

THE STORY OF JESUS

Condensed and Simplified

This series of lessons was designed for use by upper elementary and junior high students, but it can be useful for other age groups. This is basically a condensation of the story of Jesus, related in narrative form. For each page of narrative there is a sheet of questions.

Recommended usage:

1. A single student can read each page of narrative and then fill in the answers, which the teacher can check.
2. Two or three students can work together to go over the narrative page and then fill in the answers.
3. A teacher can read the narrative to the students and then guide them to the right answers.
4. For younger students the teacher can use a high-liter and go over the specific answers on the narrative sheet.
5. Use the narrative sheet---or the answer sheet—as a springboard for more discussion.

Lesson 1

The story of Jesus is recorded in 4 books in the New Testament, Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. Jesus was in heaven as God's son long before he came to earth. It was God's plan for Jesus to come to earth and persuade people to obey God and turn from their sins. Most importantly, Jesus was to offer his body as a sacrifice so that people could have their sins forgiven---and go to heaven!

Long before Jesus was born there had been many prophets who foretold many details about Jesus' life, including where and when he would be born.

Jesus' mother was Mary. An angel appeared to her before she married Joseph and told her that she would bear a son who would be very special. There would not be a human father. She would become pregnant miraculously. And that was what happened.

The Romans required all their people to go to special cities to register. Joseph and Mary went from their home in Nazareth to the city of Bethlehem to register. It was then almost time for Mary to have her baby. But the city was so crowded that all the available rooms were already filled. They had to stay in a place like a barn where animals were kept. When the baby was born it was wrapped in pieces of cloth and laid in a manger, which is a place where feed is placed for livestock.

This was certainly not just an ordinary baby. This was truly the son of God. His coming had been promised for many centuries. He was to bring great things for all people. Many people knew about the promise of a coming Savior or Deliverer of the people.

There were some shepherds watching their flocks when an angel appeared to them and told them about the birth of the Savior they were all waiting for. They were told what city it was and where to find him---in a manger.

Suddenly, a great host of angels appeared singing praises to God. When they left, the shepherds went into the city and found Jesus. They spread the word to many people---and everyone rejoiced at the good news!

Lesson 1 Questions

1. The story of Jesus is recorded in what 4 books?

2. Where was Jesus before he came to earth?

3. Why was Jesus to offer his body as a sacrifice?

4. Who had spoken earlier about Jesus? _____

5. Who was Jesus' mother? _____

Who told her she would have a son? _____

6. _____ and _____ went from the town of _____ to the city of _____ in order to do what?

7. Why did Joseph and Mary stay in a barn? _____

8. Jesus was wrapped in _____ and laid in a _____.

9. Jesus was really the son of _____ and for _____ he had been promised.

10. A _____ appeared to _____ and told about Jesus' birth.

11. Who sang praises to God? _____

12. What did the shepherds do when they found Jesus?

Lesson 2

Jesus had a cousin. His name was John. His parents were Zechariah and Elizabeth. They were very old when John was born. They did not think they would ever have children, but an angel appeared to Zechariah and told him that his wife, Elizabeth, would have a baby boy. The boy was to be very special because he would grow up and be a great preacher. He became known as John the Baptist. He was 6 months older than Jesus. He later preached to many people, telling them to turn away from their sins and obey God. VERY importantly, he foretold the coming of a Savior----who was JESUS.

The baby Jesus was visited not only by shepherds, but also by some wise men who came from the East to visit him. Somehow, they knew about the birth of Jesus and followed a star to where the baby Jesus was. They worshipped Jesus and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Frankincense and myrrh were valuable spices.)

As the wise men were looking for Jesus they asked around about where the new “king of the Jews” would be. Herod, the king, heard of this and was very concerned---since HE was the king. He told the wise men to let him know where the baby was. He pretended that he wanted to worship him - but REALLY, he wanted to kill him! But the wise men were warned in a dream not to tell Herod where the baby was, so they slipped away without telling the king.

When Herod realized that he had been tricked he was very angry. He was afraid that some young baby was going to grow up and take his throne. In anger he ordered that every male baby, 2 years old and younger, was to be KILLED.

An angel appeared to Joseph and told him to take the baby Jesus to Egypt so he would not be killed. They stayed in Egypt until Herod died. They returned and moved to a town called Nazareth. The new king was Archelaus, Herod’s son. Joseph worked as a carpenter and Jesus helped his father.

Lesson 2 Questions

1. _____ was Jesus' cousin. _____ and _____ were his parents.
2. Jesus' cousin was named _____ and was to be a great _____.
3. John foretold the coming of a _____, who was _____.
4. Jesus was first visited by _____, but later _____ from _____ who brought what 3 gifts?

5. The wise men were looking for the new " _____ ", which frightened King _____, who asked the men to do what? _____.
6. Really King Herod wanted to do what with Jesus? _____
7. Why did the wise men not go back to Herod?

8. Because he was so angry, Herod did what?

9. An _____ told Joseph to take the baby Jesus to _____.
10. When Jesus' family returned from Egypt, they moved to the town of _____ where Joseph worked as a _____.

Lesson 3

Very little is said about the first few years of Jesus' life. But we do have the story of something that happened to him when he was 12 years old. Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for a special Jewish celebration called the Passover Feast. Jesus went with them. A number of other friends and relatives also went to the feast.

After the feast everyone started back home in a group. Mary and Joseph thought Jesus was traveling with some of their friends. At the end of the day they began to look for Jesus. But they could not find him. Very worried, they hurried back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus. We can imagine how worried they were!

It was only after three days that they found Jesus. He was in the temple talking to the top Jewish teachers, asking and answering questions. They were amazed at his knowledge and understanding. His parents scolded him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

Jesus' answer was very interesting, "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" His parents really did not understand, but we realize that Jesus knew who he was---that he was really God's son and that God sent him to earth for a very important mission. (In future lessons we will learn much more about the mission of Jesus.)

Jesus began his work at about age 30. His main job was to persuade people to repent of their sins and be obedient to God. Before Jesus began preaching, his cousin John was already preaching, telling people to repent and be baptized as a sign of repentance. Jesus came to John to be baptized also. Then God spoke from heaven saying, "This is my son whom I love; with him I am well pleased".

Lesson 3 Questions

1. When Jesus was age _____, he went with his parents to _____
For what feast? _____
2. Why did Jesus' parents not miss him on the way home?

3. After _____ days, Mary and Joseph found Jesus where? _____
4. What was Jesus doing in the temple? _____
5. What did Jesus' parents ask him? _____
6. Where did Jesus say he needed to be? _____
7. Jesus was sent to earth for an important _____.
8. Jesus knew that he was really what? _____
9. Jesus began the work of his ministry at age _____.
10. Jesus' main job was to persuade people to _____ of _____ and to
be _____ to _____.
11. _____ was also preaching, telling people to _____ and be
_____.
12. When John baptized Jesus, what did the voice of heaven say?

Lesson 4

Jesus' plan was to train special men to be his followers in order for them to carry on his work after his return to heaven. These men were called apostles. The first man chosen was ANDREW. Then Andrew called his brother, PETER (also called Simon). Andrew and Peter were fishermen. Next, Jesus found two other fishermen, JAMES and JOHN (sons of Zebedee), and they too became his followers. Later, Jesus found a man named PHILIP, and he followed Jesus. Philip then introduced Jesus to NATHANIEL (also called BARTHOLOMEW) and he, too, became an apostle.

Altogether Jesus chose 12 apostles: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, Bartholomew, James the Less, Simon, Thaddeus, and Judas.

Jesus wanted to prove to all the people---and to his apostles---that he truly was from God and that the message he preached was really true---and was what God wanted the people to hear.

As we study the life of Christ, we see many times when he healed people of all kinds of sicknesses. He gave sight to blind people. He healed those who were paralyzed. Crowds of people gathered around Jesus and brought sick people to him - and he healed them all.

Jesus did other miracles. He went to a wedding feast where they ran out of wine. Jesus' mother came and told him the problem. She seemed to feel like he could do something about it. And he did. He had the servants fill large jars with water. But when they poured it out---it had become fine wine!

Satan (the Devil) hated Jesus and did not want him to succeed. He tried to tempt Jesus to worship him by promising great power to Jesus. But Jesus refused to give in to Satan's temptations. Jesus remained faithful to God. Still today Satan tries to tempt people to do wrong, but God wants us to resist Satan and ALWAYS do what is right!

Lesson 4 Questions

1. Jesus trained men called _____ to carry out his work.
2. Who were the 12 apostles?

3. What were some things that Jesus did to prove that he was from God?

4. At a _____ feast Jesus changed _____ to _____.
5. _____ hated Jesus and tried to _____ him.
6. Jesus remained _____ to _____.
7. God wants us to _____ and always do what is _____.

Lesson 5

Jesus was with God in heaven long before he ever came to earth. God sent Jesus to earth for a reason. God loves people and wants all people to love him and be faithful to him. But throughout the ages most people have not loved God and have not been obedient to him.

When people disobey God, that is called SIN. God wants all of us to spend time with him in heaven FOREVER, but that cannot happen unless we get forgiveness for our sins. Someone had to pay a price, in order for us to have our sins forgiven.

And that is why Jesus came to earth---to pay the price for our sins---so we can go to heaven and not face destruction forever. In a later lesson we will see what the price was that Jesus paid!

Jesus taught people everywhere he went. He taught people to live the kind of life God wants people to live. The most important sermon taught by Jesus was called the SERMON ON THE MOUNT. This is found in Matthew 5, 6, and 7. Some of the things Jesus urged people to do were to be MEEK, PURE IN HEART, PEACEMAKERS, and MERCIFUL. He taught people to love each other---and even their enemies! He taught people how to pray. He taught giving to those in need.

Many other lessons were taught by Jesus in these chapters. Mainly he taught to trust God and try to please him. He taught that God is good to those who devote their lives to Him. (The reason we do these lessons is to encourage children to learn about God while they are young.)

Lesson 5 Questions

1. Jesus was in _____ before coming to earth.
2. God wants all people to _____ him and be _____ to him.
3. Disobeying God is called _____. God wants us to be in _____ forever, but to do that we must have _____ for _____.
4. Jesus came to earth to pay the _____ for _____ and for us not be destroyed.
5. Jesus _____ everywhere he went.
6. The _____ on the _____ was Jesus' most important sermon.
7. This sermon is found in the book of _____. What chapters? _____
8. Jesus taught people to be _____, _____, _____, and _____.
9. Jesus taught people to love _____ and even _____.
10. Jesus taught people how to _____ and to give to _____.
11. Jesus mainly taught people to _____ and to please him.
12. What do you think it means to devote your life to God?

Lesson 6

Why did Jesus choose 12 Apostles? It was because he wanted to train men to carry on his work after he returned to heaven. He performed many miracles in order to prove to these men that he really was from God and not just someone trying to fool them. These miracles also showed the apostles how much Jesus cared for people and how he was willing to heal people of many diseases.

A man with leprosy came up to Jesus and asked to be made clean. Jesus touched him and the leprosy was gone. In Capernaum a centurion (army officer) asked Jesus to heal his servant, who was hurting terribly. He asked Jesus to just say the word and the servant would be healed. Jesus agreed---and the servant was healed.

There were many other examples of Jesus' healing. A Jewish leader asked Jesus to come touch his daughter - who had died - so she would come back to life. On the way to the house, a woman who had been bleeding for years just wanted to touch Jesus' cloak. Because of her faith, Jesus healed her. He then went to the leader's house and brought the little girl back to life.

On another occasion 2 blind men heard that Jesus was passing by. They said, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" (Jesus was called "Son of David" because he was a descendant of King David in the Old Testament). Jesus asked if they believed he could heal them. They said "Yes" and Jesus healed them.

Jesus showed his power in other ways. One day he was in a boat with his apostles when a bad storm came up. Jesus was sleeping. The apostles became so scared that they woke Jesus up. Then Jesus ordered the wind to stop---and it did. Again, the apostles saw what a powerful man Jesus was.

As Jesus continued to preach, teach, and heal people, larger and larger crowds of people followed him. Before long many of the Jewish leaders became jealous of Jesus, especially when he told them the things they were doing wrong. People tried to trick Jesus into saying wrong things, but no one could do that. As we shall see in future lessons, these enemies of Jesus would finally cause his death.

Lesson 6 Questions

1. Jesus chose apostles to _____ them to carry on _____.
2. Jesus' miracles proved that he really was from _____.
3. Jesus' miracles showed how much Jesus _____ for _____.
4. Jesus touched a man and he was healed of _____.
5. Jesus healed the _____ of a _____ (officer).
6. Jesus brought back to life a little _____.
7. A woman was healed of a bleeding disease by touching _____.
8. Jesus healed 2 men of _____ after they called out to him.
9. Why did the apostles awaken Jesus? _____
10. What did Jesus do in the boat that amazed his apostles? _____
11. Jesus drew larger and larger _____ which caused the _____
to be _____ of him.
12. People tried to _____ Jesus to say wrong things. Did it work? _____

Lesson 7

The apostles often had a hard time fully understanding certain teachings of Jesus. Jesus often spoke of his “kingdom”. But what did he mean? Did he mean that he would sit on a throne in some capital city like the other kings and rule like other kings? If not, what did he mean?

Jesus often taught lessons by using PARABLES. A parable is a short story that is meant to teach an important lesson. Jesus often used parables to explain about his kingdom. He said that his kingdom was like a man who found a very valuable pearl in a field. He sold everything he had so he could buy that field---and that pearl would be his. The lesson was that Jesus’ kingdom would be very VALUABLE.

Jesus compared his kingdom to a mustard seed. It is very small---but it grows into a very large plant. Jesus meant that his kingdom would start very small---but would grow to be very large. He also compared his kingdom to yeast. Just a little yeast placed in a batch of dough affects the entire amount. Jesus meant that the effects of his kingdom would spread far and wide. Other parables taught other lessons.

It took a long while for people to really understand what Jesus meant by his “Kingdom”. But now we understand. A KING is one who rules over his people. They obey his rules and are loyal to him. A good king protects his people and does all he can to provide for their needs. Jesus is now King. His throne is in heaven. He rules over those who decide that they will be obedient to him and his rules. These people are his KINGDOM. Those who choose not to honor and obey Jesus are NOT part of his kingdom.

Jesus offers something very special that no EARTHLY king could ever offer. Jesus promises that all who are faithful to him will get to go to heaven and be with him forever! (There is another word for Jesus’ kingdom; it is his CHURCH).

Lesson 7 Questions

1. Jesus often spoke of his _____. Did he mean the kind of earthly kingdoms everyone knew about? _____
2. Jesus often taught by using _____, which are short stories meant to _____ an important _____.
3. Jesus said his kingdom was like a man who found a very valuable _____.
4. Jesus said his kingdom was like a _____ seed, very tiny but grows to be very _____.
5. Jesus said his kingdom was like _____ which spreads throughout a batch of _____.
6. A king is one who rules over his _____ and they are _____ to him.
7. Jesus is now a _____. His throne is in _____. He rules over those who are _____ to him. These people are his _____.
8. Who is NOT part of Jesus' kingdom? _____
9. What does Jesus offer that no earthly king could offer?

10. Another word for Jesus' kingdom is his _____.

Lesson 8

Jesus did many miracles which proved his power. (A miracle is something which cannot be done by human power alone.) On one occasion a great crowd of people had come to hear him teach. It was getting late and the people were hungry. The apostles had only 5 loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus had the people sit in groups of about fifty. Jesus took the 5 loaves and 2 fish and fed them all - about 5,000. On another day Jesus fed about 4,000.

Jesus taught people to love and care for other people. One parable was about a GOOD SAMARITAN. A man was beaten by robbers and left half-dead by the road. A priest and a Levite (religious people) passed by without helping. But a man from Samaria stopped and took care of the man---because he had a caring heart. Jesus taught that this is the kind of heart he wants his people to have.

Jesus sometimes visited with friends. Some special friends were 2 sisters, MARY and MARTHA, along with their brother, LAZARUS. Lazarus became very sick and died. But Jesus came to him and brought him back to life - raised him from the dead. When people saw this miracle, it made them realize that Jesus really was from God---and not just some ordinary human being.

Among the Jewish people was a group called the PHARISEES. They seemed to be very religious, but Jesus often criticized them. He called them HYPOCRITES because they were very selfish and did not really care for the common people. (A hypocrite is a person who pretends to be one thing - but is really something else.) As time went by the Pharisees (and other Jewish leaders) came to hate Jesus more and more---because they were jealous of him...and because he kept telling about how they were hypocrites. In later lessons we will see how these people worked very hard to have Jesus killed.

One of the lessons that Jesus taught was about the dangers of trying to become wealthy. Jesus taught that it was much better for people to spend their time and energy trying to please God than trying to become very rich in worldly things.

Lesson 8 Questions

1. A miracle is something that cannot be done by _____ power.
2. Jesus once fed a crowd of _____ people with ___ loaves and ___ fish.
3. Jesus told the story of the _____ _____ to show that people should _____ and _____ for each other.
4. In the story of the Samaritan, who was helped? _____
5. _____ and _____ and their brother _____ were good friends of Jesus.
6. Who was raised from the dead by Jesus? _____
7. His miracles proved that Jesus really WAS from _____
8. The _____ were a group that Jesus often criticized because he said they were _____. They were very _____ and did not care for the _____.
9. The Pharisees hated Jesus more and more because they were _____ of him and because he kept showing that they were _____.
10. Jesus spoke of the dangers of trying to become _____. It is much better to try to _____ than to gain wealth.

Lesson 9

Jesus had a very important message for his apostles...and it is very important today. Jesus told the apostles that he would be killed, but that he would rise from the dead after 3 days. (This is called the RESURRECTION). He would return to heaven, from which he would rule over his kingdom.

But there was much more. Jesus said that at some time in the future he would RETURN to the earth. This would be the SECOND COMING. When Jesus comes back, he will judge all human beings. All the dead will return to life. This will be the FINAL JUDGMENT. Those who have been faithful to God will be taken to heaven. Those who have not been obedient to God will be thrown into a great fire, that is called by the name HELL. Jesus did not know when that time would be. Only God the Father knows the date of Jesus' return.

Jesus made it very clear that people should always be ready for Jesus' return. That means that we are supposed to live the kind of lives that God wants us to live. That means that we should not do things that are evil or wicked. We should not break God's laws.

Jesus told a parable about 10 young women who were excited about attending an important wedding feast. They were using oil lamps as they waited. Five of them brought plenty of oil for their lamps, but five did not. When their oil ran out, they hurried away to buy more oil. But, while they were gone the bridegroom came and only those present were allowed into the feast. When the other five returned they were not allowed into the feast. Jesus told this story for one reason: he wanted us to know how important it is to ALWAYS BE READY for Jesus to come back. That means that we should always live the kind of life that Jesus wants us to live. Jesus will return suddenly. He will come in a cloud. A loud trumpet will sound. Everyone will see Jesus. It will be too late then to try to get our lives straightened up.

One of Jesus' teachings was about worry. He told his people not to worry. Why? Because God loves his children and wants to take care of them. God's children talk to him in prayer, thanking Him for the things they have. They ask God to be with them and help them. Jesus taught that worry does not solve any problem - and he was right!

Lesson 9 Questions

1. Jesus told his apostles that he would be _____ but after _____ he would _____. This is called the _____.
2. Jesus said that later he would _____ to the earth. This is called the _____.
3. When Jesus returns to the earth he will _____ all people. What will happen to the dead when Jesus returns? _____
4. Those who have been faithful to God will go to _____; _____ is where the wicked people will go.
5. The time of Jesus' return is known only by _____.
6. If we are going to be pleasing to God we must not break God's _____.
7. Jesus told a parable about 10 young women who were to go to a _____ . Five did not get to go to the feast because they ran out of _____ for their _____. Jesus told the story to teach us to always be _____ for his return.
8. When Jesus returns, he will return in a _____ and a loud _____ will sound.
9. Who will see Jesus when he returns? _____
10. Jesus told his people not to _____ because he will take care of them.
11. God's people should talk to him in _____.

Lesson 10

Many times Jesus did things which proved that he had supernatural power. One night the apostles were in a boat, but Jesus stayed behind in order to spend some time in prayer. The wind and waves made it hard for the boat to move forward. Then Jesus came toward the boat, walking on the water---late at night. The apostles cried out in fear, afraid that they were seeing a ghost. But Jesus told them not to be afraid. Peter asked if he could walk on the water to go meet Jesus. Jesus told him to come. He walked on the water at first, but then became afraid and started to sink. Jesus caught him and asked him why he doubted.

Jesus was a Jew. The Jewish people were his people. For many centuries the Jewish people had been ruled by a set of laws called the LAW of MOSES, as revealed IN THE Old Testament. For many years the Old Testament prophets had told of a special person called a MESSIAH (deliverer) to come in the future. The Jews were then ruled by the Romans, who were very harsh in how they treated the Jews. The people were very much wanting a Messiah to come and deliver them from Roman rule.

Jesus was the Messiah that the prophets were talking about. But the Jewish leaders did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah—although he did many miraculous signs to prove that he was from God.

There were different groups among the Jews. The 2 main ones were the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The biggest difference was as follows:

Pharisees: Believed in angels—and in life after death.

Sadducees: Did not believe in angels---and did not believe in life after death.

(So they were SAD—you see.)

Both of these groups were against Jesus. They often argued with him and tried to prove him wrong. But they ALWAYS lost the arguments! Jesus said that he was from God—and he WAS from God---but these people did not believe him. They were angry and wanted to kill Jesus for saying he was from God.

In later lessons, we will see that Jesus was finally killed by his enemies.

Lesson 10 Questions

1. Late at night the apostles, in a boat, saw Jesus _____ on _____.
2. The apostles thought they saw a _____. _____ also walked on water.
3. Jesus was one of the _____ people. The _____ of _____ had been their law for many centuries.
4. For many years the Old Testament _____ had told of a _____ (or _____) to come in the future.
5. The coming Messiah was really _____.
6. The _____ of Jesus proved that he was from God.
7. The Pharisees believed _____
8. The Sadducees believed _____
9. The Sadducees and Pharisees were against _____ and tried to prove _____.
10. The enemies of Jesus were so angry at him that they wanted to do what?

Lesson 11

Jesus knew what was going to happen to him. He knew that he was going to be killed. He tried to warn the apostles, but they had a hard time believing that it really was going to happen. They also did not understand why Jesus would die, although they would understand later.

The Jewish temple was God's house. Jesus knew that and since God was his father, he wanted his father's house to be respected. He became very angry one day when he went into the temple and saw it being used as a marketplace with people buying and selling things there. He said that those people were taking a house of prayer and changing it into a "den of robbers". He overturned the tables of the merchants and drove them out of the temple. Of course, this made the merchants very angry. It also angered the Jewish leaders who had permitted the buying and selling.

Jesus was always teaching. He stressed that of all the commandments of God, the GREATEST was to LOVE---to love God with all our soul, mind and strength....and to love our neighbors as ourselves. He also taught about God's love for people. He told a story about a young man who demanded that his father give him what he would inherit. He got the money and went away to a far country where he spent the money foolishly until he was broke. When he returned home his father received him back with joy---because of his love for his son. This story (called the story of the PRODIGAL SON) was told to show us how much God loves us and, even when we leave God, he will welcome us back if we change our hearts and lives.

Jesus was always teaching people to REPENT; that is, to change their lives and do what is right. Many believed Jesus and did repent. One such man was ZACCHAEUS, a rich tax collector. He was very short and could not see over the crowds who followed Jesus. He ran ahead and climbed up into a tree to get a better look at Jesus. But when Jesus got to the tree, he told Zacchaeus to come down. Jesus said he was going to Zacchaeus' house! Zacchaeus was overjoyed and promised to repent---to change his life and be honest and generous. This is exactly what Jesus wants from people today---to change their lives and do right.

Lesson 11 Questions

1. Jesus knew he would be _____; but the _____ had a hard time understanding it.
2. The _____ was God's house. Jesus became angry when he saw the temple being used as a _____. He overturned _____ and drove the merchants out of the temple.
3. Jesus said the greatest command is _____, especially of _____, but also of our _____.
4. Jesus told the story of the _____ who wasted all his inheritance, but when he returned home, his father received him back with _____. This story is to show us how much God loves _____ and will receive us back if we do wrong if we then change _____.
5. Jesus was always teaching people to _____, which means to change their _____.
6. _____ was a tax collector who _____ so he could see Jesus.
7. Jesus told Zacchaeus he was going to do what? _____
8. Zacchaeus promised to change his _____ and be _____ and _____.
9. Today, Jesus wants people to _____ their _____ and do what? _____

Lesson 12

The enemies of Jesus wanted to kill him. But they were afraid of the people, so many of whom followed Jesus and admired him. The leaders needed to find a time and place to arrest Jesus when the people would not be around. JUDAS, one of Jesus' own disciples, secretly agreed to betray Jesus by helping to arrange a time for Jesus to be arrested. He would be paid 30 pieces of silver. It would not be long before the opportunity would come.

Many centuries before Jesus, the Jews (Israelites) were slaves in Egypt. God wanted to free them, but the Egyptians would not let them go. God had to punish the Egyptians with a number of plagues (bad things). The last plague was the "death of the firstborn". On a certain night God would send an angel to kill the first-born child in each home. The Israelites were told to put a lamb's blood on the outside door post of their houses. Then the death angel would PASS OVER that house and no one would die. This event was celebrated every year thereafter as a remembrance of how they had been delivered. This celebration was called the PASSOVER FEAST.

The apostles did not fully understand it at the time, but Jesus had special plans for the Passover Feast. Shortly before his death Jesus ate the Passover meal with his apostles. He took some bread, broke it, and passed it around to the apostles. Then he took a cup of wine and drank some. He passed the cup around also. Jesus told the apostles that the bread represented his body, which would soon be broken. The wine represented his blood, which would soon be shed (as the Romans would be killing him). He told them that in the future when they ate the bread and drank the wine, they were to REMEMBER the suffering of Jesus.

We now understand what Jesus meant. To this day Christians observe the LORD'S SUPPER (or communion) to remind us of how much Jesus suffered for us. The blood on the doorposts in Egypt delivered the Israelites from the death angel. The blood of Jesus, which he shed in his death, makes it possible for us to have forgiveness of our sins---and escape the eternal death that will come to those who refuse to serve God. So, in a way, the Lord's Supper is something like the Passover observance by the Jews.

Lesson 12 Questions

1. The enemies of Jesus wanted to kill him, but were afraid of _____.
2. _____ agreed to betray Jesus for _____ pieces of silver.
3. God sent _____ upon the Egyptians when the Israelites were slaves there.
4. The last plague was the death of the _____.
5. The Israelites put _____ on their _____ so the death angel would pass over their house.
6. To celebrate this event the Jews had an annual _____ Feast.
7. At the Passover Feast Jesus gave _____ and _____ to his apostles.
8. Jesus said that the bread represented _____. The wine represented _____.
9. In churches today people observe the _____ because of what Jesus told the apostles at this last supper.
10. The blood of Jesus is very important because through it we can have _____ of our _____.
11. The Lord's Supper is somewhat similar to the _____.

Lesson 13

A lot of things happened the night of the LAST SUPPER. Jesus told the apostles that one of them would betray him. The apostles were very surprised, wondering who it would be. Soon Judas left and went to the people who would arrest Jesus.

The apostles and Jesus left and went to the Garden of GETHSEMANE. Jesus knew that this would be the night when he would be arrested. He told the apostles that they would fall away---that is, that they would run away. Peter said that he would never deny Jesus. But Jesus told him that he would---that very night---deny him 3 times---before the rooster crowed.

Knowing all the suffering that he would be facing, Jesus prayed in the garden that if it was possible that he would be spared all the suffering. He knew that he had come to earth to suffer and die in order to provide forgiveness of sins to human beings----but he dreaded the suffering so much that he wanted to be sure that there was no way to avoid it.

Shortly after this a large crowd armed with swords and clubs approached. Judas had arranged to identify Jesus by kissing him. Then the armed crowd arrested Jesus. All Jesus' followers ran away (as Jesus had said they would). Jesus was taken before the high priest and the top Jewish leaders. They were looking for evidence to have Jesus convicted and put to death.

Jesus was taken to the house of the high priest. It was cold and a fire had been built in the courtyard. Peter quietly walked up and sat among the crowd. A servant girl recognized him and told the people that Peter was with Jesus. But he said that he was not. A little later someone else recognized him, but again he denied knowing Jesus. After about an hour a third person accused Peter of being with Jesus. But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about". Just then a rooster crowed and Peter remembered how Jesus had said that he would deny him 3 times before the rooster crowed. Then Jesus looked at Peter. Peter must have been horrified. He went outside and cried bitterly---so sorry for what he had done.

The Jewish leaders tried to get false witnesses to testify against Jesus. But none had any true accusations to bring against him.

Lesson 13 Questions

1. At the Last Supper, Jesus said that one of his followers would _____ him.
2. Jesus left the Last Supper and went to the Garden of _____ where told the apostles that he would be arrested and they would _____.
3. Jesus prayed, hoping he might be spared all the _____.
4. How did Judas identify Jesus? _____
5. Jesus was taken first before the _____ and other top Jewish leaders.
6. The Jewish leaders wanted to do what to Jesus? _____
7. _____ walked up and sat in front of a _____ in the courtyard of the high priest.
8. What did a servant girl say? _____
How did Peter answer? _____
9. What had Jesus told Peter that he would do that night?

10. How many times did Peter deny Jesus? _____
11. What did Peter hear after the final denial? _____
12. Why did Peter go outside and cry bitterly? _____
13. The Jewish leaders tried to get false witnesses to do what?

Lesson 14

The Romans ruled over the Jews. The Jews were allowed to arrest people and to punish them – BUT, they were not allowed give the death penalty. Only the Romans could do that. For this reason, the Jewish leaders took Jesus to PILATE, the Roman Governor. They wanted him to sentence Jesus to death. But when Pilate questioned Jesus, he could not find anything that he had done that deserved the death penalty.

Pilate decided to send Jesus to HEROD, another Roman ruler who was present at the time. Herod questioned Jesus, but Jesus would not answer him. Herod then sent Jesus back to Pilate. Pilate called in the Jewish leaders and told them that he found no cause of death for Jesus.

But the whole Jewish crowd loudly demanded that Jesus be crucified. At first Pilate would not agree, but finally he gave in rather than face a riot among the crowd, which was led by the angry Jewish leaders. Pilate gave the order to have Jesus crucified.

CRUCIFIXION is a terrible death. The person has his body nailed to a wooden cross where he hangs for hours before he finally dies. But before Jesus was crucified, the Roman soldiers beat him terribly with whips that cut deeply into his bare back, leaving his body a bloody mass of flesh. Then they took some thorny branches and twisted them into a crown which was pressed down on his head. Some spit on him and hit him with their fists, all the while saying all kinds of mean and insulting things to him. **AND THIS WAS JESUS, A GOOD MAN WHO DID NO WRONG TO ANYONE!**

As we look back at these events, we feel SO sorry for all the pain Jesus had to suffer. But when we understand the scriptures, we realize that Jesus suffered all that pain for US! It was to pay for OUR sins and make it possible for us to be forgiven and to go to heaven if we are faithful to God.

A word about Judas: after he saw what was happening to Jesus, he felt very bad about what he had done. He tried to give back the 30 pieces of silver to the Jewish leaders. Then he went out and hanged himself.

Lesson 14 Questions

1. The Jews were ruled by the _____. The _____ penalty could not be carried out by the Jews.
2. Because they wanted Jesus to be put to death, they sent him to _____ who was the Roman _____.
3. Pilate could not find anything in Jesus that deserved the _____ penalty.
4. Pilate sent Jesus to _____, who also found nothing deserving death in Jesus.
5. Rather than face a _____, Pilate ordered that Jesus be _____.
6. In crucifixion a person's _____ is _____ to a _____.
7. The Roman soldiers _____ Jesus with _____, leaving a bloody mass of flesh.
8. The Romans put a _____ made of _____ on Jesus' head.
9. The Romans _____ on Jesus and hit him with their _____.
10. Jesus was a _____ man who did no _____ to anyone.
11. Jesus went through all his suffering for _____ to pay for our _____ so we can be _____ and go to _____.
12. _____ felt bad and tried to give back the money he was paid for betraying Jesus.
13. What happened to Judas? _____

Lesson 15

On either side of Jesus was a criminal, both of whom were also crucified that day. Pilate had a sign placed above Jesus which read, "THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS". The Jewish leaders were angry and wanted the sign removed. They said Jesus was NOT the king of the Jews. But Pilate refused to change the sign.

Jesus was on the cross for about 6 hours. There were a good many people present, including his mother and other followers. The Roman soldiers continued to make fun of Jesus. They "cast lots" (something like rolling dice) to see who would get Jesus' clothing. Even one of the criminals made fun of Jesus. He said, "Are you the Messiah? Save yourself and save us".

But the other criminal rebuked the first one. "Don't you fear God?", he said. "We are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong".

About noon darkness covered the entire land. About 3 hours later Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit". Then he died.

A man named JOSEPH from ARIMATHEA went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He, along with a man named NICODEMUS, buried Jesus' body in a tomb cut out of rock (both men respected Jesus and did not agree to his being killed). A very large stone was rolled in front of the tomb (cave) to close it.

The Jewish leaders knew that Jesus had said that he would rise from the dead on the third day, but they did not believe him. But they were afraid that Jesus' disciples would come and steal his body and then tell everyone that Jesus really had risen from the dead. So they went to Pilate and asked to have the tomb guarded so that the body would not be stolen. Pilate had soldiers posted by the tomb to be sure that the body would not be stolen.

Even though Jesus had said that he would rise from the dead on the third day, none of the apostles was there to see what would happen. They must not have believed it. But someone DID come. Their story is in the next lesson.

Lesson 15 Questions

1. There was a _____ on each side of Jesus when he was crucified.
2. What did the sign over Jesus on the cross say?

3. Jesus was on the cross for about _____ hours. The Roman soldiers cast lots for what? _____
4. Who else made fun of Jesus? _____. The other _____ rebuked the first one.
5. At noon the land was covered with _____. About _____ hours later Jesus died.
6. What were Jesus' last words?

7. A man named _____ from _____ asked _____ for Jesus' body.
8. 2 men named _____ and _____ buried Jesus in a tomb cut out of _____. A large _____ was in front of the tomb.
9. The Jews knew that Jesus had said that he would _____ from the _____ on the _____ day, so they placed _____ at the tomb so the disciples could not _____ Jesus' _____.
10. None of the _____ came to the tomb on the _____ day.

Lesson 16

A number of women who were followers of Jesus saw where he had been buried. 2 days later they came back to the tomb to put spices on the dead body as was the custom at that time. But when they got to the tomb, it was open and no one was inside. Just then an angel appeared to the women and told them that Jesus had arisen from the dead. They were told to go and tell Jesus' followers. Jesus had already gone into Galilee and he would be seen there. Just then Jesus appeared to them. He told them not to be afraid, but to go tell the disciples.

Mary Magdalene, one of the women, told Peter and John about what had happened. They ran to the tomb and saw for themselves that the tomb was empty.

Jesus appeared a number of times to his apostles to let them know for sure that he was alive. Thomas, one of the apostles, did not believe it. He said that he would not believe it unless he could see the holes where the nails were in Jesus' hands and put his hand in the hole in Jesus' side where a Roman soldier had driven a spear into Jesus' side. Jesus appeared at a meeting of the apostles where Thomas was present. Jesus showed Thomas the holes in his hand and his side. Amazed, Thomas then truly believed.

A word about the guards. They were terrified with fear when the angels came, and Jesus left the grave. They were afraid that they would be punished for not protecting the tomb. They reported what happened to the Jewish rulers. The rulers could not admit that Jesus had arisen from the dead, so they paid the guards to tell that they had gone to sleep and that someone had stolen Jesus' body. The Jewish leaders promised to see that the guards did not get into trouble.

Jesus spent many days with his apostles, giving them a number of instructions about what to do after he was back in heaven. He told them to preach to the whole world, spreading the gospel (good news) about how to have sins forgiven and go to heaven.

Lesson 16 Questions

1. 2 days after Jesus' death some _____ brought _____ to the tomb.
2. The tomb was _____. An _____ told the women that Jesus had _____ and to go tell _____.
3. When Jesus appeared to the women, he told them not to be _____.
4. _____ told _____ and _____ who _____ to the tomb and saw that it was _____.
5. Jesus appeared a number of times to his _____ so they would be sure that he was _____.
6. What apostle did not believe? _____ How did Jesus convince him?
7. The guards did not protect the tomb because they were _____ when the _____ came to the tomb.
8. The Jewish leaders paid the guards to say what?

9. Jesus spent many days with the apostles giving them a number of _____ about what to do when he was back in _____.
10. Jesus told the apostles to _____ to the whole _____, spreading the _____ about how to have _____ and go to _____.

Lesson 17

Jesus came to earth for a very important reason. He was to give his body as a sacrifice for our sins - so that we can be forgiven. Jesus often spoke of his KINGDOM. He meant by "Kingdom" the people who would be his followers and obey him. He wanted his message spread all over the world. He wanted his apostles to preach the message...AND...to teach others to preach the message also.

Jesus had another word for his kingdom. It was his CHURCH, which means people who made the decision to follow Christ with their lives.

Jesus knew that the apostles would need some help in remembering his teachings. They would need help in other ways. He promised that when he got back to heaven God would send his HOLY SPIRIT to be with them and give the help they needed.

Jesus told the apostles to go to Jerusalem and wait for the special time when the Holy Spirit would come and give them special powers. (The events of that day are recorded in the book of ACTS, chapter 2).

Jesus was on earth for 40 days after his resurrection. When it was time for him to go to heaven, he gathered his apostles around him. After giving some final instructions, he arose into the sky where a cloud hid him from their sight. Then 2 angels appeared and told the apostles, "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Lesson 17 Questions

1. Jesus came to earth to give his _____ as a _____ for our _____.
2. Jesus often spoke of his _____, which meant his followers.
3. Jesus wanted his _____ spread where? _____
4. What did Jesus want his apostles to do (2 things)?

5. Another word for Jesus' kingdom is his _____.
6. From heaven Jesus was to send the _____ to help the apostles do their work.
7. Jesus told the apostles to wait in _____ until the _____ would come.
8. The events of the day when the Holy Spirit came are in the book of _____, chapter _____.
9. After his resurrection Jesus was on earth for _____ days, appearing to many people.
10. After giving final instructions, Jesus _____ into the _____ where a _____ hid him from sight.
11. What did 2 angels tell the apostles?
