

Bible Knowledge

Student Notes

Form 4

Written by the Rev Andy Bennett
for the Diocese of Kagera, Anglican Church of Tanzania

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NOTES FOR TEACHERS

- Your main aim is to cover the syllabus before the MOCK EXAMS IN JULY.** Please cover 4 pages of Form 4 topics per week. Then do the Key Facts sections for Forms 1 to 3.
- After the mock exams, your class should revise hard before the final exams, by looking at the underlined text in each topic, and the Key Facts sections for Forms 1 to 3. Also, cover the section on “Preparing for Exams”.

Dedicated to the teachers of Bible Knowledge,
who are so committed that they do not let other work
stop them from teaching students about the Bible.

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Most of all, I give thanks and praise to **the one true God** who created everything, offers all people a loving relationship with him, called Jenny and me to serve in Tanzania, and prepared the writing of this book before I was born (Psalm 139:16 and Ephesians 2:10). I have certainly sensed his guidance as I struggled for the right words, and it has been a delight to see his provision as the Bible Knowledge program has grown in recent years.

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Adelaide, May 2018

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WELCOME!

Welcome to Bible Knowledge! This subject helps you to:

- Understand the Bible.
- Use this knowledge in your own life.
- Improve life in Tanzania for others.
- Live in peace with people of other faiths.

SYLLABUS (course structure)

This subject is taught according to the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (Tanzania) syllabus for all secondary schools, **Form 1 to Form 4**. The syllabus was prepared together with the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) and the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC). If you study Bible Knowledge from Form 1 to Form 4, it will count towards your Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE).

Each year, different parts of the Bible are studied.

- Form 1: Genesis.
- Form 2: Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges
- Form 3: the Gospel of Matthew.
- Form 4: the Acts of the Apostles.

There are two national exams.

- At the end of **Form 2**, covering topics taught during Form 1 and Form 2.
- At the end of **Form 4**, covering topics taught during Forms 1, 2, 3 and 4. This exam has two parts: Bible Knowledge 1 covers the Old Testament, and Bible Knowledge 2 covers the New Testament.

This subject is taught for 2 periods per week, usually in **one double period per week**, for 40 weeks per year (80 periods in total).

TEXT BOOK

The Bible is the textbook, in English. There are many versions of Bibles (depending on how they were translated from Hebrew and Greek). We recommend the “Good News” Bible because it is written in relatively simple English, so it is easier to understand.

STUDENT NOTES

These **student notes** help you to study Bible Knowledge by providing:

- **Bible text** needed for all the lessons.
- **Lessons** covering the syllabus.
- **Exercises** to test your understanding.
- A Bible **dictionary**.
- **Key Facts** summarising lessons covered in Form 1, Form 2 and Form 3.
- **Advice** about exams.
- An **example exam** paper.

The exams are based on the RSV Bible. The text in these student notes explains some of the unusual words in the RSV.

THESE NOTES ARE VERY IMPORTANT.
THEY WILL HELP YOU TO PASS THE EXAM.
LOOK AFTER THEM!

INTRODUCTION TO FORM 4

In Form 3, we saw how the Old Testament prophecies came true because of what Jesus did. Now we look at what happened after Jesus was raised from the dead, and the Holy Spirit worked through the disciples.

The Acts of the Apostles records how the followers of Jesus increased in number and spread to other countries. They became the Christian church – the new people of God. God's plan always was to have a loving relationship with his people. It started with Adam and Eve, then it progressed to the nation of Israel, now the Bible tells us that **God's people are those who follow Jesus.**

SUMMARY OF ACTS

(from www.easyenglish.bible)

The Book of Acts (in the New Testament of the Bible) is also called 'Acts of the Apostles'. The author of Acts was Luke, who also wrote the Gospel of Luke.

Acts tells the story of the first Christians. After Jesus went up to heaven, they waited in Jerusalem. Then, God sent his Holy Spirit (Acts 2). The Holy Spirit gave power to the first Christians. So, they told the people about Jesus. The Christians explained that the people must confess their evil deeds to God. Then, they must invite God into their lives.

The first Christians did wonderful things by God's power. Peter cured a man who could not walk by God's power (Acts 3:1-10). God even cured ill people when Peter's shadow went over them (Acts 5:15-16).

Many people opposed the first Christians. A Christian called Stephen did many wonderful things (Acts 6:8). But the rulers opposed him. They did not want him to speak about Jesus. So, the rulers killed Stephen. But Stephen was not afraid. He knew that he was going to heaven. Like Jesus, Stephen prayed for the people who were killing him (Acts 7:60).

But the number of Christians continued to increase. And new churches began in many areas, for example Samaria and Antioch. Soon, God taught Peter and the other Christians that God's good news is for everyone, from every nation (Acts 10). So, they began to speak to people who were not from Israel.

Saul was a religious leader who opposed the first Christians. Saul even helped to kill Stephen (Acts 8:1). But God spoke to Saul on the road to Damascus. And Saul became a Christian (Acts 9). He travelled to many places, to tell everyone about Jesus (Acts chapters 13-28). Later, Saul changed his name to Paul. Paul wrote many books in the New Testament of the Bible.

The first Christians had many dangers and many troubles. But they trusted God. And they told people about Jesus in each place where they went. God was with them. God did wonderful things wherever they went. And boldly, they taught the message of the Bible.

OUTLINE OF ACTS

Peter and the beginning of the church (1-12)

- In Judea, Galilee and Samaria (1.1 – 9.31)
- In Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch (9.32 – 12.25)

Paul and the expansion of the church (13-28)

- To Phrygia and Galatia (13.1 – 15.35)
- To Macedonia (15.36 – 21.16)
- To Rome (21.17 – 28.31)

SYLLABUS FOR ACTS (TZ Govt)

1.0 Introduction to the Book of Acts

- 1.3 The author, reader, purpose & theme
- 1.4 Preparation for ministry

2.0 The community in Jerusalem

- 2.1 The coming of the Holy Spirit
- 2.2 The early church

3.0 Witnessing in Jerusalem

- 3.1 The apostles' preaching and outcome
- 3.2 The arrest and release of Peter & John
- 3.3 Sharing of goods
- 3.4 The second arrest of the apostles
- 3.5 The election of the seven deacons
- 3.6 Preaching and martyrdom of Stephen

4.0 Witnessing in Judea and Samaria

- 4.1 The conversion of Simon Magus & the Ethiopian eunuch
- 4.2 Conversion of Saul of Tarsus
- 4.3 Peter's miracles and the conversion of Cornelius
- 4.4 The beginning of Christianity in the Gentile city of Antioch

5.0 Paul's missionary journeys

- 5.1 Paul's first missionary journey
- 5.2 Paul's second missionary journey
- 5.3 Paul's third missionary journey

1.3 The Author, Reader, Purpose and Theme

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- The author (writer) of Acts.
- For whom it was written (the audience).
- The purpose for writing Acts.
- The theme (general story) of Acts – what it is about.

READ: Acts 1:1 – 8

Acts tells us what happened after Jesus went to heaven, as the early church became established, and how it expanded from Jerusalem to some other countries.

The book of the Acts of the Apostles is actually more about how the Holy Spirit worked powerfully through the early Christians to build God's church. It has amazing stories of courage, community, generosity, miracles, mission, evangelism, people trusting God, and the Holy Spirit guiding people as they worked for the Lord. Acts is an inspiration to all Christians today.

AUTHOR (1:1)

The Acts of the Apostles, also known as the Book of Acts, was written by Luke, who also wrote the Gospel of Luke. There is strong evidence for this both within the Bible, and from other sources.

For example, in Acts 1:1 the author mentions the previous book he wrote to Theophilus, about what Jesus did. This previous book was the Gospel of Luke, which is also addressed to Theophilus (Luke 1:3).

Luke was a physician (doctor), and was also interested in accurately recording the amazing things that Jesus did, and how that resulted in the Christian church. He wanted people to know for sure what happened (Luke 1:3-4).

Luke became a friend of Paul and sometimes traveled with him. Luke was a Gentile (not a Jew), so he was particularly interested in Paul's mission to the Gentiles.

READER / AUDIENCE (1:1)

The initial reader for whom Luke wrote Acts was Theophilus (1:1). We cannot be sure who Theophilus was, but probably he was Paul's lawyer when Paul was waiting for a trial (court case) in Rome (28:16-31).

In those days there were very few books, so when someone wrote a book many people wanted to read it. Luke probably hoped that many other people would also read Acts – Christians establishing churches, and Gentiles who did not know about Jesus.

PURPOSE

So the purpose of Acts was to:

- Provide an orderly (well organised) account (record) to Theophilus, so that he could have all the facts about what happened (Luke 1:3-4), as Theophilus was preparing to defend Paul in a trial.
- Luke also wanted other Christians to read Acts to encourage them and to guide them as they struggled to build Christian communities far from the mother church in Jerusalem, by reading about all the great things that the Holy Spirit was doing.
- Luke, being a Gentile, and having worked with Paul in his mission to the Gentiles, would have wanted Gentiles to read his books so that many more would become Christians. So Acts was also intended for evangelism.

THEME (1:8)

The theme (main story) of Acts is indicated in verse 1:8 where Jesus said “when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Luke then writes about how Jesus' command became a reality.

TEST YOURSELF ?

Give short answers to these questions.

1. Who is the author (writer) of Acts?
2. For whom was Acts written (the audience)?
3. What was the purpose for writing Acts?
4. What is the theme of Acts?

1.4 Preparation for Ministry

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- Jesus' last command and promise.
- The circumstances of the ascension (how Jesus went up to heaven).
- Why unity in the church is important.

READ: Acts 1:4 – 26

Luke begins Acts by summarising his first book (1:1-3). Then he continues the story.

JESUS TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN (1:4-12)

At the end of Luke's Gospel, he tells about the ascension – when Jesus was taken up to heaven. (To ascend means to go up, so the ascension means the going up.) Now, Luke tells us exactly what happened.

Jesus took the apostles to the Mount of Olives (Olivet), near Jerusalem (12). He commanded them to wait in Jerusalem a few days to be baptised with the Holy Spirit (4-5). Then he promised that “when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (8). Then Jesus ascended to heaven (9).

Imagine how the apostles felt! They had seen Jesus crucified and were crushed by that event. Then they were astonished to see him alive again, for 40 days. Now they had just seen him go up to heaven! And God would give them power to tell people about Jesus “to the ends of the earth”?! No wonder two angels came to reassure the apostles that Jesus will come back one day (10-11).

MATTHIAS REPLACES JUDAS (1:12-26)

So the 11 apostles (Judas Iscariot was dead) went back to where they were staying in Jerusalem, and prayed with other disciples (12-14). The RSV calls them brethren.

One day, they had a meeting of the 120 disciples (brethren) who believed in Jesus at that time, and Peter proposed that someone must replace Judas Iscariot as an apostle (15-22). Note that Peter used scripture (from the Old Testament) to guide him – it was not just Peter's own idea.

“**apostle**” is defined by Peter as “one of the men who were in our group during the whole time that the Lord Jesus travelled about with us, beginning from the time John preached his message of baptism until the day Jesus was taken up from us to heaven” (Acts 1:21-22).

So they proposed two men who were suitable to be apostles, and the group asked God to show them who should be chosen – they prayed about it and cast lots. That is how Matthias was chosen to replace Judas (23-26).

Notice how Matthias was elected (chosen) using a good process (way) which:

- Involved the whole group in the decision.
- Looked to God to make the final decision (they prayed for God's guidance, then they cast lots to see whom God had chosen).
- One person (Peter) acted as leader, but he only guided the group through the process – he did not try to force his own ideas on the group, about who should replace Judas.
- The result was a decision made by God, with which the whole group agreed. So there was unity in the group.

Unity in God's church is very important.

Without it people are so busy arguing with each other that they don't see where God is leading them, and they waste time and energy which could be better used. Unity shows that believers are filled with the Holy Spirit and the love of God, recognising that they are all God's children within the one family of God. There is no place for tribalism or superiority of one nation over another in God's family, and certainly no place for conflict between Christian denominations.

TEST YOURSELF ?

Give short answers to these questions.

1. What was Jesus' last command to the apostles?
2. What was Jesus' last promise to the apostles?

3. Narrate (tell the story of) Jesus' ascension (how he went up to heaven).
4. Why is it important to have unity in the church?
5. What is the difference between apostles and disciples?

2.1 The Coming of the Holy Spirit

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- What happened at Pentecost.
- Peter's speech (talk) to the crowd, and the outcome (result).

READ: Acts 2:1 – 41

In chapter 1, we saw how Jesus commanded the apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Now we will see how that happened.

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES AT PENTECOST (2:1-13)

There were 120 believers in Jesus at that time, all of them in Jerusalem (1:15). They were waiting to be baptised with the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised (1:4-5), but they did not know how or when it would happen.

Often they would get together to pray, and because they still considered themselves to be Jews, they were all together for Pentecost (2:1), also known as the Feast of Weeks (Dt 16:10) and the Feast of Harvest (Ex 23:16). It was a day of thanksgiving to God for the harvest, 50 days after Passover.

While they were praying, an amazing thing happened. A loud noise came like strong wind, and tongues of fire (flames) came down on each person (2:2-3), but they were not hurt. Each one was filled with the Holy Spirit, and was able to speak in other languages (4).

Because Pentecost was a major Jewish festival, Jerusalem was full of visiting Jews from other countries (including proselytes: Gentiles converted to Judaism). When these people heard the disciples speaking in foreign languages, they were very surprised because

the disciples were all locals (Galileans - from Galilee), so a large crowd gathered. Some people made fun of the disciples, saying that they were drunk – had too much wine (5-13).

PETER SPEAKS TO THE CROWD (2:14-41)

Peter was guided by the Holy Spirit and told the crowd that:

- It was only 9 am, and they were not drunk (15).
- This was God's doing, as prophesied (predicted) by the prophet Joel (16-21).
- Jesus had God's authority, and proved it by many miracles, but the Jews killed him. Even though this was God's plan, the people responsible for killing Jesus had killed the Messiah sent by God (22-23).
- But God raised Jesus, the Messiah, from the dead, as prophesied by King David (24-31).
- The apostles were witnesses – they saw Jesus after the resurrection (32).
- Now Jesus sits at the right hand of God the Father, as prophesied by King David, and has sent the Holy Spirit upon his followers. So we know that Jesus, whom the Jews crucified, is the Lord and Messiah (33-36).

When the crowd of Jews realised that Peter was right – that they had crucified their own Messiah! – they were terrified, and asked Peter what they should do. He told them to repent (stop sinning) and be baptised in the name of Jesus, then God would forgive them and send the Holy Spirit to them (37-40)

The outcome was that 3,000 of them were baptised that day (41).

TEST YOURSELF ?

Give short answers to these questions.

1. Briefly summarise how the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost.
2. What was the outcome (result) of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost?
3. What was Peter's role at the time of Pentecost?
4. What did Peter say to the crowd of Jews?
5. What was the outcome of Peter's speech?

2.2 The Early Church

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- The lifestyle (way of living) of the community of believers (people in the church), when the church first started.
- The role of the Holy Spirit in the early church – how he gave spiritual strength to the early community.
- How the lifestyle of the early church compares to how Christian communities live today.

READ: Acts 2:42 – 47

When the disciples were baptised with the Holy Spirit, it was like they became new people – they were 'born again' (John 3:3-7). They became part of God's family – God's children. They loved each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, and helped each other when needed. They met together to worship God, and to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made, as he commanded (Luke 22:19).

HOW THE BELIEVERS LIVED (2:42-47)

When Jesus was with the apostles, he taught them much. Now the apostles were passing on their knowledge to other disciples (42), as Jesus commanded them (Matthew 28:20). It is important that people understand their religion well, if their faith is to be strong.

They got together every day at the Temple and in homes in fellowship – as a community of believers – praying, worshipping God, having communion, eating together, and encouraging each other (42 & 46). They were the first Christian church.

Earlier, Jesus said “those who believe in me will do what I do – yes, they will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father” (John 14:12). Now this was being fulfilled (made to happen) because the apostles were performing miracles, by the power of the Holy Spirit. News of this spread throughout Jerusalem, and those who did not believe in Jesus became afraid (RSV: “fear came upon every soul”), because they were responsible for crucifying Christ (43).

The believers were a very close (friendly and loving) community, happy to be together. Some were rich and some were poor. Some lived locally, and some were visitors who came to Jerusalem for Passover and Pentecost, and stayed longer because they became believers in Jesus. For many, their money was finished. So the ones who had houses, land or other valuable possessions occasionally sold them to help their fellow believers who were in need (44-45).

By then there were 3,120 believers. Many people in Jerusalem would have seen them at the Temple, been amazed at how they lived as a community, and talked to them about what was happening including the miracles. This was a powerful witness for Jesus. As a result, more people became believers each day, as the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts (47).

COMPARISON – THEN AND NOW

Here is a comparison of life in the early church and how Christians live today.

	IN ACTS	NOW
Taught by	Apostles	Pastors
Worship	Every day	Once a week
Meet in homes	Every day	Sometimes
Pray	Every day	Every day?
See miracles	Often	Sometimes
Share things	Everything	Sometimes
Witness to Jesus	Much	Sometimes

TEST YOURSELF ?

Give short answers to these questions.

1. What was the lifestyle of believers in the early church – what did they do, and how did they live as a community?
2. What was the role of the Holy Spirit in the early church?
3. Give three examples of how the Holy Spirit strengthened the early church?
4. How were the disciples witnesses for Jesus?
5. What are five differences in lifestyle between Christians in Acts and today?

3.1 The Apostles' Preaching and Outcome

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- The ministry (work) of the apostles in Jerusalem.
- The healing at the Temple gate.
- What effect this miracle had on the people who saw it.
- The relevance (importance) of this miracle for the church today.

READ: Acts 3:1 – 26

We have read how the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, and how the church started. It was mentioned in 2:43 that “many miracles and wonders were being done through the apostles.” Now Luke gives us an example of one such miracle, how it provided an opportunity for Peter to witness for Jesus, and the effect it had on the people who saw it.

PETER HEALS A CRIPPLED BEGGAR (3:1-10)

Jews had regular times of prayer each day. The apostles were followers of Jesus, but they still saw themselves as practising the Jewish faith. They recognised Jesus as the Messiah promised by God, but most Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah (Christ).

So one day Peter and John were going to the Temple to pray, along with other Jews. At one of the Temple gates (called the Beautiful Gate), there was a man begging for money (RSV: “alms”, offerings to the poor). (3:1-2)

He was lame (not able to walk) since birth. He asked them for money and Peter said he did not have money, but instead Peter told the man “in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Then Peter helped him up and the man was instantly healed, so he went with Peter and John to the Temple (3-8).

When others saw the man walking, jumping (RSV: leaping) and praising God, they were amazed when they recognised him as the beggar who was crippled all his life (9-10).

A “crippled” person is someone who cannot use one or more arms or legs. A person who is “lame” cannot walk, because of problems with their legs. The beggar at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple was crippled – he had been lame since birth.

PETER'S MESSAGE (3:11-26)

Peter saw how lots of Jews were interested in this miracle so he explained to them what happened, saying that:

- It happened by God's power, not Peter and John's, to show that God glorified Jesus.
- But the Jews killed Jesus, and then God raised him, as foretold by the prophets.
- Now the lame man has been healed through faith in Jesus, as everyone can see.
- Even though the Jews killed Jesus in ignorance (they did not really know what they were doing), they are still responsible.
- So they must repent and turn to God, and he will forgive them.

Note how this event is similar to Acts 2.

- A miracle causes a crowd to gather.
- Peter (inspired by the Holy Spirit) tells the crowd that this is by God's power, to show that Jesus is the Messiah, whom they crucified, but they can be put right with God if they repent and believe in Jesus.
- As a result, more people believe – the church grows to over 5,000 people (4:4).

RELEVANCE FOR TODAY'S CHURCH

Miracles still happen today, but we do not see as many. Miracles would happen more often if today's church was more like the early church in Acts (see page 6).

In particular, believers need to remember that Jesus said “those who believe in me will do what I do – yes, they will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son” (John 14:12-13). So the church today needs to believe in Jesus as much as the early church did, in order to do the things that the early church did.

However, note that:

- Jesus said “those who believe in me will do what I do.” He meant those who truly believe in him, not those who just say that they are Christians but do not really live their lives as Christians. Our true faith is shown in the way we live (James 2:15-17).
- Jesus said “I will do whatever you ask for in my name”. That does NOT mean simply ending a prayer with the words ‘in Jesus’ name, amen.” In those days, a person’s name stood for (represented) who they were and what they were like. Jesus was saying that when we pray according to God’s nature (character, qualities, attributes), then our prayers will be answered.
- Jesus said “I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father’s glory will be shown through the Son”. Notice he said “so that...” – the purpose (reason) for Jesus answering our prayers is to show the glory of God the Father, through the Son. Look at the healing of the lame man at the Temple gate: yes, it was to help the man, but Peter immediately told the people that it was by God’s power that the man was healed and that it showed that Jesus is the Messiah.

Having said that, we must remember that God knows everything, and we don’t. Sometimes God answers prayers in ways we do not understand at the time, because he has a better way to help his people – with eternity in mind, not just our immediate challenges.

TEST YOURSELF ?

Give short answers to these questions.

1. What was the ministry (work) of the apostles in Jerusalem at that time – what kind of things did they do?
2. Narrate (tell) the story about the healing at the gate to the Temple.
3. What effect did this miracle have on the people who saw it?
4. What is the relevance of this miracle for the church today?
5. Give four examples of how the church today ministers to people, and what effect this has on local communities.

3.2 The Arrest and Release of Peter and John

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- The main characters (people) in this event (story).
- The reasons for the imprisonment (why they were arrested).
- The reaction of the believers when they heard about the imprisonment.
- How the persecution (difficulties) of the early church compare to persecution of the church today.
- The importance of prayer in times of crisis (trouble).

READ: Acts 4:1 – 31

The apostles were doing what Jesus had commanded them – witnessing to people that Jesus is the Messiah, baptising new believers, and teaching them all the things that Jesus taught. They were doing this by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the church was growing. But Jesus also warned them that his followers would face persecution: “everyone will hate you because of me. But whoever holds out to the end will be saved” (Matthew 10:22). It started with Peter and John being arrested, but God was right there with them!

PETER AND JOHN ARRESTED, THEN RELEASED (4:1-22)

The healing of the lame beggar attracted a large crowd to Peter and John at the Temple. Soon the Jewish authorities (priests, Sadducees and the Temple’s head guard) arrived to see what was happening. When they heard what Peter and John were saying, the authorities got angry because (4:1-2):

- “The apostles were teaching the people...” – usually only the ‘teachers of the Law’ (mainly scribes) taught at the Temple.
- “...that Jesus had risen from death” – the Sadducees did not believe in resurrection (that people could live again after dying).

So the authorities arrested Peter and John and the next day brought them to their council, the Sanhedrin, including their rulers, elders,

and scribes – teachers of the Law (3-5). Annas, the High Priest, was there (6). They asked Peter and John how they healed the lame man – in what name, by what power (7).

Jesus warned the apostles that they will be handed over to rulers and put on trial because of him, but he promised that the Holy Spirit would tell them what to say (Matthew 10:17-20). And that is exactly what happened. Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit (8) and said:

- Everyone should know that the lame man was healed by the power of the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (9-10).
- You (Jewish leaders) crucified Jesus, but God raised him from death (10), because...
- Jesus is the Messiah we read about in scripture (the Old Testament) and salvation can only be found through him (11-12).

The Sanhedrin members were amazed at what they heard from these uneducated fishermen! They found it hard to accept Peter's message about Jesus, but there was no way they could say he was wrong because the lame man was cured and standing right there. So they got the apostles to wait outside while the Sanhedrin had a discussion (13-17).

Then Peter and John were brought back and ordered not to tell people about Jesus. But Peter and John said that it was more important to obey God, than to obey the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin wanted to punish the apostles for this, but they were afraid of the people who had seen the miracle, so they released (let go) Peter and John (18-22).

THE REACTION OF THE BELIEVERS (4:23-31)

Peter and John rushed back to the other disciples and told them what happened (23). The disciples immediately prayed to God.

- They praised God, acknowledging that he is master and creator of everything (24).
- They recognised that the Holy Spirit had guided King David to write how the rulers would get together against Jesus, the Messiah, and how it all happened according to God's plan (25-28).
- Then they prayed for God to give them courage to continue to speak God's message in the face of opposition by the Sanhedrin, and that God would continue to perform miracles in the name of Jesus (29-30).

Then, a truly incredible thing happened. The place where they were praying was shaken, as if by an earthquake! They were filled with the Holy Spirit, who gave them courage to speak God's message (31). Can you imagine how excited they must have felt! Notice that:

- The disciples realised that Peter and John were released by the Sanhedrin because of the work of the Holy Spirit, because they immediately praised God, acknowledging that he is master of all situations.
- They firmly believed that Jesus was the Messiah, and that everything that happened to him was according to God's plan, as prophesied in the scriptures.
- Then did they pray for God to spare them any more trouble? No! They prayed for God to give them strength to keep telling people God's message even in difficult situations, and for God to show others the power of Jesus through miracles. (This is a bit like Solomon when he became king – he asked God to give him wisdom, not riches etc. See 2 Chronicles 1:9-12.) It is a great example of praying 'in the name of Jesus' – the way Jesus would have wanted them to pray (see page 8). Such prayer shows great love for God and for other people, which are the main commandments (Matthew 22:37-40).
- God responded with a strong sign that he was pleased with them – the place was shaken, and they were filled with the Spirit who gave them courage. This shows the importance of prayer – God answered by strengthening them in times of trouble.

PERSECUTION IN ACTS AND TODAY

Here is a comparison of how the church was persecuted in Acts, and persecution of the church today.

	IN ACTS	NOW
When convert from:	Judaism (Jewish)	other faiths
Where:	mostly in Jerusalem	mostly in non Christian countries
How:	beaten, imprisoned, or killed	hard to get work and make friends, sometimes beaten, imprisoned or killed, churches burned

TEST YOURSELF

Give short answers to these questions.

1. Why were Peter and John arrested (put in jail)?
2. What was the reaction of the believers when they heard about the imprisonment – what did they do, and why?
3. Why is it important to pray in daily life, especially during times of crisis?
4. Relate (compare) the persecution of the early church to the persecution of today's church.

3.3 Sharing of Goods

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- The importance of sharing goods (possessions, things you have).
- The advantages and disadvantages (good and bad aspects) of communal living (living with a group of people, in a community).

READ: Acts 4:32 – 5:11

The church in Jerusalem was growing rapidly. At the time of the ascension (when Jesus was taken up to heaven) there were 120 believers (1:15). At Pentecost 3,000 more people believed (2:41). When the lame beggar was healed, the church grew to over 5,000 in total (4:4). The size of the church was now presenting some practical challenges.

HOW GOODS WERE SHARED (4:32-37)

The believers were a very close (friendly and loving) community, filled with the Holy Spirit. Some were rich and some were poor. Some lived locally, and some were visitors who came to Jerusalem for Passover and Pentecost, and stayed longer because they became believers in Jesus. For many, their money was finished. So the ones who had houses, land or other valuable possessions occasionally sold them and gave the money to the apostles, to distribute to fellow believers who were in need (2:44-45, 4:32-37).

It is important to share what we have because

- Everything we really belongs to God. He gives us our bodies, the world to live in, and the ability to get money and things.
- God is loving. He gives each one of us things not just for ourselves, but also as his way of providing things through us to others, out of his love for all people.
- We are commanded to “love your neighbour as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). If we truly love other people, we help them when we can.
- If everyone in the world shared what they have, there would be no poor or hungry people.

HOW NOT TO SHARE GOODS (5:1-11)

A husband and wife named Ananias and Sapphira sold some land (a field). When they brought the money to Peter, they pretended (lied) that it was all the money (RSV: proceeds) they got for the land, but actually they kept some of the money they got.

Peter (guided by the Holy Spirit) said that they were lying not just to the apostles, but to God. They could easily have said that they kept some of the money for their needs, and here is the rest. But because they lied, they died as soon as Peter finished speaking.

It may seem harsh (too strong a judgement) of God to kill Ananias and Sapphira for lying, but it was important for the early church to begin in the right way. Their deaths were a warning to other believers that they could not be united with God and with Satan at the same time.

“church” can mean:

1. All Christians in the world, also known as “the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12).
2. The local Christians in a place, e.g. the “church in Jerusalem” (Acts 5:11, 8:1).
3. A church building.

COMMUNAL LIVING

Communal living (living in a community, as a group) has advantages (benefits) and disadvantages (challenges), depending on the rules the community sets for itself. Here are some examples.

Advantages:

- Friendship.
- Support (help) when needed.
- Security (protection) – a group is more difficult to attack than an individual.
- Economic (financial) benefits, such as sharing the use of expensive machines.

Disadvantages:

- You may not like some of the people in the group, but you still have to work with them.
- You need to follow the rules of the group, even if you would like to do something else.
- You need to contribute (work, money, goods) to the group (but you also get help).

TEST YOURSELF

Give short answers to these questions.

1. Why did the early Christians share their goods?
2. What kind of things did they share?
3. Do Christians today share things? Give some examples.
4. What are the **ADVANTAGES** of communal living as Christians?
5. What are the **DISADVANTAGES** of communal living as Christians?

“Solomon's Porch” also called Solomon's Portico and Solomon's Colonnade, was a large beautiful building in the Temple area. It had no walls, but stone columns supporting a wooden roof. It was a good meeting place, and the apostles taught people there. See Acts 3:11 and 5:12.

3.4 The Second Arrest of the Apostles

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- The reasons for the second arrest of the apostles.
- How the Sanhedrin wanted to punish the apostles, what Gamaliel advised (said), and the outcome (result) of his speech.
- The reasons for obeying God (doing what he says), rather than obeying people.

READ: Acts 5:12 – 42

The Holy Spirit worked powerfully through the apostles. As a result, the church in Jerusalem continued to grow, and even people from nearby towns came for healing. The Jewish authorities grew more concerned, and looked for another chance to arrest the apostles, hoping to silence them for ever.

MIRACLES AND CHURCH GROWTH (5:12-16)

The church in Jerusalem now had more than 5000 believers. People were joining every day. They met in Solomon's Porch at the Temple each day, and all Jerusalem would have known about them. They were respected because of the many miracles the apostles were doing, mainly healing people and casting out evil spirits (demons). Some people were afraid of them, because of the apostles' power by the Holy Spirit (5:11).

“As a result of what the apostles were doing, sick people were carried out into the streets and placed on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. And crowds of people came in from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing those who were ill or who had evil spirits in them; and they were all healed” (15-16). Everyone who came for healing was healed! No wonder people came from towns around Jerusalem to get help. Notice that by now Peter was the main one who spoke to the crowds and did the healing. Jesus had said that he would make Peter the leader of the church (Matthew 16:18).

APOSTLES PERSECUTED (5:17-42)

Large crowds were coming to see the apostles, like those who came to see Jesus. The apostles healed many people and taught at the Temple, just like Jesus did. All this was as Jesus said would happen (John 14:12).

The Jewish authorities became very jealous (annoyed, unhappy) that many people followed the apostles, because the High Priest and the Sadducees were losing the power they had over people. Also, the Sadducees did not believe in resurrection, which the apostles taught about Jesus. So the authorities put the apostles in prison. But God's angel got the apostles out of prison and told them to teach in the Temple, which they did (5:17-21).

When the Sanhedrin (the full Jewish council) met and sent officers to the prison to get the apostles, the prison was empty! Then a man told them that the apostles were teaching in the Temple, so the captain (head of Temple guards) went and got the apostles to come and talk to the Sanhedrin (21-27).

The high priest asked the apostles why they are still teaching about Jesus, when the Sanhedrin ordered them not to. The Jewish authorities were angry that this teaching had spread to everyone in Jerusalem, and that the apostles were blaming (holding responsible) the Sanhedrin for the death of Jesus. The apostles replied much the same as before:

- It is more important to obey God (29). God is always right, but people are often wrong.
- You killed Jesus, but God raised him (30).
- God exalted (glorified, honoured) Jesus as saviour, so that people can be forgiven their sins if they repent (31).
- We and the Holy Spirit are witnesses to this and God gives the Spirit to those who obey.

At this, the Sanhedrin wanted to kill the apostles, but Gamaliel (a respected Pharisee teacher of the Law) warned that (33-34):

- If what the apostles are doing is just their own idea, it will fail (35-38).
- But if the apostles are doing what God is telling them, then nobody can stop it (39).

So the council had the apostles beaten, warned them again not to speak about Jesus, and let them go. But the apostles were glad to have suffered for Jesus, and every day they taught that Jesus is the Messiah (40-42).

TEST YOURSELF ?

Give short answers to these questions.

1. Why were the apostles arrested the second time – what were they doing, and why did it upset (make angry) the Jewish authorities?
2. Who was Gamaliel?
3. How did the Sanhedrin (council) want to punish the apostles, before Gamaliel spoke?
4. What did the Sanhedrin do, as a result of Gamaliel's speech?
5. "We must obey God rather than men" – who said this, and why?

3.5 The Election of the Seven Deacons

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- What is a deacon.
- Why it was necessary to have deacons.
- What qualities deacons had to have (what kind of people they should be).
- The importance of delegation of authority (sharing responsibilities) in a community.
- How deacons were elected in the early church, and how people become deacons in today's church.

READ: Acts 6:1 – 7

“deacon,” from the Greek word “diakonos,” means “servant”. The first deacons mainly handed out food to the disciples (Acts 6:1-6). Later deacons were mainly evangelists (1 Timothy 3:8-13), and some were women (Romans 16:1). Today deacons are ordained (appointed) by bishops, and most go on to become priests (pastors). Even today, priests and deacons are ordained by prayer and laying on hands, as in Acts 6:6.

The church in Jerusalem continued growing. The 12 apostles, as well as teaching and healing, were responsible for looking after the needs of over 5000 disciples. There was too much work for the apostles – they needed some helpers.

At one stage disciples who were Hellenists (Greek speaking Jews from other countries) complained to the Hebrews (local Jews) that not enough food was being given to the Greek widows (women whose husbands had died). So the apostles met with the disciples and said that the apostles needed to spend time in prayer and on preaching, instead of serving food (RSV: waiting on tables). They asked the disciples to choose seven men to help the apostles by taking over the responsibility for looking after people's needs. These seven men had to be:

- Of good reputation (respectable), so they could be trusted with money and goods.
- Filled with the Holy Spirit, showing that they were truly devoted to God.
- Wise (have good judgement), so they could tell which disciples really needed help.

(1 Timothy 3:8-13 has details about the qualities later deacons had to have.) The men chosen were Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolaus. The apostles commissioned (appointed) these men as deacons by laying hands on them and praying for their ministry.

That is how some of the responsibilities of the apostles were delegated (shared, passed on) to the first seven deacons, to enable the church to keep growing. Delegation (to delegate) is important in any large organisation, because a few leaders cannot look after everything, so they need assistants to help them.

TEST YOURSELF ?

Give short answers to these questions.

1. What is a deacon?
2. Why was it necessary to have deacons?
3. What qualities were expected of deacons in the early church (what kind of people did they need to be)?
4. Why is the delegation of authority (sharing responsibilities) important in a community?

5. What was the process for electing deacons in the early church?

6. How do people become deacons in today's church?

3.6 Preaching and Martyrdom of Stephen

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- The story of Stephen.
- What is a martyr, and why Stephen was killed.
- How Stephen's message relates (applies) to today's Christians.
- How Stephen's last words compare to what Jesus said on the cross.

READ: Acts 6:8 – 7:60

Stephen was one of the first seven deacons (Acts 6:5). Like many deacons, he was an evangelist, as well as helping with the practical needs of the church. In fact, Stephen was very much filled with the Holy Spirit and performed great miracles (6:8). As often happens, doing outstanding work for God got Stephen into trouble with people who did not truly know God – he was persecuted.

STEPHEN ARRESTED (6:9-15)

Stephen would have been preaching the same message as the apostles, who taught all the disciples. Some of the converts to Judaism (the Jewish faith) visiting Jerusalem from other countries argued with Stephen. But Stephen was being guided by the Holy Spirit, so these people could not win their argument with him. Rather than trying to understand what Stephen was saying, they wickedly planned to get rid of him (9-11).

They took him by force (seized him) to the Jewish council and twisted his words (lied), accusing him (12) of speaking against:

- The Temple – saying that Jesus will destroy it (13-14). Stephen was probably talking about what Jesus said in Matthew 24:2, but Jesus did not say that he would destroy it.
- Moses and the Law (11, 13-14) – Stephen was probably explaining that God can be

worshipped anywhere, not just at the Temple. Some people thought that Stephen meant that the Law given by God through Moses (about worshipping and other customs) was wrong. They did not want to properly understand Stephen.

STEPHEN'S SPEECH (7:1-53)

When the high priest asked Stephen if these things were true, Stephen gave a long speech to the Jewish council (Sanhedrin).

- He summarised the history of the Jewish faith, from Abraham to Jesus (2-53).
- In his summary, he pointed out how the Jews repeatedly rejected God's servants including Joseph (9) and Moses (27-29, 35-41), yet these were the servants God chose to save his people. Stephen was trying to make the the council see that they were doing the same when they rejected Jesus.
- He also showed that the Temple is not the only holy place, but it is holy wherever God is present, and God spoke to his servants in many places. Stephen gave the examples of Abraham (2), Moses (30-34) and the tabernacle (44-45). God does not need to live in a house (48-50).
- Stephen ended his speech by telling the council that they, like their ancestors, were being 'stiff-necked' (stubborn, not willing to understand and change), and did not want to hear the gospel or let the Holy Spirit into their hearts. (RSV: You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit.) He said that is why they killed Jesus, the Righteous One (Messiah), like their ancestors killed the prophets. They did not even obey the Law (51-53).

STEPHEN KILLED (7:54-60)

The Jewish council got really angry hearing Stephen's accusations (criticism of their wrong-doing), and they were about to kill him. God comforted Stephen through the Holy Spirit, by giving him a vision of Jesus in heaven at the right-hand (most honoured place) of God (54-56).

As Stephen spoke of his vision, the council were overcome with anger. They threw him out of the city and began killing him by throwing stones. As he was dying, Stephen prayed for Jesus to receive his soul, and to forgive Stephen's killers (57-60).

Stephen's last words were similar to the words of Jesus on the cross:

- “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).
- “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46).

“**Martyrdom**” is extreme suffering or death for one's faith.

A person who suffers or dies this way is called a “martyr”.

Stephen is the first Christian martyr recorded in the Bible.

Stephen is a great example to the church today, especially where there is persecution.

- He devoted himself to serving members of the church, and to telling other people about the gospel – the good news of Jesus.
- His devotion (commitment) to God was so great that God filled him with the Holy Spirit, and performed miracles through him.
- He spoke the truth about Jesus, even when it made things very difficult for himself.
- He was willing to die for Jesus. He fully trusted God and was at peace even in death.



TEST YOURSELF

Give short answers to these questions.

1. What is a martyr, and what is martyrdom?
2. Who was Stephen, and why did a crowd of people become angry at him?
3. Summarise what Stephen said to the Jewish council.
4. What was the Jews' response to Stephen's speech, and why?
5. What were the last words of Stephen, and how do they compare to what Jesus said on the cross?
6. Relate the message of Stephen to Christians in today's church.

4.1 The Conversion of Simon Magus and the Ethiopian Eunuch

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- The reasons for the spread of the church outside (beyond) Jerusalem.
- The story of Peter's encounter (experience, meeting) with superstition (wrong beliefs from fear or lack of knowledge).
- The role of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of the early church.
- How these passages (texts) relate to current church ministry.
- The meaning of “magic” and “eunuch”.

READ: Acts 8

When Stephen was killed, the believers (who at that time were all in Jerusalem) became frightened that they could also be persecuted, so most of them left Jerusalem. Many of them were visitors who came to Jerusalem a few months earlier for Passover, and for Pentecost (50 days after Passover), so these visitors probably went home to the towns where they lived. By then there was close fellowship (strong friendship) between these visitors and the believers who lived in Jerusalem, who were also in danger. No doubt, many of the visitors took believers living in Jerusalem with them, to help protect them. That is how the church first spread from Jerusalem to other places.

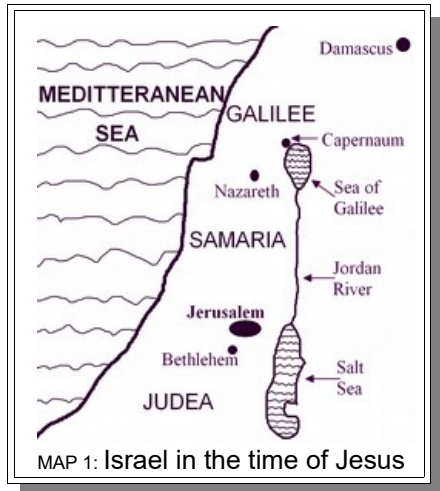
THE CHURCH IS SCATTERED (8:1-3)

For a long time, many of the Jews who did not believe in Jesus hated the believers. These Jews hated Jesus, but they thought that they got rid of the problem when Jesus was put to death. Now these Jews could see an even bigger problem as thousands of people were joining the followers of Christ. For weeks they tried to silence the apostles to stop the growth of the church, but the authorities were afraid of taking strong action because many people supported the apostles.

So when Stephen was stoned to death by an angry crowd, those who hated the church became bolder (more confident) and wanted to do the same to other followers of Jesus. They started a great persecution in Jerusalem and put some believers in prison (8:1-3).

One Jew who hated the church was a young man called Saul. He was there when Stephen was stoned to death (7:58, 8:1). Now Saul was one of the main people persecuting the believers in Jerusalem (8:3). In chapter 9 we will read how Saul became Paul the apostle.

Most of the believers – visitors and those who lived in Jerusalem – ran away to other towns and villages in the nearby regions of Judea and Samaria, see map below (8:1). The apostles stayed in Jerusalem, probably to support believers in prison. We say that the believers were “scattered” or “dispersed” – they were separated from one large group and went in different directions in small groups, where they would be safer. At first this must have seemed like a set-back (problem) for the church, but later we see how God used it to make his church spread to many places.



THE CHURCH IN SAMARIA (8:4-25)

The believers escaping (running away from) the persecution in Jerusalem told people about Jesus the Christ (Messiah) as they passed through various towns and villages (8:4). Philip, one of the seven deacons, went to Samaria and preached about the Messiah.

Like Stephen, Philip was full of the Holy Spirit, who enabled Philip to speak well and to do miracles – casting out demons (evil spirits) and healing people, and many people in Samaria were baptised (5-8, 12).

SIMON THE MAGICIAN (8:9-24)

One of these converts (new believers) was Simon 'Magus' (meaning Simon the Magician), who was well known in Samaria and made money by doing magic (9-11).

"magic" (as it is meant in the Bible) is when strange (not normal) things happen, by the power of evil spirits. The main result of magic is to draw (take) people away from God.

A **"magician"** (or sorcerer, witch doctor) is a person who does magic.

A **"miracle"** is when very strange (not normal) things happen, by the power of God. For example, when Jesus and the apostles healed people, and when an angel opened the prison doors for the apostles (Acts 5:19). The main result of miracles is to draw (bring) people to God. God uses miracles to help people and to show that a message is true. The miracles that Jesus did proved that his message was from God.

"superstition" is a belief that is based on fear or ignorance (a lack of knowledge). For example, it is superstitious (having a superstition) to think that you will get bad luck if you see an owl (bundi).

Simon was amazed that Philip could do great miracles – greater than Simon's magic – and Simon also became a believer in Jesus (13).

Peter and John came from Jerusalem to pray for the new believers while laying hands on them, and the Samaritan believers received the Holy Spirit (14-17).

Simon thought that if he could give people the Holy Spirit, he could make money from it (like he did from magic). So he offered the apostles money to show him how to do it. Peter said that Simon's heart was not right with God, if he thought that he could buy this power, so Simon must repent and God may forgive him. Simon realised that he had done the wrong thing, and asked Peter to pray for God's forgiveness (18-24).

THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH (8:25-40)

After preaching in that Samaritan city, Peter and John went back to Jerusalem preaching in Samaritan villages on the way (8:25). But an angel told Philip to go to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza (26), in the region (province) of Judea. When Philip arrived, he saw there a man who was (27-28):

- An Ethiopian (a citizen of Ethiopia).
- A eunuch (not able to have sex).
- A minister (important official) for Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of the queen's treasury (money).
- Sitting in his chariot (a vehicle with two wheels, pulled by horses, steered by a driver), on his way back to Ethiopia, after worshipping in Jerusalem.
- Reading the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Holy Spirit told Philip to go to the chariot, and Philip asked the Ethiopian eunuch if he could understand the book, but he couldn't (29-31). The passage (text) he was reading is very well known (32-33):

“Like a sheep that is taken to be slaughtered, like a lamb that makes no sound when its wool is cut off, he did not say a word. He was humiliated, and justice was denied him. No one will be able to tell about his descendants, because his life on earth has come to an end.”

Philip explained that Isaiah was prophesying how Jesus would die, and told the Ethiopian about the good news of Jesus. When they came to some water, the Ethiopian asked to be baptised, and Philip baptised him (34-38).

After that, the Spirit immediately took Philip to another place and he continued to preach in towns in Samaria on the way to Caesarea. Meanwhile, the Ethiopian was very happy and continued his journey home (39-40). As far as we know, the Ethiopian eunuch was the first person to bring the gospel to Africa.

LESSONS FOR TODAY'S CHURCH

- Always be guided by the Holy Spirit.
- Visit villages to preach about Jesus.
- Pray for the sick and those with bad spirits.
- Pray for believers to receive the Holy Spirit
- Even witch doctors can become Christians.
- Do not get involved with witch doctors.
- Do not try to use God's power to get rich.

TEST YOURSELF ?

Give short answers to these questions.

1. What were the reasons for the early church spreading beyond Jerusalem?
2. Explain the differences between superstition, magic and miracles.
3. Who was Simon Magus, and how was he converted to Christianity?
4. Who was the Ethiopian eunuch, and how was he converted to Christianity?
5. What was the role of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of the early church?
6. What lessons can we learn from these passages, for church ministry today?
7. How does Acts chapter 8 relate to what Jesus said in Acts 1:8?

4.2 Conversion of Saul of Tarsus

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- Who was Saul (later named Paul), and how he became a Christian.
- What ministry God called Saul to do, and its significance for today's church.
- The roles of Ananias and Barnabas in the call of Saul.
- The Jewish hatred Paul encountered (experienced) when he first started preaching that Jesus is the Son of God.

READ: Acts 9:1 – 31

Acts 9 tells about the most amazing conversion in the New Testament – that of Saul of Tarsus, who became Paul the apostle. He took part in the persecution of Jesus' followers in Jerusalem. After the church was scattered, Saul set off to Damascus in Syria to persecute believers who had gone there, but on his journey a remarkable thing happened.

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL (9:1-19)

Saul was there when Stephen was stoned to death (7:58, 8:1). Now Saul was one of the main people persecuting the church (8:3).

He got permission to go to Damascus, a big city in the country of Syria (see map on page 15), to bring back and put in prison any Jews who followed Jesus. At that time, the church was also called "the Way" because Jesus said that he is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). This was the start of the persecution of the church away from Jerusalem (9:1-2).

“Saul” was born around 5 AD in Tarsus, in the region of Cilicia (now part of Turkey), ruled by the Romans. He was a Jew, and also a Roman citizen. He studied Jewish scriptures in Jerusalem under Gamaliel, a respected teacher of the Law who was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. Saul also became a Pharisee, and wanted to keep the Jewish faith pure, so he tried hard to stop the followers of Jesus from changing the beliefs of the Jews.

As Saul approached Damascus, he saw a bright light and a voice said “Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?” It was Jesus, whom Saul was persecuting by hurting the church (the 'body of Christ'). Jesus told Saul to go to Damascus to get further instructions. Saul immediately became blind (could not see), so his friends took him to Damascus. He was so shocked he didn't eat for three days (9:3-9).

At that time, a disciple called Ananias, who lived in Damascus, had a vision from God telling him to go and see Saul. Ananias was worried because he heard that Saul was persecuting the church, but God assured him that Saul will be God's servant (10-16).

So Ananias went to Saul, laid hands on him, and prayed for his sight (eyes) and that he would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Then Saul was able to see again, and Ananias baptised him (17-19).

SAUL IN DAMASCUS (9:20-25)

Because Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit he immediately became a different person, and started using the scriptures to prove to the Jews in Damascus that Jesus is the Son of God. After “many days” (probably 3 years) the Jews wanted to kill Saul, but the local disciples helped him to get out of the city in a basket over the city wall (20-25).

SAUL IN JERUSALEM (9:26-31)

Saul went back from Damascus to Jerusalem and tried to join the other disciples, but they were afraid of him because in the past he had been persecuting the church. Then Barnabas ('son of encouragement', 4:36-37) explained to the disciples what happened to Saul in Damascus, and they accepted him (26-27).

Saul preached about Jesus to the Greek speaking Jews in Jerusalem, until they also wanted to kill him. He wasn't having much luck! Jesus predicted that Saul would suffer (9:16). By then the disciples could see that Saul had really become God's servant, so they protected him by helping him to go back to his home town of Tarsus (28-30).

Notice that what Jesus predicted was actually happening: "when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The church started in Jerusalem and was now growing in Judea, Samaria, Galilee (9:31), Damascus in Syria, the Ethiopian eunuch took the gospel to his country in Africa, and Saul was about to preach in Tarsus (part of today's Turkey).

Jesus made Saul an evangelist, mainly to the Gentiles (9:15). We will see later in Acts how Saul (later called Paul) travelled to other countries on his missionary journeys and established churches there. We have Paul's letters in the Bible to this day, and they have helped countless (many) people for centuries to know God.

TEST YOURSELF

Give short answers to these questions.

1. Who was Saul (later named Paul), and how did he become a Christian?
2. What ministry did God call Saul to do, and what is its significance (importance) for today's church?
3. What were the roles of Ananias and Barnabas in the call of Saul?
4. When Paul first started preaching that Jesus is the Son of God, how did the Jews react, and why?

4.3 Peter's Miracles and the Conversion of Cornelius

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- The power of God through those who serve him, especially Peter's miracles.
- The healing of Aeneas, and the raising of Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead.
- The conversion of Cornelius.
- Peter's attitude towards Gentiles, before and after the vision of a large sheet.
- The criticism of the Circumcision Party against Peter, and his defence (response).
- The right attitude to other faiths, based on Peter's example.

READ: Acts 9:32 – 11:18

At this stage the church was growing quickly, especially in places within a few day's walk from Jerusalem – in the regions (provinces) of Judea, Samaria and Galilee (see map on page 15). Thousands of disciples who escaped from the persecution in Jerusalem were now living in these regions, telling their friends about Jesus and all that happened. So more and more people were hearing about the gospel, and about the miracles that happened.

AENEAS AND TABITHA (9:32-43)

The apostles were still living in Jerusalem, continuing their ministry to people there and in nearby towns. One time, Peter visited the disciples living in the town of Lydda, in Judea. There he healed Aeneas, a man paralysed a long time. Notice that Peter healed in the name of Jesus – the miracle helped the man, and it also showed people there (and us) that what Peter was preaching about Jesus is true. Then many more people in Lydda and nearby believed in Jesus, when they saw that Aeneas was healed (9:32-35).

At that time, a woman called Tabitha (in the Hebrew language, or Dorcas in Greek) died in the town of Joppa, which was close to Lydda. So friends of Tabitha called Peter to come. Peter prayed and brought Tabitha back to life! This miracle also helped many people to believe in Jesus. So Peter stayed there a long time, teaching new disciples (36-43).

CORNELIUS CALLS PETER (10:1-8)

About 50 kilometres away in a town called Caesarea, in the region of Samaria, lived a man called Cornelius. He was an Italian centurion – an officer who commanded 100 soldiers in the Roman army. He believed in God and helped the Jews, but he was a Gentile (not a Jew). In those days, a family followed the faith of the father, so Cornelius' family and his servants also worshipped God.

One day Cornelius had a vision and an angel told him to get Peter to come. So Cornelius sent two servants and a soldier to Joppa, to ask Peter to come and visit.

PETER'S VISION (10:9-16)

Meanwhile, God gave Peter a vision. Peter saw a large sheet (cloth) filled with all kinds of animals, coming down from heaven, and he was told to eat the animals. But Peter did not want to, because according to the Law (Jewish scriptures) some of those animals were "unclean" and he was not supposed to eat them. Then God told him "Do not consider anything unclean that God has declared clean". (RSV says "What God has declared, you must not call common.") God was not really telling Peter to eat differently. God was preparing Peter to accept Gentiles as disciples of Jesus, because Peter thought that only Jews could be God's people.

PETER VISITS CORNELIUS (10:17-48)

Immediately after the vision, the men sent by Cornelius arrived at the house where Peter was staying. The Holy Spirit told Peter to go with these men so he did, and some disciples went with Peter (17-23).

When they got to Caesarea, Cornelius bowed down as if Peter was an angel, but Peter told him to get up because Peter was just a man. They went into Cornelius' house, which was full of family (RSV: kinsmen) and friends he invited. Peter told them that according to the Law Jews are not allowed to be with Gentiles, but he was willing to do it because of the vision he had (24-29).

Then Cornelius explained how God told him to send for Peter, and Peter was amazed that God really cares for Gentiles as well as Jews. (In the RSV in 10:34-35, Peter says "Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, but in

every nation any one who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.") That is how God changed Peter's attitude about God's plan for the Gentiles (30-35).

So then Peter was happy to tell all the people gathered at Cornelius' home about Jesus the Messiah. He explained to them that (36-43):

- Jesus is Lord of all, as shown by his ministry in Galilee and Judea, where he did miracles to show that he had God's power.
- He was crucified but God raised him, and the apostles are witnesses to that.
- Jesus commanded the apostles to preach about him.
- God appointed Jesus to judge all people.
- The prophets told about Jesus, that all who believe in him will be forgiven their sins.

When Peter said this, everyone there received the Holy Spirit. The disciples from Joppa who came with Peter were amazed that even Gentiles received the Holy Spirit – they were speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter ordered that the new disciples be baptised in the name of Jesus (44-48). These were the first gentiles to believe in Jesus.

PETER'S REPORT (11:1-18)

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, he reported to the church leaders about what happened. But some of them were not happy, because they still thought that Gentiles had to be circumcised (like Jews) before they could be proper disciples of Jesus. These church leaders were part of a group known as the 'Circumcision Party' (1-3).

So Peter explained to them about his vision from God (with the sheet and the animals), and how the Spirit told Peter to go to see Cornelius, and how the Holy Spirit was given to everyone at Cornelius' home when Peter preached. That is how God showed Peter that Gentiles can receive the Holy Spirit without being circumcised, and Peter had to obey God so he baptised these new believers. When the church leaders heard this, they agreed that even Gentiles can become disciples of Jesus without being circumcised (4-18).

Peter's example shows us that God cares for all people, and people of any faith can become disciples of Jesus.

TEST YOURSELF ?

Give short answers to these questions.

1. Give three examples of God's power through those who serve him (e.g. miracles performed by apostles).
2. Tell the story of the conversion of Cornelius.
3. Tell the story of the healing of Aeneas.
4. Tell the story of the raising of Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead.
5. What was the vision Peter had, that changed his attitude to the Gentiles?
6. What was Peter's attitude to Gentiles before the vision, and after the vision?
7. What criticism did the Circumcision Party have against Peter, and what was Peter's defence (response)?
8. What attitude should we have to other faiths and nations, based on Peter's example?

4.4 Beginning of Christianity in the Gentile City of Antioch

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- The beginning of the evangelisation of Gentiles (non-Jews).
- The role of Barnabas in the establishment of the church at Antioch.
- The problems that faced James and Peter.
- The role of members of the early church, and how angels helped the believers.
- The role of church members today, including mission work among unbelievers in local communities.

READ: Acts 11:19 – 12:24

We have just seen how God opened the eyes of the church leaders in Jerusalem to the fact that Gentiles, as well as Jews, were able to repent, accept Jesus as Lord, receive the Holy Spirit, and be baptised, without having to be circumcised. So now the church was ready to start expanding among Gentiles, and we hear how the gospel came to Antioch in Syria.

THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH (11:19-30)

When the church was scattered (see page 15), some of the disciples went far to places like:

- Phoenicia – a province north of Samaria.
- Cyprus – an island in the Mediterranean Sea. Barnabas was from there (4:36).
- Antioch – a large city in northern Syria, important to the Romans. It was near Tarsus (in Cilicia), where Saul lived (9:30).

These disciples were all Jews who had run away from Jerusalem. They shared the good news of Jesus the Messiah with other Jews they met in these places. Then some disciples came to Antioch and preached to the Greeks, and many of them believed in Jesus (19-21).

When the church leaders in Jerusalem heard about it, they sent Barnabas to Antioch to see how things were going. He was glad to see that God was powerfully working there, and he encouraged them to stay faithful. This was the same Barnabas who in 4:36 sold a field and gave the money to the church, and in 9:27 he helped Saul. He was a good and faithful man, full of the Spirit, and God used him to grow the church in Antioch (22-24).

As Antioch was near Tarsus, Barnabas went to Tarsus to visit Paul, then they both came to Antioch and stayed a year, building up the church. The disciples were first called “Christians” in Antioch (25-26).

During that time, a great famine (lack of food) came, and because Antioch was a large rich city the disciples there sent money to the church in Judea where there was little food. Barnabas and Saul delivered the money to the church in Jerusalem. The church at Antioch is a good example to churches today (27-30).

“Herod” – in New Testament times, there were several kings called Herod. When Jesus was born, Herod the Great tried to kill baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1-19). His grandson, Herod Agrippa I (Herod Agrippa the first) persecuted the church (Acts 12:1-24). Herod Agrippa II (the second) heard Paul's defence (Acts 25:13-26:32). They were kings of the Jews, but they were under the Romans who ruled much of the world.

PETER ESCAPES PRISON (12:1-19)

Jesus said that his followers would be persecuted – and blessed for it (Matthew 5:10-12, 20:20-23). We now see how the church was persecuted by King Herod Agrippa I, king of Judea at that time. Earlier, the church was persecuted by religious leaders because of different beliefs. Now Herod was persecuting the church because he wanted to be more popular as king.

Herod had James killed, James was the brother of John – they were both apostles. Most Jews still hated the followers of Jesus, so they were happy to see James killed. When Herod saw that it pleased the Jews, he put Peter in prison, intending to give him to the Jews when Passover was finished (12:1-4).

But the church prayed hard for Peter, and God rescued him by a miracle, Peter was bound (tied) in chains (like metal ropes), and there were guards (soldiers, sentries) next to him and by the prison doors. One night, an angel came and told Peter to follow him. The chains fell off Peter's hands and Peter walked out of prison with the angel while the guards slept. The city gate opened by itself and they walked in, then the angel left once Peter was safe in the city (5-11).

Peter went to see the disciples who were praying for him, but at first they could not believe that it was him. Then there was great joy when they realised that it really was Peter, and he told them what happened (12-17).

The next day, Herod found out that Peter was gone from prison, and when the guards could not explain why, he had them killed. In those days, if soldiers allowed a prisoner to escape, usually their punishment was death (18-19).

DEATH OF HEROD (12:20-24)

After that, Herod went to another town and had a meeting with a large crowd. He gave a speech, sitting on his throne (king's chair) in his royal robes (king's fine clothes), and the crowd said he spoke like a god. Now, remember that Herod liked to be popular and to impress people. That is why he had James killed, and wanted to let the Jews kill Peter. So when the crowd said he spoke like a god, instead of immediately giving glory to God, Herod was pleased with himself. God punished him for being so proud that he accepted being called a god – an angel killed Herod. But the church kept growing.

TEST YOURSELF ?

Give short answers to these questions.

1. How did the evangelisation of Gentiles (non-Jews) begin in Antioch?
2. What was the role of Barnabas in the establishment of the church at Antioch?
3. What were the problems that faced James and Peter?
4. How did angels help the believers?
5. What was the role of members of the early church?
6. Consider how the Antioch church started, and comment how Christians today can do mission work in local communities?

5.1 Paul's First Missionary Journey (AD 46-48)

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- The work of the Holy Spirit in Paul's mission.
- The story of Paul's first missionary journey (how it started, where he went, what he did, the problems experienced, outcomes).
- Paul's encounter (experience) with magic power at Pathos (on the island of Cyprus).
- Paul's speech at Pisidian Antioch, and the reaction of the Jews.
- Paul's encounter with paganism (pagans) at Lystra, and the outcome.
- The agenda (topics) and resolutions (decisions) at the Jerusalem council.
- Lessons for today's church and society, from Paul's first missionary journey.
- The reasons why circumcision is not required for Christians today.

READ: Acts 12:25 – 15:35

We have seen how the church started among Jews who recognised Jesus as the Messiah, and then the church began among Gentiles. Now we continue to read about Saul, who became the greatest apostle to the Gentiles.

BARNABAS AND SAUL SENT (12:25-13.3)

In Acts 11:30 we read that Barnabas and Saul went to Jerusalem to deliver money from the church in Antioch, to help the church in Judea because of the famine there (lack of food). Now we pick up the story of what Barnabas and Saul did after that.

After delivering the money to Jerusalem, Barnabas and Saul returned to Antioch, which was their main church by now. (Remember that they spent a year in Antioch before they went to Jerusalem – 11:26.) They brought another disciple with them from Jerusalem. He was called John, and his other name was Mark. This was the same Mark who later wrote the Gospel of Mark. (12:25)

The church in Antioch was now well established, with many disciples and several prophets and teachers. They worshipped regularly and sometimes even fasted (went without food), as a way of being close to God. Then the Holy Spirit told them to "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So they laid hands on Barnabas and Saul, prayed for them, and sent them on their mission. (13:1-3)

Note that:

- It was the Holy Spirit who called (commanded) Barnabas and Saul to do work which God planned for them. This was part of God's plan for growing his church – it was not their own idea.
- The Holy Spirit gave this message through people who were close to God. These church leaders often prayed, worshipped together and sometimes they fasted. Their main focus (attention) in life was on God.
- It was the church that sent Barnabas and Saul to do this work. God called them, but the church commissioned them (in obedience to God). To commission means to give authority to do something. Barnabas and Saul were being sent with the authority and support of the church, to do this work. Today missionaries and pastors are still commissioned in the same way.

ON THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS (13:4-12)

In those days, most people walked to places, or if they had far to go they would travel by ship (boat), if possible. So Barnabas and Saul (together with John Mark) went from Antioch

to the coast (beach) by the Mediterranean Sea at a place called Seleucia, and got a ship to the island called Cyprus (13.4) – see map on page 24. They probably went to Cyprus because Barnabas was from there (4:36), and because some disciples were there (11:19).

Remember that when Jesus was speaking about Saul he said "I have chosen him to serve me, to make my name known to Gentiles and kings and to the people of Israel" (9:15). So that was what Saul knew he was called to do. Similarly, Barnabas would have been aiming to do what the church in Jerusalem was doing by now – spreading the gospel to Jews and to Gentiles (pages 16, 19).

On Cyprus, they started by preaching the gospel in Salamis, the town where the ship arrived. They went 150 kms from that end of the island to the other, preaching in any synagogues on the way (13:5). They preached mostly in synagogues because these were the main meeting places where many Jews and God-fearing Gentiles could be reached, and because it was important to tell as many Jews as possible that their Messiah had come.

In the final town, Paphos, they met a Jewish false prophet and magician called Barjesus, also called Elymas, who was with Sergius Paulus, the proconsul (Roman governor). The proconsul Sergius asked Barnabas and Saul to tell him about God, but the magician Elymas (who dealt with evil spirits) tried to stop them, because he did not want such an important man believing in Jesus. Then Saul, who now starts to be called Paul (Greek for Saul), was guided by the Holy Spirit and rebuked Elymas, saying he was "the son of the devil" and God would punish him by making him blind. Immediately Elymas went blind. The proconsul, Sergius, was so amazed that he believed what Barnabas and Paul were preaching (6-12). Note that:

- Barnabas and Paul preached to Jews and God-fearers in synagogues, but they also preached to Gentiles when possible.
- God can turn a bad situation into a good outcome, because he is more powerful. So the Devil's attempt (through Elymas) to stop the proconsul from hearing the gospel, was turned into a demonstration of God's greater power, which resulted in the proconsul believing in Jesus.
- Once again, the purpose of the miracle was to show that the preaching was true.

IN ANTIOCH OF PISIDIA (13:13-52)

When Paul, Barnabas and Mark finished on the island of Cyprus, they got on a ship in the town of Paphos and went to the province (region) of Pamphylia on the main-land. (See map on page 24.) This region is now part of Turkey. The ship arrived near the town of Perga, and for some reason John Mark went from there back to Jerusalem. (13:13)

Paul and Barnabas went 170 kms to Antioch, in the region of Pisidia (sometimes called Pisidian Antioch, so as not to confuse it with the city of Antioch in Syria, where their sending church was). By now, they were well practised in arriving in new places and going to local synagogues looking for opportunities to preach the gospel, so that's what they did in this town (14). Visitors in synagogues were often invited to say a few words, and when Paul got the chance he told them (16):

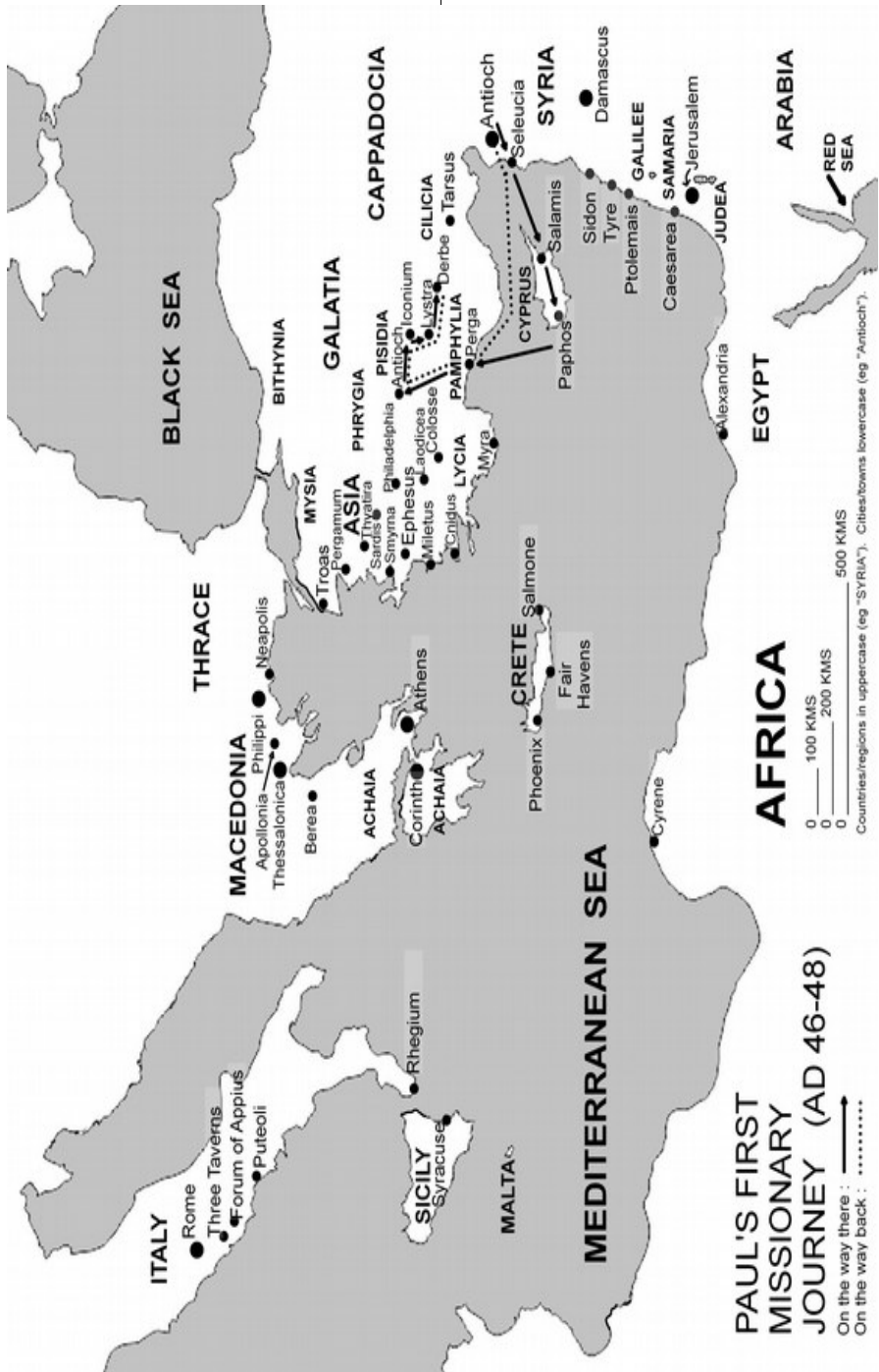
- God chose Israel's 'fathers' (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), gave them many descendants in Egypt, and rescued them from slavery (17).
- He cared for the Israelites in the desert (18).
- He drove out the occupants of Canaan, and gave that land to Israel as he promised (19).
- He gave them judges and kings (20-22).
- He gave Israel the promised Messiah Jesus, who is descended from King David (23).
- John the Baptist announced (told about) the coming of Jesus (24-25).
- Now this message is coming to you, because the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem did not understand the scriptures and did not recognise Jesus as the Messiah, so they killed him as prophesied in scripture (26-29).
- But God raised Jesus to life again, and he was seen by many people, who are now his witnesses (30-31).
- We bring you this good news, that God's promise about the Messiah has been fulfilled (come true) in Jesus, the Son of God (32-33).
- Scripture says that Jesus would rise from the dead, and that is what happened (34-37).
- So realise that if you believe in Jesus then your sins will be forgiven, which could not happen by obeying God's Law. Take care because according to scripture, if you ignore this, then you will not be saved (38-41).

The Jews there never heard the scriptures explained like that, and some probably did not hear what happened to Jesus, so some believed and others asked to hear more the next Sabbath (42-43)

That week, people told their friends about this amazing preaching, and the next Sabbath nearly all the Jews in Antioch came to the synagogue to hear more. But the Jewish leaders were jealous (did not like) that Paul was so popular, so they contradicted and insulted him (argued with him and said bad things about him). Paul and Barnabas said that they had to preach to the Jews first, but if the Jews choose not to accept the gospel and eternal life, then Paul and Barnabas will preach it to the Gentiles, as God has commanded. The Gentiles were very happy to hear that, and many believed. The Gentiles spread news about Jesus throughout the region of Pisidia. (44-49)

Once again, the Jewish leaders tried to stop the news of Jesus spreading. They incited (stirred up, made angry) important women and men in Pisidian Antioch against Paul and Barnabas, and made them leave Pisidia. So Paul and Barnabas “shook off the dust from their feet against them” (as if to say “we have no responsibility for you now”), and went to the town of Iconium in the region of Lycaonia (50-52). Note that:

- In Pisidian Antioch, what happened to Paul and Barnabas was similar to what happened to the apostles in Jerusalem. They preached to the Jews and many people started to believe the gospel, but the Jewish leaders became jealous and persecuted God's servants. So not many Jews believed, but the gospel was then preached to Gentiles.
- When this whole missionary journey started, Barnabas was the leader. But on the island of Cyprus and here in Pisidian Antioch, the Holy Spirit worked mainly through Paul, and his name changed from Saul. God called Saul (at Damascus) to be an apostle mainly to Gentiles. Then Saul had a time of preparation, being taught and accepted by the church leaders in Jerusalem, and preaching the gospel in his home town of Tarsus. Now, it is as if Saul has become a new person called Paul, who is fully ready to lead God's mission to the Gentiles – to the “ends of the earth”. When God calls you to do a job, he prepares you to do it well.



IN ICONIUM (14:1-7)

After the persecution in Pisidian Antioch, Paul and Barnabas went 100 kms to Iconium in the province of Lycaonia (13:50-52).

As usual, they started by preaching in the synagogue. Many Jews and Gentiles believed. (In those days some Gentiles believed the Jewish faith, and although they were not fully Jewish because they were not circumcised, they attended synagogue on the Sabbath.) So what happened next? Yes, as in other places, some of the Jews were not happy and made people think badly (RSV: “poisoned their minds”) against Paul and Barnabas, who had to stay in Iconium a long time to help people to understand the truth. God helped them by doing miracles through them. (14:1-3)

Eventually, some people in Iconium planned to stone Paul and Barnabas, who fled (ran away) 30 kms to Lystra and then Derbe (two towns in the same region of Lycaonia), where they continued to preach the gospel. (4-7)

IN LYSTRA AND DERBE (14:8-21)

When Paul was preaching in Lystra, he healed a crippled man and the Gentiles thought that Paul and Barnabas were gods! The Gentiles gave Paul and Barnabas the names of two Greek gods – Hermes and Zeus. The priest of Zeus tried to offer sacrifices to them, but Paul and Barnabas immediately tore their clothes (to show their great distress or worry) and told everyone that they were just ordinary men. (Compare this to Herod in Acts 12:20-24.) They begged the Gentiles to stop believing in false gods and to worship the one true God, who made everything and cares about everyone. (14:8-18)

Soon, Jews from Pisidian Antioch and from Iconium who wanted to persecute Paul arrived in Lystra, and got people to stone Paul. He nearly died, but the local believers helped him and he and Barnabas fled 90 kms to the town of Derbe. There they preached, and many people believed in Jesus. (19-21)

BACK TO ANTIOCH IN SYRIA (14:21-28)

After Derbe, it seemed to Paul and Barnabas that they should return to their sending church of Antioch in Syria. On the way, they visited the new believers in the towns where Paul and Barnabas preached – in Lystra, Iconium and in Pisidian Antioch. They knew that it was important to encourage these disciples as

they struggled to establish (set up) new churches in these towns. Paul and Barnabas commissioned elders in these churches, by praying for them and fasting. (14:21-23)

Paul and Barnabas continued their return journey, through the regions of Pisidia and Pamphylia, preaching on the way in the town of Perga. At the port (where ships come and go) of Attalia, near Perga, they got on a ship and went back to Antioch in Syria, to their sending church. They reported everything that God had done through them to help the Gentiles to believe in Jesus. Then they taught again in Antioch for about a year. (24-28)

THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL (15:1-35)

Then, some men came to Antioch saying that Christians must be circumcised like Jews. These men were wrong, because the apostles in Jerusalem said earlier that circumcision is not necessary (Acts 11:1-18). But some of the disciples were not sure what was right, so the church in Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas with some disciples to Jerusalem, to get advice from the mother church. On the way, they visited churches in the Gentile regions of Syria and Phoenicia, who were glad to hear about how Paul and Barnabas established churches in other Gentile regions. (15:1-3)
In Jerusalem, Paul and Barnabas were welcomed by the church and reported on God's work through them. But some disciples who were Pharisees thought that the Law given by Moses had to be followed, and all believers must be circumcised. So the apostles and church elders met with Paul and Barnabas to discuss this. This meeting is known as the Jerusalem council. (4-6)

At one stage, the apostle Peter reminded them that he already preached the gospel to Gentiles and they received the Holy Spirit without circumcision. So the church should not go against God by demanding that Gentiles keep the Law, which even the Jews could not fully obey, because one can only be saved by God's grace. Then Paul and Barnabas reported all the miracles that God did through them among Gentiles. (7-12)

In the end, James (who was the leader of the mother church and was a brother of Jesus) said that according to the scriptures, God accepts Gentiles as believers. James decided they should not trouble Gentile believers with unnecessary rules, but write to Gentile

churches saying that believers must not eat food offered to idols, not have immoral sex, not eat meat from strangled animals, and not drink blood. (13-21)

The church agreed with James. So they wrote the letter and sent it to Antioch with Paul, Barnabas, Judas also called Barsabbas, and Silas, respected leaders in the church. When the letter was read in Antioch, the whole church was very happy. Judas and Silas stayed for a time encouraging the church, then they were sent back to Jerusalem.(22-35)

Note some lessons for the church today and for our society.

- When the church at Antioch got a problem they could not agree on, they did not keep arguing a long time or split into two churches. Instead, they sent people to a higher authority (the apostles) to get advice, and they accepted that advice. A similar approach can be used for solving problems today in churches and in communities.
- The Jerusalem council gave all the leaders a chance to speak. Then they resolved the problem by looking at scripture and at what God had already done in building his church. That is how they got to understand the will of God, and made their decision to please God, not to please people.
- There was good communication between the 'head office' (the mother church) and the branches (churches in other towns). People sent letters and even walked long distances to report on what was happening and to explain decisions. That helped everyone to understand what was going on and why, which helped to build good relationships.

TEST YOURSELF ?

Give short answers to these questions.

1. Describe (tell about) the work of the Holy Spirit in Paul's mission.
2. Describe Paul's first missionary journey.
3. What was Paul's encounter (experience) with magic power at Pathos?
4. Describe Paul's speech at Pisidian Antioch.
5. What was the reaction of the Jews to Paul's speech in Pisidian Antioch?
6. Describe Paul's encounter with paganism

at Lystra, and the outcome.

7. What were the resolutions (decisions) at the Jerusalem council (meeting), and the reasons for those decisions?
8. What can we learn from Paul's first missionary journey, for society today (e.g. how to solve social and religious problems)?
9. Explain the reasons why circumcision is not required for Christians today.

5.2 Paul's Second Missionary Journey (AD 49-52)

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

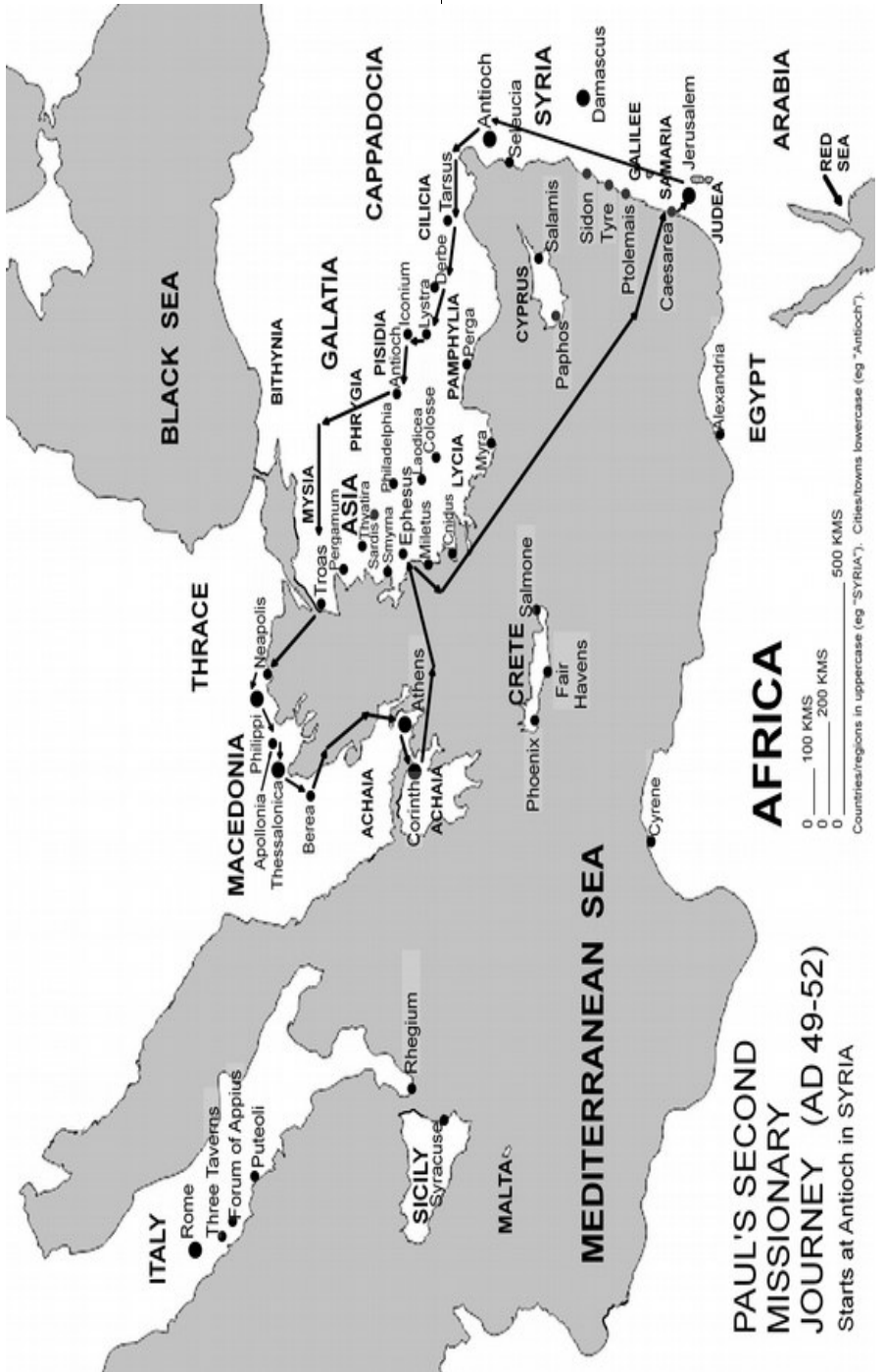
- The story of Paul's second missionary journey (how it started, where he went, what he did, the problems and outcomes).
- Why it was important to revisit the new churches.
- Why Paul and Barnabas separated.
- Paul's vision at Troas, and its significance to (effect on) his missionary work.
- The events (what happened) at Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens and Corinth.
- Why Paul often began his ministry at each place by preaching in a synagogue.
- The importance of doing mission work today, even if there are dangers and persecution.

READ: Acts 15:36 – 18:22

We have seen how Paul became the leader of missionary work, when he was sent with Barnabas by the church in Antioch in Syria. Now we learn about Paul's second missionary journey, to encourage churches established during the first missionary journey, and to preach to more Jews and Gentiles.

PAUL AND BARNABAS SEPARATE (15:36-41)

About a year after the first missionary journey, Paul wanted to visit the disciples in all the towns where they preached on the first missionary journey, to strengthen churches there. Barnabas was happy to go with Paul, but he wanted to take John Mark with them.



(Mark was a cousin of Barnabas – Col. 4:10.) But Paul did not want to take Mark, because Mark did not finish the first missionary journey with them (13:13). Probably Paul thought that Mark was not reliable. Barnabas was upset and could not agree with Paul, so Barnabas took Mark and sailed (went by ship) to the island of Cyprus, where he was born. Meanwhile, Paul took Silas (15:22, 32) with him and they left with the blessing of the church in Antioch. They walked through the regions of SYRIA and CILICIA, encouraging churches along the way. Note that:

- Barnabas was a good man who worked hard with Paul for God, but sometimes even good people can let personal interests get in the way of being guided by the Holy Spirit. Since they disagreed, one of them was NOT listening to God's guidance. Probably Barnabas was in the wrong, because he let his desire to take his relative (Mark) to their home-land (Cyprus) get in the way of listening to Paul, who by now was the leader. Then it looks like Barnabas just took Mark and left, while Paul and Silas got the blessing of the church before leaving. We need to take care that when we think that we are doing the will of God, we are not mainly trying to please ourselves.
- About 15 years later, God would use Mark to do a wonderful thing – to write the Gospel of Mark. But at the time of the first missionary journey, the young man Mark was not very good and he did not impress Paul. God can take ordinary people like the young Mark, and prepare them to do amazing things by the power of God.
- Paul understood well that the new disciples (in the places he visited on the first missionary journey) would be facing many challenges, so he really wanted to visit them again to encourage them, to teach them more, and to correct any bad behaviour.

TIMOTHY JOINS PAUL (16:1-5)

After passing through the regions of Syria and Cilicia, Paul and Silas visited churches in the towns of DERBE and LYSTRA. (See map on page 27.) In Lystra, Paul met a young man called Timothy, who was a strong believer and probably very smart, because everyone spoke well of him. Paul got Timothy to join him and Silas on their missionary journey. Paul probably wanted to train Timothy to be a

missionary. But first, Paul got Timothy circumcised so that he would be accepted by Jews along the way. Timothy's mother was Jewish but his father was Greek, so Timothy had not been circumcised as a young boy. (16:1-3)

Note that much later Timothy did become a church leader. Paul wrote letters to him, and we have two of them in the New Testament – 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy.

At each church they visited, Paul gave them a copy of the letter from the church leaders in Jerusalem (15:23-29), explaining that Gentiles who become Christians only need to obey a few of the Jewish laws. Paul's visits to the churches (with Silas and Timothy) helped the churches to become stronger in faith, and more people followed Jesus. (4-5).

VISION OF MAN OF MACEDONIA

(16:6-10)

Paul, Silas and Timothy continued their journey from Lystra and visited churches in the towns of ICONIUM and PISIDIAN ANTIOCH. Then they passed through the provinces of PHRYGIA and GALATIA, eventually arriving in the town of TROAS on the coast of the province of MYSIA. The Holy Spirit did not allow them to preach in the provinces of Asia and Bithynia (possibly to keep them safe), and they obeyed God's guidance. In Troas, Paul had a vision of a man calling for help in Macedonia, so they went there as God guided them.

Note that up to Acts 16:8 Luke writes about what “they” did, but in 16:10 Luke writes about what “we” did. That is because Luke joined Paul and his team at Troas.

CONVERSION OF LYDIA (16:11-15)

Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke travelled by ship to Neapolis and walked to PHILIPPI, the main city in the province of MACEDONIA (now part of Greece). There were many Romans in Philippi, and not many Jews. On the Sabbath, they went to a river looking for Jews who may be praying – there was no synagogue in Philippi. They spoke to some women there and one of them, Lydia from Thyatira (who had her own business), believed and was baptised along with her family. Paul and his team stayed at Lydia's house for many days. Philippi was the first European city to hear the gospel.

PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON (16:16-40)

In Philippi there was a servant woman with an evil spirit which enabled her to tell what would happen in future (RSV: soothsaying). This spirit enabled her to know that Paul's team were God's servants. She kept following them and shouting, until Paul got annoyed (upset) and cast out the evil spirit in the name of Jesus. This servant's owners got angry because she could no longer make money for them, so they forced Paul and Silas to go before the magistrates (Roman court officials), who had them beaten hard and put in prison. (16:16-24)

But Paul and Silas were not crushed by being imprisoned. They remembered that Jesus said that his followers would be persecuted, and that "theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 5:10) – compare with Acts 5:41. So that night they were praying and singing to God, when an earthquake shook the prison and its doors all opened. (25-26)

The jailer (head of the jail/prison) thought that all the prisoners escaped and he would be punished by death. (Remember in 12:18-19 King Herod had the guards killed who failed to stop Peter escaping from prison.) He was about to kill himself when Paul stopped him and told him not to worry because all the prisoners were still there. (27-28)

The jailer was amazed and terrified. He knew that Paul and Silas had been praying and singing to God, and now God responded with this miracle! He took them outside and asked how he can be saved, and Paul said that he must believe in Jesus. So the jailer took Paul and Silas to his house, and all his family heard the gospel and were baptised. The jailer washed Paul and Silas and fed them, and was very happy to believe in God. (29-34)

In the morning, the magistrates ordered that Paul and Silas be released, but Paul refused to leave the prison until they apologised! He thought it was not right that he and Silas were imprisoned without a proper trial, especially as they were Roman citizens. (Paul was a Jew and also a Roman citizen, because he was born in Tarsus – 9:11.) The magistrates were worried, because they broke Roman law by putting Roman citizens in prison without a trial. So they did apologise and escorted (led) Paul and Silas out of prison. Then Paul and his team left Philippi after encouraging Lydia and the other believers. (35-40)

IN THESSALONICA (17:1-10)

After Philippi, Paul and his team went about 160 kilometres to the city of THESSALONICA, also in the region of Macedonia. (See map page 27.) This was also mainly a Roman city, but it had a synagogue so it had many Jews. Paul preached in the synagogue for three weeks, and many of the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles believed in Jesus. But once again, the Jewish leaders became jealous and made trouble for the believers, saying that Paul and Silas were telling people to follow a king called Jesus. This was against Roman law, because Romans had Caesar who was their emperor (like a king). So that night, the local Christians helped Paul and Silas to leave Thessalonica, and they went about 80 kilometres to the town of BEREА.

IN BEREА (17:10-15)

The Jews in Bereа (RSV: Beroea) were more reasonable. They carefully examined what the scriptures (Old Testament) said about the Messiah, and many of them believed in Jesus, including Jews and Greeks, men and women. But when the Jews in Thessalonica heard about this, they came to Bereа and made trouble again. The local Christians helped Paul to get a ship to ATHENS, about 300 kilometres away. Paul sent a message for Silas and Timothy to join him, and they came when Paul was in Corinth.

IN ATHENS (17:16-34)

Athens was the main city in Achaia, one of the Greek regions. There was a university in Athens (not common in those days), and the Greeks there were highly educated. They loved to learn about new ideas. They also liked art, and had many statues (rocks shaped to look like people), especially of Greek gods. Today, Athens is the capital of Greece.

While Paul waited for Silas and Timothy (possibly a few weeks), he talked in the synagogue to Jews and God-fearing Gentiles (who believed in the God of the Jews). He also evangelised other Gentiles in public places. One day, some of the Greek philosophers (university teachers) asked Paul to come to a meeting of the Areopagus (the city council, who were also experts on the Greek gods), to tell them about what he was teaching. (17:16-21)

Paul said to them that:

- He sees that Athenians (people of Athens) are very religious, because they have many statues of their gods. They even have an altar (a stone table for sacrificing to gods) for an “unknown god”, in case there was a god they did not know about! Paul was able to tell them about this God. (22-23)
- This God created everything, gives life to everyone, controls all the nations, wants people to know him, and we are his offspring, his children. (24-28)
- God is not just some statue made of gold or rock. He expects us to know this, and to repent from doing evil, because one day he will judge all people. This judgement will be through someone appointed by God (Jesus), and to show that this is true God raised this man from the dead. (29-31)

Some members of the Areopagus laughed at Paul, but some people believed. (32-34)

IN CORINTH (18:1-17)

After Athens, Paul went to CORINTH, the main city in Greece at that time, about 80 kms from Athens. It was also in the province of ACHAIA. Corinth had two ports and many ships came there, making the city rich. Many people passed through Corinth, so there was a mix of religions, and many prostitutes (women who got money for sex).

Paul became friendly with a Jewish man called Aquila and his wife Priscilla. Paul stayed and worked with them because Paul and Aquila were both tent-makers. (A tent is like a temporary small home made of cloth and sticks.) Every Sabbath, Paul went to the synagogue and tried to evangelise both Jews and Greeks. (18:1-4)

Eventually, Silas and Timothy arrived in Corinth from Macedonia, so Paul stopped making tents and spent all his time spreading the gospel with Silas and Timothy. At first he mainly preached to Jews that Jesus is the Messiah, but after a while they said bad things about Paul so he said that he will preach to Gentiles instead. (RSV: “And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, ‘Your blood be upon your heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.’”) However, a few of the Jews did believe in Jesus, including Crispus the synagogue leader, and so did many Gentiles. (5-8)

God encouraged Paul in a vision, saying that he would be safe in Corinth. So Paul taught many people there for 18 months. The Jews tried to get Paul imprisoned by Gallio, the Roman governor (RSV: proconsul) of the province, but Gallio was not interested in arguments about religion that had nothing to do with Roman law (RSV: ‘since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves’). (9-17)

THE RETURN TO ANTIOCH (18:18-22)

After a long time in Corinth, Paul left to return to Antioch in Syria. Aquila and Priscilla sailed with him as far as EPHESUS in the region of ASIA. Paul preached briefly in the synagogue in Ephesus and then sailed to CAESAREA in the region of Samaria. As he was close to JERUSALEM, he greeted the church there, then he walked to ANTIOCH in SYRIA, back to his sending church. (18-22)

Paul suffered many hardships on his journeys. He walked long distances, sailed in small ships on dangerous seas, was put in prison, beaten, and was nearly stoned to death. Today, some missionaries face similar hardships, depending on where they work. In some countries, Christian missionaries have been beaten or killed in recent years. Most missionaries face hardships such as being separated from family and friends, getting lower pay than if they did other work, living in more difficult conditions than in their home country (e.g. with little electricity and water), and facing dangerous travel.

TEST YOURSELF ?

Give short answers to these questions.

1. Describe Paul's second missionary journey.
2. Why was it important to revisit churches?
3. Why did Paul and Barnabas separate?
4. What vision did Paul's have at Troas, and how did it affect his missionary work?
5. Describe the events at Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens and Corinth.
6. Why did Paul often start his ministry in a new town by preaching in a synagogue?
7. Why is mission work important today?
8. How are missionaries persecuted today?
9. What other dangers do missionaries face?

5.3 Paul's Third

Missionary Journey (AD 53-57)

YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE EXAM:

- The story of Paul's third missionary journey (how it started, where he went, what he did, the problems and outcomes).
- The hardships (difficulties) Paul experienced on his third journey.
- Why some Jews rejected Paul's message.
- The story of the seven exorcists (people who cast out demons), and how it relates to today's church ministry.
- Paul's mission at Ephesus, and his encounter about their fertility goddess.

READ: Acts 18:23 – 21:36

We continue reading about how the Holy Spirit worked through Paul to establish and strengthen churches 'to the ends of the earth'. While Paul's third missionary journey resulted in many more people believing in Jesus, sadly it ended with Paul being arrested.

APOLLOS - AN EVANGELIST (18:24-28)

Luke has been telling us in Acts how the Holy Spirit enabled the apostles and other people to build God's church. Now Luke mentions how Apollos helped to strengthen the church.

Apollos was a Jew from Alexandria in Africa, who became a Christian and came to Ephesus in the region of Asia, and started teaching the Jews in the synagogue about Jesus (18:24-25). Remember that Aquila and his wife Priscilla went to live in Ephesus, and Paul preached in the synagogue there one time (18:18-21).

Apollos was a great speaker and knew the Jewish scriptures (Old Testament) well. He also knew about Jesus, but not about the Holy Spirit. Aquila and Priscilla taught Apollos the things that Paul taught them. Later Apollos went to the province of Achaia and really helped the church Paul established in Corinth, especially by explaining to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah. (26-28)

PAUL IN EPHESUS (18:23, 19:1-10)

Meanwhile, Paul was back in his sending church in Antioch in Syria – the church that originally sent him to be a missionary. Soon Paul left again, to keep strengthening the disciples he made in places he visited before.

First, he went to the regions of GALATIA and PHRYGIA (18:23). On the way, he visited churches in Tarsus, Derbe, Lystra, Iconium and Pisidian Antioch. (See map on page 33.) Then he went to EPHESUS (where he promised to return – 18:21), and found about 12 disciples there (19:1). These disciples did not know about the Holy Spirit because they were evangelised by Apollos, before Aquila and Priscilla shared Paul's teachings with Apollos. So Paul baptised them in the name of Jesus, and they received the Holy Spirit when he laid hands on them (19:2-7).

Paul spent three months preaching in the synagogue, but in the end he gave up because some Jews were saying evil things about “the Way”. (Jesus said in John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth and the life”, so some people called Christianity “the Way”.) Then Paul preached in the hall of Tyrannus, a large building where anyone could come and learn. He did that for two years, and many Jews and Gentiles heard the gospel – even visitors to Ephesus from that whole province. (8-10)

PAUL'S MIRACLES (19:11-12)

You can see on the map on page 33 that on his missionary journeys Paul visited many towns and cities spread across thousands of kilometres. This was a very big challenge for one person, especially when in those days travel was so difficult – and there were no mobile phones! He could not have done it on his own. Apart from help from believers, his main help was from God (who enables us to do the things he calls us to do). And God was helping Paul in amazing ways, because God had given Paul a very big job. So “even handkerchiefs and aprons he had used were taken to those who were ill, and their diseases were driven away, and the evil spirits would go out of them.” As with other miracles, this happened so that people hearing God's message would know that it is true.

THE SONS OF SCEVA (19:13-22)

Some people who had little experience tried to cast out evil spirits, like Paul was doing.

But this is something to be done with great care, because the Devil is a powerful enemy.

A Jewish high priest called Sceva had seven sons who were trying to do exorcism (casting out demons). They would say “I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches.” (RSV: “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.”) One day an evil spirit said he knew the power of Jesus and Paul, but the sons of Sceva were weak (they were not really disciples of Jesus), so he hurt them badly. But God can bring good outcomes even when people fail, because everyone in Ephesus heard about this and many Jews and Gentiles honoured Jesus. (13-17)

In fact, this really showed people that Jesus is more powerful than evil spirits. Many believers repented (turned away) from their witchcraft and burned their scrolls (books) on magic, even though they cost a lot. All this helped to spread the gospel and to strengthen the church. (18-20)

Now that the church in Ephesus was strong, the Holy Spirit guided Paul to plan to visit the disciples in the provinces of Macedonia and Achaia, then to go to Jerusalem. After that, he hoped to visit Rome, the capital (main city) of Italy. So he sent Timothy and Erastus (two helpers) to Macedonia to prepare things for Paul's visit, while he stayed in the Asia province a little longer. (21-22)

THE RIOT IN EPHEBUS (19:23-41)

Sometimes, when true religion grows, false religions become less popular, and people who make money from false religions get upset. This is what happened next in Ephesus.

Most Ephesians (people of Ephesus) worshipped a goddess (female god) called Artemis. They had a very big temple for worshipping Artemis, and many visitors travelled a long way to see it. These visitors often bought souvenirs (things that would remind them of their visit), made by local craftsmen. Some of the souvenirs were made of silver (very expensive), and the local craftsmen had a good income selling them.

When the craftsmen (led by Demetrius) realised that Paul was turning people away from worshipping false gods like Artemis, they got very angry because their income would become much less. A big crowd of

angry people gathered in the city and was shouting for hours. They grabbed two of Paul's friends from Macedonia. Paul wanted to speak to the crowd, but his other friends stopped him because he could be hurt. (24-34)

Eventually, the town clerk (important official) spoke to the crowd. He said everyone knows about the temple in Ephesus for the great Artemis, and about the stone that fell from the sky. (This stone was probably a meteorite – a stone from outer space – which the Ephesians kept and thought it was holy.) The town clerk told the crowd they should behave themselves and not do anything foolish, otherwise they could be charged with rioting (breaking the peace). So if Paul's friends have broken the law then they should be taken to court, otherwise let them go. The crowd listened to him, and the riot stopped. (35-41)

IN MACEDONIA AND ACHAIA (20:1-6)

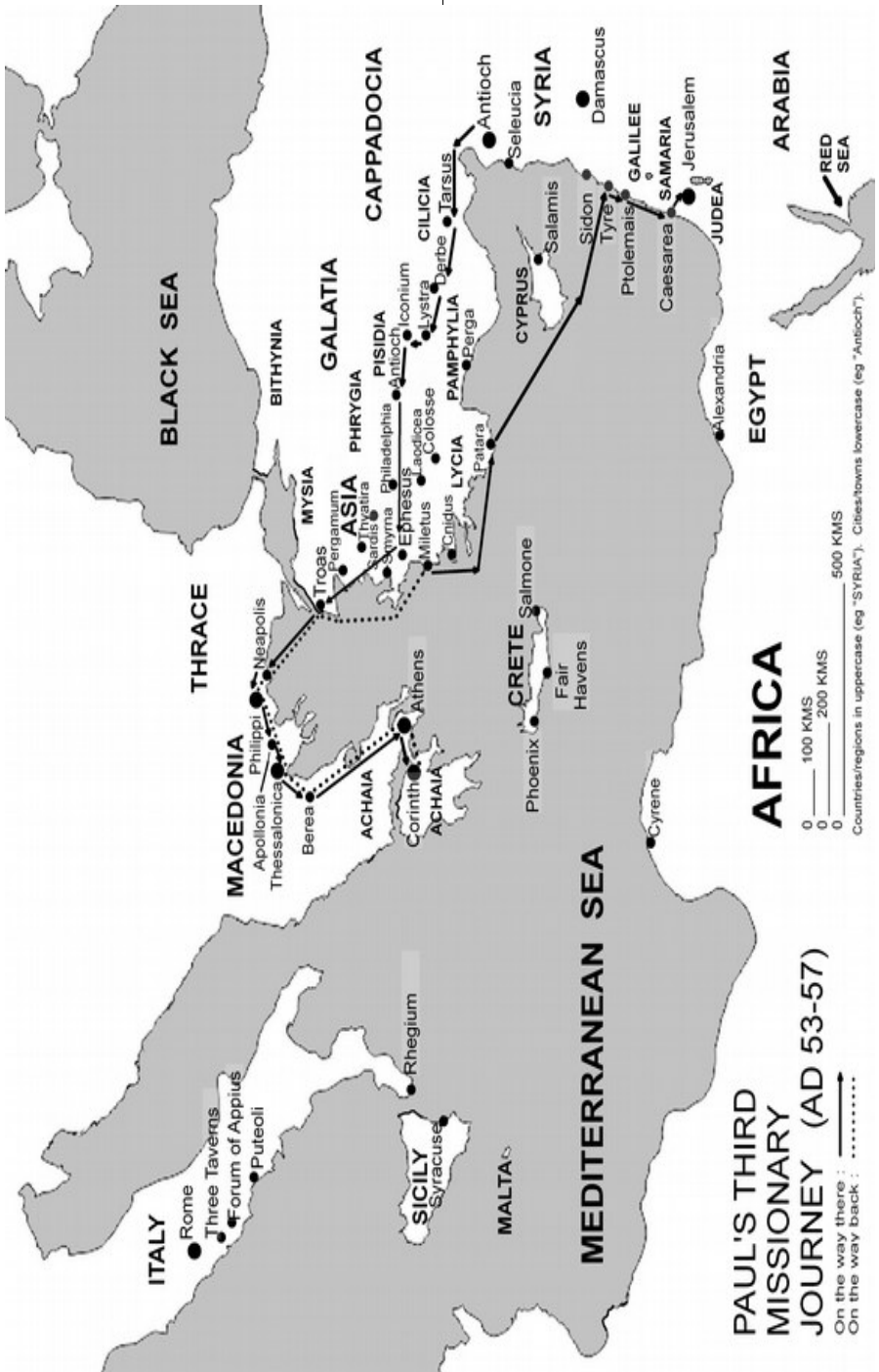
Then Paul left Ephesus in Asia and passed through the region of MACEDONIA, visiting churches on the way. (See map on page 33). After that, he continued his journey to the region of ACHAIA (in Greece), where he spent three months and encouraged disciples in ATHENS and CORINTH. He was going to sail (go by ship) from Corinth to Syria, but his enemies plotted (planned) to attack him on the way, so he walked back to Macedonia. He was accompanied by Luke, Timothy and other disciples from various regions. They all went back to TROAS in MYSIA.

EUTYCHUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD (20:7-12)

Paul spent a week in Troas, teaching and encouraging the disciples. On the last day, he spoke to them all night because he was going in the morning. A young man, Eutyclus, fell asleep while sitting in a window in the upstairs room (RSV: chamber). He fell to the ground and died, but Paul raised him from the dead, and the miracle comforted them greatly.

PAUL'S FAREWELL TO EPHESIANS (20:13-38)

So Paul and his companions (disciples travelling with him) left Troas, heading back to Syria. On the way they went through some towns in the province of Asia – ASSOS, MITYLENE, CHIOS, SAMOS and MILETUS. (20:13-15)



Even though Paul was close to Ephesus, he did not go there because he was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem for Pentecost. So he asked the church elders of Ephesus to come to Miletus to meet him (16-17). He told them:

- He worked humbly among them and did not hold back preaching to Jews and Gentiles, even though he suffered persecution. (18-21)
- Now he is going to Jerusalem and the Holy Spirit warns him that he will go to prison, but he is willing even to die for Jesus. (22-24)
- So they will not see him again. And if any of them fail to believe, he will not be responsible, because he preached the whole gospel to them. They must take care of their own faith and that of their church, because others will try to lead them away from Jesus. They must trust the scriptures and God, who is able to keep them faithful. (25-33)
- They should follow Paul's example. He worked hard to support himself and his team, and did not want gold or fine clothes (RSV: apparel). They should help the weak and poor because Jesus said that it is better to give than to receive. (34-35)

Then they all prayed, said goodbye, and Paul got on a ship. The elders were very sad that they would not see him again. (36-38)

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM (21:1-16)

Paul and his companions sailed from Miletus to the city of TYRE in SYRIA. On the way they stopped briefly at Cos, Rhodes and Patara, and passed close to Cyprus. (21:1-3)

They visited disciples in Tyre for a week. The Holy Spirit warned Paul again through the disciples that he would suffer in Jerusalem, but he was determined to go where God called him. So when the ship was ready Paul and his friends left, after praying and a fond (nice) farewell. (4-6)

Then they went to CAESAREA in Samaria. (On the way they greeted disciples in Ptolemais.) Philip 'the evangelist' (one of the seven deacons – 6:5) lived in Caesarea, and they stayed with him. Again the Holy Spirit warned Paul that he would suffer in Jerusalem – God was preparing Paul for the hardships he would face. So Paul was ready even to die for Jesus. Eventually, the others understood that doing God's will is more important than avoiding persecution, so they went with Paul to Jerusalem. (7-16)

PAUL VISITS JAMES (21:17-26)

Paul and his companions were warmly received by the church in Jerusalem, then they met with the elders, led by James (a brother of Jesus). Paul reported all the things God did through him, and they praised God.

But the elders were worried about Paul's safety, knowing Jews in Jerusalem would hear how lots of Jews in other places now followed Jesus because of Paul's work. So the elders told Paul to do something to try and please the Jews. He was to publicly purify himself according to Jewish customs, and to pay the expenses for four other men to do the same. Paul agreed, and did that the next day.

PAUL IS ARRESTED (21:27-36)

Unfortunately, a week later some Jews who knew of Paul's work in Asia, saw him in the Temple and got everyone there angry at Paul. They dragged him outside and started beating him. The local commander of the Roman soldiers heard about it (RSV: "word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion"), so he took some soldiers there and the crowd stopped beating Paul. The commander arrested Paul, until he could work out why the Jews were angry at him. As the soldiers were taking Paul to the barracks (fort, buildings where the soldiers stayed), the crowd followed shouting "Kill him!"

TEST YOURSELF



Give short answers to these questions.

1. Describe Paul's third missionary journey.
2. What were the main hardships Paul experienced on his third journey?
3. Why did some Jews reject Paul's message?
4. Narrate the story of the seven exorcists (people who cast out demons)?
5. What can we learn from the story of the seven exorcists in relation to today's church?
6. Describe Paul's mission at Ephesus, and his encounter about their fertility goddess.
7. Paul's friends said that he would suffer in Jerusalem. Why did he keep going there?
8. What was Paul's message to the elders of the Ephesus church?

6.1 The Rest of Acts

The rest of Acts is not in the syllabus, but there could be exam questions on it. So **read this section and Acts 21:37 – 28:31 when you have spare time** (perhaps between the mock exam and the final exam).

Paul's third missionary journey ended with his arrest in Jerusalem, but it was not the end of his missionary work. In fact, his arrest resulted in him being taken to Rome in Italy, where he preached even to the soldiers guarding him! Here is a summary of the fascinating events after Paul was arrested.

Trial by the Sanhedrin (21:37-23:11)

When Paul was arrested in Jerusalem, he explained to the crowd how he was called by Jesus to preach to the Gentiles, but the crowd just got more angry. The commander of the Roman army in Jerusalem got Paul to be tried (have a trial) by the Sanhedrin, but they could not agree if Paul was guilty.

Trial by Felix (23:12-24:27)

Then the commander heard that the Jews were going to kill Paul, so he sent Paul to Felix, the Roman governor in Caesarea, to keep Paul safe until a better trial. Felix called the Jewish leaders to come to Caesarea and another trial was held, but again there was no clear evidence (reason) that Paul was guilty. Felix kept Paul in prison for two years, because there was no easy solution to solving this case. He also hoped Paul would give him money to release him.

Trial by Festus and Agrippa (25:1-26:32)

Then Felix went away and Festus took over as the Roman governor of the region. He also called the Jewish leaders to Caesarea and another trial was held, but again the Jews could not prove that Paul was guilty. Festus wanted to send Paul back to Jerusalem for another trial, but Paul knew that he would not be safe in Jerusalem. So Paul said he wanted his trial to be with Caesar in Rome (the Roman emperor, like their king), which was Paul's right as a Roman citizen.

Festus agreed, but before sending Paul to Caesar, he got advice from King Agrippa and his wife. Agrippa listened to Paul, and told Festus that Paul was innocent (not guilty) and could have been set free if Paul had not appealed (asked) to be tried by Caesar.

Journey to Rome (27:1-28:15)

So Festus sent Paul and some other prisoners to Rome by ship, together with soldiers to guard them. Luke and Aristarchus (another believer) went with Paul to look after him. They sailed to Myra stopping at various towns, then had to change to another ship that was going to Italy. By the time they stopped on the island of Crete (see map page 33) it was close to winter and the weather was getting very bad. Paul said they should wait there until after winter, but the others decided to keep going, so the ship sailed on.

Then a really bad storm came along and the ship could not be controlled. For two weeks there were really big waves, strong wind, rain, and such dark clouds that they could not see the sun. The sailors threw all the ship's equipment and cargo (luggage) into the sea, to make the ship lighter and try to stop it from sinking. Everyone thought they would die.

But an angel told Paul that God would save them, because Paul must get to Rome. Paul told this to everyone, and encouraged them. They came close to an island and pointed the ship at the land. The ship broke up near the beach, but all 276 people got onto the island, which is called Malta (see map page 33).

The people of Malta were very helpful. When Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake and did not die, they thought he was a god! Paul healed many people on Malta, and they honoured him. After three months, they got on another ship and reached Italy safely. Some Christians from Rome came 70 kms to greet Paul after he got off the ship.

In Rome (28:16-31)

In Rome, Paul was not put in prison. He was allowed to live in a rented house with a soldier to guard him. He invited many Jews in Rome to come and hear the gospel. Some of them believed, but many did not. He lived in that house for two years waiting to see Caesar. During that time, he preached about the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ to many who visited him. He never stopped being an apostle to the Gentiles!

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EasyEnglish Bible Dictionary

A list of words that have a *star before them in EasyEnglish texts.

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A

Ab ~ the Hebrew word for the season of the olive harvest. July – August.

Abaddon ~ a place in Sheol where evil people suffer. Hell.

In Revelation 9:11 Abaddon means the Devil.

Abba ~ father (in the Aramaic language).

Abraham ~ the first ancestor of the Jewish nation, and of other nations. The father of Isaac and the grandfather of Jacob. God loved Abraham because he had faith.

abyss ~ a very deep hole. A place of punishment.

Achaia ~ the southern part of present day Greece. See Macedonia.

AD ~ the number of years after the birth of Jesus. So, AD 50 means the year that was 50 years after the birth of Jesus.

Adam ~ the first man that God made. See Genesis 2-4.

Adar ~ the name of a Jewish season. February – March.

Adonai ~ my master. My Lord. It is a word in the Hebrew language. See also Elyon, YHWH, Yahweh, Elohim, LORD.

adoration ~ when we praise God. And when we show him that we love him very much.

adulterer ~ a married person who has sex with someone who is not their husband or wife.

adulteress ~ a married woman who has sex with a man who is not her husband.

adultery ~ when a married person has sex with a person who is not their husband or wife.

affair ~ to have an affair means to have sex with someone who is not your husband or wife.

agreement ~ when two or more people agree to something. When God makes an agreement with people, this is called a covenant.

aha! ~ sometimes people say this to show that something has surprised them. Perhaps they think that they are right. And perhaps they think that other people are wrong.

almighty ~ very powerful. More powerful than anyone else.

Almighty ~ another name for God. It is a translation of the Hebrew word *Shaddai*. Bible students are not sure what *Shaddai* means. It can mean that God provides for us.

almond ~ a nut.

aloe ~ a plant. It has bright red flowers and sharp leaves. People make medicine from it.

altar ~ a special table on which people made offerings and sacrifices to God, or to a false god.

Amalekite ~ a person who came from the family of Amalek. Amalek was the grandson of Esau (Genesis 36:12, 16). The **Amalekites** lived in the land between southern Israel and the country of Egypt. They were one of Israel's enemies.

ambassador ~ a minister that a king or a State sends to another country. Then the ambassador will speak and act on behalf of his or her own country.

Amen ~ we agree. It is true. That is right. Let it be so. (This word comes from the Hebrew language).

Ammon ~ a country that was next to Israel and Judah on the east side.

Ammonite ~ a person who came from the family of Ben-Ammi, who was the grandson of Lot (Genesis 19:36-38). The Ammonites were a nation who fought against the Israelites.

Amorite ~ one of a group of people who lived in Canaan before the Jews lived there.

Anakites ~ a group of people who lived near Canaan.

ancestor ~ your **ancestor** is a person who lived many years ago. And from whom the families of your father or mother have come.

anchor ~ a heavy weight at the end of a rope or a chain. Sailors threw the anchor over the side of the boat to hold the boat in one place.

angel ~ a servant of God who knows and sees God. Angels bring messages to people from God. Angels are better than human people. God made angels and he allowed them to choose. So some chose not to love God and not to obey God.

anger ~ the strong feeling that someone gets when they are angry.

anoint ~ 1. to put oil on someone's head.

This shows that God has chosen the person for a special task.

2. to put oil on something to show that it is special to God.

anointed ~ a person or a thing can be **anointed**. This means that someone has put oil on them. Anointed describes someone that God or the Holy Spirit has chosen.

ant ~ a small insect. Ants live in large groups and work together.

Antichrist ~ someone who is against Jesus and who tries to stop other people following Jesus.

anxious ~ when someone is **anxious** they think about problems. They are afraid that a bad thing might happen.

anxiety ~ the thought that a bad thing might happen.

Apocalypse ~ another name for the last book in the Bible, called Revelation. The Little Apocalypse (Isaiah chapters 24-27) is like Revelation. It is about the end of time.

apostasy ~ when someone gives up their faith.

apostle ~ someone that God sends out to give his message. Especially one of the 12 men that Jesus chose to work with him and to teach about him.

appoint ~ to give a job to a person for them to do.

aqueduct ~ an aqueduct takes water from one place to another. It might be a pipe, or a bridge. Ahaz, the king, made an aqueduct. It took water into the city of Jerusalem.

Arabah ~ the dry valley of the River Jordan. It was southeast of the city of Jerusalem.

Aram ~ a country that was next to Israel. It was called on the north side of Israel. It is also called Syria. The people there were the Israelites' enemies.

Aramaic ~ a language that Jesus spoke.

archaeologist ~ a person who studies history. Often he digs into the ground to find old buildings, tools and other objects that were under the ground.

archangel ~ one of the most important angels.

archer ~ someone who uses a bow and arrows to kill an animal or to kill a person.

argument ~ when people do not agree with each other.

ariel ~ a Hebrew word for a place where you have a fire. In Isaiah 29:1-8 it is also a name for Jerusalem, or perhaps another important city in Judah.

ark ~ 1. the ark of the Lord or the ark of God. The Bible also calls it the ark of the Covenant (or agreement). It was a special wooden box that had gold all over the outside and inside. It had two gold angels on the top (see Exodus 25:10-22). It contained God's 10 rules and other things that were important to the Israelites. They kept the ark in the house of the Lord and only the priest could see it.

2. a big wooden boat that God told Noah to build.

armour ~ special clothes that protect soldiers from sharp weapons.

arrow ~ a pointed stick that you shoot from a bow.

ascend ~ to go up.

ascension ~ when someone goes up. Especially when Christ's body passed from earth to heaven.

Ashdod ~ a large city where Philistines lived. It had a temple where people prayed to false gods. Today it is called Esdud.

Asherah ~ a false god.

Asherah pole ~ a long stick that had a false god on top of it.

Ashkelon ~ a large city near the sea where Philistines lived.

Ashtoreth ~ female god of the Canaanites.

Asia ~ at the time of the Bible, people used the name Asia for the west part of the country that we now call Turkey.

Assyria ~ a country that was near to Jeremiah's country. The people who lived there did not like God's people.

Assyrians ~ people who came from the country that was called Assyria.

astrologer ~ someone who looks at the sun, moon and stars to try to understand what will happen in future times.

Athens ~ a city that was in the country that was called Achaia. Today Athens is the capital city of modern Greece.

athlete ~ a person who runs in games and races.

atone ~ to apologise or to pay for something that someone has done wrong. And to put it right.

atonement ~ when someone puts right something that someone has done wrong. Especially when God makes people right with him through the death of Jesus Christ.

authorities ~ people who have the power or the right to give orders. Kings and other rulers.

Avvites ~ a group of people who lived near Canaan.

axle ~ the long bar (or stick) that joins two wheels on a vehicle.

awe ~ the feeling that you have when you respect someone very much. Also, perhaps you feel afraid of them.

B

BC ~ any date that was before the birth of Jesus. So, 600 BC. (Before Christ) means the year that was 600 years before Jesus' birth on earth.

Baal ~ the name of a false god. It was the male god of the Canaanites.

Babylon ~ an ancient city which was very powerful and wealthy. It was on the River Euphrates, 50 miles south of modern Baghdad. The king of Babylon ruled many countries. Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon who defeated Judah.

Babylonians ~ the people who came from Babylon.

background ~ the background of a letter or of something that someone has written.

This means the past events or story that explain the reason for the letter.

bait ~ food that people use to attract fish or wild animals.

balance ~ a machine that weighs things.

banquet ~ a special big meal for many people.

baptise ~ 1. to put a person into water, or to put water on a person. Before Jesus came this showed the person's desire to obey God. Now it shows that Christ has made that person clean. The way that we show to everyone that we belong to Christ and to his church.

2. when the Holy Spirit comes into a person when they know Christ.

baptism ~ a special act when a person baptises someone.

baptist ~ a person who baptises people. John was called John the Baptist because he baptised many people. This was to prepare the way for Jesus. See also baptism, baptise.

barley ~ a plant. People make bread from the seeds. The seeds are called grain.

barn ~ a large building that is on a farm. The farmer uses a barn to store things. Or, he keeps animals in a barn.

barrel ~ a large, round, wooden object that contains liquid.

bee ~ an insect that flies, and it makes honey and wax.

being ~ a person or animal that is alive.

Bel ~ the name of a false god that was in Babylon.

belief ~ the idea that something is true. The thing that a person believes. See faith.

believe ~ to be sure that something is true.

believe in ~ to be sure that something or someone exists.

believer ~ a person who knows and accepts Christ. A Christian.

belong to ~ 1. if something **belongs to** you, it is yours. And you own it.

2. to **belong to** a group means to be a member of it.

beloved ~ a **beloved** person or object is one that someone loves very much.

bema ~ a platform where speakers stood in ancient Greek cities.

benediction ~ a blessing that someone speaks.

Benjamin ~ Jacob's youngest son. One of the 12 tribes of the Jews.

Beroea ~ a city that was in Macedonia.

Bethel ~ a city that was in the land of Israel.

betray ~ to give information about a person or a nation to an enemy.

betrayal ~ the act of giving information about a person or a group of people to an enemy.

etrothal ~ a promise to marry.

Beulah ~ a Hebrew word for "married".

bier ~ a wooden board on which people carried a dead body.

birthright ~ in the Old Testament, the oldest son had the birthright. He would be the leader of his family when his father died. And he would get the largest part of the things that had belonged to his father.

bishop ~ an important leader in the church. A leader of Christians.

bit ~ 1. a bar that fits in a horse's mouth. The person who rides the horse can then control it.

2. a small part of something.

bitter ~ 1. something that tastes bitter has a sharp, unpleasant taste. Not sweet.

2. angry. Painful.

blacksmith ~ a person who makes things out of metal, especially tools and shoes for horses. He also makes things sharp again.

blame ~ to say that a person has caused something bad to happen.

blaspheme ~ to speak about God without respect. To curse and insult God.

blasphemy ~ words that someone says that are against God. When people curse and insult God.

bless ~ 1. when you bless someone, you ask God to be good to them.

2. when someone blesses God, they are praising him.

blessed ~ 1. happy. When we know that God has done good things for us. We call people blessed if they have received good things.

2. when we call God blessed, it is a way to praise him.

blessing ~ 1. a good thing that God does for us.

2. a blessing can be a prayer that God will bless someone.

blind ~ 1. when a person's eyes do not see.

2. when a person does not understand about something.

blunt ~ not sharp.

boast ~ to say that you are great and important (when perhaps you are not).

boil ~ 1. to cook food.

2. a red place that is on your skin and it hurts.

boldness ~ courage. When someone is brave and has no fear.

bow ~ 1. to bend your body down, when you show respect to someone.

2. an object that people make out of wood. They use it to shoot arrows.

bow down ~ to bend down in front of someone and to become their servant.

break ~ 1. to damage or spoil something.

2. if you break the law, then you do not obey it.

bride ~ when two people marry, the woman is called the bride.

bridegroom ~ when two people marry, the man is called the bridegroom.

bridle ~ a bridle goes around a horse's mouth and joins to the bit. It helps the rider to control the horse.

brier ~ a type of bush. It has many long, sharp thorns.

broken ~ the past tense of the verb to break. If you have broken a cup, then you have ruined it. If you have broken the law, then you have not obeyed it.

bronze ~ a strong type of metal. It is brown or yellow. People mix two metals to make bronze. It is harder than gold. It is not as strong as iron.

brother ~ 1. a name that a Jew sometimes called another Jew. A name that a Christian may call another Christian.

2. your **brother** is a man or a boy who has the same parents as you.

burden ~ a heavy load that is difficult to carry.

burial ~ the act of putting a dead body into a grave.

burial place ~ a place to bury a dead person.

burnt offering ~ an animal that the priests killed and burned. This is how people in the Old Testament said "Sorry" or "Thank you" to God, or to false gods. See also offering.

butterfly ~ an insect that has big, thin wings. Usually the wings have bright colours.

C

call ~ if God calls someone, he speaks to them. And he asks them to do something for him.

calm ~ when a person does not worry even if there are problems.

Calvary ~ the place where they killed Jesus on a cross of wood. The word means skull. In the Aramaic language the word was Golgotha.

camel ~ a big animal that can carry people or heavy things. It can walk for a long time before it needs to drink.

Canaan ~ the land that God promised to give to Abraham (Genesis 12:7).

Canaanites ~ the people who lived in the land of Canaan and who fought the Jews.

captive ~ a prisoner.

captivity ~ when people are in captivity they are prisoners. And they cannot choose where they live. See Babylon, exile.

care ~ when you take care of something, you are careful with it. When you care for someone, you help them. And you do everything that you can to make them happy. When you care about someone, you really want that person to be happy. And you want them to be safe.

carpenter ~ someone who makes things from wood. For example he may build houses, ships and buildings. Also he makes small things like cups and spoons.

cart ~ a vehicle that has wheels. Usually animals pull it. People use it to carry people or things.

castle ~ a large, strong building that has walls or ditches round it to protect it.

caterpillar ~ an insect that later becomes a butterfly.

catholic ~ world-wide.

cedar ~ a large tree that provides valuable wood. It has thin leaves like needles. The leaves always stay green. It grows in many countries, including Lebanon, which is near Israel.

celebration ~ a very happy time. A happy party.

cement ~ material that people use to fix stones or bricks together in buildings.

census ~ an official count of people.

centurion ~ an officer in the Roman army who ruled over 100 soldiers.

chaff ~ the outside part of grain. A farmer has to remove the dead chaff before he can store the grain.

Chaldeans ~ people who came from a country that was called Chaldea. This country was also called Babylon. The Chaldeans fought against Israel.

chariot ~ an open vehicle that had 2 wheels. Horses pulled it. Soldiers rode in chariots when they were racing or in a fight.

cherub ~ a special angel that lives with God in heaven.

cherubim ~ plural of cherub. More than one cherub.

chief ~ most important.

children of Israel ~ the Jews or Israelites. All the people who came from the family of Jacob.

Christ ~ a name for Jesus. It means that God chose him. The name means the same as Messiah. Christ was the Jews' word for the king that God would send to rescue them.

Christian ~ 1. a person who believes what Jesus Christ said. And he or she follows what Jesus did.

2. something which relates to Christ.

Christianity ~ the religion of the people who believe and follow Jesus. The things that people teach and believe about Jesus. See Christian, church.

church ~ a group of Christians who meet together. A church is not just the building in which they meet. It can also mean all the Christians in the world.

circumcise ~ to cut off the loose skin from the end of the sex part of a boy or a man. It was a sign of God's agreement with Israel.

circumcision ~ the act to remove the end part of skin from the male sex part. For Jews it

was a mark to show that the man agreed to obey God. It was a sign of God's agreement with Israel.

circumcision party ~ a group of people who believed that Christians must obey Jewish customs.

clay ~ a type of earth that is soft and sticky when it is wet. People make pots and bricks from it. They bake it to make it dry and hard.

clean ~ 1. not dirty. 2. good. Pure.

cleanse ~ to make something or someone clean or pure. Or, to make someone holy. God cleanses us from our evil deeds when we invite him to come into our lives.

Clement of Rome ~ a church leader and writer who lived at the end of the first century.

cloak ~ a loose, warm coat. It has no sleeves.

cock ~ a male chicken.

coffin ~ a wooden box in which people put a dead body when they bury it.

collection ~ a sum of money that the members of a Church collect.

colonnade ~ a row of columns that support a roof. The columns are at a regular distance from each other.

colony ~ a country that a more powerful country controls. The Romans set up and controlled Roman colonies in other countries.

comfort ~ to say or do something to help a person. Perhaps that person feels weak or sad.

Comforter ~ another name for the Holy Spirit.

commander ~ a man who commands a group of soldiers. See also centurion.

commandment ~ a command that God gave. The Ten Commandments were the ten important rules that God gave to Moses on the mountain of Sinai. You can read these rules in Deuteronomy 5:6-21.

commission ~ a task, or a piece of hard work that someone asks you to do. The Great Commission is Jesus' instructions to his disciples in Matthew 28: 19-20.

Communion ~ the time when Christians eat bread and drink wine to remember Jesus. See 1 Corinthians 11:23-34. See also church.

complete ~ when something is complete, nothing is missing. All the parts are there.

concern ~ interest or anxiety.

concubine ~ a woman who lives with a man, and has sex with him. But she is not his wife.

condemned ~ when someone tells you that you are wrong or guilty.

confess ~ if you confess to something, you say that it is true.

confession ~ the act when someone confesses.

conquer ~ to take control over another country in a war.

conscience ~ the thoughts that tell you if something is right or wrong.

consecrate ~ to set something apart for a holy use.

consider ~ to think carefully about something or someone.

converts ~ people who have changed their beliefs. People who have become Christians.

convulsion ~ a sudden movement of the body that a person cannot control.

Corinth ~ a city in Achaia. Today, Corinth is in the country that is called Greece.

correction ~ when somebody tells the right thing about something that was wrong.

couch ~ a long soft bed or seat. More than one person can sit on it.

council ~ a group of important people who meet together to discuss and decide events.

court ~ an area that has buildings all round it. A place for a special purpose. Sometimes it was where a judge decided matters of the law. At the Temple in Jerusalem there were many courts. They were for different purposes.

covenant ~ 1. a special agreement between two people, when they both promise to do certain things.

2. a special agreement between God and his people.

covet ~ to want to have something that belongs to another person.

create ~ to make.

creation ~ the act of God when he created the world and everything that there is. Also Creation means everything that God has made.

creature ~ a living animal or person.

croak ~ to make a noise like a raven makes.

crops ~ plants that people grow for food.

cross ~ two pieces of wood that people have fixed together. The Romans fixed a person to a cross to die as a punishment. Jesus died in this way. The cross is now the sign of the church of Christ. To carry your cross means not to think about yourself first. It means to put Jesus and other people first in your life. See crucifixion, crucify.

crown ~ something that kings and queens wear on their heads. It shows that they are the rulers. Also, people who win races sometimes wear a crown.

crucifixion ~ when people killed someone by fixing them to a cross. The death of Jesus when they put nails in his body and fixed him to the cross.

crucify ~ to fix a person to a cross in order to kill them. The Romans often crucified people.

curse ~ to swear. To say bad words against someone else. To pray that bad things will happen to someone or something.

Cush ~ an old name for countries that were in the Nile Valley. For example, Ethiopia.

cymbal ~ a round metal plate that people use to make music. They hit two cymbals together to make a loud noise. Or they hit a cymbal with a stick to make a noise.

D

dam ~ a very high, thick wall across a river. It holds back the water.

Damascus ~ the big city of Aram (Syria).

damn ~ to send someone to hell.

damnation ~ the punishment that God gives, after death, to those who have not agreed to follow his way. Then God removes them from himself for ever.

damned ~ people are damned when God has sent them to hell.

darkness ~ when there is no light. People 'live in darkness' if their behaviour is evil.

daughter-in-law ~ a son's wife.

David ~ a man who served God. He was a king of the Jews. David wrote part of the Bible.

day of the Lord ~ this is not a 24 hour day. It means the things that may happen during many years. It includes many events. God has said that he will visit this world at the end of time. It will be a time of surprise and reward. It will be a wonderful time for those who love God. But it will be a sad time for those who do not love God. Also the Bible uses the words day of the Lord to describe a terrible battle. God will use such a battle in the future to punish evil nations. This battle is also called Armageddon. The time when God will make Israel's people free. In the New Testament it is the time when Jesus will return. And he will start to rule on the earth.

deacon ~ a name for a church leader.

deaf ~ a deaf person cannot hear. Also, the Bible calls some people 'deaf' who refuse to listen to God's words. These people are not really deaf. But they pretend to be deaf when God speaks to them.

deceive ~ to cause someone to believe something that is not true. To say something that is not true to another person. To tell lies in order to cheat another person.

decent ~ people who are decent are honest. They do good and right things.

decree ~ a rule that an important person makes.

dedicate ~ to set someone or something apart for God, or for a special purpose.

dedication ~ the act when someone dedicates a person or thing.

deed ~ something that someone has done.

deer ~ a large, wild animal that can jump high. It lives in the hills in Israel, and in other countries.

defence ~ Something that protects people from their enemies.

defend ~ 1. to protect someone or something from harm or danger.

2. to help someone in a court of law and to argue for them.

deliverer ~ someone who rescues someone else from danger. Someone who sets other people free.

demon ~ a bad or evil spirit. Demons work for Satan, who is the chief devil.

den ~ the home of a wild animal.

depressed ~ if someone is depressed they are unhappy. And their thoughts are sad.

descendants ~ a person's children or grandchildren and any future person born from any of those people.

desert ~ a desert is a very dry place. Often there is a lot of sand and stones. Not many people live there and there are not many plants.

devil ~ a bad or evil spirit. Devils work for Satan, who is the chief devil.

Devil ~ another name for Satan the worst of the bad angels. He is the enemy of God, and also is called the Evil one. He is the enemy of Christians.

dew ~ small drops of water that form on the ground and on other cool surfaces at night.

Diaspora ~ the Jews who lived outside of Israel. It is a Greek word.

dip ~ if you dip something into a liquid, you lower it quickly into the liquid. See baptism.

disciple ~ someone who follows a leader or teacher and learns from him. A person who does what Jesus taught.

divide ~ to make into more than one part.

divine ~ of God or like God. Holy.

divorce ~ when a husband or a wife decides to end their marriage.

doctrine ~ the statement of what a Church believes. Or, the statement of what a group of people believes.

donkey ~ a tame animal that is like a horse. It has long ears. A donkey can carry people or goods.

doubt ~ a feeling that someone has when they are not sure. They are not sure if something is true or possible. It is the opposite of trust.

dough ~ bread mixture. People mix flour and water to make dough. They add yeast, which makes the dough rise. Then they bake the dough to make bread.

dove ~ a grey or white bird that is gentle. Sometimes in the Bible a dove may mean the Holy Spirit.

drunk ~ 1. The past part of the verb "to drink".

2. if someone is drunk, they have been drinking too much alcohol. Then they cannot speak clearly and they cannot behave sensibly.

dung ~ dirt that comes out of a person's body, or out of an animal's body.

E

eagle ~ a large, strong bird that hunts and kills animals for food.

earthly ~ concerned with life on earth rather than heaven.

earthquake ~ when the ground shakes and buildings fall down.

Edom ~ a country that is near Israel. It was also called Seir. It began as Esau's country.

Edomites ~ the people who lived in Edom. The first Edomite was Esau.

Egypt ~ a country that is in Africa. Pharaohs were the kings of Egypt. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt before the exodus.

Egyptian ~ 1. someone who comes from Egypt

2. something that belongs to Egypt.

Ekron ~ a large city where Philistines lived.

elder ~ 1. an important person. A church leader.

2. an older person. An elder brother or sister means an older brother or sister.

eldest ~ older than the other people. The oldest brother or sister in a family.

elephant ~ a very large, grey animal that has big ears and thick skin. It has a very long nose which it can move about.

Elijah ~ a prophet. See 1 Kings :17-21 and 2 Kings:1-2.

Elisha ~ Elisha was the prophet who followed Elijah.

Elohim ~ one of the names for God in the Hebrew language. It means 'very powerful'. See also Elyon, YHWH, Yahweh, Adonai, LORD.

Elyon ~ one of the names for God in the Hebrew language. It means 'very important'. See also Elohim, YHWH, Yahweh, Adonai, LORD.

Elul ~ the name of a Jewish month. It is the same as August – September.

Emmanuel ~ a name for Jesus. It means 'God with us'.

emperor ~ the male ruler of an empire. In the Old Testament, there were emperors in Babylon, and emperors of the Medes and Persians. In the New Testament emperors ruled the Roman empire.

empire ~ a group of countries. The ruler of one of the countries that is in the group is the emperor. He rules over every country that is in the group.

endure ~ 1. to bear something that is difficult or painful and not complain.

2. to continue to exist. To last.

envy ~ when someone is not happy about what someone else has. He wants it for himself.

ephah ~ a large pot that people used to measure dry things. It contained about 22 litres.

ephod ~ a type of coat that priests wore in Israel. It did not have sleeves.

Ephraim ~ the second son of Joseph and the grandson of Jacob. Then Ephraim became a name that people used for the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Ephrathites ~ people who lived in Bethlehem.

Epiphany ~ appearing, showing.

epistle ~ a letter. Many books of the New Testament are letters (in other words, epistles). Their authors include Paul, who wrote 13 epistles. James and Jude wrote an epistle each. Peter wrote 2 epistles and John wrote 3 epistles. We do not know the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews. However, many people think that Paul wrote that book also.

Esau ~ son of Isaac and Rebecca. The brother of Jacob.

eschatological ~ concerning the end of time,

when Jesus will return to earth as king.

eternal ~ lasting or existing forever.

Something that is eternal has no beginning and no end. It never changes. It has been always and it will continue to be forever.

eternal life ~ life of a new quality for those who believe in Jesus. This new life will be with Jesus for ever.

eternity ~ time that has no beginning and no end. The future life in heaven.

eunuch ~ eunuchs were very important male servants of a king. It was impossible for them to have sex with women. So they would look after the king's wives.

evangelist ~ a person who tells people the good news about Jesus.

ever ~ at any time. Always.

everlasting ~ continuing for ever.

everlasting life ~ life that continues for ever. See eternal life.

everyday ~ usual, or ordinary. Things that happen every day.

evil ~ very bad. Wicked. There is no good in it.

exalted ~ at a high level. Very important. Happy with the joy of success.

excuse ~ 1. to explain the reasons for someone's behaviour.

2. to forgive.

3. an excuse is a reason that you give. It explains something that you have done. Or it explains something that you have not done.

exile ~ someone who has to leave their own land, often for a long time. Enemies may force the people of a nation to leave their homes. Then they are exiles, and they live 'in exile'. The period until they return home is called 'the exile'. The Jews were in exile in Babylon at the time of the prophet, Daniel.

exodus ~ when a large number of people go away from a place. It refers to the time when God brought the people of Israel out of Egypt.

exorcise ~ to force a demon or evil spirit to leave a person or place.

F

faith ~ complete trust and confidence in someone or something. A strong belief in the things of God and of his son Jesus, even when there is no proof for them. 'To have faith is to be sure of the things for which we hope. And it is to be certain of the things we cannot see.' Hebrews 11:1

faithful ~ loyal to someone or something. Full of faith. Standing firm and not moving from what you think is true.

fall ~ when someone comes down or goes down, in body or in spirit.

Fall ~ the Fall was when, for the first time, Adam did not obey God.

false ~ not true. Not genuine. An idol is a false god. A false prophet is someone who pretends to speak God's words.

family ~ The word 'family' includes father, mother and children. Also it includes grandparents and those who have been born before. The 'family of David' means everyone who was born in Israel's royal family. David was the second king of Israel, and God appointed him to be Israel's ruler. Jesus belonged to the family of David.

family tree ~ a list of someone's family over many years. It includes their parents, children, ancestors and descendants.

famine ~ a time when food plants do not grow. So, there is not enough food and everybody is hungry. There would be a famine in Israel if there was no rain for a long period.

fast ~ if you fast, you do not eat any food for a time. A fast is a time when people do not eat. This might be in order to show respect to God. Perhaps they want to pray like Jesus prayed in Matthew 4:1-2. Or people might not eat because they are very sad. Or they might not eat to show God that they are sorry for their evil deeds.

fathers ~ people years ago that your parents came from. (See also forefather).

fear ~ 1. to be afraid of someone, or to be afraid that something bad might happen.
2. to show someone that you think that they are good and great.

feast ~ a large and special meal. It is often a happy religious ceremony to remember an event or a person. It is another word for a festival.

Feast of Lights ~ a Jewish religious festival. This was to remember the time that they found oil for the lamp in the Temple. This was after the Jews won back the Temple from the enemy at the time of the Maccabees in 164 BC. Often the Feast of Lights is called by its Hebrew name, Chanuka. It is in December and continues for 8 days.

Feast of Purim ~ see Esther 9:23-26.

Feast of Tabernacles ~ a Jewish harvest festival to remember God's care for his people when they were in the desert. The feast is called Sukkos. Jewish people eat their

meals in temporary shelters during this time. The Feast of Tabernacles is usually in October. It is also called the Feast of Shelters.

fellowship ~ a feeling that we have when we are with our very good friends. A time when God's people are together. Christians have fellowship with God and with other Christians.

fertile ~ fertile land is land where you can grow strong and healthy plants for food.

festival ~ a happy religious holiday. There is often much eating, drinking, singing and dancing. It is also called a feast. In Israel it was a special time when the people came to worship God at Jerusalem. They remembered something that God had done for them. There were several festivals every year.

fever ~ if someone has a fever, they become very hot. This is because they are ill.

fig ~ a soft, sweet fruit that has many small seeds. Figs grow on trees, and are good to eat.

fins ~ fish have fins on the side of their bodies. They use their fins to help to guide them when they are swimming.

fir ~ a tall tree. It has thin leaves that are like needles. The leaves stay on the tree all year.

firstborn ~ 1. the first child to be born in a family.
2. a special name for Jesus who was the first to rise from the dead. Christians are called firstborn ones.

fisherman ~ someone who catches fish. Many of Jesus' disciples were fishermen. They included Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John.

flax ~ a plant that people use to make a cloth that is called linen.

flock ~ 1. a group of sheep, or goats or birds.
2. the people in a church.

flood ~ a large amount of water that covers places that are usually dry. Often it comes after much rain. You can read about the flood that happened during the time of Noah in Genesis 6-9.

flute ~ a musical instrument.

follow ~ to move along behind someone who is the guide or leader. Jesus' disciples followed Jesus. This means that they travelled with Jesus. But also it means that they were his students. They obeyed him. And he taught them.

foot ~ 1. the part of your body at the end of your leg.
2. the foot of something is the lowest part of it. So, the foot of the hill is the lowest part of the hill.

forefather ~ someone who was born before you, and you came from them. Abraham was the forefather of the Jews. An ancestor.

foreigner ~ someone who comes from another country.

foreskin ~ the skin that covers the end of the sex part of a boy or of a man.

forgive ~ to stop being angry with another person who has done bad things. God forgives us. Then he does not remember the wrong things that we have done. And he will not punish us for the wrong things that we have done.

forgiveness ~ we receive forgiveness when someone forgives us.

fortress ~ a strong and safe place where armies watch for their enemies. A castle is a fortress.

foundation ~ the base of a building. The strong part in the ground on which people build houses. The foundation needs to be strong or the building will fall down. See Matthew 7:24-27.

fox ~ a wild animal that looks like a dog. It has a thick tail.

freedom ~ people have **freedom** if they are not prisoners or slaves. And nobody has power over them. It is an important Bible word because God gives us freedom. When God forgives us, we are not still slaves to our evil deeds.

fruit ~ the part of the plant that contains the seed.

fruits ~ the good results of someone's work. Good things that the Holy Spirit sends to us.

G

gall ~ a bitter liquid.

gallop ~ to run like a horse runs.

gallows ~ people made **gallows** out of wood. Then they hung criminals on them until they died.

garbage ~ old, bad food.

gamble ~ when people gamble with dice they play a game with numbers on a piece of wood. And the right number on the wood is the winner. See also pur and Esther 3:7.

Gath ~ Gath was a large city. The Philistines, who were enemies of the Jews, lived there. Gath was the home of Goliath, whom David killed.

Gaza ~ the most important large city where the Philistines lived. They were enemies of the Jews.

gazelle ~ a beautiful wild animal. It moves quickly.

gentleness ~ when someone is calm and gentle. They are not angry.

Gehenna ~ the place where people burned the rubbish that came from Jerusalem. Jesus said that hell was like Gehenna.

generation ~ all the people of about the same age. The time between when a man is born and when his child is born. Also it means the time between one generation and the next generation. It is about 25–30 years.

Gentile ~ anyone who is not a Jew.

Gethsemane ~ a garden that was on the slope of the Mountain of Olives outside Jerusalem. In this garden Jesus prayed before his death. It was here that Judas betrayed Jesus.

ghost ~ a spirit.

Gilead ~ the east part of the land of Israel.

Gilead was on the east side of the Jordan river. On Gilead's north side was Aram (Syria). And on Gilead's east side was Ammon.

Gilgal ~ a city that was in the land of Israel. People met there to pray. But they would not listen to God there.

Girgashites ~ one of the groups of people who lived in the land of Canaan.

Gittith ~ this might mean music that came from a town called Gath.

give birth ~ when a woman gives birth, she has a baby.

give glory ~ to respect God. And to tell God how great he is.

glean ~ to pick up what people leave. God's law allowed poor people to glean whatever remained in the fields after the harvest. People could glean grain, grapes and olives. See Leviticus 19:9, Deuteronomy 24:19, and Ruth 2:2.

glorify ~ to give praise to God.

glory ~ great honour and splendid beauty. The power and greatness of God. God has glory because his goodness shines from him. Glory can mean heaven.

God's law ~ the rules that God gave. These include the ten commandments (important rules) that God gave to Moses on the mountain of Sinai. You can read these rules in Deuteronomy 5:6-21.

God's way ~ the way that God wants people to behave.

godless ~ without God. Far away from God. A godless person is someone who does not know or care about God. Someone who does not believe in God.

godliness ~ behaviour that pleases God.

godly ~ pleasing to God.

gods ~ gods with a small 'g' are all the false gods. Also see idols.

Golgotha ~ The place where Jesus died. The word means Skull Hill. The place is also called Calvary.

Gomorraah ~ a place where the people were very bad. It was near to the place called Sodom. God destroyed both those places. Today we do not know where Gomorraah was. But some people think that it was near the Dead Sea, on the east side.

Good News ~ the Gospel. The message that Jesus came to save us.

Gospel ~ the good news about Jesus. Four books in the Bible are called the Gospels. They are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They explain the good news of what Jesus has done for us. They tell how he came to save us from the results of sin.

governor ~ a man who rules over part of a country. He is not a king.

grace ~ the help and kindness that God gives to us. It is a gift of God that we do not deserve. And we cannot earn it. God gives it to us because he loves us.

gracious ~ showing kindness.

grain ~ a hard seed that you can eat, or you can make it into bread. The most important crops in ancient Israel were the grains called barley and wheat. The barley harvest is before the wheat harvest.

grape(s) ~ a small, sweet fruit. They grow on a plant that climbs. People eat the fruit. And they drink the juice that comes from the fruit. Sometimes they make the juice into alcohol to drink. It is called wine.

grasshopper ~ an insect that uses its long back legs to jump. Sometimes the word grasshopper may mean locust. Grasshoppers or locusts are a serious problem for farmers. These insects attack suddenly, as the crop is growing. And they can destroy the entire crop. They can even cause a famine.

grave ~ a hole where people bury dead bodies. The hole can be in the ground or in rocks.

Greece ~ For many years, Greece was the most important country in the world. At the time of the New Testament, Rome had defeated Greece. But still Greece had many important and wealthy cities.

greed ~ it causes you to want more than you really need.

greedy ~ when you want too much of

something that really you do not need.

Greek ~ 1. a person who comes from the land of Greece. At the time of Jesus, Greek people lived in many places that were outside Greece.

2. the language in which the authors wrote the New Testament.

guarantee ~ to make sure that something will happen. To make oneself responsible for something.

guard ~ 1. to keep safe, or to keep enemies away

2. a **guard** is a person who has authority. He keeps things, or places, or people safe. The men who guarded cities by night were called watchmen.

guilt ~ 1. when someone has done something that is wrong.

2. when someone knows that they have done wrong things. And they feel bad about it.

guilty ~ when we have done wrong things, we are guilty.

gum ~ sticky substance that comes from some trees.

H

hallelujah ~ a Hebrew word that means 'Praise God'. Psalms 146 to 150 are called the Hallelujahs. They begin and end with this word.

Hamath ~ a place that was a very long way from Israel on the north side. The people who lived there were Israel's enemies.

harem ~ 1. the part of a palace where the King's wives lived.

2. the wives of a man who has several wives. Often ancient kings had many wives.

Solomon had 700 wives. And also Solomon had 300 other women who lived with him. The men who looked after a harem were called eunuchs.

harlot ~ a woman who gives sex to men for money. Harlots were common at the time of the Bible. But the Bible teaches that this behaviour is wrong. Another word for harlot is prostitute.

harp ~ a musical instrument. People play a harp with their fingers.

harpist ~ someone who plays a harp.

harvest ~ the joyful time when the crops are ripe. And people pick all the fruit that is ready to eat. People bring in the fruit and plants from the farmers' fields. **To** harvest means to pick the fruits and plants. Sometimes, harvest means the fruits and plants themselves.

harvester ~ person who picks the plants and fruit.

hate ~ having no love. If you hate someone, you do not like them at all.

heal ~ to make someone well. To cure them.

healing ~ 1. making well.

2. an act that cures or heals. Jesus cured many people by God's power. And these miracles are called healings.

heap ~ a lot of things that are on top of each other.

heathen ~ the Israelites gave this name to the nations (especially the Philistines) that did not worship the God of Israel. Today, the word heathen is usually about people who do not know about God and Jesus.

heaven ~ God's home. It is a place beyond the earth where God and Jesus Christ live. People who really know God and Jesus will go to heaven after their death. It is a place of happiness and peace.

heavens ~ another word for the sky.

heavenly ~ about heaven.

Hebrew ~ 1. the language that the Jews spoke. They used Hebrew when they wrote the Old Testament.

2. a Hebrew is one of God's people who lived in Israel. Sometimes they are called Jews, or Israelites.

Hebrews ~ a book that is in the New Testament. It is a letter.

heir ~ a person who will own the property or position when the present owner dies.

hell ~ the opposite of heaven. It is a place where people are unhappy, and a long way from God. The place where people who do not know God go, after death. The place of punishment for guilty people after they have died. If we trust God, we shall not enter hell. We must confess our bad deeds to God and invite God into our lives. Then God will forgive us. And we shall go to heaven when we die.

helmet ~ the special strong hat that a soldier wears to protect his head.

Hephzibah ~ in the Hebrew language this means beautiful.

herald ~ a messenger. Someone who declares the arrival of an important person.

herbs ~ any plant that has leaves, seeds or flowers that people use for food, flavour, medicine or perfume.

herd ~ a large group of animals that live together.

herdsman ~ a man who looks after cows and other animals.

high place ~ these places were usually on hills and mountains. People praised and worshipped their gods there. Often it was a place where they worshipped false gods.

High Priest ~ the most important priest in the Temple. The first High Priest was the son of Aaron. They had anointed him. This showed that God had chosen him for this special job.

hinder ~ to make it difficult for someone to do something.

history ~ a record of the past. A person has written history when he records past events.

Hittites ~ a group of people who lived in Canaan before the Jews lived there.

Hivites ~ one of the groups of people who lived in Canaan.

hoe ~ a sharp tool that has a long handle. People use it to break up the soil.

holiness ~ when someone or something is holy.

holy ~ describes God. It also describes the people and things that belong to God. Different, and better than all other things. Completely good and having nothing bad. Perfect. Pure. Separate from sin.

holy of holies ~ a special part of the Temple. Only the leader of the priests could go into it. And he could go in on only one day every year.

holy land ~ the land of Israel.

Holy One ~ a name for God. It is also a name for Jesus, the Messiah.

Holy Scripture ~ the book of God's words. It is also called the Bible.

Holy Spirit ~ God's Spirit whom Jesus sent to help people. Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit who helps us. The Holy Spirit is God, and is equal with God the Father and with God the Son. The Holy Spirit comes to give people the power to do what God wants.

honey ~ a special sugar that bees make.

honeycomb ~ where bees keep their honey.

honour ~ if you honour someone, you think that they are very good. And you say that they are very good. You give special praise to them and you respect them.

hope ~ to want something to happen in the future. To want something to be true. To look towards something that God has promised. And you think that it will happen.

Horites ~ a group of people who lived near Canaan.

horn ~ 1. hard bone. Two horns grow on the head of some animals, like cows and some sheep.

2. a musical instrument. You use your mouth to blow into it.

horseman ~ man who rides a horse.

Hosanna ~ a word to praise God. In the Hebrew language it means ‘we want God to save us’.

Hosea ~ he was a prophet of God.

House of God ~ a special building where people worship God. The Temple in Jerusalem. Or, a church today.

household ~ your household means everyone who lives with you. They do not have to be your family.

humanity ~ all the people who are in the world.

humble ~ not proud. A humble person thinks that he is not very important.

humility ~ being humble. The attitude of someone who is not proud.

husk ~ the dry covering of grain.

hunger ~ what you feel when you are hungry.

hyena ~ an animal that is like a wild dog.

hymn ~ a song of praise to God. It shows our love for God. There are hymns in the Bible, and some of them are in the book of Psalms.

hypocrite ~ someone who pretends to be better than he is. He says that he has done things. And he says that he believes things. But he has not done them, and he does not believe them. He wants other people to think that he is good.

hyssop ~ a plant. Its leaves have a strong smell. People can use it when they cook. Or they can use it to make medicines. Jewish priests used it in Bible times.

I

idiom ~ a group of words that has a special meaning. The meaning is different from the separate words.

idol ~ false god. Something that people make to worship as if it is a god. Usually people make idols from metal, from stone or from wood. People pray to idols and praise them instead of God. And people believe that the idols might help them. Also an idol can be something or somebody that we love more than God.

image ~ 1. something that seems to be like something else.

2. something that people made so that it looked real. It might look like a person or an animal. They made it out of wood, stone, metal or other material. It could be an idol.

Immanuel ~ the same name as Emmanuel. It is a name for Jesus. It means “God with us.”

incarnation ~ When God became a human being in the body of Jesus Christ. The period in which Christ had a human body.

incense ~ something that gives a sweet smell when it burns. The Jews used it to show their love to God in the Temple in Jerusalem.

inherit ~ 1. to have something as a gift from someone who has died.

2. to have a special part of your character, or your appearance, that comes from your parents or ancestors.

inheritance ~ something that a person gives for you to have when that person dies. We use the word for that gift when it becomes yours. Also we use it for a gift that will be yours at a future time.

inn ~ a house where travellers can rest for the night. It has rooms where they can sleep.

People can buy food there.

instrument ~ a tool for a special job. A musical instrument is something that people use to play music.

insult ~ if you insult someone, you say bad things to them.

invisible ~ describes something that you cannot see.

Isaac ~ Abraham and Sarah’s son (see Jew).

Israel ~ God changed the name of Jacob to Israel (Genesis 35). The 12 sons of Jacob were the beginning of the nation of Israel. Israel was the group of people that God chose. The land that God promised to them was the land of Israel. The children of Israel are Jews or Israelites. After King Solomon died, his country became two countries. The north country was called Israel. The south country was called Judah.

Israelites ~ the people of Israel. People who speak Hebrew. The people who are Jews and who live in Israel.

Italy ~ a country. The capital city of Italy is Rome. At the time of the New Testament, Rome was very powerful. Its rulers controlled many countries.

ivory ~ the white bone that forms the tusks of elephants. People use it to make ornaments.

Iyyar ~ the name of a Jewish month. It is the same as April – May.

J

Jabbok ~ the river that flows into the River Jordan from the east. It is about 20 miles north of the Dead Sea.

jackal ~ a small wild animal. Jackals are like dogs.

Jacob ~ Abraham's grandson. He was Isaac's son and Esau's brother. God changed Jacob's name to Israel. The 12 tribes of Israel came from Jacob's 12 sons.

javelin ~ something that is like a long knife. It has a sharp point at one end. Soldiers threw it at their enemies.

jealous ~ 1. when you feel that someone else has more than you. And you want what he has.

2. how you feel when someone else loves the person whom you love. When the person you love loves someone else. Then you feel jealous.

jealousy ~ the feeling that you have when you are jealous.

Jebusites ~ the name of a group of people who lived in Canaan.

Jehovah ~ how some languages say Yahweh. Yahweh is the Hebrew name that the Israelites gave to God. See also Elyon, YHWH, Elohim, Adonai, LORD.

Jericho ~ a city that was in the land that God had promised to the Israelites. They destroyed everything that was in it. (Joshua 6).

Jerusalem ~ the capital city of Israel and Judah. The Temple of God was in Jerusalem.

Jeshurun ~ a name for the people of Israel. Jeshurun means 'somebody who always does what is right'.

Jesse ~ the father of King David.

Jesus ~ God told Joseph and Mary to give this name to his Son. Jesus is a Greek name that means 'The Lord saves'. The Hebrew form of the name is Joshua.

Jew ~ a descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their children. The faith of the Jews is called Judaism. Also, Jew is a name for one of the people of Israel.

jewellery ~ pretty things that people make from valuable metal and stones. People wear jewellery on their necks, or arms, or fingers, or in their hair.

Jewish ~ a word that describes a Jew or anything that belongs to a Jew.

Jordan ~ the river that flowed through the land of Israel, from north to south.

Jubilee ~ the 50th year. It was a special time.

Judah ~ 1. one of the 12 sons of Jacob (Israel). It was from Judah's family that the Messiah was to come.

2. The land that belonged to the family of Judah. When the nation of Israel split, 10 of the 12 tribes became Israel. And 2 of the 12 tribes became Judah.

Judaizers ~ Jews who wanted non-Jews to obey their laws.

Judaism ~ the religion of the Jews.

Judea ~ the Greek and Roman name for the country that was called Judah.

judge ~ 1. to think and decide about something. To form an opinion about something. To decide whether something is good or bad. To say who is right and who is wrong.

2. a person who has authority to decide who is right or wrong. A judge says whether someone is good or bad.

judges ~ the leaders of Israel who lived after Moses and before Saul. They tried to govern the people as God directed them.

Judges ~ The name of one of the books in the Bible. It is in the Old Testament. It tells about the time in Israel before there were kings in Israel.

judgement ~ 1. when God says what is right or wrong. When God tells people if they are good or bad. See also judge.

2. when someone says if another person is right or wrong.

judgement seat ~ a place for judges to sit when they are deciding things in court.

juice ~ something to drink. It comes from fruit.

justice ~ what is completely right and good and fair. God shows justice to everything that he has made. He is always right and fair to everyone.

justification ~ the act of God when he says that we are not guilty. And that he sees us as good. God does this at the moment when we trust Jesus. It is because of Jesus' death and his return to life. We cannot work for justification. God gives it out of his great kindness to us. See justify, justified.

justified ~ If someone is justified, God has made them right with him. God has done it through the death and return to life of Jesus Christ. Now God sees that person as good. See justify, justification.

justify ~ to make someone good as God sees them. See justification and justified.

K

Karnaim ~ the name of a place. It was on the east side of the Jordan River.

keeper ~ someone who keeps people or things safe. The keeper of a prison keeps the people who are in the prison safe. So they cannot get out of the prison. The keeper of a door stops the wrong people from going in.

Kenites ~ a group of people. They lived near the land of Canaan. (Moses' wife's father was a Kenite).

Kerethites ~ a group of people. They came from countries like Philistia and Crete. Some of them were soldiers. David paid the Kerethites to help him.

Kerioth ~ a town that was in the land of Moab.

Kidron ~ the name of a stream that is north of Jerusalem. It flows into the Dead Sea.

kingdom ~ a place or a country where a king rules. The kingdom of God is where God rules. He is the king of all Christians, and all Christians are in his kingdom.

kingdom of light ~ God's kingdom.

Kislev ~ the name of a Jewish month. It is from the middle of November to the middle of December.

kneel ~ to support yourself on your knee, or on your knees. Sometimes people kneel when they pray. Sometimes people kneel when they are in front of a very important person.

knelt ~ the past tense of kneel.

L

labour ~ hard work. When a woman is in labour she is having a baby.

lamb ~ 1. a young sheep.

2. a young member of a church. See also Lamb of God.

Lamb of God ~ Jesus is called the Lamb of God. (John 1:29, 36). This shows that Jesus died for us. This was to make it possible for God to forgive the bad things that we have done.

lame ~ someone who is lame has a bad leg. And they cannot walk easily.

lamp ~ people burned oil in a lamp to make light.

lampstand ~ a place where people put a lamp so that its light filled the house.

laugh at ~ to insult somebody.

law ~ the rules that the government of a country makes. The law decides what people can do. And the law decides what they cannot do.

Law ~ the rules that God gave to the Jews. The Law was the name that the Jews gave to the first 5 books of the Bible. But sometimes when they said The Law they meant the whole of the Old Testament.

law-court ~ a place where judges or other people decide what is fair. The laws (rules) of the country tell them what is bad or good.

lawless ~ a lawless person is someone who does not obey the law. A lawless country is a country that has no proper government.

leavened ~ leavened bread is bread that contains yeast.

Lebanon ~ a country that is next to the land of Israel.

lees ~ the dirt that falls to the lowest part of the barrel when people make wine.

legion ~ a group of Roman soldiers. There were 6000 soldiers in a legion.

leopard ~ a dangerous wild animal. It is like a big cat. It eats meat.

leper ~ someone who has leprosy.

leprosy ~ a very serious illness of the skin. Other people were afraid that they might get the illness. So they did not come near to people who had leprosy. People who had leprosy lived outside the town or village, away from other people. To make lepers clean means to make them well again.

Levi ~ one of the 12 sons of Jacob. Levi was Jacob's third son. Levi's descendants became the tribe of Levi.

Leviathan ~ a very large animal that lives in the sea.

levirate ~ a law about Jewish marriage. See Deuteronomy 25:5 and Mark 12:18-27.

Levite ~ a person who belonged to the tribe of Levi. This was one of the twelve families of Israel. God chose the Levites to work for him in his Temple. They helped the priests in the Temple.

liar ~ a person who says something that is not true.

lice ~ small insects that live on people's bodies. Sometimes they can carry illnesses to people.

lie ~ to say something that is not true. A lie is something that is not true.

lightning ~ a flash of bright light during a storm.

lily ~ a pretty flower.

lime ~ a white powder that you get when you heat chalk.

linen ~ a type of cloth that is like cotton and is very strong. Linen is a material of very good quality. It was very expensive, so only rich people would have it.

lion ~ a big, dangerous, wild cat. The male lion has long hair on its neck. A lion can kill a man and kills other animals to eat.

lioness ~ a female lion.

livestock ~ animals that are not wild. Usually livestock live in a village or a farm. They live near people, and people feed them.

lizard ~ a small, long, thin animal that has four legs. It has no fur. Lizards eat insects.

locust ~ an insect that people can eat. Locusts eat plants. And when many locusts fly together they can destroy all the plants in a field. This can cause much hunger. A locust is like a grasshopper.

Lo-Debar ~ a place that was on the east side of the Jordan river.

look ~ to seem to be. If someone looks happy, they seem to be happy.

look after ~ to keep someone or something safe. To be good to someone.

LORD ~ a special name for God. God's holiest name. It is the name that God gave for himself to the Jews in the Old Testament. The Jews refused to speak this word aloud, in order to respect God. It is the covenant name of God. In the Hebrew language LORD is Yahweh or Jehovah.

Lord ~ the name for God or Jesus in the Bible. Lord means someone who is above all other things. Someone with authority. We call God or Jesus Lord when we obey them. The word is Adonai in the Hebrew language. See also Elyon, YHWH, Yahweh, Adonai, Elohim.

lord ~ someone who has authority. Someone whom other people respect.

Lord Almighty ~ the Lord of everything. God who has all authority. He is more powerful than anything or anybody.

lots ~ a set of objects by which to choose something by chance. It could be a game of chance. Also, people used lots when they needed to decide something important. They would ask God to guide them. Then they would use the lots to show the answer.

love feasts ~ meetings of Christians when they ate together as a sign of their love for each other. Everyone brought something to eat and drink. And they shared what they had.

lowly ~ not very important. Not proud. Lowly people do not think that they are better than everybody else.

loyal ~ describes someone who always gives support to their friend or to a leader.

lyre ~ a musical instrument that is like a small harp.

M

Macedonia ~ the northern part of present day Greece. See Achaia.

maggot ~ a maggot is like a small worm. Often maggots live in dead bodies. Then they become flies.

magic ~ when someone causes strange things to happen to surprise people. These things are not natural. People use bad spirits to do these things for them. The spirits do things that usually people cannot do. They can seem to give you help. But magic is very bad. It is not from God. (Sometimes, somebody does something very fast. Other people do not see it happen. And so they call it magic. But it is not magic).

magician ~ someone who uses magic. This person seems to do something that is impossible. He has to use a gift that is not from his own body to do it. This gift is very bad and it is not from God.

Mahanaim ~ a place that was in Gilead. Jacob saw the angels of God there, when he was going to meet Esau. King David put his soldiers together in groups at Mahanaim before they fought. They stopped to eat and to sleep there.

Maher-shalal-hash-baz ~ the name of one of Isaiah's sons. See Isaiah 8:3, 4.

majesty ~ splendid royal power. People speak about God's majesty.

maker ~ someone who makes or creates something.

malaria ~ a disease that causes a person to be ill and to become very hot. Insects (that are called mosquitoes) give malaria to people.

manna ~ special food that God sent down from the sky to the Israelites while they were in the desert. It was like bread, and it came down to the earth like rain. The Jews did not know what God had sent to them. They called it manna. That means 'What is it?' in the Hebrew language.

manuscript ~ an important record that someone has written. Some manuscripts are ancient copies of the Bible. People wrote

these Bibles by hand on scrolls. There are many ancient copies of the Bible in the Hebrew language. The oldest Hebrew copies are called the Dead Sea Scrolls. Also, there is an ancient translation of the Old Testament into the Greek language, it is called the Septuagint.

Mara ~ a Hebrew word that means bitter.

Marchesvan ~ the name of a Jewish month. It is the same as October – November.

martyr ~ a person who has died, or has suffered, because of their beliefs. Stephen was the first Christian martyr. His enemies killed him because he followed Jesus. See Acts 7.

maskil ~ a psalm that teaches you something.

mate ~ the sex partner of an animal or bird.

Medes ~ the name for a group of people. They lived in a country that was near the land of Israel.

mediator ~ someone who makes peace between people. Jesus is the mediator between God and people. He made the new agreement with God and people.

medium ~ 1. a word to describe something that is not very big and not very small.

2. a person who says that he or she can talk to dead people. Mediums say that they can contact the spirits of dead people. The Bible says that this is very evil. This is because it uses evil spirits. And the Bible says that we must pray only to God.

meek ~ a meek person is quiet, gentle and humble.

merchant ~ someone who buys and sells things to get money.

merciful ~ full of mercy. A merciful person is kind to people who have done bad things. And a merciful person helps people who have difficulties. God is merciful when he forgives us. And also when he does good things for us.

mercy ~ kindness to people who have done wrong things. Help to those who need help.

When you do not punish someone as much as you could. God's love and goodness. God shows mercy to us when he forgives us. He forgives everyone who confesses their evil deeds to him, because of Jesus' death. See John 3:16.

messenger ~ a person who takes messages to other people.

Messiah ~ a Hebrew word that means 'the anointed person'. In the Greek language the word is 'the Christ'. It is a name for Jesus Christ. It means the person whom God sent to save people from his anger because of their

bad deeds. God promised the Jews that the Messiah would come to rescue them. And he would be their king. Jesus is that Messiah, but even today most Jews do not believe it.

Midian ~ the country where the Midianites lived. It was south of Canaan.

Midianites ~ a group of people who were descended from Midian. He was the son of Abraham and Keturah. Moses' wife was a **Midianite**, but the **Midianites** were the enemies of the Israelites.

mildew ~ when material is wet and warm, mildew can grow on it. Mildew is a very small mould. It is soft and white and destroys the material.

minister ~ someone who serves. Someone who does the work that God gives them to do. It could be the leader of a church, or a priest, or an angel. See also pastor.

ministry ~ the work of a minister.

miracle ~ a great and wonderful thing that only God can do. A wonderful work that shows God's power. God uses miracles to show his truth.

miraculous ~ describes something that is a miracle.

missionary ~ a person who tells people about Jesus. Often a **missionary** goes to another country to teach the good news about Jesus to the people who live there.

mistress ~ female master.

Moab ~ a country that was next to the land of Judah, on the south-east side.

Moabites ~ a group of people who lived in the land of Moab. They were enemies of the Israelites.

money-changers ~ people who bought and sold coins in the Temple in Jerusalem. When people bought things in the Temple they had to use special coins. So they had to exchange their own money for the special coins. They bought the special coins from a money-changer. Then they could buy animals for sacrifice.

mortar ~ material that holds stones or bricks together to make a wall.

Moses ~ a great leader of the Israelites. Moses gave God's rules to the people.

Most High ~ one of the names for God. In the Hebrew language it was Elyon.

moth ~ an insect that flies. Some **moths** lay eggs on clothes. The eggs grow into small creatures (called caterpillars) that eat the cloth. And they spoil the clothes. The insect that flies is the adult moth.

mould ~ 1. to mould something is to make it into a shape. You use a mould to make the shape.

2. **mould** is something that is grey or green. It can grow on old food, or old cloth, or old paper. Then it will destroy the material on which it is growing.

mount ~ a mountain or hill. The Sermon on the Mount was an important speech by Jesus. See Matthew 5-7. The Mount of Olives is a hill that is near Jerusalem city. Many olive trees grow there.

mule ~ an animal that is like a donkey. A male donkey and a female horse produce a mule. Mules can carry heavy weights for people.

musical instrument ~ something that you use to make music. You might hit it (cymbals, drum), or blow in it (flute, trumpet, horn, shofar). Or you might touch it in a quiet way (harp, lyre). Many of these musical instruments are in Psalm 150.

musician ~ a person who makes music.

Musicians sing, or play a musical instrument.

mustard ~ a plant that grew in Israel. It had very small seeds.

muzzle ~ 1. something that people put over a dog's nose and mouth so that the dog cannot bite.

2. if you muzzle someone, they cannot speak.

myrrh ~ a sticky substance that comes from some trees. It has a strong, sweet smell. People used it as a perfume or medicine. And people put it on dead bodies before they buried them.

N

nail ~ a short piece of metal that has a sharp point at one end. People hit nails into pieces of wood to hold them together.

nard ~ people made nard from a plant that comes from India. At the time of the Bible nard was very expensive in Israel. People thought that it was very special. That was because it had a beautiful smell. Another name for it is spikenard.

Nathaniel ~ one of the 12 disciples of Jesus.

nation ~ a large group of people who belong to the same country. They have the same ruler or king. And they speak the same language.

nature ~ 1. the nature of a person or thing is what they are really like inside.

2. animals, plants and all other things that people have not made.

navel ~ your navel is the place that is like a round hole on the front of your body. It is where a baby joins to its mother.

Nazareth ~ the town in Galilee where Jesus lived when he was a boy.

Nazirite ~ a man who had made a special promise to God. A Nazirite promised that he would not cut his hair. And he would not drink wine or touch dead bodies. Samson and John the Baptist were Nazirites.

Nebo ~ 1. the name of a false god in the land of Babylon.

2. the name of a mountain. From this mountain Moses saw the land that God had promised to give to his people.

3. The name of a town that is in Moab.

needle ~ a very thin piece of bone or metal. It is very sharp and has a small hole at one end. People use a needle when they make clothes.

Negev ~ a very sandy place that is south of Jerusalem city. Not many people live there. Most of it is a desert.

neighbour ~ a person who lives near to you.

net ~ a piece of material that people make when they tie many thin ropes together. It has spaces between the ropes. Or it could be a big bag with small holes in it. People use nets to catch fish or animals or birds.

New Testament ~ the last part of the Bible. There are 27 books in the New Testament.

The writers wrote them after Jesus lived on earth. The New Testament describes Jesus' life and the things that he taught. Also, it is about the church and about the beliefs and the lives of Christians.

Nile ~ a very large and important river. It is in the land of Egypt.

Nisan ~ the name of a Jewish month. It is the same as March-April.

noble ~ 1. honest, brave. People admire a noble person.

2. word used to describe an important person.

non-Christian ~ a person who does not believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

nuptial ~ about marriage or weddings.

nut ~ a fruit that grows on some trees or bushes. It is hard on the outside. You can eat the part that is inside the hard shell.

O

oak ~ a tall tree. It has hard wood. People can make boats out of this wood.

oath ~ a serious promise. When someone uses God's name to make a promise.

Especially when someone promises to say what is true in a court of law.

obedience ~ the act of obeying authority. Being ready to obey.

obedient ~ we are obedient when we obey an order or command.

offal ~ the inside parts of an animal, that you can eat.

offering ~ a gift for God (or for false gods) from the priest and the people. An Israelite gift to God. It could be food, drink or an animal. Some offerings were to say 'Thank-you' to God. Some offerings were to say 'Sorry' to God. And other offerings were to say that you wanted to live for God. (See also sacrifice).

official ~ a man who has authority. He works for a king or for a government.

oil ~ a thick liquid that comes from fruit. Usually it comes from olives. People use oil for different things. They cook with it. They use it for medicine. They burn it to give light. And people use special oil for a sweet smell.

Old Testament ~ the first part of the Bible, which the writers wrote before the life of Jesus. Another name for the Old Testament was the Scriptures. The people had only this part of the Bible during Jesus' life on earth.

olive ~ a small fruit. It grows on an olive tree. People can eat the fruit. Or they can make good oil from it. They can use this oil for different things. They cook with it. They use it for medicine. And they burn it to give light.

olive tree ~ the tree on which olives grow.

opponent ~ your opponent is someone who is against you in a fight. Someone who is against you or your ideas. An enemy. The devil is God's opponent or enemy.

opposition ~ when someone is against an idea or a person.

oppressed ~ when people are oppressed, the enemy has hurt them. Or, oppressed people are poor because their ruler or master is cruel.

oppressor ~ someone who is cruel, and is not kind or fair to people. Oppressors might be the people of another country. Or, leaders who are not fair to their own people might be oppressors.

order ~ to tell someone firmly what they must do. An order is an instruction or command.

ornament ~ something that makes a person or a thing look pretty.

orphan ~ a child whose parents are dead.

ostrich ~ a very big bird. It has long legs and a long neck. It cannot fly, but it runs very fast. Often ostriches live in hot, desert places and make their homes in the sand.

overcome ~ to win against the enemy. To be stronger than someone else. Or to be stronger than something.

owl ~ a bird that has large eyes. It catches smaller animals at night. It catches them to eat them.

ox ~ a cow. A strong farm animal that can pull a plough.

oxen ~ plural of ox.

P

pagan ~ a person who shows love to a god or gods that are not the God of the Bible.

See *ido* 1.

palace ~ a large, important building where a king or a queen lives. Solomon built a great palace in Jerusalem after he built the Temple.

palm ~ a tree that has big leaves. It grows in hot countries.

papyrus ~ a plant that grows beside water. People used it to make baskets, boats, ropes, clothing and material on which they could write. The material on which they wrote also was called papyrus.

parable ~ a short story that has a special meaning. Jesus told many parables to explain the things that he taught. They were stories that had a second meaning. Sometimes it was a secret meaning.

paradise ~ another name for heaven. The place of God. People who know God go there when they die. Their spirit goes to paradise when their body has died.

paralysed ~ if someone is paralysed, he or she is unable to move.

pardon ~ to forgive someone. To excuse someone.

Passover ~ an important holy day for the Jews. An annual festival when every family eats a special meal. It is a time to remember that they were slaves in the land of Egypt. But God saved them, with Moses as their leader. It was the name of the meal that the Jews had at the time of the Exodus. You can read about this time in Exodus 12. Each year Jews have the Passover meal to remember the Exodus.

pastor ~ a man whom God chose to be a leader in the church. See also shepherd, and minister.

patriarch ~ the head of a family. In the Bible the **patriarchs** are Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They were the leaders of the Israelites, the first 'Fathers' of Israel.

pavement ~ a path at the side of a street. People have made it from stones or hard material.

peace ~ 1. when there is no war.

2. a time of calm and quiet, when there is no trouble in our minds. And when we are not afraid or angry. When we are friends with God and with other people.

pearl ~ a little white ball of hard material that shines. Pearls are very valuable and people use them in jewellery. Pearls come from inside small animals that are called oysters. These animals live in the sea.

peddler ~ a person who sells things. He travels from place to place to sell his things.

Pelethites ~ a group of people who came from countries like Philistia and Crete. David paid some of their soldiers to help him. (Also see Kerethites).

Pentecost ~ the special time each year when the Jews thank God for their food. And they thank God for the start of the harvest. For Jews, Pentecost comes 50 days after Passover. Also at this time Jews remember the time when God gave the Law to Moses. Christians remember that at Pentecost God gave his Holy Spirit to the church. See Acts 2. For Christians, Pentecost is 50 days after Easter. It is in May or June each year.

perfect ~ describes something that is all good. There is nothing wrong with it.

perfume ~ oil that smells sweet. At the time of the Bible, perfume was very precious. Often people made it from plants that came from distant countries. Women might use perfume on their bodies for a very special event. People also put it on dead bodies.

perjurer ~ someone who says what is not true in front of a judge. This is when the person has promised to speak only the truth.

Perizzites ~ the name for a group of people. They lived in the land of Canaan.

persecute ~ to attack and hurt people again and again. Sometimes people persecute Christians because they believe in Jesus.

persecution ~ the time when some people are hurting other people. When enemies of God hurt people because they believe in Jesus.

Persia ~ the country that is called Iran today.

Persian ~ the language that people who lived in Persia spoke.

Persians ~ people who came from a country that is called Iran now.

pestilence ~ serious illness that kills many people.

Pharaoh ~ all the kings of Egypt were called Pharaoh.

Pharisee ~ one of a group of Jews. Pharisees went to a special school to learn God's Laws. They thought that they obeyed all of God's rules. So they thought that they were very important and clever. And they added many of their own rules. They obeyed many unimportant rules. But often they failed to obey God's most important rules. Jesus did not obey all of the Pharisees' rules. And people started to follow Jesus instead of the Pharisees. Then the Pharisees hated Jesus. And they refused to listen to him. They loved to seem important more than they loved God. Not all Pharisees behaved in this way. Their leaders opposed Jesus. But many other Pharisees believed Jesus and trusted him.

Philippi ~ a city that was in Macedonia, which is now Northern Greece and the South part of the Balkans. Paul's letter to the church in Philippi is called the Letter to the Philippians.

Philistines ~ the name of a group of people. They were powerful enemies of the Jews. They lived in the country that was next to the Jews on the south-west side. It was beside the sea.

pigeon ~ a fat bird that has grey or white feathers. People can eat pigeons.

pilgrim ~ **pilgrims** are people who travel to a holy place because of their religion.

pillar ~ a tall piece of wood or stone that stands on its end.

pine ~ a tree that has very thin leaves. The leaves are always green.

pipe ~ you blow into it to make music.

pit ~ a hole in the ground.

pitch ~ a sticky black material that will burn. People find it in the ground. People used pitch to make ships and baskets waterproof.

plague ~ 1. a serious illness that causes many people to die.

2. a plague of bad things is very many bad things that happen at the same time. (Read about the plagues in Exodus 6:14-11:8).

play ~ a story that many people act in front of other people who watch them.

please ~ if something pleases you, it makes you feel happy.

pleasing ~ describes something that looks good. Or it describes something that makes you happy.

pledge ~ a serious promise.

plumbline ~ a piece of heavy metal that hangs on the end of a string or a line. It shows a builder if a wall is standing straight.

poem ~ something that someone has written. It has short lines. The sound of the words is very important.

poet ~ a poet writes poems, and uses words in a special way.

poetry ~ things that poets have written. Poetry has short lines. The sound of the words is very important. Many Bible books, especially in the Old Testament, use poetry. In the Bible the Psalms are in poetry.

pole ~ a tall stick that someone has made out of wood.

pomegranate ~ a tree. It grows in hot countries. Also, pomegranate is the name for the round fruit that comes from this tree. The fruit contains many small seeds.

pool ~ an area of still water on the ground.

potter ~ a person who makes pots from clay.

praise ~ 1. to say good things about someone or something.

2. to tell God how great he is. We praise God when we are praying to him. And we praise him when we sing to him. See also worship.

3. words that say how great someone is.

pray ~ to talk with God, to thank him. To ask God for help for ourselves and for other people. To say sorry to God for the bad things that we think. Or the bad things that we do.

prayer ~ the words that we say when we talk to God.

preach ~ to tell and explain the Good News about Jesus Christ to a group of people. To tell them how to live in the way that God wants. See also preacher.

preacher ~ someone who tells and explains to people the Good News about Jesus Christ. See preach.

pregnant ~ if a woman is pregnant, she is going to have a baby.

prey ~ the things that an animal catches to eat.

pride ~ the feeling you have when you have done something well. Or when you think that you are important. Also see proud.

priest ~ In the Bible, a priest was a man from the family of Aaron, Moses' brother. Aaron belonged to the tribe of Levi. God chose the men in this family to make sacrifices and offerings to God for the Israelites. The priests worked in the Temple. In other nations there were priests who worked for the false gods.

prince ~ the son of a king. A man in a king's

family. A ruler of a country.

princess ~ the daughter of a king.

prisoner ~ someone who is in prison. A person whom the enemy has caught and kept.

procurator ~ a Roman official, who looked after part of a Roman province (area).

profit ~ you sell something. And you get more money than you paid for it. The profit is the money that you have gained.

promised land ~ the land that God promised to give to Abraham and his family.

prophecy ~ the words that a prophet speaks or writes. Messages that God wants to tell people. A prophecy is often about future events.

prophecy ~ to tell people what God thinks, and what God will do. To tell of things that will happen in the future. To speak with God's help and give messages from God. To explain the Scriptures in public.

prophet ~ a special servant of God who hears God's words, and tells them to other people. He says what God thinks. And he says what God will do. Sometimes a prophet can say what will happen in the future. (Also see false prophet).

prophetess ~ a special woman. She might be the wife of a prophet. Or she might be a woman prophet.

prostitute ~ someone who has sex with people for money. Also see harlot. Sometimes the Bible uses such words to describe the Israelites when they served idols instead of the real God.

prostitution ~ The behaviour of a prostitute or harlot. Sometimes the Bible uses such words to describe the behaviour of a person who is not loyal to God.

proud ~ 1. how someone feels when he has done something well.

2. when someone thinks that he is better than other people. Then he is proud. Proud people think that they are very important.

province ~ parts of a country. A Roman province belonged to Rome.

prune ~ to cut off parts of a plant. This causes it to grow better.

psalm ~ a special song that praises God. A song that tells how good and great God is. And it tells what great things God has done. People sing psalms to God, or they sing psalms about God.

Psalms ~ The Psalms is a book in the Old Testament. It is a book of songs that praise God.

psalmist ~ a person who wrote a psalm (or psalms).

punish ~ to hurt someone because they have not obeyed the rules. To hurt or to cause trouble for someone for the wrong things that they have done. And to teach that person not to do wrong things again.

punishment ~ something that is unpleasant. The act when someone punishes a person. People receive a punishment when they do wrong things.

pur ~ a word in the Persian language. You can read about this in Esther 3:7. People used pur to choose a date by chance. (Also see lots).

pure ~ 1. holy, innocent, clean.
2. contains only one material.

purification ~ when someone makes something clean or pure.

Purim ~ a Jewish event when people remember what happened in the Book of Esther in the Bible. It is a very happy time. It is often during March.

purple ~ a dark colour that is between blue and red. Purple was the most expensive colour in ancient times. Often kings and important people used purple.

R

Rabbi ~ a word in the Hebrew language that means 'master' or 'teacher'.

Rachel ~ Jacob's wife. Rachel was the mother of Joseph and Benjamin.

ram ~ a male sheep.

rat ~ an animal that is like a big mouse.

rattle ~ when something rattles, it makes short, quick, knocking sounds. The noise is like when bits of wood hit against each other many times.

raven ~ a big black bird that eats dead animals.

reap ~ to cut a crop and gather it. To harvest a crop like corn or wheat.

reaper ~ someone who reaps.

rebel ~ 1. to fight against authority.

2. a rebel is a person who fights against authority.

redeem ~ if you redeem something, you pay for it. Then you get it back. To pay a price that allows a criminal to go free. So, Christ redeemed us when he gave his life. Then God could forgive us for the bad things that we have done.

redeemer ~ someone who pays another

person's debts.

Redeemer ~ the Redeemer is a name for Jesus. Jesus redeemed his people when he died on the cross. He paid the price for the wrong things that they have done.

redemption ~ the action when someone redeems a person.

1. When someone pays the price for a person in a prison to be free. When someone gives money in order to get back something.

2. What Christ did when he gave his life. Then God could forgive us for the bad things that we have done.

redemptive ~ if something is redemptive it makes someone free from the power of sin. Or, it pays the price to allow a criminal to go free. God's redemptive love sent Jesus to give his life. Then God could forgive us for the bad things that we have done.

reed ~ a tall, thin plant that is like grass. It grows in shallow water.

refuge ~ a place where you can hide and be safe. See Joshua 20 for information about the Cities of Refuge.

reject ~ if you reject something, you do not accept it. And you do not agree to it. If you reject a person, then you do not care about him. When people **reject** Jesus, then they refuse to trust him.

rejoice ~ to be very happy about something.

relation ~ a person who is in your family. Or, a person that has joined your family because they have married someone in your family.

relative ~ someone who belongs to your family or to your parents' family.

religion ~ the belief in God, or in false gods. The rules and traditions about God and about our behaviour. Something that people do as part of the worship of God.

religious ~ describes something or someone who has a connection to religion.

remind ~ to cause someone to remember something or someone. To bring back a memory. To make someone think about something that happened a long time ago.

remnant ~ a small part that remains from a larger piece. In the Old Testament the remnant were the people whom God rescued. He rescued them after he had punished many evil people.

repent ~ to be sorry for something bad that you have done. To turn away from sin and turn to God. To decide not to do the bad things that you did before. To change the way that you think and act. And to turn your mind away from bad things.

S

repentance ~ a change of mind and heart. When someone turns away from sin and turns to God's ways. When someone feels sorry for the bad things that he or she has done. And decides not to do them in the future.

respond ~ if you respond to someone or to something, you use actions or words to reply.

response ~ the words or action that you use when you reply to someone.

resurrection ~ when someone, who was dead, becomes alive again. Jesus' resurrection was when he became alive three days after his death.

revelation ~ something that God shows to people that they did not know before. Also, Revelation is the name of the last book of the Bible.

reverence ~ reverence for God is when we feel that he is true and very powerful.

righteous ~ very good. Being right with God. Only God is really righteous. But God can make people righteous if they love him. And also if they obey him. When God makes a person right with him, then that person is righteous. A righteous person does what is right.

righteousness ~ goodness. God gives his righteousness to people who believe in him.

Roman ~ 1. a person who comes from Rome. 2. describes anything that belongs to Rome. 3. Romans is the name of one of the books in the New Testament. It is the letter from Paul to the Church in Rome.

Rome ~ a city in Italy. Rome was the most famous city in the world at the time of Jesus. It was a powerful city and it had a strong army. Its soldiers fought and defeated many countries. In these countries, the Romans made the people obey the rules of Rome. They made them pay taxes to Rome. The people could not rule themselves in the countries that the Romans had defeated. They had to obey the laws of Rome.

rope ~ a strong, thick piece of string. People wind many pieces of string together to make rope. People use rope to tie things together.

ruby ~ a red precious stone.

rudder ~ a piece of wood or an oar at the back of a ship. You can move the wood to change the ship's direction.

Ruth ~ the mother of King David's grandfather. We can read her story in the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament.

Sabaoth ~ a very large group of people. Usually in the Bible it was armies of angels. God is called the Lord of Sabaoth (or the Lord of Hosts). This means the leader of armies of angels.

Sabbath ~ the Sabbath was the seventh day of the week which was special to the Jews. It was a day on which the people must rest from work (Exodus 20:8-11). For Christians the Sabbath is the first day of the week. This is because on the first day of the week Jesus became alive again after his death. Since then, most Christians have met together on Sundays.

sackcloth ~ rough cloth that is a dark colour. People made it of goats' hair. So sackcloth was not comfortable to wear. Jews wore sackcloth and put ashes on their head for a special reason. It showed that they were very sorry or very sad.

sacred ~ holy. A sacred thing is something that we keep special for God.

sacrifice ~ 1. to sacrifice something that is valuable or important means to give it away for someone, or for God.

2. to **sacrifice** an animal means to kill it as an offering to God (or to false gods).

3. a **sacrifice** is something that you give to someone else for a special reason.

God told the Israelites to make sacrifices to him. Usually it was a special animal that the priests killed. And then they burned it on the altar. Sometimes the sacrifice was food. They gave sacrifices to God when they asked him to forgive sins. And when they thanked him for something. People also made sacrifices to make atonement. (see Leviticus 4-26). Some of the pagans killed their children as a sacrifice. Jesus' death for us was the perfect sacrifice. God forgives us because Jesus died for us.

saddle ~ the seat on which you sit when you ride a horse.

Sadducee ~ one of an important group of Jews at the time of Jesus. They used only the first five books at the beginning of the Old Testament. They believed that people would not live again after death. So, they did not believe in heaven or in resurrection.

saint ~ a holy person. Someone who knows that Jesus Christ is the Lord. A Christian. Someone who lives to obey God. Someone who has received God's love. One of his people. he saints is a name for all the people of God.

Salem ~ a city of which Melchizedek was king. Perhaps it was a name for the old city of Jerusalem.

salvation ~ the rescue of a person from bad things. Salvation is when God saves a person from the results of sin and the punishment for sin. Then God forgives that person. When people are sorry for their wrong ways, God forgives them. And then they follow Jesus. Salvation is the only way by which anyone can become a real Christian. Also see Saviour.

Samaria ~ a part of the country that was called Israel. Israel was the part in the north of the Israelites' country. (Judah was the part in the south). Samaria was between Galilee and Judea. It is also the name of the capital city of Samaria.

Samaritan ~ a person who comes from Samaria.

sanctification ~ the process when God makes someone or something holy.

sanctified ~ if people or things are sanctified, then God has made them holy. Through his Holy Spirit God has changed them. He has made them different and special.

sanctify ~ to make someone or something holy.

sanctuary ~ a holy place.

sandal ~ a shoe that has a piece of leather or wood that goes under the foot. And narrow pieces of leather or cloth go over the foot and round the ankle.

Sanhedrin ~ a meeting of the leaders of the priests, the important Jews and the teachers of the law. Together, they judged people. There were 71 men in the Sanhedrin. The most important priest led them. The men in the Sanhedrin had great power.

Sarah ~ the wife of Abraham. And the mother of Isaac.

Satan ~ the Devil. The leader of the bad spirits. Satan is the enemy of God, and the enemy of God's people.

satisfied ~ when a person knows that he or she has had enough.

save ~ 1. to rescue someone. To help to keep someone safe.

2. to rescue someone from sin and from the result of sin.

saviour ~ someone who saves. Someone who rescues people from bad things. Someone who saves us from the bad things that other people have done to us. The person who gives salvation to someone.

Saviour ~ Jesus is the Saviour, the person who saves us. He rescues us from evil things. He will bring us back to God from the bad things that we have done. And from the bad things that we have said or thought.

scarlet ~ a colour that is like red.

sceptre ~ a special stick that a king carries. It shows that he is the ruler.

scorn ~ to show that you think that a person or his message has no worth. To laugh in a bad way at someone. To insult someone.

scorpion ~ a dangerous small animal. It can sting people with its tail.

scribe ~ a man whose job was to copy books by hand. A Jewish scribe's most important task was to copy the Bible, especially the first 5 books. These books contain God's Law, that he gave to the Israelites by Moses. So the scribes became teachers of the Law. And the scribes acted as judges.

Scripture ~ the book of God's holy words. The Bible. The Old Testament.

scroll ~ the ancient shape of a book, where the pages roll up. The maker of a scroll used a very long piece of animal skin or papyrus. Usually the writer wrote on only one side. Then he would roll up the scroll. Sometimes people fixed the scroll round two pieces of wood. When someone wanted to read it, they would unroll it.

seal ~ an official mark on a letter. It showed who sent the letter. Usually people used wax to make a seal on a letter. To open the letter, someone would need to break the seal. So the seal proved who sent the letter. And the seal proved that nobody else had read the letter.

seaweed ~ plants that grow in the sea.

seer ~ another word for prophet.

Selah ~ a place to pray or think. Or a place to make music.

seraph ~ a special angel of God.

sermon ~ a special talk that a teacher of religion gives to a group of people. Usually it tells people how they should live. Or it tells people about God.

servant ~ a person whose job is to serve his master. A slave. Or, a person who works for God.

serve ~ to work for a master. To work for God. To do things for other people. To help and work for another person.

Shaddai ~ a name for God. Many people think that it means 'very powerful'.

shalom ~ the Hebrew word for peace and God's blessing. Jewish people use 'shalom' as a greeting.

shame ~ the feeling that people have when they have done bad things. Or when they have said or thought bad things. And they are not happy about it.

shawl ~ a square piece of cloth that women wear over their shoulders.

sheaf ~ a bundle of wheat or barley that someone has tied together.

Shear Jashub ~ the name of Isaiah's older son. It means 'a few people will return'.

sheaves ~ plural of sheaf.

Shebat ~ the name of a Jewish month. It is the same as January – February.

shekel ~ 1. people used **shekels** to measure weight.

2. a Hebrew coin.

shelter ~ a place that protects people from bad weather, or from danger. The Festival of Shelters is the Jewish harvest festival. Sometimes it is called the Feast of Tabernacles. The people eat their meals in temporary shelters to remember the time when the Israelites travelled through the desert.

Sheol ~ hell. The grave. Jews said that people's spirits go to Sheol after death.

shepherd ~ a person who looks after sheep. A sheep farmer. Sometimes the Bible uses the word shepherd to describe someone who looks after people. See Psalm 23:1 and Zechariah 11:15-16. Often a church leader is called a 'pastor'. The word 'pastor' means shepherd.

shewbread ~ or **showbread** ~ special holy bread. See Leviticus 24:5-9.

shield ~ something that a soldier holds in front of his body to protect him in a battle. People made shields from metal, wood or from hard leather that had a wooden edge.

shipwreck ~ a shipwreck is when an accident at sea destroys a ship.

shofar ~ a musical instrument. They were animal horns. People blew into them. People used **shofars** during a war, when they wanted to bring the soldiers together. Or people used them to tell everyone to gather. Also they used them at joyful events. Nowadays, the Jewish people sound the shofar on their New Year's Day, that is called Rosh Hashana. See 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

shrine ~ a place where people go to pray to a false god.

shroud ~ the cloth that covers a dead body.

Shunem ~ a town in Israel.

sickle ~ a tool like a long knife that has a

short handle. People use it to cut grass or grain.

siege ~ when an enemy's army camps round a city. And the enemy's army does not allow food or help to reach the people who are inside the city. The aim is to make the people in the city very weak, before the soldiers attack.

sieve ~ a tool that is like a dish that has holes in it. People put things in the dish to separate them. Small things go through the holes and larger things stay in the dish.

sign ~ 1. a mark.

2. words on a board that give a warning.

3. a sign points to what is right. It shows the right things to do.

4. something that gives evidence.

5. in the Bible a sign is a miracle that proves that God is working.

signs ~ often in the Bible the word signs means works of God.

signet ring ~ a special ring that someone could wear on his or her finger. It has a letter or a mark on it. People used it as a seal. Sometimes people used precious stones to make signet rings.

silver ~ a valuable metal. The colour is between grey and white and it shines. People use silver to make beautiful things. And people use it as money.

sin ~ 1. to sin is to do things that are bad or wrong. We sin when we do not obey God.

2. the wrong things that we do when we do not obey the rules of God.

Sinai ~ a mountain where God met Moses and gave him the Law.

sinful ~ wicked. Bad. People are sinful when they do not obey God's rules.

sinner ~ a person who does not obey the rules of God. Someone who does bad things against God and against other people. Also, a person who says or thinks bad things is a sinner.

sister-in-law ~ your sister-in-law is your husband's sister, or the wife of your brother, or the wife of your husband's brother.

sister ~ 1. your sister is a woman who has the same parents as you.

2. the word sister may mean another woman who is a Christian.

Sivan ~ the name of a Jewish month. It is the same as May – June.

skull ~ the large round bone that is in the head. It gives the shape to the head. The brain is inside the skull.

slave ~ a slave belongs to someone else and must obey that person. People could buy slaves, and sell them.

sling ~ a small piece of cloth or leather that someone could use to throw a stone at an enemy.

Sodom ~ a city that God destroyed because the people in it were wicked (Genesis 19:1-25). See Gomorrah.

soil ~ the top part of the ground. Plants grow in soil.

solid ~ hard, like rock. Not liquid.

Solomon's Porch ~ a part of the Temple that was outside the main part of the Temple. Often people met together there. They would listen while someone taught them.

Son of David ~ name for Jesus. Jesus was in the family of David.

Son of God ~ name for Jesus.

Son of Man ~ a name that Jesus used when he spoke about himself.

sorcerer ~ someone who uses powers to do things that usually other people cannot do. But the powers do not come from God and they are not good.

sore ~ a sore is a painful place on the body. Usually it is on the skin.

soul ~ the part of a person that we cannot see. Our soul is in us while we are alive. It continues to live after we die. The soul is the part of people that God speaks to through their spirits.

sow ~ to plant seeds in the ground.

sower ~ someone who sows seeds. Jesus told a famous story about a sower: see Matthew 13:1-23.

sparrow ~ a small bird. It has brown feathers and grey feathers.

spat ~ the past tense of the word spit.

spear ~ a long wooden or metal stick that has a very sharp point. Soldiers used spears to fight against their enemies.

spice ~ seeds or powder that comes from plants. Spice has sweet or strong smells and flavours. People add spice to food to give more flavour to it. And they use it to make things smell pleasant.

spirit ~ 1. the part of a person that is alive, but which we cannot see. The part of a person that will be alive for ever, even after their body dies. Our spirit can speak to God and God can speak to our spirit.

2. there are good spirits, that usually are called angels. Also there are bad spirits that work with the Devil.

3. see also Holy Spirit.

spiritist ~ a type of medium. The Bible teaches that such people use evil spirits. So their behaviour is wrong.

spiritual ~ belonging to the spirit. About holy things.

spit ~ to send liquid out of the mouth very quickly.

sponge ~ soft material that holds liquid.

spring ~ a place where water comes up out of the ground. The place where a river begins.

staff ~ a long stick. Someone who was looking after animals would carry a staff.

stall ~ a place where people feed their animals.

statue ~ a model of a person or an animal. People make statues out of metal, or stone or wood. Some people might use a statue for an idol.

Stephen ~ the first Christian martyr. See Acts 7.

stepmother ~ sometimes a woman marries a man who has children. Then she becomes a stepmother to her husband's children.

stew ~ you make a stew when you cook meat and vegetables together in liquid. You cook a stew slowly in a pan.

steward ~ in the Bible a steward was a person who looked after another person's house or land.

stone ~ if people stone someone, they throw stones at him or her. Usually they want to kill that person.

strangle ~ a way to kill an animal when someone squeezes its neck. Jews do not eat meat if the animal died by this method. See Acts 15:20.

stringed instrument ~ a musical instrument that has wires or strings. People use their fingers to make music on the wires or strings. Stringed instruments include the harp and the lyre.

stronghold ~ a place that people have made strong, to protect it from an enemy. A castle is a stronghold.

stubble ~ the short parts of plants that remain in the ground when someone has cut down crops.

sulphur ~ a yellow material. It has a very bad smell when it burns.

swallow ~ a swallow is a small bird that makes its nest in houses or buildings. It has a blue back and a white stomach.

sweat ~ 1. when you sweat, liquid comes through your skin. It lowers the heat of your body.

2. the liquid that comes through your skin when you are very hot or afraid. The liquid has salt in it.

sword ~ a long, sharp knife that has a short handle. Soldiers used swords to fight their enemies.

synagogue ~ a building where Jews meet and pray to God. And they read the Scriptures in the synagogue.

T

tabernacle ~ the special tent that the Jews moved from one place to another place. They used it as a temple when they were in the desert.

talent ~ a coin. It was worth a large amount of money.

tambourine ~ a musical instrument that you hit or shake.

Tammuz ~ the name of a Jewish month. It is the same as June – July.

tanner ~ a man who works with animal skins. He makes leather from the skins.

tar ~ a black and sticky material that comes from coal or wood.

tassel ~ people make tassels from thin lengths of wool or cotton. They tie the pieces together. And they sew the tassels on to cloth, or on the edge of clothing.

tax ~ money that people must pay to the government.

tax-collector ~ the man who collected the taxes from the people, for the government. In the Gospels, tax-collectors took money from the Jews. Then the tax-collectors paid this money to the Romans. Many tax-collectors were not honest. They took more money than the law allowed them to take. So the people hated these tax-collectors.

Tebeth ~ the name of a Jewish month. It is the same as December – January.

Tekoa ~ a town. It is near Jerusalem city, on the south side. It was the place where Amos had his sheep.

temple ~ a special building where people go to pray to their god.

Temple ~ the special building in Jerusalem where the Jews worshipped God and offered their sacrifices to God. The Temple in Jerusalem replaced the tabernacle. King Solomon built the first Temple. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed it. The Jews rebuilt it. (Ezra 6). King Herod built the third Temple that existed at the time of Jesus. The Romans destroyed the third Temple in

the year 70 AD.

tempt ~ sometimes people or things tempt you. They try to make you do bad things.

temptation ~ something that you want to do. Or something that you want to have. But you know that it might be wrong.

tempter ~ someone who tempts people to do wrong things. Another name for Satan.

tent ~ a home or a building which people have made from animals' skins. You can move it to different places.

tent-house ~ a tent which was a special house for God. See tabernacle.

terrorist ~ a person who uses terror to oppose the people who have authority. See zealots.

test ~ 1. to try to see if something works.

2. to find out what someone can do. To give an exam to somebody.

3. a test is like an exam. It is to show how good, or how clever someone is.

tetrarch ~ an important ruler.

thanksgiving ~ an act when people thank God.

thirst ~ 1. if you have a thirst, you feel a need to drink something.

2. if you thirst for something, you want it very much.

thirsty ~ 1. when someone wants a drink.

2. when someone has a great desire for God (Psalm 42:1).

thistle ~ a weed. Its leaves have sharp points.

thorn ~ one of many sharp, hard points that grow on some plants and trees.

thornbush ~ a small bush that has no fruit, but has many thorns.

thorny ~ a thorny plant has many thorns.

thresh ~ to beat the barley and wheat so that the grains fall out. To separate grain from straw.

threshing-floor ~ a place where people thresh barley and wheat. It has no roof.

throne ~ a special, big seat on which a king or a ruler sits.

thumb ~ your thumb is the short, thick finger on the side of your hand.

thummim ~ urim and thummim were two objects that the most important priest kept in the pocket of his ephod. The priest used those objects to discover God's decision about a situation.

thunder ~ the loud noise that you may hear during a storm.

Timothy ~ a friend of the apostle Paul. Timothy was a leader in the church. In the New Testament there are 2 letters to Timothy, from Paul.

Tishri ~ the name of a Jewish month. It is the same as September – October.

tithe ~ the tenth part of something. The Jewish law said that the people must give the tenth part of the harvest to God. This included oil, grain and wine. This tenth part was a tithe.

tomb ~ a grave. A place for a dead body.

tongue ~ the soft part in your mouth that you can move. You use it to taste food. And you use it to speak.

tongues ~ languages. Especially languages that the speaker has never learned. See Acts 2:1-11.

Torah ~ the holy books of the Jews. They are: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Sometimes these books are called the books of Moses.

torch ~ a stick that has fire at the end to give light.

tower ~ a tall, narrow building. At the time of the Bible, cities had walls to defend them from enemies and criminals. At night, guards would lock the gates of the city and stay awake. There were tall, strong, towers along the wall, from which the guards could see whether anyone was near the city. Also, a tower could be a building in a vineyard (Isaiah 5:2). The farmer would use this building to watch for any animals that might eat the harvest. Then he could scare them away.

tradition ~ a custom or belief that has not changed for a long time.

transfiguration ~ a change in appearance. The Transfiguration was the change in Jesus' face and appearance. This happened when he was on a high mountain with three of his disciples.

traveller ~ someone who travels.

treason ~ the crime when people are not loyal to their country or government. Then they become an enemy.

treasure ~ something that is very valuable. Treasure in the Temple was the gifts of money that the Jews gave. It was for the workers and maintenance of the Temple.

trial ~ a legal examination by which a judge decides if a person is guilty.

tribe ~ a group of people who have the same ancestors, the same language and the same land. The 12 tribes of Israel are the families that came from the 12 sons of Jacob.

Trinity ~ God who is three persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. But there are not three Gods. There is only one God.

trumpet ~ a musical instrument. People blow through a trumpet to make loud music. Or, they blow the trumpet to call soldiers to fight. People used to make trumpets from animal horns. These trumpets were called shofars.

trust ~ 1. to believe that someone is good, and will be good to you.
2. to follow something because you are sure that it is true. (See faith).

truth ~ something that is true and right.

tumour ~ a lump that grows in a person's body.

turn your ear ~ if a Hebrew person said these words he would mean 'Listen!'

turn the fortunes ~ to change things. (See Psalm 85:1).

twin ~ twins are 2 people who have the same mother and were born on the same day.

Tyre ~ a city that is near the country of Israel, on the north-west side. It was an important port on the coast. The people who lived there were the Jews' enemies.

U

unbeliever ~ a person who does not believe in Jesus Christ and the true God.

uncircumcised ~ an uncircumcised man is someone who has not had circumcision. So the uncircumcised were people who were not Jews. Or, people who refused to trust God although they were Jews.

uncle ~ your uncle is your father's brother, or your mother's brother.

unclean ~ 1. dirty.

2. unholy.

3. when something was not right to use because God did not accept it. The Law of Moses told the Jews which things would make them unclean.

unfaithful ~ not faithful. Not loyal. If a woman is unfaithful to her husband then she has sex with another man.

ungodly ~ wicked. Without God.

unite ~ to join two or more things or people together so that they become one.

universe ~ everything that God has made. The stars, the whole of space and everything that lives. See Genesis 1.

unleavened ~ unleavened bread is bread that people make without yeast.

upset ~ if someone is **upset** they are unhappy because of some bad thing.

urim ~ urim and thummim were two objects that the most important priest kept in a pocket on his ephod. The priest used those objects to discover God's decision about a situation.

V

values ~ the values of a person, or a group of people, are the ideas and beliefs that are important to them.

vassal ~ a country or a person that serves another country or person.

veil ~ a piece of material that covers a person's face That person can see through the veil.

verse ~ one part of a chapter in the Bible. The books of the Bible have many chapters. Chapters have smaller parts that are called verses. The **verses** have numbers.

victory ~ success in a war or in a struggle.

vine ~ a plant that climbs. Its fruits are called grapes.

vinegar ~ sour wine. Roman soldiers often drank vinegar.

vineyard ~ a field where vines grow. A place in which to grow grapes.

virgin ~ a woman who has not had sex with a man. So usually a virgin would be a young woman who is not married.

vision ~ a dream. A picture that someone can see in his mind. It can be when that person is asleep or awake.

vomit ~ to empty out through the mouth what was in the stomach.

vow ~ a serious promise. When people make a vow, they said the name of a great person or of an important thing. This showed that they were serious. And they intended to do what they had promised.

vulture ~ a large bird that eats dead birds and dead animals. It has a bald head.

W

war-cart ~ this carried soldiers to war. Horses pulled the carts.

warn ~ to tell someone about the possible danger of something before it might happen.

waste ~ something that has no value. It is of no use, so people throw it away.

watch ~ 1. to look in a careful way.

2. the watch was part of the night. A watch was the length of time when the guards of the city (who were called watchmen) would work.

watchmen ~ guards of the city. They would lock the gates of the city at night. Then they would stay awake. They would watch for enemies. And they would protect the city from criminals.

wave ~ a wave is a large amount of water that moves up and down on the sea or on a lake. When the wind blows in a storm the waves can be big and wild.

wax ~ a yellow substance that is like fat. Bees make wax. People use it to make candles, which they burn to give light. People used wax to mend things. Also, people used wax as a seal for letters.

way ~ 1. path to follow, or a teaching to obey.
2. method, manner.

weapon ~ something with which people fight. People use weapons in a battle to hurt or kill their enemies. Weapons include bows and arrows, swords, spears and even stones.

wear out ~ when clothes wear out they become thin. Then they have holes in them and people cannot use them. Then people will throw them away.

wedding ~ the occasion when two people marry each other.

well ~ a deep hole that someone has made in the ground to collect water.

wheat ~ a plant that people grow on farms. The seeds are called grain. People use the seeds to make flour. Then they use the flour to make bread.

whip ~ a thin piece of leather or rope with a handle. People use a whip to hit an animal or a person. Sometimes people use a whip to make horses move faster.

whirlwind ~ a very strong wind that moves in a circle.

wicked ~ very, very bad. Evil.

widow ~ a woman whose husband is dead.

wilderness ~ a wild place where people cannot grow plants. Not many people live there.

will ~ 1. if something is the will of a person or group, they want it to happen.

2. God's will is the desire or direction from God to a person to act in a certain way. It is God's plan for a human life which may be different from that person's own desires.

willing ~ if you agree to do something, you are willing to do it.

wine ~ a drink that people make from grapes. It has alcohol in it.

winepress ~ The place where people start to make wine from grapes. In the winepress they press down the grapes to get the juice.

wineskin ~ a wineskin was like a bottle. People made them from the skins of animals. People stored wine in wineskins.

winnow ~ When people have harvested their crops they thresh the wheat or barley. Then they winnow it to let the wind separate the chaff from the grain.

wisdom ~ the knowledge that wise people have. They have learned to do what is good. And they have learned to do what is right.

wise ~ a **wise** person has learned to know what is good and right.

wish ~ to wish for something is to hope for it. A wish is something for which a person hopes.

witness ~ 1. a witness is someone who sees what happens and can tell about it.

2. if you witness an event, you see it.

wolf ~ a wild animal that is like a large dog. It kills and eats other animals. And it kills and eats people.

wolves ~ plural of wolf. Dangerous wild animals that hunt together.

wonder ~ something or someone that surprises people. A miracle.

Word of God ~ 1. a message from God.

2. a name for the Bible. see Scripture (s).

3. a name for Jesus. See John 1:1 and Revelation 19:13.

world ~ in the Bible **the** world means all the people who do not know God.

worldly ~ belonging to this world. A worldly person is someone who loves money and the things of this life.

worm ~ a long thin animal that lives in the ground. It does not have any bones.

wormwood ~ a plant. It has a very bitter taste.

worship ~ to give thanks to God and Jesus. To show God that he is great and that we love him very much. To praise and serve God. Usually we worship God together with other people, with prayers and much happy singing. But some people worship false gods.

wound ~ a wound is a sore place on your body where someone or something has hurt you.

wrath ~ very severe anger.

Y

Yahweh ~ God's name in the Hebrew language. It is Jehovah in some languages. Many Bibles translate it LORD with 4 capital letters. It means something like 'I am' or 'always alive'. See also Elyon, YHWH, Elohim, Adonai, LORD.

yeast ~ people put yeast into flour and water when they make bread. The yeast makes the bread rise before they bake it.

YHWH ~ the Hebrew name for God. It is another way to write Yahweh.

Yoke ~ 1. a bar of wood that people put across the necks of animals. And the animals can pull things along. Sometimes a yoke joins two animals together, so that they can pull things together.

2. something which unites people in a common task.

Z

zealot ~ 1. a strong enemy of the Roman government. The zealots were a group of people who fought against the Roman rule in the land of Israel.

2. someone who has very strong beliefs about a religion or an idea.

Zion ~ another name for Jerusalem, the City of God. This could be either the Jerusalem on earth or the Jerusalem in heaven. It could be the name of a holy mountain in Jerusalem. Zion was the place where the Jews built the Temple of the Lord.

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ROMAN NUMERALS (numbers)

i = 1, ii = 2, iii = 3, iv = 4, v = 5,
vi = 6, vii = 7, viii = 8, ix = 9, x = 10.

Key Facts – Form 1

The key facts below cover some basic details which may be useful in an exam. The lessons on each topic give you more detailed information. To do well in exams, use the key facts for revision, but also read the lessons... and the Bible!

The Bible

- Is God's word (message) to people.
- It was written by many people over many years, and each person was inspired (led by the Holy Spirit) to write what God wanted to say to us.
- It teaches us how to live as friends with God, and how to be good to other people.
- The Bible is divided into 2 parts: Old Testament (39 books) and New Testament (27 books).

- In total, the Bible has 66 books (39 + 27).

Genesis

- Is the first book of the Bible (and the first book in the Old Testament). Written by Moses.
- “Genesis” means “in the beginning” or “beginnings” or “origin”.
- It starts with the story of creation (how God made everything, including people).

Creation

God created everything in 6 days.
Creation days:

- **Day 1:** God created **light** and **darkness**, Day, Night.
- **Day 2:** God created the **heavens**, the **sky**.

- **Day 3:** God created the **earth**, the **seas**, **plants**, **trees**, **vegetation**.
- **Day 4:** God created **sun**, **moon**, **stars** (**lights**)
- **Day 5:** God created **birds** and **fish**.
- **Day 6:** God created **animals** on the earth, **man** (people) - male and female.
- **Day 7:** God **rested**, **blessed** the seventh day and made it holy. Everything God made was good.

People are different from the rest of creation because we are **made in the image of God** (we are like God, but not exactly the same).

When Adam saw Eve for the first time, he said to God “**This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.**”

Garden of Eden

- Made by God, as a home for Adam and Eve (the first home for the first people).
- Watered by the rivers Pishon, Gihon, Tigris and Euphrates.
- God told man (Adam and Eve) to take care of the garden. In the same way, we should take care of the environment today.

Cain and Abel

- They were brothers, sons of Adam and Eve.
- Cain was the first born, and became a farmer. He offered God part of his harvest. The Lord rejected Cain and his small offering.
- Abel was younger, and became a shepherd. He offered God the best part of the first born lamb (baby sheep). The Lord was pleased with Abel and his offering.

- Cain was angry with God for rejecting Cain's offering and being pleased with Abel's offering, so Cain killed Abel.
- God punished Cain: he became a wanderer (no home) in the land of Nod, east of Eden. But God also protected Cain so he would not be killed.

Noah

- A good man, did what was right, obedient to God.
- At age 500 he had sons Shem, Ham and Japheth.
- Built the ark (big boat) as ordered by God. It took him 100 years to build it, until he was 600 years old.
- Unfortunately he got drunk and fell asleep naked one time, and his sons had to cover him.
- Died 950 years old.

The Flood

- Noah followed God's instructions. He got his family into the ark (8 people: Noah and his wife, their 3 sons, and the sons wives).
- He also put in the ark a pair (male and female) of every kind of animal and bird, and 7 pairs of the 'clean' animals (so some could be used for sacrifices).
- Then, after 7 days, it rained for 40 days and nights. The water rose very high – it even covered all mountains. All people, animals and birds died, except those in the ark.
- Then it stopped raining, but the water flooded the earth for another 150 days. As the water was going down, Noah sent out a dove (bird) and it brought back an olive leaf, so he knew that the water was below some trees. Finally the ark rested on a mountain in Ararat.

- God caused the flood (made it happen) because people were bad except for Noah and his family. So God killed everyone except Noah and his family, to start a new people who would be friends with God. He wanted to renew (make new) his creation after the fall.
- God put a rain-bow in the sky, as a sign to Noah that God would never again kill people by such a flood. This was a covenant with Noah.

The Tower of Babel

- Many years after the flood, people did not care about God. They wanted to live apart from God.
- They thought they were very clever, and wanted to make a name for themselves (to be famous).
- So they got together and started building a very tall (high) tower, to try and reach the heavens (sky).
- God was not happy with them, because they did not care about God, so he scattered them and confused (mixed up) their language.
- After that, they could no longer work together, so they did not finish the tower.
- The place was called “Babel” (confused, mixed up).

Abram, later God called him Abraham

- GOD CALLED (ordered) ABRAM TO DO SPECIAL THINGS, SO THAT GOD COULD MAKE A NEW PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF THROUGH ABRAM'S DESCENDANTS.
- Abram lived with his father Terah and his family in the town of Ur, in the land of the Chaldeans (Mesopotamia). Then they moved to Haran.
- Wife = Sarai, later called Sarah.

- Age 75 = God said leave your father's house, go to the **land** I will show you, I will give you many **descendants**, they will become a **great nation**, through you I will **bless all nations**.
- He left Haran with his wife, Lot his nephew (brother's son), their servants and cattle.
- His chief servant was Eliezer.
- They arrived in Canaan, and God said that he will give Abram this land.
- Later God said that Abram would have as many descendants as stars in the sky, and changed his name to Abraham (father of many nations), and Sarai's name to Sarah (mother of nations).
- Age 86 = son Ishmael born (by Hagar, as Sarah could not have children).
- Age 100 = son Isaac born (by Sarah at age 90 – a miracle).
- Abraham circumcised Isaac and all males in his house, as a sign of the covenant with God.
- Was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac to obey God, but God stopped him at the last minute. This shows how much Abraham loved and trusted God.
- Then God repeated his promises to Abraham, about blessings, descendants, and blessing all nations.
- Age 137 = Sarah died (age 127), later Abraham married Keturah and had more children.
- Age 175 = Abraham died, left everything to Isaac, buried with Sarah in Machpelah near Mamre.
- Abraham was known for his obedience to God.

Lot

- Abraham's nephew, went with Abraham to Canaan.

- Later he moved with his family to Sodom, a city.
- Sodom was full of bad people, so God destroyed it using fire, but he told Lot to leave with his family.
- As they were leaving, Lot's wife disobeyed God and looked back, so she turned into a pillar of salt.

Isaac

- Son of Abraham and Sarah.
- Abraham sent his servant Eliezer to Abraham's relatives in the city of Nahor to get a wife for Isaac. Eliezer returned with Rebekah. Isaac married her.
- They had 2 sons: Esau and Jacob, who were twins (born the same day).
- When Isaac's father Abraham died, God repeated to Isaac the same promises he gave Abraham (**land, descendants, blessings**).
- Isaac died at age 180 and was buried in the same place as Abraham and Sarah (at Machpelah near Mamre).

Esau

- First-born of Isaac and Rebekah, twin brother of Jacob. He was very hairy when he was born.
- Became a skilful (good) hunter, liked the outdoors.
- But he was foolish – he gave away his birthright (inheritance) to Jacob for some soup and bread. Later he changed his mind and tried to get a blessing from Isaac, but it was too late. Then Esau wanted to kill Jacob.

Jacob, later God called him Israel

- Second born of Isaac and Rebekah, twin brother of Esau. Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.
- Became a quiet man who stayed at home.

- He was cunning. He took advantage of Esau being hungry to get Esau to give away his birthright (inheritance) to Jacob for some soup and bread.
- He was also a liar. He tricked his blind father (Isaac) into giving Jacob the blessing and inheritance, by telling his father that he was Esau (and he put on Esau's clothes).
- After that, he ran away for 20 years to his uncle Laban in Haran, because he was afraid of Esau.
- He married Laban's daughters Leah and Rachel. He worked 7 years for each one, and 6 more years for sheep and goats. Then God told him to go home.
- So he took his wives, children and animals and went back to his father Isaac in Canaan.
- Jacob had 12 sons. Benjamin was the youngest, then Joseph, both sons of Rachel.

Joseph

Joseph was hated by his 10 older brothers because:

- His father liked him more than all the other sons.
- He told his father about bad things his brothers did.
- He had two dreams about how his brothers would bow down to him.

So his brothers sold him to traders, who took him to Egypt.

- Then he was sold as a slave to Potiphar, who put Joseph in charge of his house because God helped Joseph.
- Potiphar's wife lied (said that Joseph tried to rape her), so Potiphar put Joseph in prison. God still helped Joseph and he was put in charge of prisoners.

- Joseph interpreted dreams for prisoners, and later he was asked to interpret a dream for the Pharaoh (king of Egypt), who could see that God helped Joseph.
- So the Pharaoh made Joseph governor of Egypt (second most powerful person). The most powerful person was the Pharaoh. Joseph's job was to collect corn during 7 years of good harvests, so there would be food during the next 7 years of famine (no food), as told by God through the Pharaoh's dream.
- Pharaoh gave Joseph a wife, Asenath, and they had two sons – Ephraim and Manasseh.
- The famine was in many countries. Joseph's older brothers came from Canaan to buy corn in Egypt.
- They had to buy it from the governor. They did not recognise that it was Joseph, but he knew it was them. They bowed down to him, like in his dream.
- He made them go home and bring back Benjamin (youngest brother). Then he told them who he was, and made them go home and bring back his father Jacob and his family.
- Pharaoh allowed Joseph to give his father's family the best land in Egypt, at Goshen, and they were shepherds there. Jacob (the father) died 17 years later, age 147.

Abraham was the father of **Isaac** and other children.

Isaac was the father of **Jacob** and other children.

Jacob was the father of **Joseph** and other children.

Joseph was the father of Ephraim and Manasseh.

(Abraham-Isaac-Jacob-Joseph go alphabetically)

Key Facts – Form 2

The key facts below cover some basic details which may be useful in an exam. The lessons on each topic give you more detailed information. To do well in exams, use the key facts for revision, but also read the lessons... and the Bible!

1.1 The Hebrews in Egypt

The **blessings** experienced by the Hebrews (Israelites) in Egypt included:

- A good life at the start, when Joseph was governor of Egypt, with good land and many animals, which helped them to have many children.
- Their families continued to grow, even after the Egyptians made them slaves.
- God helped them during difficult times (e.g. through the midwives who served God rather than Pharaoh).

The **hardships** (problems) experienced by the Hebrews (Israelites) in Egypt included:

- The Egyptians made them slaves.
- The Egyptians made them work very hard.
- The Pharaoh (king) ordered that all the Hebrew baby boys be killed.

During the time of evil government (when Pharaoh was trying to kill all the Hebrew baby boys), the midwives who loved God obeyed God, and did not obey Pharaoh. They did what was right.

1.2 Moses

- Hebrew parents, but raised (brought up) by Pharaoh's daughter, who found him as a baby in a basket by the river. His name means "pulled out of the water".

- When he was 40 years old, he killed an Egyptian for killing a Hebrew, then he ran away to the land of Midian.
- He lived with Jethro (priest of Midian) and his daughters. He married one – Zipporah. He looked after Jethro's sheep.
- God spoke to Moses from a burning bush, and told him to see Pharaoh and lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. Moses could not speak well, so his brother Aaron helped.
- God gave Moses special miracles. His stick turned into a snake. When he put his hand in his coat, his hand got sick. When he did it again, his hand got better. When he took water from the River Nile and poured it on the ground, the water turned into blood. At that time Moses was 80 years and Aaron was 83.
- Aaron helped Moses speak to Pharaoh, but Pharaoh did not allow the Hebrews to leave Egypt, because Egypt needed slaves.
- So God sent plagues (disasters) on Egypt, which did not harm the Hebrews:
 - 1 = water in Egypt turned into **blood**
 - 2 = **frogs** covered all Egypt
 - 3 = **gnats** (like mosquitos) to bite Egyptians and animals
 - 4 = **flies** covered all Egypt
 - 5 = **disease** killed Egyptian animals
 - 6 = **boils** on Egyptians and animals
 - 7 = **hail** (balls of frozen rain) killed people, damaged crops
 - 8 = **locusts** (insects) ate all the crops and plants
 - 9 = **darkness** for 3 days
 - 10 = **death of first-born** sons and animals.

- God told the Hebrews to eat a special meal and to put blood on their door posts, so the Angel of Death would not kill their first-borns but would pass over their houses. This is known as the Passover.
- After the Passover, Pharaoh let the 600,000 Hebrews go. They had lived in Egypt 430 years. Moses led them into the desert, and died at 120 years without entering Canaan.

2.1 Israelites in the desert

The Israelites experienced some hardships (problems) in the desert, but God's providence (care and protection) helped them.

HARDSHIP	GOD'S HELP
They did not know the way through the desert.	God made a pillar of cloud move in front of them by day, and a pillar of fire by night.
They were chased by the Egyptian army.	The Red Sea opened up and they walked to the other side, but the Egyptians died.
They were thirsty, and the water was bad to drink.	God showed Moses how to make the water good to drink.
They were hungry, because their food was finished.	God provided bread (manna) every morning, and meat (quails – small birds) every evening, six days every week.
They were thirsty again, and there was no water.	God made water come from a rock, when Moses spoke to it.
They were attacked by the Amalekites.	God helped them to beat the Amalekites, when Moses held up his arms.

God provided good care and protection – he gave them everything they needed while the Israelites were in the desert for 40 years. But some of them wished they were back in Egypt, because they had better food.

2.2 The Covenant at Mount Sinai

The covenant at Mount Sinai was an agreement God made with the Israelites (speaking to them through Moses), where God gave them **commandments** (laws) to obey, and promised them good things in return. The main laws were the Ten Commandments, but there were also many other laws. All these laws were about:

- honouring God; and
- behaving well towards other people.

God promised that if his people would obey the commandments, they would be his chosen people and he would love them, protect them and bless them.

The **Ten Commandments** God gave are:

1. Worship no god but me.
2. Do not bow down to any idol (image) or worship it.
3. Do not use my name for evil purposes.
4. Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.
5. Honour your father and mother.
6. Do not kill (commit murder).
7. Do not commit (do) adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not bear false witness against your neighbour (accuse anyone falsely).
10. Do not covet (desire) another man's things.

The first four commandments are about honouring God, and the last six are about treating other people well. God wrote them on stone tablets (flat pieces of rock).

Moses was a good leader who:

- looked to God for instructions – what to do;
- was faithful to God – did as God said;
- kept the people informed – told them what God said;
- used other people to help get things done (e.g. his brother Aaron and other leaders).

We do not always see this in our leaders today. Some of them prefer to do what is good for them, rather than looking to God for instructions. Also, they don't always tell people about their plans, and don't always encourage people to work well together.

God also explained how **Aaron** (the brother of Moses) and his **sons** should be ordained (made) as **priests**, dedicated (set apart) to serve God, and what offerings they should make every day.

2.3 Apostasy and punishment

God's people (the Israelites) committed **apostasy** – they rejected God by making their own idol (fake god – the gold calf) and worshipping that. God **punished** them for their apostasy, by commanding Moses to get the Levites to kill the worst offenders (the ones who strongly rejected God), and by sending a disease on the other Israelites.

At Kadesh, Moses and Aaron **disobeyed** God by hitting the rock with a stick to get water, instead of showing God's power to the people by speaking to the rock. God **punished** Moses and Aaron by not allowing them to enter the promised land.

Later, the Israelites **rejected** God by speaking against him, and God **punished** them by sending snakes to bite them. When they were sorry for their sin, God provided a way for people to be healed. (Numbers 21:4-9)

There is much apostasy today. Many people reject God by going to witch doctors instead of praying to God, by relying on wealth (much money) instead of trusting in God, by using God's name without respect, and by not worshipping God each week.

2.4 Renewal of covenant

The Israelites broke the covenant with God (did not do their part of the agreement), when they made their own idol (false god – a gold calf) and worshipped it, when Moses was away a long time talking to God on Mount Sinai. Moses broke the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, because the people broke God's covenant. God punished the people who rejected him, by killing some of them and sending a disease on the others.

Then God renewed his covenant with the Israelites (through Moses), because he is merciful. He told Moses to make two new tablets of stone, on which God again wrote the Ten Commandments. Moses also wrote in a book the other commandments God gave.

Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days. When he came down, his face was shining like a light because he was close to God! The people were afraid of him, so he covered his face with a veil (cloth).

The renewed covenant was mostly the same as the first Sinai covenant.

3.1 New leader – Joshua

God prepared Joshua to be the new leader after Moses.

1. God provided Joshua as a helper for Moses for years, so that Joshua would learn from Moses how to be a leader.
2. God gave Joshua some battle (war) experience before he became leader of the Israelites (Ex 17:9-14), so he could lead them to fight to enter Canaan.

3. God (through Moses) sent Joshua as a spy to Canaan, so he knew the land.
4. God told Moses to appoint Joshua in front of all the Israelites, so they would accept him as their new leader.
5. God made Eleazar (the priest) an adviser to Joshua, to help him know God's will.

Joshua had good leadership qualities.

He was helpful to Moses, faithful to God, and a good leader in battle (against Amalekites).

But **the leadership of Joshua would be different** to that of Moses:

1. Moses was a prophet and talked with God face-to-face. Joshua was not a prophet, he would be guided by Eleazar the priest.
2. Moses used miracles given by God to make Pharaoh and the Israelites do the will of God. Joshua would use the strength of his army and the protection of God to defeat the people of Canaan.
3. Moses was leader mostly during the time the Israelites travelled in the desert. Joshua would be leader while they were settled in a fertile land (where there is water and crops grow well), but they would have to defend that land.

Today, **political leaders are elected** (appointed) by the people – prophets do not tell people who should be leader. And the **leaders of armies are soldiers who are promoted** (given more responsible jobs) because they are good at their job, not because a prophet appointed them.

Today, leaders work according to plans made by their political party, company, or military strategies – or plans they make themselves. **Very few leaders work according to guidance from God!**

3.2 Conquest of Canaan

The Israelites conquered (took) Canaan, the promised land, by following God's instructions and **with God's help**.

- First, Moses conquered some kings on the east side (the desert side) of the River Jordan.
- Then Joshua led Israel across the Jordan (while God stopped the river from flowing), and they attacked the city of Jericho. God made the city walls fall down when Israel marched around Jericho and shouted loud.
- After that, God kept encouraging Joshua and he conquered many other kings in the promised land. Israel killed all the people they conquered at that time, as God commanded Moses a long time before, so that Israel would not worship the gods other people worshipped.

Joshua was a great leader because:

- He would ask God what to do, and he followed God's instructions and laws.
- He trusted God, even when he was afraid facing great challenges (big armies).
- He shared God's instructions with his soldiers, and encouraged them to fight for God and to get the promised land.
- He developed clever strategies (plans) to defeat his enemies (the other armies).
- He went into battle with his soldiers – he worked as hard as they did.

Many of our leaders today would do well if they followed the example of Joshua.

3.3 Division of land

Israel already conquered most of Canaan, by following God's instructions. Now it was time to take some remaining parts of the promised land, and to divide the land (give parts) to all the 12 tribes of Israel, for them to live there.

Moses already gave land on the **east** (right) side of the River Jordan to the tribes of **Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh**.

Joshua, Eleazar the priest, and the leaders of Israel divided the land **west** (left) of the Jordan according to God's instructions by casting lots. Land was given to the tribes of **Judah, Ephraim, half of Manasseh, Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and Dan**. The people gave Joshua a city of his choice, Timnath Serah.

The **tribe of Levi** was all priests. They got food from sacrifices. They were given 48 cities, together with fields around the cities.

Anyone who killed someone accidentally could go to any of the **cities of refuge** and be protected until they got a fair trial.

The **land was divided by** asking God which tribe should get which part. Joshua prayed, then cast lots to find out God's decision.

Every Tanzanian can buy land. Many people inherit (get) land from their parents when they die. It is important to have a fair distribution of land, so that everyone has a place to live and can grow food.

3.4 Joshua's farewell admonition

Joshua was old when the promised land was divided. Before he died he gave the Israelites some strong advice: an admonition (warning).

- “Don't be afraid to drive out remaining people who lived here before us.
- Obey all of God's laws, and do not believe in false gods like the other nations.
- Don't marry people from other nations
- God has given you everything he promised, but he will punish you if you break his law.”

God also renewed the **covenant at Shechem**. Joshua wrote it in the book of the “Law of God.” Joshua said “as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord”. All the people agreed. After that, Joshua died aged 110 years.

4.1 Israel under the judges

After Joshua died, Israel needed a new leader. **Over the 400 years that followed, Israel had many leaders, and they called them “judges”**. Israel often was not faithful to God and got into trouble without God's help. Sometimes Israel worshipped the gods of the Canaanites, and some Israelites married Canaanites.

When Israel was breaking God's covenant God would stop protecting them, and their enemies would defeat Israel. Then Israel would ask God to help, and God would rescue them. This happened many times for 400 years.

This way of behaving (rejecting God, then turning back to him, over and over again) is called the “apostasy cycle”. Apostasy means to reject God.

4.2 The promised land

While Joshua lived, Israel loved God. After that, people forgot how God cared for Israel. Many of them were sharing the land with Canaanites, and they started marrying some Canaanites and following their customs, like worshipping their gods (Baals). This made God angry. He stopped protecting Israel, and when they got attacked by other nations they were defeated. God was punishing Israel.

But God still loved Israel. When Israel asked God for help, he would pick one of their leaders and guide him or her to save Israel. Such leaders were called **judges**.

Christians today have apostasy cycles.

They believe in God, but they are tempted by many things. They sometimes fail to obey God, and do what bad people do. That causes trouble, and the Christian sees that they have done wrong, so they pray for God to forgive them. God then helps them to do right. After a time the Christian gives into temptation again, and the cycle repeats.

4.3 Individual judges

- **Deborah:** was a prophet and a judge. She told Barak how to fight the Canaanites. A woman called Jael killed a Canaanite leader called Sisera with a tent peg (metal rod) while he slept.
- **Gideon:** called by God's angel to rescue Israel from the Midianites. Destroyed Baal's altar, then people called him Jerubbaal (“let Baal contend against him”). God told him to reduce his army from 32,000 to 300 men but with God's help he defeated the Midianites. Refused to be made king.
- **Abimelech:** Gideon's son, made himself king. Not chosen by God. Killed his 70 brothers, helped by people from Shechem. Then God made these people hate Abimelech, so he killed most of them. A woman dropped a millstone on his head and he died.
- **Jephthah:** son of a prostitute, a brave soldier who led Israel to defeat the Ammonites. Killed his daughter to keep a foolish promise to God.
- **Samson:** a nazirite (set apart for God from birth). God gave him amazing strength, but he was foolish and loved women too much. Killed Philistines with a jaw bone of a donkey, and by pushing down pillars of a building.

The Nicene Creed

This is a well known text which gives a good **summary of what Christians believe**, based on the Bible. It was written in the year 325 at a meeting of many Christian bishops, in a city called Nicea (now Iznik in Turkey). A “creed” is a statement of belief. So the “Nicene Creed” is a statement of Christian belief, as agreed in Nicea.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten (born) of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, through him all things were made.

For us men (people) and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was incarnate (became human) of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended (went up) into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds (comes) from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic (for all Christians) and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Key Facts – Form 3

The key facts below cover some basic details which may be useful in an exam. The lessons on each topic give you more detailed information. To do well in exams, use the key facts for revision, but also read the lessons... and the Bible!

1.1 The Temple

The Israelites (Jews) believed that the Temple in Jerusalem was a special place where God was present among them. **Without the Temple and God's presence there, the Jews would feel like their whole nation was abandoned (left, forgotten) by God.** So the Temple was very important to the Jews. **It was their main place for worshipping God.**

Today, Christians worship in churches.

- **The Jews had one temple**, which they saw as a special 'home' on Earth for God. **Christians use many churches**, which they see as places for worshipping God, but God is everywhere.
- **The Temple was the finest building in Israel**, because the Jews wanted God's 'home' to be better than even the king's palace. Some Christian churches are like that, but **many churches are small and simple**, according to the resources of the local people (e.g. in African villages).
- **The Temple had the holy of holies**, a special room where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. That room could only be entered by the chief priest, and only once a year. **Churches do not have such a room.**

1.2 The Synagogue

Most Jews could not get to the Temple very often – only for special occasions. So the **synagogues were important because the Jews needed local places of worship.** Most Jews went to their synagogue every week on a Sabbath (Saturday). The Temple was more important as the national place of worship.

Synagogues are similar to churches.

- Both are local **places of worship** each week.
- Both are of **various sizes**, depending on the resources of the local community.
- Both are used for **studying scriptures**.
- Both are sometimes used **like schools** (e.g. Sunday schools in Christian churches).
- Both are **smaller than the national places of worship** (the Temple for Jews, and cathedrals for Christians).
- However, the **Jews did not believe that God was present in synagogues** the way he was present in the Temple. **Christians believe that God is present everywhere**, and can be worshipped the same way in a village church as in the finest cathedral.

1.3 The Scribes

The main work of the Scribes was to **carefully copy Jewish scriptures** (holy books) – the Old Testament. The **Scribes were also known as Teachers of the Law.** And because they knew the Law very well, they **often worked as judges** (when people went to court).

The Scribes certainly **believed the Torah** (God's Law), which they taught to other Jews. But they **also made up hundreds of other laws** based on the Torah. **The Pharisees trusted the Scribes (Teachers of the Law) to correctly interpret (understand) God's laws.** So Scribes had a friendly relationship with Pharisees.

1.4 The Pharisees

The Pharisees believed **the same laws as the Scribes** (as written in the Torah, and many other laws Scribes added). They also **believed in the resurrection** (that there is life after death), and in **angels and demons**.

So **the church would agree with the Pharisees that God's Law is written in the Torah** – the first five books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). But **the church would not agree with the many additional laws** which the Pharisees used. **Today's church would also agree about angels and demons** (evil spirits), **and the resurrection.**

The church knows how Jesus interpreted (made clear) the Law, and how it was made even clearer through all the New Testament books, written by people guided by the Holy Spirit. Above all, the church believes in salvation by grace through faith in Jesus, not by obeying the Law.

1.5 The Sadducees

The Sadducees were different from the Scribes and Pharisees, because:

- They **only believed in the Torah**, not all the other rules made up by the Scribes.
- They **did not believe in the resurrection** (life after death), **or in heaven**.
- They **did not believe in angels and demons**.

The church today would agree with the Sadducees that the Torah is true and that the rules made up by the Scribes are not right.

But the church believes in the resurrection, heaven, angels and spirits, which the Sadducees did not believe in. Also, the church sees God's Law as interpreted in the New Testament by Jesus and others. **In general, the church would not agree with the Sadducees.**

1.6 The Samaritans

At the time the Samaritans separated from the other Jews, they only had the books of Moses so **they believed the Torah. But they also added beliefs from the people they married** from other nations. For example, **they had idols to false gods.**

Jews did not like Samaritans because:

- Samaritans lost the true Jewish faith, by marrying people from other nations.
- Jews did not agree with Samaritans building their own temple in Samaria. Jews said that God's only true temple was in Jerusalem.

Samaritans did not like Jews because Jews did not allow Samaritans to worship at the Temple in Jerusalem.

2.1 The Birth of Jesus

Next, Matthew tells us **how Jesus was born.**

- A young woman called Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph.
- Then a miracle happened, an amazing thing that God did. Mary became pregnant (was going to have a baby) by the power of the Holy Spirit before she and Joseph had sex.
- An angel explained this to Joseph, and told him to call the baby "Jesus".
- Joseph was a good man. He believed God, so he quickly married Mary because she was already pregnant.
- But they did not have sex until after Jesus was born. So **Mary was the human mother of Jesus, but Joseph was not the natural father of Jesus – he was the legal father of Jesus, because Joseph was Mary's husband.**

There were:

- 14 generations from Abraham to King David, then
- 14 generations from King David to the exile in Babylon (when the Babylonian army defeated the Israelites and took them away to live in Babylon), and
- 14 generations from then until **Jesus, who is a descendant of King David through his legal father Joseph.**

Matthew tells us about the ancestors of Jesus, to show that Jesus was related to (from the family of) King David. This is important because the Old Testament predicted (tells us) that the Messiah would come from the family of King David.

Jesus was born in a small town called Bethlehem near Jerusalem. This was important because **the Jews were expecting the Messiah to come from Bethlehem.**

Wise men (also called magi) came from another country in the East to worship the child Jesus, because they were waiting for a great king to be born. They followed a star which showed them the way. They **brought expensive gifts for Jesus:** gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Herod asked the wise men to let him know when they find Jesus. After the wise men found Jesus and worshipped him, **God warned them to return home a different**

way and not to tell King Herod where Jesus was. **Herod got his soldiers to kill all little boys (up to two years old) in Judea, to try to kill Jesus.**

But God warned (told) Joseph to take his family to Egypt, where they would be safe. After King Herod died, God told Joseph to take his family back to Israel. They settled in a region called **Galilee**, in a town called **Nazareth**, where Joseph and Mary lived originally.

2.2 John the Baptist

He told people to be baptised, as a sign of their repentance – to show that they were sorry for sinning (not obeying God). **He told them to change their lives to please God.**

John also said that he was preparing the way for the Messiah (Jesus), who was coming soon. John was baptising with water (at the River Jordan), but **the Messiah would baptise people with the Holy Spirit and with fire. John also baptised Jesus.**

John was used by God to show that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus' baptism was the start of his ministry.

2.3 The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

Baptism is about giving your life to God, through Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through baptism, we also become part of God's family – one of his children – **and we are promised the 'inheritance' obtained for us by Jesus.**

After his baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness to spend 40 days praying and fasting. During this time, the devil (Satan) came and tempted (tested) Jesus: to turn stones into bread, to jump off the Temple so the angels could catch him, and showed him the kingdoms of the world and said he would give all these to Jesus if Jesus worshipped the devil.

Temptations can lead us to doing bad things like stealing money, having sex when it is not right, telling lies to get what we want (job, friends etc), eating too much (instead of sharing with those who have no food), and going to witch doctors.

Jesus gave us a good example which we should follow to avoid temptation:

- **Pray** – to know God's will in every situation and to ask the Holy Spirit to give us strength to resist (say no to) temptations.
- **Know the scriptures** – and use them to answer people who tempt us. The answers Jesus gave to the devil were from scripture.
- **Tell the devil to go away.**

3.1 The Inauguration of Jesus' Ministry

Jesus went to the region of Galilee, and lived in the town of Capernaum by Lake Galilee. There **Jesus started preaching “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (near)”**.

This was like the message John the Baptist was telling people, but John also told people about the Messiah who was coming.

Then Jesus started calling (gathering) his apostles. First, he called Simon (also known as Peter) and his brother Andrew. Then he called James and John (sons of Zebedee).

Jesus went to many towns teaching in synagogues about God's kingdom, and healing sick people.

3.2 Sermon on the Mount

The “Sermon on the Mount” covers teachings about how to live for God here on earth, and how God will bless us in this life and in heaven. **Jesus said blessed are:**

- The poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Those who mourn, for they shall be comforted (by God).
- The meek, for they shall inherit the Earth.
- Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- The merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
- The pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- The peacemakers, for they shall be called sons (children) of God.
- Those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- You, when others revile (abuse, insult) you and persecute (hurt) you and utter (say) all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account (because you follow Jesus). Rejoice and be glad because your reward is great in heaven, because that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Jesus is saying that people who follow him, put their trust in God, and obey God even during difficult times, can feel very happy knowing that God cares for them in this life, and will bless them forever in heaven.

Jesus also said other things in the sermon on the mount. That his followers are like **salt and light**. They can improve their communities.

That we should not be like Pharisees, who followed many rules but did not really love God. **Loving God and loving others is the true meaning of God's Law.**

That murder is a sin, but even to be angry with someone is wrong.

If we are tempted by something like adultery, we must remove whatever is causing us to sin (for example we can avoid being with the person we have bad thoughts about).

Divorce should only happen because of unchastity (unfaithfulness).

When **making promises we should simply say "Yes" or "No"** – and mean it!

We must not take revenge. Christians must love other people and forgive them, not hurt them.

We should love even our enemies and pray that they will learn to love God.

When we help the poor, we should not let others know how 'good' we are doing it.

We should pray in private (not try to look 'holy' in front of others), and not keep repeating words.

Jesus gave an example of how to pray. We call this "the Lord's Prayer".

We should forgive others, like we ask God to forgive us.

When we are fasting, we should try to do everything as usual. not make everyone see that we are making a sacrifice for God.

We must look at what is valuable in God's eyes, and not be greedy to be rich on earth.

It is much better to collect our 'riches' for heaven.

There is no need to be anxious (worried) about money or other things. God loves us and will take care of our needs.

We must be very careful how we judge others – what we think of them and what we say or do about them.

God really wants to give us things that are good for us, and we should pray for them.

"Do for others what you want them to do for you" - this 'Golden Rule' is what many of God's laws and many teachings of the prophets are all about.

Fewer people choose "the narrow gate" - to follow Jesus and to suffer for it, but they have God's love now and forever.

Prophets are like trees, and you can tell if they are a good tree or a bad tree by looking at their 'fruit' – the things they do. In the same way, **someone may call Jesus "Lord", but may not actually be a true follower of Jesus** because they do not live their life obeying God and loving others.

Many people hear the teachings of Jesus, but not everyone follows them. A person who lives life according to the teachings of Jesus is like a wise builder.

3.3 Miracles of Jesus Christ

Jesus healed many sick people. Sometimes demons make people sick. These are the healing miracles in Matthew's Gospel.

- Man with leprosy, a very bad skin disease.
- Roman centurion's (army officer's) servant, who was not a Jew.
- Peter's mother-in-law (wife's mother).
- Two men with demons (evil spirits) at Gadara.
- Paralysed man (could not walk).
- Jairus's daughter was BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE.
- Woman with bleeding.
- Two blind men.
- Mute man (could not talk) with a demon.
- Man with shrivelled hand (could not use his hand).
- Man who was blind (could not see) and

mute, with a demon.

- Canaanite woman's daughter.
- Boy with a demon.
- Two more blind men.

Other miracles of Jesus in Matthew are:

- Calming the storm (stopping the wind and waves on Lake Galilee).
- Walking on water.
- Feeding of 5,000 people.
- Feeding of 4,000 people.
- Coin in fish.
- Fig tree withered (dead).
- THE RESURRECTION of Jesus.

The purpose of Jesus' miracles was to help people, and to show that God was with him and that his teachings were true.

3.4 The Mission of the Twelve

The Twelve Apostles were Simon (also known as **Peter**) and his brother **Andrew**, **James** and **John** (sons of Zebedee). They were all fishermen. **Matthew** (also known as Levi), a tax collector. **Philip**, **Bartholomew**, **Thomas**, another **James** (son of Alphaeus), **Thaddaeus**, **Simon**, and **Judas Iscariot** who later betrayed Jesus.

Jesus sent the Twelve Apostles to go and teach others in Galilee. He told them:

- At this stage (the start of their mission), they should **only teach Jews**.
- They had to give the **same message as Jesus** and John the Baptist – the Kingdom of Heaven is near!
- **They were to heal** sick people, raise dead people, and send away demons from people.
- **They must not ask for money.**
- **They must only take the clothes they wear** (no money or other things).
- **They must pass on God's peace to people they stay with.**
- **If some people do not welcome them, the apostles must shake the dust of that place off their feet** to show that those people have rejected God, and then go to another village.
- **Jesus warned that people will try to stop them.** Some will be taken to court,

punished, and even some family members will hate them. So they needed to be careful (shrewd as snakes) and to do the right thing (innocent as doves).

- **If things get too dangerous in one town, they should run away to the next town.**
- **But along the way there will be some suffering** (hurt), just as Jesus would suffer.
- **They must not be afraid of being hurt** – they should worry about God's judgement! If they tell about Jesus even when it is uncomfortable or dangerous, he will praise them to Father God who will bless them.

3.5 Parables of the Kingdom

Jesus gave some teachings using parables (stories). **The purpose of these parables was to help explain about the Kingdom of God.**

Sower and soils:

- The sower = the teacher of God's word.
- The seed = God's word (message, Bible).
- The **path** = a person who hears God's word but is hard and does not want to understand. Satan (birds) makes them forget about God.
- **Rocky ground** (little soil) = a person who accepts God gladly but does little to grow in faith. When troubles come (hot sun), their faith is shallow (not deep) and they fail to depend on God (they give up loving God).
- **Thorns** (big weeds) = a person who knows God, but is so busy with life and making money that they have little time for God.
- The **good soil** = a person who accepts God, learns about God's word, grows in faith, loves God even in difficult times, and shares God's message with others. They help 30, 60 or 100 people to know and love God.

Weeds in the wheat:

- The **good seed** (wheat) = God's people.
- The **weeds** = Satan's people.
- The **field** = the world, God's people and Satan's people living together. Sometimes it can be difficult to tell the difference.
- The **owner** of the field = Jesus.
- His **enemy** = Satan (God's enemy).
- Owner's **servants/workers** = God's angels.
- **Harvest** time = day of judgement.

On the day of judgement, God will know who has really loved him and he will put his people in heaven and others in hell.

The mustard seed: can grow into a large bush. **Christianity started very small**, with one person – Jesus. Then came the Twelve Apostles, **and the church has grown to be large**. Many nations (birds) are part of it. **The Kingdom of God will grow to be larger than any other kingdom.**

The yeast: bread is made by mixing flour (seeds of wheat made into a powder), water and yeast. This makes a lump called “dough”. The yeast is something which makes the dough rise (get bigger) before the bread is cooked. Just a very small amount of yeast is enough to spread through the dough and make it rise. **The Kingdom of God is like yeast, because it spreads through a person's life and communities and nations to make them rise to a better life with God.**

Hidden treasure: is something valuable (expensive). A man sold everything he had to get money to buy a field which had a treasure buried in it, because it was worth more than everything he had. Then he was very happy.

A pearl: is also expensive, especially a good one. (Pearls are like beautiful white round stones, used in jewellery.) A man sold all he had to get money to buy a very beautiful pearl because it was worth more than everything he had. Then he was very happy.

The parable of the treasure, and the parable of the pearl, both show that it is worth giving up everything in our lives to be happy in the Kingdom of God.

The (fishing) net: is like the world, and people are like fish. **On judgement day (when the net is pulled in), God will put his people (the good fish) in heaven and others (the bad fish) in hell.**

The owner of a house: a person may have in their house wonderful old things, and beautiful new things, and may enjoy them all. **That is like someone who believes the Old Testament and believes in Jesus, and they follow them both.**

The lost sheep: God is like a man who has many sheep (God's people). **If one of his sheep gets lost (goes far from living the right way), God will look for a way to bring that person back – to help them to repent and to join God's family again.**

The unforgiving servant: teaches that we should forgive other people, because God forgives us much more.

Other parables in Matthew are:

- Lamp under a bowl (5:14-15).
- Wise and foolish builders (7:24-27).
- New cloth on an old coat (9:16).
- New wine in old wine skins (9:17).
- Workers in the vineyard (20:1-16).
- Two sons (21:28-32), see page 28.
- Tenants (21:33-44), see page 28.
- Wedding feast (22:2-14), see page 29.
- Fig tree (24:32-35).
- Faithful and wise servant (24:45-51).
- Ten virgins (25:1-13).
- Talents (minas) (25:14-30).
- Sheep and goats (25:31-46).

3.6 Teaching on Sincere Discipleship

A disciple is someone who learns from Jesus and does what Jesus taught. The “apostles” were the 12 men Jesus called to join him in his ministry. The “disciples” of Jesus are all the people who believe in Jesus.

GOOD DISCIPLES	BAD DISCIPLES
Trust God like a child – completely, sincerely	Feel too “grown up” to fully believe in God
Humble before God, and see other people as important	Proud, think they are important and can control their lives
Welcome God's people like they welcome Jesus	Are too busy with their own life to care about others
Do what they can to keep away from temptation	Get easily involved in things that make them lose their faith
Help disciples who turn away from God to turn back	Make people lose their faith in Jesus
Fix problems with others according to the Bible	Do not forgive others, but take revenge

4.1 Teaching on Divorce, & Jesus' Blessing of Children

Divorce is when a marriage is ended, often because the husband or wife does something bad for the relationship. **Jesus said** that:

- God's will originally was that a man and a woman should stay together for life.
- But because human nature is sinful, God allowed divorce.
- Divorce is only acceptable when a wife or husband has been unfaithful. The RSV uses the word "unchastity".

Jesus also told his disciples that not everyone needs to get married.

Marriage comes with many blessings and many challenges. The challenges can make it difficult for a husband and wife to remain happily married, but it is much easier if they really love each other and try to help each other.

In any family, **children are a blessing from God. Jesus welcomed children, and said that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to people like them.** Children love and obey their parents and trust their parents to look after them. In the same way, **Christians should love and obey God the Father and trust him to look after them.**

4.2 Jesus' Teaching on Riches, Renunciation & Remuneration

When a **rich young man** asked Jesus what good things he must do to receive eternal life in heaven, Jesus told him:

- Firstly, only God is really good, meaning that **people cannot earn their place in heaven by doing good things on earth.**
- **Obey God's commandments** to show your love for God.
- If you really want to be perfect (in heaven), **sell everything, give the money to the poor, and follow Jesus.**

Then Jesus told his disciples:

- It is very hard for rich people to receive God's Kingdom, because **if you are rich you often feel like you have everything you need and do not need God.**
- But **God can make it possible** for anyone

to receive the Kingdom of Heaven, if they are willing to follow Jesus.

- **Disciples may need to renounce (give up) family, friends and possessions (things) to follow Jesus, but they will be blessed with God's family (the church) and God will provide what they need. Best of all, they will receive eternal life in heaven.**
- **Many people who are rich or important in this life will be very low in the next life. But many who are seen as unimportant because they put God ahead of riches will be greatly remunerated (rewarded, blessed) by God in heaven. God cares more about how good your heart is, than how nice your house is!**

5.1 Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem & Cleansing of Temple

The time was coming for Jesus to die in the city of Jerusalem. As he got close to the city, **he told his disciples where to get a colt** – a young donkey (like a small horse) for Jesus to ride into the city. ("Donkey" is "ass" in RSV.) **The donkey was a sign of humility** (powerful men liked to ride horses).

The Old Testament predicted (told) that the Messiah would ride into Jerusalem on a colt. So when the Jews saw Jesus (this prophet who performed miracles) riding into the city on a colt, **they praised Jesus as King David's 'son' – the Messiah.** They put their coats ("garments" in RSV) and palm (tree) branches on the road in front of him, to show respect.

When he entered Jerusalem, Jesus went to the Temple. He was angry that traders (sellers) were running a **market in the Temple yard.** **Jesus turned over the market tables and said that the traders made God's house into a place for robbers (thieves).** We call this the "**Cleansing of the Temple**".

5.2 Jesus' Teaching versus Pharisees and Scribes

Some priests did not agree that Jesus had the authority (permission) to cleanse the Temple. Then **Jesus told some parables against the chief priests and the Pharisees** because of their hypocrisy (they told others to obey God's laws but did not do it themselves).

The two sons: Jesus was saying that people who did bad things but then listened to John the Baptist and repented, were on their way to heaven. But the religious leaders were too proud to believe John the Baptist. **This passage teaches us that when we realise that we have disobeyed God, we need to change the way we live to please God.**

The tenants (people who pay to use a property): Jesus was saying that the religious leaders looking after Israel were like bad tenants looking after God's vineyard (a farm for growing grapes). They should have been working to produce a good harvest for God – a harvest of God's people (Israel) obeying God and enjoying his blessings (kingdom). **Instead, many religious leaders were just looking after themselves, and even killed God's servants (the prophets) who came to deliver God's messages. Finally, they killed God's own son, Jesus.** (Jesus knew this in advance, but it had not yet happened.) Then God would offer his farm to other tenants – Jesus' followers from all nations would become God's people. **This passage teaches us that God will punish people who ignore his prophets, and will bless people who follow Jesus – from any tribe or nation.**

The wedding feast: Jesus said that the guests who rejected the wedding invitation (God's offer) and hurt the king's servants (God's prophets) would be punished. Then other people would be invited to the wedding (God would offer the Kingdom of Heaven to others who obey him). **This message is like the parable of the tenants.** This parable also says that someone who takes the king's invitation (God's offer), but does not show respect by wearing appropriate clothes (does not honour God by the way they live), will not be allowed into the wedding feast (the Kingdom of God). **The message is that it is not enough just to say that one is a Christian. A true Christian honours God by the way they live.**

The teachings of Jesus were different from those of the Pharisees and Scribes. **Jesus taught mainly about truly loving God and loving other people. The Pharisees taught that people should obey God's laws and many traditions made up by religious leaders,** but they did not truly love God and did not really care about other people. They were far more interested in protecting their power in the Jewish community.

5.3 Jesus' Teaching on the Resurrection, & the Great Commandment

The Sadducees (who did not believe in the resurrection) gave an **example of a woman who had been married seven times.** They asked Jesus who would be her husband in heaven. Jesus explained that there would be **no marriage in heaven, and that God is the God of the living, not the dead.**

Then the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus by asking “which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus told them to **love God with their whole life – all their heart, soul and mind.** He even gave them the second greatest commandment – **to love their neighbours as themselves.** Jesus also pointed out that **all God's laws and all the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commands.**

Having shown how hypocritical the religious leaders were (teaching God's Laws but not obeying them), **Jesus warned the people about the Pharisees and Scribes.** He said:

- **Learn from them about the scriptures** and obey God's Law, **but do not copy their behaviour** because they do not live according to their own teachings.
- **They are very proud and selfish** people, doing everything to become important, but they are not living for God.

Jesus said that his followers should be humble (not proud), and **consider each other to be equal** brothers and sisters. Their **leaders must try to serve** (help) their people, and not simply do things to make themselves more important. **God will see who is humbly serving others, and will honour them.**

Jesus told the Scribes and Pharisees that they were hypocrites doing bad things, for which they will be punished. They served themselves, not God and others. **He told them seven woes** (serious warnings).

1. **Woe for stopping people from entering God's Kingdom.** They did not believe Jesus, and they tried to stop others believing in him.
2. **Woe for leading people into hell.** They tried to get foreigners to become Jews, which is fine. But then they taught them the rules of the Pharisees, rather than the true meaning of the scriptures.

3. **Woe for encouraging people to tell lies.** They taught that it was ok to break certain promises, depending on how they were made.

4. **Woe for caring more about their own rules than God's Laws.** They obeyed easy rules, but did not obey God's important laws.

5. **Woe for living bad lives.** They thought that they could be 'clean' before God by using clean cups and plates! But they did not try to live 'clean' lives, which is what God really wanted. **Their attitude to God was wrong.**

6. **Woe for falsely pretending to be good.** They pretended (appeared) to do the right things when other people were watching, but in their hearts they were sinful.

7. **Woe for killing prophets.** They said that their ancestors should not have killed the prophets, but they were planning to kill Jesus!

5.4 Teaching on End of Ages, Coming of God's Kingdom & Judgement

Jesus' disciples asked him **what signs will show that it is the end of the age and he is about to return.** Jesus told them:

- **Some people will try to trick you** by saying that they are the Messiah.
- **There will be wars, famines** (hunger) and earthquakes, but **that is not the end.**
- **Christians will be persecuted** (hurt, killed, RSV uses "tribulation") and many will lose their faith because of evil, but those who keep following Jesus will be saved.
- **The good news about God's Kingdom will be taught to all the nations,** and then the end of the ages will come.
- One of the evil things will be **something bad that a foreign ruler puts in the Temple** – perhaps a statue of a false god. (RSV: "desolating sacrilege".)
- After the days of suffering and just before Jesus comes back, **the sky will go dark.** Then there will be a very bright light throughout the world, and **Jesus will appear in the sky with great glory.**
- **A trumpet will sound, and God's angels will collect all God's people** from everywhere in the world to be with him.

• Just as we can tell by looking at a tree that summer is coming (because small leaves start to grow), so **we will be able to tell that the end of the ages is near when all these things start happening.**

• **But only God the Father knows when the end of the age will actually come.**

Then Jesus explained how people will be judged. He said that when he returns it will be like a master (boss) who comes back from a safari on a day nobody knows, and finds his servant doing a great job and taking care of the other servants. **The master will be very happy and will be good to that faithful servant.** But if the servant was bad and did what he liked because his master was away, the master would punish that unfaithful (wicked) servant for not honouring his master. **So Christians must be like the faithful servant, by serving God and caring for other people every day, because we do not know when Jesus will return.**

Jesus also told a **parable about ten maidens** (young women) waiting for the bride-groom to arrive. It was night time and each of them had an oil lamp, but some of them did not bring enough oil. **Just as the wise maidens were prepared for the bridegroom, Christians must be prepared for when Jesus returns by living lives pleasing to God every day.**

He also told the **parable of the talents.** A talent was a lot of money worth 15 years pay for a worker. This parable is another example how people will be judged. A master (Jesus) going on a journey got his three servants (disciples) to look after his money. **He gave each one a different amount, according to their abilities.**

- One servant got **five talents**, which he used to make a profit of five more talents.
- One servant got **two talents**, which he used to make a profit of two more talents.
- One servant got **one talent**, but he did not try to make a profit for his master.

The master was happy with the first two servants and rewarded them, but he punished the last servant because that servant did not try to serve his master well when he had the opportunity.

This parable is about honouring God, by using everything God gives us in our lives for

the glory of God. **God will judge how we use what he gives us** according to our ability.

Another parable was about **sheep and goats**. Jesus said that when he returns with all the angels, **he will separate all people into two groups**, like a shepherd separates sheep and goats. **The sheep are like people who follow Jesus and love others. They will enter God's Kingdom.** The other people (goats) will be punished for ever.

That will be the start of a new age for God's people with no more evil, only God's Kingdom. Satan defeated and Jesus glorified.

6.1 The Last Supper, Passion and Death

It was the Jewish time of Passover (Festival of Unleavened Bread), celebrating how God rescued them from Egypt. **Jesus arranged to have a Passover meal with the Twelve Apostles.** It was the last meal that Jesus ate before being crucified and it was in the evening, so it is called **“The Last Supper”**. Jesus told them that one of them would betray him (tell the Jews where to find Jesus).

During the meal, **Jesus told them that the bread represented his body and the wine represented his blood, which would be sacrificed to forgive sins for many people** (those who follow Jesus). He was offering himself as a sacrifice to confirm (prove) **a new covenant** (agreement) from God, that whoever follows Jesus will be forgiven their sins and welcomed into God's Kingdom.

Christians have Holy Communion (also called the “Lord's Supper” or “Eucharist”) at church during which they have a small piece of bread (or a wafer) and a small drink of wine, **as a reminder of the Last Supper and that Jesus sacrificed himself for us.**

After the Last Supper when they were on the **Mount of Olives**, Jesus said that his disciples would run and hide that night, because they would be afraid when Jesus is taken to be killed. Peter answered that he was ready to die with Jesus, but **Jesus told Peter that he would deny Jesus (say that he does not know Jesus) three times that night.**

Then Jesus took them to **Gethsemane**, a place nearby. He knew that the next day he would be crucified (killed on a cross) so **he wanted to pray.** Jesus was suffering a lot

thinking about the agony (terrible pain) he would feel on the cross. **In addition to the great pain, he knew that he would be separated from the Father** because he would become 'sin', so as to put to death our sins. **He prayed to God the Father that Jesus would not have to suffer, if possible. But he also asked the Father to do what was necessary, not what Jesus wants.** While Jesus prayed, his disciples kept falling asleep. **They did not stay awake to support him.** They should have been praying for him and for themselves. **Prayer is very important in difficult times. It helps us to know God's will, and gives us strength to do it.**

When Jesus finished praying, **Judas arrived with many people sent by the religious leaders to arrest Jesus.** (Judas Iscariot was one of the Twelve Apostles but he decided to betray Jesus, for which he got 30 silver coins.) **Judas showed those people which one was Jesus**, by greeting Jesus with a kiss (a custom at that time). So those people grabbed Jesus, but **one disciple used a sword** (big knife) to cut off the ear of a man holding Jesus. Then **Jesus said:**

- Put away your sword.
- I could ask Father God to send many angels to help me.
- But these things (the suffering and death) must happen according to the scriptures.

Jesus allowed them to arrest him, and his disciples ran away, as he predicted.

They took Jesus to Caiphias, the High Priest (leader of the priests), where other religious leaders came who were members of **the Sanhedrin** council (Jewish government). They **questioned Jesus** and some people told lies about him, but they could not prove anything. Then **Caiphias asked Jesus if he was the Messiah, and Jesus answered that he was. They all got angry.** They accused Jesus of blasphemy (speaking against God), **and said that he must die.**

While Jesus was being questioned by the Sanhedrin, Peter was waiting outside the house. **Some people** asked if he was one of the disciples, **but Peter said that he did not know Jesus** (Peter denied Jesus). This happened three times as different people recognised him, and then a cock (rooster, male chicken) crowed (made its sound).

Peter remembered that Jesus predicted this. He was very sorry for denying Jesus. Everyone fails God many times, but we must repent, learn from our mistakes, and pray for God's help to serve him better.

When Judas found out that Jesus will die, he repented and took the money back. Then he hanged himself (killed himself with a rope around his neck). **When we do bad things we must not kill ourselves, but ask for God's forgiveness and help, like Peter.**

Early on Friday, **the religious leaders took Jesus to Pilate**, the Roman governor (ruler), for the second trial. The Sanhedrin, which did the first trial, decided that Jesus was guilty of blasphemy for which the punishment under Jewish law was death. But under Roman law, Jews did not have authority to put anyone to death – only the Romans could do that.

Pilate did not see any good reason to have Jesus killed, but he agreed to approve it because the Jews were so angry at Jesus.

The Roman soldiers took Jesus to prepare for the crucifixion, and treated him badly. They used their power to hurt him for their own enjoyment, which is very bad.

Then the soldiers forced Jesus to carry the cross outside the city of Jerusalem on the way to **Golgotha** (the “Place of the Skull”), where they often crucified people. The soldiers **forced Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross** most of the way, because **Jesus had been whipped** (RSV: “scourged”) and was very weak.

Then they crucified Jesus.

Two robbers (thieves) were also crucified next to Jesus. People mocked him, saying that he should save himself and they will believe.

Jesus was crucified on Friday morning about 9 am. **At midday (12 noon), the sky became very dark** for three hours. About 3 pm, Jesus called out loud **“My God, my God, why did you abandon me?”** (RSV uses “forsaken” which means abandoned, left behind.) Jesus was being sacrificed for all believers, to ‘pay’ for their sins so that they would be forgiven. In a way, **he took all our sins on himself.** But sin cannot be close to God (because God is holy and sin is evil), so **while Jesus was carrying other people's sins he felt badly separated from God the Father.**

Then Jesus called out again, and died.

Immediately, some miracles happened. The big curtain (material) in the Temple which kept out ordinary Jews from the Holy of Holies was torn open, showing that **Jesus opened the way for people to approach God directly**, not through Temple priests or sacrifices. There was an earthquake, rocks broke, graves opened and dead people came back to life. **The soldiers watching Jesus were very afraid, and realised that he really was the Son of God.**

Later that day, **Joseph of Arimathea** (a rich disciple of Jesus) got permission from Pilate and **put the body of Jesus in his own tomb** (a grave Joseph cut into a rock to prepare for his own death). He closed the tomb with a large stone.

Next day (Saturday), **the religious leaders got permission from Pilate to put guards (soldiers) at the tomb** to make sure nobody could steal the body of Jesus and say that he came back to life.

6.2 The Resurrection, and the Great Commission

On Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb (RSV says “sepulchre”), where Joseph of Arimathea buried Jesus on Friday. There was an earthquake and an angel came. The guards were so afraid that they fainted (fell down and looked dead). **The angel told the two Marys that Jesus was alive again and has gone! And they must tell his disciples to meet Jesus in Galilee.**

The women left, and on the way they met Jesus! They touched his feet and worshipped him. He told them to tell his disciples to meet him in Galilee, as he told his disciples on Thursday. So Jesus rose again on the third day, just as he and the scriptures predicted.

When the guards woke up, they went and told the chief priests what happened. **The Jewish leaders tried to hide the truth – their pride and selfish ambition (wanting to protect their power) led them to do something really bad.** The very people who were supposed to be teaching Jews about God, broke the ninth commandment in order to lie to Jews about God. **They gave the guards a lot of money to tell lies – that the disciples of Jesus took away his body.**

So the guards told people that Jesus' disciples came and took Jesus' body in the night, while the guards slept.

The eleven remaining apostles (Judas was dead) went to Galilee. There Jesus met them, and they worshipped him, even though some found it hard to believe it was really happening.

Jesus then gave them instructions, which we call “The Great Commission.”

(Commission means a special assignment, or to give someone authority to do something.)

Jesus obeyed his Father, so God the Father gave Jesus all authority (power) in heaven and on earth. Now **Jesus was giving his disciples authority to make more disciples.** The Great Commission was that:

- **They must go to all nations** (people everywhere), and tell them about Jesus. The gospel is for everyone.
- **People who accept Jesus must be baptised** in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (three persons, but one God – the Trinity). Baptism is a sign that the person is being washed clean of their sins, by accepting Jesus as Lord, and accepting Jesus' sacrifice for our sins.
- **New disciples must be taught** to obey everything that Jesus commanded.
- **Jesus will always be with his disciples** (through the Holy Spirit), until he returns again, helping them to live for God.

The Great Commission is for every Christian.

The resurrection (when Jesus became alive again) is very important because:

- It shows that Jesus is the Son of God, and has the authority and power of God.
- It shows that Jesus has victory over death and sin, and that he opens the way for eternal life for his followers.
- It gave the disciples strong faith and courage (not to be afraid) to face danger and pain as they told everyone about Jesus. That was God's way to make a new people for himself, by making Christianity grow.

Without the resurrection, the Christian religion would have finished.

Preparing for Exams

This section has a lot of useful ideas about how you can prepare for an exam, to give you the best chance of getting a good grade.

1. Each week throughout the course

- Read the Bible and the lessons, as directed by your teacher. For example, the teacher may say that for homework you should read:
 - ✓ the last 4 pages of the notes covered in class, and
 - ✓ the next 4 pages to see what will be covered next, and
 - ✓ the next 2 chapters in the Bible.
- If there is something you do not understand in the readings or in class, ask your teacher.
- Pray every day that Jesus will help you to learn well.

2. A few weeks before the exam

- Revise (read again) all the lessons. Remember that the Form 2 exam covers Form 1 and Form 2, so you need to read the lessons for Form 1 and Form 2, if possible.
- Make sure you memorise (remember) all the Key Facts.
- Check with the teacher about anything you do not understand.
- Have a look at a past exam paper. Note the layout and instructions. Answer all the questions (some questions in your actual exam may be similar).

- If you will be doing a national exam, make sure you have your “Candidate's Examination Number”.
- Pray every day that Jesus will help you to do well in the exam.

3. A few days before the exam

- Get enough food, water and sleep, so that you are feeling well on the day of the exam.
- Avoid doing anything dangerous which could hurt you or make you feel ill. For example, avoid going on a motorbike (pikipiki) in case of an accident, or eating any bad food.
- Check the date, time and place of the exam.
- Have a look at another exam paper, and study the layout, instructions, and the questions (some questions in your exam may be similar). Knowing the instructions will save time during the exam.
- Pray every day that Jesus will keep you healthy and safe for the exam.

4. On the day of the exam

- Get 7 or 8 hours sleep, but get up early enough to have plenty of time to get ready and to arrive early at the exam.
- Check that your watch has the correct time.
- Have some food and a drink of water 2 or 3 hours before the exam, but not too much.
- If you are boarding at your school and the exam is at your school, arrive 15 minutes early for the exam.
- If you have to get to your school for the exam, then arrive 1 hour early (in case you are delayed on the way).

- Bring with you:
 - ✓ Your lesson notes, for last minute revision when you arrive early (but you must leave them outside the exam room when it's time to enter).
 - ✓ 2 pens (one spare), black or blue ink.
 - ✓ Your Candidate's Examination Number (for a national exam).
- Go to the toilet 15 minutes before the exam.
- While sitting in the exam room waiting to start:
 - ✓ Notice where the clock is.
 - ✓ Make sure you have your 2 pens.
 - ✓ Pray that Jesus will help you to be at peace and to do well.
- Listen carefully to the instructions from the teacher, especially what time the exam finishes.
- Bibles, notes and phones are not allowed in exams.

5. When the exam starts

- Read the instructions carefully – they should be similar to what you have seen in a past paper, but check if anything has changed.
- If this is a national exam, write your Candidate's Examination Number on top of every page, so you don't forget to do it later.
- If this is a Form 4 “**Bible Knowledge 2**” national exam (on the New Testament), make sure you **answer the section on the Gospel of Matthew** (which we study), not the section on the Gospel of Luke (which some other schools study). In addition, you have to **also answer the section on the Acts of the Apostles**.

- Have a quick first look at the sections you need to answer, and see which questions seem easy to you, especially those which are worth more marks. **ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS FIRST** to make sure you get these easy marks.
- Then answer the other required questions.
- When answering questions **THINK CAREFULLY** about what they mean, and what points you need to cover in your answer (e.g. who did what, how, where, when, why etc.)
- Keep checking the time, and try to answer all the required questions.
- With multiple choice and true/false questions, give an answer even if you have to guess the answer (you don't lose marks if your answer is wrong, but you may guess correctly!)

6. Finishing the exam

- Check that you have written your Candidate's Examination Number on top of every page.
- Check the instructions and make sure that you have answered all the required questions.
- If you finish early, check all your answers.

**SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGES
FOR AN EXAMPLE OF
A FORM 4 EXAM
(part 1 and part 2)**

“BIBLE KNOWLEDGE 1” EXAM 2017: (Old Testament)

Instructions

1. This paper consists of **eight (8)** questions.
2. Answer **question 1** and any other four questions in this paper.
3. Each question carries **twenty (20)** marks.
4. Cellular phones, bibles and any unauthorized materials are **not** allowed in the examination room.
5. Write your **Examination Number** on every page of your answer booklet(s).



1. Write short answer to the following:

- (a) In the context of Genesis 4:1-24 we have someone who spoke the following words: "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" Basing on the context of the quotation, give short answers to the following questions:
- (i) Who said these words? **(01 mark)**
 - (ii) To whom were they spoken? **(01 mark)**
 - (iii) Why were they spoken? **(01 mark)**
 - (iv) What spiritual punishment did the addressee give to the speaker? **(01 mark)**
 - (v) Mention the environmental punishment given to the speaker in connection to your response in (iv) above. **(01 mark)**
 - (vi) Give one of the speaker's complaints in connection to the punishment. **(01 mark)**
 - (vii) What was the addressee's answer to the speaker? **(01 mark)**
 - (viii) How did the addressee help the speaker? **(01 mark)**
 - (ix) Where did the speaker go to live thereafter? **(01 mark)**
 - (x) In which direction was the place? **(01 mark)**
- (b) Identify five effects of man's sin on nature. **(10 marks)**

2. Answer the following questions in connection with the journey of the Israelites to the Promised Land:

- (a) Describe two of the strange things about Bread from Heaven (Manna) (Exodus 16:1-36). **(04 marks)**
- (b) Demonstrate how divine providence was manifested to the Israelites through the pillar of clouds before the crossing of the red sea (Exodus 13:21, 14:19-20). **(03 marks)**
- (c) The LORD said, "I have let you see it to your eyes, but you shall not cross over there" (Deuteronomy 34:4). What was the addressee allowed to see and why was he not allowed going there? **(03 marks)**

- (d) Match the items in **List A** with the correct responses in **List B** by writing the letter of the corresponding response beside the item number in **List A** in the answer booklet provided.

List A	List B
(i) The person who changed his mind and pursued the people of Israel.	A Moses
(ii) The person who led the women in singing the victory song.	B Gershom
(iii) The parents whose children were Moses and Aaron.	C Nadab and Abihu
(iv) The person who led Israel onward from the Red Sea.	D Joshua
(v) The person who was the priest of Midian.	E Meshak and Hur
(vi) The mother of Gershom.	F Elisha
(vii) The son of Moses.	G Zipporah
(viii) The person who killed Amalek and his people with the sword.	H Aaron
(ix) The brother of Moses.	I Amram and Jochebed
(x) The people who went up to the Mount with Moses and saw God.	J Pharaoh
	K Shelah
	L Madai
	M Jethro
	N Aram
	O Miriam.

3. Children born to barren women in their later age were considered to be a special blessing.
- (a) Define the word 'barren' and then identify three barren women and their husbands, the children born to them and show how each child was a special blessing as recorded in the book of Genesis. **(08 marks)**
- (b) Write two problems which barren women face in your society. **(06 marks)**
- (c) Suggest two ways on how to solve the problems faced by barren women. **(06 marks)**
4. In three points, explain how Joshua was prepared to be a successor of Moses and suggest two ways on how leaders can be prepared today. **(20 marks)**

5. Explain five problems which the Israelites faced on their way to the Promised Land and their solutions according to the Book of Exodus (Exodus 13-17). **(20 marks)**
6. With reference to Joshua 1:1-9, explain the five important commissions (directives) that God gave to Joshua in order to conquer the Promised Land of Canaan. **(20 marks)**
7. With reference to Judges Chapter 6, analyse the event of the call of Gideon, bearing in mind his demand for confirmation that it was God who called and the signs to prove that God had decided to use him to rescue the Israelites. **(20 marks)**
8. Adam and Eve were forbidden from eating the forbidden fruits, but they ate. Illustrate two main motives which caused Eve to eat the forbidden fruits and indicate three measures which you think you would have taken against the devil if you were Eve. **(20 marks)**

“BIBLE KNOWLEDGE 2” EXAM 2017: (New Testament)

Instructions

1. This paper consists of sections A, B and C. Section A consists of questions from the Gospel according to Matthew, Section B from the Gospel according to Luke and Section C from the Acts of the Apostles.
2. Answer **three (3)** questions from **either** section A or B; and **two (2)** questions from section C.
3. Question **1** is compulsory for candidates who choose questions from section **A** and question **5** is compulsory for candidates who choose questions from section **B**.
4. Each question carries **twenty (20)** marks.
5. Cellular phones, Bibles and any unauthorized materials are **not** allowed in the examination room.
6. Write your **Examination Number** on every page of your answer booklet(s).



1



SECTION A: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Answer **question 1** and **any other two (2)** from this section.

1. Provide short answers for the following questions:
- (a) “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (Matthew 1:2). What does the name Emmanuel mean?
 - (b) “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more” (Matthew 2:18). Whose prophecy was this and in what event was it fulfilled?
 - (c) “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Matthew 3:11). Who baptized people with water? And, who will baptize people with the Holy Spirit and with fire?
 - (d) In the genealogy of Jesus there were two great fathers who existed before him. Name them as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew 1:1.
 - (e) When Jesus was born Herod was troubled and summoned the wise men secretly (Matthew 2:7). What command did Herod give to the wise men as they were going to Bethlehem?
 - (f) “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea” (Matthew 3:1). What was John’s message of his preaching?
 - (g) As he was baptizing, John the Baptist saw the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism (Matthew 3:7). What did John say to them?
 - (h) “Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him” (Matthew 3:13). Recite the reaction of John towards Jesus.
 - (i) In response to John’s reaction above, what did Jesus say to John according to Matthew 3:15?
 - (j) What did John the Baptist wear and eat? (Matthew 3:4).

(20 marks)

2. (a) In his earthly ministry, Jesus taught his people about entry into the kingdom of heaven. What five things a person can do in order to inherit the kingdom of God? (10 marks)
- (b) Match the verses in **List A** with correct phrases in **List B** by writing the letter of the corresponding phrase against the item number in **List A** in the answer booklet(s) provided. (10 marks)

List A		List B	
(i)	Take heart, daughter your faith has made you well (Matthew 9:22).	A	Jesus rebuked Peter.
(ii)	Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers and cast out demons (Matthew 10:8)	B	The followers of Jesus to be.
(iii)	Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God (Matthew 16:23).	C	The Baptist's need to be assured of Jesus.
(iv)	Not to be anxious for what to eat, or drink or what to wear (Matthew 6:31).	D	The Pharisees complained.
(v)	Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another? (Matthew 11:3).	E	Herod spoke to his servants.
(vi)	He who does not take his cross and follow me is not worth of me (Matthew 10:38).	F	The cost of being a disciple.
(vii)	Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:2).	G	The woman with hemorrhage.
(viii)	This is John the Baptist, he has been raised from the dead (Matthew 14:2).	H	Peter's (the Great) confession.
(ix)	Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead (Matthew 8:22).	I	The total trust in God.
(x)	You are the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16).	J	The mission of the 12 disciples.
		K	The centurion's words to Jesus.
		L	The words of Mary to Joseph.
		M	The parable of the sower.
		N	The words of Levi the tax collector.
		O	The words of the dumb blind to Jesus.

3. In Matthew 19:23 Jesus rebukes those who rely on richness saying that it is hard for them to enter the kingdom of heaven. Suggest five dangers of richness. (20 marks)

4. Matthew 17:1-13 is an event of Jesus' transfiguration. Explain five purposes of Jesus' transfiguration. (20 marks)

SECTION B: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Answer **question 5** and **any other two (2)** from this section.

5. Give short answers for the following items (a)-(j).
- (a) The Good Samaritan said, "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back" (Luke 10:35). How does the church observe this statement?
 - (b) With reference to Luke 17:3-4, what should you do to a brother/sister who sins against you seven times and comes to you to repent?
 - (c) When Jesus asked his disciples, "But who do you say that I am?", Peter answered, "The Christ of God" (Luke 9:18-21). What is Peter's response called?
 - (d) In Luke 10:17-20 the seventy disciples came back from their mission, rejoicing that even the demons were subject to them in Jesus' name, but Jesus warned them against their joy. In what circumstance did Jesus tell them that they should rejoice?
 - (e) In the parable of the sower recorded in Luke 8:4-15, what did the seeds in the good soil represent?
 - (f) When Jesus and his disciples came to Gerasenes opposite Galilee they met a man possessed with demons (Luke 8:26-39). What did the demoniac say to Jesus?
 - (g) According to Luke 9:23, Jesus gave a condition for those who would like to follow him. Recite the condition.
 - (h) John said to Jesus, "Master, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him, because he does not follow us" (Luke 9:49). What was Jesus' reaction towards John?
 - (i) Concluding the parable of the banquet, Jesus said, "For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall test my banquet" (Luke 14:24). Why did Jesus say such words?
 - (j) When Jesus taught about sin and forgiveness the apostles said to him, "Increase our faith!" (Luke 17:5). What did Jesus say in turn?
- (20 marks)**
6. (a) "Those who are well (healthy) have no need of a physician (doctor), but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous, but the sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:31-32). Briefly explain five categories of sick people who might be referred to in the quotation. (10 marks)

- (b) Match the items in **List A** with correct responses in **List B** by writing the letter of the corresponding response beside the item number in **list A** in the answer booklet(s) provided. (10 marks)

List A		List B
(i)	This was Jesus' disciple and brother of Andrew (Luke 6:14).	A Simon
(ii)	One of the women whose resources were used to help Jesus and his disciples (Luke 8:3).	B Susanna
(iii)	A disciple whose brother was called James (Luke 5:10).	C Jairus
(iv)	The man who was an officer in Herod's court and a husband of Joanna (Luke 8:3).	D Levi
(v)	The tax collector who was called by Jesus to be his disciple (5:27-28).	E The Samaritan
(vi)	The person who thanked Jesus after being healed from a dreaded skin disease (Luke 17:11-19).	F Zebedee
(vii)	A ruler of a synagogue whose daughter died but was raised by Jesus (Luke 8:41-42, 49-56).	G Joseph
(viii)	This man was fisherman and a father of James (Luke 5:10).	H The centurion
(ix)	The one who had a slave who was dear to him, who was sick and about to die (Luke 7:1-10).	I Anna
(x)	A Pharisee who invited Jesus to have dinner (Luke 7:36).	J Peter
		K Jesus
		L Judas Iscariot
		M Thomas
		N Chuzza
		O John

7. In Luke there are two events of two people being raised from the dead. Identify the events and show five lessons one can learn from the two events. (20 marks)
8. Recall the event of Zacchaeus and his salvation in Luke 19:1-10 and suggest five things you can learn from the event. (20 marks)

SECTION C: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Answer **two (2)** questions from this section.

9. The book of “Act of the Apostles” can be called the “Acts of the Holy spirit.” Justify the statement by giving five reasons from the book of Acts. **(20 marks)**
10. “The strong the opposition the church faced, the bigger the church grew.” Justify this statement by using five examples from the Book of Acts. **(20 marks)**
11. Explain the miraculous healing of the crippled man at Lystra during Paul’s first missionary journey and the events that accompanied the miracle as recorded in Acts 14:8-23. **(20 marks)**
12. Explain the founding of the early church and the characteristics of the first Christian community by giving five points. **(20 marks)**

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky
proclaims his handiwork

Mbingu zauhubiri utukufu wa Mungu, na anga
laitangaza kazi ya mikono yake

Psalm / Zaburi 19:1

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

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Student Notes – Form **4**