



Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Narratives

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Introduction to Narrative Passages Review	3
Purpose of the Narrative Passage Review	3
Historical Narratives: The Birth of Jesus Christ	4
Positive Statement:	4
Matthew 1:18-25	5
Matthew 2:1-12	7
Luke 2:1-20	10
Historical Narratives: The Miracles of Jesus Christ	14
Positive Statement:	14
Matthew 14:13-21	15
Luke 17:11-19	17
John 2:1-12	19
Teaching Narrative: The Parables of Jesus Christ	21
Positive Statement:	21
Matt. 18:21-34	22
Matthew 20:1-16	24
Luke 10:25-37	27
Historical Narrative: The Early Church	31
Positive statement:	31
Acts 2:1-13	32
Acts 9:1-19	34
Acts 14:8-18	38
Apocalyptic/Prophetic Narratives:	40
Positive Statement:	40
Revelation 4:1-11	41
Revelation 12:1-9	44

Introduction to Narrative Passages Review

A narrative is an account, whether historical or fictional, of related events. In general, a narrative may include an account about a person or people and what they did or what happened to them in a certain time or place that may be known or unknown to the reader. In biblical narratives these accounts are written to teach truths about God and how believers should live.

Some narratives are short and encompass one single event. Sometimes many short narratives are connected together to tell a longer story--for example to tell about the life of an important person or the account of important events.

In order to understand a narrative, the reader must determine:

- If the account is historical or fictional
- Who the characters are or who they represent
- The time and setting in which the narrative takes place
- The order of events and how they are connected

The Bible contains different types of literature that are expressed in narrative form. For example:

- History- true account of an event (or a series of events), that happened to real historical people, in real places, and that occur in time.
- Parable - a simple story told to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. A parable often has one main point.
- Prophecy - accounts of events that will happen in the future.

Purpose of the Narrative Passage Review

Since the Bible is God's Word, every narrative passage is significant.

The purpose of testing the narrative/historical passages with the Review Guide is to affirm that the message of the events, the meaning of the stories, and their significance is clearly communicated in the translated passages.

1. Message of the events: Can the listener/reader recount the events of the story? Does he have an awareness of the historical/geographical setting?
2. Meaning of the events: Does the listener/reader understand these events? Can he identify with the characters and follow the progress of the account?
3. Significance of events: Does the listener/reader understand the doctrines supported by the stories?

Please read the Users' Manual before beginning this guide.

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Historical Narratives: The Birth of Jesus Christ

Positive Statement:

The Bible clearly tells of Jesus' birth as a human being into this world. Although Joseph was considered Jesus' earthly father, Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born to the virgin Mary.

Matthew 1:18-25

Background: This passage is written by the apostle Matthew about the events before Jesus was born.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section		
Summarize what happened in this story.	<input type="checkbox"/> Joseph, who was engaged to Mary, found out she was pregnant and decided he could not marry her. <input type="checkbox"/> But then an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and told him that Mary's baby was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <input type="checkbox"/> Her baby would be a son, who would save his people from their sins. <input type="checkbox"/> The angel told Joseph not to be afraid but to take Mary as his wife, and to name the child Jesus. <input type="checkbox"/> Joseph did as the angel commanded him and took Mary as his wife. <input type="checkbox"/> She gave birth to a son. Joseph named the baby Jesus, just as he had been told to do.	
Specific Questions		
Who is in this story?	Joseph, Mary, the angel of the Lord, and Jesus.	
What did Joseph consider doing when he found out Mary was pregnant?	He thought about divorcing her (or breaking the engagement) but to do so quietly.	
Why do you think Joseph considered divorcing Mary?	He knew she was pregnant and the baby was not his.	

Matthew 1:18-25 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
What happened to change his mind?	He had a dream and an angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him that Mary's baby was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and not to be afraid, but to marry her. He was told to give the child the name Jesus, because he was the one who would save his people from their sins.	
Significance of events		
What do verses 22-23 say about why all this happened?	These verses quote a prophecy about Jesus being born to a virgin mother. These verses tell us that everything happened the way it did to fulfill a prophecy made long ago.	
Why did Joseph name the child Jesus?	The angel of the Lord had told him to name the child Jesus--because he would save the people from their sins.	
What did the angel say in verse 23 would be the name of the baby?	Immanuel	
What does "Immanuel" mean in your language?	"God is with us"	

Matthew 2:1-12

Background: This passage was written by the apostle Matthew. This passage tells of an event after Jesus was born.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section		
Summarize what happened in this story.	<input type="checkbox"/> Wise men came from the east to Jerusalem looking for the child who was born and who was called the king of Jews. <input type="checkbox"/> Wise men saw the star in the east and followed it <input type="checkbox"/> They went to Herod asking about the baby who was born. <input type="checkbox"/> Herod was troubled by the birth of the king of the Jews. <input type="checkbox"/> The chief priests and scribes told Herod that Christ was to be born in Bethlehem according to Scripture. <input type="checkbox"/> Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. <input type="checkbox"/> Herod ordered the wise men to return, telling them that he wanted to worship the baby, too. <input type="checkbox"/> The wise men went to Bethlehem, they found the baby, gave him gifts, and they worshiped him. <input type="checkbox"/> In a dream they were warned not to go back to Herod; so they went back home another way.	
Specific Questions		
Who is in the story?	Wise men from the east, King Herod, Mary and the child. (Also the Jewish religious leaders--priests and scribes.)	
Where does this story take place?	In Jerusalem and in Bethlehem.	
Who went to Jerusalem looking for the king of the Jews?	Wise men from the east (a foreign country.)	
Why did they go to Jerusalem?	They said they "saw his star" and were coming to worship him.	

Matthew 2:1-12 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
How did Herod find out where the Christ would be born?	He asked the priests and scribes of the Jewish people what the prophecies said. They quoted from the Scripture saying the Christ would be born in Bethlehem.	
How did the wise men find Jesus?	After being told he would be in Bethlehem, they left Jerusalem and the star guided them to the house where Jesus and his family were.	
What did they do when they found him?	They fell down and worshiped him and they opened their gifts and gave them to him.	
Significance of events		
What did the wise men first call Jesus when they came looking for him in Jerusalem?	They called him "king of the Jews."	
Why do you think Herod was troubled by the wise men calling the baby "king of the Jews"?	Herod was concerned that there was a new king to lead the Jews. Herod did not want anyone replacing him as king.	
Why do you think Herod asked the wise men to come back and tell him where Jesus was?	He needed to know where the baby was to be found, so he could kill him.	
There was a star over the place where Jesus was; there was a prophecy about his birth; and wise men came and worshiped him. What do you think these events indicate about Jesus?	These events indicate that Jesus is the Christ, the King of the Jews, and his birth was predicted in the Old Testament.	

Matthew 2:1-12 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
How did the wise men know not to go back and tell Herod where Jesus was?	They were warned in a dream not to go back.	
Why do you think they obeyed the dream rather than Herod?	They may have not trusted Herod. They may have thought that Herod would have harmed the new king of the Jew. They may have realized the dream was supernatural (a message from God) like the star.	

Luke 2:1-20

Background Information: This passage is from the gospel of Luke. In chapter one he tells about Mary's visit from the angel Gabriel. Gabriel told her that she would become pregnant. Mary objected because she had never been with a man. The angel told her that the baby would be the son of God. The account begins with the birth of Jesus.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section: Luke 2:1-7		
Summarize what happened in 2:1-7.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mary was pregnant and was about to give birth to Jesus. <input type="checkbox"/> Joseph was engaged to be married to Mary. <input type="checkbox"/> There was a government census that was counting the people in Judea. Mary and Joseph traveled to their family home in Bethlehem so they could be counted. <input type="checkbox"/> Bethlehem was the home of Joseph. He was a descendant of King David. <input type="checkbox"/> Since the village inn was full, Joseph and Mary had to stay in a stable with the animals. <input type="checkbox"/> So Mary gave birth to Jesus in the stable and laid him in a food trough with hay for his bed.	
Specific Questions		
Where did this story take place?	It started in Nazareth of Galilee and they traveled to Bethlehem in Judea.	
Who are the main people in this story?	Mary, Joseph (Jesus and Caesar)	
Who ordered the census?	Caesar Augustus--the ruler of the Roman Empire.	
What was the census?	Government officials counted the number of people in the country, and made a list of the names of those who were required to pay taxes to the Roman empire.	
In what kind of building was Jesus born?	He was born in a stable in Bethlehem.	

Luke 2:1-20 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
How did Mary care for her newborn baby?	She wrapped him in long strips of cloth and laid him in a manger.	
How do you understand the English word "manger" in your language?	A manger is a container for food out of which animals eat. For the baby Jesus, Mary wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in the manger.	
Summary Section: Luke 2:8-20		
Summarize what happened in 2:8-20.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The shepherds were out in the fields at night guarding their sheep, when suddenly an angel appeared. <input type="checkbox"/> They were filled with great fear but the angel told them not to be afraid, because he brought them good news that will bring great joy to all people: a Savior has been for you in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. <input type="checkbox"/> The angel said they could find the baby by going into the city of David. The angel said, "You will find the baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." <input type="checkbox"/> Then a great heavenly host appeared with the angel and they praised God. <input type="checkbox"/> The shepherds went to Bethlehem to see what had happened, as the Lord told them. <input type="checkbox"/> They found Mary, Joseph, and the baby. <input type="checkbox"/> Then the shepherds praised God because what they had seen was what just what the angels told them. <input type="checkbox"/> Mary treasured all these things in her heart. 	
Specific questions		
Who were the main people in this part of the story?	The shepherds, the angel of the Lord, the host of angels, Mary and Joseph.	

Luke 2:1-20 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
How did the shepherds react when they saw the angel?	They were frightened.	
What did the angel tell them?	"Do not be afraid." Then he said he had good news and told them about the Savior who was born in Bethlehem.	
What happened after the angel told this to the shepherds?	A whole group of angels appeared and they praised God.	
What did the shepherds do once the angels had gone away?	They went and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby.	
How did Mary respond to the shepherds' visit?	She thought about it in her heart.	
What did the shepherds do as they returned home?	The shepherds glorified and praised God for all the things they had seen and heard.	
Significance of events		
Why were the shepherds afraid when they saw the angel of the Lord?	They probably had never seen an angel before; they had no idea what to expect. The radiance/glory of the Lord was probably very bright and startling.	
How do you understand "good news" in your language?	It is a report of a wonderful event. Here good news refers to God sending Jesus to save his people.	
Who will be glad to hear this good news?	All the people will be glad.	
Why do you think the birth of the Christ is good news for all the people?	A Savior for the people has been born who is Christ the Lord.	

Luke 2:1-20 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
How do you understand in your language the phrase for "A Savior who is Christ the Lord"?	As Christ, he is the Anointed One, God's chosen one to save his people; as Lord he is Owner, Leader, and Ruler over all.	
The shepherds returned praising God for everything they had seen. Why do you think they were praising God?	They praised and glorified God because of what they had seen and heard.	

Historical Narratives: The Miracles of Jesus Christ

Positive Statement:

Jesus Christ did many miracles while he was on earth. By his miracles he demonstrated his authority over every natural and spiritual force, including storms, demonic forces, diseases and afflictions, even death.

Matthew 14:13-21

Background: This story is from the gospel written by the apostle Matthew. Right before this, Jesus heard that his cousin John the Baptist had been beheaded by Herod, so Jesus and his disciples went away to a place far from people.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section		
Summarize what happened in this story?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus and his disciples went to a place far away from people, but the crowds followed them. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus had compassion on them and he healed those who came to him. <input type="checkbox"/> The disciples suggested that he send the crowds away to get food because they had no place to buy food nearby. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus said to his disciples that they should feed the people. <input type="checkbox"/> The disciples replied that they only had two fish and five loaves of bread, but that would not feed even a few people. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus told his disciples to bring him the fish and the loaves. <input type="checkbox"/> He instructed the crowd to sit down and he blessed the food and gave it to the disciples so they could give food to the people. <input type="checkbox"/> After they ate, there were 12 baskets full of food left over. <input type="checkbox"/> 5000 men were fed, not counting the number of women and 	
Specific Questions		
Where does this story take place?	In a place far away from people.	
Who is in the story?	Jesus, his disciples, a crowd of people following after Jesus.	
Why did the disciples want to send the crowds away?	Because it was late in the day and it was a place far away from people, with no place to buy food.	

Matthew 14:13-21 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
What miracles did Jesus perform here?	He healed the sick who came to him, and he fed thousands of people with only a few small pieces of food.	
Significance of events		
Why do you think Jesus fed the crowd?	He had compassion for the crowd. He did a great miracle to feed thousands of people to show them his glory and power.	
According to this passage, how would you describe Jesus?	He has compassion, he is a healer, he is generous, he is powerful and the master even over what is impossible for others.	

Luke 17:11-19

Background: This passage is from the gospel of Luke. In this passage, he is traveling with his disciples from one area to another in the land of Israel.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section		
Summarize what happened in this story?	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus was traveling along the road going to Jerusalem (between Samaria and Galilee) <input type="checkbox"/> As he came to a town, ten lepers were outside the town, and they were calling out to him from a distance. <input type="checkbox"/> They begged him for mercy. <input type="checkbox"/> He told them to go and show themselves to the priest. <input type="checkbox"/> They obeyed him, and as they went they were healed of their leprosy. <input type="checkbox"/> One leper, when he saw that he was healed, turned and came back to Jesus. <input type="checkbox"/> He glorified God and bowed at Jesus' feet thanking him. <input type="checkbox"/> The leper was a Samaritan. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus said, "Weren't all ten healed? Where are the other nine? Is it only this foreigner who returns to give thanks?" <input type="checkbox"/> Then he told the leper, "Go, your faith has made you whole" (or well).	
Specific Questions		
Who is in this story?	Jesus, his disciples, and ten lepers	
Why were the lepers calling out to Jesus to have mercy on them?	They wanted Jesus to heal them. (They had probably heard that Jesus was a healer.)	
What did Jesus tell them?	He said to go and show themselves to the priest.	
What happened to them as they went?	They were healed.	
Why did the one leper return?	He wanted to thank Jesus for healing him.	

Luke 17:11-19 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Why did the leper who returned to Jesus praise God?	He knew that it was through God's power that he had been healed.	
How did Jesus respond to the man who returned?	He asked about the others who had not returned, and commented that this man was a "foreigner" or "Samaritan." Then he told the man to "go in peace" that he had been healed because he believed.	
How do you understand in your language the word for "faith"?	"Faith" is to have a belief, trust or confidence in someone or something. Here the Samaritan showed his faith in God.	
Significance of events		
Why do you think Jesus asked where the other nine were?	He was pointing out that only one man was thankful for what God had done.	
Why do you think Jesus healed the ten lepers?	He responded to their plea for mercy. He had compassion. He wanted to.	
Why do you think the leper's response of worship and thanksgiving appropriate?	Jesus had done something miraculous for him that he could not do for himself. He saw the power as coming from God and he praised God for giving him something good. His gratefulness may also have indicated his awareness of being unworthy (especially since it is noted in the passage that he was a foreigner).	

John 2:1-12

Background information: This passage is from the gospel that the apostle John wrote. This story is the account of Jesus' first public miracle.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section		
Summarize what happened in this story?	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus, his mother, and his disciples were at a wedding. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus' mother told him that there was no more wine. <input type="checkbox"/> At first, Jesus seemed reluctant to do anything about the wine, but then he told the servants to fill up six pots with water. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus turned the water into wine. <input type="checkbox"/> The head waiter said it was the best wine they had at the wedding. <input type="checkbox"/> This was Jesus' first miraculous sign, and the disciples believed in him.	
Specific Questions		
Where did this story take place?	At a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee	
Who is in this story?	Jesus, his disciples, his mom, his brothers, wedding guests, servants, head waiter	
What did Jesus say to his mother when she told him that they were out of wine?	He asked her why she was trying to involve him and he told her it was not his time yet.	
What did Jesus' mother say to the servants?	She told them to do whatever Jesus tells them to do.	
What did Jesus do?	He told the servants to fill the water pots that were used for ceremonial washing and then to take a cup from one of them to the head waiter. (The head waiter did not know where the wine came from but the servants knew.)	

John 2:1-12 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
What did the head waiter do?	He called the bridegroom and commented on how good the wine was. It was better than what had been served at first.	
How did the disciples respond to Jesus' miracle?	They believed in Jesus.	
Significance of events		
What was the result of this miracle?	The head waiter was impressed; Jesus revealed his glory; Jesus' disciples believed in him.	
How do you understand the phrase for "revealed his glory" in your language?	It means that by doing this miracle Jesus revealed himself as the Christ, the Son of God, having come from the Father.	
How do you understand the word for "sign" in your language?	It is a miracle done by God's power to confirm the glory of Christ and that the Father had sent Jesus.	
What does it mean that his disciples believed in Him?	They saw the miracle and believed that he was sent by God and empowered by God. That he was the Christ.	

Teaching Narrative: The Parables of Jesus Christ

Positive Statement:

Jesus Christ often taught in parables--or short stories designed to make a specific point. These stories were probably not true events, although they include real-life settings and people. Jesus' parables are a significant part of His teachings while on earth.

Matt. 18:21-34

Background: Jesus told this parable in response to a question from Peter about forgiveness.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section		
Summarize what happened in this story?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Peter asked Jesus how often he should forgive his brother when he sinned against him. <input type="checkbox"/> Peter suggested maybe 7 times. <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus responded by saying 70 times 7. Then he told a story. <input type="checkbox"/> A king was settling his accounts when a servant who owed a huge sum of money was brought before him. <input type="checkbox"/> The servant could not pay, so the king said to sell his family and use that money to pay the debt. <input type="checkbox"/> The servant begged for mercy, promising to pay back the debt. <input type="checkbox"/> The king showed him mercy by forgiving the debt entirely. <input type="checkbox"/> Then the servant left and as he went he saw a man who owed him a small sum of money. <input type="checkbox"/> He grabbed the man and demanded that he pay what he owed right away. <input type="checkbox"/> The man begged for mercy promising to pay the debt. <input type="checkbox"/> But the servant refused to listen and instead had him thrown in prison until he could pay it back. <input type="checkbox"/> When some of the king's servants saw what this servant did, they went and told the king. <input type="checkbox"/> He called the servant back and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave your huge debt and you should have been willing to forgive this small debt." <input type="checkbox"/> Then the king had the servant turned over to be tormented until he could pay back the entire debt that he owed. 	

Matt. 18:21-34 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Specific Questions		
Why do you think Peter suggested seven times to forgive his brother?	He might have thought this was a generous number of times to forgive someone.	
Why do you think Jesus answered with, "Not seven but seventy times seven."	He used this to give Peter the idea that he should not count how many times he forgives. In other words he should not put a limit on it.	
Significance of parable		
Who was forgiving in the story?	The Master/king	
Why do you think the servant was unforgiving?	Maybe he had not really believed the king's forgiveness of the huge debt. Maybe he was greedy. Maybe he cared more about money than anything else.	
Why was the king outraged at the servant?	The king told the servant that he had forgiven so much that the servant should have been willing, happy even, to forgive a small debt.	
How do you think this parable addresses Peter's question about forgiveness?	God is so forgiving and has forgiven people for so much. Therefore people should not put a limit on how much they forgive other people	

Matthew 20:1-16

Background: Jesus is teaching his disciples about the kingdom of heaven. This is one of his parables on that subject.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section		
Summarize what happened in this story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus told his disciples a story to explain what the kingdom of heaven is like. <input type="checkbox"/> A landowner went to hire some men to work in his field. <input type="checkbox"/> He found some men in the marketplace and they agreed to work all day in his field for a denarius (a day's wage.) <input type="checkbox"/> A few hours later he went to the market looking for more workers. <input type="checkbox"/> When he found some men willing to work he sent them to his field promising to pay them what was right for their work. <input type="checkbox"/> He did this two more times, sending men to work in his field with a promise to pay what was right. <input type="checkbox"/> Near the end of the day he went back to the marketplace and found some men standing around. <input type="checkbox"/> He asked them why they weren't working and they said no one had hired them. <input type="checkbox"/> So he also sent them to his field to work and promised to pay them what was right. <input type="checkbox"/> When the day was over, he told his manager to call the workers and pay them each a denarius, starting with the ones who had only worked for a little while at the end of the day. 	

Matthew 20:1-16 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary (Continued)	<p>❑ While this was happening, those who had been hired at the beginning of the day, thought they would get more than the original denarius they were promised.</p> <p>❑ But when their turn came, the manager paid them a single denarius as well.</p> <p>❑ So they complained to the landowner about getting the same pay as those who had only worked an hour. They felt it made light of the hard work they had done.</p> <p>❑ The land owner said, "Didn't we agree to this? I haven't cheated you. Take what is yours and go. If I want to be generous with the other workers, isn't it my money? I can do what I want with it. Or are you envious because of my generosity?"</p>	
Specific Questions		
What did the landowner do to get workers for his vineyard?	He went to the marketplace and hired men to go and work for him.	
What did he tell the first group he hired?	That he would pay them a denarius--or a day's wage.	
What did he tell the rest of the men he hired?	That he would pay them what was right.	
Explain why the first men hired were upset with their pay.	They felt cheated because they got the same payment as the ones who came so late that they only worked an hour.	
Significance of parable		
Were they right to feel that way?	It seems like the story is saying they did not have the right to feel that way. The landowner had given them what was agreed upon. They had not been cheated.	

Matthew 20:1-16 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
What do you think Jesus intended to teach with this parable?	The way God gives rewards is not how people may expect. People do not necessarily earn more rewards from God just because they have worked harder or longer. All God's rewards are based on his grace and he gives them in a way that pleases himself.	

Luke 10:25-37

Background: Many of the religious leaders of the Jews did not like what Jesus taught. They were jealous of the popularity he had among the people. The gospels record stories of different leaders trying to get Jesus to say something wrong or against scripture, so they could accuse him of blasphemy. They also wanted to impress the crowds so people would respect them more than, or instead of Jesus. This is one such event.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section		
Give a summary of the conversation between Jesus and the teacher of the law in 10:25-29. (Before Jesus tells the parable.)	<input type="checkbox"/> A teacher of the Jewish law asked Jesus a question to test him: "What must I do to have eternal life?" <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus replied, "What does it say in the law?" <input type="checkbox"/> The teacher answered, "Love the Lord and love your neighbor." <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus told him that he had answered well, and to obey that and he would live. <input type="checkbox"/> The teacher wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus answered with a story.	
Give a summary of the story Jesus told 10:30-35.	<input type="checkbox"/> A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. <input type="checkbox"/> On the way, he was robbed and beaten and left for dead on the side of the road. <input type="checkbox"/> A priest came traveling that way. <input type="checkbox"/> When he saw the beaten man, he passed on the opposite side of the road. <input type="checkbox"/> A Levite also happened to pass. And when he saw the beaten man, he too passed on the opposite side of the road. <input type="checkbox"/> Then a Samaritan passed that way. He saw the beaten man and felt compassion for him. <input type="checkbox"/> He went to him, and treated his wounds. Then he took him on his own animal to the inn in town.	

Luke 10:25-37 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary of 10:30-35 (Continued)	<input type="checkbox"/> The next day when he was ready to leave, he gave the innkeeper some money and asked him to care for the man. <input type="checkbox"/> He promised upon his return to pay any expense that caring for the injured man might cause.	
Give a brief summary of the conversation Jesus had with the teacher in 10:36-37 after telling this story.	<input type="checkbox"/> Jesus asked him, "Which man was a neighbor to the man who was robbed?" <input type="checkbox"/> The teacher said, "The man who showed mercy to him." <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus challenged him to go and do the same thing.	
Specific Questions		
Why did the teacher of the law ask Jesus how to inherit eternal life?	He was trying to test Jesus.	
How do you think this question was testing Jesus?	Maybe the teacher of the law wanted to see what Jesus knew or maybe he was hoping Jesus would say something contrary to Scripture so he could accuse him of blasphemy.	
How did Jesus respond to the teacher?	He asked the teacher what the law had to say about it.	
What was the teacher's answer?	He said that the law said to love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself.	
What did Jesus say about this answer?	He told the teacher that he had answered well and to do that and he would live.	
How did the teacher respond to Jesus?	He asked him, "And who is my neighbor?"	
Why did the teacher ask Jesus to clarify who his neighbor was?	He wanted to justify himself, that is, wanting to gain some respect from Jesus and the crowd.	

Luke 10:25-37 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Why do you think the teacher wanted to justify himself or gain respect for himself?	He may have felt foolish after Jesus made the teacher answer his own question and then Jesus told him to obey the law he already knew. Or he may have wanted to make himself seem smarter to the crowd by making Jesus explain the answer further. Or he may have wanted to make himself feel better about whom he loved by making Jesus explain what he meant by "neighbor."	
Why do you think Jesus answered the question of who his neighbor was with a story?	Maybe one of the following: Stories can sometimes communicate an answer powerfully--speaking to emotions and not just logic. The story proved the point more effectively. Jesus knew he would hold the attention of the crowd better with a story.	
Significance of events		
What nationality was the man who was robbed and beaten?	The story doesn't say.	
What nationality was the man who helped him?	A Samaritan	
Why do you think Jesus put this detail into the story?	Maybe because the Jews hated the Samaritans and would not likely think of them as being merciful. Or, maybe the Jews thought they were more godly than the Samaritans and would have been shocked to think of a Samaritan being more merciful than a Jewish priest or Levite.	

Luke 10:25-37 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Why do you think Jesus said that both a priest and a Levite saw the man and passed by without helping?	These were respected leaders of the Jewish people. They are the ones who would teach, "Love your neighbor as yourself." But in this story, they did not do what they teach. Jesus was possibly pointing out that what you do matters more than what you teach. He may also have been pointing out that it doesn't matter what your status is; no one is exempt from showing mercy.	
From this passage, who do you think we are to love?	We are to love our fellow-human beings, even those we don't know personally, who are different from us, who come from different places, and might be in desperate need of mercy.	

Historical Narrative: The Early Church

Positive statement:

After Jesus ascended into heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit whom he had promised to indwell believers. His disciples became witnesses of the gospel throughout the known world. Their ministries and testimonies were confirmed by signs and wonders, and God's church grew dramatically.

Acts 2:1-13

Background information: This account is from Luke's second book. In the chapter just before this, Jesus instructed his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit. He told them they would be witnesses of him in their own regions and well beyond into the whole world. Then he ascended to heaven.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section		
Summarize what happened in this story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The followers of Jesus were all together in one place. <input type="checkbox"/> Suddenly a sound like blowing wind filled the house and they saw flames of fire resting on each of them. <input type="checkbox"/> The Holy Spirit filled them and they all began to talk in different languages, because the Spirit gave them the ability to do that. <input type="checkbox"/> People in Jerusalem heard the noise. <input type="checkbox"/> Jews from all over the world were in Jerusalem at that time because it was the day of Pentecost, and they couldn't believe that each of them in the crowd could hear people talking in their own languages. <input type="checkbox"/> Some in the crowd dismissed it saying they must have had too much wine to drink. 	
Specific Questions		
Who is in this story?	The disciples. A crowd of Jews from all over the known world; Peter.	
Where and when did this story take place?	In Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost.	
How did the people (crowds) respond?	They marveled, and were amazed, and confused. They wondered what it could mean. But some made fun and said, "They must be drunk."	

Acts 2:1-13 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
What were the disciples talking about in these other languages?	"The mighty works of God--(The gospel, what God had done.)"	
Significance of events		
How do you understand the phrase for "filled with the Holy Spirit" in your language?	The Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to do miracles like Jesus had done before his resurrection, and they were bold in their witness to Christ in ways they could not have done without his help.	

Acts 9:1-19

Background: The disciples were spreading the word about Jesus, and many had believed, so that now there was a growing church. Saul, who was a young man and a well-respected Pharisee, was strongly opposed to the believers or as they were sometimes called, “The followers of the Way.”

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section		
Summarize what happened in this story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Saul, who hated the Christians, got permission to travel to Damascus and arrest anyone he found who was a believer, and take them back to Jerusalem. <input type="checkbox"/> On his way, as he neared Damascus, a bright light shone down from heaven on him and a voice said, “Saul, why are you persecuting me?” <input type="checkbox"/> Saul asked the voice, “Who are you, Lord?” <input type="checkbox"/> The voice responded, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.” <input type="checkbox"/> Then the voice told him to get up and go into the city and from there he would be told what to do. <input type="checkbox"/> The people with him were speechless because they could hear the voice but saw no one. <input type="checkbox"/> When Paul got up and opened his eyes, he couldn’t see anything. So his companions led him by the hand into the city. <input type="checkbox"/> For three days he couldn’t see and he did not eat or drink. <input type="checkbox"/> Then God spoke to a disciple of his named Ananias, and told him to go to where Saul was staying. <input type="checkbox"/> He told Ananias that Saul was praying and had seen a vision of a man named Ananias coming to lay hands on him so his sight would return. 	

Acts 9:1-19 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary (continued)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ananias answered the Lord that he knew of this man and was afraid of him because of his reputation of being against the followers of Jesus. <input type="checkbox"/> But God answered him to go anyway, because the Lord had especially chosen Saul to spread God's Word before the Gentiles, before kings, and before the children of Israel. <input type="checkbox"/> So Ananias went and when he found Saul he laid hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, Jesus whom you heard from on the road has sent me so that you would see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <input type="checkbox"/> Immediately something that looked like scales fell from Saul's eyes and he could see! <input type="checkbox"/> He got up, was baptized, ate something and was strengthened.	
Specific Questions--Ask only the questions that were not answered in the summary		
Who is in this story?	Saul, (people traveling with him) Jesus, and Ananias	
Where did this story take place?	Part of it was on the way to Damascus. The rest happened in the city of Damascus.	
Why was Saul going to Damascus?	He wanted to find followers of Christ and arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem.	
What did Saul see on his way to Damascus?	A bright light shone down from heaven.	
What did he hear?	A voice asking why Saul was persecuting him.	
How did Saul answer?	He asked "Who are you, Lord?"	

Acts 9:1-19 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
What did the voice answer?	He said, "I am Jesus the one you are persecuting." Then he told Saul to get up and go into Damascus where he would be told what to do next.	
What happened when Saul got up and opened his eyes?	He couldn't see.	
How did he get his sight back?	Ananias, a disciple of God, was told in a vision from God to go and lay hands on Saul so that he would receive his sight. So he went, and laid his hands on Saul and scales fell off Saul's eyes and he could see again.	
What did Saul do as soon as he could see?	He got up and was baptized. Then he ate and got back his strength.	
Significance of events		
Why do you think Saul called the voice, "Lord"?	He recognized it was supernatural. Maybe he also used this term as a way of showing respect for a voice that seemed more powerful than a human.	
What do you think Jesus meant when he said that Saul was persecuting him?	He was referring to how Saul was treating followers of Jesus. The persecution of Jesus' followers is the same as persecuting him.	
Why was Ananias afraid to go to Saul when God told him to?	He had heard rumors of how Saul opposed followers of Jesus.	
Why do you think Ananias went to Saul even though he was afraid?	Because the Lord revealed to him that He had chosen Saul to be a servant in spreading the gospel. Maybe because he feared disobeying God more than he did Saul. Maybe because he trusted God to take care of him even if Saul didn't turn to the Lord.	

Acts 9:1-19 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Why do you think Saul was baptized right away?	This was a public expression to the other believers that he also was now a believer. It was the next step after believing in Jesus Christ as his Savior. It was a way for him to identify publicly with Jesus and with his other followers.	

Acts 14:8-18

Background: Paul (formerly known as Saul) and Barnabas have been traveling to unreached cities, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. People reacted differently to their testimony. Some believed what Paul and Barnabas said and were saved. Some caused trouble for Paul and Barnabas and persecuted them. This story takes place as they enter a town named Lystra in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). They came to Lystra, having run from Iconium where they discovered plots by both Jews and Gentiles to get the leaders to stone them.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section		
Summarize what happened in this story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> As Paul was preaching the good news in Lystra, a man who had been born crippled was listening to him preach. <input type="checkbox"/> Paul saw that the man had faith to be healed. <input type="checkbox"/> So he commanded him in a loud voice to stand up. The man got up and began to jump around. <input type="checkbox"/> The crowd was amazed at this miracle and started shouting, in their own dialect, "The gods have come down to us in the form of men!" They named Barnabas Zeus, and Paul Hermes. And they began to prepare a sacrifice to offer to them. <input type="checkbox"/> When Barnabas and Paul heard what they were doing, they tore their clothes, rushed into the crowd, and cried out, "We are men just like you!" <input type="checkbox"/> Then they tried to explain that they had come to tell the people the wonderful message from the one true God, that they should turn from their useless forms of worship to the living God. <input type="checkbox"/> They barely persuaded the crowd with these words not to offer sacrifices to them. 	

Acts 14:8-18 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Specific Questions--ask only if these were not clearly answered in the summary		
Who is in this story?	Paul, Barnabas, the crowds in Lystra.	
Why did the people think that Paul and Barnabas were two of their gods come down in human form?	Because they witnessed the miracle of the crippled man walking.	
Significance of events		
Why do you think Barnabas and Paul were trying so hard to stop the crowd from offering a sacrifice to them?	They knew the truth. They weren't God and did not want to accept sacrifices offered to false gods. They did not want to people to continue to be trapped in their old ways of worship. They wanted to share the gospel with the crowd.	
Why do you think healing the man caused so much chaos?	The people recognized it as a power that was supernatural. Maybe they were afraid and wanted to make sure to treat these guests as gods, so they would receive favor.	
Why do you think Paul healed the man?	He saw that the man had faith to be healed; he had compassion on him. Maybe he thought this kind of miracle would cause people to listen more carefully to his message.	

Apocalyptic/Prophetic Narratives:

Positive Statement:

Throughout history (and recorded in Scripture) God has used his holy prophets to warn and encourage His people. Through dreams and visions God gave the Apostle John a message for his people regarding the end times (when this world will come to an end) and God's eternal purposes for mankind. Much of this message was given in symbolic vision.

Revelation 4:1-11

This passage comes after John has spoken to a heavenly messenger who gave him specific messages for several of the churches. Here begins the apocalyptic series of visions that God gives to John.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section		
Summarize what happened in this passage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> John saw an open door to heaven and heard a voice that he recognized saying, "Come up here and I will show you what will happen." <input type="checkbox"/> Immediately he was caught up "in the Spirit." <input type="checkbox"/> He saw a throne before him with someone sitting on it, who looked like "jasper and carnelian". <input type="checkbox"/> He saw a rainbow encircling the throne. <input type="checkbox"/> There were 24 other thrones around the throne and on each one an elder dressed in a white garment and wearing a gold crown was seated. <input type="checkbox"/> Flashes of lightning and the rumble of thunder came out from the throne. <input type="checkbox"/> Seven lamps were burning in front of the throne. <input type="checkbox"/> There was a sea of glass like crystal before the throne. <input type="checkbox"/> Four living creatures were around the throne. They had eyes everywhere. One had the face of a lion. One the face of a calf. One the face of a man. One the face of an eagle. <input type="checkbox"/> Each of the four living creatures had six wings with eyes all over them. 	

Revelation 4:1-11 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> They keep saying over and over again, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was and is and is to come." Night and day they repeat this. <input type="checkbox"/> Whenever the four living creatures give glory to the One who sits on the throne, the 24 elders fall down before the One on the throne and worship him who lives forever. <input type="checkbox"/> They lay their crowns before his throne and say, "Worthy are you, our Lord and our God, to receive glory, and honor and power, because you created all things, and by your power they exist and were created."	
Specific Questions--ask only if these were not clearly answered in the summary		
Where did the scene take place?	In heaven	
Who do you think the one sitting on the throne that looks like "Jasper and Carnelian" is?	The Lord God	
How do you know it he is the Lord?	He is worshiped by the others in the scene and when he is praised, he is called "the Lord God almighty," and is referred to as the one who is eternal.	
Who else is in the scene?	24 elders, 4 living creatures, and the seven spirits of God.	
How are the 24 elders described?	They are seated on 24 different thrones, dressed in white, and wearing a gold crown.	
What do the elders and the four creatures do?	They speak praises and give glory to God, and worship him. The 24 elders bow before the throne and lay their crowns before the throne.	
How are the living creatures described?	Each has a different face: an ox, a man, a lion and an eagle. They have eyes everywhere and six wings.	

Revelation 4:1-11 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
What is the mood of this scene?	It is one of awe and worship. The one who sits on the throne is powerful and the ones who worship Him are in awe of Him.	
Significance of events		
What does this scene tell us about God?	He is the creator of all things and deserves to be worshiped by all of his creation. (Those who are in his presence in heaven are in awe of him and spend their time worshiping him because they see that He is worthy of their worship.)	
What does this scene suggest about heaven?	It is colorful. The power of God's presence is demonstrated by the thunder and lightning from his throne. It is centered on God and his worthiness. It is beyond our ability to visualize or understand.	
If you were John and saw this vision, what do you think you would feel?	Answers will vary but may include: awe, fear, excitement, wonder, hope, confusion, joy, desire to praise God more.	

Revelation 12:1-9

This passage tells of a vision John saw of things happening in heaven. As is often true with apocalyptic literature, this narrative is representative or symbolic.

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
Summary Section		
Summarize what happened in this story.	<input type="checkbox"/> A sign appeared in heaven. <input type="checkbox"/> A woman clothed with the sun, having the moon under her feet and a crown with 12 stars was crying out in pain, about to give birth. <input type="checkbox"/> An enormous red dragon with seven heads each with a crown on it, and 10 horns appeared. <input type="checkbox"/> Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the heavens. <input type="checkbox"/> The dragon was waiting for the woman to give birth so that he could devour the child as soon as he was born. <input type="checkbox"/> She gave birth to a son. <input type="checkbox"/> God snatched the child up to heaven to his throne. <input type="checkbox"/> The woman ran from the dragon into the wilderness to a place God had prepared for her, where she would receive care for certain 1260 days. <input type="checkbox"/> A war took place in heaven between Michael and his angels and the dragon and his angels. <input type="checkbox"/> But the dragon could not win and was cast down to earth with his angels.	
Specific Questions--ask only if these were not clearly answered in the summary		
Who is in this story?	A woman about to give birth, a dragon, the child the woman gave birth to, Michael his angels, and God	
Where does the story take place?	In heaven at first, and then possibly also on earth (vs 6). Then the action moves back to heaven and finally to earth in vs. 9.	

Revelation 12:1-9 (Continued)

Question	Correct Answer	Comments
What did the dragon do?	It swung its tail and knocked a third of the stars out of the heavens. It stood in front of the woman waiting for her to give birth so it could destroy her child.	
What happened when she gave birth to her son?	God snatched the child away into heaven.	
What did the woman do then?	She ran away into the wilderness to a place God had set aside for her to rest.	
What happened after the woman ran to her hiding place?	A war took place in heaven between Michael and his angels and the dragon and his angels. The dragon could not win and was cast down to earth with his angels.	
Significance of events		
Who is the dragon?	He is Satan	
Who do you think the child is?	Jesus	
What do we learn about God from this vision?	God is more powerful than Satan God has a plan that Satan doesn't know about. God protects his own.	
What do we learn about Satan and his angels from this vision?	They are powerful. They war against God. They are dangerous. They are scary. Satan deceives. He and his angels were thrown out of heaven. He is not strong enough to win against God and God's angels.	

If you have any questions or comments about this guide, please email us at:
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