going."**

²²The people* asked, "Is he planning to commit suicide? What does he mean, 'You cannot come where I am going'?"

²³Jesus continued, **"You are from below; I am from above. You belong to this world; I do not. ²⁴That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I AM who I claim to be,* you will die in your sins."**

²⁵"Who are you?" they demanded.

Jesus replied, **"The one I have always claimed to be.* ²⁶I have much to say about you and much to condemn, but I won't. For I say only what I have heard from the one who sent me, and he is completely truthful."** ²⁷But they still didn't understand that he was talking about his Father.

²⁸So Jesus said, **"When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I AM he.* I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me. ²⁹And the one who sent me is with me—he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him."** ³⁰Then many who heard him say these things believed in him.

Jesus and Abraham

³¹Jesus said to the people who believed in him, **"You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. ³²And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

³³"But we are descendants of Abraham," they said. "We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, 'You will be set free'?"

³⁴Jesus replied, **"I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. ³⁵A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free. ³⁷Yes, I realize**

*Translation Notes 8:16 Some manuscripts read *The One*. 8:17 See Deut 19:15. 8:20 Greek *his hour*. 8:22 Greek *Jewish people*; also in 8:31, 48, 52, 57. 8:24 Greek *unless you believe that I am*. See Exod 3:14. 8:25 Or *Why do I speak to you at all?* 8:28 Greek *When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am*. "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself.

Cross-References 8:2 Matt 26:55 8:4-5 Deut 22:22-24 8:7 Deut 17:7 8:11 John 5:14 8:12 Isa 9:1-2 8:18 Deut 19:15 8:20 Mark 12:41 8:21 John 7:34, 36 8:22 John 7:35 8:24 Exod 3:14-15 8:26 John 3:32-34 8:29 John 4:34 8:31-32 Gal 5:1, 13 8:33 Matt 3:9 8:34 Rom 6:16, 20

Day 2

Jesus Writes in the Dirt

JOHN 8:1-11

The account of the woman caught in adultery is a life-and-death drama. The woman was brought before Jesus and accused of adultery, which carried with it the penalty of death by stoning according to Israel's law. God Himself had delivered these laws through Moses, and He had summarized them with ten commandments written on stone tablets with His own finger (Exodus 31:18). By reminding Jesus what the law of Moses said and asking what He would do, the woman's accusers were trying to trap Him.

Jesus bent down and used His finger to write in the dust not once but twice. John doesn't record what He wrote. But in a way, He was reminding the Pharisees of the stone tablets and the finger of God. In a way, He was reminding them of their own promises to keep the Lord's instructions. After He wrote for the first time, He stood up and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" (John 8:7). Then He wrote in the dust a second time. Before He stood up, the woman's accusers all left. Finally He asked her, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" When she replied, "No, Lord," Jesus told her, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more" (John 8:10-11).

Momma, Jesus is ready to forgive whenever we find ourselves in a sinful, dusty place. You only have to ask.

Tonight we pray for the momma who needs forgiveness. Lord, even being able to ask for forgiveness is a big step. Please help her as she reaches out to You. Please remind her that You are quick to forgive. We pray in Jesus's name, amen.

Lord, I need forgiveness for this:



The next day in this
reading plan is on page 594.

that you are descendants of Abraham. And yet some of you are trying to kill me because there's no room in your hearts for my message. ³⁸I am telling you what I saw when I was with my Father. But you are following the advice of your father."

³⁹"Our father is Abraham!" they declared.

"No," Jesus replied, "for if you were really the children of Abraham, you would follow his example.* ⁴⁰Instead, you are trying to kill me because I told you the truth, which I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing. ⁴¹No, you are imitating your real father."

They replied, "We aren't illegitimate children! God himself is our true Father."

⁴²Jesus told them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. ⁴³Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me! ⁴⁴For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe me! ⁴⁶Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin? And since I am telling you the truth, why don't you believe me? ⁴⁷Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God."

⁴⁸The people retorted, "You Samaritan devil! Didn't we say all along that you were possessed by a demon?"

⁴⁹"No," Jesus said, "I have no demon in me. For I honor my Father—and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰And though I have no wish to glorify myself, God is going to glorify me. He is the true judge. ⁵¹I tell you the truth, anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!"

⁵²The people said, "Now we know you are possessed by a demon. Even Abraham and the prophets died, but you say, 'Anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!' ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

⁵⁴Jesus answered, "If I want glory for myself, it doesn't count. But it is my Father who will glorify me. You say, 'He is our God,'* ⁵⁵but you don't even know him. I know him. If I said otherwise, I would be as great a liar as you! But I do know him and obey him. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad."

⁵⁷The people said, "You aren't even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?"

⁵⁸Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I am!"* ⁵⁹At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. ²"Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?"

³"It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. ⁴We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us.* The night is coming, and then no one can work. ⁵But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man's eyes. ⁷He told him, "Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam" (Siloam means "sent"). So the man went and washed and came back seeing!

⁸His neighbors and others who knew him as a blind beggar asked each other, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some said he was, and others said, "No, he just looks like him!"

But the beggar kept saying, "Yes, I am the same one!"

¹⁰They asked, "Who healed you? What happened?"

¹¹He told them, "The man they call Jesus made mud and spread it over my eyes and told me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash yourself.' So I went and washed, and now I can see!"

¹²"Where is he now?" they asked.

"I don't know," he replied.

¹³Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees, ¹⁴because it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud and healed him. ¹⁵The Pharisees asked the man

*Translation Notes 8:39 Some manuscripts read *if you are really the children of Abraham, follow his example.* 8:54 Some manuscripts read *You say he is your God.* 8:57 Some manuscripts read *How can you say Abraham has seen you?* 8:58 Or *before Abraham was even born, I have always been alive;* Greek reads *before Abraham was, I am.* See Exod 3:14. 9:4 Other manuscripts read *I must quickly carry out the tasks assigned me by the one who sent me;* still others read *We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent me.*

Cross-References 8:39 Gal 3:7, 14, 29 8:42 1 Jn 5:1 8:51 John 11:25-26 8:53 John 4:12 8:56 Gen 22:17-18 8:58 Isa 43:10, 13 9:2 Exod 20:5 9:5 Isa 49:6 9:7 Isa 35:5 9:8 Acts 3:10 9:13-14 Luke 13:14

DAY 6
DUST, DIRT, AND MUD

Day 6

A Miracle in the Mud

JOHN 9:1-41

When Jesus encountered a man born blind, it was the beginning of a miracle accomplished by unexpected means. The Lord used dirt from the ground and His saliva to make mud, and He put it on the man's eyes. Jesus then told the blind man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. Obediently, the man went and washed himself in the water. When he came back to Jesus, he was no longer blind!

The disciples asked why the man was blind, but the answer was not what they expected. Instead of talking about sin, the Lord pointed to the power of God. This was an opportunity for people to see Jesus's healing touch.

The miracle was so astonishing that the religious leaders did not believe that the man had been blind or that Jesus had healed him. They interviewed the man, and then they called in his parents for questioning. After a second interview with the man, they still didn't believe! Finally, the man declared, "Ever since the world began, no one has been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. If this man were not from God, he couldn't have done it" (John 9:32-33).

Momma, miracles come in all shapes and sizes and by many methods. We can look for them even in the humblest of circumstances. Remember that Jesus used mud and dirt to heal a man's blindness!

Tonight we pray for the momma who needs a miracle. Lord, thank You for providing the miracle she needs. We pray in Jesus's name, amen.

Lord, I need a miracle in this situation:



The next day in this reading plan is on page 972.

all about it. So he told them, "He put the mud over my eyes, and when I washed it away, I could see!"

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath." Others said, "But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?" So there was a deep division of opinion among them.

¹⁷Then the Pharisees again questioned the man who had been blind and demanded, "What's your opinion about this man who healed you?"

The man replied, "I think he must be a prophet."

¹⁸The Jewish leaders still refused to believe the man had been blind and could now see, so they called in his parents. ¹⁹They asked them, "Is this your son? Was he born blind? If so, how can he now see?"

²⁰His parents replied, "We know this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹but we don't know how he can see or who healed him. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had announced that anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. ²³That's why they said, "He is old enough. Ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, "God should get the glory for this,* because we know this man Jesus is a sinner."

²⁵"I don't know whether he is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"

²⁶"But what did he do?" they asked. "How did he heal you?"

²⁷"Look!" the man exclaimed. "I told you once. Didn't you listen? Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

²⁸Then they cursed him and said, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses!" ²⁹We know God spoke to Moses, but we don't even know where this man comes from."

³⁰"Why, that's very strange!" the man replied. "He healed my eyes, and yet you don't know where he comes from?" ³¹We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will. ³²Ever since the world began, no one has been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he couldn't have done it."

³⁴"You were born a total sinner!" they

answered. "Are you trying to teach us?" And they threw him out of the synagogue.

Spiritual Blindness

³⁵When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, "**Do you believe in the Son of Man?**"

³⁶The man answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him."

³⁷"**You have seen him,**" Jesus said, "**and he is speaking to you!**"

³⁸"Yes, Lord, I believe!" the man said. And he worshiped Jesus.

³⁹Then Jesus told him,* "**I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see* that they are blind.**"

⁴⁰Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, "Are you saying we're blind?"

⁴¹"**If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty,**" Jesus replied. "**But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.**"

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

10 "I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber!² But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice."

⁶Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant,⁷ so he explained it to them: "**I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me* were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. ⁹Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. ¹⁰They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. ¹¹The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.**"

*Translation Notes 9:24 Or Give glory to God, not to Jesus; Greek reads Give glory to God. 9:35 Some manuscripts read the Son of God? "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. 9:38-39a Some manuscripts do not include "Yes, Lord, I believe!" the man said. And he worshiped Jesus. Then Jesus told him. 9:39b Greek those who see. 10:8 Some manuscripts do not include before me. 10:9 Or will find safety.

Cross-References 9:16 John 7:43 9:17 Matt 21:11 9:22 Acts 5:13 9:24 Josh 7:19 9:28 John 5:45 9:31 Mic 3:4 9:34 John 9:2 9:37 John 4:26 9:39 Luke 4:18 9:40 Rom 2:19 9:41 John 15:22 10:4 Ps 80:2 10:8 Ezek 34:2-3

¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. ¹²A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. ¹³The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.

¹⁴"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ¹⁵just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

¹⁷"The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. ¹⁸No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded."

¹⁹When he said these things, the people* were again divided in their opinions about him. ²⁰Some said, "He's demon possessed and out of his mind. Why listen to a man like that?" ²¹Others said, "This doesn't sound like a man possessed by a demon! Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

Jesus Claims to Be the Son of God

²²It was now winter, and Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of Hanukkah, the Festival of Dedication. ²³He was in the Temple, walking through the section known as Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴The people surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

²⁵Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me. The proof is the work I do in my Father's name. ²⁶But you don't believe me because you are not my sheep. ²⁷My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, ²⁹for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else.* No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

³¹Once again the people picked up stones to kill him. ³²Jesus said, "At my Father's direction I have done many good works. For which one are you going to stone me?"

³³They replied, "We're stoning you not for any good work, but for blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God."

³⁴Jesus replied, "It is written in your own Scriptures* that God said to certain leaders of the people, 'I say, you are gods!'" ³⁵And you know that the Scriptures cannot be altered. So if those people who received God's message were called 'gods,' ³⁶why do you call it blasphemy when I say, 'I am the Son of God'? After all, the Father set me apart and sent me into the world. ³⁷Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. ³⁸But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."

³⁹Once again they tried to arrest him, but he got away and left them. ⁴⁰He went beyond the Jordan River near the place where John was first baptizing and stayed there awhile. ⁴¹And many followed him. "John didn't perform miraculous signs," they remarked to one another, "but everything he said about this man has come true." ⁴²And many who were there believed in Jesus.

The Raising of Lazarus

11 A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. ²This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair.* Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. ³So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."

⁴But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." ⁵So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, ⁶he stayed where he was for the next two days. ⁷Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."

⁸But his disciples objected. "Rabbi," they said, "only a few days ago the people* in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?"

⁹Jesus replied, "There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. ¹⁰But at night there is danger

*Translation Notes **10:19** Greek *Jewish people*; also in **10:24**, **31**. **10:29** Other manuscripts read *for what my Father has given me is more powerful than anything*; still others read *for regarding that which my Father has given me, he is greater than all*.

10:34a Greek *your own law*. **10:34b** Ps 82:6. **11:2** This incident is recorded in chapter 12. **11:8** Greek *Jewish people*; also in **11:19**, **31**, **33**, **36**, **45**, **54**.

Cross-References **10:11-13** Ezek 34:11-16, 23 **10:16** Isa 56:8 **10:18** Phil 2:8-9 **10:24** Luke 22:67 **10:30** John 17:21-24 **10:33** Lev 24:16 **10:34** Ps 82:6 **10:42** John 12:11, 42 **11:1** Matt 21:17 **11:4** John 9:3 **11:8** John 8:59

of stumbling because they have no light." ¹¹Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up."

¹²The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!" ¹³They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

¹⁴So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.

¹⁵And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him."

¹⁶Thomas, nicknamed the Twin,* said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go, too—and die with Jesus."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. ¹⁸Bethany was only a few miles* down the road from Jerusalem, ¹⁹and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. ²⁰When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask."

²³Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴"Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day."

²⁵Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life.* Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. ²⁶Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

²⁷"Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God." ²⁸Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, "The Teacher is here and wants to see you." ²⁹So Mary immediately went to him.

³⁰Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. ³¹When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep. So they followed her there. ³²When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him,* and he was deeply troubled. ³⁴"Where have you put him?" he asked them.

They told him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Then

Jesus wept. ³⁶The people who were standing nearby said, "See how much he loved him!" ³⁷But some said, "This man healed a blind man. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

³⁸Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. ³⁹"Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible."

⁴⁰Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?"

⁴¹So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. ⁴²You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me." ⁴³Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"

The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen. ⁴⁶But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷Then the leading priests and Pharisees called the high council* together. "What are we going to do?" they asked each other. "This man certainly performs many miraculous signs. ⁴⁸If we allow him to go on like this, soon everyone will believe in him. Then the Roman army will come and destroy both our Temple* and our nation."

⁴⁹Caiaphas, who was high priest at that time,* said, "You don't know what you're talking about! ⁵⁰You don't realize that it's better for you that one man should die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed."

⁵¹He did not say this on his own; as high priest at that time he was led to prophesy that Jesus would die for the entire nation. ⁵²And not only for that nation, but to bring together and unite all the children of God scattered around the world.

*Translation Notes 11:16 Greek *Thomas, who was called Didymus*. 11:18 Greek *was about 15 stadia* [about 2.8 kilometers]. 11:25 Some manuscripts do not include *and the life*. 11:33 Or *he was angry in his spirit*. 11:47 Greek *the Sanhedrin*. 11:48 Or *our position*; Greek *reads our place*. 11:49 Greek *that year*; also in 11:51.

Cross-References 11:11 Dan 12:2 11:16 Acts 1:3 11:20 Luke 10:38-42 11:24 1 Thes 4:14 11:25 Rev 1:17-18 11:27 Matt 16:16 11:35 Luke 19:41 11:39 John 11:17 11:43 Luke 7:14 11:47 Matt 26:3-5 11:49 Matt 26:3 11:52 Isa 49:6

Dust, Dirt, and Mud

READING PLAN

The Lord can use even the smallest and most insignificant things to show us who He is. When we think of the Lord's creation, we often think of big stuff, like galaxies, the universe, or perhaps seas and mountains. We don't often think of something as small and insignificant as dust. Yet in God's Word, there are many stories where dust plays an important role. From the creation of man out of dust, to the Lord using His finger to write in the dust when He forgave a woman's sin, to the blind man being healed when the Lord used dirt to make mud for his eyes, we see dust in significant moments of the Bible's story of redemption.

Momma, in this reading plan you will find seven stops all pointing to the importance of dust, dirt, and mud. It is a great resource for times when you might feel insignificant or overlooked. The Lord is interested in every single aspect of our lives, even down to the smallest parts. He sees it all. As you trace the story of dust, dirt, and mud through the Bible, may you be encouraged that He sees the very small things in your life and will use them for His good purpose of blessing!

READING PLAN STOPS

DAY 1 The Creation of Man (Genesis 1:26-27).....	page 6
DAY 2 Jesus Writes in the Dirt (John 8:1-11).....	page 1074
DAY 3 The Lord Knows Our Weakness (Psalm 103).....	page 594
DAY 4 The Depths of Grief (Lamentations 3:16-33).....	page 809
DAY 5 Shake Off the Dust (Matthew 10:5-15).....	page 967
DAY 6 A Miracle in the Mud (John 9:1-41).....	page 1076
DAY 7 The Good Soil (Matthew 13:1-23).....	page 972



When You Feel like an Outsider

READING PLAN

Being rejected by others can be one of the most painful experiences in life. That rejection is a big part of becoming an “outsider.” Rejection is a theme found over and over throughout the pages of the Bible.

This reading plan explores the places in God’s Word where rejection and being outside the inner circle create a hardship for someone. Joseph was rejected by his brothers and literally thrown into a pit. On the night Jesus was arrested, Peter was left at the gate and unable to enter the courtyard area until an insider secured his entrance. Even Jesus’s mother, Mary, experienced outsider status when she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. She was the only person who knew the truth of that pregnancy—even Joseph did not understand at first. Paul’s story illustrates how to respond when your people reject you and you need help overcoming the consequences. These people’s stories—and many others—can give you a greater understanding of God’s plan for your life when you are in the middle of rejection.

Momma, even when it seems like no one wants to include you, the Lord is present with you. He accepts you. Great men and women in the Bible went through many trials, including being outsiders, yet they still lived for Him, and the Lord accomplished His purposes for their lives. May reading these accounts bless you and bring you courage and peace.

READING PLAN STOPS

DAY 1 A Pit of Despair—When Your Family Makes You an Outsider (Genesis 37:18-28)	page 41
DAY 2 Left in the Cold (John 18:15-18, 25-27).....	page 1089
DAY 3 Loved by God—When Others Reject, the Lord Does Not (Genesis 29:13-32)	page 31
DAY 4 When Your Own People Reject You (John 1:1-18).....	page 1063
DAY 5 Mary’s Outsider Experience (Matthew 1:18-25).....	page 957
DAY 6 Outside of Acceptance, but Within God’s Presence (Jeremiah 37:11–38:13).....	page 783
DAY 7 From Insider to Outsider—When You Need Help (Acts 23:12-35)	page 1126



The Lord Sends Helpers

READING PLAN

Can you remember a time in your life when your circumstances were difficult and the Lord sent someone to help you? Perhaps it was when you lost a loved one and someone brought over a meal. Or maybe you needed a friend to help you move to a new place, or perhaps someone to go with you to a difficult doctor's appointment.

Those who are familiar with hiking might think of helpers as trail angels. A trail angel is someone who helps hikers on long-distance trails. They may carry our backpack for a little while or offer us hot meals or provide fresh water when we are on a particularly difficult portion of the trail.

Throughout Scripture, there are many times when helpers were very much needed, and the Lord provided them in miraculous ways. The seven stops we make on this reading plan introduce us to some of the helpers in the Bible. Saul (also called Paul) was blind, so the Lord sent Ananias to restore his sight. Elijah helped a widow who was running out of food during a famine. A paralyzed man was lowered through a roof by his four friends so that Jesus might heal him. May each stop of this reading plan remind you of the Lord's faithfulness. He is always with us in our times of difficulty, both great and small. And often He will send people to walk beside us, encourage us, and help us carry our burdens.

READING PLAN STOPS

DAY 1 A Shout for Help (Luke 5:1-11)	page 1029
DAY 2 The Reluctant Helper (Acts 9:1-19)	page 1107
DAY 3 Helpers Clear the Path (Mark 2:1-12)	page 998
DAY 4 Sometimes You Just Need Groceries (and a Little Hope, Too) (1 Kings 17:1-16)	page 353
DAY 5 Friends Who Help in Times of Trouble (1 Samuel 20:1-42)	page 291
DAY 6 Aaron and Hur Help Moses (Exodus 17:8-13)	page 76
DAY 7 Life-Changing Help (Acts 3:1-11)	page 1098



Peace in God's Word

READING PLAN

As mommas, many of us feel the constant need for peace because we live during a tumultuous time in the world. Our own thoughts, swirling in our minds, can also cause us to feel full of worry. Perhaps you're someone who has always felt uneasy, worried, or anxious. Perhaps you've found that peace has been harder to experience since becoming a mom. No matter how long or how often you have prayed for the Lord's peace, it's important to remember that the peace we crave isn't something we can create on our own.

The peace Jesus offers isn't just a feeling or a state of mind or body. God's peace is found in His presence, and it is a fruit that the Holy Spirit produces in our lives. This means the peace Jesus provides isn't something we can find apart from Him. He is the one who cares about all parts of us—mind, heart, and body. So He leads us along the gentle path, where we will find healing for our bodies. He leads us to the truth, where we will find peace for our minds. And He leads us deeper into His presence, where His peace is realized as we walk with Him through every hard, overwhelming, or worrying part of life's journey.

The world may feel unsteady and unsafe, but Jesus is with us, and He wants us to be whole. He wants our minds to have rest. And He wants us to know more than the stories about His love and presence. He wants us to truly experience the peace He extends to us daily, peace that was made available because of His work on the cross.

As you follow this reading plan, you'll come to know the Lord as the Prince of Peace, and you'll be reminded that He has peace for your heart, peace for your mind, and peace for your body. Peace begins with Him. May the one who began the good work of producing peace in your life continue that work until it is finished when He returns (Philippians 1:6). May you find peace, hope, and healing in Him.

READING PLAN STOPS

DAY 1 Embracing Jesus's Gift of Peace (Philippians 4:4-9)	page 1199
DAY 2 Calling on the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:1-7)	page 681
DAY 3 "Silence! Be Still!" (Mark 4:35-41)	page 1002
DAY 4 Peace Is a Promise (Galatians 5:16-26)	page 1186
DAY 5 A Gift from Heaven (John 14:23-31)	page 1085
DAY 6 You Can Rest in the Lord (Psalm 3)	page 537
DAY 7 God's Truth Is a Safe Place (Psalm 91)	page 589



The Lord Knows Your Sorrows

READING PLAN

Sorrow is a part of our lives in so many seasons. Sometimes we lose a loved one and experience deep grief. Other times we may lose our closest community because we relocate to a new home. Betrayal by someone we deeply trusted is another bitter sorrow. These sorrows can bring a sense of abandonment filled with tears and mourning.

When we read the Bible, we find many examples of sorrow throughout its pages. All those experiences are tucked away in the accounts of the great men and women of faith throughout Scripture. On Day 4 of this reading plan, we read about our Lord expressing feelings of abandonment in His final moments on the cross. On Day 6, we read about our Lord as a man of sorrows who was acquainted with our grief. Finally, on Day 7, we read the last part of the story of grief and sorrow: when the Lord will wipe away all our tears and they will be no more.

Momma, this reading plan is a great resource to turn to when you or a family member or a friend is going through a season of sorrow. Each Scripture passage and message is designed to point you to renewed hope and remind you of God's plan and goodness.

READING PLAN STOPS

DAY 1 When You Feel Betrayed (Luke 22:54-62).....	page 1055
DAY 2 Seasons of Loss (John 11:1-44).....	page 1081
DAY 3 When You Lose Community (Acts 20:13-38).....	page 1122
DAY 4 "Why Have You Abandoned Me?" (Matthew 27:32-56).....	page 992
DAY 5 Our Hope in Sorrow (John 20:1-18).....	page 1092
DAY 6 The Man of Sorrows Understands (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)	page 724
DAY 7 No More Tears (Revelation 21:1-7).....	page 1300



Features Index

Affirmation 17, 162, 187, 246,
254, 629, 712, 874, 1256

Anxiety 206, 569, 630, 964,
1085, 1186, 1261, 1267

Beauty 667, 761

Belief 1066, 1142, 1181

Betrayal 907, 992, 1055, 1063,
1126

Blessings 26, 82, 203, 512,
533, 592, 715, 845

Breakthrough 67, 218, 911,
998

Calling 109, 137, 150, 533,
862, 1002, 1037

Change 337, 656, 1110

Children 142, 167, 331, 343,
375, 480, 487, 607, 656, 741,
1010, 1046

Comfort 720, 805

Communion 1015, 1160

Compassion 672, 827, 846,
918, 943, 976, 983, 987, 1039,
1165, 1197, 1218, 1239, 1250

Confidence 630, 870

Courage 150, 215, 1005, 1101

Creation 508, 539

Death 56, 504, 1058, 1081,
1092, 1210, 1237, 1300

Decision-making 34, 409,
637, 898, 911

Deliverance 72, 131, 384, 915

Determination 194, 236, 387,
478

Difficulty 43, 50, 352, 367,
422, 910, 923, 1034, 1105,
1171, 1256

Discipleship 354, 387, 1094,
1258, 1285

Discipling children 90, 167,
375, 579

Doubt 760, 1141

Emotions 594

Endurance 61, 180, 710

Evangelism 19, 960, 972,
1019, 1101, 1105, 1124, 1134

Exhaustion 573

Expectations 633, 661

Faith 354, 529, 760, 957, 1094,
1134, 1232, 1244, 1247, 1302

Faithfulness (God's) 95, 173,
381, 464, 594, 604, 807, 879

Family 4, 9, 35, 78, 82, 183,
203, 317, 480, 487, 607, 691,
741, 815

Favor 498, 571

Fear 206, 932, 964, 1005,
1034

Fellowship 584, 1015, 1097,
1147

Finances 978

Forgiveness 123, 358, 564,
688, 891, 1066, 1074, 1183

Freedom 131, 915, 1183

Friendship 76, 291, 310, 612,
657, 907, 983, 1208

Frustration 43, 1225

Generosity 194, 452, 640, 827,
951, 1013, 1165, 1174, 1234

Goodness 412, 464, 772, 1032

Grace 1168, 1176

Gratitude 9, 26, 272, 512, 592,
694

Grief 38, 56, 271, 303, 504,
704, 724, 732, 809, 1081,
1092, 1122, 1210, 1220, 1237,
1289, 1300

Growth 1203, 1258, 1264

Guidance 72, 100, 157, 201,
244, 334, 363, 367, 519, 623,
637, 679, 683, 700, 743, 887,
898, 1086, 1111, 1139

Guilt 1074

Healing 115, 123, 152, 907,
966, 998, 1011, 1015, 1029,
1055, 1068, 1098, 1113

Health 115, 1068, 1278

Help 291, 324, 352, 558, 609,
777, 860, 910, 1098, 1126

Holy Spirit 892, 941, 1086,
1139

Home 4

Honesty 201, 658, 766

Hope 266, 353, 551, 666, 772,
809, 848, 899, 919, 1058,
1092, 1210, 1300

Influence 137

Integrity 201, 455, 658, 766

Joy 370, 482, 487, 722, 811,
958, 1211

Justice 1048

- Learning** 697, 1097
- Legacy** 78
- Light** 679, 899, 1270
- Loneliness** 17, 546, 712, 783, 937, 957, 992, 1063, 1089, 1227
- Love** 189, 670, 774, 874, 882, 885, 1032, 1141, 1162, 1271, 1276
- Mentorship** 1231
- Mercy** 542, 564, 571, 809, 831, 891
- Miracles** 59, 146, 223, 865, 1070, 1076, 1116
- Obedience** 448, 455, 749, 761, 1031, 1037, 1102, 1111, 1157, 1276
- Overwhelm** 61, 616, 1029, 1199
- Patience** 1225
- Peace** 265, 399, 405, 432, 681, 916, 964, 998, 1002, 1085, 1137, 1186, 1199, 1204, 1267
- Perfectionism** 661
- Perseverance** 218, 227, 391, 630, 972
- Plans** 493, 496, 533, 623, 633, 637, 647, 772
- Power** 1171
- Prayer** 19, 120, 272, 433, 474, 498, 616, 695, 736, 766, 815, 821, 868, 919, 947, 1025, 1109, 1146, 1188, 1205
- Presence** 93, 120, 206, 211, 438, 508, 547, 615, 805, 854, 866, 899
- Promise** 15, 227, 340, 438, 459, 872
- Protection** 72, 142, 146, 265, 294, 324, 384, 405, 469, 480, 569, 625, 675, 691, 870, 1193
- Provision** 45, 95, 265, 353, 427, 493, 496, 793, 978, 1037, 1118, 1200
- Questions** 343, 863
- Regret** 50, 688, 967
- Rejection** 31, 41, 783, 1063
- Relocating** 50, 1122
- Reminders** 6, 173, 187, 325, 381, 774, 805
- Repentance** 358, 564
- Rescue** 542
- Rest** 29, 537, 702, 775, 964, 1238
- Restoration** 131, 432, 708, 811, 848, 903
- Revelation** 898, 1284
- Sacrifice** 300, 327
- Sadness** see Sorrow
- Safety** 211, 325, 469, 569, 589, 702
- Salvation** 105, 831, 1066, 1142, 1232, 1285, 1287
- Scripture** 387, 519, 529, 536, 589, 607, 697, 726, 973
- Security** 211, 325, 1285
- Self-care** 665
- Service** 109, 236, 300, 327, 885, 980, 987, 1082, 1165
- Sleep** 29, 537, 775
- Sorrow** 38, 271, 573, 688, 704, 720, 722, 724, 732, 1092, 1289
- Strength** 180, 561, 710, 1171, 1176, 1215
- Stress** 732
- Struggle** 35, 197, 286, 352, 442, 547, 708, 777, 831, 866
- Suffering** 551, 720, 1105
- Support** 76
- Tasks** 6, 86, 422, 427, 710, 1082
- Teaching** 1129
- Transformation** 1181
- Transitions** 337, 363
- Trust** 183, 399, 529, 542, 561, 600, 633, 635, 647, 735, 760, 807, 923, 941, 1000, 1130, 1153, 1243, 1247, 1272
- Truth** 162, 589, 1270
- Uncertainty** 67, 615, 1253
- Victory** 286, 642
- Waiting** 15, 391, 459, 551, 558, 911, 927, 1046, 1068, 1302
- Widow** 793, 1220
- Wisdom** 45, 86, 244, 334, 522, 623, 646, 652, 683, 743, 973, 1086, 1107, 1152, 1168, 1253
- Work** 61, 1118
- Worry** 43, 72, 266, 675, 1000, 1261
- Worship** 189, 417, 418, 442, 502, 553, 584, 600, 603, 677, 684, 694, 714, 715, 838, 854, 903, 1281, 1295

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ABORTION

God cares for the unborn

EXODUS 21:22-25 • *pg 80*

We should protect the helpless

PSALM 82:3-4 • *pg 583*

Children are from God

PSALM 127:3 • *pg 611*

God forms every child

PSALM 139:13-16 • *pg 615*

God plans the future of every child

JEREMIAH 1:5 • *pg 740*

ABUSE

God cares about minorities

EXODUS 22:21 • *pg 81*

God protects those who are helpless

PSALM 12:5 • *pg 541*

Jesus was abused

MATTHEW 26:67-68 • *pg 989*

Abuse has no place in family relationships

EPHESIANS 5:21-6:4 • *pg 1191*

ACCOUNTABILITY

God will judge our work

2 CHRONICLES 19:5-10 • *pg 441*

Sin has consequences

EZEKIEL 18:20 • *pg 827*

God will hold us accountable for our sin

EZEKIEL 18:30 • *pg 827*

We are accountable for every word that we speak

MATTHEW 12:36 • *pg 971*

Confronting others with their sins should be done in private

MATTHEW 18:15 • *pg 978*

We should hold each other accountable

LUKE 17:3 • *pg 1047*

We are accountable for what we believe

JOHN 3:18 • *pg 1065*

God holds Christians accountable

ROMANS 14:11-12 • *pg 1147*

God will reward Christians for their good deeds

1 CORINTHIANS 3:8 • *pg 1153*

God will examine our actions

2 CORINTHIANS 5:10 • *pg 1170*

ACCUSATIONS

Satan accuses God's people of doing wrong

ZECHARIAH 3:1 • *pg 941*

Jesus was falsely accused

MATTHEW 26:59-60 • *pg 989*

Christians' sins are forgiven

COLOSSIANS 1:22 • *pg 1202*

Accusations against church leaders must come from more than one person

1 TIMOTHY 5:19 • *pg 1220*

Satan is known as the Accuser

REVELATION 12:10 • *pg 1292*

ADOPTION, SPIRITUAL

God helps his children grow

DEUTERONOMY 8:5 • *pg 186*

God's children should obey him

DEUTERONOMY 26:18 • *pg 201*

God disciplines his children

2 SAMUEL 7:14 • *pg 308*

Do not despise God's discipline

PROVERBS 3:11-12 • *pg 624*

God is our Father

MATTHEW 6:9 • *pg 962*

Christians are God's children

JOHN 1:12 • *pg 1062*

God's Spirit leads his children

ROMANS 8:14-17 • *pg 1140*

Christians should be separate from the world

2 CORINTHIANS 6:17-18 • *pg 1172*

All of God's children are equal in God's eyes

GALATIANS 3:28 • *pg 1183*

God's children will receive a spiritual inheritance

GALATIANS 4:4-7 • *pg 1183*

God chose us to be his children

EPHESIANS 1:4-5 • *pg 1188*

Jesus is our spiritual brother

HEBREWS 2:11 • *pg 1237*

ADULTERY

God forbids adultery

EXODUS 20:14 • *pg 79*

Adultery has consequences

PROVERBS 6:26 • *pg 627*

Adultery is foolish

PROVERBS 6:32 • *pg 627*

Adultery is disgusting to God

JEREMIAH 7:9-10 • *pg 749*

God considers lust as sinful as adultery

MATTHEW 5:27-28 • *pg 961*

Divorce often leads to adultery

MARK 10:11-12 • *pg 1009*

God can forgive the adulterer

JOHN 8:1-11 • *pg 1073*

ADVICE

Leaders should consider the advice of others

EXODUS 18:13-26 • *pg 77*

Older people often give wise advice

1 KINGS 12:1-11 • *pg 346*

Stay away from people who give wicked advice

PSALM 1:1 • *pg 536*

God's advice is best

PSALM 73:24 • *pg 576*

Wise people seek advice

PROVERBS 1:5 • *pg 622*

Advice helps provide success

PROVERBS 11:14 • *pg 631*

Foolish people do not listen to advice

PROVERBS 12:15 • *pg 632*

Give advice to those in need
1 THESSALONIANS 5:14 • *pg 1211*

ALCOHOL

Being controlled by alcohol is foolish

PROVERBS 20:1 • *pg 640*

Becoming drunk is sin

ROMANS 13:13-14 • *pg 1146*

God hates drunkenness

GALATIANS 5:19-21 • *pg 1185*

Church leaders should not be controlled by alcohol

TITUS 1:7 • *pg 1230*

ANGELS

Angels carry out God's judgment
2 SAMUEL 24:16-17 • *pg 327*

Angels serve God

PSALM 103:21 • *pg 595*

Angels praise God

PSALM 148:2 • *pg 619*

Angels are messengers

DANIEL 4:17 • *pg 867*

Angels protect God's people

DANIEL 6:22 • *pg 870*

Angels do not marry

MATTHEW 22:30 • *pg 983*

Angels do not die

LUKE 20:36 • *pg 1052*

Angels will be judged by people

1 CORINTHIANS 6:3 • *pg 1155*

Satan disguises himself as an angel of light

2 CORINTHIANS 11:14 • *pg 1175*

Angels encourage Christians

HEBREWS 1:14 • *pg 1236*

Angels who sinned were thrown into hell

2 PETER 2:4 • *pg 1265*

Angels are holy

JUDE 1:14 • *pg 1280*

Angels are in the presence of God

REVELATION 4:8 • *pg 1287*

Angels should not be worshiped

REVELATION 22:8-9 • *pg 1301*

ANGER

Anger can lead to murder

GENESIS 4:3-8 • *pg 9*

Anger leads to evil actions

PSALM 37:8 • *pg 556*

Showing anger is foolish

PROVERBS 12:16 • *pg 632*

Gentle words can soothe anger
PROVERBS 15:1 • *pg 634*

Being quick-tempered is foolish
ECCLESIASTES 7:9 • *pg 658*

God becomes angry when we are ruled by anger

AMOS 1:11 • *pg 896*

Anger is like murdering someone

MATTHEW 5:21-22 • *pg 960*

Jesus grew angry at sin

JOHN 2:13-17 • *pg 1065*

Anger can give Satan a place in your life

EPHESIANS 4:26-27 • *pg 1190*

Christians should get rid of anger

COLOSSIANS 3:8 • *pg 1204*

Leaders in the church should not be quick-tempered

TITUS 1:7 • *pg 1230*

Be slow to become angry

JAMES 1:19 • *pg 1250*

ANTICHRIST

Many will claim to be God's messenger

MATTHEW 24:5 • *pg 985*

Many will have miraculous powers

MATTHEW 24:24 • *pg 985*

Many will claim to be Christ

LUKE 21:8 • *pg 1052*

The Antichrist will be lawless and deceitful

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-10 • *pg 1214*

There are many antichrists

1 JOHN 2:18 • *pg 1271*

The Antichrist will oppose God

1 JOHN 4:3 • *pg 1272*

The Antichrist will curse God

REVELATION 13:1-8 • *pg 1292*

The Antichrist will be punished by God

REVELATION 20:10 • *pg 1299*

APPEARANCE

God is not impressed by someone's appearance

1 SAMUEL 16:7 • *pg 285*

Physical beauty fades

PROVERBS 31:30 • *pg 652*

Do not worry about clothes

MATTHEW 6:25-34 • *pg 962*

Appearances can be deceiving

MATTHEW 23:27 • *pg 984*

Christians should care more about their spiritual welfare than their physical appearance

1 TIMOTHY 2:9-10 • *pg 1219*

Do not judge others by their appearance

JAMES 2:2-4 • *pg 1251*

Inner beauty is more important than physical beauty

1 PETER 3:1-6 • *pg 1259*

ARGUMENTS

Arguments can be avoided by using gentle words

PROVERBS 15:1 • *pg 634*

Loving arguments is a sin

PROVERBS 17:19 • *pg 638*

A fool is quick to argue

PROVERBS 20:3 • *pg 640*

Avoid becoming entangled in others' arguments

PROVERBS 26:17 • *pg 647*

Avoid arguing with a weak Christian

ROMANS 14:1 • *pg 1146*

We should avoid arguments

PHILIPPIANS 2:14 • *pg 1197*

Arguments between Christians are useless

TITUS 3:9 • *pg 1232*

ARMOR

Armor for physical battle

1 SAMUEL 17:38 • *pg 287*

Soldiers need armor

JEREMIAH 46:3-4 • *pg 788*

Weapons cannot stop God's power

EZEKIEL 38:4 • *pg 849*

Spiritual armor prepares us for life

ROMANS 13:12 • *pg 1146*

Righteousness is a spiritual weapon

2 CORINTHIANS 6:7 • *pg 1172*

God's weapons conquer Satan's strongholds

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4 • *pg 1175*

Put on the armor of God

EPHESIANS 6:11-18 • *pg 1192*

ASSURANCE

God always holds his children

PSALM 37:23-24 • *pg 556*

God will never abandon his people

PSALM 138:8 • *pg 614*

God's promises last forever

JEREMIAH 32:40 • *pg 777*

False assurance is dangerous
LUKE 18:18-30 • *pg 1049*

We can be assured of eternal life
JOHN 5:24 • *pg 1069*

God will not refuse any who come to him
JOHN 6:37-40 • *pg 1070*

Our place in God's family is secure
JOHN 10:27-28 • *pg 1078*

Christians have peace with God
ROMANS 5:1-5 • *pg 1137*

Nothing can separate us from God's love
ROMANS 8:35-39 • *pg 1142*

Salvation cannot be canceled
ROMANS 11:29 • *pg 1145*

Accountability should help others
GALATIANS 6:1 • *pg 1185*

Our salvation was guaranteed before Creation
EPHESIANS 1:4-5 • *pg 1188*

Assurance comes from faith
EPHESIANS 3:12 • *pg 1189*

God will guard what has been entrusted to him
2 TIMOTHY 1:12 • *pg 1224*

ATONEMENT

God required a perfect sacrifice
EXODUS 12:5 • *pg 68*

God required blood for our atonement
LEVITICUS 17:11 • *pg 122*

Jesus paid for all of our sins
ISAIAH 53:3-12 • *pg 723*

Atonement is good news
LUKE 4:18-19 • *pg 1027*

Jesus willingly died for our sins
JOHN 10:17 • *pg 1078*

Christ secured salvation through his blood
ACTS 20:28 • *pg 1121*

Jesus provided the atonement for sins
ROMANS 3:23-25 • *pg 1136*

Jesus' death purchased forgiveness
1 CORINTHIANS 7:23 • *pg 1156*

Jesus died for sins
1 CORINTHIANS 15:3 • *pg 1164*

Our atonement allows us to know God
EPHESIANS 2:13 • *pg 1189*

Jesus' death rescues us from eternal punishment
COLOSSIANS 1:13 • *pg 1202*

Christ's death purifies God's people
TITUS 2:14 • *pg 1232*

Sin requires that a sacrifice be made
HEBREWS 9:22 • *pg 1242*

Jesus' sacrifice was perfect
1 PETER 1:18-19 • *pg 1256*

Jesus took our punishment
1 PETER 2:21-24 • *pg 1257*

We cannot improve Jesus' sacrifice
1 PETER 3:18 • *pg 1259*

ATTITUDE

Bad attitudes hurt our relationship with God
GENESIS 4:6-7 • *pg 9*

Bad attitudes lead to poor decisions
NUMBERS 14:1-4 • *pg 150*

Always trust God for your life
PROVERBS 29:25 • *pg 650*

Choose a positive attitude
HABAKKUK 3:17-19 • *pg 928*

God will reward the meek
MATTHEW 5:5 • *pg 960*

God gives Christians a new attitude
PHILIPPIANS 1:20-25 • *pg 1196*

We should imitate Jesus' attitude
PHILIPPIANS 2:5 • *pg 1197*

Christians should always rejoice
PHILIPPIANS 4:4 • *pg 1198*

Never be anxious
PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 • *pg 1198*

AUTHORITY (SEE ALSO RESPECT)

God will hold people in authority accountable for their actions
DANIEL 4:31 • *pg 868*

Jesus is the highest authority
MATTHEW 28:18 • *pg 993*

God gave government its authority
JOHN 19:11 • *pg 1090*

Christians should obey the government
ROMANS 13:1-2 • *pg 1146*

Parents are authorities to their children
EPHESIANS 6:1 • *pg 1191*

The Bible is our authority
2 TIMOTHY 3:16 • *pg 1227*

Church leaders are authoritative
HEBREWS 13:17 • *pg 1247*

BAPTISM

Baptism signifies repentance
MATTHEW 3:11 • *pg 959*

All followers of Jesus should be baptized

MATTHEW 28:19 • *pg 993*

Jesus was baptized
MARK 1:9 • *pg 996*

Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit
JOHN 1:32-33 • *pg 1064*

Baptism is closely linked with a changed life
ACTS 2:38 • *pg 1099*

New Christians should be baptized
ACTS 8:12-17 • *pg 1105*

Entire families of the early church were baptized
ACTS 16:33-34 • *pg 1117*

Baptism initiates us into Christ
ROMANS 6:3-8 • *pg 1138*

Salvation is identified with baptism
1 PETER 3:21 • *pg 1259*

BELIEF

Believing God makes us righteous
GENESIS 15:6 • *pg 16*

Belief in God should be accompanied by action
DEUTERONOMY 27:10 • *pg 202*

Belief affects the way we live
MARK 1:15 • *pg 996*

Right beliefs are important for salvation
ROMANS 10:9 • *pg 1143*

Believing is more than acknowledging
JAMES 2:21 • *pg 1251*

BIBLE

The Bible is perfect
PSALM 18:30 • *pg 544*

The Bible is true
PSALM 33:4 • *pg 553*

The Bible will last forever
PSALM 119:89 • *pg 607*

The Bible gives us wisdom
PSALM 119:99 • *pg 607*

The Bible can be trusted
PSALM 119:138 • *pg 608*

The Bible reveals the truth
ACTS 18:28 • *pg 1119*

The Bible is holy
ROMANS 1:2 • *pg 1134*

God's Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible
1 CORINTHIANS 2:12-16 • *pg 1153*

The Bible is authoritative
GALATIANS 3:10 • *pg 1182*

The Bible is a Christian's spiritual weapon

EPHESIANS 6:17 • *pg 1192*

The Bible is inspired by God

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 • *pg 1227*

The Bible judges our life

HEBREWS 4:12 • *pg 1238*

The Bible helps us grow spiritually

1 PETER 2:2 • *pg 1257*

BIRTH

God is the Life-Giver

GENESIS 2:7 • *pg 7*

Children are a blessing from God

PSALM 127:3-5 • *pg 611*

God carefully creates each person

PSALM 139:13-14 • *pg 615*

God's Son was born

ISAIAH 9:6 • *pg 680*

God plans the lives of people before they are born

JEREMIAH 1:5 • *pg 740*

Jesus' birth

LUKE 2:7 • *pg 1024*

God's children are reborn spiritually

JOHN 1:12-13 • *pg 1062*

People must be reborn spiritually to enter heaven

JOHN 3:3 • *pg 1065*

BLESSING

God blesses those who obey him

LEVITICUS 26:3-5 • *pg 132*

God blesses godly people

PSALM 5:12 • *pg 538*

We are blessed when we worship God

PSALM 24:3-6 • *pg 548*

Christians bless God through praise

PSALM 103:1 • *pg 593*

God will bless those who fear him

PSALM 112:1-3 • *pg 602*

God blesses us when we seek to please him

MATTHEW 6:33 • *pg 962*

Christians should bless their enemies

LUKE 6:28 • *pg 1031*

Salvation is our greatest blessing

EPHESIANS 1:3 • *pg 1188*

The Bible brings us blessing

JAMES 1:25 • *pg 1250*

BLOOD

God hates the shedding of an innocent person's blood

GENESIS 4:10 • *pg 9*

Jesus' blood seals God's relationship with his people

MATTHEW 26:28 • *pg 988*

Jesus' blood allows us to have access to God

ROMANS 5:8-9 • *pg 1138*

Christians are redeemed by Jesus's blood

EPHESIANS 1:5-7 • *pg 1188*

Blood is required for forgiveness

HEBREWS 9:22 • *pg 1242*

BODY OF CHRIST

The body of Christ has been given many gifts

ROMANS 12:3-6 • *pg 1145*

There are many parts, but one body

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-13 • *pg 1160*

Christians make up the body of Christ

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27 • *pg 1161*

Christians of different nationalities form one body

EPHESIANS 3:6 • *pg 1189*

There must be unity in the body of Christ

EPHESIANS 4:3 • *pg 1190*

Different members of the body help each other grow

EPHESIANS 4:11-12 • *pg 1190*

Jesus is the head of the body

COLOSSIANS 1:18 • *pg 1202*

BOOK OF LIFE

God writes our names in his book

PSALM 87:6 • *pg 585*

The names of Christians are in the Book of Life

PHILIPPIANS 4:3 • *pg 1198*

Our names cannot be removed from the Book of Life

REVELATION 3:5 • *pg 1286*

People whose names are not written in the Book of Life will experience God's wrath

REVELATION 20:15 • *pg 1299*

Only those whose names are in God's Book will enter heaven

REVELATION 21:27 • *pg 1301*

BRIDE

God's children should be as pure as a bride

ISAIAH 49:18 • *pg 720*

We should be devoted to God as a bride is to her husband

JEREMIAH 2:2 • *pg 741*

The church is the bride of Christ

2 CORINTHIANS 11:2-3 • *pg 1175*

The bride of Christ will be presented to Christ

REVELATION 19:7 • *pg 1298*

BUSINESS

God's people should be good workers

GENESIS 31:42 • *pg 34*

Work should not overrun your time with God

EXODUS 16:23 • *pg 75*

God gives you the ability to work

EXODUS 35:30-31 • *pg 94*

Workers should be trustworthy

PROVERBS 25:13 • *pg 646*

Do the best job you can

ECCLESIASTES 9:10 • *pg 660*

Work as though Jesus were your boss

EPHESIANS 6:6-7 • *pg 1192*

Christians should do their best at their job

TITUS 2:9-10 • *pg 1232*

CARING

God cares for his people

DEUTERONOMY 7:9 • *pg 185*

God cares for underprivileged people

PSALM 68:5 • *pg 571*

Protect the needy

PSALM 82:3 • *pg 583*

God's people should help the oppressed

ISAIAH 1:17 • *pg 672*

Care for your enemies

LUKE 6:27 • *pg 1031*

God's people should care for the needy

LUKE 14:13-14 • *pg 1045*

God cares for his children

ROMANS 1:6-7 • *pg 1134*

Treat parents with care

EPHESIANS 6:2 • *pg 1191*

Treat co-workers with care

COLOSSIANS 4:1 • *pg 1204*

Care for the elderly
1 TIMOTHY 5:1-4 • *pg 1220*

Christians need to care for the needy
JAMES 1:27 • *pg 1250*

CHILDREN

God tells children to honor their parents

EXODUS 20:12 • *pg 79*

Parents should teach their children to follow God

DEUTERONOMY 6:6-7 • *pg 184*

Christians are children of God

JOHN 1:12 • *pg 1062*

Children of God should imitate God

EPHESIANS 5:1 • *pg 1191*

Parents should nurture their children

EPHESIANS 6:4 • *pg 1192*

Children must obey their parents

COLOSSIANS 3:20 • *pg 1204*

CHURCH (SEE ALSO WORSHIP)

Jesus is the cornerstone of the church

PSALM 118:22 • *pg 604*

We should have joy going to God's house

PSALM 122:1 • *pg 609*

Satan works against the church

MATTHEW 16:18 • *pg 976*

Members of the church should take care of each other

ACTS 2:44 • *pg 1099*

The church sends out missionaries

ACTS 13:2 • *pg 1111*

The church is like a body

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-13 • *pg 1160*

The church is a family of Christians

GALATIANS 6:10 • *pg 1185*

God's children form the church

EPHESIANS 2:19-22 • *pg 1189*

The church should not allow immoral behavior by its members

EPHESIANS 5:3-4 • *pg 1191*

Christ is the head of the church

COLOSSIANS 1:18 • *pg 1202*

Many people groups form one universal church

COLOSSIANS 3:11 • *pg 1204*

Church leaders are qualified to lead by their character

TITUS 1:6-9 • *pg 1230*

The church is made up of God's children

1 JOHN 3:1 • *pg 1271*

The church is the bride of Christ

REVELATION 19:7-8 • *pg 1298*

COMFORT

Friends should comfort each other

JOB 2:12-13 • *pg 503*

God comforts us

ISAIAH 40:1-11 • *pg 708*

God promises to comfort those who mourn

MATTHEW 5:4 • *pg 960*

God's Holy Spirit is our Comforter

JOHN 14:16 • *pg 1084*

Jesus has overcome the world's troubles

JOHN 16:33 • *pg 1087*

God comforts those who are hurting

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-11 • *pg 1168*

Christians should comfort each other

1 THESSALONIANS 4:18 • *pg 1211*

All pain will end

REVELATION 21:3-4 • *pg 1299*

COMPLAIN

Bring your complaints to God

PSALM 142:1-2 • *pg 616*

Christians should not complain to each other

PHILIPPIANS 2:14 • *pg 1197*

People complain because they want their own way

JUDE 1:16 • *pg 1280*

COMPROMISE

Do not compromise your convictions

1 KINGS 11:4 • *pg 344*

Compromise can be wise

MATTHEW 5:25 • *pg 961*

Compromise can divide our loyalty

MATTHEW 6:24 • *pg 962*

Compromise can keep us from doing what is right

MARK 15:15 • *pg 1017*

Compromise can weaken faith

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18 • *pg 1172*

CONFESSION OF SIN

(SEE ALSO REPENTANCE)

Sin must be confessed

LEVITICUS 5:5 • *pg 107*

God will restore those who turn away from evil

2 CHRONICLES 7:14 • *pg 431*

Remorse accompanies confessing sin

EZRA 10:1 • *pg 470*

God forgives confessed sins

PSALM 32:5 • *pg 552*

Do not try to hide sin

PROVERBS 28:13 • *pg 649*

Confession of sin accompanies a changed lifestyle

2 TIMOTHY 2:19 • *pg 1226*

God purifies those who confess their sin

1 JOHN 1:9 • *pg 1270*

CONSCIENCE

Conscience moves us to turn from our mistakes

PROVERBS 28:13 • *pg 649*

We can suppress our conscience

JONAH 1:5 • *pg 910*

The Holy Spirit can speak through our conscience

ROMANS 9:1 • *pg 1142*

Keep your conscience clear

1 TIMOTHY 1:18-19 • *pg 1218*

Church leaders must have clear consciences

1 TIMOTHY 3:9 • *pg 1219*

Consciences can be destroyed

1 TIMOTHY 4:2 • *pg 1219*

Jesus' forgiveness clears our conscience

HEBREWS 9:14 • *pg 1241*

A clear conscience helps us live a God-honoring life

1 PETER 3:16 • *pg 1259*

COURAGE

God gives us victory

PSALM 112:8 • *pg 602*

Jesus' strength gives us courage

JOHN 16:33 • *pg 1087*

Courage helps us boldly represent Christ

ACTS 4:31 • *pg 1101*

Christians should be courageous

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13 • *pg 1166*

Pray for courage

EPHESIANS 6:19-20 • *pg 1192*

Christians can pray to God with confidence

HEBREWS 4:16 • *pg 1238*