

# 120 Bible Stories

**Edited by Dawn Mirly Weinstock  
and Gail E. Pawlitz**



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# Contents



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12

<b>Preface</b> _____	5	Israel Enters the Promised Land _____	72
<b>The Beginning: Creation to the Flood</b> _	6	The Fall of Jericho _____	74
God Creates the World _____	8	<b>Judges Rule God’s People:</b>	
The Fall into Sin _____	10	1380–1049 BC _____	76
The Children of Adam and Eve _____	12	Deborah the Prophetess _____	78
Noah and the Flood _____	14	Gideon Defeats Midian _____	80
<b>The Patriarchs: 2091–1859 BC</b> _____	16	God Makes Samson Strong _____	82
God Calls Abram _____	18	Ruth _____	84
Abram Rescues Lot _____	20	Hannah and Samuel _____	86
God’s Covenant with Abram _____	22	God Calls Samuel _____	88
Abraham’s Visitors _____	24	<b>Great Prophets and Kings:</b>	
Abraham and Isaac _____	26	1049–587 BC _____	90
Isaac and Rebekah _____	28	Saul Becomes King _____	92
Jacob and Esau _____	30	Samuel Anoints David _____	94
Jacob’s Dream _____	32	David Fights Goliath _____	96
Jacob’s Family _____	34	David and Jonathan _____	98
Esau Forgives Jacob _____	36	God’s Covenant with David _____	100
Joseph’s Dreams _____	38	Solomon Becomes King _____	102
Joseph in Egypt _____	40	Solomon Builds the Temple _____	104
Joseph Forgives His Brothers _____	42	God Provides for Elijah _____	106
Jacob’s Blessing _____	44	Elijah and the Prophets of Baal _____	108
<b>Moses and the Return to Canaan:</b>		God Takes Elijah to Heaven _____	110
1526–1406 BC _____	46	Naaman and Elisha _____	112
The Birth of Moses _____	48	Jonah _____	114
God Calls Moses _____	50	Isaiah Sees the Lord _____	116
Moses and the Plagues _____	52	King Hezekiah Prays _____	118
The Passover _____	54	King Josiah _____	120
Crossing the Red Sea _____	56	God Calls Jeremiah _____	122
God Provides Manna and Quail _____	58	<b>God’s People in Exile:</b>	
God Gives the Law _____	60	722–533 BC _____	124
God’s Covenant with the Israelites _____	62	Israel and Judah in Exile _____	126
The Twelve Spies _____	64	God’s Promises to the Exiles _____	128
Water from a Rock and Fiery		Three Men in the Fiery Furnace _____	130
Serpents _____	66	Daniel in the Lions’ Den _____	132
The Death of Moses _____	68	Daniel Sees Heaven _____	134
Rahab Hides the Spies _____	70		

# Preface

From childhood you have been acquainted  
with the sacred writings, which are able to make you  
wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

*2 Timothy 3:15*

**G**od's people are people of the Word. We gather to hear Holy Scripture read and explained to us each Lord's Day. Many of us spend time in personal devotions throughout the week. Families make a special point to share God's Word together each day around the dinner table or before sleep.

For more than 60 years, families have turned to the classic *One Hundred Bible Stories* to introduce children to the truth of God's Word. For generations, this pairing of the words of Holy Scripture with dramatic artwork has brought to life the history of God and His people, from creation to Jesus' birth to the start of the Christian Church.

Now Concordia has expanded the classic volume to offer *120 Bible Stories*, using the English Standard Version as the basis for this collection. This volume is the perfect bridge from a children's Bible story collection such as Concordia's *The Story Bible* to a text-only Bible such as the *Faith Alive Bible* or *The Lutheran Study Bible*. In these pages, your child will encounter the rhythms of the language they hear during worship or during family devotions, but with more paragraph breaks, less-complex sentences, and simpler vocabulary for easier reading. To help answer the inevitable questions, you may also want to have on hand a copy of *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* and *Concordia's Complete Bible Handbook for Students*.

As with previous editions, the stories have been chosen and edited for children ages 8 and above. The presentation of the stories also remains the same: biblical account, artwork, memory verse, and reflection questions. However, the explanatory notes at the bottom of the page have been replaced by a Glossary. Words and concepts included in the Glossary are identified through the use of **boldface** in the biblical accounts. The combination of memory verses, questions, and glossary terms enables parents and educators to use this edition of *120 Bible Stories* for a focused study of God's Word as part of confirmation and midweek programs, homeschooling, and family devotions.

"Nuggets from the inexhaustible gold mine of the Scriptures." These words from the original foreword still describe this newest edition from Concordia. May this book continue to help families learn about and celebrate *the* story of God's grace revealed in Jesus Christ.

## God's People Return to Judah:

538–430 BC _____	136
A New Temple and a New Wall _____	138
Esther and the King _____	140
God Saves His People _____	142
Waiting for God's Messenger _____	144

## Jesus' Childhood: 4 BC to AD 11 \_\_\_\_\_

The Birth of John Foretold _____	148
The Birth of Jesus Foretold _____	150
The Birth of John _____	152
The Birth of Jesus _____	154
The Visit of the Wise Men _____	156
The Boy Jesus in the Temple _____	158

## Jesus' Public Ministry: AD 29–32 \_\_\_\_\_

John Baptizes Jesus _____	162
The Temptation of Jesus _____	164
Jesus Calls Disciples _____	166
Jesus Changes Water into Wine _____	168
Jesus Clears the Temple _____	170
Jesus Teaches Nicodemus _____	172
Jesus and the Samaritan Woman _____	174
Jesus Rejected at Nazareth _____	176
Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man _____	178
The Sermon on the Mount _____	180
Jesus Calms a Storm _____	182
Jesus Heals Jairus's Daughter _____	184
Jesus Feeds Five Thousand _____	186
Jesus Walks on Water _____	188
Jesus Is Anointed _____	190
Peter's Confession and Jesus' Transfiguration _____	192
Jesus Sends the Seventy-Two _____	194
The Good Samaritan _____	196
Jesus Heals a Blind Man _____	198
The Good Shepherd _____	200
Jesus Raises Lazarus _____	202

The Prodigal Son _____	204
Jesus Heals Ten Men _____	206
Jesus and the Little Children _____	208
Jesus and Zacchaeus _____	210

## Jesus' Passion, Death,

### and Resurrection: AD 33 \_\_\_\_\_

The Triumphal Entry _____	214
The Widow's Coins _____	216
The Lord's Supper _____	218
Jesus in the Garden _____	220
Peter Denies Jesus _____	222
Jesus' Trial _____	224
The Crucifixion _____	226
The Resurrection _____	228
Jesus Appears on the Emmaus Road _____	230
Jesus Appears to Thomas _____	232
Jesus and Peter _____	234
Jesus Ascends to Heaven _____	236

## The Holy Spirit Leads

### God's Church: AD 33–95 \_\_\_\_\_

Pentecost _____	240
Peter and John Heal a Lame Man _____	242
God's Servant Stephen _____	244
Philip and the Ethiopian _____	246
The Conversion of Saul _____	248
Peter and Cornelius _____	250
Peter's Escape from Prison _____	252
Paul's First Missionary Journey _____	254
Paul and Timothy _____	256
Paul Tells Lydia about Christ _____	258
Paul and Silas in Prison _____	260
Paul's Letters _____	262
Paul Sails to Rome _____	264
John's Vision of Heaven _____	266

## Glossary \_\_\_\_\_

## Artwork Acknowledgments \_\_\_\_\_

# The Beginning

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. *Genesis 1:1*

Every book has a beginning, a middle, and an end. The Bible is no different. In fact, the first book of the Bible, Genesis, tells the story of how everything began, including human beings. God spoke and the entire universe was created. Then God created human beings from the dust of the ground. He breathed into the dust He had formed. He created human beings in His image: perfect, without sin, obedient.

But the first people, Adam and Eve, did not trust God. They did not obey His commands. They put themselves first. They sinned when they ate the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. As a result, Adam and Eve had to leave the garden. As a result, all of Adam and Eve's children, including us, are born as sinners, experience troubles, and will die.

But the story does not end there. In Genesis 3:15, God makes the very first promise of a Savior. He will repeat this promise throughout the Old Testament: to Noah and Abraham and David and to all who will hear the prophets.

As you read the Bible stories in this section, think about how God takes care of you. He created a unique planet that supports you with air and water and food. God placed you in a family so you can grow and learn, especially about God and your Savior, Jesus. God controls the world, so you do not need to be afraid of wars or natural disasters or even death.

This is the beginning of an amazing book that is all about God's love for you. Each story connects to Jesus Christ, God's Son, who came to earth

because God always keeps His promises. Jesus loves

you so much that He took the punishment for the sin of Adam and Eve and for all your sins.

His death and resurrection are the middle

of this book—and when God

takes you to heaven, you

will live the end of the story forever.

## The Days of Creation

Day 1: Light and dark, day and night

Day 2: Sky and water

Day 3: Dry land, bodies of water, trees and plants

Day 4: Sun, moon, planets, and stars

Day 5: Animals that live in the water and birds

Day 6: Animals that live on the earth, man and woman

Day 7: God rested

## Making Connections

In the Book of Genesis, God used Moses to write down how He created the world. Moses also tells us about the first sin and the problems it caused: Adam and Eve were afraid of God, they had to leave the garden, their son committed murder, and eventually evil people filled the earth.

But Moses also tells us that God loved the people He created. He promised a Savior who would destroy Satan. He gave Cain a mark that would protect him even though he killed his brother. God saved Noah, his family, and the animals from the flood.

God loves you and protects you too. He kept His promise to send Jesus, your Savior, to bruise Satan's head. God marks you as His special and much-loved child in Baptism. Jesus' disciple Peter said that Baptism was like a flood that washes us clean and makes us a new creation. You can look it up in 1 Peter 3:21.

The apostle Paul wrote a letter to his friends in the city of Corinth. He said, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17) and "In Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). Thank God that from the very beginning He had a plan for you and that in Christ you are a new creation!

## Apostles' Creed

### The First Article: Creation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

**What does this mean?** I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.



## God Creates the World

### Genesis 1–2

In the beginning, God **created** the heavens and the earth. The earth had no shape. It was empty. Darkness was over the face of the deep. The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day. The darkness He called Night. There was evening and there was morning, the first day.

God said, “Let an expanse separate the waters from the waters.” And it was so. God called the expanse Heaven. There was evening and there was morning, the second day.

God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters He called Seas. God saw that it was good.

And God said, “Let the earth sprout plants and fruit trees. Let each bring forth seeds, according to its kind.” And it was so. The earth brought forth plants and trees. God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, the third day.

God said, “Let there be lights in the heavens to separate the day from the night and to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night, and He made the stars. God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

God said, “Let the waters swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth.” God created the sea creatures and birds according to their kinds. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply.” There was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

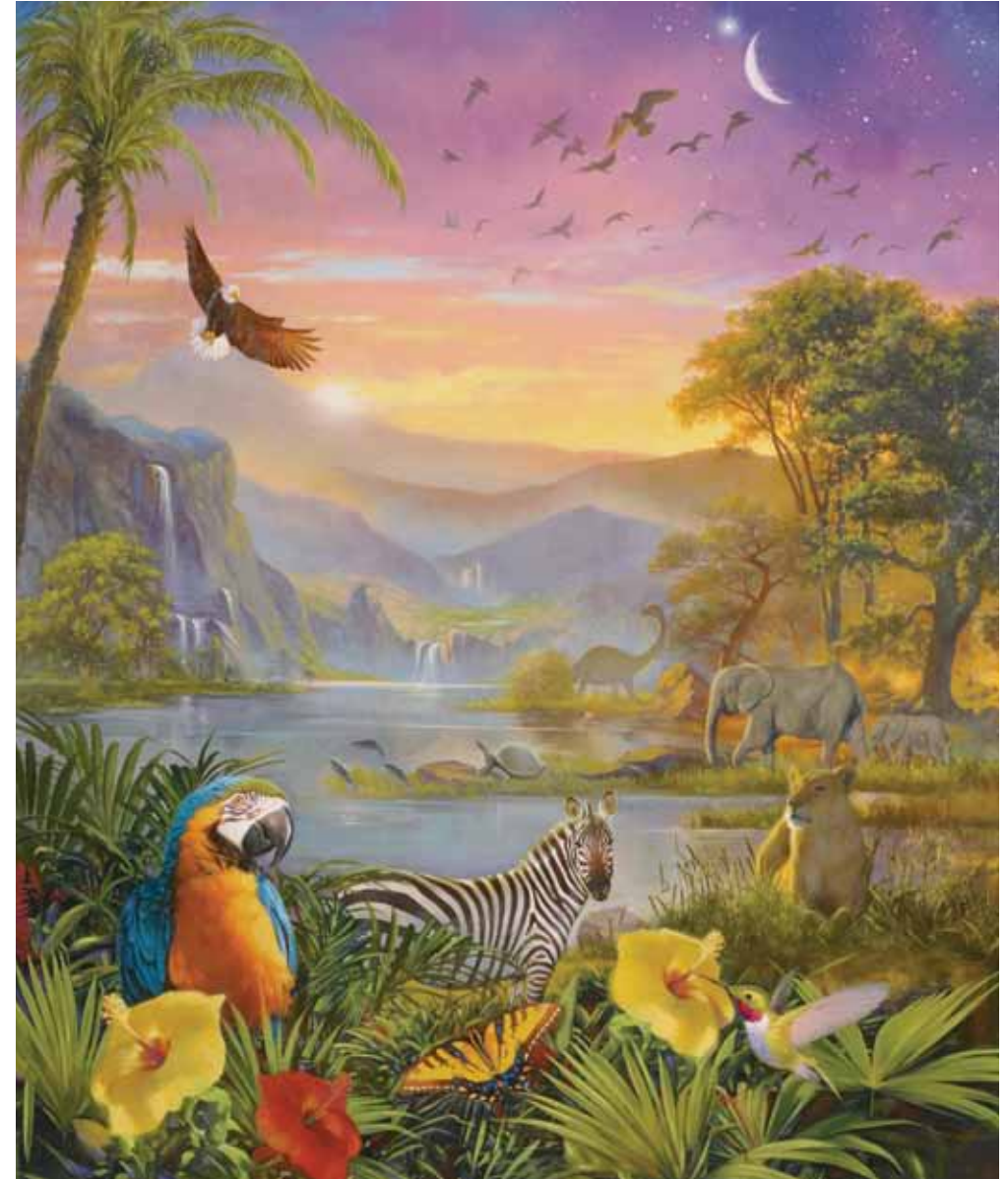
God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth.” And it was so. God made the beasts of the earth and the livestock and everything that creeps on the ground according to their kinds. God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image.” So God created man in His own image. He created them male and female. God **blessed** them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and have **dominion** over every living thing.” And God said, “I have given you plants and trees with seed in its fruit for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that He had made, and it was very good. There was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

God blessed the seventh day and made it **holy**, because on it He rested.

### Words to Remember

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God. *Hebrews 11:3*



### For Reflection

1. Identify three ways you use God's good creation.
2. What does it mean that Adam and Eve were made in God's image?
3. What special work do you do that is like the work God gave to Adam and Eve?

## The Fall into Sin

### Genesis 2–3

The **LORD** God planted a garden in Eden, and there He put the man. The tree of life was in the middle of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God commanded the man, saying, “You may eat of every tree of the garden, but you shall not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

The serpent, who was more **crafty** than any beast that God had made, said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”

The woman said, “We may eat the fruit of the trees. But God said, ‘You shall not eat of the tree in the middle of the garden, neither shall you touch it, or you will die.’”

The serpent said, “You will not die. God knows that when you eat from this tree, you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

The woman saw that the tree was good for food and could make one wise, so she took its fruit and ate. She also gave some to her husband, and he ate. Then their eyes were opened, and they knew that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

They heard the **LORD** God walking in the garden, and the man and his wife hid themselves. But the **LORD** God called to the man, “Where are you?”

And the man said, “I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree?”

The man said, “The woman gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”

Then the **LORD** God said to the woman, “What have you done?”

The woman said, “The serpent **deceived** me, and I ate.”

The **LORD** God said to the serpent, “I will put **enmity** between you and the woman, and between your **offspring** and her offspring. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

To the woman God said, “In pain you shall bring forth children.”

And to Adam God said, “Cursed is the ground because of you. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground. For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the **LORD** God made garments of skins and clothed Adam and Eve.

Then the **LORD** God drove the man out of the garden. At the east of the garden, God placed the **cherubim**, who held a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

### Words to Remember

For as in Adam all die,  
so also in Christ shall  
all be made alive.  
*1 Corinthians 15:22*



### For Reflection

1. What things tempt you to sin? What consequences do you experience?
2. Because of sin, Adam, Eve, and all people experience pain and death. But God made a promise that He would save us. What does it mean that Eve’s Offspring (Jesus) would bruise the serpent’s head?
3. Jesus was tempted also (see page 164). How did Jesus defeat Satan? How will reading and learning God’s Word help when you are tempted?

## The Children of Adam and Eve

### Genesis 4

Adam and Eve had a son. Eve named him Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.

In the course of time, Cain brought to the LORD an **offering** of the fruit of the ground. Abel also brought an offering of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain was angry, and his face fell.

The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"

Cain said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

The LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it shall no longer **yield** to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. Today You have driven me away from the ground. I will be hidden from Your face. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth. Whoever finds me will kill me."

Then the LORD said to him, "Not so!" And the LORD put a mark on Cain so no one would attack him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

And Eve gave birth to a son and called his name Seth. She said, "God has given me another offspring instead of Abel because Cain killed him."

To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time, people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

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#### Words to Remember

By this we know love, that [Christ] laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.  
*1 John 3:16*

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#### For Reflection

1. God warns Cain to think before he acts because sin is "crouching at the door" (Genesis 4:7). How does God help you to think before you act?
2. How did God show grace (undeserved love) to Cain? How have you been marked by God with His grace?
3. When Seth's son Enosh was alive, people began to call upon the name of the Lord. When today do you call upon God? How do you know God is listening?

## Noah and the Flood

### Genesis 6–9

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that all man thought about doing was evil. The LORD was sorry that He had made man, and it **grieved** Him to His heart. So the LORD said, “I will blot out man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah **found favor** in the eyes of the LORD. And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

God said to Noah, “Make an ark of gopher wood. Cover it inside and out with pitch. Make a roof for the ark, and set the door in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. Behold, I will bring a flood upon the earth to destroy all flesh. But I will make My **covenant** with you. You, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives shall come into the ark. You shall bring male and female of every sort of animal into the ark to keep them alive with you. Also take with you every sort of food.” Noah did all that God commanded.

In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, all the fountains of the great deep burst forth. The windows of the heavens were opened. Rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. But Noah, his family, and the animals were in the ark. And the LORD shut him in. The ark floated on the face of the waters, which covered all the high mountains. All flesh on earth died. Only Noah and those with him in the ark were left.

God remembered Noah and all the animals with him in the ark. He made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. The ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. Finally all the earth was dry. God said to Noah, “Go out from the ark. Be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” So Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives and every beast went out from the ark.

Noah built an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings. When the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, He said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.”

God said to Noah and to his sons, “Never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. This is the sign of the covenant that I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you: I have set My bow in the cloud. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember My covenant. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.”

### Words to Remember

Baptism, which corresponds to this [flood], now saves you, . . . through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.  
1 Peter 3:21



### For Reflection

1. Why did God choose Noah to keep people and animals alive during the flood?
2. Draw a rainbow. On it, list the promises (covenants) God made in this story. How did God keep these promises? List other promises that God has made and kept.
3. God grieves (suffers extreme sorrow) when He sees the people He created sin. What do you learn about God from this?
4. How does Noah’s ark symbolize the Church?



# The Patriarchs

God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. *Genesis 50:24*

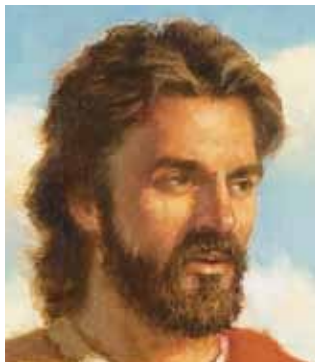


God created man in His image, but because Adam and Eve sinned, now all people sin. Although some of Adam and Eve's children trusted God, eventually only Noah and his family followed God. So God rescued them when He sent the flood to destroy the earth. God also made promises (covenants): that He would save people from Satan through Eve's Offspring, that He would not destroy the world again with a flood, that He would care for His people.

The Bible stories in this section talk about three special people: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God chose Abraham to be the father of His special people. God called Abraham from his home somewhere in present-day Iraq to travel to the land of Canaan (present-day Israel). Because God loved Abraham, He promised to make Abraham's children as many as the stars. But Abraham and his wife, Sarah, had no children for a very long time.



Finally, the child God promised was born to Abraham and Sarah. They named him Isaac. Isaac and his wife, Rebekah, had twins: Jacob and Esau. Jacob had twelve sons. God changed Jacob's name to Israel. The descendants of his sons became the twelve tribes of Israel. And Israel became a great nation under Kings David and Solomon. Today Abraham's physical descendants are the Jewish people who live all around the world. So God kept His promise to Abraham.



But the most important part of God's promise to Abraham was this: "in your Offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 22:18). God was again promising to send the Savior. In Jesus, Abraham's Offspring and Eve's Offspring (Genesis 3:15), we are blessed with forgiveness of sins and salvation. Because of Jesus, God blesses us with His love and He promises to bring us to the new land of heaven when we die. So all Christians are Abraham's children too—and there are as many of us as the stars!

## Making Connections

The Bible is full of children of promise. What does this mean? Think of all the times someone asked God for a baby or was promised a baby: Abraham and Sarah (see page 24), Hannah (see page 86), Zechariah and Elizabeth (see page 148), and Mary (see page 150) are the ones we think of most often.

When you were brought to God in the waters of Baptism, God made you a child of promise. He forgave your sins because of Jesus' saving work on the cross. As His special child, God blesses you with gifts: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22–23). God guarantees that you will inherit eternal life, which only His children can receive. God even fills you with His Holy Spirit, who makes sure you know all this is true (John 16:13).

See this wonder in the making:  
God Himself this child is taking  
As a lamb safe in His keeping  
His to be, awake or sleeping.

(Text by Jaroslav J. Vajda, © 1984 Concordia)

## The Twelve Sons of Jacob

Reuben  
Simeon  
Levi  
Judah (Jesus would come from this son)  
Zebulun  
Issachar  
Dan  
Gad  
Asher  
Naphtali  
Joseph  
Benjamin



## God Calls Abram

### Genesis 12–13

The LORD said to Abram, “Go to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. In you, all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Abram was seventy-five years old when he took Sarai his wife, and Lot, his brother’s son, and all their possessions and set out. When they came to the land of Canaan, the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So Abram built an **altar** to the LORD.

Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went to Egypt. Before he entered Egypt, he said to Sarai, “You are a beautiful woman. Say you are my sister. Then it may go well with me and my life may be spared.” When Abram entered Egypt, the princes of **Pharaoh** saw Sarai. They praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into Pharaoh’s house. For her sake he dealt well with Abram.

But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with plagues because of Sarai. So Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? Take her, and go.” And Pharaoh’s men sent Abram and Sarai away with all that he had.

So Abram returned to the land of Canaan, and Lot went with him. Abram journeyed to the place where he had made the first altar. There Abram called upon the name of the LORD.

Abram was rich in livestock. Lot also had flocks and herds and tents. The land could not support both of them. There was **strife** between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock.

Abram said to Lot, “Let there be no strife between you and me, for we are **kinsmen**. Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right. If you take the right hand, then I will go to the left.”

Lot saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD. So Lot chose all the Jordan Valley. Thus Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

The LORD said to Abram, “Look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward. All the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth. Walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.”

### Words to Remember

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.  
*Hebrews 11:8*



### For Reflection

1. How did God protect Abram and Sarai in Egypt, even though Abram tried to take care of things on his own? In the New Testament, who was sent to Egypt for protection?
2. When Lot took the best land, what promise did God make to Abram?
3. Name a difficult thing God has asked you to do. How did He help you do it?

## Abram Rescues Lot

### Genesis 13–14

Abram and Lot separated from each other. Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley. He moved his tent as far as Sodom.

There was a great battle between many kings that took place in the land where Lot had chosen to live. The kings of Sodom and Gomorrah were on the losing side.

Now the place where the battle took place was full of bitumen pits. As the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into these pits. The rest fled to the hill country. So the enemy took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their food, and went their way. The enemy also took Lot, who was living in Sodom, and his possessions.

One who had escaped came and told Abram. When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led his trained men (318 of them) in pursuit. At night, he divided his forces against them and defeated the enemy kings. Then Abram brought back all the possessions, and Lot and his possessions, and the women and the people.

After Abram's return from the defeat of the enemy kings, the king of Sodom went out to meet him. And Melchizedek, the king of Salem, brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And Melchizedek blessed Abram and said,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
 Possessor of heaven and earth.  
 Blessed be God Most High,  
 who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”

Abram gave Melchizedek a **tenth of everything**.

The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.”

But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours.”

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#### Words to Remember

Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. *Hebrews 6:20*

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#### For Reflection

1. Talk about a time you chose something that turned out to be bad for you. What did you learn that will help you make better choices in the future?
2. Although Lot had taken the best land, Abram wasn't angry and rescued his nephew and the other captives. How has God rescued you from your wrong choices?
3. Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of what he brought back because he was thankful for God's help. What can you offer God to thank Him for rescuing you?

# Jesus' Childhood

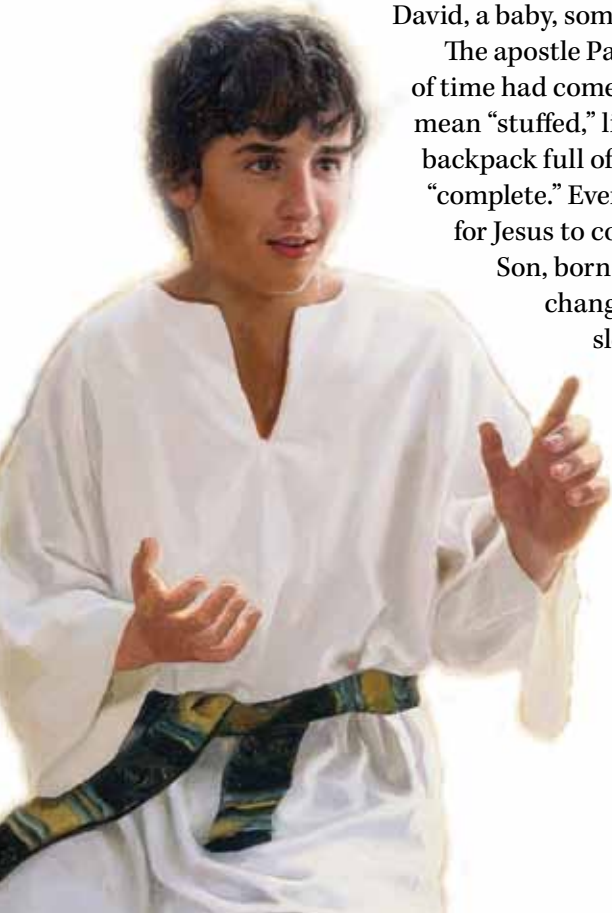
When the fullness of time had come,  
God sent forth His Son, born of woman. *Galatians 4:4*

**P**erfect timing. It's when you walk outside just in time to see an amazing sunset or a colorful hot-air balloon overhead or right as the ice cream truck is coming down the street. Or maybe you want a new video game *and* your parents pay you for helping in the yard *and* your mom has time to take you to the store *and* the store has a great sale on video games. All the pieces of the puzzle fit in place—it's perfect timing.

Think back to all God's promises to send the Savior that are recorded in the Old Testament. Eve thought it would be Cain or Abel or Seth. Throughout the Old Testament, people may have thought, "Now the time is right. God will send the Savior. Maybe it's this person or that one." But God knew exactly what He was going to do and when He was going to do it. Through the prophets He gave the people of Israel promises and clues: a virgin, Bethlehem, a descendant of David, a baby, someone to announce His way.

The apostle Paul says that Jesus was born "when the fullness of time had come" (Galatians 4:4). The word *fullness* doesn't mean "stuffed," like when you are full of food or you cram your backpack full of books. *Fullness* in this Bible passage means "complete." Everything was in place. It was the perfect time for Jesus to come to earth. So God acted. He "sent forth His Son, born of woman" (Galatians 4:4). And everything changed. God was really here on earth, a baby sleeping in a manger. All God's promises about blessing and salvation were being kept.

You probably know these next Bible stories very well, but there's still a lot to learn. As you read, think about the fact that God also knew exactly when you would be born. He knew who your parents would be and what color eyes you would have. He knew you would be His much-loved child, a member of His family. God's perfect timing includes your life now and forever!



## Making Connections

Mom asks you to clean the bathroom—including the toilet. Dad asks you to clean up the yard—including picking up after your dog. Your teacher "volunteers" you to clean the gum from the bottom of the desks. UGH! Those jobs are horrible. You deserve better. There must be someone—anyone—who can take your place.

These examples give you a tiny idea of what it was like for Jesus to come to earth. He is God, yet He became a baby, completely dependent on Mary and Joseph. He slept in a manger, probably filled with scratchy, itchy hay. As a child He lived in a normal house and probably had chores to do—no palace full of servants for our King Jesus.

But Jesus didn't look around for someone to take His place. God had a plan for your salvation, and Jesus knew He was it. Jesus willingly came to earth to live as a human being. He took on the "dirty" work of obeying God's Law perfectly for you. And Jesus suffered and died on the cross in your place so you would receive something way better than you deserve—a place in heaven with Him.

## Names for Our Savior

Christ ("Anointed One"), Christ Jesus, Immanuel ("God with us")

Jesus ("Yahweh is salvation"), Jesus Christ, Lord,  
Savior, Son of David, Son of Man, Son of God

## Apostles' Creed

### The Second Article: Redemption

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**What does this mean?** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

## The Birth of John Foretold

### Luke 1

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah. He had a wife named Elizabeth. They were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren. Both of them were advanced in years.

While Zechariah was serving as priest before God, he was **chosen by lot** to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.

There appeared to Zechariah an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him. Fear fell upon him. But the angel said, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. You shall call his name John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. He will be great before the Lord. He must not drink wine or strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the **just**, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.”

The angel answered, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God. I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.”

The people were waiting for Zechariah. They were wondering at his delay in the temple. When he came out, Zechariah was unable to speak to them. They realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. He kept making signs to them and remained mute. When his time of service was ended, Zechariah went to his home.

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived. For five months she kept herself hidden, saying, “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when He looked on me, to take away my **reproach** among people.”

#### Words to Remember

Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me.  
*Malachi 3:1*



#### For Reflection

1. List three special things about Zechariah and Elizabeth’s promised son. Read page 144 to find an Old Testament connection between this promised child and Elijah.
2. Read about Abraham’s visitors (page 24). How did Abraham react to God’s promise? How did Sarah and Zechariah react?
3. Imagine that, like Zechariah, you can’t speak. Use hand motions to tell a family member the good news that Jesus is your Savior.

## The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1 and Matthew 1

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin **betrothed** to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The angel said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

Mary was greatly troubled. The angel said, “Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. Behold, you will bear a son. You shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David. His kingdom will not end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. The child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. Behold, your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son. For nothing will be impossible with God.”

Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Mary went quickly into the hill country. She entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed, “Blessed are you among women. Blessed is the fruit of your womb! Why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my **Savior**.  
He has looked on the humble estate of His servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed.  
He who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is His name.  
His mercy is for those who fear Him  
from generation to generation.”

When Mary told Joseph about the baby, Joseph decided to divorce her. But an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Do not fear to take Mary as your wife. That which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son. You shall call His name **Jesus**, because He will save His people from their sins.”

### Words to Remember

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.  
*Isaiah 7:14*



### For Reflection

1. What was Gabriel’s message to Mary? What was Mary’s reaction? How was this different than the way Zechariah reacted to the news that he would have a son?
2. What name does the angel tell Mary and Joseph to give to the child? What does this name mean? (Hint: Read the last sentence of the Bible story.)
3. The Words to Remember from Isaiah give another name for Jesus: *Immanuel*. This name means “God with us.” How is Jesus “God with us”?

## The Birth of John

### Luke 1

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to **circumcise** the child. They would have called him Zechariah after his father, but Elizabeth answered, “No. He shall be called John.”

They said, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” They made signs to Zechariah, inquiring what he wanted him to be called.

Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying:

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel.

He has visited and redeemed His people  
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of His servant David,  
as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old,  
that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;  
to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember His holy covenant,  
the oath that He swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve Him without fear,  
in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.  
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to His people  
in the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The child grew and became strong in spirit. John was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

### Words to Remember

You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways.  
*Luke 1:76*



### For Reflection

1. Why were their relatives and neighbors surprised that Elizabeth and Zechariah wanted to name their son John? Who gave this name to the child?
2. When was Zechariah able to speak again? What did he say once he could talk? What specific job did Zechariah say John would have?
3. How has God “visited and redeemed His people”? What message would John preach before Jesus “to prepare His ways”?

## The Birth of Jesus

### Luke 2

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Joseph went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and **lineage** of David. He went to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped Him in **swaddling cloths** and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. The glory of the Lord shone around them. The shepherds were filled with fear.

The angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is **Christ** the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

When the angels went away into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” They went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

When they saw it, the shepherds told others what the angel said concerning this child. All who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, **pondering** them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

At the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus. This was the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

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### Words to Remember

To us a child is born,  
to us a Son is given.  
*Isaiah 9:6*

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### For Reflection

1. The prophet Micah said that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem (see Micah 5:2). How did God make sure that Jesus was born in this little city?
2. Identify three things in this Bible account that show Jesus did not come to be an earthly king. Why did Jesus leave heaven and come to earth?
3. As the shepherds returned to their flock, they told others about Jesus. Where are you going today? List ways you can tell others the good news about your Savior.



## The Visit of the Wise Men

### Matthew 2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the days of Herod the king, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They said, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.”

When Herod heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he asked where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet.”

Herod summoned the wise men secretly and learned from them what time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found Him, bring me word, that I, too, may come and worship Him.”

The wise men went on their way. The star that they had seen went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. Going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother. They fell down and worshiped Jesus. They offered Him gifts, gold and **frankincense** and **myrrh**. Being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, the wise men departed to their own country by another way.

When they had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Take the child and His mother, and flee to Egypt. Remain there until I tell you. Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy Him.” He remained in Egypt until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

When he saw that he had been tricked, Herod became furious. He killed all the male children in Bethlehem who were two years old or under. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and loud **lamentation**.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Take the child and His mother and go to the land of Israel. Those who sought the child’s life are dead.” Joseph went to the land of Israel, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to Galilee. He lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

#### Words to Remember

Nations shall come to  
Your light, and kings  
to the brightness of  
Your rising.  
*Isaiah 60:3*



#### For Reflection

1. How did Herod know where to send the wise men who had come looking for the new king of the Jews? What other things did the prophets say about Jesus?
2. God put a star in the heavens to lead the wise men to Jesus. Who or what has God put in your life to lead you to Jesus?
3. How did God use Joseph to protect Jesus? How does God use your parents to protect you? Make a card to thank your parents for protecting you.