



St. Thomas More Parish

RCIA

Bible Stories

Session

Stories Adapted from:

The New Catholic Picture Bible: Popular Stories from the Old and New Testaments by Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D., New York: Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, 1990.

Additional Material from:

Illustrated Children's Bible: Popular Stories from the Old and New Testaments by Rev. Jude Winkler, O.F.M. Conv. New York: Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, 1991.

RCIA Bible Stories Session

Table of Contents

Stories	Page	Scripture Reference	Presentation Method	Reader
1. The Old Testament Introduction	1		A reading	
2. Creation	2	Gen 1:1-2:3	A reading	
3. The Fall	4	Gen 3	A reading	
4. Noah Builds An Ark	5	Gen 6:5 – 9:17	Video clip	
5. Abraham’s Sacrifice				
3a. The Promises to Abram	6	Gen 12	3a. A reading	
3b. Abraham’s Sacrifice	7	Gen 22	3b. A reading	
6. Moses				
4a. Moses, Prince and Leader	10	Ex 2:1 – 11	4a. A reading	
4b. The Burning Bush	11	Ex 3	4b. A reading	
4c. The Plagues of Egypt	12	Ex 7:14—12:32	4c. A reading	
4d. The Angel of Death/Passover	13	Ex 12	4d. Video clip	
4e. Crossing the Red Sea	13	Ex 13:17 – 15:27	4e. Video clip	
4f. The Manna in the Desert	14	Ex 16	4f. A reading	
4g. The Ten Commandments	15	Ex 20:1 – 17	4g. A reading	
7. David				
5a. David and Saul	16	The Books of Samuel, especially 1 Sam 16 and 2 Sam 5, 6 & 7.	5a. A reading	
5b. The Ark of the Covenant/The City of David	18		5b. A reading	

Stories	Page	Scripture Reference	Presentation Method	
8. The New Testament Introduction	20		A reading	
9. Comment: The Mysteries of the Rosary as a way to learn the stories of Jesus and His Mother	21		"God Windows" pamphlet/survey of STM Chapter Room Windows	
10. The Temptation in the Desert	27	Mt 4:1 – 11 Lk 4:1 – 13	A reading	
11. The Sermon on the Mount (The Beatitudes)	28	Mt 5:1-12	A reading	
12. Jesus' Parables (in no particular order)				
10a. The Good Samaritan*	29	Lk 10: 25 – 37	9a. A reading	
10b. The Prodigal Son	31	Lk 15:11 – 32	9b. A reading	
13. Jesus' Miracles (in no particular order)				
11a. The Ten Lepers	32	Lk 17: 12 – 19	11a. A reading	
11b. The Loaves and the Fishes	33	Mt 14:13 – 21 Mk 6: 30 – 44 Lk 9:10 – 17 Jn 6:1 – 15	11b. A reading	
11c. The Adulteress	34	Jn 8:1 – 11	11c. A reading	
11d. Lazarus is Raised from the Dead (includes Jesus with Mary and Martha)	35	Jn 11: 1 – 44 Lk 10:38 – 42	11d. A reading	
11e. Jesus Appears to Two Disciples	37	Lk 24: 13 – 35	11e. A reading	
14. The Conversion of St. Paul	38	Acts 9	Video clip	
15. Questions about Stories you have heard.				All

Narrator's Comments

Welcome to Story Night. Tonight we are going to “sit around the fire” and listen to some of the most important stories in the Bible. You may know some of them, some may be new to you, but we've chosen the ones that are essential to understanding a lot of Catholic teaching. They've been simplified somewhat, but you can look them up and read the full text in your own Bibles whenever you like. So sit back, grab some popcorn, and enjoy.

The Old Testament—Introduction

All throughout the pages of the Old Testament, we meet a God who is so filled with love that He reaches out to His people again and again.

The first pages of the Old Testament tell us what happened at the beginning of the world. God created the world and all that is in it. He called Adam and Eve to live in His happiness, but they rebelled against Him. God then called a holy people through Abraham and Sarah.

He protected them against their enemies. He saved them from their slavery in Egypt through Moses. He made them a mighty nation with David as their king. And, most important of all, God made a holy covenant with them that He should always be their God and they would always be His People.

Even when His people turned away from Him, God did not stop loving them. He allowed them to suffer the consequences of their behaviour so that they would turn from their sins and return to Him. God sent them prophets who taught them the ways of the Lord. He led them back from exile to the Promised Land.

The final pages of the Old Testament show that God's love is far beyond what we should expect. He promised His people that He would send a chosen one to call them out of their slavery to sin. He prepared for the day when He would send His only Son, Jesus, into our world.

Creation

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters ... So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants ... and fruit trees of every kind on earth” And it was so. ... And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night” ... And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth... and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves ... with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ... And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

God said, “See, I have given you every plant ... on the face of ...the earth, and every tree...; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

So the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

The Fall

God called the first man Adam and the first woman Eve. They lived in a beautiful garden that God planted for them called the Garden of Eden. In the middle of the garden God also planted the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil and the Tree of Life. God said to Adam, “You may eat the fruit of every other tree of the Garden but you must not eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. If you eat it, you shall die.”

Adam and Eve had all that they wanted. They knew that they would always be happy as long as they served God.

Now the serpent was the craftiest of all the animals that God had created. One day, as Adam and Eve were walking through the garden, the serpent spoke to them. He said, “You shall not die if you eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. You will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Eve took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some of the fruit to Adam and he also ate it. As soon as they ate the fruit, they realized that they had sinned. They became aware that they were naked, and they were ashamed. That evening they heard God walking in the Garden and they hid from him. God called out and asked them why they were hiding. He knew that they had sinned.

God ordered Adam and Eve to leave the Garden. He placed two angels at the gate of the Garden to prevent them from ever coming back. They would have to work hard and suffer much because of their sin. But God still loved them, and so he made them clothes so that they would not be naked. God punished the serpent: it lost its legs and had to crawl on its belly the rest of its days.

Then God said to the serpent, “I will put hatred between you and the woman. One day she shall crush your head.” God was promising that someday in the future, a woman would give birth to the One who would crush evil.

Narrator's Comments

After they left the Garden God had made for them, Adam and Eve had a family and their descendents populated the earth. Eventually, humans became more and more sinful and it grieved God to his heart. He decided to wipe out his creation and start over! But there was one righteous man and his family that God thought worth saving – Noah.

Noah Builds An Ark—Video Clip

“Noah’s Ark”

Written and Illustrated by Robert Castillo

2:00 minutes

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3OZAxobG0M>

Narrator's Comments

Humanity re-established itself on the earth and we humans did what we always do: we sinned again.

The Promise to Abram

People began to forget the one true God. They made idols of false gods. They adored them and prayed to them. But God did not destroy them as He had done in the Flood. Instead, He chose from the family of Noah's son, Shem a man known for his faith. His name was Abram.

One day God called to him, "Abram, leave your country, and go to the Land of Canaan."

Abram obeyed God and began his long journey to Canaan with his wife Sarah, his nephew Lot, and his helpers and flocks. God picked Canaan as a home for Abram because these valleys were the great centres where people lived.

God rewarded Abram by making this promise: "I will give you and your children the Land of Canaan. You shall be the father of a great people. Through you all nations shall be blessed." Because of this promise, the Land of Canaan was called "The Promised Land." It covers the area of modern Palestine and Israel and parts of Syria.

God was very good to Abram at Canaan. He gave him great riches. His flocks of sheep grew very large. But Abram had no children. Abram prayed to God, "Shall I die without children? Shall I have to give all my riches to the son of one of my servants?"

God heard Abram's prayer. One hot day when Abram was 99 years old, three strangers came to his tent. He welcomed them and gave them food. One of the strangers told Abram that in a year he would return and by that time Sarah would have a son.

Inside the tent Sarah heard this and laughed to herself. "Shall I have a son," she said, "when I am old, and my husband also is old?"

One of the strangers said to Abram, "Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

At these words Abram knew that the three strangers were God's messengers.

Abram trusted God and waited for a son. One day God said to him, "From now on your name will be Abraham, because you shall be the father of many nations ... I will keep My promise and give you a son. I will bless him. He shall be the father of kings and nations. You shall name him Isaac."

Narrator's Comments

Abraham and Sarah had waited a long time for God to keep His promise of a child. But they had faith and their trust in God was rewarded.

Abraham's Sacrifice

When Abraham was a hundred years old, Sarah gave him a son. They called him "Isaac," meaning "Laughter," for Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and everyone who hears of it shall laugh with me."

Abraham and Sarah loved Isaac with all their hearts because he had been sent as God had promised, to make them happy in their old age. But God wanted to test Abraham, to see whether he loved his son more than he loved God. One night God said to Abraham, "Take Isaac and go to a mountain that I shall show you. There offer me your son as a sacrifice."

Abraham became very sad. As he had always obeyed God, he was ready to obey Him now. He cut wood for the sacrifice. With two servants and his son, he sent out to find the place that God would show him.

After three days they came to a mountain called Mount Moriah. Abraham said to his servants, "Stay here while Isaac and I go up the mountain to offer a sacrifice."

Abraham placed the wood upon the shoulders of Isaac, while he himself carried the fire and a knife. As they were going up the mountain, Isaac asked, "Father, we have the fire and wood, but where is the victim for the sacrifice?"

His father answered, "God will give us a victim for the sacrifice, my son."

When they came to the place for the sacrifice, they made an altar and put the wood upon it. Then Abraham tied Isaac and laid him upon the wood.

Just as Abraham was about to strike his son with the knife, an angel touched his hand and said, "Abraham, do not kill your son. God knows now that you truly love Him, for you are ready to sacrifice Isaac at His command."

These words made Abraham very happy. He saw a sheep caught in the bushes. He took the sheep and offered it to God as a sacrifice, instead of his son.

Abraham's Sacrifice Cont'd

Then the angel told Abraham that God would bless him for this offering he had made, that he would have very many descendants, and that from his family the Saviour of the world would one day be born.

Isaac carrying the wood up the mountain is a picture of Jesus who carried His cross up the hill to Calvary.

God said to Abraham, "I will bless you. And in your family shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Before Abraham died he saw how God carried out this promise. Isaac married Rebecca and they had a son, Jacob. Jacob struggled with God and so God changed Jacob's name to Israel. That's where we get the name of the people and nation of Israel. Jacob had 12 sons and each one was the head of one of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Narrator's Comments

Isaac married Rebecca and had a son named Jacob. Abraham and Isaac and Jacob are known as the Patriarchs and God often identifies himself in the Bible as “the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob”. He was their God and they were his people. Jacob struggled with God so God changed Jacob’s name to Israel, which means “struggle with God”.

Jacob had 12 sons and they lived in the promised land of Canaan for many years. When you read the Bible you will run into some of the names of the 12 sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph and Benjamin. Each of the 12 settled in a different part of the country and gave his name to that area. The area where Judah lived was called Judah. The Romans later changed it to Judea. And people from Judah were called Jews.

But before that – when it was still old father Jacob-Israel and his 12 sons and their families – a great famine came over the land of Canaan. Through a series of adventures with the 11th son, Joseph, the whole family of Israel ended up in Egypt. They were given their own section of Egypt, and they lived there and prospered for generations.

Moses, Prince and Leader

The king of Egypt was called the Pharaoh. After many years a new Pharaoh ruled Egypt. He was afraid of the Israelites, because they had become very numerous and powerful; so he put them to hard labour and made slaves of them. Then he commanded that every newborn Israelite boy should be thrown into the Nile.

Just at this time Moses was born, and his mother hid him as long as she could, for he was a beautiful child. But when he was three months old, she laid him in a little basket and set it among the rushes at the river's edge. His sister stood a little way off, to see what would become of him.

Soon the daughter of Pharaoh came down with her maids to bathe in the river. When she saw the basket among the reeds, she sent a maid to get it. The baby started to cry, and the heart of the princess was touched.

Then the baby's sister ran up and asked, "Shall I get an Israelite nurse for the baby?"

"Yes, do so," said Pharaoh's daughter. The girl went and called the child's mother.

"Nurse this child for me," said Pharaoh's daughter, "and I will pay you." The mother nursed him and brought him up. And the child grew and Pharaoh's daughter took him as her own son. She called him "Moses," for she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Moses was looked upon as a member of Pharaoh's household. He grew up like a prince and studied with the other children at the court of Pharaoh. He learned to read and write while his people were living in slavery.

But Moses did not forget that he was an Israelite. He was full of sorrow when he saw his own people suffering. One day, when he was a young man, he saw an Egyptian master striking an Israelite slave. Moses was angry. He struck the Egyptian and killed him.

The next day Moses learned that his deed was known. He was afraid. Pharaoh wanted to put Moses to death. But Moses fled from Egypt into another country.

Eventually this Pharaoh died. The Israelites called on God to rescue them. Remembering His promise to their fathers – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – God heard their prayer. He made ready to deliver them from their trials.

Narrator's Comment

Moses had fled to the wilderness and there he met and married his wife, Zipporah. He helped look after her father's sheep. But God did not want Moses to be just a simple shepherd.

The Burning Bush

One day Moses, while leading the sheep of his father-in-law near a mountain, was startled by the sight of a bush on fire. He wondered why it did not burn up. He came closer to look at it, and he heard his name called by the voice of God. The voice told Moses to take off his sandals, for the place was holy.

From the bush God spoke to Moses: "I have heard the prayers of the Children of Israel. I have seen how they suffer at the hands of the Egyptians. I will deliver them from their masters, and take them to a land flowing with milk and honey. Go to the king of Egypt, and ask him to let the Israelites go to the desert to offer sacrifice."

Then God said to Moses, "Tell them that **I Am Who I Am** has sent you." This is the name by which the Israelites since that time have known God. This name meant the everlasting and faithful God.

Moses was still afraid to go back into Egypt. He made excuses. He said he was not good at talking. So God promised him his brother Aaron to speak for him and to help him. Moses had another excuse: the Egyptian king was too powerful. But God said to Moses that he would have powers greater than those of Pharaoh.

Moses and Aaron went to ask the king of Egypt, in the name of the Lord, to let the Israelites go to worship and sacrifice in the desert.

The Pharaoh answered, "Who is the Lord? Who is your God, that I should hear His voice? I do not know Him. I will not let the Israelites go."

At God's command Moses and Aaron again went to Pharaoh. They again asked him to let the Israelites go. Aaron threw his staff on the floor to show the power of God, and the staff became a serpent. Pharaoh's magicians also cast their staffs down, and their staffs also turned into serpents. But Aaron's staff ate up all the other staffs. Still Pharaoh would not free the Children of Israel.

Narrator's Comment

But God did not give up on His people. God had a plan.

The Plagues of Egypt

Because the Pharaoh would not free the Children of Israel, God punished the land of Egypt. Every time that Pharaoh refused Moses, God sent the Egyptians a new plague. In all, He sent ten plagues.

First, the water in the river turned to blood. Second, frogs in great numbers filled the land. Third, the dust was changed into small insects that covered everything. Fourth, there came swarms of flies. Fifth, a disease killed all the cattle. Sixth, boils broke out on man and beast. Seventh, hail and lightning came. Eighth, locusts ate up what the hail had left. Ninth, darkness covered Egypt. Still the Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go.

Finally, God said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague upon the Egyptians, one that will force the Pharaoh to free My people. Every first-born in Egypt shall die, from the first-born of Pharaoh himself to that of the slaves. There will be great weeping in Egypt."

Before this last evil came upon Egypt, God ordered the Israelites to prepare for their escape. They were to offer a special sacrifice. On the tenth day of the month, each family was to take a lamb. They were to keep the lamb until the fourteenth day of the month. In the evening they were to offer it in sacrifice and sprinkle their doorposts with its blood. Then they were to roast the lamb and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

At midnight the angel of Death passed through Egypt, killing all the first-born of the Egyptians – from the first-born child of the Pharaoh to the first-born of the poorest Egyptian – and taking also the first-born of all the animals.

Among the Israelites no one died. The Angel of Death spared them when he saw the blood of the lamb which God had commanded them to sprinkle on the doorposts. This was the first Passover.

In fear the Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. "Go," said he. "Take your flocks and your people. Leave Egypt."

The Angel of Death—Video Clip

“The Angel of Death/Kadosh”

From: The Prince of Egypt

3:30 minutes

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKwFHRlxV4o>

Narrator's Comment

God was determined to rescue the Israelites and take them out of Egypt. But how did he do it?

The Crossing of the Red Sea

Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. There went out in that night six hundred thousand men, descended from the 12 tribes who came into Egypt with their father Jacob. With all their goods they set out to worship God in the desert as God had commanded.

God, going before them in a cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, led them toward the desert and the Red Sea.

But when Pharaoh and his men saw that the Israelites were gone, they said to themselves, “What have we done? We have freed our slaves!”

Pharaoh took his chariots and horsemen and went after the Israelites. When they saw this great army coming after them, the Israelites were afraid. They blamed Moses, crying to him, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this desert?”

Moses answered, “God will protect us.”

Crossing the Red Sea—Video Clip

“Ten Commandments—Pillar of Fire and Parting of the Red Sea”

From: Cecil B. DeMille's 1956 film THE TEN COMMANDMENTS starring Charlton Heston as Moses

4:46 minutes

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jo0JMs-evQU>

Narrator's Comment

The Israelites did not take much with them when they left Egypt, but God would not let his people go hungry.

The Manna in the Desert

The Israelites set out across the desert. But they kept saying, "If only we had died in Egypt, instead of starving here! Now who will give us any meat in the desert?"

The Lord said to Moses, "I will rain food from heaven for you. And you shall know that I am the Lord your God." That very evening many birds came. The people caught them and ate.

The next morning when the people looked out of their tents, they saw all around the camp, on the sand, little white flakes, like snow or frost. Since they had never seen anything like this before, they said, "What is it?" In the language of the Israelites, the Hebrew language, "What is it?" is the word "Manhu." From then on this new thing was given the name "Manna."

And Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. Go out and gather it, as much as you need. But take only as much as you need for today, for it will not keep; and God will give you more tomorrow."

So the people went out and gathered the manna. The taste of it was like bread made with honey.

When some of the people tried to keep the manna until the next day, it spoiled during the night. So each morning they took up just enough of the manna for that day. On the sixth day they gathered twice as much, to provide for the Sabbath, and it did not spoil. On the seventh day manna did not fall. In this way God showed that His day must be kept holy.

God sent the Israelites manna for forty years in the desert, until they came to the Promised Land. The Manna from Heaven is a foreshadowing of the Eucharistic Bread: Jesus' Body and Blood that we consume at Holy Communion.

Narrator's Comment

In the desert, God made a covenant with his people: He would be their God and they would be His people and obey His commandments.

The Ten Commandments

Three months after the Israelites left Egypt, God called Moses up to the top of Mount Sinai and gave him Commandments written on tablets of stone. God spoke and said:

“I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides Me.

“You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.

“Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.

“Honour your father and your mother.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

“You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.

“You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Moses was on the mountaintop with the Lord forty days and forty nights. The people down below became tired waiting for him. They went to Aaron and said, “Make us gods to worship.”

Then Aaron said, “Bring your gold ornaments to me.” He melted the gold, and from the metal he shaped an image of a calf.

Moses prayed to God to spare the people. When he came down the mountainside, and saw the golden calf, and the people singing and dancing around it, he was angry. He threw down the tablets of stone and broke them at the foot of the mountain. The golden calf he burned and ground into powder, and he punished the Israelites.

Again Moses went up to Mount Sinai, to pray for the people. God told him to make two tablets of stone like the ones he had broken. Moses wrote the Ten Commandments on them.

Narrator's Comments

After wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, God finally led the Israelites to the Promised Land, the land of their fathers, of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They had many struggles along the way but they eventually settled the territory. For many generations they lived and were ruled by Judges.

Eventually, though, the Israelites wanted a king to rule them. The neighbouring countries were all ruled by kings, and the people of Israel wanted to be like them.

David and Saul

The people decided they wanted a king to rule them. The first king of Israel was Saul. But Saul disobeyed God and God chose a new king to replace him.

At God's command, the prophet Samuel went to Bethlehem, to choose the new king for Israel from among the sons of Jesse.

Jesse called each of his sons to stand before Samuel, yet of seven sons not one was chosen. And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all your sons?"

"There is still a young one called David," said Jesse, "but he is tending the sheep."

The father called for David, and David came in from the hillsides of Judah. He was a handsome boy. The Lord said to Samuel, "This is he. Anoint him."

So Samuel brought out oil and anointed David to be the king of Israel in the presence of his brothers. This seemed strange, because King Saul was already on the throne. Yet from that time on, the Spirit of God left Saul and came upon David, God's chosen king. Alone with his flocks under the wide sky, David played his harp and sang aloud for joy.

Saul was tormented when he learned that God no longer wanted him to be king of Israel. So Saul's servants said, "Let us bring you a man who will play on the harp and cheer you up."

Then one of the servants said, "There is a fine player named David, a warrior, strong and handsome. And the Lord is with him."

So Saul sent messengers to Jesse saying, “Send me David your son who is with the sheep.”

David came to Saul. Saul loved him deeply and made him his armour-bearer. He did not know that Samuel had anointed David to be king. After that, when the sadness came upon Saul, David would take the harp and play so sweetly that Saul would forget his troubles.

Eventually, Saul became jealous of David and made up his mind to kill him. He failed and David escaped into the wilderness. Saul eventually died and David became king.

Narrator's Comment

What did David do when he became king?

The City of David

The first thing that David did as a king was to lead his soldiers against the city of Jerusalem. He conquered it and made it his capital. He built a wall around it and it was called the City of David.

During the time that he ruled, David tried to lead the people to worship God as they should. He brought to Jerusalem the Ark of the Covenant that had been captured by the Philistines. Built in Moses' day by God's command, the Ark of the Covenant was a chest of gold, in which were kept the two stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, Aaron's staff, and some of the Manna from the desert. It was also the sign of God's presence with His children. The Israelites carried the Ark before them into battle and it had been captured by the Philistines. David rescued it.

David built a Tabernacle on Mount Zion to house the Ark. Each day sacrifices were offered before the Ark.

The Ark was carried into the city with shouting and dancing, and with the sound of the trumpets and harps and flutes. Thirty thousand armed men were the guard of honour, and very many people joined in the great procession. David himself, playing on his harp and dancing with joy before the Ark, was in the procession.

David rebuilt the city, making new walls and towers and courts and palaces, so that Jerusalem in her beauty and safety became for the Children of Israel a holy place, a City of God.

David was a good king to his people and protected them from their enemies. During his rule Israel became great and powerful. But David was also a great poet. Inspired by God, he wrote beautiful poems that today we call the Psalms. They are songs of praise and thanksgiving, and of sorrow for sin.

God loved David and promised, through the prophet Nathan, that the Messiah would be born of his family. The promise said, "Your house and your family shall be

faithful, and your kingdom shall be forever. Your throne shall be firm forever.” The Messiah was to be the King whose throne will be forever.

David wanted to build a Temple, but God by a prophet sent him a message, saying, “Not you, but your son shall build me a Temple.” David’s son Solomon built God’s Temple in Jerusalem.

Narrator’s Comments

As we heard last week, and can see on the Timeline, things went downhill from there. When Solomon died his sons fought for control, the kingdom was divided into Israel in the North and Judah in the South. The prophets warned the people and their kings to turn back to God, but Israel and Judah were conquered and the Temple destroyed. The people were led into Exile. Eventually they returned and began to build a second Temple to replace the one that Solomon had built so many years before. The Israelites had control of their own country for a few short years but it didn’t last.

The land was occupied first by the Persians, and then the Greeks and finally -- the Romans.

Israel believed that the time of the prophets had passed.

But a voice cried out in the wilderness. (Again with the wilderness!!) There was one final prophet and his name was John.

John began to prophesy out in the wilderness. Like most of the prophets, he called people to repent of their sins and turn back to God. He preached something new -- baptism – immersion in the living waters of the Jordan river. John knew that something big was coming – someone big – the Messiah. The saviour and king who had been promised to David.

And that’s a good place to break and have a bit of a stretch!!

The New Testament—Introduction

The New Testament is both a continuation of the story that we have already seen in the Old Testament and something very new.

In the Old Testament we saw how God called a people to Himself and how He made a covenant of love with that people. He promised that He would always be with them.

God never turns back on His promises, even when we turn away from Him with our sins. The New Testament is the story of how God defeated the power of sin through the life and death of His only Son.

Jesus was born human like us, in a cave in Bethlehem. He went about proclaiming that the kingdom of God was near, and He called us to turn back to God with all our heart, soul, and strength. He called the apostles and disciples to follow Him and to share in His mission. He gave us the beatitudes which are a fulfillment of the Ten Commandments. The Beatitudes challenge us to be as loving and merciful as God is. And then on Calvary, Jesus took up His cross and died for us, sealing His new promise, the new covenant, with His own blood.

Even then, His love knew no limit. God the Father raised Jesus from the dead so that death could no longer have power over Him and so that we could have the promise that one day we will rise with Jesus. He then sent His Holy Spirit to fill us with His life, making us into a Church.

Narrator's Comment

You're going to learn more about the Rosary in a couple of weeks, but briefly, it is a prayerful way of recalling and meditating on the most important events in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. There are 20 of these events, called Mysteries, and each one is pictured on one of the windows here in the Chapter Room.

In your Binder, you should have a copy of "God Windows". Starting on page 26, that booklet names each Mystery and gives you the Bible passage and reference.

Let's listen to a quick description of the events in Jesus' life that are pictured in the windows:

The Mysteries of the Rosary—Chapter Room Windows

Here is a quick rundown of all twenty Mysteries.

The Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation

The first Joyful Mystery is "The Annunciation" –which means the Announcement. In this mystery, the Angel Gabriel came to the Virgin Mary and said "Hail Mary, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you." The Angel Gabriel told her that she would give birth to the Saviour. Mary said "yes"; she accepted the commission. The Angel Gabriel also told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth who was very old and was never able to have children was now expecting a baby.

2. The Visitation

With Jesus now conceived in her womb, Mary travelled to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was pregnant with John the Baptist. When Mary and Elizabeth saw each other, John the Baptist leapt for joy in his mother Elizabeth's womb. Elizabeth then said to Mary "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb" and "blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord".

3. The Nativity— or “The Birth”

The Romans who ruled over the area where the Israelites lived decided that a census was to be taken. Everyone had to return to their birthplace to be counted. As a result, Mary and her husband Joseph were required to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Jesus was born in the middle of the night in a stable which was a cave. Three wise men and Shepherds came to visit. All of the visitors told Mary their stories of how they came to the stable to see the Baby Jesus. Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. This is the story of Christmas.

4. The Presentation

According to Jewish Ritual of the time, the first born child had to be presented to God in the Temple. When Jesus was 40 days, He was taken by his parents Mary and Joseph to the Temple. There they met a priest named Simeon who had been told by God that he would not die until he had seen the Saviour. Simeon recognized the infant Jesus as the Saviour. He foretold for Mary and Joseph that Jesus would cause many in Israel to fall and to rise again and that sorrow would pierce Mary’s heart like a sword.

5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

When Jesus was 12 years old, the Holy Family went to Jerusalem to the Temple to celebrate the Passover. Mary and Joseph travelled home in a caravan of their extended family members. During their first night out from Jerusalem on their way home, they realized that Jesus was missing. They were worried, so immediately they traveled back to Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the Temple talking with the teachers. When Mary saw Jesus she said, “We’ve been looking for you.” Jesus responded that he was doing His Father’s business. Mary and Joseph didn’t quite understand what he was talking about. Then Jesus went home with his parents and the Bible tells us that he was obedient to them.

The Luminous Mysteries (The Mysteries of Light)

1. The Baptism of the Lord

News had gone out throughout Israel that after 400 years, God had raised up a new prophet who was baptizing people in the Jordan River. He baptized people who were sorry for their sins. John told everyone that he baptized with water but that someone greater than him was coming who was going to baptize with the Holy Spirit. One day that very person came to John. It was Jesus Christ. Jesus presented himself to John the Baptist and was baptized. As Jesus was being baptized, John saw the heavens open up above Jesus’ head and the Holy Spirit descended upon

Jesus in the form of a dove. Just then, John heard a voice from heaven say “Behold this is my Son, My beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

2. The Wedding at Cana

Jesus, his disciples and Mary were invited to a wedding. At the wedding party, the hosts ran out of wine. Running out of wine was a major social blunder at that time. Mary noticed the problem and told Jesus that the wine had run out. Jesus responded by saying that it really wasn't that big of a problem and it was not time to go public with his ministry. Being persistent, Mary said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you to do.” So, Jesus instructed the servants to bring six large stone jars into the hall—each jar was large enough to hold about 25 gallons. Jesus then told the servants to fill the jars with water. When they began to draw out of the jars, they found that the water had turned into wine. And, not just any wine, but the very best wine! This was Jesus' first miracle which began his public ministry. In the Bible it says that when his disciples saw this, they believed in Him.

3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom

After Jesus' baptism and his first miracle at the wedding at Cana, Jesus left the quiet safety of Nazareth to travel far and wide to preach the Good News (which is also called the Gospel). Crowds followed Jesus as he travelled throughout the region Galilee and he lifted their hearts with his words. Jesus told people to repent of their sins and He announced that the Kingdom of God was coming; the Kingdom of God was at hand. Jesus also commissioned his Apostles to go out and spread the word, empowering them to cure the sick and cast out demons.

4. The Transfiguration

On the way to Jerusalem where He would be crucified, Jesus told his disciples of his coming suffering and death. They were deeply saddened. To raise their spirits, he took Peter, James and John with Him up a mountain. Suddenly Jesus became transfigured—his bodily appearance changed. His clothes turn dazzling white and his face shone. Then Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus. They were talking with Him. Understandably, the disciples were very uneasy about this. Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us build 3 tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” While they were still speaking, a cloud appeared and overshadowed them. Then, from inside the cloud they heard a voice say, “This is My Son, My Chosen One. Listen to Him.” The disciples were now terrified. Jesus took them each by the hand and brought them back to a standing position, calming their fear. Ultimately, they found themselves all alone with Jesus. As they came down the mountain, Jesus told them not to tell anyone about this until after His resurrection.

5. The Institution of the Eucharist

This mystery took place at the Last Supper. Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover meal. They ate lamb just as the Israelites had done before they left Egypt. They ate bitter herbs to remember the bitter years of slavery of the Israelites in Egypt. Then, Jesus took some of the bread. He blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying “Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is My body, which will be given up for you.” Then, He took a cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to his disciples saying, “Take this, all of you, and drink it. This is the cup of My blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant. It will be shed for you so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of Me.” This transformation of the bread and wine into His body and blood was a gift that Jesus gave to His disciples. His disciples were the first bishops and this command to eat and drink his body and blood was passed on to bishops and priests since that time, and throughout 2,000 years of the Church, even until today.

The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden

When the Last Supper, the Passover meal, was almost over, Jesus and the disciples sang a psalm to praise God, then they got up and left with Jesus. Jesus took his disciples with him to the Garden of Gethsemane. He left most of His disciples at the gate of the garden but took Peter, James and John inside with Him. Then Jesus asked them to pray with Him. But the disciples could not stay awake. As Jesus prayed, He asked God the Father to take the suffering away from Him and allow His plan to take place in some other way. But, Jesus prayed that not His will but that God the Father’s will, would be done. It soon became clear that it was not the Father’s plan to remove the suffering from Jesus. Jesus submitted His will to that of his Father because Jesus was obedient to the Father and because Jesus loves us.

2. The Scourging at the Pillar

After being handed over to the Roman authorities by the Jewish High Priest, Jesus was Cross-examined by Pontius Pilate the Roman governor. Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent but the crowds were convinced by the High Priests that Jesus must die and so Pilate tried to satisfy the crowds by ordering that Jesus should be scourged or beaten. Jesus was then tied to a pillar and whipped 39 times.

3. The Crown of Thorns

Jesus was badly beaten by the scourging. Regardless, the soldiers took a purple robe and placed it on him. They gave him a scepter made of reeds. Then they made a crown out of thorns and put it on his head, the thorns into his scalp. They began to

ridicule Jesus. They knelt before him and mocked him saying, “All hail, the king of the Jews”. They spit in His face and they slapped Him repeatedly. Jesus did not respond to their taunts.

4. The Carrying of the Cross

Jesus was condemned to death by the Romans. They led Jesus out to the streets, placed a wooden Cross on His shoulders and made Him carry it to the place where He was to die. When they reached the hill called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull, the Roman soldiers stripped Jesus of His clothes and nailed Him to the Cross. Then they set up the Cross with a sign on it that read, “Jesus the Nazorean, king of the Jews.”

5. The Crucifixion

Jesus was nailed to the Cross at about nine in the morning between 2 criminals. One of the criminals verbally abused Jesus. The second criminal chastised the first one, asking him if he had no fear of God and saying that they deserved to die but Jesus did not. Jesus died about three in the afternoon. On the Cross, Jesus prayed to the Father saying, “Forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

All of his disciples had fled by this time. At the foot of the Cross there remained only Jesus’ Mother Mary and his disciple John. Jesus gave Mary to John to be his mother and from that time on, Mary lived with John.

Jesus’ last words on the Cross were “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”. With that, Jesus died. A great darkness came over the land, the earth shook, rocks split in two and tombs opened up. In the Temple, the curtain that set apart the Holiest place tore in half. The Roman officer in charge of the soldiers said “Surely, this man was the Son of God”. Jesus body was taken down and placed in a tomb.

The Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection

Three days after Jesus died on the Cross on Good Friday, Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus appeared to His mother and his disciples. He showed them the wounds in his hands, feet and side. He was not a ghost. They could actually touch his wounds. Jesus had risen from the dead as He said He would.

2. The Ascension

Jesus continued to appear to the disciples for many days after He had risen from the dead. Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus led his disciples to a hillside outside of Jerusalem. Jesus blessed them and told them to go back to Jerusalem to wait for the fulfillment of the Father's promise to send them a helper, the Holy Spirit. Then, before their eyes Jesus rose into the clouds and ascended into Heaven.

3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit or Pentecost

After Jesus ascended into Heaven, his disciples gathered together with Mary in the upper room in Jerusalem where the Last Supper had taken place. They spent their time in prayer. On the tenth day after Jesus ascended into Heaven, a sound like a mighty wind filled the whole house and tongues of fire came to rest over the heads of each one there. This was the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the disciples. Before receiving the Holy Spirit, they were afraid. After receiving the Holy Spirit, they were filled with courage and feared nothing.

At the same time in Jerusalem, many people had come to the city to celebrate the feast of Pentecost; a feast celebrated 50 days after Passover. There were Jews from all over the world and they spoke many different languages. Peter, now filled with the Holy Spirit, went out to speak to the Jews to tell them about Jesus. All of the Jews could understand Peter as if he was speaking to each one in his own language. Many listened to what Peter had to say and about 3,000 were baptized that day.

4. Assumption of Mary

A long tradition holds that when Mary died her body and soul were not separated; but, that she was taken up (or assumed) into heaven, body and soul. This means that her body never experienced corruption like the rest of us when we die. We see Mary as a sign of what our future holds—that one day our souls and bodies will be joined together in heaven where we will live forever with God as Mary does now.

5. Coronation of Mary

In this mystery, Mary is crowned the Queen of Heaven. We are told about that in the last book of the bible which is called Revelation. Mary is the Queen with the crown of twelve stars. Throughout history in the Kingdoms of the world, the mother of the King was an important and influential figure. Given that in the ancient times Kings often had many wives rather than just one, it made sense to honour the mother of the King as the Queen of the Kingdom. If Jesus is the King of Kings, then his mother, Mary, is our Queen.

Narrator's Comment

We've already seen that the people of Israel are always going out to the wilderness— or desert—to encounter God. Before he began his public ministry, his work, Jesus went out there too.

The Temptation of Jesus in the Desert

After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the desert to pray. For forty days He ate nothing. But when the forty days were ended, He was famished.

At that moment Satan came to Jesus to tempt Him. "If You are the Son of God" said he, "command that these stones become loaves of bread."

Jesus answered, "Not by bread alone does man live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."

Then Satan led Jesus to Jerusalem, the holy city, and brought Him to the top of a high tower on the Temple and said to Him, "Now show that You are the Son of God by throwing Yourself down to the ground. You know that it is written in the book of Psalms, 'He shall give His angels charge over You; and upon their hands they shall bear You up, lest You dash Your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered, "It is written further, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

Satan led Him to the top of a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world. Then he said, "All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me."

But Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! It is written, 'The Lord your God shall you worship and Him alone shall you serve.'"

When Satan found that Jesus would not listen to him, he left Him. Then the angels of God came to Jesus in the desert and waited on Him.

Narrator's Comment

Jesus travelled around the country teaching the people and preaching the Good News. Many people came to listen to him.

The Sermon on the Mount (The Beatitudes)

On the mountain Jesus preached to his disciples and to the great crowd of people who had gathered there. Jesus spoke of the kingdom of God and how people must live who become members of it.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people hate you, and persecute you, and, speaking falsely, say all manner of evil against you, for My sake. Rejoice and exult, because your reward is great in heaven; for so did they persecute the prophets who were before you.”

Narrator's Comment

Jesus taught and preached for 3 years and he often taught in parables—simple stories intended to illustrate a lesson. One of the most famous is the story of the Good Samaritan. The Samaritans were people who lived in Israel and believed in the same God, but they did not worship at the Temple in Jerusalem. Because of this, they were not considered part of the people and nation of Israel. They were outsiders, outcasts, and looked down upon.

The Good Samaritan

At that time one of the Scribes – men who wrote copies of the books of the Old Testament, studied them, and taught them – came to Jesus and asked Him a question, “Master, what must I do to gain eternal life?”

Jesus said to the Scribe, “What is written in the Commandments?”

The Scribe answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul, and with your whole strength, and with your whole mind; and your neighbour as yourself.”

Jesus said to him, “You have answered right; do this and you shall have everlasting life.”

But the man was not satisfied. He asked another question, “And who is my neighbour?”

To answer this question, Jesus told the story of “The Good Samaritan.” He said, “A certain man was going down the lonely road from Jerusalem to Jericho and he fell among robbers. They stripped him of all that he had and beat him, and then went away, leaving him almost dead. It happened that a certain priest was going down that road; and when he saw the man lying there, he passed by on the other side. And a Levite also (one of the holy men who served at the Temple), when he came to the place and saw the man, he too went by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he was going down, came where this man was; and as soon as he saw him, he felt pity for him. He came to the man and dressed his wounds, pouring oil and wine into them. Then he lifted him up, set him on his own beast of burden, and walked beside him to an inn. There he took care of him all night. The next morning he took out from his purse two coins and gave them to the keeper of the inn and

said, 'Take care of him; and if you need to spend more than this do so; and when I come again, I will pay it to you.'

“Which one of these three do you think showed himself a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?”

The Scribe said, “The one who showed mercy to him.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do in like manner.”

Narrator's Comment

Perhaps the most beloved of the parables Jesus taught, the story of the Prodigal Son is really all about the forgiving Father.

The Prodigal Son

There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the property." And when the father had given him his share, the young man went to a distant country and spent the money foolishly.

And when he had spent all he had, there was a severe famine in that country, and he became hungry. So he got a job as a keeper of pigs. For food he had to be satisfied with what was left over after the pigs had finished eating.

When he came to his right mind, he said to himself, "How many of my father's servants have enough to eat and to spare, and here I am dying of hunger. I will go back to my father, and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you, and am no longer worthy to be called your son. Let me be a hired servant in your house.'"

So he started homeward. But while he was still a long way off, the father saw him. The father ran to meet him, and kissed him and held him tightly. "Father, I have done wrong in the sight of God, and of you!" cried the boy; "I am not worthy to be called your son."

But the father said to his servants, "Bring out the best clothes and put them on him, and put a ring on his finger, and shoes on his feet, and let us feast and be glad today, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found!" And they had a great feast.

But the elder son had been out in the field all the while, and now he came near to the house.

"How many years have I obeyed you," said the elder son to his father, "and you never even gave me a young goat to eat with my friends. But now that this rascal comes back after wasting all your money, you give a grand feast for him!"

"Son," said his father, "you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. Let us be happy and rejoice, for your brother was dead, and has come to life; he was lost, and is found."

Narrator's Comment

During Jesus' ministry, he also performed many miracles and healings. One of these involved some people suffering from leprosy. What the Bible calls leprosy was a very contagious and disfiguring skin disease. People who caught it were excluded from the community.

The Ten Lepers

As Jesus was entering a certain village on His way to Jerusalem, ten lepers met Him. They were not allowed to live among other people because of their disease, so they stood far away and cried out with a loud voice, "Jesus, master, have pity on us."

And when Jesus saw them He had pity on them and told them to come closer. He then said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests that they may declare that you are clean again and cured of your disease."

On their way they were cured. They were so happy that they did not even think of coming back to Jesus to thank Him. Only one of them, seeing that he was made clean, returned and bowed low before Jesus and thanked Him with all his heart. And he was not even a Jew, but a Samaritan. (Remember, Samaritans were considered outcasts by the people of Israel).

Then Jesus asked, "Were not the ten made clean? But where are the nine? Did no one come back and thank God except this foreigner?"

And Jesus said to him, "Arise, go your way, for your faith has saved you."

Narrator's Comments

Remember from the Old Testament, the miracle of the Manna – God did not let his people go hungry in the desert. Jesus also made sure that his followers were fed.

The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes

One day, when Jesus saw how eager the crowds were to hear Him, he took pity on them, and spent time teaching them and healing the sick. Toward evening, some of the apostles asked Jesus to send the crowd away, for it was near their suppertime.

But Jesus said to them, “They need not go away. You can give them food to eat.”

Philip, an apostle, looked at the great crowd, over five thousand men, besides women and children, and he said, “We don’t have enough money to buy bread enough to give everyone even a little piece.”

Then another of the apostles, Andrew, Peter’s brother, said to Jesus, “There is a boy here who has five loaves of barley bread and two dried fishes. But what use would they be among so many people?”

Jesus said to the apostles, “Go out among the people and divide them into groups of fifty and a hundred, and tell them to sit down.”

So the people all sat down upon the green grass, and they watched Jesus as He took into His hands the five loaves and the two fishes which the boy had brought. He looked up to heaven to thank His Father and blessed the food. He then broke the loaves and the dried fishes and gave the pieces to the apostles. They went among the people and gave to everyone bread and fish, as much as each needed. So they all ate and had enough.

Then Jesus said, “Gather up the pieces of food that are left, so that nothing may be wasted.”

Twelve baskets of food were left. The crowds rushed toward our Lord to take Him and force Him to be their king. But he hid Himself from the people.

Narrator's Comment

One of the most amazing things about Jesus was the way he treated sinners.

The Adulteress

Early one morning, Jesus went to the Temple and the people started coming to Him. Sitting down in the Temple precinct, He began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees came and brought a woman before Him. They said, "Master, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. According to the Law, Moses commanded such women to be stoned to death. What do You have to say about her?"

They were asking this question to trap Jesus, so that they could accuse Him of something.

Jesus stooped down and began to write with His finger in the dust of the ground. When they continued to ask their question, Jesus straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who has never sinned throw the first stone at her."

Then Jesus stooped down again and continued writing with His finger on the ground. One by one Scribes and the Pharisees drifted away, beginning with the elders. This left Jesus alone with the woman, who continued to stand before Him.

"Where are they all?" He asked. "Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, Sir," she said.

"Neither do I condemn you," said Jesus to her. "Go home and do not sin again."

Narrator's Comment

Jesus was not a hermit – he had many good friends in his life, both men and women.

Jesus with Martha and Mary (Lazarus Raised From the Dead)

While Jesus was teaching in Jerusalem, He often went out of the city to the village of Bethany, on the Mount of Olives. There He stayed with the family of Martha, her sister Mary, and their brother Lazarus. These were friends of Jesus, and He loved to be with them.

One day, while Jesus was at their house, Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, listening to His words. Martha was busy with work and full of cares. She went back and forth, preparing food and arranging the house. When Martha saw Mary, she said to Jesus, “Lord, is it right that my sister should leave me to do the work alone? Tell her to help me.”

But Jesus said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; and yet only one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the best part, and it will not be taken away from her.”

* * *

Another time, Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus that Lazarus, their brother, was sick. Two days later Lazarus died.

Now Martha heard that Jesus was coming, and she went to meet Him.

Jesus said to her, “Your brother shall be alive again.”

“I know that he will be alive again in the resurrection, at the last day,” said Martha.

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me, even if he die, shall live; and whoever lives and believes in Me, shall never die. Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Master,” said Martha, “I believe that You are the Christ, Son of God.”

Now Mary came and bowed in sorrow at the feet of Jesus. And seeing her tears and the grief of friends who stood there, Jesus wept.

And he came to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone at the entrance.

“Take away the stone,” said Jesus.

“But, Master!” cried Martha, “Lazarus has been dead and in the tomb for the past four days! He will stink!”

Jesus said, “Have I not said to you, ‘Believe, and you will see the glory of God?’”

So they moved away the stone. And Jesus turned to God in prayer. “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I know that You always hear Me; yet I say this because of the people standing here, so that they may believe that You sent Me.”

Then He called with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!”

And the man who had been dead came out, though his hands and feet were still wrapped with linen. Jesus said to those who were near, “Unbind him, and set him free.”

Narrator's Comment

Jesus' followers didn't always understand all of His teaching completely. So when Jesus was crucified and buried, they were frightened and confused. Where was the kingdom that Jesus preached about? How could their teacher be dead? But Jesus did not let them down.

Jesus Appears to Two Disciples

The Sunday after Jesus had died and was buried, two followers of Jesus were walking out of Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus. One of the men was called Cleopas. While they were talking over the happenings of the week, they saw that a stranger was walking beside them. It was Jesus, their risen Lord, but they did not know him.

They spoke of the way Jesus was crucified, and then said, "But we were hoping that it was he who should redeem Israel, and this is the third day since these things happened."

Then the stranger said to them, "Did not the Christ have to suffer these things before entering into His glory?"

Then, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them those passages throughout the Scriptures that were about Himself. He talked until they came to the town of Emmaus, where the two men were going to stay. Jesus gave the impression that He meant to go on farther, but they stopped Him with the words, "Do stay with us. It is nearly evening and soon the day will be over."

After Cleopas and his friend prepared some food, the three of them sat down to supper. Jesus blessed the bread and gave it to them. All at once their eyes were opened, and they saw that it was Jesus. While they looked, He vanished from their sight.

Cleopas and his friend looked at one another and said, "Were not our hearts burning inside us as He talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven apostles and the entire company assembled.

The two disciples were greeted with, "The Lord has been raised! It is true! He has appeared to Simon." Then they recounted what had happened on the road and how they had come to know the Lord in the breaking of bread.

Narrator's Comment

After his resurrection and his ascension to heaven, Jesus' apostles continued to preach the Good News, but mostly only to other Jews. Jesus wanted the whole world to know his message, though, so he called one more apostle – Saul whom we know as St. Paul.

The Conversion of St. Paul—Video Clip

“The Conversion of Paul -- Lego”

3:16 minutes

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lNKyJiE6Wp4>

Narrator's Comment

These are the stories that we think are important, but there are thousands more throughout the Bible. Are there any that you want to talk about? Any stories you want to tell or want to hear?