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## Familiarization, Internalization, Articulation (FIA) Key Terms

### abba

**Abba** is the Aramaic word for "father." Aramaic was the language that the people in Israel spoke in Jesus's time. Jesus calls God "abba" when he prays to God just before he was arrested and then crucified. Paul later wrote in his letters that the Holy Spirit makes us say "abba, father!" to God. This means that because of the Holy Spirit, we can have the same intimate relationship with God as a child has with its father—just as Jesus had.

### abba

#### *Audio Content*

### Abraham

Abraham was the first ancestor of the Israelites, the Jews. Abraham's name had been Abram, but God later changed his name to Abraham. Abraham means "the father of many nations."

Abraham lived about two thousand years before the birth of Jesus. He first lived in a region named Ur, which was somewhere east of Israel. Abraham's father Terah took his sons and their wives with him and left Ur, because he wanted to go to the country named Canaan, but he stopped in a place called Haran. This was still quite far away from Canaan. The family began to live there, and after some time Abraham's father died. Abraham and his family did not know God; they worshiped idols.

When Abraham was 75 years old, God spoke to him. God told him to leave behind his homeland, and to go to a place that God would show him. God said that he would bless Abraham, that he would make a great nation out of him, and that God would bless all the nations of the world through Abraham. And Abraham obeyed God! Together with his wife Sarah and his nephew Lot he set out on a long journey. When he came to Canaan, God told him that this was the country that he would give to Abraham and to his descendants.

However, Abraham did not have any descendants yet. He had no children, and he was already an old man! But he believed God's promise. And God was very pleased with Abraham's trust, and therefore

he accepted Abraham as someone with whom God could have a good relationship.

But Abraham still had to wait for a long time before God gave him any descendants. He had to wait 25 more years, and during that time he made several mistakes and sometimes forgot to trust God. But eventually, when Abraham was 100 years old and his wife Sarah was 90 years old, Sarah gave birth to a son. How happy Abraham and Sarah were then! And they called their son "Isaac," which means laughter.

Then, after some years, God gave Abraham a very difficult test. God told Abraham that he had to sacrifice his son Isaac. He had to kill Isaac, and burn him as a gift for God! But by now Abraham had really learned to trust God, and he obeyed. And when Abraham had already lifted his knife to kill his son, God stopped him and praised Abraham! And God said that because Abraham had shown that he really trusted God and had obeyed him, now the blessing that God had promised to give to Abraham would continue also for Isaac, and Abraham's further generations. Through Abraham's descendants all the people of the world would be blessed!

And so, Isaac grew up and had two sons. The youngest son was Jacob. Jacob's name was later changed to Israel. Jacob, or Israel, had 12 sons. The descendants of these 12 sons became the 12 tribes of Israel. They became a big nation. And one of their descendants was Jesus! And through Jesus, all the people of the world are blessed. God has fulfilled his promise to Abraham!

### Abraham

#### *Audio Content*

### adonai

The word **Adonai** is a word in the Hebrew language, which is the language of the Old Testament. Adonai means lord, or master. The Jews often use this word as a respectful title to talk about God.

## adonai

### *Audio Content*

## adultery

**Adultery** is a form of sexual sin. God considers it a sin whenever people have a sexual relationship with someone to whom they are not married, but in the Old Testament the word adultery is used for a specific case. If a man has sexual relations with a woman who was married to someone else, both the man and woman are guilty of adultery. The punishment for adultery is death. However, if the woman is raped, only the man had to die.

When a man had sexual relations with an unmarried woman or slave, he had still disobeyed, or sinned, against God, but according to the Old Testament law, this sin is not in the category of adultery.

God hates adultery and every form of sexual sin. God often compares the disobedience of people to himself with adultery: When people are unfaithful to God and begin to worship idols and false gods, they are behaving just like a man and a woman who are unfaithful to their own husband or wife. Therefore, God calls idolatry-the worship of idols or of any other god besides God himself-a form of adultery.

In the New Testament, Jesus made the rules about adultery more strict. He said that if someone only *thought* about having a sexual relationship with someone they are not married to, this is already sin.

## adultery

### *Audio Content*

## altar

An **altar** is a place where people make offerings or sacrifices to God. It is like a table or a platform that people make of earth or large stones. People placed gifts for God on this table. Often this meant that people then burned the gift. The gift could be an animal, or could be food items, or sweet smelling spices.

Before the Israelites built the tabernacle and the temple, the Israelites built altars in different places. After God had told them to make the tabernacle, the Israelites were only supposed to build altars in the tabernacle, and later in the temple.

Other people groups besides the Israelites also made altars to give offerings to their own gods.

## altar

### *Audio Content*

## amen

**Amen** is an Hebrew word. Depending on when it is used, it can mean something like, "I accept this," "May it be true," "Indeed," or "Truly."

When someone tells you that something good is going to happen, you can respond by saying "Amen!" This means that you say that you hope and believe that it will be true.

When someone offers a prayer to God, you can say "Amen." This means that you hope and believe that the prayer will be answered.

Jesus uses the word amen in a different way. Jesus often says "Amen" or even "Amen, amen" at the beginning of his teaching. When Jesus says "Amen," he means: "Listen carefully to what I'm going to say, because it is true and very important."

## amen

### *Audio Content*

## angel

An **angel** is a supernatural, spiritual being created by God. Angels give messages from God to people; for instance, an angel told Mary that she would be pregnant through the power of God. Sometimes an angel gives a message to people in a dream; for instance, an angel told Joseph in a dream to take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt.

Sometimes an angel seems to look like a normal person, but at other times, angels can look very bright and shining, or even frightening. Often, the first thing they had to say to people was "do not be afraid!"

An angel can also do a specific task for God. They can help people or protect them; for instance, a whole army of angels stood around the prophet Elisha when the Aramaean king tried to capture him.

God also uses angels to give punishments to people. For instance, an angel killed the firstborn sons in Egypt after the king refused to let the Israelites

leave. From the New Testament we know that God will use angels for his final judgment.

Another very important task for angels is to worship God. We find this especially in the book of Revelation.

An important type of angel is an archangel. This is an angel with special authority. The Bible mentions two archangels by name: Gabriel and Michael.

Not all angels stayed obedient to God. Some angels rebelled. They became evil spirits, and the name of their leader is Satan.

**When translating the word "angel," be careful about following things:**

Make sure people will not get confused with the word you have chosen for "prophet." A prophet also gives messages from God to the people, but a prophet is a human person, belonging to earth, while an angel is a supernatural being, belonging to heaven.

## angel

### *Audio Content*

### angel of the Lord

An angel is a supernatural, spiritual being created by God. Angels give messages from God to people. The "angel of the Lord" or "angel of Yahweh" is a special angel who speaks with so much authority that it is as if God himself is speaking. Normally people would die if they saw God face to face, so it could even be that this angel is God himself, but appearing to people in a way that they can see Him and survive! People are often afraid when they see an angel of the Lord, because he usually looks awesome. We do not hear about this kind of angel of the Lord or angel of Yahweh in the New Testament, because he is no longer needed. God is now speaking directly through Jesus.

### angel of the Lord

### *Audio Content*

## anoint

To **anoint** someone means to pour sweet smelling oil over someone. You can also anoint an object.

In the Old Testament, before God gave someone a special task, he would instruct someone else to pour oil over that person's head. The oil was a

symbol for the Holy Spirit of God. This ritual made clear that God had set this person apart for a special purpose. It also made clear that God was giving this person special authority. The person was then called "anointed." For instance, God told Samuel to anoint David as king of Israel. God told Moses to anoint Aaron as high priest. And God told the prophet Elijah to anoint Elisha as a prophet to succeed Elijah.

Later, the word "anointed" was also used for people whom God had appointed for a special task, even if there had not been a ritual that involved the pouring of oil. Jesus is called "the anointed," because God has selected him for a very special task.

People could also anoint objects. The priests anointed the objects that were used in the temple with oil to make clear that they now had a special purpose. These objects now belonged to God; they were sacred.

Jewish people also used anointing as a daily activity that had no special meaning. They used sweet smelling oil to take care of their skin and their hair. Jesus told the people that if they fasted, they should anoint themselves just as they did every day, rather than make themselves look unkempt so that other people could think, "These people are fasting, how impressive!"

People also put some oil on guests to show them they were welcome and honored. There are two stories in the Gospels of women putting oil on Jesus's feet to honor him.

Jewish people also anointed a person's body after his death. After Jesus died, the women are bringing sweet smelling oil to the tomb in order to anoint Jesus's body.

In the New Testament, the early Christians sometimes used oil together with prayer if someone was sick. The apostle James, in his letter, says that if someone is sick, the other believers should pray for the person and anoint the person with oil. This was not because the oil had any special power, but because it was a symbol of God's presence.

## anoint

### Audio Content

## apostle

In the Gospels, Jesus chooses 12 disciples. But even in the Gospels these disciples are sometimes called **apostles**. In the book of Acts, these same people, along with some others, are now called apostles. What is the difference?

A *disciple* means someone who is committed to follow Jesus. This doesn't mean that only the 12 disciples were disciples. Disciples are all people who follow Jesus and who are learning from him.

An *apostle* is someone who has received a special authority from Jesus. An apostle is appointed. An apostle is speaking on behalf of Jesus.

In the Gospels, the 12 disciples are sometimes called apostles, especially when Jesus is sending them out to do something. But in the book of Acts, the 12 disciples are always called apostles. This makes clear that now they have authority. Jesus has given them the task to continue the work that he started. They are not doing their own work; they are doing the work of Jesus.

This is the work that an apostle is supposed to do:

1. An apostle is a witness to other people that Jesus really had risen from the dead. The apostles had been with Jesus, they knew that he had really died, and they had seen him after he became alive again. So they are able to tell other people that this is really true.
2. An apostle preaches the gospel to all people and establishes churches.
3. An apostle has authority in the church. God had given the apostles the authority to make decisions about spiritual matters. They are the representatives of Jesus in the church. God had also given them power to do miracles. This was proof for other people that their authority really came from God.

## apostle

### Audio Content

## authority

Someone who has **authority** has the right and the power to make decisions and judgments. The highest authority belongs to God. God can give authority to other people to make decisions or judgments on his behalf. God will often show that he has given authority to people by also giving them power to do miracles.

Jesus has authority because he is the king, and God sent him.

The apostles had authority in the church, because Jesus gave it to them. Other people needed to accept their decisions.

The Bible has authority because God is speaking to the people through the Bible. This means that people have to listen to what God tells them through the Bible.

## authority

### Audio Content

## baptism

To **baptize** someone, or something, means to immerse it in water to wash it. It comes from the Greek word "baptizo."

The word has a special religious meaning. In the Old Testament, Jewish priests would baptize themselves before they would do their work in the temple of God. This made them "clean" so that they were fit to approach God.

When people who were not Jewish wanted to follow God, they could be baptized. After that, they would be accepted as part of God's people. We do not hear about this custom in the Old Testament, but we know about it from other books from the history of the Jews.

When John the baptizer came, he did something new by telling all the people that they should take baptism. Being born as a Jew wasn't enough to be part of God's people! All people needed to repent, to say sorry for the bad things that they had done. They needed to turn away from their old life, and to start a new way of living. They should start obeying God!

Just before Jesus went back to heaven, he told his disciples to go and tell people everywhere that Jesus has all authority. Jesus told them to make all people Jesus's disciples, and to baptize them in the name of the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit.

And so, from that time onwards, we see that as soon as people began to believe in Jesus they took baptism. This baptism was a sign of their repentance and need for forgiveness. But it was also a sign that they now belonged to Jesus and wanted to follow him.

Paul, in his letters, explains that when we take baptism it is as if we die and become alive again. We die by going under in the water, and become alive again by coming up out of the water. This is a symbol showing that our old life is dead. We now have a new life because we belong to Jesus. Jesus died for us, and became alive again. When we take baptism, we accept that Jesus died in our place, and that we are new people because God has forgiven us. Just as water cleanses our bodies from dirt, Jesus has "cleansed" us from our sins. Now we are fit to approach God!

The ritual of baptism was something that only needed to be done once.

**When you are translating baptism, be careful about the following things:**

The word baptism, and to baptize someone, can be difficult to translate. Many people use a word that sounds like the Greek word "baptizo." New believers will have to slowly learn what this word means. You can also use a term that would be more meaningful for the people in your language group. If people in your community have a form of ritual bathing, this word might be helpful in translating baptism. However, be sure you understand the meaning of the ritual in your community, and think about the difference between the meaning of that ritual and baptism in the Bible. You may need to explain how baptism in the Bible is different from the ritual in your community.

You can also use a word that sounds like "baptizo," but then add a small phrase to give more explanation about its meaning.

## baptism

### *Audio Content*

## basket

People use a **basket** to carry or store things. People make baskets by weaving together thin sticks, stems of plants, or reeds. A reed is a plant that grows in the water.

Some baskets were small and people carried them on their back. People used these baskets for carrying food. Other baskets were bigger, and two people might be needed to carry them when they were full. For example, fishermen used these baskets to collect the fish that they caught and to take it to the market.

## basket

### *Audio Content*

## belief

**To believe** and to have faith mean the same thing.

If you believe in someone, you believe that what that person says about himself is true. You then trust that person and are committed to do what that person tells you to do.

Abraham believed that God spoke the truth when he promised that Abraham would have many descendants, even though Abraham was already old and did not have even one child. Abraham trusted that God would fulfill his promise, even though it seemed impossible.

If you believe in God, you accept that God exists and that what God says in the Bible is true. You trust that God will fulfill all his promises, even when it seems impossible. As a result, you are committed to obey everything that God wants you to do.

When you believe in Jesus, you believe that Jesus is indeed the son of God. You trust that Jesus has indeed died for your sins, and that God has forgiven and accepted you. As a result, you are committed to do everything that Jesus has commanded.

The Bible sometimes says that people should "believe in Jesus's name." This means the same thing as to believe in Jesus.

Someone who has great faith or belief, trusts God-or Jesus-very much.

### **When you are translating the word "believe," be careful about the following things:**

In some languages, the word "believe" can sound as if someone only hopes that something is true, but they are not sure. This is not the right meaning. Therefore, sometimes it can be better to use a word that means "trust."

*Ask one person to volunteer to be the person who has to trust, or have faith. That person should stand with their back to a group of at least 5 people, if you have that many people. Those five people should stand right behind the volunteer. They should be capable and willing to catch the volunteer. Ask the volunteer to fall back into the arms of the group of people. Ask the volunteer: Did you hesitate to do that? How do you feel as you decide whether or not to fall back into the arms of the group?*

Maybe the volunteer chooses to not actually fall back, even though the volunteer knows that the volunteer's friends will catch them. Ask the group: How does the group feel when the volunteer chooses to not fall back into their arms?

Maybe the volunteer chooses to fall back into the group's arms. How does the volunteer feel after the group catches him? How does the group feel, knowing that the person has trusted them? This is an example of having faith, or trusting. You do not trust unless you really fall back into the arms of the group. You may say that you trust them, but true trust does not happen until you fall. Trusting means to act on what you say. [!end] Pause the recording here.

## **belief**

### *Audio Content*

## **Bethlehem**

Bethlehem is the birthplace of Jesus.

Bethlehem was a small village in Israel. The name Bethlehem means "house of bread." In the Old Testament, the events in the book of Ruth took place in Bethlehem. Ruth was a Moabite woman, so she was not an Israelite. Ruth's first husband had died, so Ruth came to live in Bethlehem with her Israelite mother-in-law. Later, Ruth married an Israelite man from Bethlehem. The great grandson of Ruth and her Israelite husband was David, who would later become the most beloved king of Israel.

Because king David was born in Bethlehem, Bethlehem is also called the city of David.

God later said through the prophet Micah that another very important ruler would be born in Bethlehem. Therefore the Jews were expecting that the Messiah, the special King and Savior that God had promised to send, would be born in Bethlehem.

God fulfilled this promise when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Bethlehem was a few kilometers away from Jerusalem, which was the most important city for the Jews.

## **Bethlehem**

### *Audio Content*

## **Bethsaida**

**Bethsaida** is a village in the province of Galilee. It was probably close to the city of Capernaum, because John tells us that Jesus's disciples Andrew and Peter came from Bethsaida, but Mark tells us that they lived in Capernaum. The village was close to the Sea of Galilee, and many people in the village made their living from fishing. The name Bethsaida even means "house of fishing."

## **Bethsaida**

### *Audio Content*

## **blasphemy**

To **blaspheme** someone means to speak evil about a person, and to insult someone. A person who curses God, insults God, dishonors God, or makes God seem less powerful or important, is blaspheming God. The punishment for blasphemy was death.

## **blasphemy**

### *Audio Content*

## **bless**

When God **blesses** a person, God is doing, or promising to do, something good for that person.

When a human speaks a **blessing** over another person, they are praying that God will do good things for this other person.

When people are blessing God, it means they are worshiping God and thanking him for his goodness and his blessings.

When people are blessing something-for instance food-this means that they are thanking God for it.

When you call someone **blessed**, you mean to say that other people can congratulate that person. Other people can be glad for those people, because God has blessed them.

The opposite of a blessing is a curse. Through Moses, God told the Israelites that if they would obey God's commandments, God would bless them. But if they would disobey God, God would curse them. God will not protect those people who are cursed, and people who are cursed will not be in a good relationship with God.

## bless

### *Audio Content*

## blood

Every human and animal lives because God puts his own life breath in it. In the Old Testament, blood symbolizes this life breath. A person cannot live without blood, and so when blood drains out of a body, it is as if God's life breath is leaving the body.

In the Old Testament, God told the people that they should not eat the blood of an animal. When they ate meat, they first had to completely drain the animal of blood. By draining the blood from the animal, it was as if the people gave the life breath of the animal back to God.

Because blood, as long as it is in our bodies, represented life, losing blood represented death. Anything which is dead symbolizes how bad sin has made God's good creation. Therefore, a dead body of a human or an animal was unclean, meaning unacceptable before God, and anyone who touched such a dead body would become unclean as well.

A person who was losing blood was for this reason also unclean. Even though the person was not dead, it was as if they-symbolically-were already a little bit dead. Therefore even a woman who was just menstruating, or a man who was discharging blood, was unclean until the bleeding was over. Anyone who touched such a person became unclean as well. In the Gospels we see a bleeding woman touching Jesus-but instead of this making Jesus unclean, Jesus made the woman clean by healing her from her sickness!

Because blood is so important for a person's life, the word is often used as picture language for "life."

So, someone who killed someone has "shed blood," even if no blood has flowed.

Even though losing blood was bad and made someone unclean, blood of animals that were sacrificed to God were used to make people or things clean. Blood was an important part of the sacrifices that the Israelites made to God. When the priests brought God a sacrifice, they collected the blood of the animal that they were sacrificing. Depending on the type of ritual, the priests would sprinkle the blood on the altar, or on some specific object, or on a person. This symbolized that these objects or people were now clean. They were now suitable for serving God.

Blood was also used to make a formal agreement, called a covenant. When God made his covenant with Abraham, Abraham had to kill some animals, and therefore he shed blood. Jesus says that his, Jesus', blood is the sign of the new covenant. This means that the death of Jesus made possible a new covenant between God and people. In the Old Testament, the blood of animals made people clean. But now the blood of Jesus makes the people who believe in him clean-God forgives them and accepts them. In the Old Testament, people had to sacrifice animals again and again. But Jesus died once, and this was sufficient for all the generations of the people!

## blood

### *Audio Content*

## boat

People build boats to travel across water. A boat can be very small and hold just a few people, or it can be large and hold hundreds of people. A boat can be open to the top, or it can have a roof over a part of the boat with one or several rooms inside.

People can move a boat forward by moving long sticks called oars through the water. This is called rowing. Larger boats would also have sails. A sail is a large piece of cloth that is attached to a long pole called a mast. The sail will catch the wind, and this moves the boat forward. Sailors are people who handle the boat and maneuver the sails so that the wind gives them the best speed. In the Old Testament, Jonah got on a sailboat like this when he was not willing to go to Nineveh.

Jesus and his disciples often traveled by boat across the Sea of Galilee. These were boats used by fishermen to go across the lake and to catch fish in



the lake. These were rowing boats, though some boats may have had a small sail as well. These boats were just the right size to fit Jesus and his 12 disciples.

In the book of Acts, we read that Paul also traveled by boat sometimes. These boats were larger, and had sails. People traveled in these boats for longer distances. Sometimes storms made traveling by boat difficult, and a shipwreck could occur-this means that the boat would break and would sink. People could die in shipwrecks. Traveling by boat could therefore be quite dangerous.

A boat has a small, movable, piece of wood attached to it which is called a rudder. This allows the people to make the boat go in the direction that they want. James in his epistle compares our tongue to a rudder of a boat-very small, but very powerful!

*You can look in the video dictionary for some pictures of different types of boats.*

To help your teams understand the size of the boat that Jesus and his disciples used, try drawing in the dirt or with a piece of charcoal the shape of the boat on the ground. The boat is about eight big steps long, and three small steps wide. Now fit 13 people inside this space! Do you think that there would have been space for more people?

## boat

### *Audio Content*

## bow

When a person **bows** down before someone else, they lower their head or the whole top of their body forward. They do this to show respect and humility. A person can also bow down by kneeling in front of a person and putting their head to the ground.

Sometimes people even stretched themselves out flat on the ground in front of a person. This is called falling at someone's feet.

## bow

### *Audio Content*

## burnt offering

In the Old Testament, a **burnt offering** is a form of sacrifice that people bring to God. When a person brings God a burnt offering, he kills an animal and burns this animal completely on an altar, which is a

special place meant for bringing gifts to God. When a person brings God a burnt offering, they are saying to God: "Just as I am completely burning this animal, I am completely devoted to you."

## burnt offering

### *Audio Content*

## Caesar

**Caesar** is the title for the Roman emperor. Rome is a city in the country named Italy. In the time of the New Testament, Rome was the capital of the Roman empire.

An empire is a group of nations or countries that are ruled by one person or one government. The leader of an empire is called an emperor. The emperor of the Romans was called Caesar.

The Roman Empire included many countries and people groups. It was very large. The people in all those countries had to pay taxes to Caesar. The Caesar was so powerful that many people treated him like a god. In some cities, people built temples where they worshiped statues of the Caesar.

## Caesar

### *Audio Content*

## Caesarea Philippi

**Caesarea Philippi** was a city about 40 kilometers north from the Sea of Galilee. The people who lived in this area were not Jewish. Inside this city was a temple that the people had built to worship Caesar, the Roman Emperor.

## Caesarea Philippi

### *Audio Content*

## camel

A **camel** is a large, strong animal that can walk for a very long distance without needing food or water. People sat on camels while traveling, and used camels to carry luggage. A camel has one or two humps on its back. Inside these humps, the camel stores fat which allows the camel to go for a long time without food or water. Once a camel has an opportunity to drink, it will drink an enormous amount of water at one time.

A camel was the largest animal that existed in Israel.

People could make the short, stiff hair of a camel into cloth. This made simple and rough clothing. John the baptizer wore clothes made from camel hair.

*You can look in the video dictionary for a picture of a camel.*

## camel

### *Audio Content*

## Canaan

In the Old Testament, **Canaan** is an area that is roughly a strip of land between the Jordan River in the east, and the Mediterranean Sea in the west. This is an area that today includes part of the countries of Israel and Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria.

God had called Abraham and told him to go to the country that he would show him. This country was Canaan. God promised Abraham that the whole land of Canaan would belong to his descendants.

Many other people groups lived in this area at that time: Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, and a few others. Sometimes all of them together are called Canaanites, and sometimes all of them together are called Amorites.

When Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, are freed from slavery in Egypt, God brings them back to Canaan. God gives them the task to drive out the Canaanites and to take over the land. God was going to give the land to the Israelites. God wanted to build a nation out of the Israelites through whom he would bless all the peoples of the earth. In order for the people to remain faithful to God, it was important that they would not be influenced by the Canaanite people. The Canaanite people worshiped many gods and did many things that God had specifically forbidden in his commandments. But the Israelites failed to drive out the Canaanites, and often sinned by following the customs and the gods of the Canaanites.

## Canaan

### *Audio Content*

## Capernaum

**Capernaum** was a small town in the region called Galilee, near the Sea of Galilee. Many people in Capernaum made their living from fishing or from buying and selling goods. The town was near an important road. People travelled on this road to other places to buy and sell goods. Therefore, the town was important in the region, even though it was not very large.

Several of Jesus's disciples came from Capernaum. Jesus often stayed in Capernaum.

## Capernaum

### *Audio Content*

## centurion

A **centurion** is a Roman military officer who commands a group of one hundred soldiers.

## centurion

### *Audio Content*

## cherubim

A **cherub**, or several **cherubim**, are a type of angel. Cherubim seem to especially guard sacred, or holy, places. Therefore there were pictures and images of cherubim in the temple and in the tabernacle. In these pictures, the cherubim have the body of a lion, the wings of a bird, and the face of a human. The cherubim are a warning for people that God is present. In fact, gold cherubim spread their wings over the top of the ark of the covenant and protected the throne where God met with his people from the top of the ark of the covenant. In the book of Ezekiel, Ezekiel sees a vision in which cherubim are carrying the throne of God. Some of the descriptions of the cherubim in Ezekiel look like people but have four wings and four faces.

## cherubim

### *Audio Content*

## Christ

The word **Christ** is the same as the word Messiah. Christ is the Greek word, and Messiah is the same word in Hebrew. Greek is the language of the New Testament, while Hebrew is the language of the Old Testament.

The word "Messiah" refers to the special king and Savior that God had promised to send.

A Messiah literally meant someone who was anointed. That meant that another person had poured oil over them. This was a sign that God had given this person a special task. For example, In the Old Testament, God told the prophet Samuel to pour oil over David. This was a sign that God chose David to become the next king of Israel.

Later, people called someone anointed if God had appointed that person for a special task, even if no one really had poured oil on their head.

David became the most beloved king of Israel. But after David, other people ruled over Israel, and many of them were not good kings. These kings led the people away from God, and therefore God had to punish the people. The country of Israel was destroyed, and came under the control of other nations. But still, God promised the people of Israel that he would send them a new king. This king would save the people from their trouble. This king would be a descendant of David.

The Israelites began to refer to this king that God promised to send as "the Messiah," which meant "the anointed one."

When Jesus came, he showed the people that *he* is the Messiah that God had promised to send. Jesus was a descendant of David. Jesus proved that God had appointed him through the extraordinary power and authority he had.

Jesus almost never directly said to the people "I am the Messiah!" This is because people did not yet really know what it would mean for Jesus to be the Messiah. They wrongly believed that the Messiah would restore the kingdom of Israel and give them back political power. Jesus instead called himself "the Son of Man," which was an indirect way of saying that he was the Messiah.

After Jesus rose up from the dead, his disciples knew with great certainty that he was the Messiah

and they began to share this good news with other people. God had sent his Savior! But Jesus was not a Savior who just freed people from an earthly government. Jesus was a Savior who did much more-Jesus freed people from sin and death.

**When you are translating the words "Messiah" or "Christ," be careful about the following things:**

- You only need one word for both Messiah and Christ.
- You could translate Messiah as "Savior," or "promised Savior," or "special king and Savior."
- Some translation teams like to use a word that sounds like "Messiah" or "Christ." If you do this, be sure that the word does not sound similar to a word in your language that has a very different meaning! Otherwise, people who do not know the Bible may get very confused.
- Maybe your culture has a symbol or ritual that people use to appoint someone for a special task. Maybe you can use this word for your translation of Messiah.

## Christ

### *Audio Content*

## circumcision

Circumcision is the Jewish custom of cutting off the loose skin at the end of a boy's penis. The father of the baby, or someone who was specially trained, usually did this. Circumcision happened when a baby boy was eight days old.

The custom began when God told Abraham to circumcise himself and every male person in his household. The circumcision was a sign that the person was included in the covenant that God had made with Abraham. From that time onwards, every male Israelite had to be circumcised. If someone who was not a descendant of Abraham wanted to become part of the Israelites and a part of the covenant the Israelites had with God, he had to be circumcised as well. Men had to be circumcised in order to be acceptable for God.

The Bible also talks about "circumcision of the heart." This is picture language for repenting and for dedicating yourself to God. Only when people have repented, or turned away from their sins, are they acceptable before God. The Israelites, or Jews, thought that they were better than all the other people in the world because they were circumcised. But God told them that being circumcised means nothing if people are not truly dedicated to God. Circumcision of the body is useless if the heart is not circumcised as well.

In the New Testament, the new believers in Jesus had different opinions about circumcision. Some Jewish Christians thought that all believers should be circumcised. They thought that only someone who was circumcised could really belong to God's people. Paul and the other apostles then taught the church that God no longer required circumcision of the body in order to belong to God's people. Instead, people need a spiritual circumcision of the heart: repentance, faith, and obedience to Jesus.

## circumcision

### *Audio Content*

## clean/unclean

The words "clean" and "unclean" in the Bible are not talking about whether something is clean or dirty from the outside. In the Bible, a **clean** person means a person who is fit for service to God—someone who is acceptable to participate in worship to God. A person who is **unclean** is unfit for service to God. Animals and even objects can also be clean or unclean.

Being clean is the normal state of a person, but a person could become unclean if they did not follow the rules of cleanness. The rules about which things were clean or unclean helped the Israelites remember that they were God's special people. Just as an object that is clean has to be kept away from something that is unclean, the Israelites had to stay away from unclean things. These things might be unclean animals or objects, or unclean actions like sin.

The rules about clean and unclean also helped people remember that God gives life, and that without God there is death. Blood and sickness are associated with death. That is why someone who was sick or bleeding was unclean. A dead body was the most unclean thing of all.

Uncleanliness was also contagious. If an unclean person touched a clean person, then the clean person became unclean. If a clean person touched an unclean object—for instance, a bloodied piece of cloth—the clean person became unclean. If a clean person touched a dead body, then the clean person became unclean as well.

The distinction between clean and unclean was very important in the worship of God. Nothing that was unclean could enter the temple. God had appointed priests to take care of the temple. The priests had to be very careful to remain clean.

If someone was unclean because they had been menstruating, had had sexual relations, or had touched a dead body, they needed to wait a certain amount of time and then take a bath. After that, they were clean again.

If someone had a skin disease, they were unclean until the priest confirmed that they were healed. The person who was healed then had to offer an animal sacrifice to God. After that, he was considered clean again.

God told the Israelites which animals they could eat and not eat. For instance, they could eat goats, sheep, cows, and certain birds. These animals were clean. Animals they could not eat included pigs, wild animals, and reptiles. If a person ate an unclean animal, the person would become unclean.

When people brought a sacrifice to God, they could only offer a clean animal. The animal had to be completely healthy as well. Otherwise, it would still be unclean and unsuitable for sacrifice.

In the Old Testament, people could become unclean either by sin or by touching an unclean thing. An animal could be unclean by nature.

However, in the New Testament, Jesus teaches the people that being clean is not just a matter of staying away from certain foods or from taking a ritual bath. Jesus teaches us that we become unclean if we think evil thoughts and do wrong things. These things make us unfit to serve or worship God. We become unclean if we disobey God. That is why evil spirits are often called "unclean spirits," because they are rebelling against God.

After Jesus went back to heaven, more and more people became his followers. Among them were also people who were not Jews. The church at first thought that people who were not Jews were unclean, and could therefore not become part of God's people. But God taught the church that the

old rules about who or what was clean no longer counted. People from all nations were welcome with God, and it was no longer important what someone ate or did not eat. Jesus had made people clean. What was important now was to stay clean by staying away from sin.

## clean/unclean

### Audio Content

## cloak

A **cloak**, which is also called a robe, is a piece of clothing. People wear a cloak on top of other clothes. A cloak helps to keep people warm and dry and can be used as a blanket at night. People made cloaks from animal skin or wool. Wool is the hair of an animal called a sheep. A cloak was often a simple square piece of material with holes for the arms.

*You can look in the visual dictionary for a picture of a cloak.*

## cloak

### Audio Content

## compassion

When someone has **compassion** for someone, they have a deep affection or love for someone.

## compassion

### Audio Content

## cornerstone

A **cornerstone**, sometimes called a "head stone," is the most important stone in a building.

There are two different stones in a building that can be called a cornerstone.

A cornerstone can be a large stone placed at one of the corners at the bottom of a building. People put this stone down first. Then, when they build the rest of the house, they build it in relation to this stone. They know where to build the other walls because they can look at this first stone and make the other walls connect with this stone. Because this stone is large, it joins two different walls and carries a large part of the weight of the house. In this case, the cornerstone is the most important stone because it makes the house strong.

A cornerstone can also mean a stone that is placed at the top of a building. This stone joins two arches to form a doorway, or to support the roof. In this case, the cornerstone is the most important stone because it completes the house and joins it together.

*You can look in the visual Bible dictionary for pictures of a cornerstone.*

## cornerstone

### Audio Content

## covenant

When people make a **covenant**, they make a solemn promise to each other that they cannot break. When people make a covenant, they say that they want to have a good relationship with each other. Therefore, the people who make the covenant sometimes call each other brother, or father, or son. A covenant is for always.

When people make a covenant, they swear an oath. In the oath they say: "I will keep my promise. If I do not, God may punish me." They can perform a ritual that symbolizes the punishment that God will give them if they break their oath. For instance, when people made a covenant with each other, they might each kill an animal. This reminded them that if one of them broke the covenant, God would punish them. Often, eating a meal together was also part of the covenant ritual.

Individual people or whole families could make a covenant with each other. Countries or people groups could also make a covenant with each other. For instance they might promise that they would not fight with each other and that they would help the other group if that group had a problem. By making a covenant with each other, they were saying that they wanted to have a good relationship with each other. In this relationship, both parties were equal. They had a choice whether to make the covenant with each other or not, and they could agree together about what they wanted to promise to each other. In the Old Testament, the people of Israel sometimes made a covenant with people from another nation.

A king or a ruler could also make a covenant with another ruler or kingdom that was weaker than he was. The king could say to these other people: "I will protect you, but you will have to pay me," or "You have to work for me." These other people had to promise to do what the king wanted. If they

broke the promise, the king would punish them. If they kept their promise, the king would do good things for them. In this type of covenant, the king did not make an oath. Only the people who had to do what the king wanted had to make an oath.

But sometimes it was the other way around, and only the king made an oath. This could happen if some people had done something very good for the king, and the king wanted to reward them. This usually meant that the king gave them some land. The king then swore an oath, saying that the people could have this piece of land forever.

God made several covenants with people. These types of covenants were quite like the two different types of covenant that a king could make with people.

God made a covenant with Abraham. God promised to give to Abraham a land and many descendants. God was the only one who made an oath here. God confirmed his oath through a ritual that involved the killing of animals. This symbolized the sincerity of God's oath. From that time onwards, Abraham and his descendants needed to be circumcised. Circumcision is the custom of cutting off the loose skin at the end of a man's penis. In Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament, when people make a covenant they say that they "*cut* a covenant." By making this cut in their body, Abraham's descendants would be reminded about the covenant that God had "*cut*" with them. If Abraham's descendants would stop circumcising their sons, they would break their part of the covenant.

Later, God confirmed this covenant with Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, several times. For instance, this happened on Mount Sinai after Moses led the Israelites out of slavery from Egypt. Abraham's descendants had become a large people group, just as God had promised. But they did not yet have their own land. On Mount Sinai, God gave the Israelites his commandments, which were his laws. The Israelites needed to obey these commandments. That was their part of the covenant agreement. God promised the Israelites that if they obeyed him and kept their part of the covenant, they would be God's special people. God would bless them and give them a land of their own, and many other good things. But if the Israelites disobeyed God, and broke the covenant, God would punish them and take away their land.

The Israelites promised to keep God's covenant and to obey him completely. To confirm this

promise, they did a ritual. Moses killed several animals and sprinkled some of the blood of those animals on the altar-the place where people brought sacrifices to God. And he sprinkled some of the blood over the people. He called this the "blood of the covenant." The blood on the altar symbolized God's oath, and the blood on the people symbolized the people's oath. The blood made the covenant a formal agreement that could not be broken.

However, the Israelites did not keep their promise. They kept breaking God's commandments, and God had to punish them.

In the New Testament, this Old Testament covenant with the Israelites is called "the first covenant." Jesus said that he was making a *new* covenant with the people. It was necessary for God to make a new covenant because the people are so sinful. Therefore they could never obey God completely, and could not keep their part of the covenant. Just before Jesus was going to die, Jesus talked about his own death. Jesus said that his blood was the blood of the new covenant. Just as the blood on the altar and on the people in the time of Moses made the first covenant formal, the death of Jesus makes the new covenant between God and people formal. The new covenant is a solemn promise from God to the people that they will be saved if they trust in Jesus.

**When you are translating covenant, be careful about the following things:**

Your culture may have a word or phrase for covenant that is similar to a covenant in the Bible. Some languages use picture language to describe people making a covenant. Do people do a certain activity when they are making a solemn promise to each other? If so, this might help you to decide on a term for covenant.

Some options to translate covenant could be:

- a solemn promise
- an unbreakable promise
- a binding agreement

*You can act out the different types of covenant that are mentioned earlier:*

- You could act out two people who are each other's equal.
- You could act out a king who makes a covenant with people who have to obey him.
- You could act out a king who makes a covenant with someone he wants to give something to.

How do these dramas help you to find the right words in your language?

## covenant

### *Audio Content*

## cross

A **cross** is an upright piece of wood with another piece of wood-called "a crossbeam"-attached to it sideways near the top. The Roman people used this as a tool to torture and execute people they thought were the worst criminals. People called this "crucifixion." Crucifixion was the most painful and humiliating way to die. A person who was going to be crucified was first severely flogged, and then had to carry the crossbeam of the cross to the place of execution. The soldiers then laid the victim on top of the wooden cross, with his arms stretched wide. The soldiers then hammered large iron nails through the person's wrists, or hands, and then through the feet of the victim, so that he became fixed to the cross. Then they pulled the cross upright, and left the naked victim hanging until he died, in full view of other people. A cross was a symbol of deep shame and humiliation.

*You can look in the visual dictionary for pictures of a cross.*

## cross

### *Audio Content*

## crucifixion

**Crucifixion** was the Roman way of executing people. It was only used for slaves and the worst criminals. Crucifixion was the most painful and humiliating way to die. Crucifixion means that someone is nailed to a cross and then left to die.

A cross is an upright piece of wood with another piece of wood-a crossbeam-attached to it sideways

near the top. A person who would be crucified was first severely flogged, and then had to carry the crossbeam of the cross himself to the place of execution. The soldiers then laid the victim on top of the wooden cross, with his arms stretched wide. The soldiers then hammered large iron nails through the wrists-or hands-and feet of the victim, so that he became fixed to the cross. Sometimes the soldiers would only bind a person with rope and not use nails. Then the soldiers pulled the cross upright, and left the naked victim hanging till he died, in full view of other people. The victim could not move and was in constant pain. He would eventually die because of the pain, hunger, and thirst, or because he could no longer breathe properly. This could take several hours or even days. Sometimes the soldiers would make the victim die quicker by breaking his legs so that he could not hold himself up to breathe.

*You can look in the visual Bible dictionary for pictures of a cross.*

## crucifixion

### *Audio Content*

## cubit

A **cubit** is a way to measure how long something is. One cubit is about as long as a man's arm from his elbow to his fingertips, which is about 50 centimeters.

## cubit

### *Audio Content*

## curse

To **curse** someone is the opposite of to bless someone. When you bless someone, you wish that something good will happen to the person you bless. When you curse them, you wish that something bad will happen to them. People believed that a curse would come true. If someone cursed them, they became very afraid.

When God curses someone, the bad thing that God says will happen will certainly happen. God curses people to punish them. God told the Israelites that if they obeyed God, God would bless them. If they disobeyed God, God would curse them.

## curse

### *Audio Content*

## David

**David** was the second king of Israel. He lived about 1000 years before the birth of Jesus.

David was the youngest son of a man named Jesse. David took care of his father's sheep. Jesse and his family lived in the village called Bethlehem. David's older brothers were soldiers in the army of King Saul, the first king of Israel. King Saul had been disobedient to God, and so God had rejected him. Because of that, God instructed the prophet Samuel to anoint-which means to appoint-David as the next king. But that was a secret at first, and Saul remained king for several more years. David became a commander in the king's army, and God helped him so that, through David, Israel could win many battles. David was very popular with the people, and his best friend was Jonathan, a son of King Saul. King Saul became jealous of David and tried to kill him several times, so David had to flee. David gathered a group of men around him and lived away from the people in the mountains. The king sometimes chased after David, and David, more than once, had an opportunity to kill the king, but he never did.

One time, when King Saul and his army were fighting with some enemies, the Israelites lost a battle and King Saul and his sons were killed. After this, the people of Israel made David their king. David began to live in Jerusalem, which became the most important city in Israel.

David became Israel's most beloved king. He loved God and trusted him. Therefore God called him a "man after God's heart." David very much wanted to build a temple for God, but God told David that not David, but David's son, would build this temple. And God gave David a very important promise. God promised David that one of his descendants would always rule over Israel.

This does not mean that David never did anything wrong. In fact, he did some terrible things: He committed adultery and murder. But he repented of his sins, and God forgave him. But even though God forgave him, the effect of David's sins meant that that from that time onwards there was always quarreling and violence in his family, and several of his sons died. Some of David's sons tried to replace their father as king by force, and one time David had to flee from his own son!

When David became very old, he made his son Solomon king in his place.

Hundreds of years after David's death, the nation of Israel no longer existed. The Israelites had been disobedient to God and, in order to punish them, God sent people from another country to conquer them. The Israelites were defeated and from that time onwards, they were ruled by other nations. No longer was there a descendant of David ruling over Israel. But God never forgets a promise, and so the people were waiting for God to again give them a descendant of David as king. God fulfilled this promise through Jesus.

## David

### *Audio Content*

## Decapolis

**Decapolis** literally means "10 cities." The word refers to an area east of the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan river. Most people that lived there were not Jews.

## Decapolis

### *Audio Content*

## demon

The phrases **demon**, evil spirits, or **unclean spirit** all refer to the same thing. A demon is a spirit that is rebelling against God. The leader of all demons is called Satan, the devil, or sometimes Beelzebul. Because God created everything that exists, God also created these spirits. God created them good, as angels, to do his work. But some angels rebelled against God, and these became evil spirits. These evil spirits try to destroy and deceive people.

Demons can take control of people so that people become sick or behave in a strange way. When a demon takes control of a person, we say that the person is "demon possessed." A person who was possessed by a demon could become deaf, mute, or have fits that resemble epileptic attacks. The person could become very violent and shout. Jewish people tried to drive out demons from people through rituals that could last a long time. But Jesus drove out many demons from people during his time on earth, and he did this only by commanding the demons to leave!



Demons can also be called evil spirits. This makes clear that their intentions are evil. They sometimes are called unclean spirits. Something that is unclean is unfit for service to God.

**When you are translating demon, be careful about the following things:**

Demons are not the spirits of humans who have died, though in many cultures they may pretend that this is what they are. If you have to use a term that means spirits of dead people, then be aware that the people will have to learn over time that these spirits are not really spirits of dead people, but are only pretending to be so.

## demon

*Audio Content*

## denarius

A **denarius** is a silver coin made by the Romans that was used as money during the time of Jesus. Each denarius had the image of the Roman emperor on it. An ordinary worker could earn one denarius in a day.

## denarius

*Audio Content*

## desert

A **desert** or **wilderness** is a lonely, barren place without water. There are almost no trees or bushes growing in a desert. The ground is dry and rocky, and there are wild animals roaming around. People do not live in the desert.

## desert

*Audio Content*

## devil

The name Satan means the adversary, enemy, or accuser. It is the name for **the Devil**, the leader of all evil spirits.

God has created everything that exists, and therefore God also created all the spirits. God created them good, as angels, to do his work. But some angels rebelled against God, and then they became evil spirits. The most powerful of these evil spirits is called the devil, or Satan.

Satan always tries to destroy God's work. Satan tempts people to disobey God. He tries to make people turn away from God by deceiving them. Satan is powerful and dangerous, always looking for ways that he can work against God and against God's people.

Because Satan is still powerful in this time, sometimes the Bible calls him the "ruler of this world." Sometimes Satan is called **Beelzebub**, which means something like "master of the high places." Sometimes he is called **the Deceiver**. Sometimes he is compared to a dragon or a snake.

However, God is much stronger than Satan. When Jesus died and was resurrected, God broke the power of Satan. Even though God is still allowing Satan to use his power for now, when Jesus will come back, Jesus will defeat Satan forever. God will punish Satan and all the evil spirits, and they will never be able to work against God and his people again.

## devil

*Audio Content*

## disciple

A **disciple** is a person who follows a religious teacher as a student.

In the New Testament, all people who follow Jesus and want to learn from him are disciples. Sometimes Jesus sent groups of disciples out to preach the good news that the kingdom of God had come and to heal the sick.

Jesus also chose 12 people to be his special disciples. This small group is often called "the 12 disciples," or even just "the 12." These people followed Jesus everywhere, learning from him and watching him. These 12 disciples were also called apostles. An apostle is someone who has received a special authority from Jesus.

Before Jesus went back to heaven, he told his disciples to "go out and make all people from all nations my disciples." Every person who trusts in Jesus and wants to obey him is a disciple of Jesus.

Sometimes the word "disciples" is used for a large group of people, and sometimes it means only the 12 chosen disciples.

**When you are translating disciple, be careful about the following things:**

If your language has a word that means the follower of a respected teacher, you may use that term here.

Remember that you need to have a different word for apostle as well.

## disciple

### *Audio Content*

## divination

**Divination** is a way to communicate with spirits or gods. God has strictly forbidden his people to use divination.

People from other nations used divination to find out what would happen in the future, or what the meaning was of a dream or of some unusual event. People sometimes used divination to find out what the best time would be for a certain activity; for instance, to find out when to start an attack on another country.

There were different ways that people did divination. For example, some people would kill an animal and then look at the way that the organs of the animal were shaped. If the organ looked a certain way, then they thought that a certain thing would happen. If it looked different, then something else would happen. Or, people looked at the way that smoke moved when they burned something, and thought that different movements had different meanings. Other people looked at the stars and the planets in the sky and took meaning from their position.

God has forbidden his people to use divination. God's people do not need to use such rituals to find out what God wants! God tells people what he wants from them through his Scriptures and through messengers who speak God's messages, and God's people need to trust God for the future.

## divination

### *Audio Content*

## divorce

**Divorce** is a permanent and legal separation between a husband and wife. In the Old Testament, the law of God allowed a man to divorce his wife if he thought she had a relationship with another man. However, God makes clear that he hates divorce. God wants husband and wife to live

together in harmony and to be dedicated to each other.

In the New Testament, Jesus also teaches the people that divorce is wrong. God meant for husband and wife to live together in unity.

## divorce

### *Audio Content*

## donkey

A **donkey** is an animal that is big enough to carry heavy loads or people. People kept donkeys to help them work in their fields or to carry burdens. A donkey was considered an animal of peace, in contrast to a horse, which is a larger animal that soldiers rode on when they were fighting battles in war.

## donkey

### *Audio Content*

## dove

A **dove** is a type of bird that is very common in Israel. There are different types and sizes of doves. Some are white and others are speckled or have several colors. A dove is considered a gentle and peaceful bird. Doves can fly long distances, and they are very good at finding their way back to where they came from.

God required the Israelites to offer animal sacrifices to him during different rituals. Usually these animals were sheep, goats, or bulls. For poor people these animals were too expensive. Therefore, God allowed people to sacrifice a pair of doves instead.

When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came down on him looking like a dove. This does not mean that the Holy Spirit is a dove, only that at that time the Holy Spirit looked like a dove.

## dove

### *Audio Content*

## drachma

A **drachma** is a silver Greek coin worth about a day's wages. People in Jesus' time usually used the silver Roman coin that they called a denarius, but it

is possible that sometimes people in the time of Jesus used the silver Greek coins that they called drachmas. It is also possible that people used the word drachma to refer to a denarius. A denarius is around the same size and is worth about the same amount as a drachma.

## drachma

### *Audio Content*

## dream

When you are sleeping but you experience some events that are not really happening, or you are seeing things that are not really there, you have a **dream**. God can use dreams to communicate to people. God can use dreams to tell people what will happen in the future, or to tell them something that they need to do.

A dream is different from a vision. A dream happens when you are asleep, but a vision happens when you are awake. When you have a vision, you see something or hear something that other people around you cannot see or hear, even though they might be right next to you. God also uses visions to communicate to people, just as he uses dreams.

## dream

### *Audio Content*

## elder

An **elder** is a person with authority in the community. In the Old Testament, an elder was usually the head of a family or a group of families. A group of elders would meet together to make decisions about the affairs in the community.

In the New Testament, elders are people in the church who have authority. The apostles, such as Paul, appointed the elders. The apostles chose people who were respected by the other people in the church community to become elders. An elder had to be willing to serve other people and had to be blameless.

**When you are translating elders, be careful about the following things:**

When you are translating this word, be careful that you do not use a word that just means "old people." An elder was not necessarily an old person, though they would not be a very young person either.

## elder

### *Audio Content*

## el-elyon

**El-Elyon** is a name that people use for God. El-Elyon means "the most high God." When people use this name for God, they are reminded that God is the most powerful of any being. The name means that there is no one who is more important, or has more authority, or has more power than God. People often use this name for God in the Psalms, but also in several other books in the Old Testament.

The word "el" means God, and therefore we find several other names for God in the Bible that begin with this word "el." Each of these names tells us something important about God.

## el-elyon

### *Audio Content*

## Elijah

**Elijah** was an important prophet who lived about 800 years before Jesus was born. A prophet is someone who gives messages from God to people.

Elijah lived during the time that Israel was ruled by kings who did not obey God, and these kings had led the people of Israel away from God. The people had begun to worship false gods, especially a god named Baal. People thought that this Baal was responsible for giving people rain. Therefore, Elijah told the king of Israel that it would no longer rain in Israel for as long as he said! And indeed, it did not rain for three years, and because of that a famine came over the whole land. After that, Elijah prayed and God sent rain again. This taught the people that *God* was the one who gave rain, not Baal!

Elijah performed several miracles during his life that are similar to miracles that Jesus would do many years later. Through Elijah, God provided a widow and her son miraculous food during the time of the famine. When the widow's son died, Elijah raised this child up from the dead.

At the end of his life, Elijah separated the water of the Jordan River with his cloak and walked across the water to the other side. This miracle resembled the miracles that Moses, as well as Joshua, had done hundreds of years before Elijah. There are more

similarities between Elijah and Moses: For instance, both spoke with God on Mount Sinai. And in the New Testament Moses and Elijah appear together with Jesus on top of a mountain, a few weeks before Jesus's death.

Elijah did not die like other people do. God took Elijah up to heaven in a chariot, which is a small cart that is pulled by horses, with fire. Elijah's helper, who was named Elisha, became Elijah's successor.

In the book of the prophet Malachi, which was written hundreds of years after Elijah's life, God said to the people of Israel that before God would come back to judge the whole world, God would send the prophet Elijah. This means that God would send another prophet like Elijah. This new Elijah would make the people of Israel repent, so that they would be ready to receive God. Jesus later explains to his disciples that John the baptizer was the Elijah that Malachi talked about. This does not mean that John really was Elijah, but it means that John was someone like Elijah. John was doing the same task as the one that God had given to Elijah, to tell the people of Israel to repent.

## Elijah

### *Audio Content*

## Elizabeth

Elizabeth was the mother of John the baptizer. Elizabeth's husband was Zechariah. Zechariah was a priest and served God in the temple in Jerusalem. Elizabeth was unable to have children.

One time, when her husband Zechariah was in the temple, an angel appeared to Zechariah and told him that his wife Elizabeth would have a son. This son would be a servant of God like Elijah the prophet and would tell the people of Israel to repent in order to prepare the people to receive God. Zechariah could not believe that what the angel said was true, because Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth were already old. Because Zechariah did not believe the angel, the angel told Zechariah that he would be unable to speak until after the birth of the child.

Elizabeth indeed became pregnant. Elizabeth was a relative of Mary, who would become the mother of Jesus. Shortly after this, an angel appeared to Mary and told her that she would become pregnant even though she was a virgin. Her son would be a very important person, the son of God, and would rule

as king forever. Mary then went to visit Elizabeth. When Mary came to Elizabeth, the baby in Elizabeth's womb jumped up in joy, because Mary would become the mother of the Messiah, the promised king and Savior.

## Elizabeth

### *Audio Content*

## el-roi

**El-Roi** is a name that Hagar, in the book of Genesis, gives to God. The name means "God sees me." Hagar gave this name to God because God helped her when she and her son Ishmael were alone in the desert and about to die from thirst.

The word "el" means God, and therefore we find several other names for God in the Bible that begin with this word "el." Each of these names tells us something important about God.

## el-roi

### *Audio Content*

## el-shaddai

Scholars are not sure what the name **El-Shaddai** means exactly. El-Shaddai is a name for God that probably means God Almighty or God All-Powerful. Shaddai may mean "sufficient," so this name for God shows that God is all-powerful and all-sufficient for the needs of his people. This name for God is especially used in the book of Genesis.

The word "el" means God, and therefore we find several other names for God in the Bible that begin with this word. Each of these names tells us something important about God.

## el-shaddai

### *Audio Content*

## eternal life

**Eternal life** means a life with God that will never end. Eternal life is the gift that God gives to his children if they believe in him. It is not something that people can get if they work hard enough, or if they perform enough rituals. When a person puts his trust in Jesus, God gives this gift to them.

Eternal life is a much better and richer life than ordinary life. Without this gift of eternal life, we may live and breathe, but this is only physical life, and it will end as soon as we die. But the eternal life that God gives us will never end! It begins now, changing us and making it possible for us to live in a close relationship with God. When Jesus will come back and establish his kingdom forever, we will also live with him forever. That is the gift from God: life in the future, and real life already now!

## eternal life

### *Audio Content*

## evil

**Evil** is the opposite of good.

A person who is evil willingly does bad things that hurt other people. When people stop obeying God they begin to do evil actions.

Because humans are so disobedient to God, the Bible teaches us that our hearts have become evil. Instead of wanting to do good things, we want to do bad things. Very many problems in the world like war, poverty, and injustice happen because of the evil inside people's hearts. Even sickness and death is ultimately a result of evil.

God hates evil. Only God can destroy evil, because God is all good. When God will establish his kingdom forever, he will destroy evil forever. Nothing that is evil will enter God's kingdom. Until that time, God still allows evil to happen. However, God is more powerful than all evil.

## evil

### *Audio Content*

## evil spirit

The phrases demon, **evil spirits**, or **unclean spirit** are referring to the same thing. A demon is a spirit that is rebelling against God. The leader of all demons is called Satan, the devil, or sometimes Beelzebul. Because God has created everything that exists, God also created these spirits. God created them good, as angels, to do his work. But some angels rebelled against God, and these became evil spirits. These evil spirits try to destroy and deceive people.

Demons can take control of people so that people become sick, or behave in a strange way. When a

demon takes control of a person, we say that the person is demon possessed. A person who was possessed by a demon could become deaf, mute, or have fits that resemble epileptic attacks. The person could become very violent and shout. Jewish people tried to drive out demons from people through rituals that could last a long time. But Jesus drove out many demons from people during his time on earth, and he did this only by commanding the demons to leave!

Demons can also be called **evil spirits**. This makes clear that their intentions are evil. They sometimes are called unclean spirits. Something that is unclean is unfit for service to God.

**When you are translating demon, be careful about the following things:**

Demons are not the spirits of humans who have died, though in many cultures they may pretend that this is what they are. If you have to use a term that means spirits of dead people, then be aware that the people will have to learn over time that these spirits are not really spirits of dead people, but are only pretending to be so.

## evil spirit

### *Audio Content*

## faith

To believe and to have **faith** mean the same thing.

If you believe in someone, you believe that what that person says about himself is true. You then trust that person and are committed to do what that person tells you to do.

Abraham believed that God spoke the truth when he promised that Abraham would have many descendants, even though Abraham was already old and did not have even one child. Abraham trusted that God would fulfill his promise, even though it seemed impossible.

If you believe in God, you accept that God exists and that what God says in the Bible is true. You trust that God will fulfill all his promises, even when it seems impossible. As a result, you are committed to obey everything that God wants you to do.

When you believe in Jesus, you believe that Jesus is indeed the son of God. You trust that Jesus has indeed died for your sins, and that God has forgiven and accepted you. As a result, you are committed to do everything that Jesus has commanded.

The Bible sometimes says that people should believe in Jesus's *name*. This means the same thing as to believe in Jesus.

Someone who has great faith or belief, trusts God-or Jesus-very much.

**When you are translating "believe," be careful about the following things:**

In some languages, the word "believe" can sound as if someone only *hopes* that something is true, but they are not sure. This is not the right meaning. Therefore, sometimes it can be better to use a word that means "trust."

*Ask one person to volunteer to be the person who has to trust, or have faith. That person should stand with their back to a group of at least 5 people, if you have that many people. Those five people should stand right behind the volunteer. They should be capable and willing to catch the volunteer. Ask the volunteer to fall back into the arms of the group of people. Do you hesitate to do that? How do you feel as you decide whether or not to fall back into the arms of the group?*

Maybe the volunteer chooses to not actually fall back, even though you know that your friends will catch you. How does the group feel when the volunteer chooses to not fall back into their arms?

Maybe the volunteer chooses to fall back into the group's arms. How does the volunteer feel after the group catches him? How does the group feel, knowing that the person has trusted them? This is an example of having faith, or trusting. You do not trust unless you really fall back into the arms of the group. You may say that you trust them, but true trust does not happen until you fall. Trusting means to act on what you say. [!end] Pause the recording here.

## faith

### Audio Content

## fasting

When someone is **fasting**, they are not eating or drinking anything for a certain amount of time.

There were certain times in the year when the Israelites were supposed to fast, but people could also fast at other times if they wanted. And sometimes people had no choice, and had to fast because there was no food.

Sometimes people were fasting because they were sad about something that had happened.

Sometimes people were fasting because they wanted to repent-or ask forgiveness-for their sins. Fasting was then a sign of humility.

Sometimes people were fasting because they needed God to help them, or they wanted God to tell them what to do. Fasting was then a way to show God how serious the problem was.

Sometimes people thought that if they fasted, God would be very pleased with them and give them what they wanted-but they kept doing sinful things! But God told the people through his prophets that this was wrong. There is no point in fasting if you do not obey God as well.

In the time of Jesus, sometimes the people would fast in order to make other people think that they were very good and religious people. But Jesus told them that they should not fast to make themselves look good. They should not make a big show of their fasting in front of other people!

**When you are translating fasting, be careful about the following things:**

People in many cultures know the practice of fasting. When you translate the word fasting, be careful that the word in your language does not mean fasting in honor of a particular god, or is used for fasting in a particular religion only. Be also careful that the word is not only used for fasting for one particular reason. You may need to use a different word or phrase that explains the biblical practice of fasting.

## fasting

### Audio Content

## fear of God

When someone **fears God**, they have a great reverence, honor, and respect for God. They believe that everything that God has said is true. As a result they obey God, because they know that God's commandments are good, and that God will punish them if they disobey him. People who fear God hate everything that is against God's commands. It is necessary for people to fear God, because God is so much bigger, powerful, and holy than we are!

Only when people fear God can they become wise and understanding.

Because Jesus has died for people's sin, it is now possible for people to come to God without being afraid of him. But we should still greatly respect God and realize that He is very powerful. When we fear God it helps us to do good things instead of bad things, because we know that he is still able to punish us.

## **fear of God**

### *Audio Content*

## **Festival of Unleavened Bread**

Passover is an important Jewish festival that is also called the Festival, or Feast, of Unleavened Bread.

This feast reminded the people about a very important time in the history of Israel.

A very long time ago, Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, had become slaves in Egypt. The Israelites had lived in Egypt for four hundred years! God then called one of the Israelites, Moses, to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and back to Canaan, the land that God had promised to give to Abraham's descendants. The king of Egypt did not just allow this big group of slaves to walk out of his country. The king made things very difficult for the Israelites, but God sent nine plagues to the Egyptians in order to force the king to let the people go. During each plague, the king promised that the Israelites could go, but as soon as God stopped the plague, the king changed his mind again. And so, God caused the tenth and most terrible plague of all: God sent an angel to kill the eldest son in each house in Egypt. But God had told the Israelites to kill a lamb, which is an animal, a young sheep, and to smear the blood of this lamb on the doorposts of their houses. When the angel that God had sent saw the blood of the lamb on the door of a house, he would skip that house and not kill the oldest son in that family.

That same night, the Israelites had to eat the meat of this lamb in a special way. They had to eat the meat together with bitter herbs and with bread that they had prepared quickly-different from the normal way that they prepared bread, that took a long time. They had to eat this meal while standing up, all dressed up ready to start traveling! Because during this night, they would be leaving Egypt.

That night, the angel from God killed all of the eldest sons in Egypt, except for the sons of the Israelites, because they had blood over their doors. That night, the king of Egypt finally let the Israelites

go. The Israelites began their long travel towards the land that God had promised to give them! They were no longer slaves. From that time onwards, the Israelites would remember how God gave them freedom from Egypt by celebrating the Passover festival every year. The name Passover means "to skip over" or "to step over." This name reminded the Israelites of how the angel had skipped over the houses of the Israelites, and had not killed their oldest sons.

Every time that the Israelites celebrated Passover, they again killed a lamb and ate this meat together with bitter herbs and with bread that was prepared very quickly. The lamb reminded them of how God saved their oldest sons. The bitter herbs reminded them of the bitterness, the difficulty, that they had faced while they were slaves. And the bread that was prepared quickly reminded them that God freed them from Egypt and that they suddenly had to leave quickly.

God had told the Israelites that the yearly Passover feast should be combined with seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. During these seven days they should eat the special bread that was prepared quickly. Normally, the Israelites made bread by letting the dough, a mixture of flour and water, rest for several hours, or overnight, before they baked the bread. The long wait caused some air bubbles to grow inside the dough, and this made the bread bigger and softer. Every time that they baked bread, they would keep some of the dough until next time. This piece of leftover dough was called a leaven, or yeast. The next time they would bake bread, they would take the leaven that they had kept from the previous time and add it to the new dough. This helped the new dough to also become bigger and softer.

When the Israelites were leaving Egypt on the first Passover night, they had no time to bake bread in this way. And God told them to make bread without leaven. Bread that is made without leaven is flat and thin; it is just flour and water that is kneaded and rolled flat, and then baked over a fire. This bread was called unleavened bread. Therefore, this feast is called the feast of unleavened bread. During the seven days of this feast, the Israelites could not keep even the smallest part of leaven in their house. Before the feast started, they had to throw away any leaven that they still had.

Because the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were celebrated together, the names for the feasts are often used interchangeably.

In the New Testament, leaven is sometimes used as a symbol for sin that we should get rid of in our lives.

## Festival of Unleavened Bread

### Audio Content

#### fig tree

A **fig tree** is a type of fruit tree that grows in Israel. It can grow to about 10 meters in height. When a fig tree is about 3 to 5 years old, it starts to give fruit. The fruit of the fig tree is yellow or purple, and tastes sweet. A fig tree can give fruit twice a year, and sometimes even three times a year.

*You can look up a picture of a fig tree in the visual Bible dictionary.*

#### fig tree

### Audio Content

#### fishing net

A **fishing net** is a tool that people use to catch fish. People knot thin rope together to make a kind of cloth that is basically just lots of little holes. A fisherman will throw the net in the water and then pull it back up when fish have swam into the net. When the fisherman pulls up the net, the water will drain out of the net, but the fish will not be able to escape through the little holes and they are caught.

*You can look at a picture of a fishing net in the visual Bible dictionary.*

#### fishing net

### Audio Content

#### foreigner

A person is a **foreigner** in a country when they are in a country that is not where they were born. Strangers or sojourners are people who are foreigners in a country and temporarily live there, even though it is not where they were born. Abraham was a foreigner, or stranger, in Canaan. Later, when Abraham's descendants the Israelites made Canaan their own country, God gave them guidelines about how they should treat foreigners, and strangers or sojourners, who traveled through their country and who lived there among the Israelites.

## foreigner

### Audio Content

## forgiveness

When you **forgive** someone who has done something bad to you, you stop being angry with that person. You no longer want to take revenge or to give punishment. The person who had done the wrong thing is then **forgiven**, or has received **forgiveness**.

Forgiveness is costly. For example, one brother, out of carelessness, breaks an expensive item that belongs to his sister. The sister can forgive the brother and not demand that he pays back the money. This is good news for the brother. The sister, however, now has the expense of replacing the broken item herself.

This is also how forgiveness works with God. People have sinned against God and deserve to be punished. People have to pay God back for the damage they have done. However, God wants to forgive people by saying that they do not have to pay him back-because he knows that they cannot! God forgives people because he has mercy on them. This is good news for people. For God himself, this meant that God paid the price of the damage himself. God did this through the death of his son Jesus. When people trust in Jesus and believe that Jesus's death has paid God back for their own sins, then God forgives them. God is no longer angry with them.

The Bible often uses picture language to describe forgiveness. For instance, if you forgive someone you:

- wipe away their sins
- cut away their sins
- lift up their sins
- loose them, release them
- throw away their sins
- cover their sins
- pass by their sins
- take away their sins
- turn your back on their sins

**When you are translating "forgiveness," or "to forgive," be careful about the following things:**



You may have picture language in your own language for forgiving. Carefully think whether the meaning of the phrase in your language means the same as the meaning of "to forgive" in the Bible.

*Try having the translation team mime or act out a scene where someone forgives someone else. Watch what actions they do to show that they forgive. Ask them to explain the emotions of each of the characters in the scene.*

## forgiveness

### Audio Content

## Gabriel

Gabriel is the name of an archangel. An archangel is an angel with special authority. The Bible mentions two archangels by name: Gabriel and **Michael**. In the Old Testament, Gabriel explains to **Daniel** the meaning of Daniel's visions. In the New Testament, Gabriel appears to Zechariah to tell him that his wife will give birth to a son, even though she is already old. This child would become John the baptizer. Shortly after this, Gabriel appears to the virgin Mary and tells her that she will become pregnant by the power of God. The son that she will bear will be king forever, and he will be the son of God.

## Gabriel

### Audio Content

## Galilee

**Galilee** is the name of a region in northern Israel. Jesus grew up in Galilee and did much of his work of preaching in Galilee. Most of Jesus's disciples came from Galilee. Most parts of Galilee are hilly, with low mountains. To the east, or right, of Galilee is a large lake that is called the Sea of Galilee. Many people in Galilee made their living from fishing or selling fish. Some of Jesus's disciples were fishermen who lived in villages surrounding the Sea of Galilee. Other names for the Sea of Galilee are the **Sea of Gennesareth**, or the **Lake of Tiberius**.

In the time of Jesus, Israel was not an independent nation. The Israelites were ruled by the Roman people. The Romans had divided Israel into several regions, or provinces. During Jesus's life, Galilee was governed by a ruler named Antipas, who was appointed by the Roman government. Antipas was the son of king Herod, who tried to kill Jesus when

he was a baby. Antipas was the brother of the Herod who ordered Jesus to be crucified.

Other provinces in Israel were Judea and Samaria. Galilee was in the north, Judea was in the south, and Samaria was in the middle. Judea was the place where the most important city, Jerusalem, was, and therefore the temple of God. The people in Judea often thought that they were better Jews than the people in Galilee. They looked down on the people in Galilee, and thought that people in Galilee were uneducated and rough. The people in Judea and as well, the people in Galilee, looked down on people in Samaria, whom they considered not to be Jews at all.

## Galilee

### Audio Content

## generations

A **generation** refers to a group of people who are living at the same time and belong to about the same age group. In a community, three generations of people can be living at the same time: grandparents, parents, and children. Each of these people belong to a different generation.

Sometimes God, or Jesus, talks about "the people of this generation." This means all the people who are alive at that particular time.

In the Old Testament, the phrase "these are the generations of this person..." is used to introduce a series of stories about this person. In this case, it means something like "this is the history of this person."

## generations

### Audio Content

## Gentile

The word **Gentile** comes from a word that means "people" or "nations."

In the Old Testament, God had chosen the Israelites to be his special people. The Israelites had to remain separate from people from other nations in order for the Israelites to remain devoted to God. They should not start to worship the idols from the other nations and follow their bad habits. However, when God had made his covenant with Abraham, the first ancestor of the Israelites, God had also said that through Abraham's descendants *all* the people

of the world would be blessed. So, God cared about all people, not only about the Israelites, who were also called Jews.

Over time, the Israelites became proud of their special position and looked down on people who were not Jews. The word Gentile began to mean something negative-a bad person, someone that you should stay away from. In the time of Jesus, the Romans were ruling the country of Israel. Therefore, many people who were not Jews were also living in Israel. All these people were called Gentiles. The Jews had to cooperate somewhat with the Gentiles, but they were not friendly with them. The Jews strictly forbade Gentiles to enter the temple area, and Jews would never eat together with Gentiles or go inside the home of a Gentile. The Jews believed that interacting with Gentiles would make them "unclean"-or unfit for worship to God.

Sometimes instead of the word Gentile, we find the word "Greek." A Greek is a person who belongs to the country of Greece, but over time this word began to mean any person who adopted Greek culture. A good Jew would not adopt Greek culture, which involved idol worship. The word Greek therefore also began to be used for any person who was not a Jew, even if the person did not come from Greece. And so, the word "Greek" and "Gentile" can sometimes mean the same thing.

## Gentile

### *Audio Content*

### **Gerasenes**

These are different names for an area and cities within that area that is located along the southeast coast of the Sea of Galilee. Most people who lived here were not Jews. The area was part of the Decapolis.

### **Gerasenes**

### *Audio Content*

### **glorify**

Glory is the fame and admiration that you gain by doing something impressive.

When people *give* glory to God they praise God, admire him, and say good things about God.

When God *shows* his glory, people can see how beautiful, powerful, and majestic God is. Not many

people in the Bible have a chance to see the glory of God, so when it happens, this is a very special and impressive moment. It is so impressive that people usually become very afraid when they see the glory of God. Sometimes people see a very bright light at the same time, but not always.

It can be difficult to translate the word glory. In some cases, you can say "God's power and splendor." When you glorify God, you show God's power and splendor.

## **glorify**

### *Audio Content*

### **glory**

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## **glory**

### *Audio Content*

## **God**

In the Bible, **God** refers to God who created everything. God is the most powerful spiritual being. This is the God who made a covenant, a special promise, to Abraham and his descendants, the Israelites. This is the God who sent his son Jesus to earth in order to save people through his death and resurrection.

God has always existed, and he will always exist. Because God created everything, he has power over everything. God is good and loving, powerful, and just.

When you are translating God, be careful about the following things: Some communities worship many different spiritual beings. In some cases, the name that people use for the most powerful spiritual being could be used for God. However, you need to check that this spiritual being does not have any characteristics that are contrary to the God of the Bible.

## God

### *Audio Content*

#### **good news**

The word **gospel** is a translation of a Greek word that literally means "good news." The **good news** in the Bible is that God has made a way to save people. In the New Testament, it becomes clear that the way that God saves his people is through Jesus's death and resurrection. In Acts and in the epistles, when people are "preaching the gospel," they are telling the people the good news that they can be saved if they trust in Jesus.

In the part of the Bible that talks about Jesus's life—the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—we also sometimes hear about the gospel, or about the "good news of the kingdom." At that time, Jesus had not yet died to save the people. The good news here means that the kingdom of God is about to begin, or has already begun. Jesus told the people that God was ruling over all the earth, and that soon God would establish his kingdom forever. Until that time, people should already behave as citizens of this kingdom, and prepare themselves to receive God. The good news is that God is ruling, and that even now we can already be members of his kingdom! After Jesus died to save us, people who trust in Jesus can be part of God's kingdom.

In the church, we often use the term "the Gospels" to talk about the four books of the New Testament that tell us about the life of Jesus: the books Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. When talking about just one of these books, we often say "the Gospel of Matthew," or "the Gospel of Mark." This means that when we say for example "the Gospel of Matthew," we mean the whole book of Matthew.

## **good news**

### *Audio Content*

#### **gospel**

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## **gospel**

### *Audio Content*

#### **grace**

When someone shows us grace, they do something good for us, or give us something good that we do not deserve.

God shows grace to people when he forgives them for their sins, and makes them his children. People deserve to be separated from God because of their disobedience, but God loves people so much that he wants to forgive them. Therefore, God does

something good to the people that they do not deserve: He forgives them. This is grace.

Sometimes grace means something good that God has done for a particular person or something good that he has given to them. For instance, Paul says that God gave Paul *grace* to become an apostle. Paul did not deserve to become an apostle, but still God made him an apostle. God showed him grace.

## grace

### *Audio Content*

## greeks

People who belong to the country called Greece are **Greeks**. Greece is the country that is in the southern part of the area that we now call Europe. Several hundreds of years before the birth of Christ, Greece was the most powerful nation in the area, and the Greeks were ruling over a very large territory. This territory also included Israel.

The Greek culture had a lot of influence on other countries. Many people adopted Greek customs and began to speak the Greek language. Some people even worshiped Greek gods. During that time, even many Jews began to accept Greek gods. This led to a period of war in Israel where people who wanted to stay faithful to God were fighting against the Greek customs, and against the people who had accepted the Greek gods.

Over time, people who were following the Greek customs were called Greeks even when they did not come from the country of Greece.

During the time of the New Testament, the Greeks had lost their political powers and now the Romans were in power over the same part of the world. However, most people still spoke the Greek language. Many people in Israel spoke their own language called Aramaic, but they also spoke Greek. The authors of the books of the New Testament wrote in the Greek language.

In the New Testament, the term Greek can therefore refer to people who belonged to the country of Greece, or it can refer to people who had adopted the Greek culture and language. A good Jew would not adopt Greek culture, which involved idol worship, and therefore the word Greek began to be used in the meaning of "any person who is not a Jew." In that sense, sometimes the word "Greek" can mean the same as the word Gentile.

## greeks

### *Audio Content*

## hades

The word **hell** is a name for a place where wicked people will be punished after they die.

What happens with people after they die? We may find this strange to hear, but the Bible does not very clearly talk about this. Most Christians say that people who believe in Jesus go to heaven, and people who don't believe go to hell. But the people who lived in the times of the Bible did not always have such a clear idea about this yet.

When people in the Old Testament spoke about what happened to people after they die, they said that people went into the "underworld," or "Sheol." They pictured the underworld as a place that is somewhere underneath our own world. Some passages in the Old Testament speak as if all people, good as well as bad, go to the underworld; other passages speak as if the underworld is a place of punishment for bad people only.

In the New Testament, people also speak about the "underworld." Some translations use the Greek word "Hades" for this. Just as in the time of the Old Testament, the "underworld" sometimes seems to be a neutral place, where all people go after they have died, and sometimes it seems to be a place where wicked people are punished. Sometimes it seems to be a place where all people are waiting until the time that God will judge all people. Sometimes the word "underworld" is just used as another way to speak about death.

Jesus told the people that after death people will either go into the kingdom of God, or they will go into hell. The word hell in the Greek language comes from the name of the place near Jerusalem where at one point in their history the people of Israel had committed a terrible crime. Because of this crime, people avoided this place and began to use it as a place to burn the bodies of dead animals and of people who could not be buried. People always kept a fire burning in this place. Whenever people thought about this place, they felt very bad, and they thought about God punishing people for their terrible crimes. For this reason, people began to use the name of this place as the name for the place where all wicked people will be punished after their death. Jesus makes clear that hell is a terrible place: He uses picture language to describe it as a place with a fire that never goes out, as a

place where people will be tortured, or as a place where people will weep and forever regret their choices.

Jesus teaches that hell is also the place where Satan and his demons will be punished.

## hades

### *Audio Content*

## heal

In this kind of healing, Jesus **heals** the person both physically and spiritually, restoring him or her to community. The person has been made whole or complete.

## heal

### *Audio Content*

## heart

The **heart** is a muscle inside our body that keeps our blood flowing, but in the Bible the heart is used as picture language for the place where a person's thoughts, feelings, and decisions happen. Someone with a "wicked heart" thinks evil things and makes evil decisions. Someone with a "good heart" wants to do the right things, and feels sad when they have sinned. Someone with a "hard heart" does not want to listen to what God tells them to do. Someone whose heart is filled with joy is feeling very glad.

**When you are translating "heart," be careful about the following things:**

You should not translate the word "heart" with the word that is used in your language for the part of your body that pumps blood, *if* in your language this word is not associated with thoughts and feelings. Use a word that people in your language associate with a person's thoughts, feelings, and will.

In Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament, the word for "heart" is the same as the word for "mind." In Greek, the language of the New Testament, these are two different words. In Greek, the word "heart" has a bit more emphasis on feelings, while the word "mind" has more emphasis on the thoughts, the intellect, and the will of a person.

If your language has only one word for this, like in Hebrew, you can use this same word each time. If your language has two different words like in

Greek-or maybe even three or four-you may need to use different words, depending on each passage.

Please note that you also need to have a word for "mind," "soul," and for "spirit." The words heart, mind, soul, and spirit all have to do with the inner, invisible part of a person, but each of them has a slightly different use. You may want to listen to the explanations of each of these terms, and then discuss all these four terms together. You can then make a decision about how you are going to translate each of these terms. But remember that in each passage you will have to think again if you have chosen the right translation.

In summary:

- **Heart** Heart is picture language for the place where a person's thoughts, feelings, and decisions happen.
- **Mind** The mind is very similar to heart, but a bit more emphasis on thoughts, intelligence, and the will.
- **Soul** Soul is the total invisible, inner part of a person. This part of a person may live on even after their body dies.
- **Spirit** The spirit is very similar to soul, but with more emphasis on the relationship with God.

## heart

### *Audio Content*

## heaven

The word **heaven** sometimes means the visible sky: the place where birds are flying, where we can see clouds, and where we can see stars at night.

Most of the time, though, the word "heaven" refers to the place where God lives with his angels. This heaven is not somewhere in this universe; it is not a place that humans can travel to. But God can send his angels to earth to do his work, and Jesus came from heaven to earth. After Jesus had died and become alive again, he went back to heaven. He will come back one day to establish the kingdom of God for good. The book of Revelation tells us that when Jesus will come back, there will be a new heaven and a new earth. But these will no longer be separated from each other-with God in heaven, and the people on earth. Instead, God will live in the midst of his people.

Sometimes it is not clear if, in a certain passage, the word "heaven" means the visible sky or the place where God lives. Sometimes both meanings can be true at the same time. For instance, "rain from heaven" can mean rain that comes from the sky, but it also can mean rain that is sent by God.

Sometimes the Jews used the term "the highest heaven" to make clear that they were not talking about the sky, but about the place where God lived.

Because heaven is the place where God lives, the Jews often used the term "heaven" when they were talking about God. Out of respect for God they preferred not to use the name of God. And so, rather than saying "God," the Jews might say "heaven." That's why the term "the kingdom of heaven" means the same as "the kingdom of God."

The word for heaven in Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament, is plural, or means more than one. We hear it as "heavens." Therefore you will sometimes see "heaven" in translations, and sometimes you will see "heavens." But this means the same thing. It does not mean that there is more than one heaven.

## heaven

### *Audio Content*

## Hebrew

The word **Hebrew** can refer to the descendants of Abraham. People call the descendants of Abraham Israelites, Jews, and sometimes Hebrews. The descendants of Abraham often referred to themselves as Hebrews when they were talking with foreigners to make a difference between themselves and people from other ethnic groups. In the same way, foreigners often referred to the descendants of Abraham as Hebrews.

The word Hebrew also refers to the language that the descendants of Abraham spoke. The authors of the Old Testament wrote mostly in Hebrew.

## Hebrew

### *Audio Content*

## Hebron

In the Old Testament, **Hebron** is the name of a city in Israel where several important stories took place.

Before the place became a city, it was a place where Abraham lived for some time. At that time, the place was called Mamre, but people also knew it as Kiriath-arba. First Sarah, and later Abraham as well, died and were buried in this place. Their son Isaac, his wife Rebecca, and their son Jacob and his wife Leah were also buried there.

Much later, during the time when Joshua was leading the Israelites to conquer the land, the Israelites attacked Hebron and conquered it from the Canaanites who were living there.

Again much later, David became king over the people of Judah while living in Hebron. After several years, David moved to Jerusalem. From that time onwards, the city of Jerusalem became the most important city for the Israelites, and we don't hear much more about Hebron.

## Hebron

### *Audio Content*

## heir

An **heir** is a person who inherits property or wealth after someone else dies. For the people who lived in the time of the Bible, when a father died, his property went to his son. We say that the son inherits his father's property; he is his father's heir. In the Old Testament, a father's property was divided among all his sons. The oldest son received double from what the other sons received, because after the death of his father he was now the head of the family and had extra responsibilities. If a father did not have sons, his property went to his daughters. If he did not have daughters either, his property went to his nearest relative.

God gave a promise to Abraham that God would bless Abraham's descendants. Abraham's descendants would be a blessing for all nations, and God would give them a land to live in. Abraham's heir was Isaac. After Abraham's death, Abraham's son Isaac inherited this promise. This means that what God had promised to Abraham was now also a promise for Isaac. And after Isaac's death, Isaac's son Jacob inherited this promise. And through Jacob, all the Israelites inherited this promise.

In the New Testament, we learn that all people who trust in Jesus are heirs to this same promise, even if they are not biological descendants from Abraham. This means that what God promised to

Abraham, he will give to all people who trust in Jesus.

The New Testament also says that Jesus is the heir of all things. Jesus is the son of God. Now we know of course that God, the father, will never die, so this does not mean that Jesus will inherit these things after God dies. When the Bible says that Jesus is the heir, this means that everything rightfully belongs to Jesus. The whole world belongs to Jesus, and the kingdom of God belongs to Jesus.

The New Testament also calls the people who believe in Jesus "fellow heirs" with Jesus. Jesus is sharing his inheritance with all the people who trust in him as Savior!

## heir

### *Audio Content*

## hell

The word **hell** is a name for a place where wicked people will be punished after they die.

What happens with people after they die? We may find this strange to hear, but the Bible does not very clearly talk about this. Most Christians say that people who believe in Jesus go to heaven, and people who don't believe go to hell. But the people who lived in the times of the Bible did not always have such a clear idea about this yet.

When people in the Old Testament spoke about what happened to people after they die, they said that people went into the **underworld**, or Sheol. They pictured the underworld as a place that is somewhere underneath our own world. Some passages in the Old Testament speak as if all people, good as well as bad, go to the underworld; other passages speak as if the underworld is a place of punishment for bad people only.

In the New Testament, people also speak about the "underworld." Some translations use the Greek word "Hades" for this. Just as in the time of the Old Testament, the "underworld" sometimes seems to be a neutral place, where all people go after they have died, and sometimes it seems to be a place where wicked people are punished. Sometimes it seems to be a place where all people are waiting until the time that God will judge all people. Sometimes the word "underworld" is just used as another way to speak about death.

Jesus told the people that after death people will either go into the kingdom of God, or they will go

into hell. The word hell in the Greek language comes from the name of the place near Jerusalem where at one point in their history the people of Israel had committed a terrible crime. Because of this crime, people avoided this place and began to use it as a place to burn the bodies of dead animals and of people who could not be buried. People always kept a fire burning in this place. Whenever people thought about this place, they felt very bad, and they thought about God punishing people for their terrible crimes. For this reason, people began to use the name of this place as the name for the place where all wicked people will be punished after their death. Jesus makes clear that hell is a terrible place: He uses picture language to describe it as a place with a fire that never goes out, as a place where people will be tortured, or as a place where people will weep and forever regret their choices.

Jesus teaches that hell is also the place where Satan and his demons will be punished.

## hell

### *Audio Content*

## Herodian

In the New Testament, the word **Herodians** means a group of people who supported the rule of the Herodian family-which means king Herod, his son Herod and his grandson Herod. The Roman government had appointed these rulers, and so Herodians were also supportive of the Roman government. In this way they were the opposites of the Pharisees, the group of religious teachers who were against Roman rule. However, the Pharisees and the Herodians worked together against Jesus.

## Herodian

### *Audio Content*

## high priest

Priests were people who worked in the temple of God in Jerusalem. Priests were responsible for offering sacrifices to God on behalf of the people. They took care of the temple and taught the people how to worship God. The priests were in between God and the people, making it possible for people to come before God. Because people are sinful, they are unclean. In the Bible, to be unclean means to be unfit to come before God. People have to become

clean first. The work of the priests was to make people clean-to purify them. The priests did this by offering sacrifices on behalf of the people, and by teaching people how to live.

One of the priests was named the **high priest**. The high priest was the most important priest. The high priest had a very important function. Once a year there was a festival that was named the Day of Atonement. This means something like "the great day of forgiveness or reconciliation." On this day, the high priest offered a sacrifice on behalf of all the people of Israel to ask for forgiveness for all the sins that they had done in the previous year. The high priest first had to ask forgiveness for his own sin, and then for the sin of all the people. The high priest killed a lamb, and took the blood inside the temple. The furthest part of the temple was called the most holy place. The great day of forgiveness was the only time in a year that anyone was allowed to come to that place. The high priest used the blood of the lamb that he killed and spread this in the most holy place. The sins of the people had made God's holy temple unclean, and by spreading the blood, the temple became clean again. Because of the sacrifice of the lamb, it was again possible for God and people to have a relationship together.

Later in the New Testament, the writer of the book of Hebrews compares the work that Jesus did with the work of a high priest on the great day of forgiveness. Jesus made people clean-just as a high priest made the people clean. Jesus made it possible for people and God to have a relationship again. But Jesus did not kill a lamb to do this: Jesus himself died. So Jesus was both the lamb, as well as the high priest! But Jesus did not need to ask forgiveness for his own sins first, because Jesus had never sinned. And instead of having to repeat this sacrifice year after year, Jesus did this once and for all, for all people who believe in him.

## high priest

### *Audio Content*

## holy

God is **holy**-this means God is completely good, completely pure, powerful, and majestic. It means that God is whole, complete, and unchangeable. But most of all, it means God is God!

Any place, person, or object that is dedicated to God is called holy. That means that the object or person is set apart for God's special purposes-they are no

longer "common" or "ordinary," and no longer used for common or ordinary purposes.

Any place where God is becomes holy. People, because they are sinful, cannot just come to God. God might kill them if they did! In the Old Testament, God had made it possible for the Israelites to come to him safely through the temple worship. If people followed the rules that God gave them about how they should approach him, they would be safe. The Israelites had to follow certain rituals to make them acceptable before God. This was called "purifying themselves," or "becoming clean." These rituals involved bathing, washing of clothes, and staying away from certain foods or activities. People also needed to offer sacrifices to God. These rules about being clean in order to worship God reminded the people that God was holy and totally different from themselves.

God had chosen the Israelites to be his holy people and to serve God's purposes. Therefore the Israelites had to be different from the other nations around them. In order to be holy they had to worship God in the right way. They also had to obey God's commandments, which included treating each other with love and justice.

Objects can also be holy. They become holy if they are used for the worship of God. An object that is made holy can only be used for the worship of God, and cannot be used for ordinary work.

In the New Testament, Jesus is called holy because he is God. Everything that is true about God is true about Jesus as well.

The Holy Spirit is called holy because it is the spirit of God.

When people begin to trust in Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit, they become holy as well. Just as God had called the Israelites to be a holy people, he now calls all his children to be holy people. When people start to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit works in their heart to change them to become more and more like Jesus, to make them more and more holy, or set apart for God's special purposes. This work of the Holy Spirit is called sanctification.



## holy

### *Audio Content*

## Holy Spirit

The **Holy Spirit** is the **Spirit of God**. Sometimes the Bible calls this the Spirit of God, the **Spirit of the Lord**, or sometimes just the **Spirit**.

The Spirit of God is the power that comes from God. This power creates, gives life, performs miracles, and changes people.

When the spirit of God comes over a person, that person receives a special power or ability. This can mean physical strength, special wisdom, or a clear understanding of what God wants. The Holy Spirit gave messages from God to the prophets, which the prophets then shared with the people.

The Holy Spirit makes it possible for people to become followers of Jesus. When people start to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit works in their heart to help them to behave more and more like Jesus, to make them more and more holy. This work of the Holy Spirit is called sanctification.

The Holy Spirit is not just a power, but is also a person itself. We know this for instance because the Bible says that it is possible to make the Holy Spirit sad. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity-the God who is one, but consists of three persons. God the father, God the son Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit are three different persons, but together they are one God. We can see all three members of the Trinity together at Jesus's baptism, when the Holy Spirit comes down on Jesus and the voice of God speaks from heaven. The Bible does not use the word Trinity anywhere, but the church began to use this word several generations after Jesus had gone back to heaven to describe the mystery of God being both three and one.

In the language that the Bible was written in, the word for spirit is the same as the word for "wind" and "breath." We can understand why these words are similar: They are all invisible and therefore somewhat mysterious, but very important.

Sometimes it is not clear if, in a certain passage, the meaning is "spirit," or "wind," or "breath." The fact that the word can mean all these things adds beauty and depth to such a passage.

## Holy Spirit

### *Audio Content*

## Hosanna

In the Old Testament, the word **Hosanna** means "save us." We can hear this word in Psalm 118. In this Psalm, the singer asks God to save the people, and then begins to praise God. Because of that, by the time of the New Testament people used the word Hosanna as a way to praise God with great joy, because they trusted that God was going to save them soon. The practical meaning of the word Hosanna in the New Testament is therefore "praise God."

**When you are translating Hosanna, be careful about the following things:**

You can translate Hosanna as "praise God!" Be sure that you make clear to your listeners that the people who are praising God with this word are very happy and excited.

Some translators choose to make up a word in their own language that sounds like "Hosanna." If you want to do that, you may also want to say one time that this word means "praise God."

## Hosanna

### *Audio Content*

## House of David

The **house of David** refers not to a building, but to the people who belong to David. David was an important king in Israel's history.

Sometimes the house of David means all the people who belonged to David at the time that David was alive. At one time, David was fighting with another king, king Saul. The Bible says at that time that "there was war between the house of David and the house of Saul." This means that the soldiers of David were fighting with the soldiers of king Saul.

At other times, the house of David means David's descendants. When David wanted to build a temple-a house-for God, God told him: "I don't need you to build a house for me. Instead, I will build a house for you!" This meant that God would give David many descendants, and that always one of them would be a king like David.

God told the people of Israel through his messengers, the prophets, that the Messiah, the

special king and Savior, would come from the house of David. This meant that the Messiah would be a descendant from David.

## House of David

### *Audio Content*

## house of God

The **house of God** is a way to talk about the place on earth where God lived among his people. Although God does not need to live in a house, God told the Israelites that he would live among them and meet with them in the special portable tent they prepared for him. The Israelites called this tent the tabernacle. Later, when the Israelites settled in the Promised Land, God gave them instructions for building a more permanent house for him-the temple. People sometimes called both the tabernacle and the temple the "house of God." Today, God's Spirit lives in the hearts of the people who follow Jesus, and God meets with his people everywhere they are.

## house of God

### *Audio Content*

## household

In the Bible, a **household** means all the people who are living together in one **house**. The father was usually the head of the household. The household included his wife, children, unmarried daughters, and any married sons and their wives and children. There might be other relatives living with them as well. If the family had servants or slaves, then they were included in the household as well.

People also used the word "house" instead of "household." If someone said "me and my house," they meant "me and all the people in my household."

People could also use the word household, or house, to mean a large group of people who did not live in the same house, but who had something in common. For instance, the Israelites are sometimes called the "house of Israel."

## household

### *Audio Content*

## hymn

A **hymn** is a song of praise to God. Jewish people usually patterned them after the psalms. Jewish people sang praises of God when they met together in the synagogue. Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn during the last meal they had together. The followers of Jesus also sang hymns when they came together.

## hymn

### *Audio Content*

## hypocrisy

**Hypocrisy** means that someone pretends to be good, but is not really good. A person who tells people that it is important to do certain things, but who does not do them himself, is a hypocrite. A person who teaches other people about the law of God, but who breaks the law of God himself, is a hypocrite. Someone who thinks bad thoughts but who does good things only because he wants other people to praise him, is a hypocrite. A hypocrite is not sincere. He only wants to look good in the eyes of people, but he does not really care about obeying God.

## hypocrisy

### *Audio Content*

## idol

An **idol** is an object that people make in order to worship a god. The object reminds the people about some characteristics of this god. In the Bible these are sometimes called "images." People make an object-an image-of a god and worship that object as if it is that god. People could make such an object out of stone, wood, or metal. Such an object could look like a person, or like an animal, or just have any different shape. They could be very large, or they could be small and able to easily carry. The word idol can also refer to things or ideas that people worship more than God himself.

God forbade the Israelites in his commandments to ever make such an idol, or image, or to worship anything else besides God himself.

## idol

### *Audio Content*

## image of God

An image is a picture of something. A photo, a painting, or a statue of a person is the image of a person. The image tells us something about what the person looks like, or what his character is like.

When God created mankind, God said "let us make mankind in our image. Mankind will look like us. And mankind will rule over all the animals and plants on the earth."

So, all people are created in the image of God. This does not mean that people physically look like God, because God is spirit and does not have a body as we have. But it means that people are representing God on earth. God gave people responsibility to take care of the earth. People are supposed to take care of animals, plants, and the whole of nature, in the name of, or on behalf of, God.

In the New Testament, we learn that Jesus is the ultimate image of God. We cannot see God, but we can see Jesus, and when we look at Jesus we know what God is like. As followers of Jesus we must become images of Jesus—we must look more and more like Jesus.

## image of God

### *Audio Content*

## inn

An **inn** is a general term for a place where travelers can stay. This could be a place where people had to pay some money so that they could stay there, but often it meant a room in someone's house that was reserved for guests. When relatives or friends came to visit, they could stay in this room.

## inn

### *Audio Content*

## Isaiah

**Isaiah** was a prophet who lived about 700 years before Jesus. A prophet is a person who gives messages from God to the people. Many of Isaiah's messages have been written down and we can hear them in the book named Isaiah.

At the time that Isaiah lived, the nation of Israel had been divided in two parts. The northern part was called Israel, and the southern part was called Judah. Isaiah gave his messages especially to the people of Judah. Many people of Judah were worshipping false gods, and did not obey the good rules that God had given them. Isaiah warned the people again and again that they should repent and start obeying God, because God was going to punish them. But Isaiah also gave people messages of hope. He told them that God was going to send someone who would make things right again. God fulfilled these promises of making things right again in Jesus.

## Isaiah

### *Audio Content*

## Israel

**Israel** is the name of the country where the Israelites lived. The name comes from Abraham's grandson, Israel. Abraham was the first ancestor of the Israelites. Abraham's grandson was named Jacob, but God later gave Jacob the name Israel. Since that time, Abraham's descendants are called Israelites.

At some point, the Israelites fought among themselves and because of this the country of Israel split in two parts. The southern part became known as Judah, while the northern part was still called Israel.

Because of all this, sometimes the word Israel refers to one man, namely Abraham's grandson Jacob who was later called Israel.

Sometimes the word Israel refers to all the descendants of Abraham together. It then means the same as Israelites, or as people of Israel.

Sometimes the word Israel refers to the land, or the country, where the Israelites lived.

And sometimes the word Israel refers only to the northern part of that country.

Today, "Israel" is the name of the country formed as a homeland for the Jewish people after 1948. This is not exactly the same area of land where the biblical Israelites lived.

## Israel

### *Audio Content*

### Israelite

**Israelites** are descendants of Abraham. Abraham was a man who lived about 2000 years before the birth of Jesus. When Abraham was 75 years old, God spoke to him. God told him to leave behind his homeland, and to go to a place that God would show him. God said that he would bless Abraham, that he would make a great nation out of him, and that God would bless all the nations of the world through Abraham. Abraham obeyed God and God led him to the region that was at that time called Canaan. God promised Abraham that God would give this land to Abraham's descendants. Abraham and his wife did not have any children, but when Abraham and his wife were already very old, God gave them a son, Isaac. This was the beginning of God fulfilling his promise to Abraham.

Abraham's son Isaac had a son named Jacob. God later gave Jacob the name Israel. From that time onwards, all Abraham's descendants are called Israelites. Jacob had 12 sons, and therefore the Israelites were divided into 12 tribes: Ruben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Joseph, and Benjamin. The tribe of Joseph was divided in two "half tribes": Ephraim and Manasseh.

Because God had made a promise to Abraham, the Israelites were God's special people. Later, God made a covenant with them, which is a promise with a special agreement. The agreement was that the Israelites would obey all God's commandments, and God would bless them and make them a blessing for all the people on the earth.

The land where the Israelites lived was called Israel. This land was divided among the different tribes of Israel. First, they were ruled by people called "judges." When the people asked God to give them a king, God appointed a king to rule over them. At first this went well, and under the rule of King David and his son Solomon the kingdom of Israel became large and prosperous. But when King Solomon died, there was conflict. Ten of the 12 tribes did not want to have the son of king Solomon as their king. They separated from the other two tribes and chose their own king.

From that time onwards, Israel was divided into parts. The northern part, with 10 tribes, was still called Israel. The southern part, with two tribes,

was called Judah. It was called Judah because the tribe of Judah was the largest of the two tribes that together formed this southern kingdom.

Each part had their own king. The northern part, Israel, was defeated by a nation called the Assyrians about 700 years before the birth of Jesus. This happened because the people were continuously disobeying God and breaking the covenant. The king of the Assyrians sent most of the people from Israel away to foreign countries. This was the end of the northern kingdom. We never hear anything more about what happened to these people.

The kingdom of Judah lasted a little bit longer, but after some years God also punished them for their disobedience. Another foreign nation, the Babylonians, came and destroyed the city of Jerusalem, and the Babylonians took many of the people from Judah to Babylon as prisoners. The people from Judah were now called Jews, which means "people from Judah." Later, God allowed the Jews to go back to Judah, where they rebuilt the city of Jerusalem and the temple. But Judah would never become an independent kingdom again. In the time of the New Testament, another nation named Rome was ruling over the area that had been Israel. What had been the southern kingdom of Judah, was now called the Roman province of Judea. What had been the northern kingdom of Israel, was now roughly the Roman provinces of Samaria and Galilee. The word Jew had now begun to refer to all remaining descendants of Abraham, no matter where they lived.

### Israelite

### *Audio Content*

### James

There are three people in the New Testament with the name **James**.

One of Jesus's disciples was named James. James had a brother named John, and his father's name was Zebedee. James and John were fishermen, until Jesus called them to become his disciples. Together with Peter, another disciple, these three men were often with Jesus at special times. From Jesus's 12 disciples, these three people were the closest to Jesus.

At one time, Jesus called James and his brother John "sons of thunder." It could be that Jesus gave them

this name because they had a temper, and got angry quickly. But we do not know this for sure.

In the book of Acts we hear that the king Herod Agrippa has James killed.

There was another disciple of Jesus called James. He is called James, the son of Alphaeus, or "James the less." "James the less" was probably a nickname that people gave to him because he was either younger or shorter than the other disciple named James.

Another James is a brother of Jesus—a son of Jesus's mother Mary and her husband Joseph. This James did not at first believe that God sent Jesus. But after Jesus rose from the dead, James started to believe in Jesus. James became an important leader in the early church, and he is probably the author of the book of James, which is in the New Testament.

## James

### *Audio Content*

## Jerusalem

**Jerusalem** is the name of the most important city of the Jewish people. The temple of God, where the Jews worshiped God, was in Jerusalem. The Jews traveled to Jerusalem several times a year to celebrate important festivals in the temple. The Jewish religious court, the Sanhedrin, also gathered in Jerusalem.

About a thousand years before Jesus was born, king David established the city of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. About 500 years later, the enemies of the Israelites destroyed the city, but the Israelites built it up again. The Jewish people loved the city of Jerusalem very much.

Jerusalem was part of the province called Judea. Jerusalem was built on a hill. Therefore people always said they were going "up to Jerusalem."

## Jerusalem

### *Audio Content*

## Jew

**Jews** refers to the people who are descendants of Abraham. In order to understand the word Jews, you first have to understand the word Israelites.

Israelites are descendants of Abraham. Abraham was a man who lived about 2000 years before the

birth of Jesus. When Abraham was 75 years old, God spoke to him. God told him to leave behind his homeland, and to go to a place that God would show him. God said that he would bless Abraham, that he would make a great nation out of him, and that God would bless all the nations of the world through Abraham. Abraham obeyed God and God led him to the region that was at that time called Canaan. God promised Abraham that God would give this land to Abraham's descendants. Abraham and his wife did not have any children, but when Abraham and his wife were already very old, God gave them a son. This was the beginning of God fulfilling his promise to Abraham.

Abraham's son Isaac had two sons, one of them was named Jacob. God later gave Jacob the name Israel. From that time onwards, all Abraham's descendants are going to be called Israelites.

Because God has made a promise to Abraham, the Israelites were God's special people. Later, God made a covenant with them, which is a promise with a special agreement. The agreement was that the Israelites would obey all God's commandments, and God would bless them and make them a blessing for all the people on the earth.

The land where the Israelites lived was called Israel. The Israelites were ruled by kings. At first this went well, and the kingdom of Israel became large and prosperous. But very soon, there was conflict, and the nation of Israel split in two parts. The Northern part was still called Israel, and the Southern part was called Judah. The northern part, Israel, was defeated by a nation called the Assyrians about 700 years before the birth of Jesus. This happened because the people were continuously disobeying God, and breaking the covenant. God allowed the king of the Assyrians to send most of the people from Israel away to foreign countries. This was the end of the northern kingdom. We never hear anything more about what happened to these people.

The kingdom of Judah lasted a little bit longer, but after some years God also punished them for their disobedience. Another foreign nation, the Babylonians, came and destroyed the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the most important city for the people of Judah because this was where the temple was where they worshiped God. The Babylonians took many of the people from Judah to Babylon as prisoners. The people from Judah were now called Jews, which just means "people from Judah."

Later, God allowed the Jews to go back to Judah, where they rebuilt the city of Jerusalem and the temple. But Judah would never become an independent nation again. In the time of the New Testament, another nation named the Roman Empire was ruling over the area that had been Israel. What had been the southern kingdom of Judah, was now called the Roman province of Judea. What had been the northern kingdom of Israel, was now almost the same as the Roman provinces of Samaria and Galilee. The word "Jews" began to refer to all remaining descendants of Abraham, no matter where they lived.

And so, the word "Israelites" and the word "Jews" both refer to descendants of Abraham. The word "Jews" occurs especially in the New Testament, and in the later parts of the Old Testament.

In general, when people use the word "Israelites," they may be thinking especially about the people who live in the country of Israel. And when they use the word "Jews," they may be thinking especially about the people who are devoted to the God of Abraham, and who want to keep the covenant that God has made with Abraham's descendants. So, the word "Jews" sometimes has a more religious meaning.

In the Gospels-the four books in the New Testament that tell us about the life of Jesus-almost all the people we meet are Jews: Jesus, his disciples, and most of the people who listen to him are all Jews. But in the book of John the word "Jew" is used in a special way. When the writer of the Gospel of John talks about Jews, he particularly means the *religious leaders* of the Jews. Usually this means people who are opposed to Jesus.

## Jew

### *Audio Content*

## John

**John** was one of the disciples of Jesus. He was the brother of James, another disciple, and their father's name was Zebedee. James and John were fishermen before Jesus called them to become his disciples. Together with Peter, another disciple, these three men were often with Jesus at special times, even when other disciples were not there.

At one time, Jesus called James and his brother John "sons of thunder." It could be that Jesus gave them this name because they had a temper, and got angry quickly. But we do not know for sure.

The disciple John is probably also the writer of the gospel of John, the epistles of John, and Revelation-all books in the New Testament. He probably lived the longest of all the disciples of Jesus. When he was already quite old, the Roman authorities sent him as a prisoner to an island called Patmos, where God gave him the visions that we can hear about in the book Revelation.

## John

### *Audio Content*

## John the Baptist

**John the baptizer**, or **John the Baptist**, was the person who told the people to repent of their sins and to take a special bath called baptism as a sign of their repentance. John did this shortly before Jesus began his own work.

John's parents were Zechariah and Elizabeth. John's birth was quite special. His parents were already very old when he was born. John was their only child.

John's father, Zechariah, was a priest and served God in the temple in Jerusalem. One time, when Zechariah was in the temple, an angel appeared to Zechariah and told him that his wife Elizabeth would have a son. This son would be a servant of God like the prophet Elijah had been, and he would tell the people of Israel to repent, in order to prepare the people to receive God. Zechariah could not believe that what the angel said was true, because Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth were already so old. Because Zechariah did not believe the angel, the angel told Zechariah that he would be unable to speak until after the birth of the child.

And of course, it happened exactly as the angel had said. Elizabeth became pregnant, even though she was already so old. She gave birth to John.

When John grew up, he went to live in the wilderness, in a lonely place away from people, near the Jordan River. He ate only what was available in the wilderness-honey and locusts. He wore very simple clothes made out of rough camel hair. By looking at his clothes, people were reminded of the prophet Elijah. And many people came to John to listen to what he had to say. John told the people that another person would come after him, who was much more important than John was. John was preparing the people to receive this person, by telling them to repent of their sins

and to start obeying God. The person that John was talking about was Jesus.

John told the people to take a special bath named baptism. This was a ritual that showed the people that they really repented from their sins. Sometimes, people who were not Jews but still wanted to follow God, took baptism. But John told them that they *all* had to take baptism! Even though the people were Jews, and therefore God's special people, they still did many wrong things and needed to repent. They needed to tell God that they felt sorry for disobeying God, and that they wanted to change.

Without any fear, John the baptizer told the people openly what they did wrong. The religious teachers of the Jews did not like John. During this time, King Herod Antipas was ruling over Judea. This was a son of the King Herod who had tried to kill Jesus when he was a baby. Herod Antipas was living together with the wife of his brother, and John openly told him that this was wrong. This woman was angry with John because of this, and tried to kill him, but King Herod had respect for John and did not want to kill him. But the king did put John in prison, and one time during a party, the king's wife tricked king Herod, and he was forced to have John killed. The king's soldiers cut off John's head to kill him.

John the baptizer was a relative of Jesus. His mother Elizabeth was a cousin of Jesus's mother Mary.

## John the Baptist

### *Audio Content*

## Jordan River

The **Jordan River** is a long river that runs through Israel from north to south. During the rainy season the river is quite wide and deep. At other times of the year the river is smaller, and a person can get across the river by wading or swimming through the water. At two places, the river passes a large lake: first the Lake-or sea-of Galilee, and later the Dead Sea. The Lake of Galilee has sweet water and there are many fish in the lake; but the Dead Sea has saltwater, and the water is so salty that no fish can live in it. The Jordan River stops at the Dead Sea.

The Jordan River was very important for the Jews. It was important because the people needed the water of the river, but also because when the

Israelites had first entered the land, they had to cross this Jordan River. It was the time of the rains, and the river was very deep and wide at the time. But God did a miracle and stopped the water in the river, and the people of Israel could safely walk across the bottom of the river to the other side.

*You may want to first look up the Jordan River in the video Bible dictionary.*

## Jordan River

### *Audio Content*

## Judea

**Judea** is the name of a region in Israel in the time of the New Testament.

In the time of Jesus, Israel was not an independent nation. The Israelites were ruled by the Roman people. The Romans had divided Israel into several regions, or provinces. These provinces were Judea in the south, Galilee in the north, and Samaria in the middle.

Judea was the place where the most important city was, Jerusalem, and the temple of God. The people in Judea often thought that they were better Jews than the people in Galilee. They looked down on the people in Galilee, thinking of them as uneducated and rough. The people in Judea *and* Galilee looked down on people in Samaria, whom they considered not to be Jews at all.

The area that is Judea in the New Testament is called Judah in the Old Testament.

## Judea

### *Audio Content*

## justice

Justice is when someone treats someone else fairly according to the law. When justice is happening in an entire society, then everybody treats each other equally and fairly. In a just society, people in authority punish those who do wrong and protect people who are poor and weak.

## justice

### *Audio Content*

## king

A king is someone who rules over a city or territory, like a region or a country. In the time of the Bible, a king normally ruled for life—in other words, in other words, until he died. After his death, one of his sons would become king in his place.

## king

### *Audio Content*

## kingdom

A **kingdom** is the territory or the people that a king rules.

## kingdom

### *Audio Content*

## kingdom of God

The **kingdom of God** and the **kingdom of heaven** mean the same thing. Because in later times the Jews thought it was disrespectful to say God's name, they sometimes said "heaven" when they meant God.

A king is a ruler who is in charge of a group of people. The land that comes under a king's authority is called his kingdom. But the word kingdom can also mean the people who are under the king's authority. When you say that a kingdom is very large, this can mean that there are very many people in the kingdom, or it can mean that the king's land is very large. But the word kingdom also refers to the rule of the king. When you say that a king's kingdom will never end, you mean to say that this king will never stop ruling. When the Bible talks about the kingdom of God, this means especially the rule of God.

God is the king over the whole world. The whole of creation is his kingdom. In the Old Testament, the people of Israel are especially called God's kingdom. There were human kings ruling over Israel, but they were accountable to God. God was the highest king, the king of kings!

But the people in God's kingdom were not obedient to God—not even the Israelites. The prophets, who

gave messages from God to the people, told the Israelites that one day God would come and establish his kingdom forever. When that would happen, all people would submit to God and obey him. All people everywhere, and all of creation, would live in a right relationship with God. There would be no more suffering or evil. The people of Israel hoped and prayed for this perfect kingdom to come.

Jesus told the people that this kingdom of God was near; this means that God's perfect rule would start very soon. Jesus even said a few times that the kingdom of God had *already come*! The wonderful miracles that Jesus was doing were proof that God was already ruling as king. As soon as someone began to trust Jesus, they "entered the kingdom of God"! They became God's people, accepting God as their king.

But we cannot see fully yet that God is ruling. People are still getting sick, are doing sin, and are having wars. Satan, God's enemy, is still trying to destroy God's work. And there are still natural disasters that kill people.

Jesus therefore also promised that more is coming. One day, Satan will be defeated forever, Jesus will come back to earth, and everybody will submit to his rule. God will restore everything. God's perfect kingdom will truly begin.

The people in the time of Jesus thought that when God's kingdom would come, Israel would be restored as a political nation. Jesus explained how God's kingdom is different from what they expected. Jesus explained that God's kingdom has to do with people following God as their king and obeying God. Jesus knew that this was hard to understand—he even told his disciples that God's kingdom was like a mystery.

Jesus taught people about God's kingdom by telling them stories or parables. He often told stories that began with "the kingdom of God is like..." Each of these stories told the people a little bit more about how things work in the kingdom of God. Often this showed the people that in God's kingdom, things may be completely opposite to what they expected! Things that are important for people on earth, like being rich, having a high position in society, or being powerful, were not important at all in God's kingdom. Instead, those people who were the poorest or the least powerful on earth, would be the most important people in God's kingdom.

Many of Jesus's parables described God's kingdom as a feast or a meal. When people eat together, they



have a good relationship with each other, and Jesus wanted to show that God's kingdom is about having a good relationship with God. If we have a good relationship with God by allowing Jesus to be king in our lives right now, we will also live with God forever in his perfect kingdom that will come one day.

Some passages in the New Testament talk about God being the king, and some passages talk about Jesus being the king. Because Jesus is God as well, both are true at the same time. The apostle Paul in his letter to the people in Corinth says that Jesus is king, and that when Jesus has completely defeated all enemies, Jesus will hand over the kingdom to God.

So, in summary, the kingdom of God does not refer to a physical place, like a country somewhere on this earth. The kingdom of God especially refers to the rule of God. The kingdom of God is everywhere where God rules, and where people are obeying him and live in a right relationship with him. At the same time, the kingdom of God has not yet come completely. Not everybody has submitted to the will of God. One day, Jesus will come back and reign over the entire world and creation in God's perfect kingdom. In God's perfect kingdom there will be no more suffering or evil, and all people and all creation will obey him.

## kingdom of God

### *Audio Content*

### law

When in the Bible people talk about the **law**, they mean the set of instructions that God has given the people of Israel. In the Old Testament, God gave the people his laws through a man named Moses. God spoke with Moses, and Moses told the people what God said. Therefore, people often say the **law of Moses** when they mean the law that God gave the people through Moses.

A law is a rule, or a set of rules that people have to keep. The original term we translate "law" in the Bible is a term that people can use in legal settings when someone breaks a law of a country. If someone does not keep a rule, we say that he breaks the law. God told the people through Moses that if people would keep God's law, God would bless them. But if people would break God's law, God would punish them. God gave these laws because only by obeying these rules can people live

in a right relationship with God, and with each other.

A summary of the law of God are the 10 commandments. From these 10 rules we learn how to behave towards God, and how to behave towards each other. Jesus summarized the law even further: He said, "Love God with your whole heart, and love other people as much as you love yourself." These are the most important commandments.

In the Old Testament, we find the law of God especially in the first five books of the Bible. Therefore, the Jews called these books together "the law," even though not everything that is in these books has to do with law. Sometimes when the Jews talked about "the law," they even meant *all* the books of the Scriptures, which is the part of the Bible that we now call the Old Testament.

So, when a Jewish person was talking about "the law," they might be talking about the law that God has given to the people through Moses, or they might be talking about the first five books of the Bible, or they might be talking about the whole Old Testament.

### law

### *Audio Content*

### legion

A **legion** was a large group of Roman soldiers-more than six thousand soldiers. In the passage where a demon tells Jesus that his name is "Legion," he means to say that he is not just one demon, but a very large group of demons.

### legion

### *Audio Content*

### leprosy

**Leprosy** is a skin disease. In today's time, there is a sickness named leprosy where people get wounds on their skin that become infected, and people may lose fingers, toes, or even bigger body parts. A **leper** is someone who suffers from leprosy.

Even though many Bible translations use the word leprosy or leper, this sickness probably did not exist in Israel in the time of the Bible. Instead, the word that is used in the Bible probably means

another type of skin disease, or maybe several skin diseases. We do not know exactly.

Whatever this skin disease was, it was a very bad thing to have this, because a person with this disease was "unclean"-this means that this person was considered not fit to worship God. An unclean person could not participate in activities within the community. They had to live outside the community, away from other people. They wore the kind of clothes that people in that time wore when they were grieving because of someone's death. If other people would come near them, they had to shout: "Watch out, we are unclean!" so that no one would come close.

The disease itself was probably not contagious, but the sickness was a reminder to people how sin spreads. This sickness began with a small spot, which could then grow and cover the whole body. In the same way, sin can begin very small, but can spread quickly. For this reason, a person with this sickness was unfit to worship God, to remind people that sin makes us unfit to serve God.

The disease called leprosy in the Bible was a terrible disease to have and sometimes God gave people this disease as a punishment.

Whenever someone noticed a strange spot on their body, they had to go to the priest. Priests were people who worked in the temple of God. Priests were in charge of making sure people were ritually clean: The priests did the rituals that made people fit to worship God. And therefore, the priests had to decide if a person with a spot on their body was clean or not. God had given instructions in his law so that the priests would know when a spot was indeed this dreaded disease, or whether it was just an innocent rash. If the priest was not sure, then the person with the spot had to stay all alone outside the community for a week. If the spot had grown, then the priest declared that it was the skin disease. If the spot had improved, then the person had to take a bath, wash his clothes and then he could come back into the community. He was clean again.

## leprosy

### *Audio Content*

## Levite

Levites are people who belong to the tribe of Levi, one of the 12 tribes of Israel.

The first ancestor of the Israelites was Abraham. Abraham's grandson, Jacob, had 12 sons. The descendants of these 12 sons became the 12 tribes of Israel. One of Jacob's son's names was Levi, and his descendants became known as the Levites, or the tribe of Levi.

Moses, through whom God gave the people his law, was a Levite. And Moses's brother Aaron was also a Levite. Those Levites who were descendants of Aaron became priests. Priests were people who worked in the temple of God in Jerusalem. Before people built the temple, priests worked in the tabernacle-which was a portable temple, a tent. The temple, and before that the tabernacle, was the place where the Israelite people worshiped God. Priests were responsible for offering sacrifices to God on behalf of the people. They took care of the temple and taught the people how to worship God. This was very important work. Other Levites who were not descendants of Aaron were also important, because they helped the priests in their duties. They also helped the priests take care of the tabernacle, and later, the temple.

The Bible often talks about "priests and Levites." The priests are mentioned separately because they were more important, even though priests themselves are also Levites.

## Levite

### *Audio Content*

## Lord

In some cases in the New Testament, **Lord** refers to God himself. It is the way the Jewish people referred to God when they did not want to say his name because they respected him so much.

## Lord

### *Audio Content*

## Lord

A **Lord** is someone who is a master over other people, who has full authority, and who deserves for people to give him respect. When you address someone as "Lord," you are saying that person has authority over you. In the Bible, we hear people address their king as Lord; slaves call their master Lord; and sometimes a wife calls her husband Lord.

God is called the Lord because he has authority over the whole world. When people talk to God, or talk about God, they often call him Lord in order to give him respect.

In the New Testament, when the people in Israel talked to Jesus and called him Lord, they meant to give him respect.

When, after the resurrection of Jesus, people talk about Jesus and call him Lord, they are saying that Jesus has authority over them, just like God has. When people call Jesus Lord after his resurrection, they are saying that Jesus is God.

Sometimes it is not clear in the New Testament when the word Lord refers to Jesus, or to God the Father.

**When you are translating Lord, be careful about the following things:**

Before Jesus's resurrection, most people did not yet think that Jesus was God. When they said "Lord" to Jesus, this was meant as a respectful term: They did not mean to say "God" to Jesus. In your translation, you might want to use a general respectful term in these cases, rather than using the same word as you are using for "Lord" when it means God.

## Lord

### *Audio Content*

## magician

A **magician** is a person who has power to perform miraculous activities. This power does not come from God, but from evil spirits. Magicians used complicated rituals to find out the meanings of dreams or of things that happened in nature. Magicians could also use their power to heal sickness, or to predict what was going to happen in the future. Some kings in the Bible used magicians to interpret their dreams.

God forbade his people to make use of magic because it comes from evil spirits. Throughout the Bible, God shows that God has more power than the magicians and their magic powers. Joseph, with God's power, was able to interpret dreams when the magicians could not. Moses performed miracles with God's power that the magicians could not copy. Even though a magician may seem to do good things, the end goal of magic is to hurt people. Eventually, in the book of Acts, the Ephesian believers burned their books that told them how to do magic.

## magician

### *Audio Content*

## Mary

Mary was a young Jewish woman, living in Nazareth, who became the mother of Jesus.

Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph, which means that she was going to get married to him. Because girls were married while still young, Mary might have been just 15 or 16 years old at the time. Families of the girl and the boy arranged the marriages in Israel.

But before Mary and Joseph got married, an angel of God named **Gabriel** appeared to Mary and told her that she would become pregnant by the power of God. Her son would be called the son of God, and would be a king whose kingdom would never end! Mary indeed became pregnant, without ever having had sexual relations with a man. When her future husband Joseph heard about this, he wanted to break the relationship, because he must have assumed that Mary had had sexual relations with another man. But an angel of God told him in a dream that God's spirit had caused Mary's pregnancy, and that he should marry her. Joseph obeyed these instructions from God.

Mary and Joseph first lived in Nazareth, which is in the province of Galilee, in the north of Israel. While Mary was pregnant, the Roman government made a rule that all the people throughout the land had to go to the town of their ancestors in order to get their name written down. Joseph, and probably Mary as well, were descendants of king David. Their hometown therefore was Bethlehem in the province of Judea. And so Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem. While they stayed in Bethlehem, Jesus was born. In this way, God made true what his spokesmen the prophets had said a long time ago, that the Messiah-the special king and Savior-would be born in Bethlehem, the city of king David!

When Jesus was still a baby, king Herod, who was the ruler over the province Judea, found out that a king might have been born in Bethlehem, and wanted to kill him. Joseph and Mary had to flee with Jesus to Egypt. After staying in Egypt for some time, they went back to Israel and began to live in Nazareth again. Nazareth was a small and unimportant town, and many people looked down on people from Nazareth.

Mary and Joseph were poor. Joseph was a carpenter. After Jesus's birth, they had more children together. Because we do not hear anything more about Joseph later, it is quite possible that by the time that Jesus began to teach the people, Joseph had died. Mary herself was at the cross at the time of Jesus's death, and she was part of the group of first believers in Jesus after his resurrection.

## Mary

### *Audio Content*

#### **master**

A master is a general respectful title for someone in a high position or status. In the New Testament, there are two titles of respect for someone in a high position. Lord is often the title for someone who owns property or is a supreme ruler. Master often refers to someone in high position in a household or someone with a lot of responsibility. Sometimes people use both of these words as a respectful title to refer to the same person.

#### **master**

### *Audio Content*

#### **mercy**

The word **mercy** means goodness, kindness, or compassion.

If you see someone in need, and you have pity on that person and help him, then you are *showing* mercy to that person.

If someone owes you a debt but you have pity on the person and cancel the debt, then you are also *having* mercy on that person.

People can ask God to have mercy on them. That means they ask God to have pity on them and to help them, or to forgive them.

The Bible shows us that God is **merciful**. This means he is full of mercy-he wants to show mercy to people. God wants to show mercy on people because he loves them so much.

The meaning of mercy can be similar to the meaning of the word grace. Grace means that we receive something that we do not deserve. Grace and mercy go together. It is because of God's *mercy* that he does not punish us, and then it is because of

his *grace* that he also gives us good things: We can become his children and live with him forever.

God gives grace to people when he forgives them for their sins. People deserve to be separated from God forever because of their disobedience to God, but because God has mercy on the people, he saves them if they trust Jesus. God gives us grace because he is so merciful.

**When you are translating mercy, be careful about the following things:**

Sometimes translators need to use a different word each time, depending on the context. Sometimes "kindness" fits better, and sometimes "pity" fits better.

#### **mercy**

### *Audio Content*

## **Messiah**

The word "Christ" is the same as the word **Messiah**. Christ is the Greek word, and Messiah is the same word in Hebrew. Greek is the language of the New Testament, while Hebrew is the language of the Old Testament. The word Messiah refers to the special king and Savior that God had promised to send.

A Messiah literally means someone who is anointed. That means that another person had poured oil over them. This was a sign that God gave this person a special task. For example, In the Old Testament, God told the prophet Samuel to pour oil over David. This was a sign that God chose David to become the next king of Israel.

Later, people called someone anointed if God had appointed that person for a special task, even if no one really had poured oil on their head.

David became the most beloved king of Israel. But after David, other people were ruling over Israel, and many of them were not good kings. These kings were leading the people away from God, and therefore God had to punish the people. The country of Israel was destroyed, and came under the control of other nations. But still, God promised the people of Israel that he would send them a new king. This king would save the people from their trouble. This king would be a descendant from David.

The Israelites began to refer to this king that God promised to send as "the Messiah"-the anointed one.

When Jesus came, he showed the people that *he* is the Messiah that God had promised to send. Jesus was a descendant from David. Jesus proved that God had appointed him through the extraordinary power and authority he had.

Jesus almost never directly said to the people: "I am the Messiah!" This is because people did not yet really know what it would mean for Jesus to be the Messiah. They had the wrong idea that the Messiah would restore the kingdom of Israel and give them back political power. Jesus instead called himself the Son of Man, which was an indirect way of saying that he was the Messiah.

After Jesus rose up from the dead, his disciples knew with great certainty that he was indeed the Messiah and they began to share this good news to other people. God had sent his Savior! But Jesus was not a Savior who just freed people from an earthly government. Jesus was a Savior who did much more—Jesus freed people from sin and death.

**When you are translating Messiah or Christ, be careful about the following things:**

- You only need one word for both Messiah or Christ.
- You could translate Messiah as "Savior," or "promised Savior," or "special king and Savior."
- Some translation teams like to use a word that sounds like "Messiah" or "Christ." If you do this, be sure that the word does not sound similar to a word in your language that has a very different meaning! Otherwise, people who do not know the Bible may get very confused.
- Maybe your culture has a symbol or ritual that people use to appoint someone for a special task. Maybe you can use this word for your translation of Messiah?

## Messiah

### *Audio Content*

## mind

The **mind** refers to someone's thinking, understanding, and intelligence. In Hebrew, the

language of the Old Testament, the word for "mind" is the same as the word for "heart." In Greek, the language of the New Testament, a mind is slightly different from the heart. In Greek, the word "heart" has a bit more emphasis on feelings, while the word "mind" has more emphasis on the thoughts, the intellect, and the will of a person.

**When you are translating "mind," be careful about the following things:**

Please note that you also need to have a word for "heart," "soul," and for "spirit." The words mind, heart, soul, and spirit, all have to do with the inner, invisible part of a person, but each of them has a slightly different use. You may want to listen to the explanations of each of these terms, and then discuss all these four terms together. You can then make a decision about how you are going to translate each of these terms. But remember that in each passage you will have to think again if you have chosen the right translation.

In summary:

- **Heart** Heart is picture language for the place where a person's thoughts, feelings, and decisions happen.
- **Mind** The mind is very similar to heart, but a bit more emphasis on thoughts, intelligence, and the will.
- **Soul** The soul is the total invisible, inner part of a person. This part of a person may live on even after their body dies.
- **Spirit** The spirit is very similar to soul, but with more emphasis on the relationship with God.

## mind

### *Audio Content*

## miracles

A **miracle**, sometimes called a **wonder**, is something that happens that is very unusual and surprising and seems impossible. Someone who performs a miracle makes an unusual and impossible thing happen. In the Old Testament, God often performed a miracle when people prayed for help. Sometimes God performed a miracle to punish people. Sometimes the prophets—the people who gave messages from God to the

people-performed miracles through the power of God. In the New Testament, Jesus and later his followers performed miracles.

In the Bible, a miracle is never happening just to create some excitement, but is always happening to teach the people something. God performs miracles to show the people that he is powerful and that they can trust him. When a person performs a miracle, this shows the people that God has given this person authority, and the people should pay attention to what this person is telling about God. A miracle also shows that God is at work. For this reason, miracles are also called **signs** and we often hear the words **signs and wonders** together. These words mean similar things.

However, Jesus also warned the people that they had to be careful and should not get excited about every miracle they saw or about every impossible thing that happened, because sometimes people performed a miracle not by the power of God, but by the power of Satan. Satan can deceive people by also making miracles happen. People have to be careful to distinguish between a miracle that comes from God, and a miracle that is done to turn people away from God, or to make people believe false teaching.

## miracles

### *Audio Content*

## nation

A **nation** is a group of people that belong together and who live in the same country, and who have the same ruler.

Whenever the Bible talks about "all the nations of the earth," this is another way of saying "all the people who live on earth."

## nation

### *Audio Content*

## Nazareth

**Nazareth** is a small town in the region of Galilee, in the north of Israel. Nazareth does not appear in the Old Testament, and the first time we hear about this town is when we hear that Mary and Joseph, Jesus's parents, came from Nazareth. Jesus was born in a village called Bethlehem, in Judea, but when he was still small Mary and Joseph went to

live in Nazareth. Therefore Jesus was later called a Nazarene, which means someone from Nazareth. That was not a compliment. The Jews from Judea looked down on the people in Galilee, and even the people within Galilee looked down on people from Nazareth, because it was a small and unimportant town.

## Nazareth

### *Audio Content*

## oath

When people make a promise to each other, they can swear an **oath** to make the promise more serious. When someone swears an oath, they say: "I will absolutely keep my promise. If I do not, God may punish me."

If someone did not keep his promise after swearing an oath, we say that he has broken his oath. It was an utterly disgraceful and dangerous thing to break an oath.

When God made a promise to people, he often made an oath as well. There is no one higher than God who can punish God if he breaks an oath, so God made these oaths in his own name, meaning that he would punish himself if he broke his promise.

## oath

### *Audio Content*

## offering

An **offering** is a gift or sacrifice offered in a ritual to God, usually in the temple or on a special altar. People can make offerings for many reasons, including to give thanks, to be purified, or to ask forgiveness for sin.

## offering

### *Audio Content*

## oil lamp

The people of Israel used **oil lamps** to help them see in the dark. People made lamps out of clay that was burned in an oven to make it hard. People could also cut lamps out of stone. Many oil lamps simply looked a bit as if someone pinched the edge of a bowl together, but other oil lamps were more

elaborate. People put oil in the bowl. Usually this was olive oil, which came from the fruit from an olive tree. Then people put a strip of cloth in the bowl: One end rested inside the oil, and the other end rested on the rim of the lamp. The strip of cloth is called a wick. The wick would soak up the oil. People would then light the wick. The lamp would keep burning as long as there was oil, or until the wick would be burned up completely.

Inside a house, people would put oil lamps on stands so that they would be higher up and give more light.

*You may want to look at some pictures of oil lamps.*

## oil lamp

### *Audio Content*

## parable

A **parable** is a story that has a deeper meaning. Jesus told many parables. In these stories, Jesus used characters and situations that were very familiar to the people around him. These stories often had an ending that was quite surprising to Jesus's listeners, and sometimes even shocking. Through the stories Jesus told the people things about God, and about how things work in the kingdom of God. By telling these stories, Jesus wanted the people to change their thinking and their behavior. People needed to listen very carefully to the parables to understand them. Only people who trusted in Jesus could really understand these parables. For other people, parables were just stories that did not mean anything. Sometimes Jesus explained the meaning of the parable to his disciples in private.

In the Old Testament, the prophets-the people who gave messages from God to the people-also sometimes told parables to teach the people something about God.

## parable

### *Audio Content*

## paradise

The word **paradise** first meant a beautiful garden, a place with lovely trees and flowers that people can enjoy. When people thought of a paradise garden, they thought of it as a place of happiness and joy. Therefore, later people began to use this

word to describe the good place where people who are right with God will live with God after death.

In the first book of the Bible, God created the first humans: Adam and Eve. They first lived in a beautiful garden, like a paradise. In this garden was the tree of life, and the tree of knowledge of good and bad. God had forbidden Adam and Eve to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and bad. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and because of that, they had to leave this garden. Because they had to leave this garden, they lost access to the tree of life as well.

In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, Jesus says that there is a tree of life in God's paradise. The people who will be faithful and obedient to Jesus can eat from this tree of life! This means that they can live forever in a good relationship with God.

## paradise

### *Audio Content*

## Passover

**Passover** is an important Jewish festival that is also called the Festival, or Feast, of Unleavened Bread.

This feast reminded the people about a very important time in the history of Israel.

A very long time ago, Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, had become slaves in Egypt. The Israelites had lived in Egypt for four hundred years! God then called one of the Israelites, Moses, to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and back to Canaan, the land that God had promised to give to Abraham's descendants. The king of Egypt did not just allow this big group of slaves to walk out of his country. The king made things very difficult for the Israelites, but God sent nine plagues on the Egyptians in order to force the king to let the people go. During each plague, the king promised that the Israelites could go, but as soon as God stopped the plague, the king changed his mind again. And so, God caused the tenth and most terrible plague of all: God sent an angel to kill the eldest son in each house in Egypt. But God had told the Israelites to kill a lamb, which is an animal, a young sheep, and to smear the blood of this lamb on the doorposts of their houses. When the angel that God had sent saw the blood of the lamb on the door of a house, he would skip that house and not kill the oldest son in that family.

That same night, the Israelites had to eat the meat of this lamb in a special way. They had to eat the meat together with bitter herbs and with bread that they had prepared quickly—different from the normal way that they prepared bread, that took a long time. They had to eat this meal while standing up, all dressed up ready to start traveling! Because during this night, they would be leaving Egypt.

That night the angel from God killed all of the eldest sons in Egypt, except for the sons of the Israelites, because they had blood over their doors. That night, the king of Egypt finally let the Israelites go. The Israelites began their long travel towards the land that God had promised to give them! They were no longer slaves. From that time onwards, the Israelites would remember how God gave them freedom from Egypt by celebrating the Passover festival every year. The name Passover means "to skip over" or "to step over." This name reminded the Israelites of how the angel had skipped over the houses of the Israelites, and had not killed their oldest sons.

Every time that the Israelites celebrated Passover, they again killed a lamb and ate this meat together with bitter herbs and with bread that was prepared very quickly. The lamb reminded them of how God saved their oldest sons. The bitter herbs reminded them of the bitterness, the difficulty, that they had faced while they were slaves. And the bread that was prepared quickly reminded them that God freed them from Egypt and that they suddenly had to leave quickly.

God had told the Israelites that the yearly Passover feast should be combined with seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. During these seven days they should eat the special bread that was prepared quickly. Normally, the Israelites made bread by letting the dough, a mixture of flour and water, rest for several hours, or overnight, before they baked the bread. The long wait caused some air bubbles to grow inside the dough, and this made the bread bigger and softer. Every time that they baked bread, they would keep some of the dough until next time. This piece of leftover dough was called a leaven, or yeast. The next time they would bake bread, they would take the leaven that they had kept from the previous time and add it to the new dough. This helped the new dough to also become bigger and softer.

When the Israelites were leaving Egypt on the first Passover night, they had no time to bake bread in this way. And God told them to make bread without leaven. Bread that is made without leaven is flat

and thin; it is just flour and water that is kneaded and rolled flat, and then baked over a fire. This bread was called unleavened bread. Therefore, this feast is called the feast of unleavened bread. During the seven days of this feast, the Israelites could not keep even the smallest part of leaven in their house. Before the feast started, they had to throw away any leaven that they still had.

Because the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were celebrated together, the names for the feasts are often used interchangeably.

In the New Testament, leaven is sometimes used as a symbol for sin that we should get rid of in our lives.

## Passover

### *Audio Content*

## peace

When people live in harmony with each other without fighting, they are living in **peace**. But when the Bible talks about peace, this means much more than just the absence of fighting. It means that there is a lot of good!

When people live in peace, they are completely well. They have a complete life, and are living in harmony with each other, with nature, and most importantly, with God! Someone who lives in peace is content.

A community that has peace means that all the people in the community are content, and are living in harmony with each other and with God.

Because people are so disobedient to God, they could not live in peace with God. They became enemies of God. As a result of that, the people faced many difficulties and trouble. But because of Jesus's sacrifice, God made it possible again for people to have peace with God. When Jesus will come back, God's kingdom will be established and there will be peace. There will be complete harmony between God and people, between people and people, and between people and nature. Until that time, God's people are able to endure suffering and difficulties, because they know that they have peace with God.



## peace

### *Audio Content*

## persecution

When people **persecute** you, they are treating you cruelly and unfairly. People can for example beat you, or exclude you from society, or speak lies about you and take you to court. Jesus told his followers that other people would persecute them because of Jesus. After Jesus went back to heaven, many of his followers indeed faced persecution. The Jewish religious leaders and the Roman government persecuted the believers in Jesus and even killed some believers. But the followers of Jesus did not stop sharing the good news about Jesus. They even thought it was an honor to suffer for Jesus.

The New Testament teaches us that we all have to expect persecution. But we should enjoy this patiently and with joy. We should not want to take revenge on the people who persecute us, but instead we should love them.

## persecution

### *Audio Content*

## pharaoh

**Pharaoh** was a title for the king in the country of Egypt. The word Pharaoh means "great house." This word first referred only to the building where the king lived, but later people began to use this word for the kings themselves. Most pharaohs were male, but there were also a few female pharaohs.

The people in Egypt thought that the Pharaoh was a son of one of their gods. The Pharaoh had an important religious function. He was in between the people and their gods, and made sure that the people did the religious rituals properly. He asked the gods to give prosperity to the people.

## pharaoh

### *Audio Content*

## Pharisee

**Pharisees** were a group of religious teachers in Jesus's time who were very concerned about obeying God's law completely. For hundreds of

years, people belonging to this group had been discussing the laws of God that God had given to the Israelites through Moses. Because they were afraid that they might somehow disobey God, they had added more and more rules themselves. These rules became part of their tradition, and were just as important for them as the rules that God had given himself. There were by now so many rules, that it was very, very difficult for people to follow them all. The Pharisees were very proud because they thought that only they were able to obey all God's rules. They looked down on people who were not able to follow these rules. The name Pharisee literally means "to be separated." The Pharisees wanted to keep themselves separated from the other people.

At the time of Jesus, the Pharisees were the most influential group of religious teachers in Israel. Many of the religious teachers in Jerusalem belonged to the Pharisee group. Another important group of religious teachers is called the Sadducees. Pharisees and Sadducees were also part of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious court.

## Pharisee

### *Audio Content*

## possessed

Someone who is **possessed** by a demon, which is an evil spirit, is under the control of this demon. The demon can make the person behave in an unusual or violent way, or it can make the person sick and make him suffer.

A demon can also give a person special powers, so that person knows things that are hidden for other people. In the cultures surrounding Israel, sometimes people tried to become possessed by a demon in order to know what would happen in the future, or to receive some secret knowledge. God forbade the Israelites to do this.

## possessed

### *Audio Content*

## praise

When you **praise** God, you speak out loud good things about God and to God, because you recognize that God is good and awesome and that God deserves great honor. You thank God for the good things he has done and blessings he will give.

## praise

### *Audio Content*

## pray

When you **pray**, or offer a **prayer**, you are communicating with God. You might be praising him, thanking him, asking him for help, telling him about the wrong things you have done, asking him to help other people, or you might just be crying to him because you feel so sad. In the Bible, all these things are part of praying.

Sometimes people speak out loud when they pray, and sometimes they only pray with their thoughts. We might call this "praying in your heart." Sometimes people kneel down to pray, and sometimes they stand up, with their arms stretched up to God. There are no rules in the Bible about how you should pray, only that you have to pray sincerely and humbly.

Sometimes people can pray all together at the same time. Many of the Psalms in the Bible are prayers, and the Israelites would recite or sing these prayers when they came together to worship God in the temple.

When God listens to someone's prayer and responds in some way, we say that God has answered this person's prayer.

**When you are translating prayer, be careful about the following things:**

Some languages use a word for prayer that means the speaking of certain, fixed words. This would not be a good word to use for prayer in the Bible.

Some languages have more than one word for praying, depending on what kind of conversation people are having with God. For example, some languages have one word for thanksgiving prayers and another word for prayer that is asking God for help. Be sure you are using the right word in each context. Maybe you need to use more than one word for prayer in a passage.

## pray

### *Audio Content*

## priest

**Priests** were people who worked in the temple of God in Jerusalem. Before people built the temple, priests worked in the tabernacle, which was a

portable temple, a tent. The temple, and before that the tabernacle, was the place where the Israelite people worshiped God. Priests were responsible for offering sacrifices to God on behalf of the people. They took care of the temple and taught the people how to worship God.

God is holy, and people cannot just come to him, because people are sinful. Because people are sinful, they are unclean. In the Bible, to be unclean means to be unfit to come before God. People have to become clean first. The work of the priests was to make people clean-to purify them. The priests did this by offering sacrifices on behalf of the people, and by teaching people how to live. They performed rituals that symbolized that people became clean. The priests therefore were in between God and the people. They made it possible for people to come before God and continue to have a good relationship with God. They purified the people, so that God was able to come down and meet the people. Priests were very important people for the Jews. Because people stayed sinful, the priests had to often make sacrifices and purify the people again and again.

Only certain people could become a priest. The Israelites were divided into 12 tribes. One tribe was called the tribe of Levi, and the people in this tribe were called Levites. Moses, through whom God gave the people his law, was a Levite. And Moses's brother Aaron was also a Levite. Aaron became the first high priest of the Jews. A high priest is the most important priest. God made Aaron's sons the first priests. From that time onwards, all Aaron's male descendants became priests.

There were also Levites who were not descendants of Aaron. These people also became important. They helped the priests in their duty. The Bible often talks about "priests and Levites." The priests are mentioned separately because they were more important, even though priests themselves are also descendants from Levi.

In the time of Jesus, some priests were also leaders of the people. They are called chief priests. These chief or leading priests were often wealthy people who were related to the high priest. They often belonged to the group of religious leaders called Sadducees and were part of the Jewish council, named the Sanhedrin. The chief priests often argued with Jesus.

The people who lived in the countries surrounding Israel also had people who were in between the

people and their gods. The Bible also calls these people priests, but they were very different from the Jewish priests.

**When you are translating priest, be careful about the following things:**

Your language may have a word that means someone who offers sacrifices to God. This might be a good word for the biblical word for priest. Maybe you need to make a small change, like saying "a priest of God." But be careful that people will not get confused. Maybe the things that a "priest" in your community does are too different from what a priest in the Bible does. Maybe you need to make up a new word or phrase, like "someone who offers sacrifices to God," or "a sacrificer," or "a man who works in the temple of God." But remember that you also need to have a word for a Levite. A Levite can be a "helper of a priest," a "helper in the temple," or a "descendant of Levi who helps in the temple."

Some Christian churches use the word "priest" for a leader in the church. It is not a good idea to use this same word for "priests" in the Bible, because the meaning is quite different. A leader in the church does not offer sacrifices like the priests in the Bible did.

Remember that you also need a word for chief priests-the most important priests-and for the high priest, who is the most important priest of all.

## priest

### *Audio Content*

## prophecy

A prophet is a person who gives messages from God to the people. The message that a prophet gives is called a **prophecy**.

A prophecy can be an instruction from God about something that needs to be done. It can be a message that tells about something that is going to happen in the future. But most of the time these messages were warnings to the people to stop disobeying God.

The prophecies also gave the people hope and encouragement. One important message that the prophets gave the people was that God would send a special king and Savior to help them. This special king and Savior is called the Messiah. The things that the prophets said about the Messiah, hundreds of years before Jesus was born, all came true in

Jesus. For instance, there was a prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; and Jesus was born in Bethlehem. There was also a prophecy that "the servant of God" would suffer much, and would be rejected by the people. Jesus suffered and was rejected by the people. There are many more examples. Therefore, we say that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament.

In the New Testament, Paul teaches us that the Holy Spirit gives some people the ability to speak prophecies. Through the Holy Spirit, God can give these believers some special knowledge or insight that is for the good of the church. Paul calls this the gift of prophecy. Not every believer may have this gift, because the Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people.

Just as in the time of the Old Testament, people can deceive others and give a false prophecy. Therefore, other believers have to listen carefully to the prophecy and check whether this indeed could be a message from God.

## prophecy

### *Audio Content*

## prophet

A **prophet** is a person who gives messages from God to the people. This message can be an instruction from God about something that needs to be done. It can be a message that tells about something that is going to happen in the future. But most of the time these messages were warnings to the people to stop disobeying God. Because people often did not like to hear these messages, being a prophet could be lonely and difficult. People sometimes mistreated prophets or even killed them.

Sometimes the messages gave the people hope and encouragement. Even when the prophets were telling the people that they had sinned, and deserved to be punished, they were also telling the people that God would have mercy on them and rescue them again. One important message that the prophets gave the people was that God would send a special king and Savior to help them. This special king and Savior is called the Messiah. A Messiah is someone who is appointed for a special task.

The message that a prophet gives is called a **prophecy**. The things that the prophets said about the Messiah, hundreds of years before Jesus was born, all came true in Jesus. For instance, there was

a prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, and Jesus was born in Bethlehem. There was also a prophecy that "the servant of God" would suffer much, and would be rejected by the people. Jesus suffered and was rejected by the people. There are many more examples. Therefore, we say that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament.

Prophets gave God's messages to the people in different ways. Sometimes a prophet would tell a parable, a story with special meaning, to the people. Sometimes the prophet performed some kind of drama to help people understand the message. For instance, God told the prophet Jeremiah to walk around for some time with a heavy wooden yoke on his neck-something that was normally used to control animals that worked for people in the fields. Jeremiah used this yoke as a symbol to tell the people that the Babylonian people would soon have control over the Israelites. God told the prophet Hosea to marry a prostitute, and he told the prophet Ezekiel to lay down on his side for weeks on end without moving. These dramatic actions helped people to see how serious God was when he gave them these messages.

God gave his messages to the prophets through the power of the Holy Spirit. We do not know exactly how this worked. Sometimes, a prophet had a dream or a vision. Maybe sometimes God gave the prophet a special revelation-the prophet then knew that something was true. Maybe God sometimes spoke audible words to a prophet. Either way, the prophet then gave this message or revelation from God to the people, probably by using his own words and creativity.

Often prophets wrote down these messages, or other people wrote down the words for them. Many books in the Old Testament are messages that God gave the people through the prophets. That is why the Jews often use the word "the prophets," or "the law and the prophets," to refer to the part of the Bible that we now call the Old Testament. "The law" refers to the part of the Old Testament that has to do with God's commandments: These are the first five books of the Old Testament.

Sometimes in the Old Testament we find other terms for prophet as well, like **man of God**, **servant of God**, or **seer**. A "seer" means someone who can see. A prophet is a seer because he can see, or understand, God more clearly than other people, and he knows things that other people cannot

know. This happens because God gives the prophet this understanding.

There were also **false prophets**. A false prophet does not give a message that comes from God. A false prophet makes up his own message, and just says what people like to hear. This way, people will like the prophet and honor him. We can recognize a false prophet because the things that he says will not come true.

In the Old Testament we sometimes hear about groups of prophets. These prophets were a little bit different than the prophets we mentioned so far. These other types of prophets would follow a certain ritual, for instance listen to someone playing a musical instrument, and then they would get into a trance. This means that they were not quite awake, and also not quite asleep. In this state, God would sometimes give them some special revelation. When people wanted to know what to do, they would sometimes go to such a prophet, and then the prophet would try to get into this trance and hopefully get a message from God about what this person had to do. People who got into this kind of trance could also start praising and worshipping God.

In the New Testament, Paul teaches us that the Holy Spirit gives some people the ability to speak prophecies. Through the Holy Spirit, God can give these believers some special knowledge or insight that is for the good of the church. Paul calls this the gift of prophecy. Not every believer may have this gift, because the Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people.

Just as in the time of the Old Testament, people can deceive others and give a false prophecy. Therefore, other believers have to listen carefully to the prophecy and check whether this indeed could be a message from God.

### **When you are translating prophet, be careful about the following things:**

Be careful that people will not get confused with the word you have chosen for angel. An angel also gives messages from God to people, but an angel is a supernatural being while a prophet is a human person.

Make sure you do not use a word that in your language only means that someone is telling about what is going to happen in the future. Talking about the future is only a small part of what it means to be a prophet in the Bible.

Be careful not to use the same word that you have used for the word "preacher." A preacher teaches people something about God, but a preacher does not always speak the words of God directly in the way that a prophet does.

In some languages, a good translation for the word "prophet" can be: "A spokesman from God," "someone who gives messages from God to the people," or "someone who speaks on behalf of God."

## prophet

### *Audio Content*

## proverb

A **proverb** is a short saying that is easy to remember, and that people pass on to other people. A proverb teaches people something important about people or about God. A proverb often gives advice about what is the right behavior in a particular situation, or tells people what usually happens in a certain situation. The people who made proverbs often looked at nature and marveled at how good God had made everything. Through these proverbs, they taught people that there is much that we can learn from nature. Some examples of Proverbs are:

"If you are proud, you will get in trouble. But if you ask for advice, you are wise."

"Look at the ant and follow his example, you lazy person!"

"We can make plans, but God makes the decision."

Many different people made these proverbs and told them to other people, and over time many of these proverbs were collected in a book. We can find these in the book of the Bible that is called Proverbs.

The Proverbs are teaching people what it means to be wise. A person who is wise understands many things and is able to make good decisions that lead to good results. The book of Proverbs teaches us that it is God who gives wisdom to people. If a person pretends to be wise but does not accept God, then his wisdom is useless, and eventually his plans will fail. Only a person who accepts and obeys God can be truly wise.

## proverb

### *Audio Content*

## purification offering or ceremony

A purification ceremony is a ritual that makes a person clean, which means fit for service to God. The words **clean** and **unclean** in the Bible are not talking about whether something is clean or dirty from the outside. In the Bible, a *clean* person means a person who is fit for service to God, who is acceptable to participate in worship to God. A person who is *unclean* is unfit for service to God, and cannot participate in public worship. Animals and even objects can also be clean or unclean.

If a woman was unclean because she had been bleeding during her monthly cycle or had given birth to a child, or if anyone had had sexual relations, had touched a dead body, or had recovered from a skin disease, they were unclean. They needed to wait a certain amount of time and then take a special bath. In some cases they also had to offer an animal sacrifice to God. These activities together were called the purification ceremony. After this, these people were clean again and could participate in all worship activities.

## purification offering or ceremony

### *Audio Content*

## purify

To **purify** someone means to make someone clean or pure. The words "clean" and "unclean" in the Bible are not talking about whether something is clean or dirty from the outside. In the Bible, a clean person means a person who is fit for service to God—someone who is acceptable to participate in worship to God. A person who is unclean is unfit for service to God. Someone can become unclean or impure when they sin against God, when they sexually sin, or when they unintentionally touch or eat unclean or impure things. Animals and even objects can also be clean or unclean.

Whenever a person had become unclean, they had to perform certain rituals to become clean again. God gave his people specific laws and rituals to make them clean again. These rituals often included taking a special bath. Sometimes people would just wash one part of their body, and sometimes they needed to go completely under the water. Then they would change their clothes.

Sometimes people needed to offer a sacrifice as well. This process was a symbol that showed that people were removing anything that was dirty or unclean and that separated them from God. It was the task of a priest, a servant of God in the temple, to help people do the rituals that made them clean.

## purify

### *Audio Content*

## rabbi

**Rabbi** is a name that people in Israel gave a religious teacher. In their language the word means "my great one," or "my great teacher." When someone calls another person "Rabbi," they are giving that person respect. Some translations keep the word "Rabbi," and other translations just say "teacher."

**When you are translating Rabbi, be careful about the following things:**

You can use a word or phrase in your language that means "teacher." But the word should not be a word that is only used for a teacher of children in a school.

## rabbi

### *Audio Content*

## ransom

When someone is a prisoner, or a slave, another person can buy that person free. The money that the person pays to free the prisoner or the slave is called a **ransom**.

The Bible says that Jesus gave his life as a ransom for people. This means that people are like prisoners or slaves, and that Jesus paid something to free the people. Jesus did not buy the people free with money, but with his own life, which is much more precious. Jesus's death was the price that Jesus paid to free the people from sin and shame and death.

## ransom

### *Audio Content*

## redeem

The Bible uses earthly words to talk about heavenly things. Earthly words and heavenly things do not fit together perfectly, but they give us a helpful picture of God and what God does.

The Bible has several helpful ways of talking about how God **redeems**, or frees, his people.

Slaves must serve their masters. People who have debts must pay their debts. When you are redeeming a person, you are freeing that person from debt or slavery. This could involve paying a person's debt. The person who is freed is redeemed. Usually people redeem relatives or others they know. Sometimes a kind person who has enough money might redeem a stranger they feel sorry for.

Another example of redemption is that of a poor family who must sell their land for some reason. God had made a rule that land in Israel should always stay within the family. If a family was so poor that they had to sell a part of their land, then a relative should buy it from them if possible. That way, the land stayed in the family. We say that the relative "redeemed" the land. Sometimes a relative did not or could not buy or redeem the land. However, God had made a rule that in every 50th year-called the year of Jubilee-all the land had to go back to the original owners! That way, God made sure that no one would ever become too poor.

The Bible uses the picture of buying someone free to describe what God has done for people. In the Old Testament, God freed the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. God did not pay the Egyptians anything in order to free the Israelites; God freed the Israelites because God is powerful and mighty. God described what he did for Israel by saying that He redeemed the people of Israel.

In the New Testament, we learn that God has redeemed us, or freed us, from slavery to sin. The idea of redemption, or God redeeming us, shows us what God has done. However, we should remember that God did not pay anyone anything for us. God does not need to pay someone something; he is powerful and mighty enough to save us. But God offered his son in our place, like one offers payment, to make us free from slavery to sin and evil. It is like God paid a very costly price for this:

his own life, the life of Jesus. Because of this costly price, people can be free. God has redeemed us. We have received redemption. Redemption is a wonderful word that helps us understand God and what He has done when God redeemed us, or made us free.

## redeem

### *Audio Content*

## repentance

When you **repent**, you feel sorry about the bad things that you have done and you want to change. It is as if you are turning around: You turn away from the bad things, and you start walking towards good things. You are now determined to obey God instead of disobeying God.

God tells the people that they have to repent of their sins. When people repent, God forgives them and does not punish them for the bad things they have done. But if people do not repent, God will punish them.

Sometimes the Bible even tells us that God repents. Of course, God cannot sin and does not need to repent of something bad he has done. When the Bible says that God repents, it means that God changes his mind about something.

**When you are translating to repent, or repentance, be careful about the following things:**

The word that you are choosing should not just mean that someone feels sorry for what they have done. It should be clear that the person who repents also wants to stop doing bad things and wants to start obeying God. Maybe you need a phrase instead of just one word.

Here is one way you could help explain repentance:

Draw or line out a path. One end of the path ends in a very dangerous place—a fireplace, or a cliff, or anything that is dangerous. The other end of the path ends in a good place—maybe a table with food, or a nice garden, or any object that helps people to see that this is a good place.

Then have some people walk on this path towards the dangerous place. Act out these people doing bad things on the way—maybe like hitting each other, or stealing. Then have someone else come to them, and tell them that they should repent.

Act out that some of the people walking on the road realize the bad things that they have done, and they notice the dangerous place that they are walking towards. Act out that they are feeling really bad! Then act out that these people turn around, and begin to walk towards the good end of the road. They can act out doing good things now.

Maybe one of the people in your drama can *not* repent and end up in the fire or over the edge of the cliff.

## repentance

### *Audio Content*

## resurrection

After Jesus died, he became alive again after three days. We say that he was **resurrected**. The event in which Jesus became alive again is called the **resurrection**. Jesus became alive again as a whole person—with a body! He was not just a spirit, because people could touch Jesus. Jesus also ate with his disciples.

When Jesus will return to rule as king forever, the people whom God has accepted will become alive again and receive a new body—a body that will never die again! This event is called the resurrection of the believers. Because Jesus became alive again, we can be sure that God will also make us alive again.

## resurrection

### *Audio Content*

## righteousness

Someone who is **righteous** is behaving in the right way. God is righteous, because everything that God does is right and good.

God wants all people to be righteous. Only a righteous person can have a good relationship with God.

The person who wants to obey God and wants to do things that pleases God is righteous, even though they may still make mistakes and unintentionally disobey God. A righteous person is sad when they discover that they have disobeyed God, and they repent. An unrighteous person on the other hand keeps doing bad things, and does not believe or care that God might get angry or punish them.

When Abraham believed the promise that God gave him that Abraham would have many descendants, God considered Abraham righteous. Abraham was not righteous because he had done a good thing, but simply because he trusted God.

This same kind of righteousness is available for people who believe in Jesus. When people trust in Jesus, God gives them the gift of righteousness. When you believe that you can have a right relationship with God because of what Jesus has done for you, God declares that you are righteous.

**When you are translating righteousness, be careful about the following things:**

You may describe righteousness as being in a right relationship with God, being right in God's sight, or being accepted by God. Or you may describe righteousness as being blameless or innocent, or being blameless or innocent in God's sight.

Your language may have special words that describe the idea of righteousness, such as "having a straight heart," "being upright," "walking in God's path," or other things like that.

*You may ask the people in the group to act out in pairs, without using the word righteous, what righteousness means. Afterwards, discuss what you have seen and talk about whether the dramas were accurately explaining what righteousness means in the Bible. This activity can help you to find a way to explain righteousness in your translation.*

## righteousness

### Audio Content

#### robe

A **cloak**, also called a **robe**, is a piece of clothing. People wear a cloak on top of other clothes. A cloak helps to keep people warm and dry and can be used as a blanket at night. People made cloaks from animal skin or wool, which is the hair of an animal named a sheep. A cloak was often a simple square piece of material with holes for the arms.

*You can look in the visual Bible dictionary for a picture of a cloak.*

#### robe

### Audio Content

#### sabbath

The **Sabbath** is the seventh day in the week for the Jews. It is a day of rest and worship to God. On that day, the Jews often gather together in the synagogue-which is the local Jewish meeting place-to pray and to listen to teaching about God.

The Jews counted days from evening to evening. That means that the Sabbath began on the evening of the sixth day, and finished on the evening of the seventh day.

In the time of Moses, God had commanded the Israelites to rest from all their work on each seventh day. God told the people that he had created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day. For that reason, the seventh day was a holy day. The day belonged to God. By resting each seventh day, the people learned that they could trust God for all their needs. They did not need to be working all the time, because God was taking care of them. This day of rest was a beautiful gift of God to the people. The Israelites needed to keep this rest throughout the whole year, even during the busy time of the harvest. By keeping this day of rest, people from other countries could see that the Jews were different. It was a sign that the Jews were God's special people.

It was very important to God that the Israelites did the right things on the Sabbath. If someone *did* work on the Sabbath, we say that that person did not "keep the Sabbath," or "broke the Sabbath." It was very bad if someone did not keep the Sabbath.

The Sabbath was a day of rest for everyone in a family, even for servants or slaves, and for the animals as well. It was a day of rest for the whole creation.

By the time of Jesus, the Jewish religious teachers were so careful not to disobey God, that they had made many extra rules about the Sabbath. These rules were very difficult to follow. The religious leaders had forgotten that the day was meant to rest and to honor God. Jesus and the religious leaders had several arguments about the Sabbath. Jesus was often frustrated with the religious leaders because they thought that the rules made by people were more important than the good law that God had given, and they did not think about what God really wanted.



## sabbath

### *Audio Content*

## sacrifice

A **sacrifice** is a gift to God. People often placed the gift on a platform made of earth or large stones, which was called an altar. The purpose for a sacrifice could be that people wanted to thank God for something, worship God, confirm their relationship with God, or ask forgiveness for something they had done wrong. A sacrifice could involve the killing of an animal, which then would be burned on the altar. But the gift could also be food items, oil, or sweet smelling spices.

In the beginning of the Old Testament, there are several stories of people giving sacrifices to God: Cain and Abel, Noah, and Abraham. Later, when God gave the Israelites his law through Moses, God gave the people instructions about how to give him sacrifices. People could not bring their sacrifices to God wherever they wanted: They had to bring their sacrifices to the tabernacle, and later to the temple. The tabernacle was the place where the Israelites worshiped God. It was a tent that the Israelites could carry with them during their travels through the wilderness. Later, when the Israelites had settled in their own country, they replaced the tabernacle with a building, called the temple.

In the tabernacle, and later in the temple, priests were special people whom God appointed to make the sacrifices on behalf of the people. The priests made sacrifices every day, and there were also special sacrifices for festivals and rituals. People could also bring a sacrifice voluntarily. The sacrifices were very important in the worship of God. Because God is holy, and people are so sinful, people could not just come before God. People needed to be "cleaned" from their sins. Only someone who is purified-made ritually clean-can come before God. The sacrifices helped to make people clean so that they could come before God. However, God also made clear to the people that he did not accept sacrifices if people did not really feel sorry for the bad things that they had done and sincerely wanted to change.

About 40 years after Jesus went back to heaven, the Roman people completely destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. From that time onwards, the Jews could no longer bring sacrifices to God. The New Testament teaches us that Jesus himself was a perfect sacrifice. Jesus died so that God could

forgive the people. People do not need to bring sacrifices to God anymore, because Jesus has already made us clean: Jesus has made it possible for us to come before God.

## sacrifice

### *Audio Content*

## Sadducee

In the time of Jesus there were 2 important groups of religious teachers in Israel. These were the Pharisees and the **Sadducees**. The Pharisees were very concerned about obeying God's law completely, and they even made up additional laws. They wanted to keep themselves separated from people who did not follow God's law. The Sadducees only followed the written laws in the first five books of the Old Testament. They believed that only the first five books of the Old Testament were important. They did not believe in any life after death, and they did not believe that angels or Satan existed.

Unlike the Pharisees, the Sadducees in Jesus's time cooperated with the Roman government, and therefore they had more political power and influence.

Some of the priests in Jerusalem were members of the Sadducees group. Some members of the Sadducees were also part of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious court.

## Sadducee

### *Audio Content*

## salvation

If you **save** someone, you rescue that person from a difficult or dangerous situation.

Whenever the Israelites were in a desperate situation, for instance when some enemies attacked them, they called out to God to save them. They wanted God to help them and to protect them. If God would not save the people, they would die.

In the New Testament, we learn that all people are in a desperate situation and need God to save them. And God does save us. God saves us because he loves us so much. God saved us by sending his son Jesus into the world. Anybody who trusts in Jesus will be saved. Therefore the Bible says that Jesus is our Savior. We cannot help ourselves. We all need

God to save us. Another way to say this is that we all need salvation. God is the only one who can give people salvation. God saves people so that we no longer have to be afraid. We no longer have to be ashamed. We can now have a good relationship with God, and we can trust that even after we die, we will live forever with God.

**When you are translating "save" or "salvation," be careful about the following things:**

In some languages, you may always have to say what people need saving *from*. For instance, you may need to say that God saves a person from death, or from punishment. Or you may need to say that a person is asking God to save them from danger, or from dying. You may need to say different things in different passages.

## salvation

### *Audio Content*

## sanctuary

The word sanctuary means a holy place—a place that is set apart for the worship of God. The word sanctuary is sometimes used as another word to describe the temple of God. It then means especially the central part of the temple. The word temple can be used for the building as well as for the courtyards surrounding it, but the word sanctuary is used only for the building. The word sanctuary can also refer to the tabernacle, the portable tent that the Israelites used as a place of worship before they built the temple.

Because the Holy Spirit lives inside the believers in Jesus, Paul told the believers that their body is also a sanctuary for God. And so even our bodies are meant for worship of God!

## sanctuary

### *Audio Content*

## sanhedrin

The **Sanhedrin** is the name for a group of Jewish leaders who are appointed to make decisions on behalf of the people, especially with regards to religion. In the time of the New Testament, Israel was ruled by the Roman people, but the Jews could decide some matters for themselves. These decisions took place in the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin listened to court cases and passed

judgment based on religious law. When they met for a trial, they usually sat in semi-circles so that they could all see each other. The accused person sat in the middle of the circle.

Another name for Sanhedrin is the **Jewish court**, or the **Jewish Council**.

We do not know very much about the Sanhedrin. It seems that religious leaders like priests, Sadducees, and Pharisees were part of this group. Some wealthy people who were not religious leaders might also have been part of the Sanhedrin. The most important priest, the high priest, was probably the leader of the Sanhedrin.

If you were a member of the Sanhedrin, you were an important person.

The people who made up the Sanhedrin were often against Jesus. They were responsible for handing him over to the Roman government, and for demanding his death. After Jesus's death and resurrection, the Sanhedrin arrested several of Jesus's disciples.

## sanhedrin

### *Audio Content*

## Satan

The name **Satan** means the adversary, enemy, or accuser. It is the name for the devil, the leader of all evil spirits.

God has created everything that exists, and therefore God also created all the spirits. God created them good, as angels, to do his work. But some angels rebelled against God, and then they became evil spirits. The most powerful of these evil spirits is called the devil, or Satan.

Satan always tries to destroy God's work. Satan tempts people to disobey God. He tries to make people turn away from God by deceiving them. Satan is powerful and dangerous, always looking for ways that he can work against God and against God's people.

Because Satan is still powerful in this time, sometimes the Bible calls him the "ruler of this world." Sometimes Satan is called **Beelzebub**, which means something like "master of the high places." Sometimes he is called the **Deceiver**. Sometimes he is compared to a dragon or a snake.

However, God is much stronger than Satan. When Jesus died and was resurrected, God broke the

power of Satan. Even though God is still allowing Satan to use his power for now, when Jesus will come back, Jesus will defeat Satan forever. God will punish Satan and all the evil spirits, and they will never be able to work against God and his people again.

## Satan

### *Audio Content*

## Savior

A **Savior** is someone who rescues people from a difficult or dangerous situation. All people are in a desperate situation and need God to save them. God saved us by sending his son Jesus into the world. Anybody who trusts in Jesus will be saved. Therefore, the Bible says that Jesus is our Savior.

## Savior

### *Audio Content*

## scribe

Teachers of the law were a group of religious leaders who were experts on the law of God.

The law means the set of instructions that God has given the people of Israel in the first five books of the Old Testament, but teachers of the law also taught all the Scriptures, not only the part of Scriptures that talked about the law. Scriptures refers to the part of the Bible that we now call the Old Testament.

Teachers of the law explained the Scriptures to the people. They did not write down their explanations but told them to their students. Their students memorized their explanations, and taught these explanations to the next generation. People kept adding more and more explanations and discussions about explanations. In the time of the New Testament, these memorized explanations had become very important to the people, maybe even more important than the Scriptures themselves.

In the time of the New Testament, teachers of the law were very important people in the community. People showed them great respect and often called them "Rabbi," a title used for important religious teachers. There were also teachers of the law in the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious court.

Teachers of the law are sometimes called **scribes**. A scribe means someone who can write. Many people in the times of the Bible were not able to read or write themselves. If people needed to write something, like a letter, they would hire a scribe to write for them. Scribes also copied Scripture so that the text of the Scripture would not get lost. The Scriptures were not written down on paper, the way people do now. Books and paper did not yet exist. Instead, the people wrote Scriptures on long strips of papyrus or parchment. Papyrus is a thin sheet that is made from the fibers of a certain plant, and parchment is made from the skin of an animal. Because those sheets were very long, people rolled them up. The name for such a sheet is a scroll. Scrolls could become damaged quickly, especially those scrolls made of papyrus. Therefore scribes were always busy copying the text from one scroll to a new scroll, so that the text would not get lost.

However, when the Bible talks about teachers of the law, the focus is on their knowledge of the religious law, and not on their writing skills.

**When you are translating "teachers of the law," be careful about the following things:**

You should not use a phrase that makes your listeners think that these people are teaching the law of a country. Maybe you can use a phrase like "teachers of the religious law," or "experts of the religious law," or "experts of the Scriptures."

## scribe

### *Audio Content*

## scriptures

A **scripture** can mean anything that is written down, but it *especially* means something that is written down and very important to people. When people in the New Testament talk about the Scripture, or the **Scriptures**, they are talking about the part of the Bible that Christians now call the Old Testament. The Old Testament consisted of what the people sometimes called "the Law and the Prophets" because it was made up of the written laws and instructions that God gave his people through Moses, and the writings of the Jewish prophets. Sometimes this is called the *holy* Scriptures. The Scriptures are called holy because they tell us about God, who is holy.

Sometimes people talked about something from the Scriptures without saying the word "Scriptures." Everybody knew that if you said "it is

written," you meant something that was written in the Scriptures.

The Scriptures were not written down on paper, the way people do now. Books and paper did not yet exist. Instead, the Scriptures were written on long strips of papyrus or parchment. Papyrus is a thin sheet that is made from the fibers of a certain plant, and parchment is made from the skin of an animal. Because those sheets were very long, people rolled them up. The name for such a sheet is a scroll. On both ends of the scroll people attached a narrow wooden handle, like a round stick. When people were reading from a scroll, they would unroll one side of the scroll, and roll up the other end around the stick.

Scrolls could become damaged quickly, especially those made of papyrus. Therefore people who are called scribes were always busy copying the text from one scroll to a new scroll, so that the text would not get lost. Scrolls were expensive. Most people did not own a scroll. Instead, scrolls were kept in the synagogues-the Jewish meeting places. Many Jewish people knew large parts of these scrolls by heart; sometimes even people who could not read could recite large parts of the scrolls.

*Look up "scroll" in the video Bible dictionary.*

## scriptures

### *Audio Content*

## Sea of Galilee

The **Sea of Galilee** is a sea, or a lake, in the north of Israel. In the New Testament, the part of the country near the Sea of Galilee is called Galilee.

A sea, or a lake, is a place where there is only water. A sea is usually bigger than a lake, but in the Bible the Sea of Galilee is sometimes called a sea, and sometimes called a lake.

The Sea of Galilee was about 20 kilometers long and 10 kilometers wide. If you wanted to walk all around the lake, you would have to walk for one or two days. People often used boats to go from one side of the lake to another side. The middle of the lake was very deep. There were many fish in the lake, and most people who lived in the villages nearby the lake made a living by catching and selling fish. The water in the sea was fresh, which means that it was not salty, unlike the water in many other seas.

*Look at a picture of the Sea of Galilee in the video Bible dictionary.*

## Sea of Galilee

### *Audio Content*

## seed

In a plant, a **seed** is the small part of a plant from which a new plant can grow. People can collect the seeds of a plant and put it in the soil to grow more plants.

With humans, the seed of a man is another way to talk about a man's descendants. When you talk about the seed of a man, you can be talking about one person, or about a group of people who are this person's descendants.

## seed

### *Audio Content*

## servant

In the Bible you can often use the same words for either a **servant** or a slave. A servant, or a **slave**, is a man or a woman who works for another person. A servant may live in the same house as their master in order to serve the family. A servant can work in the house, or can work on the fields of the master. If you are a servant, you usually have a low position in the community. Most servants did not have a choice about serving the master's family, so they are like slaves. In the New Testament, sometimes a different word for "servant" is used to show that this person serves others, but is not a slave.

## servant

### *Audio Content*

## shelter

A **shelter** is a temporary construction that people make to live in for a short time. People made the shelters from branches and leaves from a tree.

The Jews celebrated a special festival once a year which they called the "Feast of Shelters," or the "Feast of Tabernacles or tents." During this feast, the Jews made shelters or tents in their gardens or on the roof of their house and lived in these shelters for seven days. This reminded the people that a

long time ago, in the time of Moses, God freed their ancestors from Egypt and they had wandered in the wilderness for many years until they settled in the country that God had promised to give them. The shelters, or temporary homes, reminded the Jews that their ancestors had had no permanent place to stay during their years of wandering.

## shelter

### *Audio Content*

### **Sheol**

The word hell is a name for a place where wicked people will be punished after they die.

What happens with people after they die? We may find this strange to hear, but the Bible does not very clearly talk about this. Most Christians say that people who believe in Jesus go to heaven, and people who don't believe go to hell. But the people who lived in the times of the Bible did not always have such a clear idea about this yet.

When people in the Old Testament spoke about what happened to people after they die, they said that people went into the "underworld," or "Sheol." They pictured the underworld as a place that is somewhere underneath our own world. Some passages in the Old Testament speak as if all people, good as well as bad, go to the underworld; other passages speak as if the underworld is a place of punishment for bad people only.

In the New Testament, people also speak about the "underworld." Some translations use the Greek word "Hades" for this. Just as in the time of the Old Testament, the "underworld" sometimes seems to be a neutral place, where all people go after they have died, and sometimes it seems to be a place where wicked people are punished. Sometimes it seems to be a place where all people are waiting until the time that God will judge all people. Sometimes the word "underworld" is just used as another way to speak about death.

Jesus told the people that after death people will either go into the kingdom of God, or they will go into hell. The word hell in the Greek language comes from the name of the place near Jerusalem where at one point in their history the people of Israel had committed a terrible crime. Because of this crime, people avoided this place and began to use it as a place to burn the bodies of dead animals and of people who could not be buried. People always kept a fire burning in this place. Whenever

people thought about this place, they felt very bad, and they thought about God punishing people for their terrible crimes. For this reason, people began to use the name of this place as the name for the place where all wicked people will be punished after their death. Jesus makes clear that hell is a terrible place: He uses picture language to describe it as a place with a fire that never goes out, as a place where people will be tortured, or as a place where people will weep and forever regret their choices.

Jesus teaches that hell is also the place where Satan and his demons will be punished.

### **Sheol**

### *Audio Content*

## shepherd

A **shepherd** is a person who takes care of sheep and goats. Sheep and goats are animals that people keep in order to use their milk, to eat their meat, and to use their hair for making clothes. Sheep are gentle animals. Goats are similar to sheep, but more temperamental, and harder to lead.

A group of sheep or goats is called a flock. A shepherd is responsible for taking his flock to places where they can find the grass or the plants that they need to eat and where they can drink water. A shepherd had to make sure that not any of the sheep or goats got lost. Being a shepherd was hard work, because they sometimes had to walk far with their animals to find enough food and drink for them, and they often had to stay away from home and sleep outside with their animals. A shepherd also had to protect his flock against wild animals. King David, who was the most beloved king of Israel, was a shepherd before he became king.

Because shepherds were so common in Israel, the word shepherd is often used as picture language for a protector or a ruler. God calls himself the Shepherd of Israel. People are called the sheep of God. Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd, because he gave his life in order that "his sheep"-the people-could be saved from danger.

In the time of the New Testament, some people looked down on shepherds, thinking that they were rough and uneducated people.

## shepherd

### Audio Content

#### sign

A **sign** is something unusual that is happening for a special reason. God can give a sign to tell people that something he tells them is true. For instance, when God promised Noah that he would never again destroy the earth through water, he placed the rainbow in the sky as a sign. Every time people would see the rainbow, they could remember God's promise.

Sometimes God would give a sign as a warning that something important was going to happen. For instance, God told the priest Eli that both Eli's sons would die on the same day. This would be a sign that everything that God had said that would happen to the Israelites as a punishment for their sins would become true.

Jesus performed many miracles. These miracles were signs that showed the people that Jesus really was sent by God, and that people should listen to what Jesus was saying about God.

Jesus's believers also performed miracles. These were signs that proved that Jesus's believers were speaking the truth about Jesus.

Because a sign is very similar to a miracle, we often hear the phrase in the Bible "signs and miracles" or "signs and wonders."

Signs are helping people to believe, but we have to trust God even when he does not give any sign. If people only trust God when they see signs, they do not really trust God at all. Therefore Jesus refused to perform a sign for people when they asked him to do so.

Even when God does do a sign, only people who are willing to believe him will believe in the sign. Other people will say that the sign is not true or did not come from God.

#### sign

### Audio Content

#### sin

God created the whole world good. God created humankind to be his representatives on earth. God told the humans to take care of the earth. At first, man and woman lived in a good relationship with

God, with each other, and with nature. But people began to disobey God. They stopped trusting God, and they wanted to decide for themselves what was good for them. They no longer wanted to accept God's authority over them. This act of rebellion against God is called **sin**. Because of this rebellion, the good relationship that people had with God was broken. Not only that, the good relationship that people had with each other was also broken, and the whole of creation suffered as well.

This rebellion against God comes in many different ways. God has made good laws, and if people follow these laws, then people will be able to live together in peace. But people are constantly breaking God's laws. Any time that a person breaks one of God's laws, they sin.

God hates sin. He grieves when people disobey him, because his rules are for people's good. Therefore, God has to punish people for doing sin. If people persist in doing sin, then the punishment is death.

Jesus teaches us that sin is not only a matter of *doing* the wrong thing. *Thinking* wrong things is also sin, even if no one else knows about it. Pride, jealousy, and lust are sin. Looking down on other people is sin. We can do many good things in the eyes of people, but if we are overly proud about what we do, we are still sinning.

The Bible teaches us that Jesus saved his people from their sins. That means that God will not give people the punishment that they deserve. This is because Jesus took the punishment in their place. In the Old Testament, the way for people to ask forgiveness for their sins was by offering God a sacrifice. People had to kill an animal and offer this to God in exchange for their own life. The animal that they offered to God had to be a perfect animal, without any defect. Because of this sacrifice, God forgave them-but only until the next time they sinned. Jesus himself became the perfect sacrifice for all people. Jesus himself had not committed any sin, and so he was like a perfect sacrificial animal. Jesus's sacrifice was so powerful, that because of this God was willing to forgive the sin of all people-not just temporarily, but forever. God will forgive everybody who accepts that Jesus died in their place. These people are now "saved." They do not have to be afraid anymore of punishment. God says that these people now are righteous.

This forgiveness is not cheap! It cost Jesus his life. And so, anyone who accepts Jesus's sacrifice will do his best to stop doing sin, because they are so grateful to Jesus. Paul teaches us that before we

were saved, we were slaves of sin. This means we gave in to the pressure and temptation to do sins. But now that God has forgiven us, we are slaves of righteousness—we earnestly want to do the things that please God, instead of doing the things that make him sad.

It is still very difficult—even impossible—for people not to do sins. But God has given his Holy Spirit to help us. The Holy Spirit helps us to see which things are sin, and helps us to resist the temptation to do sin. Without the help of the Holy Spirit, we cannot do this.

When we are saved, we still do sin, but we are no longer sinners. Because now, we repent when we sin. A sinner is someone who continues to do sin, even though he knows it is wrong.

When Jesus lived on earth, the religious leaders were complaining that Jesus ate with sinners. The religious leaders used the word "sinners" to talk about a specific group of people who disobeyed God's laws in a certain way, for instance prostitutes and corrupt tax collectors. The religious leaders, especially the Pharisees, looked down on these people. But many of these so-called sinners who came to listen to Jesus wanted to repent of their sins. Jesus explained to the religious leaders that this was exactly the reason why he had come to earth: to make people repent of their sins. Jesus showed the people that God was happier about sinners who repented, than about people who were so proud that they did not think that they needed to repent.

**When you are translating "sin," be careful about the following things:**

Some cultures think that some actions are only bad if they are discovered. For instance, they may think that cheating is fine, as long as nobody knows about it—it only becomes a problem when other people find out about it and when it creates embarrassment. The word for sin in the Bible is not like this. Disobeying God is always bad, whether people know about it or not.

Some cultures have a word for sin that means performing a ritual in the wrong way, or doing something that is against tradition, or doing something that goes against your prescribed place in society. This is not what sin is in the Bible. Jesus teaches us that sin has nothing to do with the performing of rituals, but with our thoughts and actions. Even people who perform all cultural rituals and expectations perfectly, are rebelling against God and are sinning.

Some cultures use a word for sin that means "ignorance." This is not what the word sin in the Bible means.

Some cultures have a word for sin that is only used for legal crimes like murder or theft. The word sin in the Bible means much more than only crimes. Even people who never disobey the law of the country, are breaking the law of God and commit sin.

*One way to think about how you could translate sin is to do the following activity: In small groups, act out what sin means. Afterwards, decide which of these dramas fit the biblical meaning of sin best. Talk about how the meaning of sin in the Bible is different from what you thought, or from what other people in your community think that sin is.*

## sin

### Audio Content

## slave

In the Bible you can often use the same words for either a servant or a **slave**. A **servant**, or a slave, is a man or a woman who works for another person. A servant may live in the same house as his master in order to serve the family. A servant can work in the house, or can work on the fields of the master. If you are a servant, you usually have a low position in the community. Most servants did not have a choice about serving the master's family, so they are like slaves. In the New Testament, sometimes a different word for "servant" is used to show that this person serves others, but is not a slave.

## slave

### Audio Content

## sojourner

A person is a foreigner in a country when they are in a country that is not where they were born. Strangers or **sojourners** are people who are foreigners in a country and temporarily live there, even though it is not where they were born. Abraham was a foreigner, or stranger, in Canaan. Later, when Abraham's descendants the Israelites made Canaan their own country, God gave them guidelines about how they should treat foreigners, and strangers or sojourners, who traveled through their country and who lived there among the Israelites.

## son

A **son** is the male child of his parents. But people can call someone "son" even if they are not related at all. If you call someone "son," this means you are speaking to them in a very friendly way. It is usually an older person who calls a younger person "son."

## son

### *Audio Content*

## Son of David

**Son of David** means a descendant of David, even if that descendant is born many generations after David.

David was the most beloved king of the Israelites, and he lived about a thousand years before Jesus was born. God had promised David that always one of his descendants would rule over Israel. But because the Israelites were so disobedient to God, God allowed their enemies to conquer them. The kingdom of Israel stopped existing. But even in this difficult time, God gave the people messages of hope. Through his spokesmen, the prophets, God told the people that a time would come again when a descendant of David would rule over Israel. This king would save the people from their trouble and make everything right again.

And so the Israelites were expecting that one day God would send the people this king and Savior. They called this promised king the Messiah, or the Christ. A Messiah is someone who is appointed for a special task. The Messiah would be a descendant of David. When people in the New Testament call Jesus a "son of David," they mean to say that they believe that Jesus is the special king and Savior that God had promised to send.

## Son of David

### *Audio Content*

## Son of God

The **Son of God** is a title for Jesus. Jesus is called the son of God because he has a special relationship with God the Father. God and Jesus love each other in the way that a father and a son love each other. Sometimes Jesus is called "the *only* son of God." This means that the relationship that Jesus has with God is unique. Nobody else has this same relationship with God as Jesus has.

That Jesus is the son of God means that he himself is also God. Jesus is one person of the Trinity—a word that the church is using to describe that God is *one*, but at the same time *three* persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus has always been the Son of God, even before the beginning of our time, before the creation of the world. When Jesus came to earth, and was born, he also became a human.

When people in the New Testament call Jesus the Son of God, this is sometimes another way of saying that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ—the promised king and Savior.

When people begin to trust in Jesus, God adopts them as children. Therefore, the Bible sometimes uses the phrase "*sons of God*" to describe the people who trust and follow Jesus.

## Son of God

### *Audio Content*

## Son of Man

The **Son of Man** is a title that Jesus gives to himself. Whenever Jesus says something about the "Son of Man," he is saying it about himself. In Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament, this phrase just means "a human being," but Jesus is giving the word a special meaning.

The phrase "Son of Man" occurs in a special way in the Old Testament, in the book of Daniel. Daniel was an Israelite who lived about 600 years before Jesus. At one time he had a vision in which he saw someone who looked like a "Son of Man." In Daniel's vision God gave all authority to this person, and this person became a king, and all the people in the world served him. His kingdom never ended.

When Jesus calls himself the "Son of Man," he is therefore saying to the people: "I am the person from Daniel's vision. I am the king, and God has given me all authority." It is another way of saying that Jesus is the Messiah—the special king and Savior that God has promised to send—but in a less direct way. At the time of Jesus the people did not use the term "Son of Man" as another title for the Messiah. So when Jesus called himself the "Son of Man," the people did not immediately think about the Messiah. However, the people did come to realise that Jesus was claiming to have all authority from God. The people had to figure out slowly what



Jesus meant when he called himself the "Son of Man."

The original audience understood that Jesus was talking about himself when he talked about the Son of Man. If your audience will not understand that Jesus was talking about himself, you may need to make that clear. If you would like to make more clear what "Son of Man" means, you can say something like "I who came from God with God's authority."

Or, if you would like to keep the meaning unclear, as it is in the Bible, you may need to make it clear that "Son of Man" is a title. You can say something like "I, the one who is called the 'Son of Man,' or the 'Son of Humanity.'"

## Son of Man

### *Audio Content*

#### **soul**

God created people with a body, and we can touch and see each other's body. But God also created people with thoughts and feelings and desires. We cannot see this part of a person, but we know it is there. This invisible part of a person is in the Bible usually called a **soul**. Even when our body dies, our soul may live on.

Without a soul, a person is not complete. Therefore, the Bible often uses the word soul just as another way of saying "person." For example, in one passage the Bible speaks about "fourteen souls in one family." This simply means fourteen people in a family.

In other places, the word soul refers to the *life* of a person. Jesus said that he came to give up his *soul* for the people. This means that he came to give up his *life* for the people.

The Bible also uses the word "spirit" to refer to the inner, invisible, part of a person. When the Bible uses the word spirit, the focus is on the relationship that a person has with God. When we are praying, our spirit is talking with God. When someone who believes in Jesus dies, their spirit will continue to live with God.

Some people think that the spirit and the soul are the same, and that these two different words are only giving a slightly different emphasis. Other people think that they are different, and that each person has a body, a soul, and a spirit.

## **When you are translating "soul," be careful about the following things:**

Please note that you also need to have a word for "spirit," "heart," and "mind." The words heart, mind, soul, and spirit, all have to do with the inner, invisible part of a person, but each of them has a slightly different use. You may want to listen to the explanations of each of these terms, and then discuss all these four terms together. You can then make a decision about how you are going to translate each of these terms. But remember that in each particular context you have to decide again whether you have chosen the right word. Sometimes one of these words may fit better than another one.

Here is a brief summary of these four different terms:

- **Soul** the total invisible, inner part of a person. This part of a person may live on even after their body dies.
- **Spirit** The spirit is very similar to soul, but with more emphasis on the relationship with God.
- **Heart** Heart is picture language for the place where a person's thoughts, feelings, and decisions happen.
- **Mind** The mind is very similar to heart, but a bit more emphasis on thoughts, intelligence, and the will, or the desire to do something.

#### **soul**

### *Audio Content*

#### **spirit**

God created people with a body, and we can touch and see each other's body. But God also created people with thoughts and feelings and desires. We cannot see this part of a person, but we know it is there. This invisible part of a person is in the Bible usually called a soul, but sometimes it is called a **spirit**.

When the Bible uses the word spirit, the focus is on the relationship that a person has with God. When we are praying, our spirit is talking with God. When someone who believes in Jesus dies, their spirit will continue to live with God.

Some people think that the spirit and the soul may be the same, and that these two different words are only giving a slightly different emphasis. Other people think that they are different, and that each person has as well a body, a soul, and a spirit.

**When you are translating spirit, be careful about the following things:**

Please note that you also need to have a word for "soul," "heart," and "mind." The words spirit, soul, heart, and mind all have to do with the inner, invisible part of a person, but each of them has a slightly different use. You may want to listen to the explanations of each of these terms, and then discuss all these four terms together. You can then make a decision about how you are going to translate each of these terms. But remember that in each particular context you have to decide again whether you have chosen the right word. Sometimes one of these words may fit better than another one.

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- **Heart** Heart is picture language for the place where a person's thoughts, feelings, and decisions happen.
- **Mind** The mind is very similar to heart, but a bit more emphasis on thoughts, intelligence, and the will, or the desire to do things.

## strength

**Strength** refers to someone's ability to do something, or their physical strength. The words "heart, soul, mind, and strength" all function together to describe all of a person's personality and abilities.

## strength

### Audio Content

## synagogue

A **synagogue** is a place where Jewish people are meeting for prayer and for study of the Scriptures, as well as for other types of discussion and teaching.

A synagogue is different from the temple. The temple was the place where people brought sacrifices to God. People did not bring sacrifices in the synagogue. There was only one temple for the Jews, in Jerusalem, but there were many synagogues. We do not hear about synagogues in the Old Testament, but in the time of the New Testament there were many synagogues throughout Israel, as well as in many other countries where Jewish people lived.

The Jews gathered in the synagogues on the Sabbath-the weekly day of rest-and on special feast days. During their gatherings they prayed together, read from the Scriptures, the books of the Bible that we now call the Old Testament, and listened to teaching about the Scriptures.

Each synagogue had a ruler who was responsible for the building and for making sure that everything was done properly. The ruler of the synagogue was in charge of inviting people to come forward to pray, to read from the Scriptures, or to teach.

The Scriptures were written on scrolls-long strips of material made from the fiber of certain plants or from the skin of animals-that were rolled up. These scrolls were kept in boxes inside the synagogue. Scrolls were precious. A special person was in charge of taking out a scroll from the box and giving it to the person who was going to read.

The synagogue was also used as a school for children, and as a meeting place for people to discuss issues within their community.

**When you are translating "synagogue," be careful about the following things:**

You should not use the same word as you are using for the temple. You should also not use the same word as you are using for a church building. You could maybe use a phrase like "Jewish meeting house," or "prayer house."

## synagogue

### *Audio Content*

## synagogue ruler

A **synagogue** is a place where Jewish people meet for prayer and for study of the Scriptures, as well as for other types of discussion and teaching. Each synagogue had a **ruler** who was responsible for the building and for making sure that everything was done properly. The ruler of the synagogue was in charge of inviting people to come forward to pray, to read from the Scriptures, or to teach.

## synagogue ruler

### *Audio Content*

## Syrian Phoenicia

**Phoenicia** is the name of an area north of Israel. Phoenicia was a narrow strip consisting of five cities on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

In the time of the New Testament this area belonged to the country named Syria. For that reason, someone who came from that area could be called a "Syrian Phoenician." Many other people who lived in this area had come from other countries, especially Greece. A lot of people in this area were involved in trade-the buying and selling of goods, especially by means of ships.

Today, this area is part of the country we now know as Lebanon.

## Syrian Phoenicia

### *Audio Content*

## tabernacle

The **tabernacle** was a tent where the Israelites worshiped God. Another name for the tabernacle is "tent of meeting," because this tent was the place where the Israelites could meet God.

Several thousand years before the birth of Jesus, God had freed the descendants of Abraham, the Israelites, from slavery in Egypt. The leader of the Israelites was Moses. God gave Moses instructions about what was the right way for the Israelites to worship God. Because God is holy, and people are sinful, people can not just come to God as they are. God cannot stand sin, and any person who would

come to God directly would die. But God made it possible for people to come to him, at that time, through sacrifices and other rituals that made people clean. When people were ritually clean, that meant they were acceptable before God.

God told Moses to make a special tent that would be the place where people could meet God safely. This was the tabernacle. People made the tabernacle with wooden panels that were covered in gold. On top of the construction they placed beautiful pieces of fabric. Whenever the people traveled, they took the tabernacle apart and carried the parts of the tabernacle with them on their shoulders. When they came to the next place, they put it together again.

Priests were special people who worked in the tabernacle. Priests made it possible for people to come before God and to have a good relationship with God. The priests did this by offering sacrifices on behalf of the people and by teaching people how to live.

In front of the tabernacle was a courtyard. In the courtyard was an altar, which is a place where the priests brought offerings to God.

The tabernacle itself was divided in two parts. The first part was called "the holy place." Only priests could enter that place. Inside this place was a table with 12 loaves of bread that the priests replaced every week, an oil lamp that was always kept burning, and a small altar on which the priest burned sweet smelling spices. All these items were symbols, or pictures, of some bigger meaning. The priests ate the loaves of bread, probably as a symbol for having a meal together with God; this showed the good relationship that people can have with God. Oil in the Bible is often a symbol for the Holy Spirit, for the power of God. The oil lamp therefore was a symbol of God being present with the people. And the sweet smelling spices were a symbol of the prayers that people offered to God.

At the end of the holy place hung a heavy curtain. Behind this curtain was "the most holy place." Inside this most holy place stood the ark of the covenant. This was a wooden chest that was completely covered with gold, inside and out. On top of the chest were two creatures with wings that represented a special kind of angel. This chest symbolized the throne of God.

This was the most holy place, because God himself was in this place. Only the high priest-the most important priest-could enter this place, and he could enter only once a year. The high priest

entered on the "day of atonement"-the great day of forgiveness. Even though the Israelites asked God for forgiveness for their sins every day, once a year the high priest would ask forgiveness for all the sins that all people had unknowingly done in the past year. The sins that people did made the tabernacle unclean, or unfit for service to God. One of the things that the high priest did on the great day of forgiveness was to enter this most holy place and spread blood over the ark of the covenant. This symbolized that the temple was made clean again of all the sins that the people had committed.

Much later, when the Israelites were settled in the land, they replaced the tabernacle with a permanent building, the temple. The temple had the same function as the tabernacle had, and had the same structure with a courtyard, a holy place, and a most holy place.

## tabernacle

### *Audio Content*

## teacher

A **teacher** in the Bible is always a **religious teacher** someone who explains the Scriptures to people. The word that the people used for a teacher like this is in their language "Rabbi," and therefore some translations will say "teacher," and others will say "Rabbi."

**When you are translating "teacher," be careful about the following things:**

You can use a word or phrase in your language that means "teacher." But the word should not be a word that is only used for a teacher of children in a school.

## teacher

### *Audio Content*

## teachers of the Law

**Teachers of the law** were a group of religious leaders who were experts on the law of God.

The law means the set of instructions that God gave the people of Israel in the first five books of the Old Testament, but teachers of the law also taught all the Scriptures, not only the part of Scriptures that talked about the law. Scriptures refers to the part of the Bible that we now call the Old Testament.

Teachers of the law explained the Scriptures to the people. They did not write down their explanations but told them to their students. Their students memorized their explanations, and taught these explanations to the next generation. People kept adding more and more explanations and discussions about explanations. In the time of the New Testament, these memorized explanations had become very important to the people, maybe even more important than the Scriptures themselves.

In the time of the New Testament, teachers of the law were very important people in the community. People showed them great respect and often called them "Rabbi," a title used for important religious teachers. There were also teachers of the law in the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious court.

Teachers of the law are sometimes called **scribes**. A scribe means someone who can write. Many people in the times of the Bible were not able to read or write themselves. If people needed to write something, like a letter, they would hire a scribe to write for them. Scribes also copied Scripture so that the text of the Scripture would not get lost. The Scriptures were not written down on paper, the way people do now. Books and paper did not yet exist. Instead, people wrote Scriptures on long strips of papyrus or parchment. Papyrus is a thin sheet that is made from the fibers of a certain plant, and parchment is made from the skin of an animal. Because those sheets were very long, people rolled them up. The name for such a sheet is a scroll. Scrolls could become damaged quickly, especially those scrolls made of papyrus. Therefore scribes were always busy copying the text from one scroll to a new scroll, so that the text would not get lost.

However, when the Bible talks about teachers of the law, the focus is on their knowledge of the religious law, and not on their writing skills.

**When you are translating "teachers of the law," be careful about the following things:**

You should not use a phrase that makes your listeners think that these people are teaching the law of a country. Maybe you can use a phrase like "teachers of the religious law," or "experts of the religious law," or "experts of the Scriptures."

## teachers of the Law

### Audio Content

### temple

A **temple** is a place where people worship God. The temple in the Bible is the place where God meets with people. Another name for the temple is **the house of God**.

The people groups that lived around Israel worshiped many different gods, and had many temples. But God allowed the Israelites to worship only him, and to have only one temple. This temple was in Jerusalem, the most important city for the Jews.

Several thousand years before the birth of Jesus, God had freed the descendants of Abraham, the Israelites, from slavery in Egypt. The leader of the Israelites was Moses. God gave Moses instructions about what was the right way for the Israelites to worship God. Because God is holy, and people are sinful, people can not just come to God as they are. God cannot stand sin, so any person who would come to God directly would die. But God made it possible for people to come to him through sacrifices and other rituals that made people clean. To be clean means to be acceptable before God.

God told Moses to make a tabernacle-which means a tent-that would be the place where people could meet God safely. This tabernacle was like a portable temple. Wherever the people traveled, they took the tabernacle with them.

Much later, when David was king over Israel, David wanted to replace this portable temple, the tabernacle, with a fixed building. God did not allow David to build a temple for him, because David had been a soldier and had killed people. But God told David that David's son could build this temple for God. And God allowed David to give his son instructions about how exactly to build this temple.

King Solomon, David's son, did indeed build a splendid temple for God. Even so, Solomon realized that God is much too big to really live in the temple; he said that even heaven was not big enough for God! And so, the fact that God was willing to come down to earth and call a small place like the temple, in the middle of sinful people, his home, was proof of how much God loved people.

Much later, the enemies of the Israelites destroyed this temple. God had allowed this to happen because the Israelites had been unfaithful to God

and had begun to worship other gods. The Israelites were deported to other countries and the worship in the temple was over.

But after many years, God allowed the Israelites-who by that time were more often called Jews-to come back to the land. The Jews built a new temple for God. This temple was much smaller than the first one.

About 20 years before the birth of Jesus, a ruler named king Herod began to rebuild that small temple into something very big and impressive. He did this because he wanted to make the Jews happy so that they would support his rule. At the time of Jesus, the work on this temple was still going on.

All these temples, and the portable tabernacle as well, had the same basic structure, and the same rituals took place. There was a courtyard in front of the temple. This is where priests and the Levites worked to perform the sacrifices that the Israelites made. Levites are descendants of Levi, who was one of the great-grandsons of Abraham. God had set the Levites apart to take care of God's temple. Priests were Levites with the special task to perform the sacrifices. Sacrifices are gifts that people give to God in order to thank him or to ask for forgiveness for sin. A sacrifice could be an animal that was killed and burned, or it could be sweet smelling oil, or food of some sort-this depended on the reason for the sacrifice.

The temple building itself was divided in two parts. The first part was called "the holy place." Only priests could enter that place. Inside this place was a table with 12 loaves of bread that were replaced every week, an oil lamp that was always kept burning, and a small altar on which the priest burned sweet smelling spices. All these items were symbols, or pictures, of some bigger meaning. The priests ate the loaves of bread, probably as a symbol for having a meal together with God-this showed the good relationship that people can have with God. Oil in the Bible is often a symbol for the Holy Spirit, for the power of God. The oil lamp therefore was a symbol of God being present with the people. And the sweet smelling spices were a symbol of the prayers that people offered to God.

At the end of the holy place hung a heavy curtain. Behind this curtain was the most holy place. Inside this holy place stood the ark of the covenant, which is a wooden chest. This was the most holy place, because God himself was in this place. Only the high priest-the most important priest-could enter this place, and that only once a year. This happened on

the "day of atonement," the great day of forgiveness. Even though Israelites asked God forgiveness for their sins throughout the year, once a year the high priest would ask forgiveness for all the sins that all people had unknowingly done in the past year. The sins that people did made the temple unclean, or unfit for service to God. One of the things that the high priest did on the great day of forgiveness was to enter this most holy place and spread blood over the ark of the covenant. This symbolized that the temple was made clean again of all the sins that the people had committed.

The temple stood in Jerusalem, the most important city of Israel. Jewish people would travel to Jerusalem to celebrate important festivals and rituals in the temple. In the time of Jesus, there were several courtyards around the temple. If you were a *foreigner* visiting the temple, you could only come as far as the outer courtyard. Jewish *women* could enter into the next courtyard as well. Jewish *men* could go one courtyard further. Only the priests could enter the courtyard where the sacrifices were made. In the Old Testament, we do not find these rules about courtyards. These were rules that the Jewish people had made themselves.

But even in the Old Testament, only the *priests* could enter the temple, and only the high priest could go through the heavy curtain into the most holy place. This all showed to the people how holy God was, and how different and separated he was from people. When Jesus died on the cross, something very strange happened inside the temple. The book of Matthew tells us that the curtain of the temple was torn in half-from top to bottom! This showed us that because of Jesus's death this great separation between God and people disappeared. Jesus's sacrifice made it possible for people to now approach God without fear and hesitation.

About 40 years after Jesus went back to heaven, the Romans destroyed this temple. The Jewish people had rebelled against the Romans, who were ruling over them, and because of that the Romans burned down Jerusalem and completely destroyed the temple. After this, the Jews never were able to build the temple back up again.

Paul in his letter told the people that the church, the believers who are now in Jesus together, are now the temple of God. The community of believers is the place where God lives on earth, and where people can meet God.

In the book of Revelation we hear that when Jesus will come back to rule the earth, there will not be another temple. There will be no need for a temple, because God will live in the midst of the people-without any separation!

We find other phrases in the Bible that are used for temple, such as:

- the house of God
- a house of prayer
- a house of sacrifice
- and Jesus called the temple the house of his father.

The Bible also mentions some temples that are dedicated to gods that other people were worshiping, such as the temple of Dagon in the book of Judges or the temple of Artemis in the book of Acts. These temples were very different from the temple in Jerusalem and always contained an idol, a statue of these gods. The temple of God did not have a statue, because God had forbidden the people to ever make an image of God.

**When you are translating "temple," be careful about the following things:**

Your language may have a word that is used for a place of worship that is dedicated to a specific god in your culture. This word may not be right for the word temple in the Bible, unless you give some explanation about the difference. You could maybe say "temple of God" to make clear that it is different from the temples in your community.

Other possible names for the temple are:

- house of God
- house of sacrifices
- special house of God
- house of prayer

Remember that you will also need a different word for tabernacle.

Also, be careful that people do not get confused with the word that you are choosing for synagogue. A synagogue was a place where Jewish people met for prayer and for the study of God's word. People did not offer sacrifices in a synagogue. There were many synagogues, but there is only one temple.

*Look at the pictures of the temple in the Bible video dictionary.*

*Use objects that you have easily available to make a small model of the temple. You could make an outline of the temple with the courtyard, the holy place, and the most holy place with rocks, rope, or other material.*

## temple

*Audio Content*

## tenants

**Tenants** are people who take care of land or fields for an owner who does not live on the property. The tenants give part of the harvest from the field to the owner as payment for use of the property.

## tenants

*Audio Content*

## tomb

A **tomb** is the name for a place where people bury a dead person. In the Bible, this could be a natural cave in a rock, or it could be a hole that people cut out of rock. Wealthy people could have a large tomb carved out of rock with many decorations. Poor people might be buried inside a natural cave, or even just buried in the sand.

People wrapped a dead body in cloth and placed it directly inside the tomb.

More than one person could be buried in the same tomb. A family could have a tomb in which they buried all their dead family members. Inside the tomb could be shelves for the different bodies.

People closed the opening of a tomb with a pile of rocks, or with one large slab of rock. This rock would be round so that people could roll it away. The rock would be so heavy that it would still take several people to move it away.

*Look in the Bible video dictionary for a picture of a tomb.*

## tomb

*Audio Content*

## tongues

In the Bible, the word **tongue** is used as another word for language. So, people who speak a foreign

tongue are people who speak a language that you don't understand.

But someone who speaks "a tongue" or who speaks "in tongues," can also mean a person who has a special gift from the Holy Spirit. When people speak in tongues like this, they normally do not themselves understand what they are saying. The Holy Spirit is making these people speak in a language that they do not know themselves. In this unknown language, the people are praising God or speaking some truth about God. Sometimes the people who listen to this are able to understand the words; sometimes because they happen to know the language, or sometimes because the Holy Spirit is giving them the explanation. For instance, when the Holy Spirit came on the new believers at the time of Pentecost, the people began to speak in tongues. The believers who were speaking these languages did not themselves understand these languages, but everybody in the crowd could understand what the believers were saying, even though the people in the crowd came from all over the world and spoke many different languages!

The gift of speaking in tongues is one of the gifts that the Holy Spirit can give to believers. Other gifts can for instance be having special knowledge, or wisdom, or the ability to perform miracles.

## tongues

*Audio Content*

## tunic

A **tunic** is an item of clothing that both men and women wear. It is a shirt that reaches to the knees, or to the ankles. People could make tunics from wool or from linen. People usually wore a waistband tied around their waist outside of the tunic. Men might put their swords in the waistband of their tunics. People wore a tunic underneath outer clothing like a robe or a cloak.

*You can look in the visual dictionary for a picture of a cloak.*

## tunic

*Audio Content*

## Tyre

Tyre is a city in Syrian Phoenicia, or Phoenicia, a region that is north of Israel. Tyre is located on the

coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Today, this city is part of the country we now know as Lebanon. During the time of Jesus, Tyre was an important city in the region because the people in Phoenicia were good at building ships and in sailing to other countries in their ships for buying and selling goods. Tyre was not part of Israel, and the Jewish people knew that the people of Tyre were immoral and did not follow God's laws. Israelite prophets prophesied against Tyre. However, Jesus said that the Jewish towns who rejected him would receive even greater punishment when God judged them than Tyre would!

## Tyre

### *Audio Content*

## vineyard

A **vineyard** is a garden where people grow grapes. Grapes are a soft, juicy fruit that grows on a tree called a grapevine. People eat grapes fresh, or dry them in the sun. Once they are dried out, they are called **raisins** and can be kept for a long time. People also extract the juice from grapes to make an alcoholic drink called **wine**. Grapes are very common in Israel, and wine-usually diluted with water-was a common drink.

A vineyard usually had a wall around it so that wild animals or thieves could not come into the garden. People made this wall out of rocks or thorny bushes. Inside the vineyard was a hut for the watchman. This hut was a bit higher than the rest of the garden so that the watchman could look out over the garden. This was called a watchtower.

There was also a winepress. A winepress is a flat piece of stone with a ledge around it. People pour the grapes on this stone and then they trample on the grapes with their feet. This would squeeze out the juice from the grapes. The juice would flow into a container called a wine vat. Another way of taking out the juice was by rolling a heavy stone over the grapes.

Vineyards were so common in Israel that we often find them in picture language. In the Old Testament, God sometimes compared the people of Israel with a vineyard, or with a vine tree. Jesus told several parables in which he used something related to a vine tree, a vineyard, or to wine, to explain something about the kingdom of God.

*You could look at the pictures of a vineyard in the video Bible dictionary.*

## vineyard

### *Audio Content*

## vision

If you have a vision, you are seeing something from God that other people do not see, or are hearing something from God that other people do not hear. God sometimes gives visions to people to tell them about something that will happen in the future, or to tell someone to do something. God can also show people something in a dream, when they are sleeping, but a vision is happening when a person is awake.

## vision

### *Audio Content*

## vow

A person who is making a **vow** is asking God to do something for them, and is offering to do something in return or to stop doing something. People can make vows to show that they are devoted to God. God does not require people to make vows. But, if a person makes a vow, the vow is seriously binding like an oath. God releases the person from the vow once he has done what he vowed to do.

Jacob asked God to bring him back to the land of his father, and if God would do this, then Jacob would worship God. Jacob was making a vow.

Hannah asked God to give her a son, and promised that if God would do so, Hannah would give the son back to God to serve him. Hannah was making a vow.

## vow

### *Audio Content*

## wickedness

**Wickedness** means the same as evil. Evil is the opposite of good.

A person who is evil, or wicked, willingly does bad things that hurt other people. When people stop obeying God, they begin to do evil actions.

Because humans are so disobedient to God, the Bible teaches us that our hearts have become evil. Instead of wanting to do good things, we want to do



bad things. Very many problems in the world like war, poverty, and injustice, happen because of the evil inside people's hearts. Even sickness and death is ultimately a result of evil.

God hates evil. When God will establish his kingdom forever, he will destroy evil. Nothing that is evil will enter God's kingdom. Until that time, God still allows evil to happen. Why he allows this is one of the most difficult questions for Christians!

## wickedness

*Audio Content*

## wilderness

A **desert** or **wilderness** is a lonely, barren place without water. There are almost no trees or bushes growing in a desert. The ground is dry and rocky, and there are wild animals roaming around. People do not live in the desert.

## wilderness

*Audio Content*

## wine

Wine is fermented grape juice. People make grape juice from grapes. Grapes are a soft, juicy fruit that grow on a grapevine. People pour the grapes onto a stone and then they trample on the grapes with their feet. This would squeeze out the juice from the grapes. The juice would flow into a container called a wine vat. Another way of taking out the juice was by rolling a heavy stone over the grapes. People would then store the grape juice in jars until it fermented into alcohol, which takes several days to several weeks.

Wine in the Bible is usually red in color and can symbolize life, blood, joy, and celebration when people use it well. Although people can use wine well, when people drink too much wine, wine can cause them to become drunk, which makes them lose control of themselves. This can be bad for both themselves and for others.

## wine

*Audio Content*

## winepress

A **winepress** is a flat piece of stone with a ledge around it. People in Israel use this to press the juice out of grapes. Grapes are a soft, juicy fruit. People pour the grapes on this stone and then they trample on the grapes with their feet. This would squeeze out the juice from the grapes. The juice would flow into a container called a wine vat. Another way of taking out the juice was by rolling a heavy stone over the grapes.

*You could look at pictures of a winepress in the video Bible dictionary.*

## winepress

*Audio Content*

## wisdom

When someone is wise, he has **wisdom**. In the Bible, a person who has wisdom understands many things, and is able to make good decisions that lead to good results. When a person has certain skills, like the ability to build or to make something beautiful, the Bible also says that this person has wisdom.

It is God who gives wisdom to people. If a person pretends to be wise but does not accept God, then his wisdom is useless, and eventually his plans will fail. Only a person who accepts and obeys God can be truly wise.

We can hear a lot about wisdom in the book of Proverbs. In this book, the author sometimes talks about wisdom as if it is a person. This is picture language that people used to help others learn about wisdom. And so, Proverbs can say that "wisdom is calling out to people, trying to make people wise." Wisdom is calling just as a person would call. In 1 Corinthians, Paul talks about Jesus and calls Jesus the "wisdom of God." God's plan to save the world through Jesus was very wise-and therefore, we can be sure that this plan will work!

## wisdom

### *Audio Content*

## Word

In the Bible, **word** usually means **the word of God**. The word of God means everything that God tells people. God speaks to the people either directly, or through people called prophets. God also speaks through his actions: When people see what God is doing, people can understand what he speaks to them.

When people in the New Testament talk about "the word," or "the word of God," or "the word of the Lord," they usually mean the good news that Jesus has come into the world.

People can know what God tells them through the Scriptures-the Bible. Therefore, people also call the Scriptures "the word of God."

## Word

### *Audio Content*

## worship

When we **worship** God, we give honor to God. We say that God deserves all our thanks, our praises, and our respect. When we worship God, we are in awe and wonder about how good and powerful and loving God is, and how different he is from us humans!

Only God deserves our worship. We should not worship anything or anyone else.

People in the Bible often showed their worship to God by bowing down to him. People worshiped God together, or just by themselves. During the time in Israel's history when they had the temple of God, people worshiped God together at the temple. They worshiped God through their songs, prayers, and sacrifices. But these activities of worship were useless if their hearts were not obedient to God. God told them that he rejects people's worship of him if they treat other people with cruelty and injustice.

In the time of the New Testament, the Jews also met together for worship in synagogues. A synagogue is a place where Jewish people gather for teaching and learning about God. The Jews also prayed and worshiped God in the synagogues. But Jesus also

made it clear that God cares more about our love for him than about the place where we worship.

After Jesus had gone back to heaven, his followers at first still worshiped God in the temple and in the synagogues. Later, when more and more people who were not Jews became followers of Jesus, the people began to meet together especially in people's homes. They worshiped God together through preaching, prayer, singing, and by other activities.

But worship is not something that we do only at particular times, and in groups. Everything we do, even ordinary daily tasks, can be worship if we do them for God. Our whole life and all our actions should be a worship to God. God has been so good to us, and because we are so grateful to him we worship him in everything that we do.

## worship

### *Audio Content*

## Yahweh

About 1200 to 1500 years before the birth of Jesus, when God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, Moses asked God: "But when the Israelites will ask me who has sent me, what should I say?" Moses is asking here for the name of God. And God gives Moses a name for God that he can use: He tells Moses, "You can tell the people that *Yahweh* has sent me." This name means something like "I am," or "I am who I am." When people hear this name of God, they remember that God created the world and everything in it. God never changes, he is a God who is forever, and a God who keeps his promises.

There are other names for God in the Bible, like "the most high God," or "the God of the heavenly armies," but when people hear this name of God, *Yahweh*, they think especially of the covenant, the special promise, that God had made with the Israelites at the time of Moses. The name *Yahweh* was a very personal name for God that showed the close relationship that God had with the people of Israel.

The Jews were very careful with pronouncing this name of God. God was holy, and therefore his name was holy. They did not want to offend God by using his name casually. Over time, the Jewish people used God's name less and less because they were afraid to offend God. Therefore, when the Jews were reading from their Scriptures, the books of

the Bible that we now call the Old Testament, they did not pronounce the word Yahweh. Instead, every time that they saw the word Yahweh, they spoke a word that means master, or lord. This was a sign of their respect for God.

Because of this, some Bible translations also write lord instead of Yahweh.

Some Bible translations use the word Jehovah. This word is actually a misunderstanding; it is a mixture of the word Yahweh and the Hebrew word for lord. It is not a real word or name.

**When you are translating "Yahweh," be careful about the following things:**

- You could say something that sounds like Yahweh. We actually do not know how this word was pronounced in Hebrew, so you can pronounce it in any way that is easy in your language.
- You can also try to make a phrase that in your language means something like "I am," "the one who is," "the one who is forever." However, this can sound a bit awkward sometimes.
- Maybe there is a name in your language for a deity, someone that people in your community consider to be a god. In some cases, it might be possible to use this name for Yahweh. However, you will have to be careful with this. If the character of the deity has some similarities with the character of God, this may work. Using this name for the God in the Bible will help the people to learn that only the Bible tells them what their god really is like. However, this can also cause misunderstanding, confusion, or objection from the people in the wider community.
- You can say "lord" instead of Yahweh, just as the Jews did. However, often the Bible also uses a word that really means lord, and sometimes speaks about "the lord Yahweh." So, you will have to find a way to make clear when the word is a translation of the word lord, and when it is a translation of the word Yahweh.

You need to take time to make a decision, and you may have to change your decision again after some time. Translating the word Yahweh is difficult! Pray about it and talk about it with many people to hear what they think.

## Yahweh

### *Audio Content*

## yoke

A **yoke** is a wooden collar with two openings that people use to tie two oxen or two other animals

together. Then the animals can walk together to pull a plow or a cart. The yoke helps the animals to walk in step with each other so that they can pull their load smoothly. For this to work, the animals have to be about the same size.

The Bible sometimes uses yoke as special language for being married. When two people are married to each other, but they are not suitable for each other, you can say that they are unequally yoked together. It is as if two different animals are trying to pull a load, but they are going at different speeds. The result is a very bumpy ride!

People can also force a person to carry a yoke if the person is a slave or a prisoner. The Bible sometimes uses the word yoke as special language to talk about slavery or hardship. When someone has to work very hard, you can say that he is carrying a heavy yoke.

## **yoke**

*Audio Content*