

# The Essential 100

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## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. The passages are usually one to two chapters in length and can easily be read in 10 minutes or less.

One-page plan: Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

## The Schedule: In the Beginning

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
January 2	Creation	Genesis 1:1	Genesis 1-2	Jim Fleming
January 9	The Fall	Genesis 3:1	Genesis 3	Jim Fleming
January 16	The Flood	Genesis 6:17	Genesis 6-7	Barry Cole
January 23	God's Covenant with Noah	Genesis 9:8-11	Genesis 8-9:17	David Barber
January 30	The Tower of Babel	Genesis 11:5-7	Genesis 11:1-9	Jim Fleming

## Sunday school class timeline

8:50: Breakfast ready (January 9: open, January 16: open, January 23: Goble/Archer, January 30: open)

9:07: Announcements (let me know prior to a Sunday if you have an announcement)

9:10: Lesson

9:40: Prayer requests at each table

9:45: Dismiss

9:50: Room cleared

# In the Beginning: Creation

## Preview: Meet the Author



Things to look out for that tell us about God: (1) He sets the stage for the rest of the Bible, (2) He takes the \_\_\_\_\_, (3) He \_\_\_\_\_, (4) He \_\_\_\_\_, and (5) He is pleased

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 1-2 (Author = Moses)

### Genesis 1

**1 In the beginning God** [the Hebrew is *elohim*—a plural name for God indicating multiple persons] **created** [*ex nihilo*—out of \_\_\_\_\_] **the heavens and the earth.**

**16 Then God made two great** [intense] **lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also** [there are ~\_\_\_\_,000 stars for every grain of sand on the earth].

**26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image** [image, likeness, resemblance—the Hebrew root word is, ‘shade,’ so the idea is that man is a \_\_\_\_\_ of God],

**28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful** [imperative #1: \_\_\_\_\_] **and multiply** [imperative #2: \_\_\_\_\_]; **fill the earth** [imperative #3: \_\_\_\_\_] **and subdue it** [imperative #4: \_\_\_\_\_]; **have dominion** [imperative #5: \_\_\_\_\_] **over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”**

### Genesis 2

**23** The first recorded words out of Adam’s mouth were \_\_\_\_\_

**24 Therefore a man shall leave** [let go and leave] **his father and mother and be joined to** [stick with and join] **his wife, and they shall become one flesh** [one body].

Marriage is \_\_\_\_\_ what God has already \_\_\_\_\_.

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Our words should be trustworthy
2. Taking initiative is being like God
3. Emptiness is not part of God’s design
4. Inspecting good work is pleasing

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Acknowledge that God created it all and that it is all about Him
2. Understand that I am not God
3. Realize that if I want to know God, I must \_\_\_\_\_ His book

# In the Beginning: The Fall

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## Review of last week: Meet the Author

Review of last week: God set the stage for the rest of the Bible by showing us that He was trustworthy, He takes initiative, He fills, He inspects, and He is pleased.

## Preview: Eyes Wide Open

Key thought for today's lesson: \_\_\_\_\_ has a profound effect on our relationships with God and others.

Things to look out for that tell us about God: (1) He \_\_\_\_\_ man alone, (2) He \_\_\_\_\_, (3) He judges, (4) He intervenes, and (5) He \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 3 (Author = Moses)

**2** Eve \_\_\_\_\_ to what God said.

**7** Result of sin: \_\_\_\_\_

**8** Result of sin: \_\_\_\_\_

**10** Result of sin: \_\_\_\_\_

**12** Result of sin: \_\_\_\_\_

**13** Result of sin: \_\_\_\_\_

**14** Result of sin: lower \_\_\_\_\_ (to the animal, not the Devil)

**16** Result of sin: \_\_\_\_\_

**17** Result of sin: cursed \_\_\_\_\_

**19** Result of sin: \_\_\_\_\_

**21** Result of sin: when I sin, something has to \_\_\_\_\_

**24** Result of sin: \_\_\_\_\_

How does Jesus deal with the results of sin? He takes care of all of them.

**Result of sin (not a comprehensive list)**

- Innocence lost
- Hiding from God
- Fear
- Avoidance
- Blame
- Lower status
- Pain
- Cursed earth
- Death
- Something has to bleed
- Separation

**Jesus' action**

- Innocence restored (**2 Corinthians 5:17**)
- Hiding in God (**Colossians 3:3**)
- No fear (**Luke 12:7**)
- Acceptance (**Matthew 11:28**)
- Blameless (**1 Corinthians 1:7-8**)
- Raised status (**1 Corinthians 15:52**)
- No pain (**Revelation 21:4**)
- New earth (**Revelation 21:1**)
- Newness of life (**Romans 6:4**)
- Jesus' blood being shed (**Luke 22:20**)
- No separation (**Ephesians 2:14**)

**Apply (What is the point?)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ changed everything
2. God intervenes
3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

**Personalize (What do I do with that?)**

1. Acknowledge that I am a sinner
2. Acknowledge that God is still intervening
3. Trust Jesus (say no to sin and yes to Jesus)



# In the Beginning: The Flood

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## Preview: Eyes Wide Shut

Key thought for today's lesson: \_\_\_\_\_ has a profound effect on our relationships with God and others.

Things to look out for that tell us about God: (1) He \_\_\_\_\_ man alone, (2) He \_\_\_\_\_, (3) He judges, (4) He intervenes, and (5) He \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 6-7 (Author = Moses)

**6:3** God was \_\_\_\_\_

**6:5** God saw that man was \_\_\_\_\_

**6:6** God was \_\_\_\_\_

**6:8** Noah was \_\_\_\_\_

**6:13** God told Noah \_\_\_\_\_

**6:14** Noah said \_\_\_\_\_

**7:5** Noah \_\_\_\_\_ God commanded

**7:13** God \_\_\_\_\_

**7:17** It \_\_\_\_\_

Why did God pick Noah?

How did Noah respond to God?

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. Sin \_\_\_\_\_ everything
2. God intervenes
3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Like Noah, are you surrounded by sin?
2. How do you resist temptation?
3. Does God still judge today?

## For further reflection

Despite the world devolving into horrendous evil so wicked that His only recourse is destruction, “God remembers Noah.” The, “**Seed of woman**,” (**Genesis 3:15**) will not be completely annihilated, an event that would render God’s promise of a Savior void.

## Chiasmus (inverted parallelism)

A little Hebrew poetry, chiasmus, to which Jim frequently refers:

A Noah (**6:10a**)

\_\_\_ B Shem, Ham, and Japheth (**6:10b**)

\_\_\_ C Ark to be built (**6:14-16**)

\_\_\_ D Flood announced (**6:17**)

\_\_\_ E Covenant with Noah (**6:18-20**)

\_\_\_ F Food in the ark (**6:21**)

\_\_\_ G Command to enter the ark (**7:1-3**)

\_\_\_ H 7 days waiting for flood (**7:4-5**)

\_\_\_ I 7 days waiting for flood (**7:7-10**)

\_\_\_ J Entry to ark (**7:11-15**)

\_\_\_ K YHWH shuts Noah in (**7:16**)

\_\_\_ L 40 days flood (**7:17a**)

\_\_\_ M Waters increase (**7:17b-18**)

\_\_\_ N Mountains covered (**7:19-20**)

\_\_\_ O 150 days water prevail (**7:21-24**)

\_\_\_ P God remembers Noah (**8:1**)

\_\_\_ O’ 150 days waters abate (**8:3**)

\_\_\_ N’ Mountain tops visible (**8:4-5**)

\_\_\_ M’ Waters abate (**8:5**)

\_\_\_ L’ 40 days (end of) (**8:6a**)

\_\_\_ K’ Noah opens window of ark (**8:6b**)

\_\_\_ J’ Raven and dove leave ark (**8:7-9**)

\_\_\_ I’ 7 days waiting for waters to subside (**8:10-11**)

\_\_\_ H’ 7 days waiting for waters to subside (**8:12-13**)

\_\_\_ G’ Command to leave ark (**8:15-17, 22**)

\_\_\_ F’ Food outside ark (**9:1-4**)

\_\_\_ E’ Covenant with all flesh (**9:8-10**)

\_\_\_ D’ No flood in the future (**9:11-17**)

\_\_\_ C’ Ark (**9:18a**)

\_\_\_ B’ Shem, Ham and Japheth (**9:18b**)

A’ Noah (**9:19**)

# In the Beginning: God's Covenant with Noah

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## Preview: Never Again

**Key Thought:** God's \_\_\_\_\_ overcomes our sin ([Genesis 8:1-9:17](#))

**Overview:** Noah and his family were free from the smelly \_\_\_\_\_, but were they free from the stench of \_\_\_\_\_? At this point, a \_\_\_\_\_ would be the symbol of His love. Later He would say it in \_\_\_\_\_.

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 8-9:17 (Author = Moses)

### Covenant Basics:

1. Covenant Theology: just \_\_\_\_\_ to organize scripture—Calvinism
2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ major covenants (see reverse side of the handout)
3. Conditional and \_\_\_\_\_ covenants—the Noahic Covenant is unconditional

### Pre-Covenant:

1. Population estimate at the time of the flood: \_\_\_\_\_ billion
2. Sin is still very \_\_\_\_\_. Noah recognized sin's existence and sacrificed ([Genesis 8:20](#))
3. God recognized the \_\_\_\_\_ of man ([Genesis 8:21](#))
4. Sinfulness of man associated to the \_\_\_\_\_

### Noahic Covenant:

1. Blesses/Commands Noah and his sons to be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and populate ([Genesis 9:1-7](#))
2. Places all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ under human command ([Genesis 9:2-3](#))
3. Forbids eating \_\_\_\_\_ with the blood still in it ([Genesis 9:4](#))
4. Forbids \_\_\_\_\_ ([Genesis 9:5](#))
5. Says that violent men will be repaid by \_\_\_\_\_ ([Genesis 9:6](#))
6. Promises that he will never again destroy all life on earth by \_\_\_\_\_ ([Genesis 9:11](#))
7. Creates the \_\_\_\_\_ as the sign of this covenant for all ages to come ([Genesis 9:12-17](#))
8. **Challenge:** God \_\_\_\_\_ it. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ it.
9. **The Greatest News:** The \_\_\_\_\_ Covenant in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice: our new covenant ([Matthew 26:26-28](#))
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ is the fulfillment of all covenants ([Hebrews 8:6-13](#))

## Apply (What is the point?) & Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Biblical history is a massive example of the insufficiency of man to meet God's \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Some feel that all would \_\_\_\_\_ if we could just find the Ark ([Luke 16:19-31](#)).

## Major Covenants – Basics of Covenant Theology

### 1. Abrahamic Covenant ([Genesis 12:1-3](#))

**Parties:** God, Abraham and Abraham's "seed"

**Promises:** Land, "seed," blessing; "I will" type covenant

### 2. Mosaic Covenant ([Exodus 19:1-8](#))

**Parties:** God and the nation of Israel (the descendents of Abraham)

**Purpose:** set them apart as a kingdom of priests—fill them with His glory again ([Exodus 19:6](#))

**Promises:** Blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience ([Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-19](#))

**Nature:** Conditional and binding—Not "I will" but "if, then"

Ten Commandments = summary or "table of contents" for the hundreds of specific instructions

What commands? [Exodus 20:1-4, 7, 8, 12-17](#) (these are the foundation of the second covenant)

### 3. Davidic Covenant ([2 Samuel 7:8-16](#))

**Parties:** God, David, David's descendents

**Purpose:** Build a house and lineage for David, establishing his kingdom and throne forever

**Promises:** House (Davidic descendents), throne (right to rule), kingdom (a nation to rule)

**Nature:** irrevocable and everlasting promise—"I will" covenant—v 16 "forever"

We still have this overarching problem: enjoyment of the promises requires obedience, but no one wants to obey. Therefore, God adds a fourth and final covenant.

### 4. New Covenant ([Hebrews 8:8-1](#))

**Parties:** God, Israel, Judah

**Purpose:** Redemption of man. The Old Testament saints looked forward for the Messiah who would bring it. The New Testament saints looked backward. When does it begin? Death of Christ

**Promises:** spiritual enablement and physical blessings

Spiritual: New heart; sprinkled clean; God's Spirit; perfect obedience (ability and desire to obey)

Physical: similar to Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenant promises

**Nature:** irrevocable and everlasting promise—"I will" covenant

[Ezekiel 37](#) calls it an "everlasting covenant"

His blood inaugurates the New Covenant—celebrated in communion

#### New Relationship to:

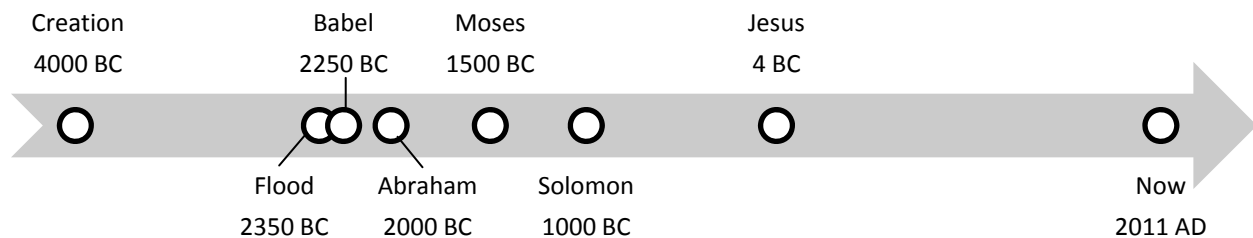
**Abrahamic:** Provides desire to obey and receive Abrahamic Covenant promises—problem fixed!

**Mosaic:** [Galatians 3:13](#): Christ's death fulfilled all of the Mosaic Covenant—He took all of its curses in our place—took one covenant and replaced it with the other. It is not a surprise, with New Covenant, we no longer need Mosaic Covenant!

**Davidic:** New Covenant provides a descendent of David to sit on the throne forever—the person who brings the New Covenant will be the eternal Davidic King (Jesus)

# In the Beginning: The Tower of Babel

## Review



## Preview: Can we talk?

**Key Thought:** The greatest of all sins is \_\_\_\_\_

**Overview:** Ever since the Fall, humans had increasingly chosen to go their own way instead of God's

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 9:1-11 (Author = Moses)

As with prior passages in [Genesis](#), [Genesis 11](#) probably did not follow [Genesis 10](#), but is likely a sidebar to help make sense of [Genesis 10](#) (much like [Genesis 1](#), [2](#), and [3](#) are intertwined).

**1** Now the whole earth had one language [literally, lip/edge] and one speech [speech, but also more broadly can be used for business/occupation]. **2** And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain [valley, plain] in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there [[Genesis 9:1](#) is still in effect—they were commanded to fill the \_\_\_\_\_, not to centralize in one place.]. **3** Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. **4** And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” [The real issue is that God was \_\_\_\_\_ considered or consulted. Man is not to make a name for himself, but to make a name for \_\_\_\_\_—to reflect His glory, not to build monuments to our own.]

**5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the LORD said, "Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.** [*probably* referring to the reaches to which their moral decay could get to] **7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse [mix, mingle] their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."** **8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.** [Frustration, humiliation, and pain are always the result of \_\_\_\_\_ God. **Proverbs 13:15**] **9 Therefore its name is called Babel** ['confusion' (by mixing)], **because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.** [Coffman: Regarding the wonder of HOW God confounded the languages, we simply have no information whatever. The will of God alone was sufficient to produce the conditions that He desired to appear.]

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ without proper direction is unprofitable
2. Planning without God's input is futile (**Genesis 11:3-4**)
3. Rebellion can occur anywhere (**David Guzik: Time, progress, government, and organization have made man *better* \_\_\_\_\_, but not *better***)
4. God \_\_\_\_\_ our work (**Genesis 11:5**)
5. A unified humanity is powerful (**Genesis 11:6**)—but with great \_\_\_\_\_ comes great responsibility
6. God \_\_\_\_\_ (**Genesis 11:8-9**)

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Challenge: Turn your back on pride and turn in humility to God
2. Get unified around the things that \_\_\_\_\_ God. Two examples:
  - **Acts 2:4-11**
  - EM: HE ([extremevisionhomes.com](http://extremevisionhomes.com)): Extreme \_\_\_\_\_ Partnership

### Preview: Next series

**Genesis 1-11** marks the first great division of **Genesis** and the conclusion of our first of twenty five-week series. In our Essential 100 overview of the entire Bible, we will alternate every \_\_\_\_\_ weeks between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The first New Testament series begins next Sunday and will focus on, The Living Word—the early life of Jesus up to the point where He begins His ministry. Once we finish that series, we will come back to **Genesis** to look at Abraham, Isaac, and \_\_\_\_\_.

# The Essential 100

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## The Schedule: The Early Years of Jesus

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
February 6	The Word became Flesh	John 1:14	John 1:1-18	Jim Fleming
February 13	Gabriel's Message	Luke 1:30-31	Luke 1:1-80	Terry Bolden
February 20	The Birth of Jesus	Luke 2:10-11	Luke 2:1-40	Jim Fleming
February 27	John the Baptist	Luke 3:15-16	Luke 3:1-20	Jim Fleming
March 6	Baptism and Temptation	Matthew 3:16-17	Matthew 3:13-4:17	Jim Fleming

## Sunday school class timeline

8:50: Breakfast ready (February 13: open, February 20: open, February 27: open—sign up to assist with breakfast at [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool))

9:07: Announcements (let me know prior to a Sunday if you have an announcement)

9:10: Lesson

9:40: Prayer requests at each table

9:45: Dismiss

9:50: Room cleared

# The Early Years of Jesus: The Word became Flesh

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## Preview: In the Beginning . . . Again

Jesus is God in the \_\_\_\_\_ sent for our salvation.

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): John 1:1-18 (Author = John)

**1** In the beginning [Genesis 1:1] was the Word [Logos], and the Word was with [near] God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made [see Hebrews 1:2 and Colossians 1:16]. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. [David Guzik: It isn't that the Word "contains" life and light; He *is* life and light. Therefore, without Jesus, we are \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_.] **5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend [means to put your hand on and to overcome] it.

**6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** This man came for a witness [martureo], to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. **8** He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. **9** That was the true [means to have the form \_\_\_\_\_ the substance] Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

**10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name [the \_\_\_\_\_ in four words]: **13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

**14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt [to pitch your tent or tabernacle] among us, and we beheld [carefully studied] His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**15** John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"

**16** And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. [The Old Testament centered on the Law of Moses (commandments). The New Testament centered on the Law of Christ (\_\_\_\_\_).] **18** No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

## Apply (What does it mean?)

1. The Logos is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in human flesh.
2. The Logos is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God with the glory of God in Him.
3. The Logos shows men \_\_\_\_\_ God is and \_\_\_\_\_ God is.

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in His name
2. Know: Logos = God = Life = Light = Jesus Christ



# The Early Years of Jesus: Gabriel's Message

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## Preview: Greetings!

You may feel too old, like Elizabeth ([Luke 1:18](#)), or too insignificant, like Mary ([Luke 1:48](#)), to make a difference. However, God can do incredible things ([Luke 1:37](#)) through people who are faithful and dependent on him ([Luke 1:6, 13, 50](#)). Having faith does not mean you will understand exactly what God is doing in your life. Faith is simply believing that God has the power to do anything ([Luke 1:37](#)) and then committing yourself to his way, no matter what happens ([Luke 1:38](#)).

Key thought: God uses persons of real faith, no matter what their \_\_\_\_\_ of life.

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Luke 1 (Author = Luke)

### The Birth Announcement of John (5-23)

**Zechariah's purpose:** To burn \_\_\_\_\_

#### Zechariah's heart

1. Righteous
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Humbled

#### Zechariah's experience

#### Zechariah's Response

### The Birth Announcement of Jesus (24-40)

Gabriel appears again in order to bring good news—this time of the Messiah's \_\_\_\_\_

#### Mary was humble

When referring to herself, she used the term “**maidservant**” (literally: female slave) in [Luke 1:38, 48](#)

#### Mary was obedient

### Mary's stay with Elizabeth (41-56)

How involved was God with the \_\_\_\_\_ of their lives?

1. John the Baptist was filled with the Spirit ([Luke 1:15, 41](#)) from \_\_\_\_\_

2. Elizabeth was filled with the Spirit (**Luke 1: 41**), recognized Mary carried the \_\_\_\_\_, encouraged her, and praised God
3. Mary was filled with the Spirit (and carrying the Lord Himself, **Luke 1:35, 44, 46-55**) and gives a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ discourse of Messianic Old Testament scriptures that Jesus will fulfill

### The Birth and Circumcision of John (57-80)

In obedience to Gabriel's pronouncement, they call him \_\_\_\_\_

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Take a look at whom God can use:
  - a. God used a couple who were too \_\_\_\_\_ (**Luke 1:18**)
  - b. God used a woman who was \_\_\_\_\_ (**Luke 1:43**)
  - c. God used a woman who was \_\_\_\_\_ (**Luke 1:48**)

Whatever excuse you prefer, it makes no difference to God. The better your excuse may seem, the greater the \_\_\_\_\_ brought to God.
2. **Luke 1** is full of those who experienced the presence of God. What was their response?
  - a. Gabriel, the one, "who stands in the presence of God" (**Luke 1:19**) is constantly bringing good news, giving \_\_\_\_\_ to God, and praising His name (compare **Daniel 9**)
  - b. Elizabeth, filled with the Spirit and entering the presence of the pre-born Messiah, gives \_\_\_\_\_ to God and shares testimony of His goodness (**Luke 1:41-45**)
  - c. Mary, filled with the Spirit and carrying the pre-born Messiah, \_\_\_\_\_ God, tells of His greatness, and gives Him glory (**Luke 1:46-55**)
  - d. Zachariah, filled with the Spirit, tells of the Messiah's coming and God uses him to prophecy regarding his own son, in turn bring the Lord \_\_\_\_\_

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Be \_\_\_\_\_ and allow God to use you (**Luke 1:38**)
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tell others of His goodness, mercy, love, and greatness. Give Him all the \_\_\_\_\_.

### Testimonies

# The Early Years of Jesus: The Birth of Jesus

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## Preview: Learning to count to one

Key thought: Meeting Jesus changes \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Luke 2:1-40 (Author = Luke)

**1** And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus [the first \_\_\_\_\_ of Rome] **that all the world** [the Roman world] **should be registered** [many translations say, 'taxed,' but the word is really the word for registered for a \_\_\_\_\_]. **2** **This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.** **3** **So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.**

**4** Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem [house of bread; \_\_\_\_ miles from Nazareth], **because he was of the house and lineage of David,** **5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife** [a strong form of a modern day \_\_\_\_\_], **who was with child** [the Greek is literally, 'big \_\_\_\_\_']. **6** **So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.** **7** **And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.**

**8** **Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch** [a \_\_\_\_-hour period] **over their flock by night .** **9** **And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them** [Jesus replaces darkness with \_\_\_\_\_], **and they were greatly afraid** [*megas phobeo*]. **10** **Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.** **11** **For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.** **12** **And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."**

**13** **And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:** **14** **"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"**

**15** **So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."** **16** **And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.** **17** **Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.** **18** **And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.** **19** **But Mary kept all these things and pondered** [meditated on] ***them* in her heart.** **20** **Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.**

**21 And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child** [Genesis 17:12—Jewish boys were circumcised on the eighth day], **His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb** [Matthew 1:21].

**22 Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed** [Leviticus 12 tells us this is \_\_\_\_ days after giving birth], **they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord** **23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD”), 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”** [The rich brought a \_\_\_\_\_ and the poor brought birds]

**25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law** [EasyEnglish: The parents had to pay money to the \_\_\_\_\_ for the first son. . . . to buy back the boy (Numbers 18:15-16)], **28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: 29 “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”**

**33 And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against 35 (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”**

**36 Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; 37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years** [life expectancy was only \_\_\_\_ years], **who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.**

**39 So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. 40 And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ to average, everyday people
2. People respond when Jesus arrives
3. God will bring about His \_\_\_\_\_
4. Little \_\_\_\_\_ can have a big impact

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Listen for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
2. Respond when you \_\_\_\_\_ it
3. Give God the glory when He works
4. Look for \_\_\_\_\_ in everything

# The Early Years of Jesus: John the Baptist

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## Preview: The world's greatest referral

Key thought: Anyone can have an \_\_\_\_\_ by pointing people to Jesus

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Luke 3:1-20 (Author = Luke)

### John the Baptist Prepares the Way

**1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar** [the \_\_\_\_\_ Roman emperor], **Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,** **2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests** [28 or 29 AD], **the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness** [John was \_\_\_\_\_].

John the Baptist opens his mouth and he \_\_\_\_\_ people to Jesus.

**3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission** [Remission is a medical term meaning a disease is relaxing—repentance brings about the relaxing of the impacts of sin] **of sins** [the repentance (changing of the mind) saved, not the baptism, but the baptism was new, so it was what was focused on], **4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah** [Isaiah 40:3-5a] **the prophet, saying:**

***“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:***

***‘Prepare the way of the LORD;***

***Make His paths straight.*** [John’s job was to \_\_\_\_\_ the way for the Messiah]

***5 Every valley shall be filled***

***And every mountain and hill brought low;***

***The crooked places shall be made straight***

***And the rough ways smooth;***

***6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”***

### John Preaches to the People

**7 Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 9 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”** [John was talking to the religious and to those that thought that the faith of their \_\_\_\_\_ would be enough for them. Your eternal destiny is decided by \_\_\_\_\_.]

**10 So the people asked him** [they asked repeatedly], **saying, “What shall we do then?” 11 He answered and said to them, “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.”** John was telling them to be \_\_\_\_\_.]

**12 Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."** [John was telling them to be \_\_\_\_\_ in their business.]

**14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."** [John tells them to be \_\_\_\_\_.]

**15 Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not, 16 John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."** [Jesus will separate you into two groups—the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. John speaks the truth about \_\_\_\_\_.]

**18 And with many other exhortations he preached to the people. 19 But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, 20 also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison.** [John speaks the truth about \_\_\_\_\_.]

### Luke 7:18-19, 22-23 (John's question)

**23 And blessed is he who is not offended** [Greek = scandalized (tripped up)] **because of Me."** [John was in prison in [Luke 7](#). There are no \_\_\_\_\_.]

#### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God uses \_\_\_\_\_ people
2. Jesus is the One
3. Tomorrow can be \_\_\_\_\_

#### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. God wants to use me \_\_\_\_\_
2. My story is \_\_\_\_\_
3. I must be obedient now

### Extra

#### God's will requires:

1. Jesus to give Himself for us ([Galatians 1:3-5](#))
2. Jesus to pray for us ([Romans 8:26-27](#))

#### God's will:

1. Saves ([John 1:12-13](#))
2. Allows God to hear you ([John 9:30-31](#))

#### God's will is for you to:

1. Be baptized ([Luke 7:29-30](#))
2. Be called ([1 Corinthians 1:1](#))
3. Sacrifice yourself ([Romans 12:1-2](#))
4. Be obedient ([Ephesians 6:5-7](#))
5. Do good ([1 Peter 2:15-16](#))
6. Be giving ([2 Corinthians 8:4-5](#))
7. Pray/give thanks ([1 Thessalonians 5:17-18](#))
8. Abstain ([1 Thessalonians 4:3-4](#))
9. Suffer ([1 Peter 3:17-18; 4:19](#))
10. Complete the work ([Colossians 4:12-13](#))

# The Early Years of Jesus: Baptism and Temptation

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## Preview:

Key thought: Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ with us through His baptism and His temptations

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Matthew 3:13-4:17 (Author = Matthew)

### John Baptizes Jesus (parallel passages of Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:29-33)

Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_

**13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent** [in the imperfect sense, meaning he repeatedly did this] **Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"**

**15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."** [Why did Jesus have to be baptized? To fulfill righteousness] **Then he allowed Him.**

**16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water** [Jesus' baptism was by immersion]; **and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.** [The dove is a common symbol of the Holy Spirit in religious \_\_\_\_\_]

**17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am** [in the aorist tense, which means true all time periods] **well pleased."**

All three members of the \_\_\_\_\_ show up at one time to attest to the fact that Jesus is God

## Matthew 4

### Satan Tempts Jesus (parallel passages of Mark 1:12-13 and Luke 4:1-13)

**1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted** [Coffman: Temptation is in itself no sin. . . . It is not temptation to do wrong that constitutes sin, but \_\_\_\_\_ to that temptation. The bottom line is that the Spirit meant it for \_\_\_\_\_ and the devil meant it for \_\_\_\_\_.] **by the devil** [the slanderer, the accuser]. **2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If** [first 'if'] **You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread** [The lust of the \_\_\_\_\_.]."

**4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"**

**5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple** [The lust of the \_\_\_\_\_], **6 and said to Him, "If** [second 'if'] **You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:**

*'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, [The devil \_\_\_\_\_ scripture]*

*'In their hands they shall bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'*" [Psalm 91:11-12]

**7** Jesus said to him, "It is written again, *'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'*" [Deuteronomy 6:16]

**8** Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. [The \_\_\_\_\_ of life] **9** And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if [third 'if'] *You will fall down and worship me.*" [The devil was offering Jesus a \_\_\_\_\_]

**10** Then Jesus said [said, not argued] to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, *'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'*" [Deuteronomy 6:13]

**11** Then the devil left Him [Jesus won! Love always \_\_\_\_\_], and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

### Jesus Begins His Galilean Ministry

**12** Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. **13** And leaving Nazareth [Jesus' hometown], He came and dwelt in Capernaum [Jesus was leaving Lower Galilee and heading to Upper Galilee], which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, **14** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

**15** *"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles:*

**16** *The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,  
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
Light has dawned."* [Isaiah 8:21-9:2]

**17** From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent [an imperative meaning to change your \_\_\_\_\_], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jesus is God
3. The devil tempts
4. Scripture is the \_\_\_\_\_ to the devil's temptations

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Follow Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_
2. Know Scripture well enough to \_\_\_\_\_



# The Essential 100

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## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. The passages are usually one to two chapters in length and can easily be read in 10 minutes or less.

One-page plan: Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

## The Schedule: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

This series is about the patriarchs of the Bible.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
March 13	The Call of Abram	Genesis 12:1-3	Genesis 12:1-20	Terry Bolden
March 20	God's Covenant with Abram	Genesis 15:5-6	Genesis 15:1-21	Tim Archer
March 27	Isaac's Birth and "Sacrifice"	Genesis 22:11-12	Genesis 21:1-22:19	David Barber
April 3	Jacob and Esau Compete	Genesis 27:36	Genesis 27:1-28:22	Jim Fleming
April 10	Jacob and Esau Reconcile	Genesis 33:4	Genesis 32:1-33:20	Jim Fleming

## Sunday school class timeline

8:50: Breakfast ready

9:07: Announcements (let Jim know prior to a Sunday if you have an announcement)

9:10: Lesson

9:40: Prayer requests at each table

9:45: Dismiss

9:50: Room cleared

# Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: The Call of Abram

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## Preview: Why me?

During his seventy-five years, Abram had cultivated the habit of listening for God's voice and obeying it. In addition, Abram frequently took time to remember what God had done and to deepen his relationship with him (**Genesis 12:7-8**). Therefore, when God said, "Leave" (**Genesis 12:1**), Abram left even when the destination was unknown. Because Abram spent time seeking God, he was ready for God's call. That is a good example for us to follow, too.

Key thought: God will \_\_\_\_\_ those who trust and obey Him

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 12 (Author = Moses)

### Promises to Abram

#### 1 Now the LORD had said to Abram:

**"Get out of your country,  
From your family  
And from your father's house,  
To a land that I will show you.**

Why \_\_\_\_\_? Why the \_\_\_\_\_? Why \_\_\_\_\_? Why \_\_\_\_\_?

#### 2 I will make you a great nation;

**I will bless you**

**And make your name great;** [We are still talking about Abraham's greatness and faith \_\_\_\_\_ years later]

**And you shall be a blessing.**

In **Genesis 11**, we see man's plan; but in **Genesis 12**, God shares His plan.

#### 3 I will bless those who bless you,

**And I will curse him who curses you;**

**And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."** [This is a clear reference giving the promise of the \_\_\_\_\_ ]

### Why Abram?

So what made Abram so special that God would call him? In **Acts 7:2-4**, Stephen states the call of Abram occurred before he lived in Haran (meaning the Ur of the Chaldees). However, **Genesis 12** occurred in Haran. **Genesis 11:31-32** says that Abram went to Haran after being called and lived there until Terah died. Abram was not immediately obedient. God has to call him again in **Genesis 12**.

**4 So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him [Acts 7:2-4—the second time?], and Lot went with him [Why did Lot go with him?]. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from**

**Haran. 5 Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran [God is already prospering him], and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. 6 Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.**

**7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." [Abraham never owned any \_\_\_\_\_ in his lifetime, except the burial cave he purchased] And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent [He lived in a \_\_\_\_\_ his entire life also] with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. 9 So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.**

### Abram in Egypt

**10 Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land. [Why? God did not tell him to go to Egypt.] 11 And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance [Sarai is \_\_\_\_\_ years old]. 12 Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13 Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you." [Is this an acceptable half-lie?]**

**14 So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful. 15 The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh's house. 16 He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.**

**17 But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife [sin \_\_\_\_\_ affects others]. 18 And Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister'? I might have taken her as my wife. Now therefore, here is your wife; take her and go your way." 20 So Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had. Abram did not start out as a great man of faith—his faith grew—just like ours does.**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Many of God's promises \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham were never seen \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham.
2. God's call was because of \_\_\_\_\_, not because Abraham deserved it.
3. God still calls Abrahams today (every day) to a life of faithfulness.

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Do not live life based on what God has done for me lately.
2. Trust Him at His word, rest in His promises, and obey as if you \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

# Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: God's Covenant with Abram

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## Preview: He feels your pain

Key thought: Nothing is impossible with God

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 15 (Author = Moses)

Note: Outline and green commentary taken from **David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible**

### A. God speaks to Abram's fears and doubts with a promise.

#### 1. (vs. 1) The word of the LORD comes to Abram in a vision.

- a. How does **the word of the LORD** come to us? In the Bible?
- c. **Your shield . . . your . . . reward:** Abram needed a \_\_\_\_\_ because he was expecting to be attacked.
  - i. God \_\_\_\_\_ more than make up what Abram has given up for the Lord.
  - ii. God \_\_\_\_\_ how to become the answer to our need.
- d. **Do not be afraid:** God \_\_\_\_\_ tells us, "**do not be afraid**," without giving us a reason.

#### 2. (vss. 2-3) Abram honestly expresses his \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. **Lord GOD, what will You give me:** God's promise seemed to ring hollow in Abram's ears.
  - i. It is almost as if Abram [\_\_\_\_\_], "Lord, You've given me lots of stuff, and now promise to give me more, and to protect me. . . . I want the son You promised me!"
- b. **Look, You have given me no offspring:** Abram was \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord.

#### 3. (vss. 4-5) God speaks to Abram's doubts with a promise.

- a. **This one shall not be your heir:** God reminds Abram of the promise \_\_\_\_\_ recorded in **Genesis 12:2** and **13:15-16**.
- c. **From your own body:** It wasn't a \_\_\_\_\_ descendant who would inherit the promise.

#### 4. (vs. 6) Abram's \_\_\_\_\_ [of faith] to God's promise.

- a. **And he believed in the LORD:** When Abram put his \_\_\_\_\_ in God . . . in God's promise
- b. **And He accounted it to him for righteousness:** This is one of the clearest expressions in the Bible of the truth of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_, through \_\_\_\_\_. This is the

first time *believe . . . righteousness* is used in the Bible. It is the gospel in the Old Testament.  
**Romans 4:1-3, 9-10, 19-24**

- c. **He accounted it to him for righteousness:** **Romans 4:9-10 . . . righteousness** was accounted to Abram before he was \_\_\_\_\_ (**Genesis 17**). Faith alone . . . caused God to account Abram as righteous.
  - i. [Justification] is the chief article from which all other doctrines have flowed. [Luther]
- d. **He believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness:** The faith making Abram righteous wasn't so much believing *in* God . . . as it was *believing God*. **James 2:19**

## B. God speaks to Abram's doubt with a covenant.

1. (vss. 7-8) Abram's doubts surface again.
2. (vss. 9-11) Abram \_\_\_\_\_ to make a covenant with God.
  - b. But Abram knew exactly what to do with these animals: **he . . . cut them in two . . . and placed each piece opposite the other**. . . . God was telling Abram to get a contract ready for signing.
    - i. In those days, contracts were made by the sacrificial cutting of animals. . . . Both parties . . . would walk through the animal parts together, repeating the terms of the covenant.
    - iii. Symbolism . . . first, this is a covenant so serious it is sealed with \_\_\_\_\_; second, if I break this covenant, let this same bloodshed be poured out on my animals and me!
3. (vss. 12-16) Prologue to the covenant.
  - a. At the end of the day, God has still not \_\_\_\_\_
4. (vss. 17-21) The covenant is made.
  - a. Abram . . . sees God . . . pass through the animal parts all by \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. God represents Himself by two emblems: **a smoking oven and a burning torch**.
  - c. The **smoking oven** and the **burning torch** . . . showed this was a \_\_\_\_\_ covenant.
  - d. By entering into this contract, there is a sense in which God was saying, "If I don't keep My word, let *Me* be put asunder." God was putting His \_\_\_\_\_ on the line.

## Apply (What is the point?)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

# Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: Isaac's Birth and "Sacrifice"

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## Preview: Strange but true

God tells Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac ([Genesis 22:2](#)) and Abraham wastes no time obeying. As the tension mounts in front of the altar, Abraham unwittingly prophesies God's plan of salvation when he says, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering." ([Genesis 22:8](#)). God did provide the lamb for Abraham. He also provided the Lamb, his only son Jesus Christ as the once and for all sacrifice for our sins.

Key thought: Abraham's "sacrifice" foreshadows God's sacrifice of Jesus

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 21:1-21; 22:1-19 (Author = Moses)

1. Amazing birth of Isaac ([Genesis 21:1-7](#))
  - a. God speaks to Abraham and Sarah – Birth of Isaac ([Genesis 21:1-4](#))

This was not Abraham's only son. His first son was Ishmael through Hagar through lack of faith expressed by Abraham.
  - b. Abraham and Sarah's advanced age([Genesis 21:5-7](#))

Isaac means laughing one. Abraham is 100. Sarah is at least 90.
2. Hagar and Ishmael Depart ([Genesis 21:8-21](#))
  - a. Isaac comes of age and is weaned ([Genesis 21:8](#))

The great feast was due to a major mortality milestone being passed
  - b. Abraham listens to Sarah ([Genesis 21:9-12](#))

Sarah saw Ishmael for what he represented – lack of faith by Abraham  
My lesson in life – God built woman with more antennas than men
  - c. Promise that Ishmael will have a nation ([Genesis 21:13](#))

God still promises a different nation through Ishmael. God says He will build the nation specifically because he is the seed of Abraham. This becomes the Arab nation.
  - d. God provides and confirms promise to Ishmael ([Genesis 21:14-21](#))

Ishmael is approximately 16-17 years old. New Testament references: [Galatians 4:29-30](#):  
Ishmael is described as, "**born according to the flesh.**" [Romans 9:7-10](#): "**children of the flesh.**"

3. God calls Abraham to sacrifice Isaac ([Genesis 22:1-19](#))

a. God commands Abraham to offer up Isaac ([Genesis 22:1-2](#))

Abraham demonstrates his availability to God.

Child sacrifice was not a practice of the Jews but it was known in Canaan.

**Sam Shamoun on [answering-islam.org](http://answering-islam.org): Muslims . . . feel that Ishmael was the one offered up by Abraham. . . . Since this idea stems from the Muslim misunderstanding of the phrase "only son," it becomes necessary to explain what this phrase exactly means in relation to Isaac. A careful reading of the Holy Bible shows that the phrase is used to affirm Isaac's unique status.**

b. Abraham's faith and obedience to the Divine command ([Genesis 22:3-10](#))

Abraham was immediately and unquestionably obedient

Worship was the point

This foreshadows the provision of Christ as the offering for sin

Abraham was fully committed to doing God's will

c. Another sacrifice is provided instead of Isaac ([Genesis 22: 11-14](#))

God's miraculous intervention shows God never intended for Abraham to go through with it

Abraham said, "**Here I am**"—a true worshiper holds nothing back. Abraham was all in.

God provided a ram—worship involves accepting God's sacrificial substitute

d. The covenant with Abraham renewed ([Genesis 22: 15-19](#))

### Apply (What is the point?) (Bible Knowledge Commentary)

1. Faith obeys completely the Word of God.

2. Faith surrenders the best to God, holding nothing back.

3. Faith waits on the Lord to provide all one's needs. But God does not provide until personal sacrifice has been made.

4. True worship is costly. This was always so for Israel when they brought sacrifices.

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Know that this was a test ([Genesis 22:1-2](#))

2. Know that one act of faith can change the course of human history

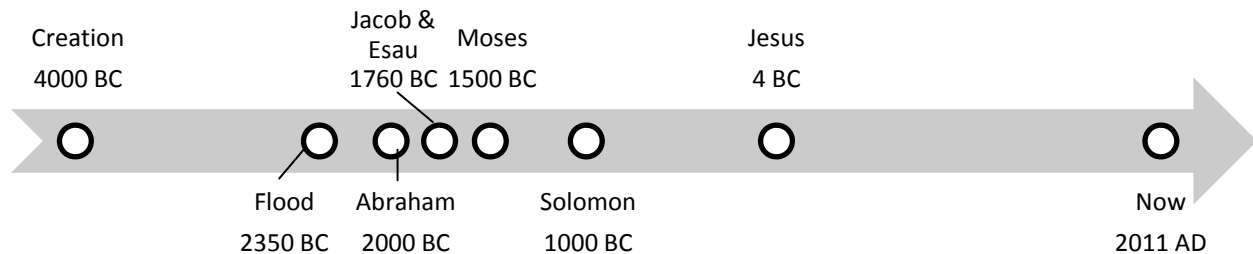
3. Know that my faith must have action or it does not exist

- Faith with works = faith that has substance
- Faith without works = dead
- Works without faith = empty

# Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: Jacob and Esau Compete

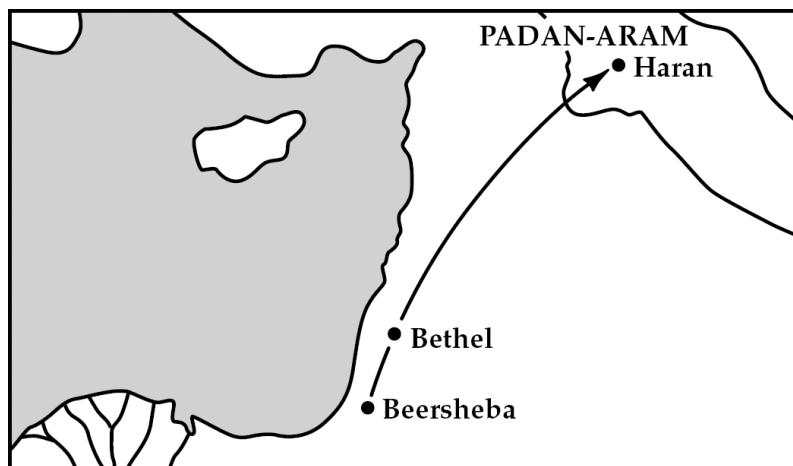
## Review

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



## Preview: Analyze this!

Today's lesson takes place over 100 years after the 'sacrifice' of Isaac. Here is a map of the area:



Key thoughts: (1) Bible characters were imperfect and (2) we often encounter God in the broken places of our lives

## Back-story (Genesis 25:19-28; 26:34-35)

God told Rebekah that Jacob would be the stronger and would rule over his twin brother Esau ([Genesis 25:23b](#)). Isaac (the dad) loves \_\_\_\_\_ (the oldest twin) the most and Rebekah (the mom) loves \_\_\_\_\_ (the youngest twin) the most.



## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 27-28 (Author = Moses)

### Genesis 27

- 1 Many times in the Bible, a physical ailment also communicates a \_\_\_\_\_ issue as well
- 2 Isaac is either 117 or 137 years old. Jacob and Esau are either 57 or 77 years old. The blessing was the father's way of saying who is in charge of the family once the father dies. Isaac was formally announcing who would lead the family and which one of his sons would receive the Abrahamic covenant.
- 9 We must be very cautious that pleasing does not turn into \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Was it right or wrong of Jacob to obey his mother Rebekah in her attempt to deceive Isaac?
- 19-24 Count the lies: \_\_\_\_\_
- 23 Was the outcome what God wanted? \_\_\_\_\_. Did the means justify the ends? \_\_\_\_\_
- 35 Some mistakes cannot be \_\_\_\_\_
- 40 Julie's term
- 41 **hated** [cherish animosity against—sin has awful consequences]
- 44 **a few days** [this 'few days' turned out to be over \_\_\_\_\_ years]

### Genesis 28

- 4 This blessing clearly links Jacob to the \_\_\_\_\_ Covenant
- 5 Jacob never saw his parents again—and Isaac lives to be \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 What does Jacob have to do to get this promise?
- 17 What is Jacob focused on? \_\_\_\_\_. What should have Jacob been focused on? \_\_\_\_\_

**David Guzik: Jacob is by no means worthy of this blessing. . . . The amazing thing is that God could bring any good out of all this, and this is an example of a triumph of God's sovereignty!**

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. Deceit is harmful and has long-lasting repercussions
2. The ends do not justify the means
3. God's plan will not be derailed by man

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Always tell the truth
2. Don't be a \_\_\_\_\_

# Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: Jacob and Esau Reconcile

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## Review

To review last week's passage, Isaac and Rebekah played favorites with their twin sons, Jacob and Esau. This caused many issues, but eventually Isaac blessed the younger brother Jacob (as God had told Rebekah to do). Esau then vowed to kill Jacob and Jacob ran away. We left off last week in [Genesis 28](#) with God having just extended the Abrahamic Covenant to Jacob. In [Genesis 29-31](#) (the text that we skip over to get to today's passage), Jacob marries (twice), has kids with four different women, lives with his father-in-law/uncle Laban for about 20 years, and gets filthy rich (Isaac's blessing came true). [Genesis 32](#) picks up with Jacob and his fortune and family leaving Laban. The text now shifts back to Jacob and Esau.

## Preview: True reconciliation

Today's lesson is all about reconciliation—reconciliation with God and reconciliation with man. We see both in Jacob's story. Reconciliation is bringing a relationship (what life is all about) back into harmony. While we read today's passage, you may be reminded of difficult relationships and situations in your life.

Key thought: True reconciliation requires \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 32-33 (Author = Moses)

### Genesis 32

**4-5** Jacob tells Esau he comes in \_\_\_\_\_, in a roundabout way he tells Esau he's not coming for his stuff, and Jacob tells Esau that Jacob is Esau's servant

**7** **So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed** [distressed so that you are cramped narrowly]

**9** **Then Jacob said, "O God** [His \_\_\_\_\_ instinct is to go to God.]

**14-15** We get a feel for how rich he is by the quality/volume of his \_\_\_\_\_

**24** **Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day** [This Man is widely thought to be a pre-incarnate appearance of \_\_\_\_\_. It is important to realize that God does not leave His children alone and that God will wrestle with you where your faith is not in harmony with His wise and holy will.]

**27** **So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob** [deceiver—Jacob had to acknowledge who Jacob was before God could use him]."

**28 And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel** [God prevails]; **for you have struggled** [contended, have power] **with God and with men, and have prevailed.”** [His hip is out of joint and he wins? **David Guzik: When you battle with God, you only win by \_\_\_\_\_.**]

**31 and he limped on his hip.** [When you meet God you are \_\_\_\_\_ the same ever again—He will change you—salvation implies and demands a change—you cannot meet the Creator of the Universe and remain the same]

Jacob is reconciled to God. Now we turn to Jacob and Esau’s relationship

\_\_\_\_\_, then \_\_\_\_\_

### Genesis 33

**3 Then he crossed over before them** [Jacob is a new man—he is now leading his family instead of hiding behind them (evidence of God’s change in his life). We will continue to see a struggle in Jacob to do what God wants him to do (much like us)]

**4 fell on his neck** [literally, the \_\_\_\_\_ of his neck]

**9 But Esau said, “I have enough** [\_\_\_\_\_]

**Coffman: The refusal to accept a gift means permanent enmity . . .** [accepting ] **the gift was a token of reconciliation and everlasting peace.**

**11 I** [Jacob] **have enough** [\_\_\_\_\_—You cannot have everything without God]

**20 Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel** [the mighty God of \_\_\_\_\_—now, God is the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob].

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God will wrestle with us where our faith is not in harmony with His wise and holy will
2. God can restore ‘impossible-to-restore’ relationships

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Ask God to change \_\_\_\_\_ first
2. Ask God to change the \_\_\_\_\_ second

# The Essential 100

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## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. The passages are usually one to two chapters in length and can easily be read in 10 minutes or less.

One-page plan: Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

## The Schedule: The Teachings of Jesus

This series is about Jesus' teaching ministry

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
April 17	Sermon on the Mount (1/2)	Matthew 5:14-16	Matthew 5:1-6:4	Jim Fleming
April 24	No Sunday school: Easter at Coolidge			
May 1	Sermon on the Mount (2/2)	Matthew 6:33	Matthew 6:5-7:29	Jim Fleming
May 8	The Kingdom of Heaven	Matthew 13:45-46	Matthew 13	David Barber
May 15	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:36-37	Luke 10:25-37	Barry Cole
May 22	Lost and Found	Luke 15:10	Luke 15	Jim Fleming

## Sunday school class timeline

8:50: Breakfast is ready

9:07: Teaching begins

9:40: Prayer requests at each table begin

9:45: Tables removed from the green carpet and padded chairs stacked in 7s against the wall

9:50: All class members are out of the room and headed to the sanctuary to worship

# The Teachings of Jesus: Sermon on the Mount (1/2)

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## Preview: Clarifying Happiness

There are three major parts to today's text: (1) the Beatitudes ([Matthew 5:1-12](#)), (2) Salt, Light, and Setup ([Matthew 5:13-20](#)), and (3) Intentionalizing ([Matthew 5:21-6:4](#)).

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Matthew 5:1-6:4 (Author = Matthew)

### 1. Beatitudes

To start each beatitude, Jesus gives a promise—"Blessed." The best translation of *blessed* is \_\_\_\_\_

8 Your heart will interpret how you perceive \_\_\_\_\_

9 **Blessed are the peacemakers** [people who \_\_\_\_\_ peace]

12 **be exceedingly glad** [literally, \_\_\_\_\_ much]

The theme of the beatitudes (for me) is one of \_\_\_\_\_, current engagement that results in a present happiness and future \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Salt, Light, and Setup

16 **that they may see your good works** [\_\_\_\_\_, employment, acts, deeds]

17 **"Do not think that I came to destroy** [dissolve, disunite, or loosen] **the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill** [Scripture is a \_\_\_\_\_]

### 3. Intentionalizing

22 **angry with his brother** [this is \_\_\_\_\_ criticism]. . . . **Raca** [a criticism of the \_\_\_\_\_]. . . . **You fool** [foolish, godless—a criticism of a person's \_\_\_\_\_]

29 **If your right eye causes you to sin** [is a stumbling block, a snare, or a \_\_\_\_\_]

39 **slaps you** [cultural \_\_\_\_\_]). 40 **take away your tunic** [legal \_\_\_\_\_]. 41 **compels you to go one mile** [governmental \_\_\_\_\_].

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. Internal righteousness is required
2. External righteousness is required
3. No self-exalting images of righteousness are allowed

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Recognize that I cannot live this perfectly
2. Recognize that Jesus can
3. Let \_\_\_\_\_

# The Teachings of Jesus: Sermon on the Mount (2/2)

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## Review

Jesus came to restore a relationship between God and man that was created in [Genesis 1](#) and ruined in [Genesis 3](#). When we listen to Jesus' teachings, remember that He came to restore relationships to their proper place. In last week's text, Jesus' message described what life can be like, what we should be doing, and what God really meant.

## Preview: To Do or Not to Do, That is the Question

This week's text can be divided up into four parts: doing good ([Matthew 6:5-18](#)), material things ([Matthew 6:19-34](#)), judgment ([Matthew 7:1-6](#)), and choices ([Matthew 7:7-29](#)).

Key thought: Jesus lays out how life should be lived and gives us a \_\_\_\_\_.

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Matthew 6:5-7:29 (Author = Matthew)

**7 do not use vain repetitions** [to stammer and repeat things over and over—not meaning what you say]

**8 Adam Clarke: Prayer is not designed to \_\_\_\_\_ God.**

**8 Coffman: A God who needs to be told what men need could certainly not help if told!**

**9-13** Notice the \_\_\_\_\_ pronouns

**9 Hallowed** [separated, distinct—the verb form of the word \_\_\_\_\_]

## Trevin Wax's Providence Prayer (adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism)

Faithful Father, we praise you for your almighty and ever-present power. We trust in the power of your hand, which upholds heaven and earth and all creatures. We trust in the goodness of your rule over leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—knowing that all things come to us not by chance but from your fatherly hand. Help us to be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and confident for the future, knowing that nothing will separate us from your love.

**14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses** [literally, 'falling to the side,' indicating a lapse in judgment or a \_\_\_\_\_-up]

**16-18 David Guzik: You can do a wonderful thing for the wrong motive and have it count for nothing before God; Christianity is a matter of the heart, not just outward works.**

**19-21** What you \_\_\_\_\_ in is what you care about

**24 “No one can serve two masters** [the best verse in the Bible against \_\_\_\_\_] . . . **mammon** [an Aramaic word used to personify \_\_\_\_\_].

**25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry** [be anxious, care] **about your life**

**32 For your heavenly Father knows** [David Ivarson: God already has a \_\_\_\_\_]

**34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things.** [How many lives would be happier if we would just obey **Matthew 6:34?**]

## Matthew 7

**1 “Judge not** [a \_\_\_\_\_ of pre-separating, pre-distinguishing, pre-discriminating]

**2 How much sugar do you like in your sweet tea?**

**12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets** [The Old Testament is summed up by this statement: if you want something, \_\_\_\_ it].

**13-14** Francis Chan: The New \_\_\_\_\_ Road

**18 What type of tree is \_\_\_\_\_?**

**24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.**

**26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”**

Everything in these two scenarios is the same except for the \_\_\_\_\_. Both my obedience and my lack of obedience have repercussions.

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God likes actively working Christians
2. Jesus did not ignore the material
3. Choices must be made

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Do good
2. Interact appropriately with the material
3. Choose \_\_\_\_\_

# The Teachings of Jesus: The Kingdom of Heaven

## Preview: D-Day for Sin

By comparing the Kingdom of Heaven to yeast, hidden treasure, a mustard seed, or a net, Jesus painted a picture of a seemingly insignificant thing that would have an overwhelming impact. That is how it is when we decide to follow Jesus—a seemingly small step changes everything about our lives, both now and for eternity. Jesus challenged his hearers to, “**understand with their hearts**” (**Matthew 13:15**), to allow his word to affect their attitudes, motivations and actions.

Key thought: Following Jesus changes everything about our lives—forever (Truth divides)

## Why did Jesus teach in parables?

1. Jesus was a master teacher
2. To allow for hidden meaning
3. **Matthew 13:10-13, 34-35; Luke 4:43**

## The Stuff in Between the Parables

1. Why, “Kingdom of Heaven,” and not, “Kingdom of God?”
2. Two key points for me:
  - Truth divides
  - The Kingdom of Heaven is now

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Matthew 13 (Author = Matthew)

Parable	Basic Meaning
<b>The Parable of the Sower</b> <b>3-9, 18-23</b>	<p><b>Rocky Soil.</b> When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away (<b>20-21</b>). Some people like the Gospel as a novelty. Then they get bored with it, and when it does not solve their problems, they quit. They may have been looking for a quick fix. Therefore, when we share the Gospel, some of the people who respond will eventually fall away. Do not be surprised; that is just the way some people are.</p> <p><b>Thorns.</b> All sorts of people can be distracted by the worries of this world, and some drop out for that reason. They are more worried about this world than they are about their position in eternity.</p> <p><b>Good Soil.</b> Jesus wants us to be this kind of person. Seeds do not have a choice as to what kind of soil they fall on, but we have a choice as to what kind of soil we will be for the seed. We can choose to respond to the Gospel. When trials come, we can choose to stick with the Gospel, or to fall away.</p>



<b>The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares</b> <b>24-30, 36-43</b>	<p>Jesus explains the parable for us in <b>37-43</b>. The good seeds are the disciples, spread by Jesus throughout the world. The weeds are bad people, spread by the Devil. The bad people are mixed in with the good, and this is what the kingdom of God is like. God allows this; it is part of His plan. Jesus is describing a world in which Satan is active—the age we live in today. The kingdom of God is growing now, and God is waiting to see which plants will bear fruit. Do not be too hasty, He tells his servants. Wait and see.</p>
<b>The Parable of the Mustard Seed</b> <b>31-32</b>	<p>Jesus is not describing a kingdom that arrives in a blaze of glory—He is describing a kingdom that begins very small. This is not what the Jews expected, but this is the kingdom that Jesus said was near. A small thing can make a massive difference.</p>
<b>The Parable of the Leaven</b> <b>33</b>	<p>Very similar to the Parable of the Mustard Seed, leaven shows how the impact of the smallest thing, belief in the redemptive act of Christ, changes EVERYTHING.</p>
<b>The Parable of the Hidden Treasure</b> <b>44</b>	<p>Jesus is the main character. He is the one who sees hidden treasure in his people (the field), and gives everything He has to purchase the prize. The value may not be evident right now, but it is there.</p>
<b>Parable of Pearl of Great Price</b> <b>45-46</b>	<p>Same message as The Parable of the Hidden Treasure. The message is not, we should do everything we can to find the lost. The message is that Jesus has already done everything He could to find us.</p>
<b>Parable of the Dragnet</b> <b>47-50</b>	<p>The Kingdom of God is presented to both good and bad people. The message is given to both. They live together and are given a chance to change and grow. Eventually the time comes when judgment is made and God brings the good (the saved) to Himself.</p>

### Apply (What is the point?)

Jesus taught in parables for many reasons:

1. Communicates masterfully
2. Kept Jesus from being the target of Jewish leadership until it was time
3. Fulfilled prophecy

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Understand that the message of the parables is that the Gospel divides—by definition, that is what Truth does
2. Know that ultimately, we are responsible for communicating the message, not the results

# The Teachings of Jesus: The Good Samaritan

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## Preview: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Key thought: Sin has a profound effect on our relationship with God and others.

Things to look out for that tell us about God: (1) He gives us free will, (2) He questions, (3) He judges, (4) He intervenes, and (5) He provides

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Luke 10:25-37 (Author = Luke)

**25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"**

**27 So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'"**

**28 And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."**

**29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"**

**30 Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho [referred to as the, "way of blood," because of the dangers], and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. 31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' 36 So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"**

**37 And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."**

Main Characters: \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

### Do this and you will live

The Lawyer, the \_\_\_\_\_, "**tested him**." The Greek word is, *ekpeirazo*, "to put to the test, try, tempt." He was testing Jesus, the \_\_\_\_\_, to see how well He answered a theological question.

The first question is, "**What shall I** [a Jew] **do to inherit eternal life**," or, "What is important for a Jew to be saved?" The answer is found in \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_. The Lawyer answered with the Law:

**Deuteronomy 6:5: You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with**

**all your strength** and **Leviticus 19:18: You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.**

Jesus says, “**You have answered rightly.**” The roles are reversed, Jesus becomes the expert, and the lawyer becomes the novice. Then the second question, “**And who is my neighbor?**”

**Who Is My Neighbor?** Typical lawyer, he needs a definition of “**neighbor.**” The Jewish interpreted, “**neighbor,**” as, “someone who was near and of the same religious community” (fellow Jews). They often excluded everyone else.

**The Message in the Bottle:** Jesus, the expert \_\_\_\_\_, uses the lawyer’s experience and awareness to make a hypothetical situation a teaching moment.

Who was Jesus’ audience? \_\_\_\_\_

**The Robbers: who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.**

**Priests and Levites:** Both parties had a \_\_\_\_\_ problem. According to the Law, they could not help. **Leviticus 21:11: Nor shall he go near any dead body, nor defile himself for his father or his mother.** On the other hand, the Law states: **Exodus 23:4: If you meet your enemy’s ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again. Proverbs 25:21: If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.**

The priest just kept walking and, “\_\_\_\_\_.” The Levite actually stopped, “\_\_\_\_\_.”

### The Samaritan

**Luke 10:33: Had \_\_\_\_\_**

**Luke 10:34: took \_\_\_\_\_ of him**

**Luke 10:35: I will \_\_\_\_\_ you**

Love, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Anything that isn’t true is untrue
2. Anything that isn’t love is hate

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

**Micah 6:8: No, the Lord has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God. (GNB)**

**... walking without pride before your God. (BBE)**

Nothing else I can say or do could add anything to **Micah 6:8.**

# The Teachings of Jesus: Lost and Found

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## Preview: Sinners Welcome

In the parables we read about in **Luke 15** (the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost/prodigal son), Jesus is illustrating the fact that God takes the initiative in His relationships with us and God models true and better relationships for us. Key thought: God cares about \_\_\_\_\_ relationships

There is a pattern to these three stories in **Luke 15**: there is a loss (of the smaller part), a search (that is constant), a find (that takes great effort), a homecoming, and a celebration (that is community-wide).

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Luke 15 (Author = Luke)

### The Parable of the Lost Sheep

**1** Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. **2** And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them." **3** So He spoke this parable to them, saying:

**4** "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness [What percentage is lost? \_\_\_\_%], and go after [pursue] the one which is lost [a compound word that means, 'separating to \_\_\_\_\_'] until he finds it? **5** And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. **6** And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' **7** I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

### The Parable of the Lost Coin

**8** "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin [What percentage is lost? \_\_\_\_%. Is there ever a time when a wedding ring is equally as valuable as a penny?], does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? [David Guzik: There is an instinct in us that prizes something all the more simply because it is lost. Your keys are never so precious to you as when you can't find them!] **9** And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' **10** Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." [Jesus is driving home to the religious elite that everyone \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus is for everybody.]

### The Parable of the Lost Son

**11** Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. **12** And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. **13** And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living [What percentage is lost? \_\_\_\_%]. **14** But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. **15** Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. **16** And he would gladly have

filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything*. [Irby Sullivan: Want follows waste. Sin is the most expensive thing in the world.]

17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’

20 “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

Sinners and tax collectors are \_\_\_\_\_ in the family of God. The story has to continue to show the religious elite their sin. The story has to continue to show me my \_\_\_\_\_.

25 “Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ 28 “But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. 29 So he answered and said to *his* father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. 30 But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ 31 “And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. 32 It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

Irby Sullivan: 12-13: The break up; 15: The hook up; 17: The wake up; 20: The rise up; 21: The fess up; 22: The dress up; 24: The cheer up

Challenge: Recognize, pursue, and celebrate reconciliation

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. The sheep was lost because it wandered off (sometimes we just wander away from God)
2. The coin was lost because someone dropped it (sometimes we are failed by others)
3. The son was lost because he was prideful (sometimes we deliberately choose to rebel)

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Stay \_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus (the Way)
2. Stay \_\_\_\_\_ with the church
3. Stay \_\_\_\_\_ before God

# The Story of Joseph: Sold Into Slavery

## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

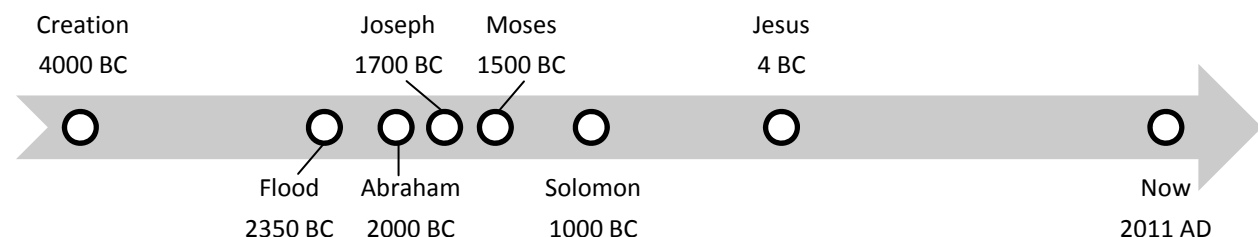
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## The Schedule: The Story of Joseph

This is our third five-week series in the Old Testament. So far, we have looked at In the Beginning, and Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Now we shift to the last of the **Genesis** patriarchs, Joseph.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
May 29	Sold Into Slavery	Genesis 37:26-28	Genesis 37	Jim Fleming
June 5	Prison and a Promotion	Genesis 41:14-16	Genesis 39-41	Jim Fleming
June 12	Ten Brothers Go to Egypt	Genesis 42:3-5	Genesis 42	TBD
June 19	The Brothers Return	Genesis 43:14	Genesis 43-44	Tim Archer
June 26	Joseph Reveals His Identity	Genesis 45:4-5	Genesis 45:1-46:7	Jim Fleming

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



Summary: Joseph was his father's favorite son. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers. God worked through a variety of circumstances to make Joseph the second most powerful man in Egypt. God used Joseph to spare Egypt and Joseph's family. The result of all of this is the book of **Exodus**. Through all of these events, God was building Joseph's character so he would be ready when God needed him.

## Preview: Family Feud

**Rick Warren: God develops the fruit of the Spirit by allowing you to experience circumstances in which you're tempted to express the exact opposite quality! (*The Purpose Driven Life*, p. 202)**

The following is based on, *The Purpose Driven Life*, by Rick Warren

God develops . . .	By allowing . . .
<b>Love</b>	unloving people to challenge us, tempting to us be unloving
<b>Joy</b>	sorrow, tempting us to despair and become bitter
<b>Peace</b>	times of chaos and confusion, tempting us to be agitated/stressed
<b>Longsuffering</b>	us to wait, tempting us to get angry
<b>Kindness</b>	people to be inconsiderate, tempting us to be unkind
<b>Goodness</b>	evil to intersect our lives, tempting us to be evil
<b>Faithfulness</b>	problems that challenge our trust in Him, tempting us to worry
<b>Gentleness</b>	evil to get results, tempting us to manipulate and intimidate
<b>Self-control</b>	us instant gratification, tempting us to self-indulge

Key thought: God works through the events of our lives for His good and for our good

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 37 (Author = Moses)

**1 Joseph** [Jehovah has \_\_\_\_\_]

**3 a tunic** [long, shirt-like undergarment] **of many colors** [literally, \_\_\_\_\_ palm and/or sole]

**5 Now Joseph had a dream** [the natural assumption of the reader is that this is a message from \_\_\_\_\_]

**7** Did Joseph sin by telling his brothers his dream? \_\_\_\_\_. Did Joseph do himself any favors? \_\_\_\_\_

**Barry Switzer: Some people are born on third base and go through life thinking they hit a triple.**

**15 Now a certain man found him** [Jewish commentaries generally state that this is an \_\_\_\_\_]

**21 But Reuben** [behold, a \_\_\_\_\_]

**25 And they sat down to eat a meal.** [They remembered those cries for help for \_\_\_\_\_ years.]

**31** When I sin, something has to \_\_\_\_\_

## Apply (What is the point?)

- Over communicating good things can sometimes be a \_\_\_\_\_ thing
- A house divided against itself cannot stand
- God is working even when we cannot \_\_\_\_\_ Him working

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

- Show tact when sharing truth
- Insure there is no \_\_\_\_\_ in my family
- Grow from the challenges in my life

# The Story of Joseph: Prison and a Promotion

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## Preview: No Fair! (Or, Crock-Pot Character)

Joseph has been sold into slavery by his brothers and now he is in Egypt. When we looked at Joseph's life last week, he was an egotistical teenager who irritated his family. This week we will see Joseph mature. His life will seem unfair, but remember that God is interested in developing our character.

**David Guzik: Egypt had been a large and thriving kingdom for at least a thousand years before Joseph came there. They were wealthy and had massive natural resources. They were educated and had no real enemies at the time. When Joseph came to Egypt, some of the pyramids already looked old, and the Sphinx had already been carved.**

Key thought: God is not in a \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 39-41 (Author = Moses)

### Genesis 39: Joseph a Slave in Egypt

**1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt** [Joseph is \_\_\_\_ at this point]

**6** Why was Joseph attractive?

**8 But he refused and said** [he refused first and \_\_\_\_\_ second]

**Friedman: It was to see whether he was truly fit to become ruler of Egypt. By passing the test, he proved that he would be able to rule over the land of impurity and immorality without succumbing to its corrupting influence himself.**

**12 fled and ran outside** [perfectly fulfilling **2 Timothy 2:22**. **David Guzik: God provides a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13), but you have to \_\_\_\_\_ the way out.**]

**Coffman: One of Satan's cleverest clichés, "Wherever there's smoke, there's bound to be fire!" Well, here, there was a lot of smoke, and no fire at all!**

**21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy** [\_\_\_\_\_: goodness, kindness, faithfulness]

### Genesis 40: The Prisoners' Dreams

**1 It came to pass after these things** [Joseph is now \_\_\_\_]

**7 Why do you look so sad today?** [This Joseph is very different from the 17-year-old in **Genesis 37**]



**8 And they said to him, “We each have had a dream, and *there is no interpreter of it.*”** [\_\_\_\_\_ dreams]

**19 Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from you.”** [Joseph spoke \_\_\_\_\_ when giving God’s messages. Blurred truth is no truth.]

**23 David Guzik: God orders both your steps and \_\_\_\_\_!**

## Genesis 41: Pharaoh’s Dreams & Joseph’s Rise to Power

**1 Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years** [Joseph is now \_\_\_\_]

**8 Coffman: Only one voice speaks throughout Genesis. Only one power controls its events. That voice and power are those of God.**

**16 *It is not in me*** [Loosely paraphrased, “It’s not \_\_\_\_\_ me”]

**25 The dreams of Pharaoh are one . . . 26 the dreams are one** [Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ himself for clarity]

**33** Joseph is creating his own \_\_\_\_\_ description

**42 his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand** [so Joseph could sign/ \_\_\_\_\_ public documents]

**51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh** [causing to \_\_\_\_\_]

**52 And the name of the second he called Ephraim** [double ash-heap: I shall be doubly \_\_\_\_\_]

Challenge: Be patient with God in everything (He is always working: **Romans 8:28**). **David Guzik: Joseph is a good example of man who seemed to have all the gifts and talents for leadership, but God put him in a place where his character would be developed, and this took many years. Gifts and talents may be impressive and immediate, but character is what God looks for and always takes time to develop.**

## Apply (What is the point?)

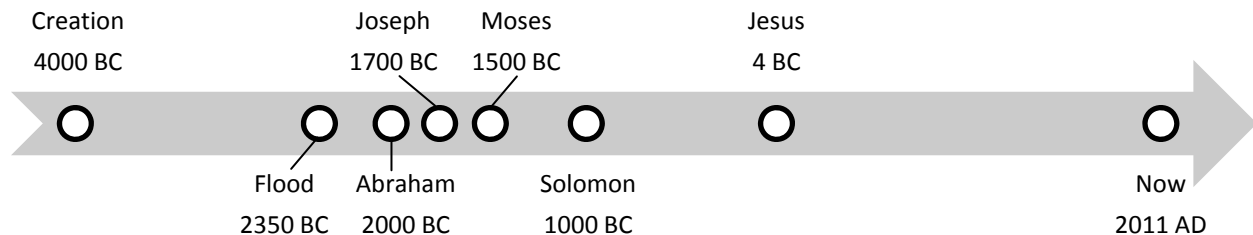
1. Timing is everything
2. Faithfulness is always rewarded
3. God will use anything to accomplish His will

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Be content with the timing and leave the timing up to God (just be **1 Peter 3:15** and **Luke 12:11-12**)
2. Be faithful in everything God puts in front of you, no matter how small, annoying, or meaningless it may seem (**1 Corinthians 4:2**)
3. Be looking for God at work and thank Him when you see His hand (**1 Peter 5:6**)

# The Story of Joseph: Ten Brothers Go to Egypt

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



## Preview: Remember, remember

Summary: Joseph was his father's favorite son with his father's favorite wife. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers because he told them they would bow down to him. God worked through a variety of painful circumstances to make Joseph the second most powerful man in Egypt. Last week, we saw Joseph transform from an egotistical teenager into a mature man. Joseph's life seems unfair, but God used all of these things to develop Joseph's character. However, the sin of Joseph's brothers still has to be dealt with. Now, we see Joseph with the opportunity to do anything he wants to his brothers.

Key thought: Character development takes \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 42 (Author = Moses)

### Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

**1 I have heard that there is grain in Egypt** [mention of Egypt made them \_\_\_\_\_]

**4 Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin** [Jacob never saw the \_\_\_\_\_ of picking favorites]

**6 David Guzik: When Joseph's brothers plotted murder against him and sold him into slavery, they did it specifically attempting to defeat his dreams (Genesis 37:19-20). Instead, by sending Joseph to Egypt, they provided the way the dreams would be fulfilled!**

**8 EasyEnglish: There were many reasons why the brothers did not recognize Joseph. These are some of the reasons.**

- Joseph had shaved his \_\_\_\_\_ off.
- Joseph spoke in the Egyptian language and an interpreter translated.
- Joseph wore Egyptian clothes.
- Joseph had an Egyptian \_\_\_\_\_.

**16** surely you *are* spies!" [Coffman: Every accused was considered guilty until proved innocent, and the burden of proof was always upon the \_\_\_\_\_]

**21** Then they said to one another, "We *are* truly guilty [Adam Clarke: God combines and brings about those favourable circumstances which produce attention and reflection, and give weight to the expostulations of conscience]

**21** for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us [Joseph cried for his life in the \_\_\_\_\_], and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us." [Galatians]

David Guzik: Some have described the conscience as the "\_\_\_\_\_ of the soul."

### The Brothers Return to Canaan

**25** Then Joseph gave a command to fill their sacks with grain, to restore every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. Thus he did for them. [This is a beautiful picture of what the \_\_\_\_\_ does for us—Jesus is the bread of life, we have us the treasure of the Holy Spirit, and the Father gives us gifts to help us along the way]

**27** But as one of them opened his sack [from the Hebrew, \_\_\_\_\_]

**28** What is this that God has done to us? [EasyEnglish: The brothers did not understand what was happening. Therefore they were \_\_\_\_\_.]

**35** Easy English: We may sometimes be in a situation that is similar to this. It seems to us that God's promises are failing. It seems that God's plan is not working. And God has not told us what to do. . . . We must trust him, especially when it is difficult to trust him. Actually, God's plan was working \_\_\_\_\_. . . . Joseph was ready to save them all.

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. David Guzik: God can, and must, sometimes use ways we think are harsh to call us to where He wants us to be
2. People can \_\_\_\_\_
3. Numbers 32:23b: Be sure your sin will find you out.

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Examine my \_\_\_\_\_ to see if there is any sin that needs to be uncovered
2. Allow the space and time necessary for people to change
3. Be on the lookout for ways to show \_\_\_\_\_

# The Story of Joseph: The Brothers Return

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## Review

Joseph has allowed his brothers to return home with the grain they purchased. Simeon is being held hostage in Egypt until the youngest of the sons is brought back to meet Joseph/Zaphnath-Paaneah. The sons arrived home to discover that the money they had bought the food with was in their grain sacks.

## Primary Character Review

Jacob/Israel: "Fearful" and aging patriarch

Joseph: Original favorite son of Jacob born to Jacob's wife Rachel who has been (or so his family thought) dead to his family for over 20 years, moonlighting as Zaphnath-Paaneah, Vizier and second in command to the Pharaoh/King of Egypt

Benjamin: "New" favorite son of Jacob, born to Jacob's wife Rachel and Benjamin is Joseph's full brother (all of the other brothers were half-brothers)

Reuben: Firstborn son and rightful family leader

Judah: Led brothers into selling Joseph into slavery

Simeon: Half-brother to Joseph, being held hostage in Egypt

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 43-44 (Author = Moses)

### Genesis 43

1. Hunger is a \_\_\_\_\_ (1-2) **2 And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food."**
2. Judah takes a \_\_\_\_\_ role (3-5)
3. Jacob/Israel is \_\_\_\_\_ by fear and begins accusing others (6-7) **6 And Israel said, "Why did you deal so wrongfully with me as to tell the man whether you had still another brother?"**
4. Judah's sales pitch (8-10) **8 Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones."**

## 5. Jacob's plan revealed (11-15)

- a. Doubled money
- b. Additional gifts to be sent
- c. Supplication to God Almighty

6. Zaphnath-Paaneah's/Joseph's reaction: plan a \_\_\_\_\_ (16-17) **16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Take these men to my home, and slaughter an animal and make ready; for these men will dine with me at noon."**

7. Fear caused \_\_\_\_\_ (18-22) **18 Now the men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph's house**

8. Important \_\_\_\_\_ are missed (23-25) **23 But he said, "Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money."**

9. The brothers are reunited and prophecy is fulfilled (26-34) **26 And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house**

## Genesis 44

10. The \_\_\_\_\_ is set (1-6) **1 And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack."**

11. The \_\_\_\_\_ is sprung (7-13) **12 and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.**

12. Judah's \_\_\_\_\_ is revealed (14-17) **16 Then Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord?"**

13. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Judah is complete (18-34) **33 Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers.**

## Apply (What is the point?): Psalm 27:1; Proverbs 3:5-6

1. Hardships bring opportunity
2. Growing up is tough sometimes
3. Things are not always as they seem

## Personalize (What do I do with that?): 2 Timothy 1:7

1. How often does fear cause me to miss God-given opportunities?
2. What relationships do I need to offer and/or ask forgiveness in?

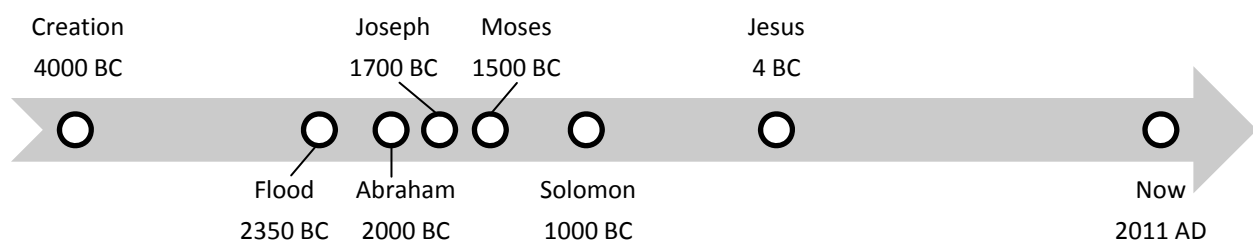
# The Story of Joseph: Joseph Reveals His Identity

## Review: Genesis

Here are some things we have learned from **Genesis**:

1. God sets the stage for the rest of the Bible concerning His word (**Genesis 1:7c**: “**and it was so**”)
2. God takes the initiative (**Genesis 1-46**)
3. God fills (**Genesis 1**)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ changes everything (Adam & Eve)
5. God provides (the sacrifice for Adam & Eve’s sin)
6. Unity without proper direction is unprofitable (Tower of Babel)
7. God uses people who do not deserve to be used (Abram)
8. God does the impossible (Abram & Sarai)
9. Blood is required in covenants (Abramic Covenant)
10. Faith is complete obedience to God’s word (Abraham & Isaac)
11. Favoritism in families is toxic (Jacob & Esau)
12. The ends do not justify the means (it is never right to do wrong in order to get a chance to do right)
13. Reconciliation requires change (Jacob & Esau)
14. God is working even when we cannot see Him working (Joseph)
15. God is not in a \_\_\_\_\_ (Joseph)
16. God can use almost anything in character development (Joseph)
17. People can change (Joseph’s brothers)
18. God is not yet \_\_\_\_\_

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



What is remarkable is the volume of time that **Genesis** takes up in our world history. Almost \_\_\_\_% of the history of the entire world occurs in **Genesis**.

Now, to summarize where we are with Joseph: Joseph was his father’s favorite son. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers because he was a punk. God worked through a variety of painful circumstances to make Joseph the second most powerful man in Egypt. Joseph’s brothers are sent to Egypt to get food (because there is a famine) and Joseph recognizes them but they do not recognize him. Joseph tests them to see if they are repentant and today the big reveal: Joseph tells them who he really is.

## Aside: Typology

**Wikipedia: A doctrine or theory concerning the relationship between the Old and New Testaments.**

**Events in the Old Testament are seen as pre-figuring events or aspects of Christ in the New Testament.**

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 45:1-46:7 (Author = Moses)

### Genesis 45

**5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life** [That is \_\_\_\_\_. Real forgiveness is forgiving those that have wronged you and seeing God's hand working in, through, and despite all things for good].

**8** Why was Joseph in Egypt? Was it because his brothers were evil or because God was good? \_\_\_\_\_

**22 to Benjamin he gave three hundred *pieces of silver*** [this was \_\_\_\_\_ slaves' worth of money]

**23 And he sent to his father these *things*: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey.** [Why so much?]

**28 *It is enough.*** [Have you ever had a time in your life where you were totally overwhelmed with the goodness of God and you had to say, "It is enough"?]

### Genesis 46

**3 So He said, "*I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.***

**4 Joseph will put his hand on your eyes** [i.e., he will be the one to close your eyes when you \_\_\_\_\_]."

**7** Do you want to know the rest of the story? Joseph lived happily ever \_\_\_\_\_.

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. God is faithful to do what He said
2. Reconciliation is worth the effort
3. Forgiveness is \_\_\_\_\_

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Be faithful to what God has told you to do
2. Look for opportunities to reconcile with others and to help others reconcile
3. Forgive as often as possible and as \_\_\_\_\_ as possible

# The Essential 100

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## The Schedule: The Miracles of Jesus

This is our third five-week series in the New Testament. So far, we have looked at The Early Years of Jesus and The Teachings of Jesus. Now we shift to The Miracles of Jesus.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
July 3	Feeding the Five Thousand	Luke 9:16-17	Luke 9:1-36	Jim Fleming
July 10	Walking on Water	Matthew 14:31-33	Matthew 14:22-36	Jim Fleming
July 17	Healing a Blind Man	John 9:6-7	John 9:1-41	Jim Fleming
July 24	Healing a Demon-Possessed Man	Mark 5:18-20	Mark 5:1-20	Terry Bolden
July 31	Raising Lazarus from the Dead	John 11:43-44	John 11:1-57	Jim Fleming

## Series Preview

Why did Jesus perform miracles? **John 20:30-31: And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.** Jesus did miracles to help us believe in Him so that we could have \_\_\_\_\_. He did miracles for us.

# The Miracles of Jesus: Feeding the Five Thousand

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## Review

Jesus came to restore a relationship between God and man that was created in **Genesis 1** and ruined in **Genesis 3**. When we listen to Jesus' teachings, remember that He came to restore relationships to their proper place. Jesus, however, was on a very specific timetable and was not in a hurry.

Key thought: Reflection is a significant input to a long obedience in the same direction of sharing Christ



## Preview: 3-D Miracles

Jesus distributes miracle-power to the disciples in the sending, He demonstrates miracle-power in the feeding, and He displays a miracle in the change. It is all about Jesus.

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Luke 9:1-36 (Author = Luke)

### Sending Out the Twelve

**6 So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel** [to bring \_\_\_\_\_ news]

### Feeding the Five Thousand

**10 And the apostles** [they were sent with \_\_\_\_\_]

**11 But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him** [Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ with the people]

**11 and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing** [the apostles got their power from Jesus; Jesus got His power from \_\_\_\_\_]

**16 He blessed and broke them** [Jesus gave thanks \_\_\_\_\_ and broke the food \_\_\_\_\_]

**23 let him deny himself** [to \_\_\_\_\_ one's self, lose sight of one's self and one's own interests]

### Jesus Transfigured on the Mount

**29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered** [literally, '\_\_\_\_\_']

**29 His robe became white and glistening** [to flash out like lightning—think, \_\_\_\_\_]

**32 they saw His glory** [the curtain of \_\_\_\_\_ was pulled back to display the glory of God]

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. The best way to expand God's Kingdom is to \_\_\_\_\_ it away
2. Contemplation/meditation/reflection/consideration/deliberation is a good thing
3. God will \_\_\_\_\_

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Give away life
2. Spend time reflecting on what God has done for you
3. \_\_\_\_\_ the journey with God

# The Miracles of Jesus: Walking on Water

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## Preview: Waverunners

Some think that becoming a Christian exempts them from life's problems. Unfortunately, that is not true. However, no matter how bad things get, God never abandons His own. Last week we saw that Jesus provided provision for the journey, food for times of rest, and protection in the afterlife. This week we see that Jesus provided companionship in the storm and comfort from the sickness.

Key thought: Jesus is faithful even when we are not, so stay focused on \_\_\_\_\_ and His Word

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Matthew 14:22-36 (Author = Matthew)

### Jesus Walks on the Sea

**22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat** [Last week we looked at the feeding of the five thousand and this week's miracle takes place immediately after that (the \_\_\_\_\_ day, in fact)] **and go before Him to the other side, while He** [Jesus] **sent the multitudes away. 23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening** [specific word for \_\_ pm – \_\_ pm] **came, He was alone there. 24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed** [harassed, distressed] **by the waves, for the wind was contrary** [against, opposite, hostile, antagonistic, an opponent].

**25 Now in the fourth watch of the night** [specific word for \_\_ am – \_\_ am] **Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea,** [Job 9:1-24: Job says the only one that can walk on water is \_\_\_\_\_] **they were troubled** [agitated, troubled (because the movement of the parts of a thing are going back and forth), inward commotion, removed of calmness of mind, disturbed, disquieted, restless, stirred up, anxious, distressed, perplexed], **saying, "It is a ghost** [*phantasma*: appearance, an apparition, specter]" **And they cried out for fear** [fear, dread, terror, that which strikes terror].

**27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer** [an imperative to be of good courage]! **It is I** [literally, \_\_\_\_\_]; **do not be afraid** [an imperative]."

**28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."**

**29 So He said, "Come** [an imperative]." **And when Peter had come down out of the boat** [John Ortberg: *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*], **he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous** [strong, mighty, strong, violent, forcibly uttered, firm—Peter took his \_\_\_\_\_ off Jesus], **he was afraid; and beginning to sink** [Adam Clarke: *It was by faith in the power of Christ he was upheld. . . It was not the violence of the winds, nor the raging of the waves, which endangered his life, but his littleness of faith*] **he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"** [An imperative: to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction, save

from suffering, save from perishing. **Bruce: It is one thing to see a storm from the deck of a stout ship, another to see it in the midst of the waves]**

**31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught** [to take in addition, to lay hold of, take possession of, overtake, attain, attain to, to lay hold of or to seize upon anything with the hands, to take hold of, lay hold of] **him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt** [doubt, waiver, the root word means, ‘ \_\_\_\_\_’]?” **32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased** [to grow weary or \_\_\_\_\_, to cease from violence, cease raging].

**33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped** [to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence] **Him, saying, “Truly** [truly, of a truth, in reality, most certainly] **You are the Son of God.”**

### Many Touch Him and Are Made Well

**34 When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. 35 And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region** [increased faith causes increased \_\_\_\_\_ for the One you have faith in (i.e., the disciples got busy)], **brought to Him all who were sick** [miserable, to be ill], **36 and begged Him that they might only touch the hem** [in the New Testament a little tassel hanging down from the edge of a garment, made of twisted wool] **of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well** [to preserve through danger, to bring safely through (to save, i.e. cure one who is sick, bring him through); to save, keep from perishing; to save out of danger, rescue. **Coffman: He needed no staff, as did Moses; he needed no mantle, as Elijah; he required no instrument except himself. His word alone cast out demons, stilled the tempest, changed the water into wine, and raised the dead!].**

Challenge: Problems are our opportunities to get out the boat and follow Jesus.

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ is when we show our allegiance
2. God will \_\_\_\_\_

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Build up a pattern of obedience before the storm so that \_\_\_\_\_ storms come, my habit is focusing on Jesus and His Word
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the journey with God

# The Miracles of Jesus: Healing a Blind Man

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Last week this message was preached by Gary and Brian in our Sunday morning services. Since many of us heard that message, I am going to spend a lot of time today answering questions that were posed about that text. Feel free to interrupt me today while I am teaching to ask questions.

## Preview: I See What You Mean

After hearing about the miraculous healing of a blind man ([John 9:6-7](#)), the disciples tried to over-analyze the blind man's predicament ([John 9:1-2](#)). However, in the midst of all the arguing, the blind man had the clearest insight of all. He started with a basic understanding of the facts ([John 9:11, 25](#)) and formed an opinion about Jesus ([John 9:17](#)) but finally made a decision to believe ([John 9:38](#)), in spite of the consequences ([John 9:34](#)). That is a good description of how to become a Christian.

Key thought: Religious \_\_\_\_\_ is blinding

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): John 9 (Author = John)

### A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

**1** [John 8](#) talks about the fact that Jesus had just left the temple, so we can assume He is still close

**2** Hopefully the blind man could not \_\_\_\_\_ this question

**3** Am I willing to be physically impaired so that the glory of God can be evident in my life?

**4** I **must** [the word for necessary] **work** [labor, work, make gains by doing business, work out, exercise, perform, produce, work for, earn by working, acquire] **the works** [business, employment] **of Him who sent Me while it is day**

**4** What does this, 'night,' refer to?

**4** Jesus is saying that He is the only one that can accomplish what He was sent to do—we can't work our way to heaven, but \_\_\_\_\_ can work our way to heaven

**6** **Albert Whiting: Adam was made from dirt and was blind. Jesus healed the man by using dirt so he could see, not only physically but also spiritually.**

**6** Jesus got \_\_\_\_\_ involved

**7** **Where was this pool?** Just southeast of Jerusalem (probably less than half a mile from where they were standing—\_\_\_\_\_ can show you)

**7** Giving sight to the blind is a work of God alone ([Psalm 146:8](#)) and is a sign of the Messiah ([Isaiah 35:5](#))

**13** **Pharisees** [enemies of Jesus and Jesus' cause who were focused on outward piety and not inward obedience—they serve as a warning to us all not to fall in love with our own applications of Scripture]

**16 He does not keep the Sabbath** [They were missing the Creator because of misinterpretation of the Creator's rules—the Old Testament does \_\_\_\_\_ prohibit what Jesus did]

**21 Did the blind man's parents become believers?**

**22 put out of the synagogue** [What does put out of the synagogue mean? \_\_\_\_\_]

**23 Were his parents kicked out of the synagogue?** \_\_\_\_\_

**34 The People's New Testament: This miracle was officially investigated by the enemies of Christ, and they were compelled to admit it. The judicial investigation showed that he was born blind, that he was cured, and that Jesus gave him sight.**

**38 "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.** [Does the man remain a disciple long-term?]

**39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."** [Barnes' New Testament Notes: This is always the effect of truth. Where it does not *soften* it *hardens* the heart; where it does not convert, it sinks into deeper blindness and condemnation.]

**41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin** [If I admit that I cannot see on my own then I can be forgiven]; **but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.** [They claimed to know the truth, but rejected the Light, and that kept them in the darkness of their sin]

**Geneva Study Bible: Christ enlightens all those by the preaching of the Gospel who acknowledge their own darkness, but those who seem to themselves to see clearly enough, those he altogether blinds**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. **Lori Drake: The Pharisees** \_\_\_\_\_ **a really good day for a man who used to be blind!**
2. Salvation is \_\_\_\_\_ a process and an instantaneous act
3. Religious arrogance can cause us to miss heaven
4. The Bible never gets \_\_\_\_\_

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Don't rain on God's parade
2. Don't rush salvation—give people time to 'get' it
3. Constantly reevaluate what I believe and rely on the Scripture
4. Continue to study things after the \_\_\_\_\_ is over

Last question: **What was the blind man's name?** We can reread this story trying to find the man's name and we will be amazed at the lengths that John goes to in order to \_\_\_\_\_ his name.

# The Miracles of Jesus: Healing a Demon-Possessed Man

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## Preview: In the Name of Jesus (Mark 5:1-20, Luke 8:26-39, Matthew 8:28-34)

The area of our miracle today is northeast Galilee. The story follows Jesus' working in northern Galilee, after speaking many parables, doing miracles, and sending the multitudes away. From the time of leaving northern Galilee, a spiritual battle ensues.

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Mark 5:1-20 (Author = Mark)

**1** Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. **2** And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, **3** who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, **4** because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. **5** And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

The demoniac was ready and immediately jumps into the fray.

**6** When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. **7** And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me."

**8** For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!"

Timeline:

- The \_\_\_\_\_ run
- The \_\_\_\_\_ command
- The \_\_\_\_\_ feint
- The \_\_\_\_\_ counter-attack
- The \_\_\_\_\_ surrender
- The \_\_\_\_\_ plea

**9** Then He asked him, "What *is* your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name *is* Legion; for we are many."

- The \_\_\_\_\_ rebellion

**10** Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.

**11** Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. **12** So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." **13** And at once Jesus gave them

**permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.**

- The \_\_\_\_\_ alternative

Three of many glimpses of Jesus:

1. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_
3. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Peter 3:9d-e:** He is **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**

**14 So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. 15 Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid [to put to flight by terrifying]. 16 And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. 17 Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.** [These people felt conviction and rather than yield and do something about it, they asked the conviction (Jesus) to leave.]

**18 And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. 19 However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." 20 And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.**

**Mark 16:15: And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."**

Jesus' message was, "Go and tell!" What did the man do? He obeyed. He went. He told. Moreover, what happened? People responded (**Mark 5:20**).

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God did not call us to be \_\_\_\_\_
2. There is no one out of the reach of Jesus
3. Jesus still saves the living from among the dead

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Everyone has a comfort zone: \_\_\_\_\_ of it!
2. Everyone has a similar story: \_\_\_\_\_ it!
3. Where do you see a need today: \_\_\_\_\_ it!

# The Miracles of Jesus: Raising Lazarus from the Dead

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## Review

This is the last lesson in a series of lessons on the miracles of Jesus. There is a progressively more powerful display of Jesus' supernatural power occurring here that He uses to teach us:

- In feeding the 5,000, Jesus shows His supernatural power to meet our \_\_\_\_\_ needs
- In walking on water, Jesus shows His supernatural power over \_\_\_\_\_ laws
- In healing a blind man, Jesus shows His supernatural power to \_\_\_\_\_
- In healing a demon-possessed man, Jesus shows His supernatural power over \_\_\_\_\_
- In raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus shows His supernatural power over \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): John 11 (Author = John)

**1 Lazarus** [this is not the same Lazarus that appeared in the story of the rich man and Lazarus]

**4 "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."** [Your sickness can be for God's glory.]

**6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was** [Why is Jesus sitting?]

**17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.** [Why four days? David Guzik: Jesus did this in light of the Jewish superstition of that day that said a soul stays near the grave for three days, hoping to return to the body. Therefore, it was accepted that after four days there was absolutely no hope of resuscitation.]

**32 "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."** [It appears the sisters have been talking with each other about Jesus because they both make the same statement]



**33 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping** [\_\_\_\_\_ mourning—visible and passionate mourning for the dead], **and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned** [literally, \_\_\_\_\_ in anger] **in the spirit and was troubled** [agitated, irritated]. **34 And He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.”**

**35 Jesus wept** [shed tears—\_\_\_\_\_ and under control]

**46 But some of them went away** [do not get discouraged when we tell the story of what God has done in our life and some do not believe]

**57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He was, he should report it, that they might seize Him.** [This might appear to be a strange place to stop today, but this postscript illustrates that Jesus’ miracles did not win Him friends in high places]

Lazarus’ resurrection did not win him many friends either—later on in [John 12](#), we read that Lazarus was the target of the Jewish leaders and a plot was hatched to \_\_\_\_\_ Lazarus as well because too many people believed in Jesus.

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Jesus got personally involved
2. \_\_\_\_\_ can cause strong emotions
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is not the end of the story

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Get involved
2. Love \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tell \_\_\_\_\_ story

# The Essential 100

## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

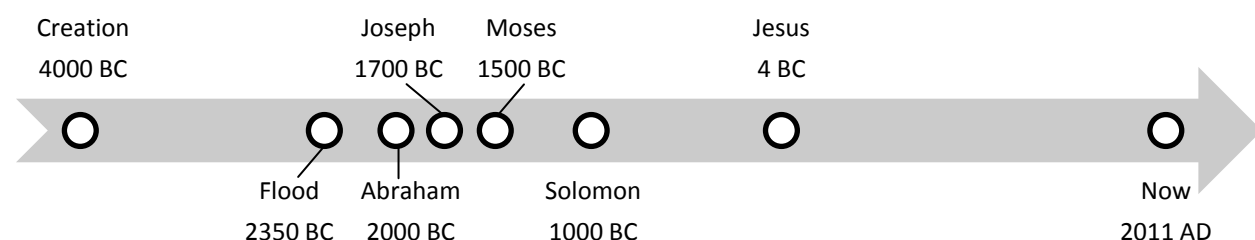
## The Schedule: Moses and the Exodus

This is our fourth five-week series in the Old Testament. So far, we have looked at In the Beginning, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and The Story of Joseph. Now we shift out of **Genesis** and into **Exodus**.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
August 7	Birth of Moses	Exodus 2:10	Exodus 1-2	Jim Fleming
August 14	The Burning Bush	Exodus 3:10	Exodus 3:1-4:17	Jim Fleming
August 21	The Ten Plagues	Exodus 11:9-10	Exodus 6:28-11:10	David Barber
August 28	Passover and Exodus	Exodus 12:12-13	Exodus 12:1-42	Terry Bolden
September 4	Crossing the Red Sea	Exodus 14:13-14	Exodus 13:17-14:31	Jim Fleming

## Series Preview

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



Moses was born ~ 1550 BC and lived 120 years. According to **Acts 7:23-29**, Moses is 40 when he leaves Egypt. **Acts 7:30** tells us that 40 more years will pass before God will speak to Moses in the burning bush—next week's lesson. Moses dies at age 120, so his life is divided up into three \_\_\_\_-year periods.

# Moses and the Exodus: Birth of Moses

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## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Exodus 1-2 (Author = Moses)

### Exodus 1: Israel's Suffering in Egypt

**10 let us deal shrewdly** [literally, wisely in order to \_\_\_\_\_]

**11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict** [\_\_\_\_\_, mishandle, afflict, humiliate, weaken]

**15 the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah** [\_\_\_\_\_] **and the name of the other Puah** [\_\_\_\_\_]

**17** Obey the state until the state violates God's laws—and there your obedience to the state \_\_\_\_\_

**20** Never underestimate the impact of godly \_\_\_\_\_

### Exodus 2: Moses Is Born & Flees to Midian

**6** What does Moses do the first time we meet him? \_\_\_\_\_

**10 So she called his name Moses** [\_\_\_\_\_]

**11 And he saw an Egyptian beating** [can mean anything from striking to in the process of \_\_\_\_\_] **a Hebrew**

**12 he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.** [Acts 7 sheds light on this and shows that Moses was \_\_\_\_\_ in what he did]

**21 Then Moses was content to live with the man** [David Guzik: We make a mistake when we think that the years in Midian were a "waiting" time for Moses. They were instead, \_\_\_\_\_ years; he had never worked this hard in his life!]

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ can be easily misunderstood
2. Seemingly inconsequential people can have tremendous impacts
3. God is aware and is \_\_\_\_\_ working

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Compare line upon line \_\_\_\_\_ time
2. Take the time to study the lesser-known characters' stories in Scripture
3. Never give up on God (or His timing)

# Moses and the Exodus: The Burning Bush

## Preview: Here am I LORD, Send Aaron!

Moses is living as a shepherd in the desert when God called Moses to deliver His people from slavery in Egypt. Moses objects—multiple times. God overcomes all of Moses' objections and also uses Aaron.

Key Thought: Will you be a Moses or an Aaron?

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Exodus 3:1-4:17 (Author = Moses)

### Exodus 3: Moses at the Burning Bush

**1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law** [Moses is now \_\_\_\_]



**2 And the Angel of the LORD** [the \_\_\_\_ - incarnate Jesus Christ]

**4 So when the LORD** [Jehovah; the existing One]

**7 for I know their sorrows** [God knows their sorrows?]

**8 to the place of the Canaanites** [people who lived in western Canaan] **and the Hittites** [people who lived in southern Canaan] **and the Amorites** [people who lived in eastern Canaan] **and the Perizzites** [people who lived in southwestern Canaan] **and the Hivites** [people who lived in northern Canaan] **and the Jebusites** [people who lived in central Canaan—God \_\_\_\_\_ out the Israelites' future home]

**10 I will send you to Pharaoh** [What did

Pharaoh want to do to Moses the last time we read about Pharaoh? To \_\_\_\_\_ Moses]

**11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"** [First objection: Who am \_\_\_\_?]

**13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"** [Second objection: Who are \_\_\_\_\_?]

**18-22** God tells Moses the rest of the story of the Exodus

**20 all My wonders** [literally, beyond your \_\_\_\_\_ to understand or do (the ten plagues)]

**21 And I will give this people favor** [favor, grace, charm, elegance, acceptance]

God's plan is very clear: \_\_\_\_\_ should lead the children of Israel out of Egypt

### Exodus 4: Miraculous Signs for Pharaoh

**1 Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe** [support, confirm, be faithful] **me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'"** [Third objection: What if they do not \_\_\_\_\_?]

**2-5** The sign of the serpent showed God could defeat the enemies of Moses

**6** The sign of the leprosy showed that God could purify the polluted

### 9 Why three signs?

**10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow** [heavy, hard, difficult, burdensome] **of speech and slow** [heavy, hard, difficult, burdensome] **of tongue."** [Fourth objection: I am a poor \_\_\_\_\_]

**13 But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send."** [Fifth objection: I do not \_\_\_\_\_ to do it]

**14** God only got mad when Moses showed unwillingness

**14 Is not Aaron** [light bringer] **the Levite** [joined to] **your brother?** [God had put someone next to Moses who would bring the light because Moses refused to do it]

**16 So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.** [When we see Moses speaking to the people in the rest of the Bible, it is really Aaron. I wonder what Aaron was supposed to do that he could not do because he performed Moses' \_\_\_\_\_.]

Aaron was a thorn in Moses' side (**David Guzik: Aaron instigated the worship of the golden calf, fashioning the calf himself and building the altar himself (Exodus 32:1-6), his sons blasphemed God with impure offerings (Leviticus 10:1-7), and he openly led a mutiny against Moses (Numbers 12:1-8)**)

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God will talk to me in unexpected places
2. God wants to use \_\_\_\_\_ to do what He has called \_\_\_\_\_ to do (God is my sufficiency)
3. God will sometimes use someone \_\_\_\_\_ if I refuse to do what He has called me to do

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Always be ready to listen to God and respond to His call
2. Serve Him where He calls
3. Serve with a \_\_\_\_\_ heart when someone else abdicates their service

# Moses and the Exodus: The Ten Plagues

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## Review

Being Pried out of Egypt: [Exodus 3:7-8](#)

## The Context

**Date: ~1400 B.C.**

- Lived in Egypt for 430 years
- After things like the flood, Tower of Babel
- Before the prophets, King David, etc.

### Before the law of Moses

- Worship of God was once understood as Noah built altar
- Jacob worshiped and Isaac was almost sacrificed
- Four generations from Jacob to Moses and no mention of sacrifice

**70 people enter Egypt and now, nearly 2.5 million leave as a nation is born**

### The Timeline

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Joseph takes them into Egypt to save the family                      | • Exodus from Egypt including parting of the Red Sea |
| • There a Pharaoh rises that did not know Joseph, resulting in slavery | • Giving of the Law (while Israel still rejects God) |
| • God prepares Moses   | • Israel wanders 40 years                            |
| • The plagues loosen the grip Pharaoh has on the Israelites            | • Israel enters the promise land                     |

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): [Exodus 6:28-11:11](#) (Author = Moses)

Moses Abdicates: [Exodus 6:28-30](#); [Exodus 7:1-5](#)

### Moses: An unwilling vessel

#### God used Moses despite him

- Murderer, wanderer, worker for his father-in-law
- Ran from his destiny for many years
- Was he really slow of speech? He became a strong speaker later when he delivers the 10 commandments.

#### God could have moved right past him

#### God treats Moses like a Father would a child

## The Plagues

- Blood ([Exodus 7:14-25](#))
- Frogs ([Exodus 7:26-8:11](#))
- Lice ([Exodus 8:12-15](#))
- Dog Flies ([Exodus 8:16-28](#))
- Murrain ([Exodus 9:1-7](#))
- Boils ([Exodus 9:8-12](#))
- Hail Storm ([Exodus 9:13-35](#))
- Locusts ([Exodus 10:1-20](#))
- Darkness ([Exodus 10:21-29](#))
- Death of the Firstborn Son ([Exodus 11:1-12:36](#))

## Apply (What is the point?) & Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Moses was used in spite of himself
  - Abdicates his role as mouthpiece of God
  - God uses him in mighty ways
  - Used but never enters the Promised Land
2. Meaning of the plagues
  - Egypt's perspective: compared to Egypt's gods
  - Pharaoh's perspective: common magic and a hard heart
  - Moses' perspective: God uses weak vessels
  - Israel's perspective: God's judgment on Egypt

3. God's perspective: A Father

God's lesson for Israel: I am your Father

- God used Moses despite him
  - God lets His nation make mistakes growing up
  - The nation sees God's power and still rejects Him, resulting in wilderness wandering
  - God is faithful, even when we are not (Moses, Israel)
4. How is your relationship with your Heavenly Father?
    - Are you doing what God has asked of you?
    - How do you see your mistakes growing up?
    - When you see God's power, do you still reject Him?
    - God is faithful, even when we are not.
  5. The Message
    - [Romans 9:14-18](#)
    - Why the 10 Plagues? Judgment on specific gods associated with the Nile. God proclaims that all the gods of Egypt will be judged through the tenth and final plague ([Exodus 12:12](#)). Plagues were more for Israel than Pharaoh ([Exodus 11:10](#))

# Moses and the Exodus: Passover and Exodus

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## Review

In this series, we are looking at the life of Moses. Here is a quick recap:

- Jacob and his descendants have greatly multiplied in Egypt ([Exodus 1:7-14](#))
- They become slaves and God knows of their suffering ([Exodus 2:23-25](#))
- Moses comes on the scene and God calls him from the burning bush ([Exodus 3](#))
- Moses approaches Pharaoh with God's message ([Exodus 5:1a: Let My people go](#))
- Despite many plagues and miracles from God, Pharaoh refuses until the final plague—the death of the firstborn of all of Egypt

## Preview: It's all about Jesus. It's only about Jesus. It's always about Jesus.

Today's lesson is all about the directions that God gave to the Israelites to survive the final plague. Those directions were passed down and are still practiced today—in the form of the Jewish Passover Seder.

Key Thought: The Passover is all about \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Exodus 12:1-42 (Author = Moses)

### I. Passover in Egypt ([Exodus 12:3-51](#))

#### A. There were three basic elements to the original Passover: ([Exodus 12:3-14](#))

1. A \_\_\_\_\_
2. Unleavened bread
3. Bitter \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. There were three specific instructions outside of the meal:

1. Each household was to take hyssop, dip it in blood, and strike the side posts and upper doorpost of the house wherein they were eating the Passover ([Exodus 12:7, 22-23](#))
2. Continue to practice this Feast of Remembrance forever ([Exodus 12:7, 24](#))
3. The Israelites were to wait for their deliverance ([Exodus 12:22-23, 30-31](#))

### II. Passover at the time of Christ

### III. Passover today (no longer is the Passover \_\_\_\_\_ the central figure of the holiday)

#### A. Today, there are seven basic elements:

1. A shank \_\_\_\_\_
2. Unleavened bread
3. Bitter herbs
4. A bowl of \_\_\_\_\_  
water
5. The haroset
6. A roasted egg
7. Four cups



## B. The preparation for the Passover

1. Thorough cleaning and household search for \_\_\_\_\_ (**Exodus 13:7-8**)
2. On the evening before Passover, a symbolic search for crumbs is done

## C. The Passover Seder

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Lighting of the candles  | 9. Eating of the bitter herbs with matzah              |
| 2. Cup of _____<br>(the first of the four cups)                               | 10. Eating of the "Hillel sandwich"                    |
| 3. Washing of the hands   | 11. The afikomen is brought out of its<br>hiding place |
| 4. The karpas (bitter herbs) are dipped in<br>salt water, blessed, and eaten. | 12. The Cup of _____ or<br>Judgment                    |
| 5. Breaking of the afikomen (matzah)  | 13. The Cup of _____ or<br>Cup of the Kingdom          |
| 6. The Haggadah or "_____"  | 14. The door is opened                                 |
| 7. The Cup of Thanksgiving or<br>_____  | 15. The door is shut                                   |
| 8. The breaking and eating of the<br>remaining matzah                         |  |

**Application (What is the point?) & Personalization (What do I do with that?)**

1. Passing of the Covenant (**Matthew 26:26-29**)
2. Presence of the Christ:
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the Passover Lamb
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the leaven-free (sinless)  
matzah
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the broken afikomen
  - Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the bitterness of God's  
judgment for us
3. Picture in the Cups (**Exodus 6:6-7**)
  - First: Cup of Sanctification ("**I will bring you out**")
  - Second: Cup of Deliverance ("**I will rescue you**")
  - Third: Cup of Redemption ("**I will redeem you**")
  - Fourth: Cup of Acceptance ("**I will take you and be your God**")

Conclusion: It's all about Jesus. It's only about Jesus. It's always about \_\_\_\_\_.

# Moses and the Exodus: Crossing the Red Sea

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## Review

So far in this five-week series, we have seen:

- The children of Israel become \_\_\_\_\_ in Egypt
- Moses \_\_\_\_\_ to a position of Israelite leadership because of a conversation with God in a bush
- Moses and Aaron stand up to Pharaoh and demonstrate God's power using \_\_\_\_ plagues
- Pharaoh was convinced to let the Israelites \_\_\_\_ after the tenth plague (death of the firstborn)

Today is the, 'exodus,' part of, "Moses and the Exodus." The Israelites cross the Red Sea and the Lord is victorious over Pharaoh and the Egyptians. After today's lesson, Egypt never challenges Israel again.

Key Thought: God will do things in His time, in His way, and for His glory

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Exodus 13:17-14:31 (Author = Moses)

### Exodus 13: The Wilderness Way

**17** God ignores the short path for the betterment of His people

**18 And the children of Israel** [somewhere between two and three \_\_\_\_\_] **went up**

**21 And the LORD** [this is a shift from, 'God,' to, '\_\_\_\_\_']

**22 He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.**

[**Psalm 84:11, 105:39; 1 Corinthians 10:1-2**: Paul says that the Israelites are \_\_\_\_\_ into Moses]

### Exodus 14: The Red Sea Crossing

**4 Then I** [the LORD] **will harden** [to make \_\_\_\_\_, rigid, hard—resulting in passionate action; this does not mean God changed Pharaoh's heart—God \_\_\_\_\_ what already existed]

**14 The LORD will fight** [engage in battle] **for you, and you shall hold your peace."** [God told Moses that God would gain honor over Pharaoh. God did not (as far as we know) tell Moses \_\_\_\_\_]

**17 And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians** [broader than just Pharaoh this time to include all of the Egyptians following]

**18 Then the Egyptians shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”** [In **Exodus 5:2**, Pharaoh asked who God was]

**19 And the Angel of God** [this is a pre-incarnate manifestation of \_\_\_\_\_]

**21 the LORD caused the sea to go *back*** [not Moses, not Moses' hand, not the rod, but the LORD caused it] **by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry *land*, and the waters were divided** [split, \_\_\_\_\_]

**24 He troubled** [confused, moved noisily around in] **the army of the Egyptians.** [**Psalm 77:17-20**]

**30 So the LORD saved** [saved, \_\_\_\_\_] **Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God will do things in His time
2. God will do things in His way
3. God will do things for His glory

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Be content with God's \_\_\_\_\_
2. Be content with God's \_\_\_\_\_
3. Be content with giving God \_\_\_\_\_

### Suggested resources:

Cecil B. DeMille's version at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jo0JMs-evQU>

Preface of Coffman's Commentary on **Exodus 14**: <http://bit.ly/mTkiin>

# The Essential 100

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## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

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Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

## The Schedule: The Final Days of Jesus

This is our fourth five-week series in the New Testament. So far, we have looked at The Early Years of Jesus, The Teachings of Jesus, and the Miracles of Jesus. Now we shift to The Final Days of Jesus.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
September 11	The Last Supper	Luke 22:19-20	Luke 22:1-46	Jim Fleming
September 18	Arrest and Trial	John 18:38-40	John 18	Amy Valovcin
September 25	The Crucifixion	John 19:17-18	John 19	Jim Fleming
October 2	The Resurrection	John 20:19-20	John 20-21	Jim Fleming
October 9	The Ascension	Acts 1:9-11	Acts 1:1-11	Tim Archer

# The Final Days of Jesus: The Last Supper

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## Preview: A Meal to Remember

Jesus takes His disciples to a quiet place and eats with them the Passover Seder. However, this is not just another Passover meal. Jesus changes the symbolism of the elements to additionally include His body (the bread) and His blood (the wine) and creates a new covenant that will last forever.

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Luke 22:1-46 (Author = Luke)

5 **And they** [the religious leaders] **were glad** [literally, \_\_\_\_\_ exceedingly]

5 **and agreed to give him money.** [How much money did Judas get? \_\_\_\_ pieces of silver. What could you buy with that amount? A \_\_\_\_\_]

**6 So he** [Judas Iscariot] **promised and sought opportunity to betray Him** [There will be people that walk with you that will not \_\_\_\_\_ the race.]

**15 Then He said to them, “With *fervent desire*** [elsewhere this word is translated as \_\_\_\_\_, craving]

**17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide *it* among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”** [Pray and thank God for the blood of Jesus]

**19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”** [Pray and thank God for the body of Jesus]

**24 Now there was also a dispute** [literally a \_\_\_\_\_ of strife and contention]

**27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.** [Leadership comes through \_\_\_\_\_, not through leadership]

**29 And I bestow** [this word is only used when a man sets his house in order for his \_\_\_\_\_]

**31 that he may sift** [shake by inward agitation to try a person’s faith by taking them to the \_\_\_\_\_]

**32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”** [Stop and pray for the class that their faith would not fail]

**40 When He came to the place, He said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation** [temptation, trials].” [Stop and pray that the members of our class not enter into temptation]

**42 “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”** [Stop and pray that our class would drink of the cup that God has set aside for us to drink]

**44 And being in agony** [used of gymnastics or \_\_\_\_\_ when you are fighting for victory]

**45 He found them sleeping from sorrow** [sorrow, pain, grief, annoyance, affliction—used of people that are mourning—they were tired from being so \_\_\_\_\_]

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Communion is not just another \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jesus is praying for us
3. Remember what \_\_\_\_\_ did

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Remember the \_\_\_\_\_ to help with the \_\_\_\_\_
2. Pray for each other
3. Remember the right way (rejoice for the \_\_\_\_\_, mourn for the \_\_\_\_\_)

# The Final Days of Jesus: Arrest and Trial

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Key thought: Deciding about Jesus is life's biggest decision

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): John 18 (Author = John)

### Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

**3 Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.** [They were prepared to take Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_]

**4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?"** [He asked even though He knew who they wanted. Even then, Jesus' concern was \_\_\_\_\_ people.]

**6 Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.** [How awesome is our God? With a simple, "I AM," He can bring people to their knees. He submits \_\_\_\_\_ to the troops arresting Him and then declares His \_\_\_\_\_ by knocking them over.]

**8 Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,"** [He will say this again on the cross. He went to the Father on our behalf saying take Me and let \_\_\_\_\_ go.]

**10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.** [Peter is willing to defend his Lord by the \_\_\_\_\_]

### Peter Denies Jesus

**17 Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also *one* of this Man's disciples, are you?"** [David Guzik: [Peter] was \_\_\_\_\_ with a sword in his hand, but a \_\_\_\_\_ before a servant girl]

He said, "I am not."

### Jesus Questioned by the High Priest

**23 Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?"**

### Peter Denies Twice More

**26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?"**

**27 Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed.** [Peter's \_\_\_\_\_ failed. His \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus NEVER did.]

### In Pilate's Court

**28 Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.**

**32 that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.**

**34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?"** [Even though His hour had come, He was still \_\_\_\_\_: The way, the truth the life!]

**35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?"** [You can try all you want, but you can never \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus]

**36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."**

**37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?"**

Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." [God \_\_\_\_\_ it; that \_\_\_\_\_ it!!]

**38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all. [He was \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_]**

### Taking the Place of Barabbas

**39 "But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"**

**40 Then they all cried again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.**

Challenge: It is impossible not to make a decision about Jesus—one way or the other

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Jesus took our place!
2. Truth always wins!
3. God is always God! (No matter what we do to Him: \_\_\_\_\_ Him out, \_\_\_\_\_ Him, or try to \_\_\_\_\_ Him)

Arrested Willingly, Stood Trial Blamelessly, Sentenced Innocently, Beaten Brutally, Suffered Immensely, Crucified Cruelly, Died Lovingly, Buried Poorly, Arose Beautifully, Returning Quickly! That is Truth worth standing for!!!

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. What will you do with Jesus?

# The Final Days of Jesus: The Crucifixion

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## Preview: An Unexpected God

Jesus came to restore a relationship between God and man that was created in [Genesis 1](#) and ruined in [Genesis 3](#). All throughout the Bible, God intervenes in and intersects with our lives in ways that we did not anticipate. During His ministry, Jesus did things that those around Him were not expecting Him to do. The Jews wanted a Messiah who would overthrow the Romans, not a Messiah who would die for the Romans. Jesus, through His life and through His death, completed the work His Father gave Him to do.

Key thought: [What happens when God shows up, but He is not what you wanted?](#)

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): John 19 (Author = John)

### The Soldiers Mock Jesus

**1 Pilate** [the prefect or \_\_\_\_\_ of this area—primarily responsible for taxation, being the area's highest judge, and for commanding the military]

**2 And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head** [[Where did thorns come from?](#)]

**2 they put on Him a purple robe** [[Where did the need for clothes come from?](#)]

**3 Then they said** [in the imperfect tense], **"Hail, King of the Jews!"** **And they struck Him** [in the imperfect tense] **with their hands.**

### Pilate's Decision

**6 Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him."** [The \_\_\_\_\_ time Pilate declares Jesus innocent]

**7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."** [He \_\_\_\_\_ was the Son of God]

**12 From then on Pilate sought** [in the imperfect tense] **to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's** [the Roman emperor—Pilate's boss] **friend.**

**13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat** [\_\_\_\_\_ will sit on the *bema* seat one day in heaven and judge \_\_\_\_\_]

**15 But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!"** Pilate said to them, **"Shall I crucify your King?"** The chief priests answered, **"We have no king but Caesar!"** [[What happens when God shows up, but He is not what you wanted?](#)]

**16 Then he** [Pilate] **delivered Him to them** [the Jewish leaders—the Sanhedrin] **to be crucified** [[Have you ever done something at your job that you knew was wrong but you did it anyway to keep your job/title/position/salary?](#)]. **Then they took Jesus and led Him away.**



### The King on a Cross

**19 Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS [Jehovah is \_\_\_\_\_] OF NAZARETH [one \_\_\_\_\_], THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

**24 They said therefore among themselves, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be,” that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: “They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.” [Psalm 22:18—written over a \_\_\_\_\_ years before Jesus Christ walked the earth] Therefore the soldiers did these things.**

### Behold Your Mother

**27 Then He said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home** [Joseph (Jesus’ earthly father) was probably dead by this time—hence the reason that Mary needed someone to watch her].

### It Is Finished

**30 He said, “It is finished** [\_\_\_\_\_]: Used to show that the debt of a bill had been paid; used by artists to show a work was complete; used by builders to show a building was finished according to plan. Jesus is saying He had done everything that He was supposed to do. At this point, Jesus had reconciled God and man. The perfect once-for-all sacrifice had been made. \_\_\_\_\_ had won the day.!”

### Jesus’ Side Is Pierced

**33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out** [Crucifixion was intended to be a slow and painful way to die. Death itself would come by \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus died of a broken \_\_\_\_\_.].

### Jesus Buried in Joseph’s Tomb

**38 After this, Joseph of Arimathea** [a member of the Sanhedrin], **being a disciple of Jesus**

**39 And Nicodemus** [a member of the Sanhedrin]

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God may not do what you \_\_\_\_\_ Him to do
2. God will still accomplish His plan
3. Jesus’ death reconciled \_\_\_\_\_ to God

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Do not hold God accountable for things He did not promise you
2. Willingly allow God to use you to accomplish His plan
3. \_\_\_\_\_ God’s good news of love with others to make a difference in their lives

# The Final Days of Jesus: The Resurrection

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## Preview: God's Love Wins

Last week, we looked at the idea that the cross proved that Jesus wins over sin—He was the perfect, once-for-all sacrifice that the entire Old Testament looked forward to. This week, we step into the reality that the disciples had fled, the Master had been killed, and the enemy appeared to have won. But, like so many other times in the Bible, the story is not yet finished because Jesus Christ has yet to prove that God's love not only wins over sin, but it wins over the ultimate effect of sin as well: death.

Key thought: The resurrection proves that God's love wins over \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): John 20-21 (Author = John)

### John 20

#### The Empty Tomb

**2 Then she ran** [Mary has a problem and her problem is that she does not know \_\_\_\_\_ took Jesus]

**8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed** [John was the first to believe the resurrection without \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus]

#### Mary Magdalene Sees the Risen Lord

**14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus** [He continues to be an \_\_\_\_\_ God]

**17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me** [the Greek implies that Mary was already holding on and Jesus was telling her to stop clinging], **for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren** [Thank you Lord for your swift and thorough forgiveness]

**18 Mary Magdalene came** [Mary had the answer to her problem: His name was \_\_\_\_\_] **and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* He had spoken these things to her.**

#### The Apostles Commissioned

**21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you!** [Jesus had just completed on the cross the work that would bring peace to God and man, so no doubt He had \_\_\_\_\_ on His mind]

#### Seeing and Believing

**27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."** [Jesus gave Thomas a \_\_\_\_\_ to believe. We must not blame those that do not believe—we must give chances to believe.]

**28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"** [Thomas gets it—and then Thomas takes the Gospel to \_\_\_\_\_ ]

## John 21

### Breakfast by the Sea

**3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also."**

[Sometimes your \_\_\_\_\_ will spread to others]

**9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread**  
[Where did Jesus get the fish and bread?].

**11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three**  
[Why \_\_\_\_\_ fish?]

### Jesus Restores Peter

**15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love**  
[agape] **Me more than these?"**

**16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love [agape] Me?"**

**17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love [phileo] Me?"**

**19 And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me." [You still have time to finish \_\_\_\_\_]**

### The Beloved Disciple and His Book

**24 This is the disciple** [referring to **John 21:20**—this is how we know John was 'the disciple Jesus loved']  
**who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.**

**25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. The resurrection happened
2. The disciples believed
3. God's love wins

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Spread the word about the resurrection
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to believe
3. Celebrate that our God's love wins over sin, death, and \_\_\_\_\_!

# The Final Days of Jesus: The Ascension

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## Preview: So Long . . . (for now)

After his resurrection, Jesus communicated two important realities about his kingdom to his disciples. The first was about empowerment. The disciples would not be able to fulfill their mission (**Matthew 28:18-20**) on their own. They needed his presence and power. That is why he promised the Holy Spirit. The second was about witnessing. The reason for the power was to communicate a message (**Acts 1:8**).

Key thought: Jesus' presence and power are still with us

**R. C. Sproul:** The book of **Acts** is the \_\_\_\_\_ between Jesus' steps here on earth and the lives of the disciple's after His leaving.

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 1:1-11 (Author = Luke)

### Prologue

**1** The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, **2** until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, **3** to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_. He is \_\_\_\_\_ indeed! Here are a few of the events/proofs that occurred:

- He \_\_\_\_\_ Himself: **John 20:19:** Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."
- He gave \_\_\_\_\_ proofs: **Luke 24:39:** Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ with them: **Luke 24:41-43:** **41** But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" **42** So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. **43** And He took it and ate in their presence.

### The Holy Spirit Promised

**4 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”**

The coming \_\_\_\_\_

**6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”**

Not the \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom again!

**7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

Stop acting like \_\_\_\_\_

### Jesus Ascends to Heaven

**9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.**

Our gravity-\_\_\_\_\_ Savior!

**10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”**

Men in \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge: Pray patiently. Wait prayerfully. Then go.

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. You “shall” be witnesses
3. Christ’s imminent return

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Is Christ personal to \_\_\_\_? How?
2. Am I fulfilling Christ’s final earthly command?
3. Do I have faith like a \_\_\_\_\_?

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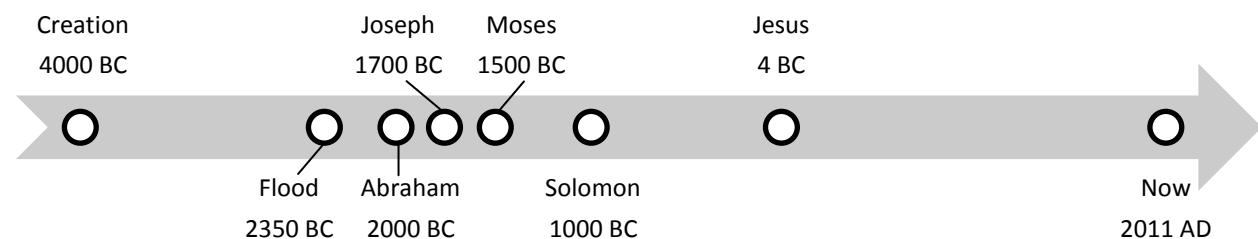
Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

## The Schedule: The Law and the Land

This is our fifth five-week series in the Old Testament. So far, we have looked at In the Beginning, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, The Story of Joseph, and Moses and the Exodus. Now we shift to the Law.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
October 16	The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1-3	Exodus 19:1-20:21	Jim Fleming
October 23	The Golden Calf	Exodus 32:7-8	Exodus 32-34	Barry Cole
October 30	Joshua Succeeds Moses	Joshua 1:5-6	Joshua 1	Jim Fleming
November 6	Crossing the Jordan	Joshua 3:15-16	Joshua 3-4	Chandalee Chrisman
November 13	The Fall of Jericho	Joshua 6:20	Joshua 5:13-6:27	Jim Fleming

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



For the first 2,500 years of the world's history, the patriarchs received revelation from God and orally passed it on, but now, approximately 1450 BC, the Law is given. Now there is a written account of God's expectations instead of an oral tradition. This period of dominance of the Law will last until Jesus frees everyone from the burden of the Law nearly 1,500 years later.

# The Law and the Land: The Ten Commandments

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## Preview: I Do

Covenant: a covenant is a legally binding \_\_\_\_\_ (see [Proverbs 2:16-17](#) and [Ezekiel 16:8](#))

Marriage: marriage is a covenant of \_\_\_\_\_ ([Malachi 2:14](#))

Suggested resource: [teachings.jim314.com](http://teachings.jim314.com) (see [Marriage & the 10 Commandments](#))

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Exodus 19:1-20:21 (Author = Moses)

### Exodus 19

#### Israel at Mount Sinai

**10 Go to the people and consecrate** [\_\_\_\_\_, dedicate]

**16 there were thunderings** [literally, \_\_\_\_\_ and sounds] **and lightnings**

### Exodus 20

#### The Ten Commandments

**3 "You shall have no other** [\_\_\_\_\_] **gods** [Elohiym] **before Me** [my face]

**7 "You shall not take the name** [name, \_\_\_\_\_, glory] **of the LORD your God in vain**

**8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy** [set apart as \_\_\_\_\_]

**12 "Honor** [make \_\_\_\_\_] **your father and your mother**

**16 "You shall not bear** [\_\_\_\_\_] **false** [lies, deceptions, disappointments, falsehoods] **witness** [testimony/evidence of things or people] **against your neighbor** [\_\_\_\_\_]

**17 "You shall not covet** [desire, delight, take \_\_\_\_\_ in]

**Question: Are we under the authority of the Ten Commandments today?** (See [Romans](#) for the answer)

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. God desires relationship with us
2. God is clear in His expectations for His relationships
3. God is too powerful to interact with directly—a \_\_\_\_\_ is needed

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Recommit every day to your relationship with God
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures to learn how to live rightly in relationship with God
3. Trust Jesus to be your Mediator

# The Law and the Land: The Golden Calf

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## Preview: Up Close and Personal

God really hates sin (**Exodus 32:9-10**). Moses did, too (**Exodus 32:19-20**) and He is willing to do whatever it takes to save His people (**Exodus 32:11-14, 31-32**). In so doing, he foreshadows what Jesus would do many years later. God and Moses had developed a very personal relationship (**Exodus 33:11**). That is what God wants with all people. He created us in his own image and wants us to love and follow him with our whole heart. The question is do you want a relationship with him?

Key Thought: God has a “no compromise” attitude toward sin

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Exodus 32-34 (Author = Moses)

### Exodus 32

#### The Gold Calf (1-35)

### Exodus 33

#### The Command to Leave Sinai (1-4)



## **Moses Meets with the LORD (7-11)**

## **The Promise of God's Presence(12-23)**

## **Exodus 34**

### **Moses Makes New Tablets (1-9)**

### **The Covenant Renewed (10-28)**

### **The Shining Face of Moses (29-35)**

Challenge: God paid a high price for a relationship with you. What will you do for Him?

### **Apply (What is the point?)**

1. God is just
2. God is merciful
3. God forgives

### **Personalize (What do I do with that?)**

1. Understand you are a sinner
2. Accept God's grace
3. Let your little light shine!

# The Law and the Land: Joshua Succeeds Moses

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## Preview: Passing the Baton

Up to this point in our overview of the Old Testament, Moses has played a major role. He was used by God to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt, he has received the Law, and he led the children of Israel out of the wilderness. He dies at age 120 and someone new has to lead the Israelites. Here is an overview of Joshua's life:

- Joshua was born in Egypt to Nun and was about \_\_\_\_ years old at the time of the Exodus
- Joshua is first mentioned in his leadership of the Israelites in the fight against the Amalekites (**Exodus 17**). Strangely enough, he is given no introduction, which implies that he was already well known among the Israelites.
- Served as Moses' \_\_\_\_\_/servant
- Went up on Sinai with Moses (at least part of the way) to get the 10 Commandments (**Exodus 32**)
- Sent with 11 others to view the Promised Land (**Numbers 13**). He and \_\_\_\_\_ bring back a good report about the Promised Land (**Numbers 14**).
- Ordained to be Moses' successor (**Numbers 27** and **Deuteronomy 31**)
- Is described by God as one who "**wholly followed the Lord**" in **Numbers 32:11-12** (he and Caleb were the two oldest Israelites alive after Moses died)
- Takes over as Moses' successor around the age of \_\_\_\_ (he trained for the job for around 40 years)
- God makes promises to him (**Joshua 1**)
- Leads Israel into Canaan (**Joshua 1-4**)
- Renews circumcision and re-establishes the Passover (**Joshua 5**)
- Was a military genius (in \_\_\_\_ years he captured Jericho in **Joshua 6**, won the battle of Ai in **Joshua 8**, defeated seven kings in **Joshua 9-10**, and completed the conquest of the whole land in **Joshua 11**)—an entire chapter (**Joshua 12**) is dedicated to listing the kings he defeated (\_\_\_\_ nations and \_\_\_\_ kings)
- He set up the tabernacle at Shiloh (**Joshua 18**)
- Set up the cities of refuge (**Joshua 20**)
- Set aside 48 cities for the Levites (**Joshua 21**)
- Preached a sermon to Israel in **Joshua 23-24** before his death
- Told the Israelites to, "**Choose for yourselves this day**," in **Joshua 24** (reminiscent of Moses)
- Dies at age 110 (after \_\_\_\_ years of leadership service) with the "no one led them like Joshua" concept firmly rooted in Israeli history

In **Joshua 1**, God promised to give Joshua land, success, and a leadership platform as God had given Moses (**Joshua 1:3-6**). Best of all, God promised to be with Joshua (**Joshua 1:5**). In return, God asked for Joshua's obedience (**Joshua 1:7**)—and that is exactly what God got.

Key Thought: Moses passed the baton to Joshua and Joshua ran \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Joshua 1 (Author = Joshua)

### God's Commission to Joshua

**1** Coffman: Joshua represents the Lord Jesus Christ in his life and achievement: (1) Like Christ, Joshua did what Moses and the Law could not do; (2) He led the people into Canaan; Christ leads his people into heaven; and (3) Both Joshua and Jesus began their commission on the banks of the Jordan River

**2** "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise [an imperative], go over [an imperative] **this Jordan, you and all this people** [600,000 men plus the women and children make at least a few \_\_\_\_\_], **to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.** **3** Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given [in the 'perfect' mood in Hebrew] **you, as I said to Moses.**

**5** **I will not leave you** [to let \_\_\_\_\_, abandon, relax, refrain, forsake, to let go, to refrain, let alone, to be quiet] **nor forsake** [to leave, to depart from, leave behind, leave, let alone, to leave, abandon, forsake, neglect, apostatize, to let loose, set free, let go, free] **you.**

**6** **Be strong** [an imperative, meaning to be strong, to prevail, to become strong, to be \_\_\_\_\_, to be resolute] **and of good courage** [an imperative, meaning to be strong, alert, courageous, brave, stout, bold, solid, hard]

**7** **Only be strong and very** [an additional word from **Joshua 1:6**] **courageous, that you may observe** [to keep, have charge of, to keep, guard, keep watch and ward, protect, save \_\_\_\_\_] **to do according to all the law [towrah] which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper** [to look at or upon, have \_\_\_\_\_, to give attention to, consider, ponder, be prudent, to have insight, have comprehension] **wherever you go.**

**8** **meditate** [to roar, growl, groan, to utter, speak, to meditate, devise, muse, \_\_\_\_\_] **in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way** [literally, the way, road, distance, journey, manner, path, direction, habit, figuratively, the course of life or moral character] **prosperous** [to make prosperous, bring to successful issue, cause to prosper, to show or experience prosperity, prosper], **and then you will have good success** [same word for prosper in **Joshua 1:7**].

### The Order to Cross the Jordan

**11** "Pass [an imperative—Joshua's first words to his officers were a \_\_\_\_\_]

**Judges 2:7:** **So the people served the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ can last years
2. Ministry \_\_\_\_\_ be transferred
3. Do the \_\_\_\_\_

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Train \_\_\_\_\_
2. Grab my \_\_\_\_\_
3. Run \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested resource: Fausset's Bible Dictionary ([studylight.org/dic/fbd/view.cgi?number=T2115](http://studylight.org/dic/fbd/view.cgi?number=T2115))

# The Law and the Land: Crossing the Jordan

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## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Joshua 3-4 (Author = Joshua)

### Joshua 3

#### Israel Crosses the Jordan

**1 Then Joshua** [his name means, ' \_\_\_\_\_ ' or 'Deliverer'; **Who does else does that sound like?**]

**2 So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp;** [They are entering the land five days before the \_\_\_\_-year anniversary of the Exodus]

**3 “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.** [The Cloud by day and the Fire by night cease to lead the Israelites here. God takes up residence in the Ark of the Tabernacle and it is He that is leading the people. The people are commanded to \_\_\_\_\_ out and follow Him.]

**5 So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.** [Normally, the Ark was guarded/carried by the Levites. On special occasions, the \_\_\_\_\_ carried the Ark.]

**11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan.** [The physical representation of God is crossing through the Jordan River before them— \_\_\_\_\_ the way—reminiscent of Jesus preparing the way for us (by being on the cross so that we can enter a new life with God).]

#### How (or what) is God calling you to step out (to)?

**15 and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest),** [God was bringing them into the Promised Land at a harvest time when the fields would be \_\_\_\_\_ and abundant and the Israelites would be provided for in a new land.]

**16 that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea [the Dead Sea], failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho.** [God uses \_\_\_\_\_ He chooses to gain our attention or to achieve His purposes.]

#### What kind of “stones” do you have in your life?

**] 17 Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.** [David Guzik: We usually want the river to be dry before we even make a step; but God was truly calling Israel to \_\_\_\_\_ out in faith.]

## Joshua 4

### The Memorial Stones

**7 And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.** [\_\_\_\_\_ memorials were common in the OT.]

What are 'stones' in your own life that you are memorializing? What God has accomplished through your failure or just that you failed? Are your stones, 'memorial stones,' or, 'stumbling stones,' for your life and those around you? Do they see you using the good and bad memorials as a crutch or do are you using those 'stones' to point others to God?

**8 And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged** [They established a dwelling place and they called it \_\_\_\_\_]

Parallels between Joshua and \_\_\_\_\_:

- Names mean the same: Salvation of Yahweh
- Joshua led them from the old life of disobedience to the new life of God's promise

**11 Then it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people.** [The priests stood firm and \_\_\_\_\_ in contrast to the Israelites that "hurried and crossed over."]

**14 On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life.** [Joshua was exalted as a leader and for being faithful to God. They saw that Joshua truly was like \_\_\_\_\_ that God's favor was upon him.]

**24 that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.** [The climax of the crossing event was to point His children back to \_\_\_\_\_ and His sufficiency, for them to know Him and make Him known as they conquered and inhabited the land He had promised and provided through their stepping out in faith.]

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. We all have "stones" in our lives: things we have done right and things where we have stepped before God's timing and/or plan
2. As leaders in our homes, workplaces, communities and churches, we are commanded to step up and out in faith and use those stones as memorials to point others to God and His all-encompassing sufficiency for everything in life.

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ God (intimately and growing continually)
2. Make Him \_\_\_\_\_ through our "stones" of being faithful and our "stones" of disobedience (and repentance) in order to point others to Him

# The Law and the Land: The Fall of Jericho

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So far in this series, Moses has received the Law, the Israelites rebelled in the sin of the golden calf, Moses dies, and Joshua leads the Israelites across the Jordan River into the Promised Land (Canaan).

God came to Joshua and told him to lead the children of Israel. He told Joshua to cross the Jordan. Since then, Joshua has re-implemented the Passover and circumcision (early [Joshua 5](#)). Now, Joshua is waiting on God's direction once again. Remember, the Israelites have won \_\_\_\_\_ battles in Canaan so far.

Rahab shows up in [Joshua 2](#) when she houses the two spies that Joshua sends out. Rahab is a harlot. A harlot is an old-school word for a prostitute. **Julie, why did the spies go to Rahab's place?** The spies tell Rahab that she will be saved when the Israelites conquer Jericho if she will leave a scarlet cord hanging out of her window. She does—and then she waits for the \_\_\_\_\_ deliverance.

## Preview: A Talking Dog

Primary key thought: The scarlet thread points to \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary key thought: Do \_\_\_\_\_ what God says

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Joshua 5:13-6:27 (Author = Joshua)

### The Commander of the Army of the LORD

**13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him** [do not miss the fact that Joshua willingly walks up to Someone with a drawn sword] **and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"** [Joshua creates a \_\_\_\_\_ dichotomy]

**15 Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy."** [this is \_\_\_\_\_] **And Joshua did so.**

## Joshua 6

### The Destruction of Jericho

**1 Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in** [the Israelites were laying siege to it—and the inhabitants of Jericho \_\_\_\_\_ about Israel (per [Joshua 2:8-11](#))].

**5 Have you ever been in the middle of cooking something, you are reading the recipe, and you see an ingredient or step that makes no sense? What do you do?**

**14 And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.** [Joshua did \_\_\_\_\_ what God said]

**19 But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, *are* consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD** [David Guzik: Jericho is the “first fruits” \_\_\_\_\_ of Canaan, and so the valuables are set apart to the treasury of the LORD].”

**25 And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father’s household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.** [David Guzik: All of Jericho heard about the God of Israel (Joshua 2:8-11), but only Rahab responded positively in faith towards God with that knowledge. Rahab’s faith in the \_\_\_\_\_ saved her and her family—just as our faith in the unseen save us today.]

So, why do we care about Rahab? First, for me, it is because we can relate to her—we have sinned and we are looking forward to the future fulfillment of our salvation. I love that God saved a \_\_\_\_\_!  
#ThatsWhatHeDoes

Secondarily, we care about Rahab because:

Salmon (& Rahab) → Boaz (& Ruth) → Obed → Jesse → David → . . . → \_\_\_\_\_

**David Guzik: Consider that she was a pagan sinner in a city and culture wholly given over to the worship of false gods and immorality, with no previous contact with the word of God or the things of God. What is your excuse?**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Yesterday is not important because you can only use \_\_\_\_\_
2. Use what you have for God and watch God work with it
3. Never underestimate what God can do with someone that appears to be unsavable/unusable

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Your past does not limit what God can do with your today
2. Open up your home to God’s people
3. Never look down on a \_\_\_\_\_

# The Essential 100

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## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

## The Schedule: The Church is Born

This is our fifth five-week series in the New Testament. So far, we have looked at The Early Years of Jesus, The Teachings of Jesus, the Miracles of Jesus, and The Final Days of Jesus.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
November 20	The Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-4	Acts 2	Jim Fleming
November 27	Growth and Persecution	Acts 4:1-4	Acts 3-4	Lori Drake
December 4	The First Martyr	Acts 7:59-60	Acts 6:8-8:8	Jim Fleming
December 11	Sharing the Word	Acts 8:34-35	Acts 8:26-40	Terry Bolden
December 18	Good News for All	Acts 10:34-35	Acts 10:1-11:18	Jim Fleming

# The Church is Born: The Day of Pentecost

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## Review: Pentecost

Pentecost is rooted in the Old Testament and means the \_\_\_\_\_ day. **David Guzik: The Day of Pentecost was a Jewish feast held fifty days after Passover. It was a time to celebrate the firstfruits of the harvest.** Jews call it the Festival of Weeks or Shavuot. It occurs in late May or early June.

## Preview: A Messy Start

Key thought: We are partners with God in the advancement of the Gospel



## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 2 (Author = Luke)

### Coming of the Holy Spirit

**4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues** [languages], **as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

### The Crowd's Response

**6 everyone heard them speak in his own language** [the original text gives \_\_\_\_ room for new languages, unknown languages, or prayer languages]

**13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."** [The first impression: \_\_\_\_]

### Peter's Sermon

**14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them** [The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_ things.]

**17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; [David Guzik: Before, the Holy Spirit was given in \_\_\_\_, now He would be poured forth.]**

**22** Peter now shifts gears and gets to the main point of this sermon: \_\_\_\_

**29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead** [Gospel part 1: \_\_\_\_] **and buried** [Gospel part 2: \_\_\_\_], **and his tomb is with us to this day.**

**32 This Jesus God has raised up** [Gospel part 3: \_\_\_\_], **of which we are all witnesses** [post-Gospel need 1: \_\_\_\_]. **33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear** [post-Gospel need 2: \_\_\_\_].

**37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart** [they realized they were \_\_\_\_]

### A Vital Church Grows

**40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."** [Observations about this first sermon: (1) \_\_\_\_ Scripture texts were used, (2) Great boldness was shown, (3) It was interactive, and (4) It was \_\_\_\_]

**47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church** [growing] **daily** [the \_\_\_\_ is for every day of the week] **those who were being saved.**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. \_\_\_\_ provides the salvation
2. The \_\_\_\_ provides the power
3. The \_\_\_\_ provides the witnesses and the evidence

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Tell people about Jesus' provision
2. Be filled with the Holy Spirit
3. Be a witness and the evidence of the Gospel

# The Church is Born: Growth and Persecution

## Preview: The Name

We all have names. Our names serve as identification. In the Jewish faith, names reveal insight into a person's nature, attributes, or ancestry. Names are often chosen based on their meanings: Isaac (laughter), Esau (hairy), and Jacob (supplanter).

There are times when we claim that our names have worth. There is a name that truly does have worth. A name that is, "**above every name.**" It carries with it ultimate authority. It is authority. It can be said that Scripture is true or that it is truth. It can be said that God is loving, or that He is love. Jesus' name does not merely have authority—it is authority.

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 3-4 (Author = Luke)

### Acts 3

#### A Lam Man Healed

**2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; 3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms** [What he truly needed, money could not buy: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_].

The (Lame) Man in the Mirror	
Lame Man	_____
Lame from the womb	Born into a _____ nature ( <b>Romans 3:23</b> )
Outside the temple	_____ from God ( <b>Romans 6:23</b> )
Gift of _____	Gift of salvation ( <b>Romans 6:23b</b> )
_____ by grace	_____ by grace ( <b>Ephesians 2:8</b> )
Public profession	Public profession

#### Preaching in Solomon's Portico

**14 But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.** [Peter's message is \_\_\_\_\_. The knowledge of sin comes before the blessing of redemption.]

**16 And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all [I got \_\_\_\_\_].**

**17 “Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. 18 But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. [Wiersbe: The prophets had foretold the sufferings and death of the Messiah, and the nation fulfilled these prophecies without realizing what they were doing. When God cannot rule, He overrules and always accomplishes His divine purposes and decrees.]**

Peter and John followed the Lord in full obedience. What do we as believers expect to happen when we do something for the sake of the gospel, or for the sake of His Name?

## Acts 4

### Addressing the Sanhedrin

**5 And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, 6 as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem [Peter and John were standing trial before the \_\_\_\_\_].**

**9 If we this day are judged for a good deed *done* to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well. . . . 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved [“made well” in Acts 4:9 is \_\_\_\_\_: The name of Jesus can provide both physical and spiritual healing].”**

### Prayer for Boldness

**24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord [The \_\_\_\_\_ of the church results from the influence of the Holy Spirit]**

**28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. [Guzik: Because they saw their circumstances in light of God’s Word, they could recognize that the wrath of man never \_\_\_\_\_ outside of the sphere of God’s control]**

**30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” [Signs and wonders can get \_\_\_\_\_, but the Word of God saves]**

### Sharing in All Things

**32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common [\_\_\_\_\_ > \_\_\_\_\_].**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God wants to use my \_\_\_\_\_
2. God wants to use my \_\_\_\_\_
3. God wants to use my \_\_\_\_\_

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Know it
2. Speak it
3. Live it

# The Church is Born: The First Martyr

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## Preview: More Sermons?

For some reason, God loves to work through \_\_\_\_\_. In the early church, this vehicle was used powerfully by the Holy Spirit to convict men and women of sin and build the kingdom. In today's text, we see a different reaction to a sermon, though, in that the one delivering the sermon is killed for his faith—Stephen becomes the church's \_\_\_\_\_ martyr.

Key thought: God's Word + Holy Spirit = great power

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 6:8-8:8 (Author = Luke)

### Acts 6

#### Stephen Accused of Blasphemy

**10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke** [the \_\_\_\_\_ was the reason for the irresistibility, not Stephen's brilliance—the same is true today].

### Acts 7

#### Stephen's Address: The Call of Abraham

**1 Then the high priest said, "Are these things so?"** [This appears to be a yes/no question, but Stephen responds with \_\_\_\_\_ words. Stephen was ready to talk about Jesus. When listening to this sermon, do not focus on the actions of the leaders, focus on the following three things: (1) God's faithfulness, (2) Israel's rejections, and (3) the overall actions of the nation of Israel, because that is where Stephen is going with the history lesson.]

#### The Patriarchs in Egypt (9-16)

#### God Delivers Israel by Moses (17-36)

So far, Stephen is just recounting the \_\_\_\_\_ and has really provided no commentary. That now changes.

#### Israel Rebels Against God (37-43)

**37 "This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.'** [Stephen is talking about \_\_\_\_\_]

#### God's True Tabernacle (44-50)

#### Israel Resists the Holy Spirit

**51 "You stiff-necked** [stubborn, headstrong, obstinate] **and uncircumcised in heart and ears!** [Stephen uses the same language that God uses to describe \_\_\_\_\_ in the Old Testament (see **Exodus 32:9**, **Jeremiah 9:26**, and **Deuteronomy 10:16**)] **You always resist** [to fall upon, run against, to be adverse, oppose, and strive against] **the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the**

prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers [How do you think the judge and jury are going to rule if you call them traitors and murderers? Not good for you], 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it." [David Guzik: Stephen's message is essentially twofold. First, God is no respecter of \_\_\_\_\_. That is, though the temple was a wonderful gift from God, it was wrong to overemphasize it as "the house of God." Second, Israel is guilty of what they have always been guilty of: \_\_\_\_\_ God's messengers.]

### Stephen the Martyr

54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed [bit him repeatedly] at him with *their* teeth [Where else in the Bible is gnashing of teeth mentioned?]. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing [Why was Jesus standing and not sitting?] at the right hand of God!"

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast *him* out of the city and stoned *him*. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul [who later, after being converted, would be called \_\_\_\_\_].

## Acts 8

### Saul Persecutes the Church

1 Now Saul was consenting [\_\_\_\_\_ with the outcome] to his death. [In Acts 26 when testifying before Agrippa, Paul says that he voted for the deaths of believers (Stephen may have been one of them)]

3 As for Saul, he made havoc [to affix a stigma to, to dishonor, spot, defile, to treat shamefully or with injury, to ravage, devastate, ruin] of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing *them* to prison.

### Christ Is Preached in Samaria

4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching [technically this word does not mean preaching, it means \_\_\_\_\_ or spreading] the word.

Here is the progression through this text: signs/wonders → persecution → preaching → conviction → martyrdom → persecution → preaching → miracles → healing → \_\_\_\_\_

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God likes to use sermons
2. Persecution will come
3. It all ends in joy

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Be ready to hear \_\_\_\_\_
2. Be ready to receive persecution
3. Be ready to experience joy

# The Church is Born: Sharing the Word

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## Preview: Unsung Hero

In **Acts 8:26-40**, we have the story of Philip and the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch. Philip was a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_. He had a focus on God and God's calling on his life. This Philip is not the Apostle, but the deacon. He was called to be a deacon in this new concept called the church.

**Hudson Taylor: Small things are small things, but faithfulness with a small thing is a big thing**

Being \_\_\_\_\_ is "big" in the eyes of God

Key thought: Phillip effectively shows us how to \_\_\_\_\_ our faith

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 8:26-40 (Author = Luke)

### Christ Is Preached to an Ethiopian

**26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.** [God calls Phil from the thriving, vibrant, growing ministry in a big metropolitan area to the backside of the desert. In **Acts 8:27**, we understand why Philip had many of the "successes" that he did.] **27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.** [This was just one man in the middle of nowhere. **2 Peter 3:9**. The Bible tells us that some plant, some harvest, some water, and Philip was ready to be whatever tool God needed, whenever God wanted to use him. The fact of the matter is planting and harvesting can sometimes get \_\_\_\_\_.] **29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."**

**30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"**

**31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.** [We do not know which ones those will be, so it becomes part of the faithful's job to try each and every door. Tell \_\_\_\_\_.! We ought to \_\_\_\_\_ open doors.] **32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this:**

*"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter;  
And as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
So He opened not His mouth.*

**33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away,  
And who will declare His generation?  
For His life is taken from the earth."**

**34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.** [God is looking for faithful servants to be ready and willing to say, "It is \_\_\_\_\_!"]

If you don't have the answer, \_\_\_\_\_?

I have found God always uses you exactly where you \_\_\_\_\_.

**36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"**

**37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."**

**And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."**

**38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.** [When someone accepts Christ, they are forever \_\_\_\_\_ (2 [Corinthians 5:17b](#)). When people are saved, you should see a difference because God makes a difference!] **39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God uses you \_\_\_\_\_ you are
2. God uses the \_\_\_\_\_ you have
3. God is looking for obedience and faithfulness

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Are you walking with God?
2. Do you have a heart for souls?
3. Are you active in telling others? God only requires \_\_\_\_\_ at a time.

# The Church is Born: Good News for All

## Preview: "Us" Redefined

The book of Acts is the transition period from the stationary construct of God to the mobile construct of God. **Acts 10-11** illustrates this shift. God loves everyone and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit shows this new framework that God is now working in: the gospel is for everyone.

Key thought: The church welcomes \_\_\_\_\_ who believe

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 10:1-11:18 (Author = Luke)



### Acts 10

#### Cornelius Sends a Delegation (1-8)

**7** And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. **8** So when he had explained all *these things* to them, he sent them to Joppa. [Cornelius was \_\_\_\_\_]

#### Peter's Vision (9-16)

**14** But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." [Peter was an obedient Jew who held to the \_\_\_\_\_ constraints of the Old Testament]

#### Summoned to Caesarea (17-23)

I love how the New Testament saints trusted each other and constantly traveled around with each

other: they almost never did anything \_\_\_\_\_

#### Peter Meets Cornelius (24-33)

**28** But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean [phase one: Peter sees \_\_\_\_\_ in those that are not like him]



**33 Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."**

[What a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ to bring with you to hear from God]

### Preaching to Cornelius' Household (34-43)

**34 In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality** [phase two: all men are created \_\_\_\_\_, all men are \_\_\_\_\_ by God, and the gospel is for everyone]

### The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles (44-48)

**45 And those of the circumcision [\_\_\_\_\_] who believed were astonished**

## Acts 11

### Peter Defends God's Grace (1-18)

**3 "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!"** [\_\_\_\_\_ was accused of the same]

**16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit** [Peter is beginning to connect the teachings of his Rabbi with the work of the Holy Spirit].' **17 If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"**

**18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."** [Phase three: the apostles got it here]

Since the gospel is for everyone, our challenge is to be as \_\_\_\_\_ as we can

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. One man's obedience helped to change church history
2. Some passages do not make sense in isolation and require some '\_\_\_\_\_/meditation' time
3. There were theological deficiencies in the disciples early on

4. The gospel is for

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Be obedient to the Word of God in your life
2. Meditate on the more difficult passages and give the Holy Spirit time to \_\_\_\_\_ and illuminate
3. Be open to have your theology \_\_\_\_\_ by the Word of God
4. See everyone as savable and \_\_\_\_\_ with everyone because the gospel is for everyone

# The Essential 100

## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

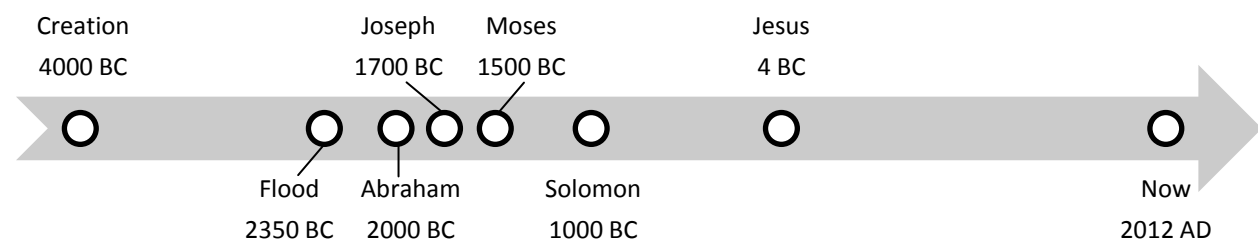
Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

## The Schedule: The Judges

This is our sixth five-week series in the Old Testament. So far, we have looked at In the Beginning, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, The Story of Joseph, Moses and the Exodus, and the Law and the Land. Now we shift to the Judges.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
January 18	Israel's Disobedience	Judges 2:11-12	Judges 2:6-3:6	Jim Fleming
January 8	Deborah Leads Israel	Judges 4:4-5	Judges 4-5	Jim Fleming
January 15	Gideon Defeats the Midianites	Judges 7:7	Judges 6-7	Jim Fleming
January 22	Samson Defeats the Philistines	Judges 16:29-30	Judges 13-16	Barry Cole
January 29	The Story of Ruth	Ruth 4:13-17	Ruth 1-4	Lori Drake

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



For the first 2,500 years of the world's history, the patriarchs received revelation from God passed it on orally. In 1450 BC, the Law is given. After Moses and Joshua pass off the scene, judges administer leadership for Israel. The judges bridge the leadership gap between Moses and Joshua and the kings.

# The Judges: Israel's Disobedience

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## Preview: Endangered Species

When Joshua and the elders who outlived him died (**Judges 2:7**), a depressing cycle in Israel's history began (**Judges 2:10-19**). The Israelites turned away from God, worshiped idols, and experienced disaster. Then, in desperation, they cried to God and he raised up leaders (judges here, kings and prophets later) to save them. However, the cycle of obedience and disobedience happened repeatedly.

Key thought: \_\_\_\_\_ generation matters (and has an impact for good or for evil)

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Judges 2:6-3:6 (Author = Samuel?)

### Judges 2

#### Death of Joshua

**7-10 Why did they not know the Lord?**

#### Israel's Unfaithfulness

**11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals** [Baal worship would continue in Israel for another \_\_\_\_\_ + years.]

**13 They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths** [Baal was the male, Ashtoreth was the \_\_\_\_\_]

**16-19** This paragraph is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the book of the **Judges**. **16 Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges** [judges, governors, vindicators, punishers, \_\_\_\_\_ leaders] **who delivered** [saved, delivered, gave victory to] **them out of the hand of those who plundered them.**

### Judges 3

**1-4** Disobedience led to several hundred years of \_\_\_\_\_

Generations: Moses (mostly God) → Joshua (served God) → Elders (served God) → Children (\_\_\_\_\_ worship)

**David Guzik: The continual cycle makes us less and less confident of man; but more and more impressed with the mercy and grace of God.**

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. Passing the baton is \_\_\_\_\_-fold
2. Passing the baton must continue \_\_\_\_\_

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Clearly identify a person who is passing you a baton and clearly identify a person to whom you are passing a baton
2. My faith will help to \_\_\_\_\_ my children's faith (for good or for bad)

# The Judges: Deborah Leads Israel

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## Preview: Girl Power

Deborah is the only female judge in the Bible. Another hero of this story is Jael, a young woman who had the smarts and the guts to eliminate the enemy commander. Deborah says and does what God has told her (**Judges 4:6-7, 14**) and it has a powerful effect. A theme in this passage is that courage is not limited by \_\_\_\_\_.

Key thought: Heroes encourage others to obey God

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Judges 4-5 (Author = Samuel?)

### Judges 4

#### Deborah

**1 When Ehud** [Othniel was the first judge, Ehud was the second judge, Shamgar was the third judge, and Deborah was the \_\_\_\_\_ judge] **was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD.**

**3 And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD; for Jabin had nine hundred chariots of iron** [the Old Testament equivalent of \_\_\_\_\_ bombers]

**4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time. 5 And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment** [David Guzik: The Bible tells us of several other prophetesses: Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Huldah (2 Kings 22:14), Anna (Luke 2:36), and Philip's four daughters (Acts 21:8-9)].

**6-7** Deborah is challenging this general of Israel (Barak) to do what God has already told him to do. Notice that she is always \_\_\_\_\_ and always encouraging him to \_\_\_\_\_ what God told him to do.

**8 And Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!"** [Can everyone clearly see that we need a hero here?]

**16 But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.** [So how did Israel defeat those chariots of iron? Chariots of iron are heavy and do not work well in the mud. God sent lots and lots of \_\_\_\_\_.]

**21-22 David Guzik:** Of course, there is no defending the treachery of Jael. She broke her promise to Sisera and killed a man that her own husband had made peace with. But, God even used her treachery to accomplish His purposes. Surely, Sisera deserved to die; he fought against God's people. . . . But this does not excuse Jael's personal sin. She will have to answer for it. The lesson for us is important—God can make even the \_\_\_\_\_ of man serve His purposes: **Surely the wrath of man shall praise You (Psalm 76:10a)**. Yet, that *never* diminishes the personal responsibility of the one doing the evil. Judas' betrayal of Jesus served the eternal purpose of God, yet he still had to answer for that evil deed.

## Judges 5

### The Song of Deborah

**1 Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying:**

[a great song that you should read a few times this week]

**So the land had rest for forty years.**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Courage is not limited by gender
2. Heroes encourage others to obey God
3. God will use \_\_\_\_\_ to accomplish His plan

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. God wants to use everyone
2. **Who am \_\_ encouraging to obey God?**
3. Recognize God's hand at all times

# The Judges: Gideon Defeats the Midianites

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## Review: Rollercoaster Religion and Casserole Creeds

Last week we looked at both the eclectic and cyclical nature of Israel's behavior during the time of the judges. **Judges 2:16-19** summarizes the pattern that we will see repeatedly in **Judges: 16** **Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges** [judges, governors, vindicators, punishers, \_\_\_\_\_ leaders] **who delivered** [saved, delivered, gave victory to] **them out of the hand of those who plundered them. 17 Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot** [explicit unfaithfulness] **with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do so. 18 And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them. 19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.**

## Preview: How Can I Be Sure?

In today's lesson, we meet Gideon—an initially reluctant hero. Gideon is famous for his request for \_\_\_\_\_ from God to confirm God's message (some things never change).

Key thought: Even though He uses men to accomplish His purpose, \_\_\_\_\_ is the hero of the Bible

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Judges 6-7 (Author = Samuel?)

### Judges 6

#### Midianites Oppress Israel

**6 So Israel was greatly impoverished** [laid low—the implication is that they were \_\_\_\_\_]

**7-8 Who was this prophet? Are you willing to go unaccredited in God's plan of redemption?**

#### Gideon

**11 Now the Angel of the LORD [Jesus] came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon [\_\_\_\_\_] threshed wheat in the winneps, in order to hide it from the Midianites.**

**13 Who really had forsaken whom?**

**17 Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign** [sign, signal, token, ensign, standard, miracle, \_\_\_\_\_] **that it is You who talk with me.**

**25-26** God tells Gideon to throw out the \_\_\_\_\_. This is a beautiful example of the 'put-off-put-on' principle taught in **Ephesians 4:20-24**.

### Gideon Destroys the Altar of Baal

**31 But Joash said to all who stood against him, “Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down!”** [Finally, a wise perspective about gods]”

**34-35** Small steps of obedience will \_\_\_\_\_ your faith

### The Sign of the Fleece

**36-40** God responded to all of Gideon’s questions/requests. This is the last thing Gideon asked of God.

## Judges 7

### Gideon’s Valiant Three Hundred

**1 Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him** [we find out in a minute that 32,000 men came] **rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites** [we know from **Judges 8** that there were 135,000 enemies present] **was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.**

**4-7** God did not use the 99%, He used the \_\_\_\_%

**11b Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outpost of the armed men who were in the camp** [meaning Gideon was still \_\_\_\_\_].

**17 And he said to them, “Look at me and do likewise** [this is 100% pure \_\_\_\_\_—do what I do]

**22** God caused Israel’s enemies to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves

**24-25 David Guzik: God did the great work through this small number of men; but once the great work had begun, He wanted as many as who could to get involved in the work**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God can handle all of your \_\_\_\_\_, but at the end of the day, He wants your obedience
2. God can handle all of your \_\_\_\_\_, but at the end of the day, He wants your obedience
3. God is the real hero and will use whatever is in your \_\_\_\_\_ to fulfill His purposes

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Question, but obey
2. Fear, but obey
3. Use what is in your hand for God

# The Judges: Samson Defeats the Philistines

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## Preview: Samson, Samson, Samson . . .

**Hebrews 11:1, 32-33: 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. . . . 32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions**

Lesson outline: What Samson had, what Samson did, what Samson lost, and what Samson learned

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Judges 13-16 (Author = Samuel?)

### Judges 13

Samson: The Early Years (from the [International Standard Bible Encyclopedia](#))

**Nazarite: a consecrated one**

- (1) the strictest abstinence from wine and from every product of the vine;
- (2) the keeping of the hair uncut and the beard untouched by a razor;
- (3) the prohibition to touch a dead body; and
- (4) prohibition of unclean food ([Judges 13:5-7](#); [Numbers 6](#), [1 Samuel 1:11](#))

### What Samson Had

Samson had a \_\_\_\_\_ mother with faith ([Judges 13:6](#)). Samson had a \_\_\_\_\_ father with fear or respect ([Judges 13:19](#)). Gideon's father built altars to Baal. Samson's environment was a godly environment.

### Judges 14-15

Samson: The crazy teenage years

- He married a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- He touched a dead body
- He ate unclean food
- He chose the \_\_\_\_\_
- He gambled
- He murdered
- He stole

Samson: The angry middle-aged man

- He was betrayed
- He took \_\_\_\_\_
- He murdered
- He hid
- Touched another dead body
- Killed some more
- Took credit
- Kind of \_\_\_\_\_
- All this and he still led Israel



**What Samson Did**

Strayed from his walk. Married a Philistine, a non-believer. Partied, alcohol involved. Touch dead bodies and ate unclean food. Gambled, killed, and stole. At least he still has his hair.

**Judges 16**

Samson: The Golden Years

- A prostitute
- Delilah
- He was \_\_\_\_\_
- He was captured and blinded
- He prayed
- He died

**What Samson Lost**

Samson throughout his life did not appear ever to lead the life you would expect from one specially chosen by God to lead Israel. The Lord focused on Samson continually blessed and strengthened him. Sampson continually lost his focus on God. In the end, Samson did not even realize that he lost the presence of the LORD (**Judges 16:20**).

**What Samson Learned**

He realized that he had misused the blessings of the Lord. He realized that he was a sinner (**Judges 16:28**). He saw that he must repent and asked for forgiveness. He learned that God can and will forgive and restore.

**Apply (What is the point?)**

1. Samson took advantage of and wasted so many blessings
2. He had a "I can do it alone" attitude
3. His best was not good enough
4. God is the hero

**Personalize (What do I do with that?)**

1. Understand we are all sinners
2. Never "handle" things alone (recognize God's presence)
3. It is never too late for forgiveness

When finishing the lesson, my thoughts kept going back to Samson's parents: his mother and her faith in the Lord and his father who wanted a logical answer to the angel's message. I was trying to apply this to parents of today and what our children gain from mothers and fathers. Even though I feel that Samson personally succeeded through most of his life, it was covered in his personal failures. However, in the end, he came to understand his spiritual loss. With that thought, I kept going back to **Proverbs 22:6**: **Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.**

# The Judges: The Story of Ruth

## Preview: Our Story

Two beautiful themes are woven throughout the book of **Ruth**: one is the theological concept of \_\_\_\_\_, which is the sum total of a patient, forever-enduring, loyal, loving-kindness. It is a picture of how God deals with His people—not just with love, but a love that endures through all circumstances and through all eternity. Through the entire Old Testament, God shows this kind of loving-kindness to His people, and allows His people to show it to each other, and the book of Ruth provides us with examples of both.

The second theme is God demonstrating providence for His people, and in the book of **Ruth**, we learn that God's providential hand is most visible when we choose obedience.

Key thought: Ruth's story is ultimately our story

Admirable Attributes	
Boaz	Ruth

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Ruth 1-4 (Author = Unknown)

### Ruth 1

#### Elimelech's Family Goes to Moab

**3 Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. 5 Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.** [Ruth's story and our story: Death → \_\_\_\_\_ → New Life]

#### Naomi Returns with Ruth

**12 Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. . . . Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!"** [Have you ever had anger toward, or felt abandoned by, God? Mark Driscoll: There is no suffering, and there is no affliction, and there is no weeping, no mourning, no shedding of tear or darks days for the child of God that is pointless, purposeless and without merit . . . \_\_\_\_\_ is used by the Sovereign for His glory and for our good.]

**16 But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people *shall be* my people, And your God, my God.** [This is evidence of her \_\_\_\_\_ from Chemosh to Jehovah]

## Ruth 2

### Ruth Meets Boaz

**2 So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after *him* in whose sight I may find favor."** [\_\_\_\_\_ was God's way of providing for the poor: the first welfare system]

**11 And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and *how* you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. 12 The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."** [\_\_\_\_\_ will eventually be the answer to his own prayer. **How often do we miss the chance to be the answer to our own prayer?**]

**15 And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. 16 Also let *grain* from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave *it* that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."** [Boaz goes beyond the requirements of the Law. Boaz is a type of \_\_\_\_\_.]

**20 Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed *be* he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man *is* a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."** [A kinsman-redeemer was one who \_\_\_\_\_]

## Ruth 3

### Ruth's Redemption Assured

**14 So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."** [Boaz honors Ruth by protecting her \_\_\_\_\_]

## Ruth 4

### Descendants of Boaz and Ruth

**13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her *conception, and she bore a son.*** [Naomi and Ruth's family line would have stopped, but now it will not only carry on, but will contribute to the lineage of \_\_\_\_\_]

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Boaz is a model for men
2. Ruth is a model for women
3. Jesus is the model for the church

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Men: Look like Boaz
2. Women: Look like Ruth
3. Church: Look like Jesus

# The Essential 100

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## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

## The Schedule: The Travels of the Apostle Paul

This is our sixth five-week series in the New Testament. So far, we have looked at The Early Years of Jesus, The Teachings of Jesus, the Miracles of Jesus, The Final Days of Jesus, and The Church is Born.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
February 5	The Road to Damascus	Acts 9:3-5	Acts 9:1-31	Jim Fleming
February 12	The First Missionary Journey	Acts 14:21-22	Acts 13-14	Terry Bolden
February 19	The Council at Jerusalem	Acts 15:5-6	Acts 15	Jim Fleming
February 26	More Missionary Journeys	Acts 16:9-10	Acts 16-20	Terry Bolden
March 4	The Trip to Rome	Acts 28:15-16	Acts 25-28	Jim Fleming

## The Travels of the Apostle Paul: The Road to Damascus

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### Review: "Us" Redefined

In our last five-week New Testament series, we saw the apostles truly understand the gospel of Jesus Christ is for \_\_\_\_\_. In this five-week series, we see the implications of that fact. Everyone is now a possible convert. Jesus came for everyone. The apostles had to broaden the mission \_\_\_\_\_.

### Preview: Get in the game!

Key thought: God needs you to put on His \_\_\_\_\_ and get in His \_\_\_\_\_.

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 9:1-31 (Author = Luke)

### The Damascus Road: Saul Converted

**1-2** Saul was in the game—he was just playing for the \_\_\_\_\_ team

**6** **Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.** [This is a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_-answer]

### Ananias Baptizes Saul

**11 - 12** **Okay, so the scariest environment imaginable . . . scariest environment imaginable.**

**19** **What was Ananias' title?** Ananias was just a \_\_\_\_\_

### Saul Preaches Christ

**20 - 22** **Who is Saul preaching to?** Saul is preaching to the \_\_\_\_\_

### Saul Escapes Death

**25** **Then the disciples took him by night and let him down** [send/let down from a higher place to a lower place by slackening or loosening something (rope)] **through the wall in a large basket** [a reed basket or hamper]. [We do not know the names of these disciples that got in the game to hold the rope, but they played their positions well. They got in the game and did what was \_\_\_\_\_.]

At this point, Paul was not “Paul”—he was still Saul. He was well known, but his name was not yet synonymous with Christianity. Saul was still a small player in the church. The believers that held the rope did not know what God was going to do with the man in the basket. Maybe your position in the game right now is not to let go of the rope. Do not let go—you do not \_\_\_\_\_ who is in the basket. You might even be the only one holding the rope.

### Saul at Jerusalem

**27** **But Barnabas took him** [means to take physically, the way Jesus grabbed Peter after walking (not so well) on the water in **Matthew 14**] **and brought him** [Saul] **to the apostles. And he** [Barnabas] **declared to them how he** [Saul] **had seen the Lord on the road, and that He** [Jesus] **had spoken to him** [Saul], **and how he** [Saul] **had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.** [Barnabas was a \_\_\_\_\_ between Saul and the disciples. **Who am I looking to develop?**]

### The Church Prospers

**31** **Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.**

Challenge: Get in the game and do your part—God will do His part

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God has a \_\_\_\_\_ for you on His team
2. Those that are in the game need encouragement
3. God will do what only \_\_\_\_\_ can do

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Get in the game
2. Encourage those who are in the game
3. Give God the \_\_\_\_\_ when God does what only God can do

## The Travels of the Apostle Paul: The First Missionary Journey

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### Preview: Why Paul?

What made Paul so special? Why was he so successful? Was it his great education, his zeal, his faith, or his experience? Maybe. It probably had more to do with his attitude. Notice today how many times God and the Holy Spirit directly do things or fill people through this passage. Paul lifted God above himself. From the moment he was saved, his heart responded, “Lord, what would you have me to do?”

Key thought: Paul and Barnabas show us how to be effective \_\_\_\_\_ and faithful servants

### Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 13-14 (Author = Luke)

#### Acts 13

**1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas** [middle eastern thought and writings always starts with the most important or prominent of people when listing those involved], **Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.** **2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate** [To set aside for a \_\_\_\_\_; **David Guzik: You can't really say “yes” to God's call on your life until you can say “no” to things that will keep you from that call**] **to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”** **3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them , they sent *them* away.**

A common theme: the Word is preached, God/Holy Spirit moves, and \_\_\_\_\_ arises

#### Preaching in Cyprus

**4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus** [Barnabas' home]. **5 And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews** [Paul never lost his heart for his own people. He always practiced **Romans 1:16c**]. **They also had John as *their* assistant** [often translated ‘teacher’ or ‘one who disciples’].

**Paphos – Proconsul – Sorcerer** **8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith** [The message and work of God will not go \_\_\_\_\_. **Spurgeon: Wherever there is likely to be great success, the open door and the opposing adversaries will both be found. If there are no adversaries, you may fear that there will be no success.**]. **And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.** **12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord** [He believed because of the Word of God].

#### At Antioch in Pisidia

**13 Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos . . . Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.** **14 But when they departed from Perga . . . Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down.** **15 And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “Men *and* brethren, if you have any**

word of exhortation for the people, say on." . . . **43** Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God [people got \_\_\_\_\_].

**44** On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. **45** But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy . . . they opposed the things spoken by Paul. **46** Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles [**Romans 10:1**]. . . . **49** And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. **50** But the Jews stirred up . . . raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them . . . **51** But they shook off the dust from their feet against them [Do not let \_\_\_\_\_ stop you (see **Luke 9:5, 10:11**)], and came to Iconium. **52** And the disciples were filled with joy [**James 1:2**] and with the Holy Spirit.

## Acts 14

### At Iconium → Idolatry at Lystra → Stoning, Escape to Derbe

**19** Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul *and* dragged *him* out of the city, supposing him to be dead. **20** However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city [**What kind of impact would this have made?**]. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

### Strengthening the Converts

**21** And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, **22** strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." [**2 Timothy 3:12**] . . . **27** Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. **28** So they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

Challenge: The purpose of evangelism is to build Christ's church, not your \_\_\_\_\_. At the end of his life, sitting in prison, his thoughts were not of regret. His desire for God remained the same. **Philippians 3:10: That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God is still looking for \_\_\_\_\_
2. God is still looking for those who will lift Him above themselves
3. God is still looking for obedience, without excuse or regret

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Be a \_\_\_\_\_!
2. Sincerely ask, "God, what would you have me to do?"
3. Be a Paul. No excuses, no complaints, and no matter the sacrifice or cost.

# The Travels of the Apostle Paul: The Council at Jerusalem

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## Preview: Two Examples of Disagreements

In this passage, we see how the early church (~50 AD) handled a divisive issue. When the disagreement became public (**Acts 15:2**), the opponents did not gossip or fight. Instead, they came together (**Acts 15:2-4**), listened to all sides (**Acts 15:5-12**), remained sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 15:8**), and accepted the decision of the leaders (**Acts 15:19**). Sadly, after avoiding a split in the church, Paul and Barnabas could not agree on a personnel issue so they parted company (**Acts 15:37-39; 13:13**).

Key thought: Disagreements in the church need not always cause division

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 15 (Author = Luke)

### Conflict over Circumcision

**1 Jesus + X = salvation? X = \_\_\_\_**

**4 the apostles and the elders** [the apostles were the \_\_\_\_\_ of the early church and the elders were those in authority underneath the apostles]

### The Jerusalem Council

**7 And when there had been much dispute** [the same word used in **Acts 15:2**; mutual questioning, disputation, discussion; this was civil discourse for the sake of the gospel; \_\_\_\_\_ sides had their say]

**9 First, what did God say?**

**11 But we believe** [Theology exists in the context of community. Corporate theology is as important as individual theology. What \_\_\_\_\_ believe is as important as what \_\_\_\_ believe. We are in this together.]

**11 we shall be saved in the same manner as they.** [Not only is salvation for everyone, but salvation is the \_\_\_\_\_ for everyone.]

**12 Second, what has happened?**

**15-17 Third, what did God say long ago?**

**20-21 Fourth, what direction is consistent with what God has said, what has happened, and what God said long ago?**

### The Jerusalem Decree

**22-29 Whose advice did the church take? Peter, Barnabas, Paul, or James? \_\_\_\_\_**

### Continuing Ministry in Syria

**31** Theological disagreements can end \_\_\_\_\_



### Division over John Mark

**36** Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see how they are doing* [road trip; Wesley: This was all that St. Paul designed at first; but it was not all that God designed by his journey].” **37** Now Barnabas was determined [deliberated with himself, considered, \_\_\_\_\_] to take with them John called Mark [John Mark was Barnabas’ cousin]. **38** But Paul insisted [kept on thinking it fit, right, kept judging it worthy, kept on deeming it deserving] that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. **39** Then the contention [incitement, \_\_\_\_\_] became so sharp that they parted from one another. [Coffman: Strong men with minds strongly made up often find disagreement between them.] And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus [John Mark’s home; J. W. McGarvey: The separation of Barnabas and Paul is our separation from Barnabas.]; **40** but Paul chose Silas and departed [People’s New Testament: Neither would \_\_\_\_\_, so they determined to work separately. Barnabas, with Mark, went to visit the churches of Cyprus, while Paul chose Silas as his fellow laborer.], being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. **41** And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

**Who was right, Paul or Barnabas?** Four schools of thought:

1. Paul was right
2. Barnabas was right
3. Neither Paul nor Barnabas was right (**1 Corinthians 11:14**)
4. Both Paul and Barnabas were right

Jamieson, Fausset, Brown: How watchful does all this teach Christians, and especially Christian ministers and missionaries, to be against giving way to rash judgment and hot temper towards each other, especially where on both sides the glory of Christ is the ground of difference!

Matthew Henry: Paul and Barnabas, who were not separated by the persecutions of the unbelieving Jews, nor the impositions of the believing Jews, were yet separated by an unhappy disagreement between themselves.

Wesley: O how mighty is the grace of God! which in the midst of the world, in the midst of sin, among so many snares of Satan, and in spite of the incredible weakness and depravity of nature, yet overcomes all opposition, sanctifies, sustains, and preserves us to the end!

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Crystal clear \_\_\_\_\_ assists in godly living
2. Jesus \_\_\_ salvation
3. Reconciliation is always God’s plan (but God will be the \_\_\_\_\_ no matter what)

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Discuss theology with other believers
2. Never add anything to the \_\_\_\_\_
3. Stand in the gap for those willing to serve

# The Travels of the Apostle Paul: More Missionary Journeys

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## Preview: Keep Moving Forward

**Walt Disney:** We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.

Key thought: Keep moving the gospel \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter summaries

**Acts 16:** Timothy joins Paul and Silas. Paul has a vision of Macedonia. Paul baptizes Lydia and picks up Dr. Luke. Paul and Silas are imprisoned, an earthquake occurs, the jailer is saved, and they are released.

**Acts 17:** They preach at Thessalonica. They are attacked at Jason's house. They taught the Bereans. Paul engages the philosophers at Athens and preaches at the Areopagus.

**Acts 18:** Paul goes to Corinth and lives with Aquila and Priscilla for 18 months. Paul returns to Antioch and finishes his vow. Aquila and Priscilla teach Apollos.

**Acts 19:** Paul stays at Ephesus for three months. Paul performs many miracles and a riot occurs.

**Acts 20:** Paul leaves Ephesus and travels to Troas. Paul preaches all night, Eutychus dies, and Paul raises Eutychus from the dead. Paul continues to Miletus. Paul calls for the Ephesian elders and blesses them.

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 16-20 (Author = Luke)

### Acts 16

#### Timothy Joins Paul and Silas (1-3)

**Did we not just decide in last week's lesson that circumcision was not necessary for salvation? Is Paul going back on the church's decision?** No, Paul was all things to \_\_\_\_\_ men to move the gospel forward

#### Paul and Silas Imprisoned (16-19)

Some people when they realize they can no longer get ahead just seek to get \_\_\_\_\_

#### Paul Refuses to Depart Secretly (35-40)

One believer should not break the \_\_\_\_\_ for another

God may ask us to lay down our \_\_\_\_\_ for the good of another.

Our rights should be used to \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel, not to be satisfied with the \_\_\_\_\_ to promote the gospel

## Acts 17

### Ministering at Berea (10-15)

Paul did not know how to \_\_\_\_\_

Pay attention to the manner in which you pay \_\_\_\_\_

Everyone needs \_\_\_\_\_

## Acts 18

### Ministering at Corinth (1-4)

A Greek proverb said, "See Corinth and \_\_\_\_\_"

### Ministry of Apollos (24-26)

Paul not only moved the gospel forward, he taught \_\_\_\_\_ how to move the gospel forward

## Acts 19

### Paul at Ephesus (1-10), Miracles Glorify Christ (11-20), and The Riot at Ephesus (21-41)

## Acts 20

### Ministering at Troas (7-12)

Eutychus was sitting on the \_\_\_\_\_

### The Ephesian Elders Exhorted (17-38)

You are not responsible for the \_\_\_\_\_ of obedience. You are responsible for obedience.

It is the job of our pastors to look over \_\_\_\_\_ our business

### Have you trained your replacement?

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Following Jesus is not \_\_\_\_\_
2. God will bring the right people at the right time
3. The gospel must always be moving forward

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Know that opposition does not equal being out of God's \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ with those that God brings into your life
3. Always be moving the gospel forward

# The Travels of the Apostle Paul: The Trip to Rome

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## **Preview: If Only . . . Not!**

Have you ever wondered, “If only?” If only I had done things differently. If only I had obeyed God. If only I had witnessed when I should have. Most of us will struggle at some time with whether we took the right path or made the right decision. From what we can glean from scripture, Paul was not that kind of person. We can speculate from various stories in scripture that maybe a decision or direction was not the best for Paul, but he did not appear to have dwelt on that. Paul kept moving forward.

Key thought: God has a purpose for us and He will help us carry it out

## **Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 25-28 (Author = Luke)**

### **Acts 25**

#### **Paul Appeals to Caesar (1-12)**

#### **Paul Before Agrippa (13-27)**

### **Acts 26**

#### **Paul's Early Life (1-11)**

#### **Paul Recounts His Conversion (12-18)**

#### **Paul's Post-Conversion Life (19-23)**

#### **Agrippa Parries Paul's Challenge (24-32)**

## **Acts 27**

### **The Voyage to Rome Begins (1-8)**

### **Paul's Warning Ignored (9-12)**

### **In the Tempest (13-38)**

### **Shipwrecked on Malta (39-44)**

## **Acts 28**

### **Paul's Ministry on Malta (1-10)**

### **Arrival at Rome (11-16)**

### **Paul's Ministry at Rome (17-30)**

Challenge: Once you find your God-given purpose in life, do not let anything deter you from pursuing it.

### **Apply (What is the point?)**

1. Tough, out of our control circumstances arise
2. God is always there and always active, whether we see Him or not
3. Paul stayed faithful to his calling

### **Personalize (What do I do with that?)**

1. Do not let the circumstances control you. Lean on God and His Word.
2. Seek God. Look for His hand in what you are going through—whether good or bad.
3. Be faithful to what He has called you to do

# The Essential 100

## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

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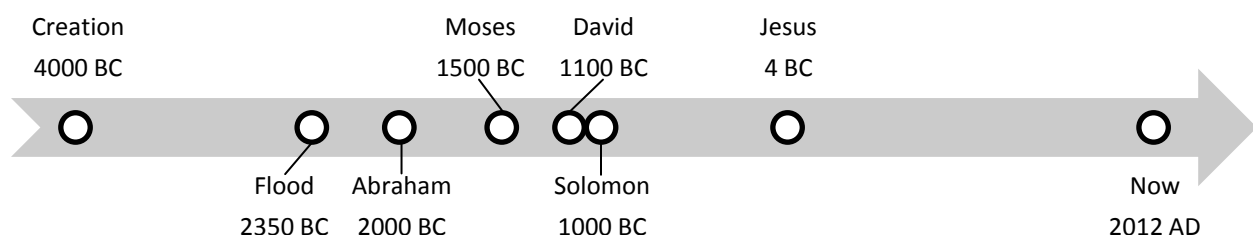
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## The Schedule: The Rise of Israel

This is our seventh five-week series in the Old Testament. So far, we have looked at In the Beginning, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, The Story of Joseph, Moses and the Exodus, The Law and the Land, and The Judges. Now we shift to The Rise of Israel.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
March 11	Samuel Listens to God	1 Samuel 3:10	1 Samuel 1-3	Jim Fleming
March 18	King Saul	1 Samuel 10:1	1 Samuel 8-10	Tim Archer
March 25	David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17:10	1 Samuel 16:1-18:16	TBD
April 1	David and Saul	1 Samuel 24:10-11	1 Samuel 23:7-24:22	Jim Fleming
April 15	King David	2 Samuel 7:8-9	2 Samuel 5-7	Jim Fleming

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



For the first 2,500 years of the world's history, the patriarchs received revelation from God passed it on orally to those around them. Around 1450 BC, the Law was given and Moses and Joshua administered it. After Moses and Joshua died, judges filled the leadership needs for Israel. Prophets intermittently helped Israel before she rose to regional power under the direction of kings (Saul, David, and Solomon).

# The Rise of Israel: Samuel Listens to God

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## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 1 Samuel 1-3 (Author = Samuel?)

### 1 Samuel 1

**2 And he had two wives** [even though polygamy is present, it is never present in a \_\_\_\_\_ home]

**3 sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh** [David Guzik: religious center, for almost \_\_\_\_ hundred years]

**5 the LORD had closed her womb** [Who had closed her womb? The \_\_\_\_\_]

**11 no razor shall come upon his head.** [She is honest with God and promises to make her son a \_\_\_\_\_/perpetual Nazarite]

**18 her face was no longer sad** [She left her \_\_\_\_\_ before God]

**20 called his name Samuel** [David Guzik: The name *Samuel* means “Name of \_\_\_\_\_”]

**27 So they worshiped the LORD there** [Hannah was \_\_\_\_\_]

### 1 Samuel 2

**12 they did not know the LORD** [being in the game does not mean you are on the right \_\_\_\_\_]

**15 before they burned the fat** [so the priests were getting their ‘cut’ \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord got His]

**21 she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters** [Hannah: \_\_, Eli: \_\_\_\_]

**26 And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men** [almost an exact quote of [Luke 2:52](#)—the verse that describes \_\_\_\_\_ growth and development]

### 1 Samuel 3

**3** Eli’s eyes and the lamp itself both reflect the \_\_\_\_\_ of the priesthood at this time

**7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD** [Samuel did not know God’s \_\_\_\_\_]

**10 “Speak, for Your servant hears.”** [God’s revelation does not discriminate based on \_\_\_\_\_]

**18 Then Samuel told him everything** [God’s man must always deliver God’s \_\_\_\_\_]

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. Speaking the truth is hard
2. God will raise up leaders at the right time
3. God deals \_\_\_\_\_ with all men and women

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Speak the truth to God, to men, and to yourself
2. Pray for and \_\_\_\_\_ godly leaders
3. Know that God will always do the right thing

# The Rise of Israel: King Saul

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## Preview: Israel Demands a King

As we review this text, notice how God allows Israel to make their own decisions even as they reject Him in the process. Yet His mercy and grace are prevalent at the same time.

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 1 Samuel 8-10 (Author = Samuel?)

### 1 Samuel 8

#### Israel Demands a King

**1 Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel** [God was the \_\_\_\_\_ appointer—not man]

**3 But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.** [Each one of us will answer for our \_\_\_\_\_ actions.]

**5 Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”** [King: absolute \_\_\_\_\_ in a man’s hand as long as he and his family/appointee lives]

**8-9 When we are treated wrongly, what is our reaction?** Outside action does not force our \_\_\_\_\_

**10-18 \_\_\_\_\_** is that perfect leader. **Are we looking to Christ as the real leader in our lives or are we simply going through the motions, fooling ourselves and looking good to please others?**

**19 The people refused to obey the voice of Samuel** [Did you \_\_\_\_\_ what I \_\_\_\_\_?]

### 1 Samuel 9

#### Saul Chosen to Be King

**2 And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul** [Pretty is as \_\_\_\_\_ does]



**9 Come, let us go to the seer** [Seek godly \_\_\_\_\_]

**16 he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines** [The God of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_]

**21 And Saul answered and said, “Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel”** [God honors the \_\_\_\_\_]

### Saul Anointed King (27)

#### 1 Samuel 10

**1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: “Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?”** [Private \_\_\_\_\_]

**11 What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?** [The change was \_\_\_\_\_]

### Saul Proclaimed King

**17-19** Will you ever \_\_\_\_\_?

**24 So all the people shouted and said, “Long live the king!”** [The One \_\_\_\_\_ King]

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God is in good
2. God is not \_\_\_\_\_ off guard
3. God exemplifies mercy and grace

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Recognize your position in Christ and be humble
2. Be honest with yourself
3. **Proverbs 3:5: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding**

# The Rise of Israel: David and Goliath

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## Preview: Ultimate Fighting Championship

So far, in this five-week series, God has raised up Samuel in order to raise up Saul. Now, after Saul has proven himself insufficient for the task of being Israel's king, God shows Himself to be all-wise in raising up David to take Saul's place.

Key thought: God's plan of redemption cannot be defeated from without or from within

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 1 Samuel 16:1-18:16 (Author = Samuel?)

### 1 Samuel 16

#### David Anointed King (1-13)

**1 I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite** [Jesse is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Boaz and Ruth]

**3 you shall anoint** [put oil on the forehead of in order to set aside—a \_\_\_\_\_ to visibly pick a person for a job]

**7 For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.** [God does not always choose whom we would choose]

**13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward** [David would not take the throne for another \_\_\_\_ + years]

#### A Distressing Spirit Troubles Saul (14-23)

**14-16 Adam Clarke: Saul's evil spirit, and the influence of music upon it, are not easily accounted for.**

### 1 Samuel 17

#### David and Goliath (1-58)

**4 And a champion** [literally, the space between two armies—a champion moves forward when other stand their ground; a champion enters into danger on behalf of another; a champion sees a need and steps up to fill it—\_\_\_\_\_ is our champion]

**11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.** [Goliath was more of a hero than Saul was. **Justin Harness: Saul was a \_\_\_\_\_ leader watching from the sidelines.**]

**20 So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper** [This phrase sums up David—he was \_\_\_\_\_ to that which he was entrusted with]

**28** There will always be Sanballats, Tobiahs, and Eliabs who will belittle you and your work when you do a great work—fix your eyes on the Lord and do your job

**32 Then David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”** [David Guzik: It is one thing to say, “*Someone* should do something about that.” It is entirely another thing to say, “*I* will do something about that.”]

**37 Moreover David said, “The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”** [David’s \_\_\_\_\_ was bigger than Saul’s \_\_\_\_\_]

**40 Then he took his staff in his hand . . . and his sling was in his hand** [use what is in your hand for God]

**48 So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine** [Justin Harness: David’s confidence was extraordinary. . . . He took a knife to a gunfight and did it \_\_\_\_\_]

## 1 Samuel 18

### Saul Resents David (1-16)

**8-16 Esther Archer: At no point in his service did David challenge Saul’s authority as King**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God knows what He is doing when He picks people
2. **Esther Archer: When God gives you more responsibilities or a “higher” status, do not think of yourself as more important than others**
3. Giant-killing is \_\_\_\_\_ (**2 Samuel 21:15-22**)

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Get behind leaders and help them do the work
2. Stay \_\_\_\_\_ and know that God is empowering
3. Let God use you to kill giants

# The Rise of Israel: David and Saul

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## Preview: Cat and Mouse

In today's passage, Saul is pursuing David in order to kill David. Saul's actions show him spiraling downward while David rises to the occasion. Throughout this text, God shows us that He is developing maturity in us by giving us opportunities to express the \_\_\_\_\_ of what He desires.

Key thought: Do right right now

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 1 Samuel 23:7-24:22 (Author = Samuel?)

### 1 Samuel 23

**7-8 David Guzik:** Saul makes the common mistake of assuming that someone is an enemy of the LORD just because they are *our* enemy.

**11 Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? . . . 12 Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?"** [Is David doubting God or clarifying?]

**7-13** God can keep you safe in the \_\_\_\_\_

### David in Wilderness Strongholds

**18 So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. And David stayed in the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house.** [As far as we know, they \_\_\_\_\_ saw each other again]

**19 Then the Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding with us in strongholds in the woods, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon? 20 Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of your soul to come down; and our part *shall be* to deliver him into the king's hand."** [David wrote Psalm \_\_\_\_\_ at this time]

**18-25** God can keep you safe in the \_\_\_\_\_

**26-29** God can keep you safe on the \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Samuel 24

**4** Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" [Coffman: There is a warning in this that some providences are really not that at all. Jonah's finding the ship to Tarshish ready to sail is another example.]

**7** So David restrained his servants with *these* words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. [It is never \_\_\_\_\_ to do wrong in order to get a chance to do \_\_\_\_\_]

**11** Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! [Saul has seen a portion of his \_\_\_\_\_ before in **1 Samuel 15:22-28**]

**Proverbs 10:12:** Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.

**1-22** God can keep you safe in the \_\_\_\_\_

This is what David wrote while in the cave: **Psalm** \_\_\_\_\_

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. The opposite of a fleshly response is good
2. God can keep you safe
3. Do right \_\_\_\_\_ now

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Go the opposite way
2. Give your \_\_\_\_\_ over to God
3. Ask God to show you the right thing to do right now

# The Rise of Israel: King David

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## Preview: Having It All

Have you ever gotten what you always wanted? We have all heard the stories of the lottery winners who have gone bankrupt after getting, 'everything they always wanted.' In today's passage, we see David, King David, get everything—power, prestige, wealth, and victory over his enemies. Then, after he has everything, we see his heartbeat. We see what he does with all the power he could imagine.

Key thought: **What would \_\_ do if \_\_ had it all?**

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 2 Samuel 5-7 (Author = Samuel?)

### 2 Samuel 5

#### David Reigns over All Israel (1-5)

#### The Conquest of Jerusalem (6-16)

**9 Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the City of David** [\_\_\_\_\_ is the City of David]

**11** Exports

**13 And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron. Also more sons and daughters were born to David. 14 Now these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.** [David Guzik: Most of the trouble to come in David's life comes from his relationship with women and from his \_\_\_\_\_.]

#### The Philistines Defeated (17-25)

**24 And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees** [The sound of what?], **then you shall advance quickly** [When we know God is at work, we should act \_\_\_\_\_]

### 2 Samuel 6

#### The Ark Brought to Jerusalem (1-23)

**1-11 Ray Steman:** \_\_\_\_\_ in serving God is never enough. Things must be done God's way in accomplishing God's will.

**David Guzik: This was a good thing done the wrong way.**

**20** Problem: this is not a supportive wife

**21** Problem: this is not a supportive husband

**23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.** [Result: an empty marriage]

## 2 Samuel 7

### God's Covenant with David (1-17)

**1 Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around** [David has it \_\_\_\_\_—wealth, power, a large family, and victory over his enemies]

**4-16** Be on the lookout for David's part of this deal

**11 Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house** [You cannot out \_\_\_\_\_ God.]

**4-16** So what did David have to do? \_\_\_\_\_

What did God have to do? \_\_\_\_\_

### David's Thanksgiving to God (18-29)

**18-29 How many times does "Your servant" appear?** \_\_\_\_\_

**18-29** This is a prayer of \_\_\_\_\_ and we get to see inside David's heart

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. You might \_\_\_\_\_ get it all
2. You might get \_\_\_\_\_ of it
3. You might get it all

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ your life away—get busy now \_\_\_\_\_ the person God wants you to be

# The Essential 100

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## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

## The Schedule: Letters to the Early Church

This is our seventh five-week series in the New Testament. So far, we have looked at The Early Years of Jesus, The Teachings of Jesus, the Miracles of Jesus, The Final Days of Jesus, The Church is Born, and The Travels of Paul.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
April 22	More than Conquerors	Romans 8:28	Romans 8	Jim Fleming
April 29	The Fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5:22-23	Galatians 5:16-6:10	David Barber
May 6	The Armor of God	Ephesians 6:10-11	Ephesians 6:10-20	Jim Fleming
May 13	Rejoice in the Lord	Philippians 4:4	Philippians 4:4-9	Amy Valovcin
May 20	A Description of Jesus	Colossians 1:17-18	Colossians 1:1-23	Jim Fleming

# Letters to the Early Church: More than Conquerors

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## Early Letters

Paul's letter to the Romans was written around 55-57 AD and it was written in \_\_\_\_\_ Greek (the common Greek spoken by everyday people).

**Romans 8:1** would have looked something like this:

ΟΥΔΕΝΑΡΑΝΥΝΚΑΤΑΚΡΙΜΑΤΟΙΣΕΝΧΡΙΣΤΩΙΗΝΣΟΥΜΗΚΑΤΑΣΑΡΚΑΠΕΡΙΠΑΤΟΥΣΙΝ  
ΑΛΛΑΚΑΤΑΠΝΕΥΜΑ

In our two-year study, three of the five-week series revolve around the actions of \_\_\_\_\_



## Preview: Life Right Now

Paul focused far more on the life here than the life hereafter. For Paul, Christianity was a '\_\_\_\_\_ ' help because of the active, ever-working, and powerful work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Jesus overcame sin and death and then gave us a new Spirit (**Romans 8:1-4**). In addition, Paul reminds us that we are controlled either by our sinful nature, or by the Holy Spirit (**Romans 8:5-17**). Being controlled by the Spirit does not mean life will always be easy or successful, but God will use everything, even bad things, for your ultimate good if you belong to Him. You can be sure God loves you and is in charge of your life. That is what makes you more than a conqueror (**Romans 8:37**). It is God's fight.

Key thought: A Spirit-controlled life is the greatest life of all and will help right now

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Romans 8 (Author = Paul)

### Free from Indwelling Sin (1-11)

**1-2** Christians are not under the \_\_\_\_\_

**9** The salvation \_\_\_\_\_ comes with the Holy Spirit

### Sonship through the Spirit (12-17)

**14** For as many as are led [\_\_\_\_\_ tense—Am I being led by the Spirit of God right now?]

### From Suffering to Glory (18-30)

**22** This world was not meant to coexist with \_\_\_\_\_ and sin has hideous side effects

**26** Have you ever not known what to pray? The Holy Spirit is the prayer \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

**28-30** The salvation package now includes looking like \_\_\_\_\_

### God's Everlasting Love (31-39)

**34** Not only is the Holy Spirit praying for us, but \_\_\_\_\_ is praying for us as well

**37** We conquer because of \_\_\_\_\_—not because of ourselves or our actions

Challenge: Stop worrying about tomorrow and be filled with the Spirit right now and live life right now!

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. We are \_\_\_\_\_ under the Law
2. The Holy Spirit and Jesus are praying for us
3. God is the victory (the hero of our story)

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Live in the freedom and liberty found in Christ
2. Be like the Holy Spirit and Jesus and pray for others
3. Tell people about our \_\_\_\_\_

# Letters to the Early Church: The Fruit of the Spirit

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## Background on Galatians

### Where is Galatians?

Here is a picture of not only where **Galatians** sits in the New Testament, but in the whole of Scripture:

### Writings of Paul?

Letters to friends (Pastoral Epistles): written to privately straighten out and guide \_\_\_\_\_/friends

Letters to churches (Epistles): written to publically straighten out and guide \_\_\_\_\_/doctrine

General letters: written by \_\_\_\_\_ addressing issue or end times (**Revelation**)

### Why was Paul writing to the Galatians?

Who were the Galatians? Made up of partially Jews and partially \_\_\_\_\_

Point Paul addresses: False teachers called Judaizers were insisting that the Gentile Christians must be \_\_\_\_\_ and abide by the ceremonial laws as given by Moses to be saved

Exchange false doctrine (the Gospel plus the \_\_\_\_\_) with true Christian liberty (our three points today)

## Preview: Breaking it Down

There are three major parts to today's text:

1. Walking in the Spirit: **Galatians 5:16-24**
2. Bear and Share the Burdens: **Galatians 6:1-5**
3. Be Generous and Do Good: **Galatians 6:6-10**

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Galatians 5:16-6:10 (Author = Paul)

False doctrine: do good, get \_\_\_\_\_; do bad, get \_\_\_\_\_

### Walking in the Spirit

**16 I say then: Walk** [what your life is \_\_\_\_\_ for] **in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

**18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law** [if you are a believer, the Law has been fulfilled for you through \_\_\_\_\_].

**19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are . . . those who practice** [life is known for] **such things will not inherit the kingdom of God** [then you are not a believer].

**22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law** [Paul is referencing back to the issue with the Judaizers: fruit is the result of what you are at the core].

### Bear and Share the Burdens

**1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken** [\_\_\_\_\_ by a sin] **in any trespass, you who are spiritual** [someone \_\_\_\_\_ the spirit walk from **Galatians 5:16**] **restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness**

**3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself** [Paul reminds them that they can just as easily go from, "**you who are** \_\_\_\_\_," to "**overtaken in a** \_\_\_\_\_"].

### Be Generous and Do Good

**7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life** [true, however, \_\_\_\_\_ of the fulfillment is up to God]. **9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Christian liberty starts with right \_\_\_\_\_
2. Your walk talks loudest
3. Goal of spiritual discipline is restoration
4. God always fulfills His promises

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Know your doctrine
2. Be known for your \_\_\_\_\_
3. Know when you are "**you who are spiritual**" and when you are "**overtaken in a trespass**"
4. Do \_\_\_\_\_!

# Letters to the Early Church: The Armor of God

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## Review

This is week three of our five-week series, Letters to the Early Church. All five of these letters were written by Paul and they were written to small congregations in Asia in the first century AD.

## Background on Ephesus

In the first century AD, Ephesus was a significant seaport city with a population of ¼ million. Now, there is nothing there except miles of swampland where the harbor used to be.

Ephesus was primarily known for the Temple of \_\_\_\_\_

One of the lesser-known structures in Ephesus was their \_\_\_\_\_

## Church History

The church at Ephesus was started by \_\_\_\_\_ (you can read about that in [Acts 19](#)). Paul worked there himself later on and wrote two letters to a young pastor named Timothy who lived there ([1 Timothy](#) and [2 Timothy](#)). Paul also wrote [1 Corinthians](#) from Ephesus. Church tradition says that after John the Revelator wrote [Revelation](#) he went to Ephesus and lived the rest of his life.

## Outline

[Ephesians 1-3](#): What God has \_\_\_\_\_ [Ephesians 4-6](#): What we should \_\_\_\_\_

## Preview: The Fight of Your Life

As Paul finishes his letter to the Ephesians, he gives the Ephesians directions for living in a city that is dedicated to idolatry. Paul reminds the Ephesians that the devil is real and that he is opposing and scheming against God and against us. This is not an analogy to portray a spiritual concept—this is real warfare. **David Guzik: We must live in light of the fact that just as much as, “God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life,” so it is true that, “Satan hates you and has a terrible plan for your life.”** God has given us weapons to survive in the spiritual battle and we are to wear and use them.

Key thought: Put it \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Ephesians 6:10-20 (Author = Paul)

### The Whole Armor of God

**10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles [practiced \_\_\_\_\_] of the devil.**

**12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand [resist] in the evil day, and having done all, to stand [standing \_\_\_\_\_ wrestling].**

**14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth [John Wesley: That ye may be ready for every \_\_\_\_\_], having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace [Jamieson, Fausset, Brown: beautiful contrast to the raging of the outward \_\_\_\_\_]; 16 above all, taking the shield [a \_\_\_\_\_-length shield] of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always [at every \_\_\_\_\_] with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given [the tense is the optative tense: it is only used when to express a desire for an action to occur in which the completion of the action is \_\_\_\_\_] to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

Challenge: You are in a battle. Get ready to fight. Put it on. Prepare to win.

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. No matter how bad the circumstances, fight
2. \_\_\_\_\_ what God has given you
3. **Pray, pray more and when you are done praying, keep on praying! (Esther Archer)**

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Fight it out
2. Put it on
3. Keep \_\_\_\_\_

# Letters to the Early Church: Rejoice in the Lord

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## Review

The first time that Paul and Silas were in Philippi, they were beaten and imprisoned after they drove out a demon from a slave girl (**Acts 16:11-40**). After being put in prison, Paul and Silas, from their shackles, sang hymns and prayed to God. While singing and, “rejoicing in the Lord,” an earthquake shook the prison doors open and caused the chains to fall off the prisoners.

## Preview

**Philippians** is a letter written by Paul to the church at Philippi. Paul started the church at Philippi during his second missionary journey. The church at Philippi had sent Paul a gift and he was writing them to tell them \_\_\_\_\_ (**Philippians 4:10-11**). He is writing to encourage them in their faith (**Philippians 1:27-39**). He is urging them to stay together (**Philippians 2:3-4**). He is writing them telling them to stay strong in the faith and to rejoice in all God has done (**Philippians 4:4**).

Key thought: God has a plan. Rejoice in it!

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Philippians 4:4-9 (Author = Paul)

**4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!**

Rejoice (or a word similar) is used about \_\_\_\_ times in this short letter to Philippi.

The **Psalms** are full of joy: **Psalm 98:4; 100:2; 105:3; 118:24**

Rejoicing is a \_\_\_\_\_ given to all Christians. Joy is listed as fruit of the Spirit, meaning it should be evident in our lives.

**5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.**

**6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

**Dennis Kizziar: Nothing is too great for God's power, and nothing is too small for His**

\_\_\_\_\_.

Paul also says to pray with \_\_\_\_\_. We can thank God for everything in our lives.

It is our full submission in God that allows us to have peace. Peace that God is in control and that He has a plan.

### Meditate on These Things

**8** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. **9** The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

“Take heart, He will never leave you. Take heart, every boy and girl. Jesus told you this, in Him have \_\_\_\_\_. Take heart He’s overcome the world.” Mr. Scoggins, Walk to Emmaus

We serve an amazing God! We serve a God who has a plan and a purpose for our lives. We serve a God who hears our prayers. We serve a God that loves us unconditionally. That is something to rejoice in!

Challenge: Where are you \_\_\_\_\_?

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God always has a \_\_\_\_\_
2. Submit to His will
3. Find your peace in Him

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Pray always!
2. Seek Him always!
3. Rejoice always!

**Philippians 4:4: Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!**

# Letters to the Early Church: A Description of Jesus

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## Review

In this series, we have looked at the letters that Paul wrote to the early church. We first looked at Paul's view that we are more than conquerors, then the fruits of the Spirit, then the whole armor of God that we are to put on, and then rejoicing in the Lord. Today, we are going to look at a description of Jesus and see more of what God has done for us.

God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our story.

## Background on Colossae

Colossae was on the road from Ephesus to the Euphrates, so it was a merchant city. Paul had probably never visited when he wrote **Colossians**.

Conclusion: Colossae was not somewhere you went—it was somewhere you went \_\_\_\_\_.

## Background on Colossians

**Colossians** was written by Paul during his first Roman imprisonment. It was written to help them clarify what Christianity and the gospel are in the face of \_\_\_\_\_ doctrine. The first half of **Colossians** is doctrinal and the second half is how to live out that doctrine.

## Preview: Slip 'n Slide

How can we help Christians who are being pummeled with false doctrine? That is the challenge the Apostle Paul addressed in **Colossians**. Paul corrected their misunderstandings by going back to the heart of the Gospel: Jesus Christ. In **Colossians 1**, Paul communicates important truth about Jesus and then gives us the good news in concentrated form. Anyone struggling with false doctrine should be re-focused on \_\_\_\_\_.

Key thought: You had better start with Jesus

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Colossians 1:1-23 (Author = Paul)

### Greeting

**1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,**

**2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are in Colosse* [\_\_\_\_\_ congregations are important, too.]: *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

### Their Faith in Christ

**3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints** [love for some of the saints is easy—love for \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints is not]; **5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew**



the grace of God in truth; **7** as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, **8** who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

### Preeminence of Christ

**9** For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask [to ask, beg, call for, crave, desire, require] that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; **10** that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing [growing] in the knowledge of God [Paul describes an \_\_\_\_\_ faith—not a passive membership]; **11** strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; **12** giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. **13** He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **14** in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness [literally, the ‘sending away’—like the Old Testament scapegoat—whose job it was to do one thing: not come \_\_\_\_\_] of sins.

**15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. **18** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. [It all \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus.]

### Reconciled in Christ

**19** For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, **20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself [not reconciling Himself to us, but reconciling us to Himself], by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

**21** And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled **22** in the body of His flesh through death [Lori Drake: It is \_\_\_\_\_ for us to be reminded of where we came from.], to present you holy [set apart for a special work], and blameless [morally without blemish—a ready sacrifice after a priest had inspected it], and above reproach [unaccusable] in His sight— **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. It (creation) all started with Jesus
2. It (combating heresies) starts with Jesus
3. It (combating heresies) will always start with Jesus

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Know Jesus
2. Know Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
3. Know Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

# The Essential 100

## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

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The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

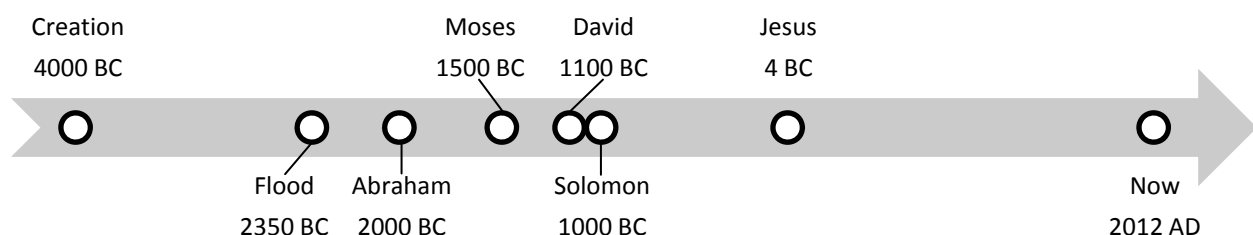
Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

## The Schedule: The Fall of Israel

This is our eighth five-week series in the Old Testament. So far, we have looked at In the Beginning, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, The Story of Joseph, Moses and the Exodus, The Law and the Land, and The Judges, and The Rise of Israel. Now we shift to The Fall of Israel.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
May 27	David and Bathsheba	2 Samuel 12:9-10	2 Samuel 11:1-12:25	Jim Fleming
June 3	King Solomon	1 Kings 3:27-28	1 Kings 2-3	Jim Fleming
June 10	Solomon's Temple	1 Kings 8:29-30	1 Kings 8:1-9:9	Terry Bolden
June 17	Elijah and the Prophets of Baal	1 Kings 18:20-21	1 Kings 16:29-19:18	Jim Fleming
June 24	The Fall of Jerusalem	2 Kings 25:10-11	2 Kings 25	Jim Fleming

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



For 2,500 years, the patriarchs received revelation from God passed it on orally to those around them. Around 1450 BC, the Law was given and Moses and Joshua administered it. After them, judges filled the leadership needs for Israel. Prophets intermittently helped Israel before she rose to regional power under the direction of kings (Saul and David). As soon as she was in power, though, the fall began.

# The Fall of Israel: David and Bathsheba

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## Review

The reality is that no system of government is stable long-term except a theocracy with Yahweh ruling. Every other system of government is a \_\_\_\_\_ of what King Jesus ruling will be one day.

Key thought: \_\_\_\_\_ has disastrous impacts, contaminates everything, and cannot be hidden

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 2 Samuel 11:1-12:25 (Author unknown)

### 2 Samuel 11

#### David, Bathsheba, and Uriah (1-27)

1 David was \_\_\_\_\_ where he was supposed to be

7 **When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered** [David \_\_\_\_\_ a crucial conversation with Uriah]

11 Uriah put his solidarity with his soldiers before his own desires and was one with his brothers (\_\_\_\_\_ **12:15-16**)

14 Uriah was so trustworthy that David had Uriah communicate Uriah's own \_\_\_\_\_ sentence

16-17 Joab should have \_\_\_\_\_—no matter the cost

27 **But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD** [the \_\_\_\_\_ commentary]

### 2 Samuel 11

#### Nathan's Parable and David's Confession (1-15)

1 **Then the LORD sent Nathan to David** [God will \_\_\_\_\_ leave His children alone]

7-12 **Do you have friends that could speak that plainly to you?**

#### The Death of David's Son (16-23)

18 **Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died.** [David Guzik: **Often an \_\_\_\_\_ party pays the price for forgiveness.**]

#### Solomon Is Born (24-25)

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Sin is \_\_\_\_\_
2. God will chase His children
3. Forgiveness is available

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Hate sin
2. Look for God's \_\_\_\_\_
3. Confess quickly

# The Fall of Israel: King Solomon

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## Preview: The Godfather and the Father God

In *The Godfather*, Michael Corleone reminisces about his father's advice, "Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer." In these two chapters (**1 Kings 2-3**), Solomon is introduced to politics, discernment, and wisdom in much the same way. In transitioning his kingdom to Solomon, David instructs him to wipe out his enemies. Some of these actions are righteous; some are not.

Key thought: No matter how messy, God can bring \_\_\_\_\_ into any situation despite those involved

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 1 Kings 2-3 (Author = Unknown)

### 1 Kings 2

#### David's Instructions to Solomon (1-9)

**1** Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son [Solomon was most likely between \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ at the time]

**2-3** **1 Kings 2:2-3** is often quoted as a blessing by Jewish fathers to their sons on the day of their 12<sup>th</sup> birthdays—the day of their bar mitzvahs

**5-6** David's advice: kill \_\_\_\_\_ since he killed in peacetime

**8-9** David's advice: kill Shimei because he \_\_\_\_\_

### Death of David (10-12)

#### Solomon Executes Adonijah (13-25)

**17** Coffman: taking one of the king's \_\_\_\_\_ was the equivalent of demanding his throne

**25** Solomon's first action as king is to \_\_\_\_\_ Adonijah

#### Abiathar Exiled, Joab Executed (26-35)

**26-27** Solomon's second act as king is to \_\_\_\_\_ Abiathar. **The New Layman's Bible Commentary: This established a precedent of the high priesthood's being at the disposal of the king, another step down the slippery slope of being like the nations around them.**

**34** Solomon's third act as king is to \_\_\_\_\_ Joab

### Shimei Executed (36-46)

**46 Thus the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.** [Solomon is finally at \_\_\_\_\_ from his internal enemies. **Coffman: What is really visible here is the evil system that inevitably accompanied Israel's fate under that king which they had demanded. God had warned them that their monarchy would result in all kinds of abuses by their kings.**]

## 1 Kings 3

### Solomon Requests Wisdom (1-15)

**1 Now Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh's daughter** [\_\_\_\_\_ years after the slavery ended, Egypt and Israel are allies]

**3 And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places** [The scriptures say that Solomon loved two things in his life: the ' \_\_\_\_\_ ' (1 Kings 3:3), and 'many foreign \_\_\_\_\_ ' (1 Kings 11:1)].

**7 Have you ever had a job where you did not know what you were doing?**

**9 Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart** [a \_\_\_\_\_ heart] **to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"**

### Solomon's Wise Judgment (16-28)

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. It takes wisdom to lead well (a heart that is strong enough to do right once right is known)
2. God is not in a hurry (we never get away with anything)
3. God works in spite of our sin and our attempts to 'help' His will be accomplished

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. **Esther Archer: Ask God for wisdom then practice using it**
2. Live in the knowledge that God will make it all right in the end (and do not help God)
3. Confess \_\_\_\_\_ (sin only gets worse)

# The Fall of Israel: Solomon's Temple

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## Preview: Pictures & Passages

God devotes half of the book of **1 Kings** to the life of Solomon. Why? All of scripture points us to Christ and Solomon typifies Christ in several ways. The wisdom he is most famous for points us to **Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God (1 Corinthians 1:30)**. Solomon's fame, glory, wealth, and honor foreshadow Christ in His kingdom (**Daniel 7, Zechariah 2**). Solomon's rule brings knowledge, peace, and worship (**Micah 4, Isaiah 2**). However, it was, is, and always shall be about Jesus. During His first coming to earth, Jesus said of Himself, "**A greater than Solomon is here**" (**Matthew 12:42**).

- **1 Kings 1-2**: Appointment and solidification of Solomon as king
- **1 Kings 3-4**: Wisdom and administration of Solomon
- **1 Kings 5-6**: Construction of the temple
- **1 Kings 7**: Construction of the temple furnishings (small portion about Solomon's house)
- **1 Kings 8**: Dedication of the temple

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 1 Kings 8:1-9:9 (Author = Unknown)

### 1 Kings 8

#### The Ark Brought into the Temple (1-13)

**1-2** Solomon calls the who's who of Israel to Jerusalem to dedicate the temple and worship Yahweh

**3-9** The ark is transferred to the Holy of Holies in the temple

**10-11** Shekinah Glory fills the temple. God has acknowledged His acceptance of the work done for His glory.

**12-21** Solomon breaks out preaching. He praises God before the people for what God (not Solomon) has done. He reminds the people of God's faithfulness in delivering them from bondage and His continued faithfulness in fulfilling His promises.

#### Solomon's Speech at Completion of the Work (13-21)

#### Solomon's Prayer of Dedication (22-53)

**22-54** Solomon prays. Solomon humbles himself before God and the congregation of Israel (verse 54.) He focuses on four things: who God is (Forgiver of sin), what God has done (delivered them—also from sin), what God does (forgives sin), and what God is going to do for His chosen people (forgive sin.)

### **Solomon Blesses the Assembly (54-61)**

**54-61** Solomon's challenge to the people: Walk with God! Verse 58 is key in that it is not our work or effort, but God's.

### **Solomon Dedicates the Temple (62-66)**

**62-66** Rejoicing of Israel. When the king got excited about God, the people got excited about God. Attitudes (including worship) are contagious. You will incite people to do what you put your heart to.

**Are you inciting your circle of influence to draw unto God, or are you leading them away?**

## **1 Kings 9**

### **God's Second Appearance to Solomon (1-9)**

**1-9** God comes again to Solomon and this time reiterates His promise in the Davidic Covenant

### **Apply (What is the point?)**

1. God is faithful
2. God desires our worship
3. It is all about Jesus and always will be

### **So what about the temple?**

1. The temple is a big Old Testament neon sign pointing to Christ.
  - The altar reminds us He is our sacrifice.
  - The basin of water reminds us that He has cleansed us. He has made us clean.
  - The table of showbread reminds us He is the Bread of Life.
  - The altar of incense reminds us He stands constantly before the Father making intercession for us.
  - The menorah reminds us He is the light of the world.
2. We are His temple today. How are we taking care of that temple where He currently resides?
3. There are two more times of temple worship yet on God's agenda. The next event on God's calendar is the rapture. Following that is the tribulation; a seven-year period of judgment from God.

### **Personalize (What do I do with that?)**

1. Know scripture and study
2. Worship God
3. Let others in on it

# The Fall of Israel: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

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## Preview: What kind of God?

100 years after Solomon, idol worship is normal and supported by the monarchy in Israel. At this point, Israel has split into two kingdoms (today's text is in reference to the northern kingdom).

As always, God preserves men and women to serve as a remnant in His service. Elijah fills a part of that role in today's text and is encouraged through a variety of God's creative means.

Key thought: God's plan will be done and He will \_\_\_\_\_ those that do it

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 1 Kings 16:29-19:18 (Author = Unknown)

### 1 Kings 16

#### Ahab Reigns in Israel (29-34)

**30 Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.**

**32 Coffman: The worship of Baal was officially installed as the \_\_\_\_\_ religion**

### 1 Kings 17

#### Elijah Proclaims a Drought (1-7)

**3-4** Never underestimate God's creativity to \_\_\_\_\_. **What kind of God sustains a prophet with ravens?** Jehovah does

**6** Jehovah is an on \_\_\_\_\_ God

#### Elijah and the Widow (8-16)

**9** **What kind of God provides for a prophet through the hand of a widow?**

**14** **What kind of God gives these kinds of gifts away?**

#### Elijah Revives the Widow's Son (17-24)

**18** **So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?"** [She believed in a quid pro quo God (i.e., do-good- get-good, do-bad-get-bad theological belief)]

**22** **What kind of a God brings the dead back to life?** (see **John 11:1-4** for the 'why')

**24** Sometimes, God will use someone to bless you so you can be a \_\_\_\_\_ in return



## 1 Kings 18

### Elijah's Message to Ahab (1-19)

**18-19** Elijah is not \_\_\_\_\_ to the king

### Elijah's Mount Carmel Victory (20-40)

**21** There are only \_\_\_\_\_ choices in life: to follow God or not to follow God

**28 Coffman:** The superstition existed that the blood of priests was especially virtuous in constraining the deity to action

**36** \_\_\_\_\_ is the hero of Elijah's prayer

**38** What kind of God consumes stones and dust?

### The Drought Ends (41-46)

## 1 Kings 19

### Elijah Escapes from Jezebel (1-10)

**4** Which other Bible prophet does this sound like? \_\_\_\_\_

**7** What kind of God comes back for us a second time?

**7** The journey was only \_\_\_\_\_ miles away

**8** What kind of God prepares us for the wilderness?

### God's Revelation to Elijah (11-18)

**11-12** What kind of God brings strong winds, breaks rocks, makes an earthquake, creates a fire, and speaks in a still small voice to let us know we are not alone?

**13** Does this repetition of questions remind you of anyone? \_\_\_\_\_

**16 Coffman:** God teaches here that there is no such thing as a NECESSARY man; man, even at his best estate, is altogether vanity; but God is all in all. God buries His workmen, but His \_\_\_\_\_ goes on.

**17** What kind of God keeps 7,000 faithful servants in reserve?

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Instant obedience is kind of obedience God desires
2. God \_\_\_\_\_ accomplish His will in creative ways
3. God will sometimes be very patient with His servants

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Obey immediately
2. Remember the kind of God we serve
3. **Esther Archer:** Listen for the voice of God and be willing to act when He does speak

# The Fall of Israel: The Fall of Jerusalem

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## Preview: This Changes Everything

Have you ever been reading a book and you got to a pivotal plot change that the author only spent a short amount of time on? **2 Kings 25** is that chapter in the Bible.

\_\_\_\_\_ things are easy to overlook and we can easily become complacent with the fact that we are going through the motions. For example, Bible reading and prayer do not exist for themselves. They exist for us to gain a deeper relationship with God.

Like a parent that has finally had enough of a disobedient child, God takes Israel to the woodshed—and it is not pretty. Sin is always messy, God is patient, and we will always reap what we sow.

Key thought: Always be \_\_\_\_\_ to the important things (in Bible study and in life)

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 2 Kings 25 (Author = Unknown)

### The Fall and Captivity of Judah (1-21)

**1 Now it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month** [about \_\_\_\_\_ B.C.—four hundred years after Solomon set up the high places], **that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and encamped against it**

**7 Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of Zedekiah** [the last thing king Zedekiah saw was the \_\_\_\_\_ of his children]

**9 He burned the house of the LORD and the king's house** [Nebuzaradan is the Old Testament equivalent of \_\_\_\_\_ burning Atlanta. Priceless treasures can be lost in \_\_\_\_\_ day.]

**10 And all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls of Jerusalem all around.** [The breaking down of the wall effectively destroyed Jerusalem's ability to \_\_\_\_\_ herself in the future]

**11 Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive the rest of the people who remained in the city and the defectors who had deserted to the king of Babylon, with the rest of the multitude** [Disobedience always leads to \_\_\_\_\_]

**12 But the captain of the guard left some of the poor of the land as vinedressers and farmers** [God's story is never without hope and never \_\_\_\_\_. Don't let the \_\_\_\_\_ be burned to the ground.]

### Gedaliah Made Governor of Judah (22-26)

**22 Then he** [Nebuchadnezzar] **made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, governor over the people who remained in the land of Judah** [John Wesley (on Gedaliah): A righteous and good man, and a friend to the prophet Jeremiah]

**25 But it happened in the seventh month that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with ten men and struck and killed Gedaliah** [some would rather be \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_], **the Jews, as well as the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah.**

### Jehoiachin Released from Prison (27-30)

**27-30** Thus ends of the book of **Kings**

Challenge: Stay alert

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Important things are often easily overlooked
2. Even when punishing His people, God always has a remnant
3. God's story is \_\_\_\_\_ over—there is always hope

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Get the big \_\_\_\_\_ in the jar
2. Remain faithful
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ is coming again

# The Essential 100

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## The Schedule: Letters to the Early Church Leaders

This is our eighth five-week series in the New Testament. So far, we have looked at The Early Years of Jesus, The Teachings of Jesus, the Miracles of Jesus, The Final Days of Jesus, The Church is Born, The Travels of Paul, and Letters to the Early Church.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
July 1	Elders and Deacons	1 Timothy 3:1-3	1 Timothy 3	Jim Fleming
July 8	The Love of Money	1 Timothy 6:10	1 Timothy 6:3-21	Justin Harness
July 15	God's Workman	2 Timothy 2:15	2 Timothy 2	David Barber
July 22	All Scripture is God-breathed	2 Timothy 3:16-17	2 Timothy 3:10-4:8	Lori Drake
July 29	The Coming of the Lord	1 Thess. 4:16-17	1 Thess. 4:13-5:11	Jim Fleming

## Letters to the Early Church Leaders: Elders and Deacons

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### Preview: Human Resources

In today's lesson, we look at the job prerequisites for church leadership. The New Testament uses many different \_\_\_\_\_ for the leadership positions that we will look at today.

**Lenski: All of the qualifications listed except aptness to teach and that pertaining to a novice are requirements that apply to \_\_\_\_\_ Christians**

**1 Timothy** was among the \_\_\_\_\_ letters that Paul wrote

Key thought: God has standards for His servants

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 1 Timothy 3 (Author = Paul)

### Qualifications of Overseers (1-7)

**1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop** [God's eyes in human form looking in to the laity's \_\_\_\_\_], **he desires a good work** [Guzik: Spiritual leadership in the church isn't all about titles and honor and glory; it's about \_\_\_\_\_].

**2 A bishop then must be blameless** [David Guzik: Sin is vertical, blameless is \_\_\_\_\_]

**2 hospitable** [generous to \_\_\_\_\_]

**3** The church is made up of former \_\_\_\_\_

**5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?)**  
[Guzik: Paul recognizes that it is in the home where our Christianity is \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrated]

### Qualifications of Deacons (8-13)

**8 Likewise deacons** [\_\_\_\_\_, ones who serve food and drink]

**11 Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers** [the Greek is *diabolos*, literally, \_\_\_\_\_]

### The Great Mystery (14-16)

**14 These things I write to you . . . 15 . . . that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.** [Calvin: Paul will not acknowledge the Church except where God's truth is exalted and plain]

**16** Paul is saying that the mystery of godliness is \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge: Embrace God's standards for laity and leadership (not perfection)

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. God has prerequisites for leadership and standards for His servants
2. God's prerequisites have not \_\_\_\_\_
3. God's prerequisites will not \_\_\_\_\_

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Encourage and exhort my pastors in these prerequisites
2. Be \_\_\_\_\_ to be overlooked
3. Train my children to fill these roles

# Letters to the Early Church Leaders: The Love of Money

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## Preview: Been there, done that

One of my goals in this 100-week series was to have at least 10 different voices speaking to us. You may not be a teacher and may be scared to death to speak, but you need to tell your story (and it does not have to be in Sunday school). However, it is important for you and it is important for others.

Today's text is at the end of **1 Timothy** and Paul is wrapping up all of his instructions to Timothy.

Key thought: There can be only \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 1 Timothy 6:3-21 (Author = Paul)

### Error and Greed (3-10)

**3** If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness*, **4** he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, **5** useless wranglings [useless occupation, \_\_\_\_\_ business] of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of gain*. From such withdraw yourself.

**6** Now godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into *this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out*. **8** And having food and clothing [literally, 'covering,' implying both clothing and lodging], *with these we shall be content*. **9** But those who desire to be rich \_\_\_\_\_ into temptation and a snare [snare, \_\_\_\_\_, noose], and *into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition*. **10** For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of evil*, for which some have strayed from the faith [John Wesley: They aimed not at *faith*, but at something else] in their greediness, and pierced themselves through [to torture your soul—these are \_\_\_\_\_ - inflicted wounds] *with many sorrows*. [The stuff that dirty, colored paper can buy is not worth the cost here or the cost hereafter.]

### The Good Confession (11-16)

**11** But you, O man of God, flee [an imperative] *these things and pursue* [an imperative] *righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness*. **12** Fight [an imperative] *the good fight of faith, lay hold on* [an imperative] *eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses*. **13** I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate*, **14** that you keep [an imperative] *this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing*, **15** which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords*, **16** who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be honor and everlasting power*. Amen.

### Instructions to the Rich (17-19)

**17** Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches [Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures: Riches have \_\_\_\_\_] but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. **18** Let them [we are the \_\_\_\_\_] do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give [\_\_\_\_\_], willing to share, **19** storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Guzik: Many think the main reason for giving unto the Lord is because the church needs money. No. The most important reason to give is because *you* need to be a giver. It is God's way of guarding you against greed and trust in uncertain riches. God will provide for His work even if you do not give; but what will happen to you?

### Guard the Faith (20-21)

**20** O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge— **21** by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

Justin Harness

Challenge: **Where are you?**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Justin Harness: Material gain does \_\_\_\_\_ produce contentment
2. Loving money and things is both visible and invisible
3. We cannot do better without God

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Justin Harness: Our contentment is found in the absolute truth of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
2. Confess the visible and invisible sin and get accountable with a brother/sister
3. Ask God for help to hold your riches \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended resource: John Wesley's sermon, [The Danger of Riches](#) (1872)

# Letters to the Early Church Leaders: God's Workman

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## Introduction

1. How many M&Ms are in the jar? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are your three favorite songs?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

## Preview: You can't handle the truth!

Key thought: The truth is always the issue

## Background on 2 Timothy

### The Pastoral Epistles

**1 Timothy, 2 Timothy**, and **Titus** (**1 Timothy, Titus, 2 Timothy**) (Paul's last letter before his death)

Paul is writing the letter from a prison in Rome (most have deserted Paul due to his imprisonment)

Paul is addressing the staying faithful to the truth (in the face of adversity and even when it does not "look" like it is right or winning)

Purpose of the pastor – Proclaim the truth (today: the definition of truth is being changed to concept of tolerance)

### Purpose of the church: SHBC

**Worship:** *You shall love the **LORD your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind*

**Instruction:** **Teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you

**Fellowship:** **Baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

**Evangelism:** Go therefore and make disciples

**Service:** *You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself*

WIFE'S



## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 2 Timothy 2 (Author = Paul)

### Be strong—pass on the Truth (1-13)

Command statements:

- Be strong in the grace
- Endure hardship
- Remember . . . Jesus Christ

### Illustrations

	Illustration	The Call	The Reward
<b>2:3</b>	A soldier	Suffer hardship	Please the One who enlisted you
<b>2:5</b>	An athlete	Follow the rules	Win the prize
<b>2:6</b>	A farmer	Work hard	Receive your share of the harvest
<b>2:15</b>	A workman	Accurately handle the Word	Be approved to God
<b>2:20</b>	A vessel	Be cleansed	Be useful to the Master
<b>2:24</b>	A servant	Be at peace	God may grant repentance to some

### Deal with false teachers (14-26)

Command statements:

- Remind [God's people] of these things
- Not to strive about words to no profit
- Present yourself approved to God
- Shun profane and idle babblings
- Flee . . . youthful lusts
- Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace
- Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes

### Why is truth always under attack?

Implications – If there is truth, then we are accountable to it

Redefine – If you cannot combat truth, redefine it

Correct false teachers – in a spirit of gentleness

Godless chatter – distracts from the truth

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Pass on the Truth – Jesus Christ
2. Avoid godless chatter
3. Let God win over opponents

Truth wins! It is worth it . . .

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Look at trials in the right light
2. Be known as a workman
3. It is always about the Truth

And it's going to get worse (**2 Timothy 3:1-9**)

## Letters to the Early Church Leaders: All Scripture is God-breathed

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### Preview:

It is the end of your life, you have only days left. There is a pen and paper in your lap and you have on your heart a person who will remain after you are gone. Someone you love and hold dear. Someone you have walked through seasons of life with, just perhaps a few years ahead of them. Maybe it is a daughter or son, a spouse, a younger sibling, or grandchild. You will be gone, they will remain, and you want to prepare them. You want to provide guidance, clarity, direction, advice. You do not want them to repeat your mistakes; you want them spared from pain and hardship, and to experience every possible success imaginable in their endeavors. What would you tell them?

Paul is writing to Timothy, his “**son in the faith**” (1 Timothy 1:2), and \_\_\_\_\_ him for a life of ministry. Key thought: Believers must remain devoted to the truth of God’s Word

### Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8 (Author = Paul)

#### The Man of God and the Word of God (10-17)

**10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured** [These events are recorded in Acts \_\_\_\_\_. He is telling Timothy that he can trust his life—“You have watched me \_\_\_\_\_!”]

**13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived** [Imposters look like, talk like, and act like Christians, but do not submit to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ]

**Was there a time in your life when you thought you were following Christ, but looking back, you saw no true evidence of saving faith? Maybe, going through the motions?**

\_\_\_\_\_ in the early church: Judaizers, Gnosticism, Arianism, Sabellianism, and Modalism

**15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. [Who taught Timothy? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_]**

**17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped [\_\_\_\_\_ tense] for every good work.**

### 2 Timothy 4

#### Preach the Word (1-5)

**1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word!** [What does this say to pastors? Preach the \_\_\_\_\_. To congregations? Congregate where \_\_\_\_\_ is preached.]

**2 Preach the word!** [Luther: Because heresies threatened the living apostolic message, it had to be recorded in a book to protect it from falsification. Preaching reverses this process of conservation again, allowing the Scriptures of the past to become the tidings of the present . . . The \_\_\_\_\_ has been committed to lifeless paper; fresh words can transform it into glad tidings again.]

**2 Be ready in season *and* out of season** [MacArthur: The faithful preacher must proclaim the Word when it is popular and/or convenient, and when it is not; when it seems suitable to do so, and when it seems not. The dictates of popular culture, tradition, reputation, acceptance, or esteem in the community (or in the church) must \_\_\_\_\_ alter the true preacher's commitment.]

**2 Convince, rebuke** [Driscoll: Biblical preaching first \_\_\_\_\_ you, then calls you to repentance, then \_\_\_\_\_ you.]

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because they have itching ears*, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn *their ears* away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.**



Biblical: Truth is \_\_\_\_\_, culture changes      Postmodernism: Truth \_\_\_\_\_ as culture changes

MacArthur's *The Truth War*: Uncertainty is the new truth . . . [truth itself is] . . . **not fixed** . . . [but is] . . . **infinitely pliable** . . . [and] . . . **thus capable of making room for everyone's views.**

### Paul's Valedictory (6-8)

**8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing** [Paul's perspective remains not on his death, but on \_\_\_\_\_]

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Is your **manner of** \_\_\_\_\_ worthy of being imitated?
2. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ of the things written in God's Word?
3. Could you be swayed by a gospel that is \_\_\_\_\_ to what is laid out in Scripture?

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Remain \_\_\_\_\_ to other believers
2. Remain \_\_\_\_\_ to God's Word
3. Remain \_\_\_\_\_ to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Recommendation: John MacArthur's *The Truth War*

## Letters to the Early Church Leaders: The Coming of the Lord

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### Preview: Ready, set, gone!

Key thought: Be \_\_\_\_\_

### Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (Author = Paul)

#### The Comfort of Christ's Coming

**13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren** [Coffman: This was one of Paul's favorite ways of introducing a new and important subject.], **concerning those who have fallen asleep** [literally, \_\_\_\_\_; metaphorically, \_\_\_\_\_], **lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.** **14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring [lead] with Him those who sleep in Jesus.** [Moffat: Moffat: Since Paul left, some of the Thessalonian Christians had died, and the survivors were distressed with the fear that these would have to occupy a position secondary to those who lived until the Advent of the Lord.]

Asleep or dead? The Greek word used here: *koimao*

#### Obviously sleep

Matthew 27:52

Matthew 28:13

Luke 22:45

John 11:12

Acts 12:6

#### Obviously dead

John 11:11

Acts 7:60

Acts 13:36

1 Corinthians 7:39

#### Probably dead

1 Corinthians 11:30

1 Corinthians 15:6

1 Corinthians 15:18

1 Corinthians 15:20

1 Corinthians 15:21

1 Thessalonians 4:13

1 Thessalonians 4:14

1 Thessalonians 4:15

2 Peter 3:4

Leon Morris (quoted in Coffman): The very word "cemetery," "[Greek: *koimeterion*], is derived from the word used here, [Greek: *koimao*], and means 'a place of \_\_\_\_\_.'"

**15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep** [Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures: Hence there was no ground for uneasiness about the dead in Christ]. **16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God** [an angel in heaven is licking his \_\_\_\_\_]. **And the dead** [Greek, *nekros*] **in Christ will rise first.** **17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together** [Guzik: The word *rapture* is not in the ancient Greek text, but comes from the Latin \_\_\_\_\_, which translates the phrase caught up with *rapturus*, from which we get our English word *rapture*.] **with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always** [at all times, always, ever] **be with the Lord** [David Guzik: This is the great reward of heaven—to be with \_\_\_\_\_]. **18 Therefore comfort** [Greek, *parakaleo*, \_\_\_\_\_] **one another with these words.**

## The Day of the Lord

**1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night [Lipscomb: Only by a righteous and pure life can one be ready for his coming]. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden [unexpected, sudden, unforeseen] destruction [ruin, destroy, death] comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape [flee away to safety]. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness [literally, darkness; metaphorically, ignorance, on the \_\_\_\_\_ side], so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light [literally, light; metaphorically, knowledge, on \_\_\_\_\_ side] and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love [*agape*], and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.** [Jesus is coming back for me and it will be good for me \_\_\_\_\_]

**11 Therefore comfort [Greek, *parakaleo*, exhort] each other and edify [build up] one another, just as you also are doing. [Adam Clarke: Rest assured that, in \_\_\_\_\_ times and circumstances, it shall be well with the righteous; let every man lay this to heart; and with this consideration *comfort* and *edify* each other in all trials and difficulties.]**

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. Jesus is coming back
2. We will experience \_\_\_\_\_
3. Death can be a \_\_\_\_\_ thing

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Be ready
2. Comfort and edify
3. Help \_\_\_\_\_ to be ready

# The Essential 100

## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

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The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

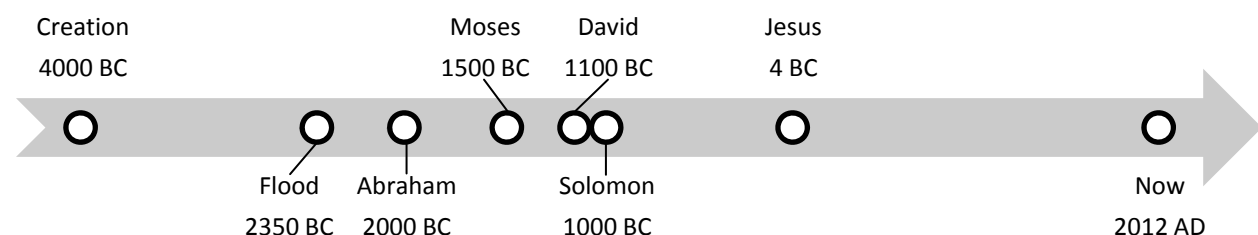
Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

## The Schedule: Psalms and Proverbs

This is our ninth five-week series in the Old Testament. So far, we have looked at In the Beginning, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, The Story of Joseph, Moses and the Exodus, The Law and the Land, and The Judges, The Rise of Israel, and The Fall of Israel. Now, we shift to Psalms and Proverbs.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
August 5	The Lord is My Shepherd	Psalms 23:1	Psalms 23	Jim Fleming
August 12	Have Mercy on Me	Psalms 51:10-11	Psalms 51	Doug Skinner
August 19	Praise the Lord	Psalms 103:1	Psalms 103	Chandalee Chrisman
August 26	Godly Wisdom	Proverbs 3:5-6	Proverbs 1-4	Terry Brown
September 2	Proverbs of Solomon	Proverbs 16:8	Proverbs 16-18	Jim Fleming

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



Initially, the patriarchs received revelation from God passed it on orally to those around them. Later, the Law was given and Moses and Joshua administered it. Judges then filled the leadership needs for Israel. Prophets intermittently helped and Israel rose to power and fell under kings like Saul, David, and Solomon. Throughout the kings, Hebrew poetry emerged as a communication vehicle for truth.

# Psalms and Proverbs: The Lord is My Shepherd

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## Introduction to Hebrew Poetry

The common theme around Hebrew poetry is parallelism—the relationship between the \_\_\_\_\_ of two lines of poetry. Parallelism is the idea that words rhyme if their meanings are similar. English rhyme is based on sounds (phonics). Hebrew rhyme is based on meanings (semantics).

Poetry is: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) beautiful (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to remember (4) easy to translate

## Preview: The Chapter Three-Year-Olds Can Quote

**Psalms** is the longest book in the Bible. There are 150 psalms. David wrote \_\_\_\_\_.

Key thought: The Good Shepherd (\_\_\_\_\_) takes care of us

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Psalm 23 (Author = David)

**The LORD the Shepherd of His People. A Psalm of David.**

**1 The LORD is my shepherd;**

**I shall not want.**

**2 He makes [\_\_\_\_\_] me to lie down in green pastures;**

**He leads me beside the still waters.**

**3 He restores [brings back, restores, refreshes, \_\_\_\_\_] my soul;**

**He leads me in the paths of righteousness**

**For His name's sake.**

**4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death [place of the \_\_\_\_\_],**

**I will fear no evil [bad, evil, pain, unhappiness, misery, injury, \_\_\_\_\_];**

**For You are with me;**

**Your rod [rod, \_\_\_\_\_, scepter, tribe] and Your staff [\_\_\_\_\_] , they comfort me.**

**5 You prepare [to arrange, set or put or lay in order, prepare, ordain, \_\_\_\_\_] a table before me in the presence of my enemies;**

**You anoint my head with oil;**

**My cup runs over [is \_\_\_\_\_].**

**6 Surely goodness [goodness, excellence, kindness, benefit] and mercy [Hebrew, \_\_\_\_\_; goodness, kindness, faithfulness] shall follow me [pursue, run after, chase, dog, \_\_\_\_\_]**

**All the days of my life;**

**And I will dwell in the house of the LORD**

**Forever.**

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. Scripture we learned as children still applies
2. Jesus will make it happen
3. It gets better—but only with \_\_\_\_\_

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Keep \_\_\_\_\_
2. Let Jesus do His work
3. Never quit on Jesus

# Psalms and Proverbs: Have Mercy on Me

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## Preview: Psalm 51

### Main characters:

God	Bathsheba	Nathan
David	Uriah	Us

### Background

1. David the boy
2. David the man

Key thought: There is no valley too deep or too wide that God's sovereign love cannot gap

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Psalm 51 (Author = David)

**A Prayer of Repentance. To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.**

**1 Have mercy upon me, O God,**

**According to Your lovingkindness;**

**According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,**

**Blot out my transgressions.**

**2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,**

**And cleanse me from my sin. [Ephesians 2:4, Titus 3:5a, 2 Timothy 1:12: For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I \_\_\_\_\_ whom I have believed and am \_\_\_\_\_ that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.]**

**3 For I acknowledge my transgressions,**

**And my sin is always before me.**

**4 Against You, You only, have I sinned,**

**And done *this* evil in Your sight—**

**That You may be found just when You speak,**

**And blameless when You judge. [From here, David submits to the \_\_\_\_\_ judgment to be pronounced—no matter the severity (Revelation 19:2, Psalm 119:142).]**

**5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,**

**And in sin my mother conceived me. [Psalm 1:2]**

**6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,**

**And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom.**

**7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;**

**Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**



**8 Make me hear joy and gladness,  
That the bones You have broken may rejoice.**

**9 Hide Your face from my sins,  
And blot out all my iniquities. [Hebrews: 9:14]**

**10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a steadfast spirit within me. [John 14:6b]**

**11 Do not cast me away from Your presence,  
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.**

**12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. [Romans 12:2]**

**13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
And sinners shall be converted to You.**

**14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,  
The God of my salvation,  
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.**

**15 O Lord, open my lips,  
And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.**

**16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;  
You do not delight in burnt offering.**

**17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,  
A broken and a contrite heart—  
These, O God, You will not despise.**

**18 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion;  
Build the walls of Jerusalem.**

**19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness,  
With burnt offering and whole burnt offering;  
Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.**

Challenge: **What is your greatest priority?**

### **Apply (What is the point?)**

1. God desires a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit
2. There is hope at the cross
3. There is light at the end of the road

### **Personalize (What do I do with that?)**

1. Put God first
2. Peace comes through \_\_\_\_\_ communion with Jesus
3. Do not run from God's stern love

# Psalms and Proverbs: Praise the Lord

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## Preview: Why do we complain?

Key thought: Accept blessing and bless God back

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Psalm 103 (Author = David)

Praise for the LORD's Mercies. A Psalm of David.

**1 Bless the LORD, O my soul;**

**And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name!**

**2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,**

**And forget not all His benefits:**

**3 Who forgives all your iniquities,**

**Who heals all your diseases** [[Psalm 106:8, 43-44](#); Even though I have \_\_\_\_\_, nevertheless God has forgiven me; [Psalm 32:3-4](#); [Psalm 38:3-4](#); [Romans 12:2](#)],

**4 Who redeems your life from destruction,**

**Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,**

**5 Who satisfies your mouth with good *things*,**

***So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

**6 The LORD executes righteousness**

**And justice for all who are oppressed.**

**7 He made known His ways to Moses,**

**His acts to the children of Israel.**

**8 The LORD *is* merciful and gracious,**

**Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.**

**9 He will not always strive *with us*,**

**Nor will He keep *His anger* forever.**

**10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,**

**Nor punished us according to our iniquities.**

**11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,**

***So great* is His mercy toward those who fear Him;**

**12 As far as the east is from the west,**

***So far* has He removed our transgressions from us.**

**13 As a father pities *his* children,  
So the LORD pities those who fear Him.**

**14 For He knows our frame;  
He remembers that we *are* dust.**

**15 As *for* man, his days *are* like grass;  
As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.**

**16 For the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
And its place remembers it no more.**

**17 But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting  
On those who fear Him,  
And His righteousness to children's children,**

**18 To such as keep His covenant,  
And to those who remember His commandments to do them.** [Our response to God is the sincere  
praise of our soul]

**19 The LORD has established His throne in heaven,  
And His kingdom rules over all.**

**20 Bless the LORD, you His angels,  
Who excel in strength, who do His word,  
Heeding the voice of His word.**

**21 Bless the LORD, all *you* His hosts,  
*You* ministers of His, who do His pleasure.**

**22 Bless the LORD, all His works,  
In all places of His dominion.**

**Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

### **Apply (What is the point?)**

1. God's benefits are forgiveness and healing
2. God's character is compassion, mercy, patience, kindness, and forgiving others
3. Sharing God with others praises Him

### **Personalize (What do I do with that?)**

1. Remember the good and forget the bad
2. Accept the forgiveness repentance to heal our sin and its effects (and those physical manifestations of it)
3. Go, give, and tell them that He loves them

# Psalms and Proverbs: Godly Wisdom

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## Preview:

Key thought:

**Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Proverbs 1-4 (Author = Solomon)**

## Proverbs 1

## Proverbs 2

## Proverbs 3

## Proverbs 4

## **Proverbs 9**

**Apply (What is the point?)**

**Personalize (What do I do with that?)**

# Psalms and Proverbs: Proverbs of Solomon

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## Review

Proverbs are pithy statements of truth. Proverbs are not promises. Proverbs put the feet on the Law and make it easier to apply (Terry Brown called **Proverbs** a manual for living).

## Preview: S-P-A-C-E P-E-T-S

The great truths from the Bible do not come from rushing or quickly moving through Scripture—they come from chewing slowly and putting in to practice. Wisdom is doing the right thing. Wisdom requires discernment. Discernment is knowing the right thing. Discernment requires knowledge. Knowledge of how to chew slowly can be aided by S-P-A-C-E P-E-T-S.

### From Rick Warren's *Bible Study Methods*

*Use the S-P-A-C-E P-E-T-S acrostic. This acrostic is a useful aid to meditation. Each letter represents a question that can help you apply the passage to your life. If you memorize the nine questions that this acrostic represents, you will have them available every time you want to meditate on a passage. This acrostic asks: Is there any . . .*

- Sin to confess? Do I need to make any restitution?
- Promise to claim? Is it a universal promise? Have I met the condition(s)?
- Attitude to change? Am I willing to work on a negative attitude and begin building toward a positive one?
- Command to obey? Am I willing to do it no matter how I feel?
- Example to follow? Is it a positive example for me to copy, or a negative one to avoid?
- Prayer to pray? Is there anything I need to pray back to God?
- Error to avoid? Is there any problem that I should be alert to or beware of?
- Truth to believe? What new things can I learn about God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, or other biblical teachings?
- Something to praise God for? Is there something here I can be thankful for?

Today's lesson will be self-guided. Each table has two copies of the today's text. Take a few minutes and slowly read the text and ask the S-P-A-C-E P-E-T-S questions. Write down your observations about at least two verses and then go around the table discussing each person's observations.

Key thought: Chewing slowly takes \_\_\_\_\_

## **Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Proverbs 16-18 (Author = Solomon)**

Notes of **Proverbs 16**

Notes on **Proverbs 17**

Notes on **Proverbs 18**

Challenge: **Proverbs** is meant to be slowly unwrapped, so slow down

### **Apply (What is the point?)**

1. The Bible is rich
2. **Proverbs** is \_\_\_\_\_
3. God is not in a hurry

### **Personalize (What do I do with that?)**

1. Treat the Bible carefully
2. Slow down
3. Enjoy the \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Schedule: The Apostles' Teaching

This is our ninth five-week series in the New Testament. So far, we have looked at The Early Years of Jesus, The Teachings of Jesus, the Miracles of Jesus, The Final Days of Jesus, The Church is Born, The Travels of Paul, Letters to the Early Church, and Letters to the Early Church Leaders.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
September 9	The Most Excellent Way	1 Cor. 13:13	1 Cor. 13	Jim Fleming
September 16	A New Creation	2 Cor. 5:17	2 Cor. 4:1-6:2	Jim Fleming
September 23	A Living Hope	1 Peter 1:3	1 Peter 1:1-2:12	Amy Valovcin
September 30	Faith and Works	James 2:17	James 1-2	David Barber
October 7	Love One Another	1 John 4:7	1 John 3:11-4:21	Jim Fleming

# The Apostles' Teaching: The Most Excellent Way

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## Preview: The Christian Ideal

Key thought: Jesus' life shows us the most excellent way: \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 1 Corinthians 13 (Author = Paul)

### The Greatest Gift

**1** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love [\_\_\_\_\_], I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. **2** And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove



mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

**4** Love suffers long *and* is kind [Guzik: Paul is not writing about how love feels, he is writing about how it can be seen in action. True love is always demonstrated by \_\_\_\_\_]; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; **5** does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil [i.e., it is not dwelling on past \_\_\_\_\_]; **6** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **7** bears all things [\_\_\_\_\_]; Spurgeon: Love stands in the presence of a fault, with a finger on her \_\_\_\_\_], believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**8** Love never fails [Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures: Love survives \_\_\_\_\_]. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part. **10** But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

**11** When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. **12** For now we see in a mirror, dimly [Coffman: Ancient mirrors were of polished \_\_\_\_\_], but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

**13** And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

### Excerpts and Adaptations from Rob Bell's sermon, *Love Wins*

In every passage, Jesus responds with \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 16:33**: Jesus is saying, 'I \_\_\_\_\_.'

Will I respond to the world with more \_\_\_\_\_ or with \_\_\_\_\_?

If you can kill somebody and that person still lives, then who \_\_\_\_\_?

The cross is God's way of saying, "Love \_\_\_\_\_."

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Love wins
2. Jesus is the love in **1 Corinthians 13**

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Live like love wins
2. Tell people about Jesus' love

# The Apostles' Teaching: A New Creation

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## Preview: Changes

Last week we looked at one of the central tenets of New Testament theology: that Jesus' resurrection changes everything because love won on the cross and over death. This week, we look at how that resurrection changes us, how God wants to reconcile us to Himself, and how He wants us to live out that resurrection. The victory and the change did not stop at Jesus' resurrection—we participate in that too.

Key thought: **Erwin McManus: You cannot meet the Creator of the universe and remain the \_\_\_\_\_**

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 2 Corinthians 4:1-6:2 (Author = Paul)

### 2 Corinthians 4

#### The Light of Christ's Gospel (1-6)

**1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart** [to be utterly spiritless, to be wearied out, exhausted].

**5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake** [Jesus was the \_\_\_\_\_ of their message]. **6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ** [God is still in the \_\_\_\_\_ business].

#### Cast Down but Unconquered (7-15)

**7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence** [Greek, *hyperbole*; beyond all \_\_\_\_\_] **of the power may be of God and not of us.**

**11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh** [we are \_\_\_\_\_ to show His limitlessness].

#### Seeing the Invisible (16-18)

### 2 Corinthians 5

#### Assurance of the Resurrection (1-8)

**5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee** [the Holy Spirit is the \_\_\_\_\_ payment God has paid—securing our delivery].

**7 For we walk by faith, not by sight** [Example: mowing in a straight line.].

#### The Judgment Seat of Christ (9-11)

### Be Reconciled to God (12-21)

**13 For if we are beside ourselves** [literally, thrown out of \_\_\_\_\_ or displaced; metaphorically, crazy], **it is for God; or if we are of sound mind** [sane], **it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ compels** [to hold together with constraint—example: \_\_\_\_\_] **us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;**

**18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled** [Greek, *katallasso*; to change, exchange, as coins for others of equivalent value] **us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation** [God \_\_\_\_\_ us to reconcile in the world], **19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing** [counting] **their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word** [speech] **of reconciliation.**

Poole: As Christ was not made sin by any sin inherent in him, so neither are we made righteous by any righteousness inherent in us, but by the righteousness of Christ imputed to us.

## 2 Corinthians 6

### Marks of the Ministry (1-2)

#### Excerpts and Adaptations from Erwin McManus' book, *The Barbarian Way*

Jesus Christ wants to take us to places where only dead men and women can go.

John the Baptist did not fit into the organized religion of his time because \_\_\_\_\_ did not fit either

What do you fear when you have already died and have \_\_\_\_\_ away?

Challenge: You cannot meet the Creator of the universe and remain the \_\_\_\_\_

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. The resurrection changed \_\_\_\_\_
2. God desires reconciliation
3. Meeting God changes everything

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Live out the resurrection in your flesh every day—be an example of it
2. Reconcile
3. Regularly examine whether or not you have evidence of \_\_\_\_\_

# The Apostles' Teaching: A Living Hope

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Key thought: Jesus is the living Hope that conquers all

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 1 Peter 1:1-2:12 (Author = Peter)

### 1 Peter 1

#### Greeting to the Elect Pilgrims (1-2)

**1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,**

**To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:**

**Grace to you and peace be multiplied.**

God's grace is \_\_\_\_\_ to us

#### A Heavenly Inheritance (3-12)

**3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

Our inheritance will never spoil, never go bad; not even \_\_\_\_\_ affects it. It will never lose its worth.

This is how Webster's Dictionary defines hope: (verb) to cherish a desire with \_\_\_\_\_.

Peter talks about a living hope. With the opposite being of course a \_\_\_\_\_ hope. **James 2:26b** says, **"Faith without works is dead."**

**"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus name." Edward More (1934)**

**6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials**

This is the message that Peter is trying to convey to the early Christians: trials will come, persecution will happen, darkness will fall, but Jesus Christ conquers all. Therefore, the command here, to hope fully, is be fully \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus Christ is coming again.

### Living Before God Our Father (13-21)

**13** Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; **14** as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; **15** but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, **16** because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

"Be holy, for I am holy," applies to all aspects of our lives, not just the ones that fit our time frame or schedule.

### The Enduring Word (1:22-2:3)

**22** Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, **23** having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever

As Christians, we must live out truth every day. We are to love one another with a pure heart. **David Guzik: Holy living is incomplete if it isn't accompanied by love.**

### 1 Peter 2

**2** Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, **2** as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, **3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

"Tasted that the Lord *is* gracious." Tasted means you have \_\_\_\_\_ it before.

### The Chosen Stone and His Chosen People (4-10)

**9** But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10** who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

### Living Before the World (11-12)

We are special because we belong to God. We are His and He uses us for His \_\_\_\_\_.

Challenge: **Are you willing to step out and be an example for the Lord?**

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Jesus = Hope (Without Him we having nothing)

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Admit your struggles
2. \_\_\_\_\_ your hope on Jesus
3. Find your rest in Him

# The Apostles' Teaching: Faith and Works

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No handout



# The Apostles' Teaching: Love One Another

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## Preview: A life bookended by love

**1 John** was written by John the disciple (one of the 12 apostles). One of the themes of the **Gospel of John** is that Jesus loved John. John referred to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved and that same theme shows up in this letter that he writes toward the end of his life. Love \_\_\_\_\_ John's life.

Key thought: The Christian life is about knowing, experiencing, sharing, and showing \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): 1 John 3:11-4:21 (Author = John)

### 1 John 3

#### The Imperative of Love (11-15)

**13** The \_\_\_\_\_ of our conversion is our love for other believers

#### The Outworking of Love (16-23)

**18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.**

**Test #1: Am I \_\_\_\_\_?** Love not only sees the need and speaks out towards the need, love acts out towards the need. Love works.

**19 And by this** [by our loving actions] **we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.**

**Test #2: Am I \_\_\_\_\_?**

**20 For if our heart condemns** [finds fault within, accuses, condemns, blames] **us** [when we know our words do not match our works], **God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.**

If you are right with God, this verse is encouraging—if you are not right with God, this verse is scary.

**Have you ever tried to pray knowing that you had unconfessed sin in your life when you knew that your prayer was not being heard?** It is hard to have confidence in God if we are hiding sin. Love gives us an opportunity to determine if our hearts condemn us. If we see no evidence of working love, we should have pause for concern. Love checks.

**21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence** [freedom in speaking, unreservedness in speech, openness, frankness, no concealment, confidence, cheerful courage, boldness, assurance] **toward God. 22 And whatever we ask** [to ask, beg, call for, crave] **we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.**

**Test #3: Am I \_\_\_\_\_?** If you look around in your life and see no evidence of answered prayer, it may be because those conditions for answered prayer are not being met—doing God's work God's way and having confidence in God. Love collects.



## The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error (3:24-4:6)

### Knowing God Through Love (4:7-4:11)

Do you see a theme yet?

### Seeing God Through Love (12-16)

**12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.**

### The Consummation of Love (17-19)

**17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love Him because He first loved us.**

### Obedience by Faith (20-21)

**20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.**

Challenge: Love

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. God is in the assurance business—He wants to give assurance
2. God knows our hearts
3. God's love will overwhelm us at the beginning and at the end of our lives

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Know where you stand before God (use your conscience and use your Bible)
2. Rest in the fact that He is good (and then get to \_\_\_\_\_ loving people)
3. Know, experience, share, and show God's love

# The Essential 100

## A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

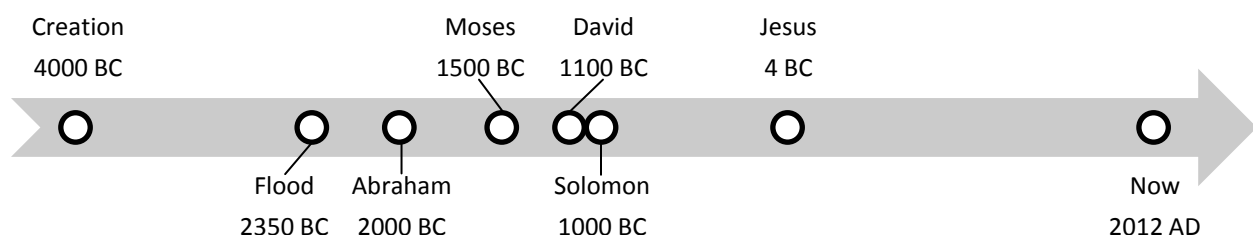
Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

## The Schedule: The Prophets

This is our tenth and last five-week series in the Old Testament. We have looked at In the Beginning, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, The Story of Joseph, Moses and the Exodus, The Law and the Land, and The Judges, The Rise of Israel, The Fall of Israel, and Psalms and Proverbs. Now, we finish with The Prophets.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
October 14	The Suffering Servant	Isaiah 53:5	Isaiah 51:1-53:12	Terry Bolden
October 21	Jeremiah's Call and Message	Jeremiah 1:9-10	Jeremiah 1:1-3:5	Terry Bolden
October 28	Daniel in the Lion's Den	Daniel 6:21-22	Daniel 6	Jim Fleming
November 4	The Story of Jonah	Jonah 1:15-17	Jonah 1-4	Jim Fleming
November 11	The Day of Judgment	Malachi 3:5	Malachi 1-4	Jim Fleming

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



Initially, the patriarchs received revelation from God passed it on orally to those around them. Later, the Law was given and Moses and Joshua administered it. Judges then filled the leadership needs for Israel. Prophets intermittently helped and Israel rose to power and fell under kings like Saul, David, and Solomon. Hebrew poetry emerged as a communication vehicle for truth and for the prophets.

# The Prophets: The Suffering Servant

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## Preview:

Key thought:

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Isaiah 51:1-53:12 (Author = Isaiah)

1. A Promising Beginning

2. A Promised Future

3. A Painful History

4. A Perplexing Answer

Challenge:

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. All of God's Word is important
2. God's plan and work are still being done today
3. Jesus is the fulfillment and focus of God's plan

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Read/study all of God's Word
2. Get in on God's plan
3. Get to know Jesus intimately!

# The Prophets: Jeremiah's Call and Message

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## Preview:

Key thought:

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Jeremiah 1:1-3:5 (Author = Jeremiah)

The \_\_\_\_\_ of man ([Jeremiah 1](#))

The \_\_\_\_\_ of man ([Jeremiah 2](#))

The \_\_\_\_\_ for man ([Jeremiah 3](#))

Additional notes:

### **Apply (What is the point?)**

1. God calls all to repentance
2. We all struggle with sin
3. God loves you

### **Personalize (What do I do with that?)**

1. Answer the door
2. Keep answering
3. Live in the shadow of the cross

# The Prophets: Daniel in the Lions' Den

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## Overview: The Prophets

The prophets were an eclectic group of missionaries (internal and external) who \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of God. Their ministries spanned several hundred years and served as the caulk of the Old Testament.

These \_\_\_\_ books (from **Isaiah** to **Malachi**) constitute 21% of the Bible's words. They served throughout a variety of circumstances (captivity, freedom, during good kings, and during evil kings).

## Preview

Key thought: \_\_\_\_\_ (and tigers and bears) are not a problem for God

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Daniel 6 (Author = Daniel)

### The Plot Against Daniel (1-9)

**2 John Gill:** [Daniel] **was now an old man, having been about \_\_\_\_\_ years in Babylon**

**4 nor was there any error** [neglect, remissness] **or fault** [corruption] **found in him** [David Guzik: there were no \_\_\_\_\_ in Daniel's closet]

**8 Coffman:** The laws remained unchangeable and irrevocable, because the king was regarded and honored as the incarnation of \_\_\_\_\_, who is unerring and cannot change]

### Daniel in the Lions' Den (10-17)

**10** It is wholly right to disobey \_\_\_\_\_ laws when they violate God's laws

**13 David Guzik:** Daniel intended no disrespect for the king, only a \_\_\_\_\_ respect for God

### Daniel Saved from the Lions (18-23)

**18 Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians** [a \_\_\_\_\_ word meaning diversions, musical instruments, dancing girls, concubines, music] **were brought before him.**

**21 Coffman:** These enemies . . . overlooked the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which is a universal characteristic of all wicked men

### Darius Honors God (24-28)

**24 And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused** [the word literally means denounced, slandered, accused maliciously, \_\_\_\_\_ on, eaten or devoured him with their words] **Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions**

Challenge: Live a blameless life of quiet obedience

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ are not a problem for God
2. Lions are a \_\_\_\_\_ for me
3. Disobedience to an ungodly law can be obedience to God

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Stop \_\_\_\_\_ at the lions
2. Start serving the Lord
3. Know how to apply the Word

# The Prophets: The Story of Jonah

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## Preview: Anywhere but Nineveh (or, the Suicidal Missionary)

1. Jonah was a \_\_\_\_\_ man
2. Jonah is a type of Christ
3. The book of **Jonah** is not about a \_\_\_\_\_

## Overview

**Jonah 1:** God's call and Jonah's run (Pitching)

**Jonah 2:** Jonah's prayer and God's mercy (Praying)

**Jonah 3:** God's call and Jonah's obedience (Preaching)

**Jonah 4:** Jonah's bitterness and God's heart (Pouting)

A theme throughout the book of **Jonah** is that God models the behavior He is looking for in Jonah—in **Jonah 1**, God models persistence; in **Jonah 2**, God models compassion; in **Jonah 3**, God models repentance; in **Jonah 4**, God models love. **J. Vernon McGee: Jonah's story is an illustration of how God treats His children when they sin and come back to Him.** This is something we can all relate to.

Key thought: When we run from God, we agree to a \_\_\_\_\_ life

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Jonah 1-4 (Author = Unknown)

### Jonah 1 (Pitching)

#### Jonah's Disobedience (1-3)

**2** Jonah is the \_\_\_\_\_ missionary

#### The Storm at Sea (4-9)

**4** **David Guzik: We often think of Jesus calming the waters, and He can do that. But He can also \_\_\_\_\_ up the storm.**

**5** **How often in our lives do we turn to our 'own gods?'**

**9** Jonah is addressing the fact that Jehovah is the God of \_\_\_\_\_ three locations

#### Jonah Thrown into the Sea (10-17)

**13** **Have you ever had a problem that no matter how hard you worked, you just could not solve?**

#### Jonah's Prayer and Deliverance (1:17-2:10)

**17** **Now the LORD had prepared** [appointed, \_\_\_\_\_, assigned—not the word for created, but the word for setting aside something that already existed for a special purpose]



## Jonah 2 (Praying)

**1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly** [If you are a child of God, you have your Father's \_\_\_\_\_ and you can pray anywhere]

**9 But I will sacrifice** [each of the four parts of the book of **Jonah** contains a \_\_\_\_\_]

**10 Wikipedia: The story of descent (from Israel, to Tarshish, to the sea, to under the sea) becomes the story of ascent (from the belly of the fish, to land, to the city of Nineveh)**

## Jonah 3 (Preaching)

### Jonah Preaches at Nineveh (1-4)

**3 So Jonah arose** [obedience] **and went** [obedience] **to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly** [\_\_\_\_\_] **great city, a three-day journey in extent.**

### The People of Nineveh Believe (5-10)

**9 Who can tell if God will turn** [\_\_\_\_\_, go the opposite way] **and relent** [be sorry, have compassion], **and turn away** [repent, go the opposite way] **from His fierce** [burning] **anger** [nose], **so that we may not perish** [be lost or exterminated]?

**10 Can God repent?**

**J. Vernon McGee: The problem is no longer Nineveh—the problem now is \_\_\_\_\_.**

## Jonah 4 (Pouting)

### Jonah's Anger and God's Kindness

**4 Dr. Phil**

**6 So Jonah was very grateful** [exceedingly happy and rejoicing—this is the \_\_\_\_\_ time we find Jonah happy] **for the plant.**

**7 Never underestimate God's ability to use anything to expose \_\_\_\_\_**

**8 The \_\_\_\_\_ time that Jonah has wished to die in **Jonah****

**Why does Jonah end unfinished?**

Challenge: Obey and enjoy the ride

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God can use anything to get our attention
2. Obedience is the very best way to show that we believe
3. Repent

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Allow God to use me
2. Obey when God reveals His will to me
3. Repent quickly when I am confronted with my sin

# The Prophets: The Day of Judgment

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## Preview: Remember, Remember, the Fifth of November . . .

November 5, 1605: The Gunpowder Plot

### Introduction to the Prophets (adapted from Terry Brown's series on The Minor Prophets)

The Old Testament has four parts: the Law, the History, the Wisdom, and the Prophets. The Law is what God wanted the Israelites do to, the History is the record of what they did, the Wisdom shows the Israelites how to live the Law, and the Prophets call the Israelites back to \_\_\_\_\_ the Law.

The prophets prophecy about immediate fulfillments and future fulfillments (\_\_\_\_\_ of fulfillments)

Key thought: Give your \_\_\_\_\_ to God

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Malachi 1-4 (Author = Malachi)

### Malachi 1

#### Israel Beloved of God (2-5)

4 You will not \_\_\_\_\_

We now begin a long section describing the Israelites' \_\_\_\_\_ (**Malachi 1:6-3:18**)

#### Polluted Offerings (6-14)

7 **"You offer defiled food on My altar,** [Sin: offering \_\_\_\_\_ food]

13 Sin: griping and complaining about \_\_\_\_\_ God

Summary of **Malachi 1**: God demands the best and the Israelites are not bringing it

### Malachi 2

#### Corrupt Priests (1-9)

1 Malachi turns his attention from the people to the \_\_\_\_\_

2 Sin: lack of seriousness and \_\_\_\_\_ associated with serving God

8 Sin: causing those you serve to \_\_\_\_\_

#### Treachery of Infidelity (10-17)

14 God is calling them back to the \_\_\_\_\_ they made

## Malachi 3

### The Coming Messenger (1-7)

5 Sin: taking advantage of the \_\_\_\_\_

7 **Return to Me, and I will return to you,** [Here is our real hope: return to \_\_\_\_\_]

**Says the LORD of hosts.**

**"But you said,**

**'In what way shall we return?'** [i.e., **"How do we come back to you?"**]

### Do Not Rob God (8-12)

8-12 The only condition He has given them so far to return to God is to fix the \_\_\_\_\_ system

### The People Complain Harshly (13-15)

### A Book of Remembrance (16-18)

## Malachi 4

### The Great Day of God (1-6)

4 **"Remember the Law of Moses, My servant,  
Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel,  
With the statutes and judgments.**

5 **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet  
Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.**

6 **And he will turn  
The hearts of the fathers to the children,  
And the hearts of the children to their fathers,  
Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."** [And God stopped giving messages for \_\_\_\_\_ years]

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God is patient
2. Anything less than our best service does not count in God's eyes
3. There will come a time when it is too \_\_\_\_\_

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Return to Him now since He will not change
2. Serve with a clean and grateful \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tell others

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The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit [e100challenge.com](http://e100challenge.com). Our Sunday school website is [stuartheights.org/sundayschool](http://stuartheights.org/sundayschool).

## The Schedule: The Revelation

This is our tenth and last series in the New Testament. So far, we have looked at The Early Years of Jesus, The Teachings of Jesus, the Miracles of Jesus, The Final Days of Jesus, The Church is Born, The Travels of Paul, Letters to the Early Church, Letters to the Early Church Leaders, and The Apostles' Teaching.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
November 18	A Voice and a Vision	Revelation 1:17-18	Revelation 1	Jim Fleming
November 25	Messages to the Churches	Revelation 3:21-22	Revelation 2-3	Jim Fleming
December 2	The Throne of Heaven	Revelation 7:11-12	Revelation 4-7	Keith Chrisman
December 9	Hallelujah!	Revelation 19:6-7	Revelation 19-20	Barry Cole
December 16	The New Jerusalem	Revelation 21:2-4	Revelation 21-22	Jim Fleming

# The Revelation: A Voice and a Vision

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## Introduction

Jesus Christ: the central figure and the One being unveiled

The \_\_\_\_\_ John: the author of the [Gospel of John](#), [1 John](#), [2 John](#), and [3 John](#)

The churches: seven real churches that existed at that time

The Old Testament

Satan and his forces

## The Outline

1. The Introduction (**Revelation 1**)
2. Messages for seven churches of Asia (**Revelation 2-3**)
3. The throne of God (**Revelation 4-5**)
4. Seven seals and seven trumpets (**Revelation 6-11**)
5. The Second and Third Woes (**Revelation 12-16**)
6. Aftermath of Babylon the Great (**Revelation 17-18**)
7. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (**Revelation 19:1-10**)
8. The Millennium (**Revelation 19:11-20:6**)
9. Post-Millennium (**Revelation 20:7-20:15**)
10. The New Heaven and Earth (**Revelation 21:1-22:5**)
11. Conclusion (**Revelation 22:6-21**)

## Preview: The Beginning of the End and the End of the Beginning

Just as we began Genesis with Jesus (the Word without whom nothing was made, according to **John 1**), we end it all beginning with Jesus. All of human history points to Him and it ends with His unveiling.

Key thought: It all started with Jesus, it is all about Jesus, and it will all end with \_\_\_\_\_

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Revelation 1 (Author = John)

### Introduction and Benediction (1-3)

**1 The Revelation** [*apokalupsis*, laying bare, making naked, disclosure of truth, instruction, manifestation, appearance; our word \_\_\_\_\_ comes from this Greek word] **of Jesus Christ**

**2 who bore witness** [Greek is *marturia*, which originally meant to give testimony, but evolved into time to be the word for martyr—one who \_\_\_\_\_ for his or her testimony]

**3** We are called by John to be ready in our obedience for all situations in all \_\_\_\_\_

### Greeting the Seven Churches (4-8)

**4 David Guzik: It wasn't that God washed us out of some sense of duty, and then loved us because we were then clean. He loved us while we were dirty, but \_\_\_\_\_ He washed us.**

### Vision of the Son of Man (9-20)

**9 I the island that is called Patmos** [a Roman penal colony and the prisoners mined \_\_\_\_\_]

**18** Jesus is the true and better champion (He stood in the middle and fought for us—and \_\_\_\_\_!)

**19** Jesus is the true and better \_\_\_\_\_

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. Jesus started it all and will \_\_\_\_\_ it all
2. **Revelation** is not to be ignored
3. Jesus is better than anything else

## Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Always be on the lookout for Jesus
2. Study all the Bible, not just your favorite parts
3. Treasure Him, His Word, and His \_\_\_\_\_

# The Revelation: Messages to the Churches

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## Preview: The Postman

**Ray C. Stedman:** There were many other churches in the province of Asia at the time John wrote this letter. Others of them could have been selected, but only these seven were chosen.

There is a pattern to the structure of these letters: a description of the city, something about Jesus, a commendation, a condemnation, some type of counsel, and finishes with a challenge.

Key thought: Jesus has a message (no matter what your status is)

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Revelation 2-3 (Author = John)

### Revelation 2

#### Ephesus: The Loveless Church

**J. Hampton Keathley, III:** Labor is no substitute for love.

#### Smyrna: The Persecuted Church

**Vance Havner:** They were not promised deliverance from tribulation, poverty and reviling. In fact, the worst was yet to come.

#### Pergamos: The Compromising Church

**David Guzik:** Sexual immorality marked the whole culture of the ancient Roman Empire. . . . To paraphrase the Roman statesman Cicero . . . “If there is anyone who thinks that young men should not be allowed the love of many women, he is extremely severe.”

#### Thyatira: The Corrupt Church

**Ray C. Stedman:** Whenever God has something good, Satan imitates it

## Revelation 3

### Sardis: The Dead Church

George B. Caird: A perfect model of inoffensive Christianity

### Philadelphia: The Faithful Church

William Barclay: Philadelphia had so many gods and so many temples that sometimes men called it 'Little Athens'. . . . Philadelphia honored its illustrious sons by putting their names on the pillars of its temples.

### Laodicea: The Lukewarm Church

David Guzik: Philadelphia was "The Church of the Open Door," . . . Laodicea is "The Church of the Shut Out Jesus."

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. Jesus and the Spirit have a message
2. Lack of self-evaluation can be deadly
3. The old problems are still around

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Listen carefully with a self-critical ear
2. Look closely with a self-critical eye
3. Implement the old solutions

# The Revelation: The Throne of Heaven

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## Preview: True Worship

Jesus conquered sin and death and He ascended to heaven. This is the Jesus we get to know in **Revelation 4-7**. This is the Jesus who began as the humble suffering servant and ends up as the all-powerful conquering king and judge. This is the Jesus that we bow down to and worship.

**Warren Wiersbe: True spiritual worship is perhaps one of the greatest needs in our individual lives and in our churches.** Heaven is a place of worship and we will worship our Lord for eternity, so maybe should get a head start. **Revelation 4-5** will help us get a better understanding of what true worship is. **Revelation 4** begins the third division of the book—**“the things which shall be hereafter.”**

Key thought: Jesus deserves our true worship

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Revelation 4-7 (Author = John)

### Revelation 4

#### The Throne Room of Heaven

**1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard *was* like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”**

**11** True worship occurs when we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves from our honor and cast it at the feet of our king

### Revelation 5

#### The Lamb Takes the Scroll (1-7)

**6** This is why we worship Jesus: for \_\_\_\_\_ He is (the worthy One, the prevailed Lamb of God)

**6** This is why we worship Jesus: for \_\_\_\_\_ He is (in the midst of the throne)

#### Worthy Is the Lamb (8-14)

**8** This is why we worship Jesus: because of \_\_\_\_\_ He does (He takes the scroll from the Father)

**10** This hymn is a worship hymn that has three parts: it is a \_\_\_\_\_ hymn (He was slain for all the people), it is a \_\_\_\_\_ hymn (it states our unique position as kingdom priests), and it is a \_\_\_\_\_ hymn (**“we shall reign on the earth”**)

**14** This is why we worship Jesus: because of what He \_\_\_\_\_ (all the power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing)



## Revelation 6

After Christ is worshipped as being the only one worthy enough to break the seven seals, He breaks each individual seal. As each one is broken, a new demonstration of God's \_\_\_\_\_ is unleashed.

### First Seal: The Conqueror (1-2)

### Second Seal: Conflict on Earth (3-4)

### Third Seal: Scarcity on Earth (5-6)

### Fourth Seal: Widespread Death on Earth (7-8)

### Fifth Seal: The Cry of the Martyrs (9-11)

### Sixth Seal: Cosmic Disturbances (12-17)

**17** For homework, read **Matthew 24:4-13** where Jesus is describing to the apostles the end times and compare it with **Revelation 6**

## Revelation 7

### The Sealed of Israel (1-8)

**1** God is still in the business of saving souls. Even in the ends times, it will not be too late for some to receive \_\_\_\_\_.

### A Multitude from the Great Tribulation (9-14)

**9-12** The multitudes are the \_\_\_\_\_ from all nations, peoples, and tongues

### Apply (What is the point?)

There is a reason why the door is open. God does not want you to peek through the window to see what is going on—He desires our presence

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

Be homesick. Earth is our temporary residence. Heaven is our real home.

# The Revelation: Hallelujah!

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## Preview

Jesus is coming soon. Morning or night or noon. Many will meet their doom. Trumpets will sound.

Key thought: The end of days is not exactly the end of days!

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Revelation 19-20 (Author = John)

### Revelation 19

#### Heaven Exults over Babylon (1-10)

#### Christ on a White Horse (11-16)

#### The Beast and His Armies Defeated (17-21)

## **Revelation 20**

### **Satan Bound 1,000 Years (1-3)**

### **The Saints Reign with Christ 1,000 Years (4-6)**

### **Satanic Rebellion Crushed (7-10)**

### **The Great White Throne Judgment (11-15)**

### **Apply (What is the point?)**

1. Jesus is coming soon
2. Jesus comes triumphantly
3. Jesus overcomes

### **Personalize (What do I do with that?)**

1. Get prepared, be prepared, and prepare others
2. Pray without ceasing and meditate on the Word
3. Get excited

## The Revelation: The New Jerusalem

## Preview: The End of the End and the Beginning of the Beginning

We spent the last 100 Sunday school classes going through an overview of the entire Bible. Welcome to the end of the end and the beginning of the beginning.

## The End of the End

Today is the last lesson in our last series. We spent five weeks on each of the following topics:

Old Testament	New Testament
In the Beginning (the creation of _____ things)	The Early Years of Jesus (how He came to us)
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (the 'roots' story of the Bible)	The Teachings of Jesus (what He taught us)
The Story of Joseph (one man changing a nation's course)	The Miracles of Jesus (what He showed us)
Moses and the Exodus (leaving slavery and following God)	The Final Days of Jesus (how He _____ us)
The Law and the Land (baby steps of a _____)	The Church is Born (baby steps of a kingdom)
The Judges (leadership without a king)	The Travels of the Apostle Paul (evangelism on _____)
The Rise of Israel (kings and character flaws)	Letters to the Early Church (members with character flaws)
The Fall of Israel (character flaws and slavery . . . again)	Letters to the Early Church Leaders (leading and loving)
Psalms and Proverbs (beautiful wisdom literature)	The Apostles' Teaching (living and loving)
The Prophets (calling back to the Law)	The Revelation (the great revealing)

## The Beginning of the Beginning

God the Father promised in **Genesis 3** that a, ‘**woman’s seed,**’ would bruise Satan’s head. Jesus promises in **Revelation 21:5** that He would, “**make all things new.**” In today’s text, that is what He does.

Key thought: God will fulfill \_\_\_\_\_ of His promises in His time and in His way

## Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Revelation 21-22 (Author = John)

### Revelation 21

#### All Things Made New (1-8)

**1** He just made all things new

**3** This is heaven: being with \_\_\_\_\_

**5** Jesus is always making \_\_\_\_\_ things

**8** Hell is hell because God is \_\_\_\_\_ there

#### The New Jerusalem (9-21)

#### The Glory of the New Jerusalem (22-27)

**27** **only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life** [Is your name written in that book?]

### Revelation 22

#### The River of Life (1-5)

**4** **They shall see His face** [we will see Jesus—our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_]

#### The Time Is Near (6-11)

#### Jesus Testifies to the Churches (12-17)

**17** **And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely** [the Gospel is for \_\_\_\_\_].

#### A Warning (18-19)

#### I Am Coming Quickly (20-21)

Challenge: Get prepared, be prepared, and prepare others because Jesus is coming back to make it right

### Apply (What is the point?)

1. God keeps His word
2. This world (and everyone in it) is broken and needs \_\_\_\_\_
3. Jesus will fix it all one day

### Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Hear, read, study, memorize, meditate on, and apply God's word
2. Accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
3. Look for His return

Thank you!

**21** **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.** \_\_\_\_\_.