

## **Resource: Key Terms (SRV)**

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## Key Terms (SRV)

### S

*sabbath, sabbath, sacrifice, sacrifice, Sadducee, Sadducee, salvation, salvation, sanctuary, sanctuary, sanhedrin, sanhedrin, Satan, Satan, Savior, Savior, scribe, scribe, scriptures, scriptures, Sea of Galilee, Sea of Galilee, seed, seed, servant, servant, shelter, shelter, Sheol, Sheol, shepherd, shepherd, sign, sign, sin, sin, slave, slave, sojourner, son, son, Son of David, Son of David, Son of God, Son of God, Son of Man, Son of Man, soul, soul, spirit, strength, strength, synagogue, synagogue, synagogue ruler, synagogue ruler, Syrian Phoenicia, Syrian Phoenicia*

### 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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## 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**