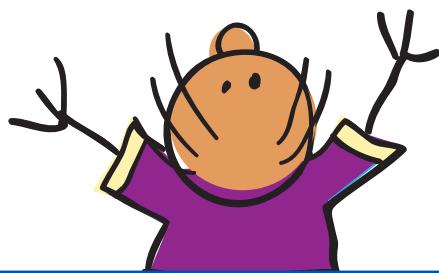




STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Series 3: Jesus the Teacher

Bible Stories for All Ages



National Bible Reading Campaign

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

Great Bible Truths:

1. God sent his Son to the world to save us from our sins.
2. To enter God's Kingdom, we must believe in Jesus only and turn away from our sins.

John 3:1-18, 36

Nicodemus was an important leader of the Jews. Although most of the other leaders were jealous and hated Jesus, Nicodemus admired Jesus and wanted to speak with him. For that reason, he visited Jesus after dark. In his visit, Jesus spoke plainly about what must happen for anyone to be saved. Nicodemus, a good man and a religious man, was surprised.

Did Nicodemus believe in Jesus as his personal Savior? Probably so. Later on, he defended Jesus before his worst enemies. (John 7:50-52) And after the crucifixion, it was Nicodemus with Joseph of Arimathea who had the courage to ask for the body of Jesus from Pilate and to bury Jesus' body with reverence. (John 19:38-42) Therefore, it is probably that Nicodemus came to believe in Jesus with all his heart and was born again, receiving salvation.

Talk about the Story:

1. V. 3 Jesus told Nicodemus that he could not see the Kingdom of God unless
 - he became more religious he were born again
2. V. 6 Jesus said that a person has to be born two times. He said that a person has to have a physical birth from one's parents. But a person must also be born of the S_____.
3. V. 7 According to Jesus, who needs to be born a second time, being born by the Spirit of God
 - the worst sinners only religious people all people
4. V. 16 Why did God give His Son to die on the cross?
 - because we deserved it because he loves us so much
5. Who will never perish but have everlasting life?
 - Catholics Evangelicals Jews Only those who trust in Christ
6. V. 18 Who is not condemned by God and already has eternal life?
 - those who are faithfully religious those who trust in Jesus alone to save them
7. V. 36 When do we start having eternal life?
 - from the moment we trust in Jesus to save us
 - maybe after we die, if God considers us good enough

Think about yourself:

Do you believe that Jesus is God's Son who died for your sins? Do you expect to enter the Kingdom of God without being born again? Have you personally received Jesus to be your Lord and Savior?

***"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."***

John 3:16



Jesus, Shepherd of His Sheep

Great Bible Truths:

1. Jesus knows every person who believes in him and follows him.
2. Jesus gave his life for every one who believes in him, that we might be saved now and forever.

John 10:1-21

Jesus lived in a land where there were many sheep living on the hills and each herd of sheep was protected by a shepherd who led them where they would find grass and water. Jesus turned to his disciples and talked about himself like a shepherd with his sheep. He said, "The sheep hear his voice and he calls them by name. They follow him, because they know his voice."

"I am the good shepherd who is willing to die for the sheep. When a hired man who is not the shepherd sees a wolf coming, he turns and runs away because he does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd. As the Father knows me and I know Him, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me. I am willing to die for them." Speaking of those who would know him long after he left the world, Jesus said, "There are other sheep which belong to me that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them, too; they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock with one shepherd."

"I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive it back again. No one takes my life away from me. I give it up of my own free will." By this, Jesus was telling his followers about his coming death on the cross and his coming alive from the dead.

The people argued among themselves. Some said, "He is crazy, why do you listen to him? He has a demon." Others answered, "How could a man with a demon talk like this or do the great miracles he does?" So, many people did not believe in Jesus, but many others did believe in him.

Talk about the story:

Why did Jesus call himself the good shepherd? Who are Jesus' sheep? What did Jesus say the sheep would do when they heard his voice? What did the hired man do when a wolf came to kill the sheep? What did Jesus say he was willing to do for the sheep? Why do you think Jesus did not keep his enemies from killing him on the cross? Did Jesus say anything about us who have believed in Jesus long after this story happened? What did he say about us?

Talk about yourself:

Do you believe Jesus knows you by name? Do you think he wants to watch over you and care for you like a shepherd cares for his sheep? Do you believe he died for you to save you from your sins? Do you believe in him?



I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
John 10:11

Death of John the Baptist

Bible Truths:

1. God will always have faithful servants to preach the truth, even if it costs them their lives.
2. When people do not stop doing what is wrong, they only grow worse.

Mark 6:17-29

John the Baptist, who had baptized Jesus, was a brave preacher who told the people to stop sinning and come back to God. King Herod sinned by living with Herodias, the wife of Herod's brother, Philip. When John the Baptist called him to stop this sin, the king grew very angry and sent soldiers to catch John and bring him to prison. The king would have killed John, but he was afraid to do that because so many people admired John as being a true man of God.

At the time of his birthday, King Herod had a great party, inviting many people of importance. In this party, Herodias' daughter danced for the king and all his invited guests and the king was very pleased. He told the girl, "I will give you anything you want. Just tell me what it is."

The girl went to her mother and asked what she should request of the king. Right away, she came back and said, "I want the head of John the Baptist on a tray!" This really surprised the king and because of his fear of the people he did not want to do it. However, since he had made his promise in front of so many people, he called a soldier and ordered to go and get John's head right away. The soldier went straight to the prison and they took John out and cut off his head, taking it to the king. Herodias was surely happy because she got even with John the Baptist.

John's disciples asked for his body, which they took, without the head, and buried it. Jesus and his disciples heard all about this and knew that they were also in great danger from their many powerful enemies.

Talk About the Story:

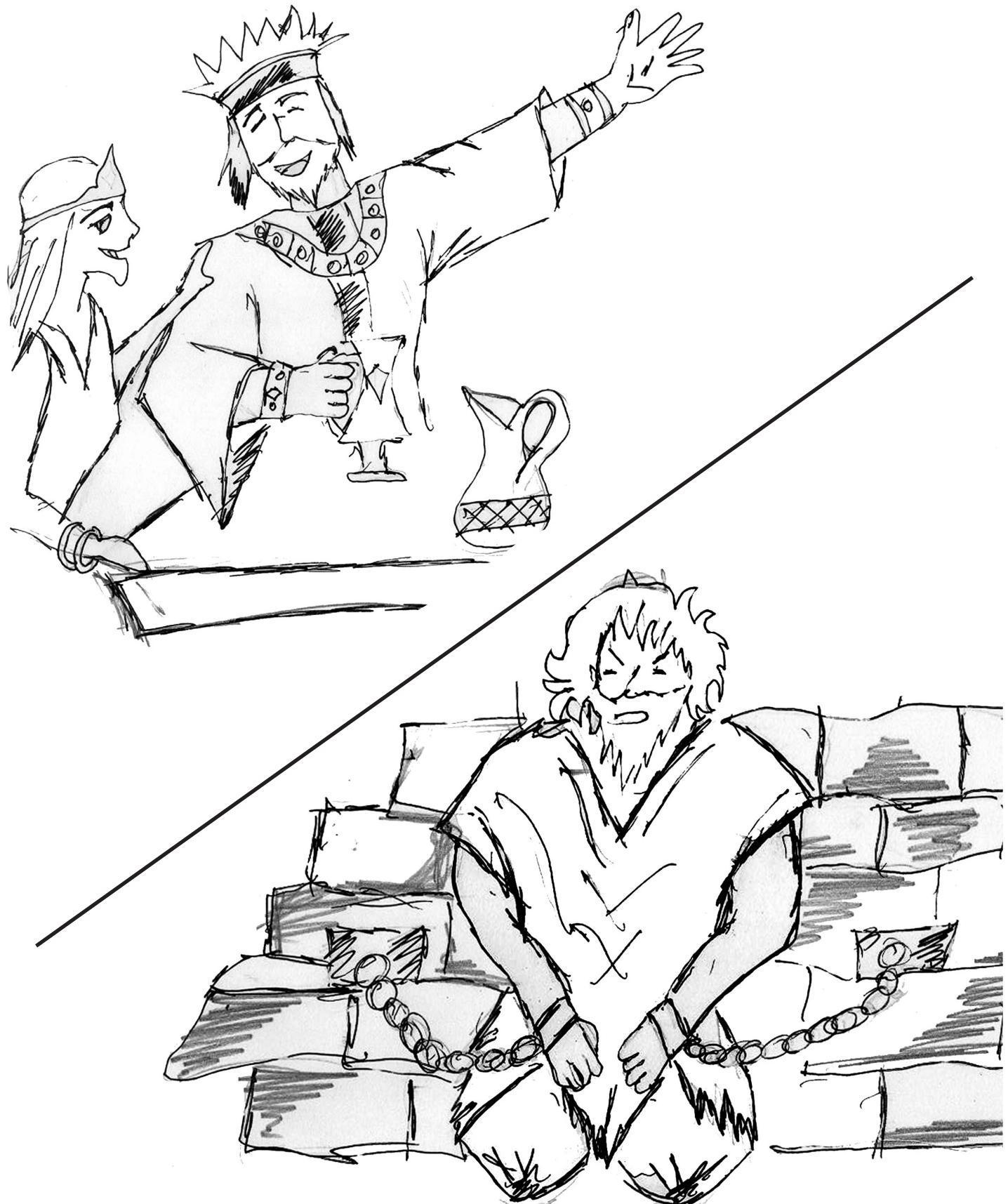
What did John the Baptist tell the king that made him mad? Why was the king afraid to kill John the Baptist? What did Herodias' daughter do that pleased the king? What did the king offer the girl? What did she ask for? How did John the Baptist die? What happened to his head?

What do you say?

Do you think John the Baptist did right in preaching against sin? If you were one of the Apostles of Jesus, how would you have felt when you heard about the killing of John the Baptist? Would you have been scared for Jesus and for yourself?

I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist.

Matthew 11:11



The Transfiguration

Bible Truths:

1. God showed that Jesus was His beloved Son in many different ways.
2. God orders us to listen to His Son.

Luke 9:28-36

Several days after the death of John the Baptist, Jesus asked three of his disciples to go with him to a mountain to pray. While they were praying, Peter, James and John saw the face and clothes of Jesus begin to shine brighter than the sun! They saw two men who were talking with Jesus. They were Moses and Elijah, who had lived hundreds of years before! They were talking to Jesus about the suffering he would have in Jerusalem and about his leaving soon from the earth.

When they saw this, the apostles were frightened. Peter said, "Teacher, how good it is for us to be here. Let us make three huts: one for you, another for Moses, and still another for Elijah." Even when Peter was saying these things, a large cloud covered them and they became very afraid. Out of the cloud they heard the voice of God saying, "This is my Son, my chosen one. Listen to him."

When they heard this they saw that Jesus was now standing alone. Jesus told his three friends to keep as a secret what they had seen. From this time on, Jesus told his disciples that he would be betrayed, arrested, tried and crucified, but would rise from the dead in three days.

Talk About the Story:

Which three disciples went with Jesus to pray? What happened to Jesus when they were praying? Who were the two men who appeared with Jesus. What did the voice say in the middle of the cloud? What did Jesus tell the men not to do until after he died and came back to life?

What do you say?

When were you most afraid in all your lifetime? How do you think Jesus felt when he knew that his time to be killed was very close?

*A voice from the cloud, saying,
"This is my Son, whom I have chosen, listen to him."*
Luke 9:35



The Ten Lepers

Bible Truths:

1. It is always wise to come to Jesus for help or to be healed.
2. The wisest people are those who thank the Lord for his many favors.

Luke 17:11-19

Jesus was walking on the road to Jerusalem. Passing through the cities of Galilee and Samaria, he found ten men on the road who had leprosy. This is a disease which is easy to catch from others and which covers the body with terrible sores that never get better. For this reason, people always ran away from such people so they would not get sick also.

The ten men cried out to Jesus saying, "Jesus, have pity on us!" When Jesus saw them, he said, "Go and present yourselves to the priests who will declare you well." As they walked toward the city where the priests were, they saw their skin starting to get well. Finally, they were completely clean of the sores. When he saw this, one of the ten men, a man who was a Samaritan, went back to where Jesus was and thanked him for healing him.

But when Jesus saw that only one of the ten had returned to thank him, he asked the Samaritan, "Weren't there ten men who were healed?"

Looking at the man who said "thank you," Jesus told him, "Get up off your knees and go home. Your faith has healed you." Then, Jesus continued on his way to Jerusalem with all his disciples.

Talk about the story:

Where was Jesus headed to on the road? What kind of men did he meet on the road? How many were there? What did the men ask Jesus to do for them? How many were healed? How many of the men went back to Jesus to thank him?

What do you say?

Which one of the people are you most like: the man who came back and thanked Jesus or the other nine who did not? When God heals you from a sickness, do you thank God for what he did? What does this story tell us to do? Why is it important to have faith when we ask God to help us?



There were ten who were healed; where are the other nine?
Luke 17:17

Jesus Sends Out His Messengers

Bible Truths:

1. Jesus teaches us about himself and the gospel so we can go and teach and tell others.
2. Even the youngest followers of Jesus can teach others about him.
3. The most important thing for anybody is to be sure his or her name is written in heaven.

Luke 9:1-6,10 Luke 10:1-2,17,20

From the beginning, Jesus taught the twelve Apostles so he could send them to teach others the same way he did. At last came the day in which he gave them orders to go in pairs to preach in many different places. He gave them special powers to throw out demons and heal the sick people. He sent them to preach to the people about the Kingdom of God and to stop doing bad things and obey the King of Kings.

He knew they would be welcome in most of the towns, and he told them not to take money or food but instead to depend on the people to take care of them. If a town would not receive them, he told them to leave that town and in front of everybody, to take off their shoes and shake the dust off of them. This would let that town know that God would have nothing to do with them. So, the twelve Apostles went out and preached the good news about Christ everywhere they went. God gave them great power to heal all those who were sick. The Apostles finally came back to Jesus and told him everything that they had done.

A short time later, Jesus sent another 72 men to do the same thing the 12 Apostles had done. Probably, Jesus put each group of 12 men under the orders of two Apostles. Jesus sent the 72 to every village, town and city where he himself would go later. When the 72 returned to Jesus, they exclaimed that even the demons obeyed them. This made Jesus very happy and he praised God, his Father, because God had revealed such great things to such humble men. He told them that the most important thing was not that the demons obeyed them, but that their names were written in heaven.

Talk about the story:

What did Jesus command the twelve Apostles to do? What should they do in every town? Why should they not take either money or food for their trip? What should they do in any town that did not receive them? What did Jesus then command other 72 men to do? Where did he send them? What did they report to Jesus when they got back? What did Jesus say was most important for them?

What do you say?

Is it possible that members of your group go out and tell others about Jesus and the salvation he gives? What ways could this be done? Is your name written in heaven?

***Jesus said, Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.
John 20:21***



Who Is Jesus?

Bible Truths:

1. There are many wrong opinions about who Jesus is.
2. We who love and serve him know that he is the promised Savior, the only Son of God.

Matthew 16:13-20

All over Palestine, everyone was talking about Jesus, the great preacher, healer, and worker of miracles. Even so, they did not know for sure who he was. Even to his disciples, Jesus never told them that he was the promised Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus wanted them to discover this for themselves. God would have to reveal this to them. He only talked about himself as "the Son of Man," something which was not real clear. Jesus was a man of mystery.

One day, after the disciples had walked a long way with Jesus, he asked them, "Who do the people say I am, the Son of Man?" The disciples answered, "Some say that you are John the Baptist come back from the dead. Others say that you are the prophet Elijah come back to earth. Still others say that you are Jeremiah or one of the other great prophets."

Then, Jesus asked them a very important question, "Tell me, who do you say that I am?" The answer they would give would show if they had really discovered who Jesus is or if they were as mistaken as the people.

Simon Peter was the first to speak, "You are the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of the Living God!" Jesus answered him, "Congratulations, Simon, Son of Jonah, because no man gave you that answer other than my Father Who is in heaven." Jesus was very happy because he knew that his disciples finally knew who he really was. Now that they knew it, they would be able to continue to do the work on earth that he had started.

Talk about the story:

What did Jesus ask about the ideas the people had about who he is? What answer did the disciples give him? Then, what other question did Jesus ask them? According to Peter who is Jesus? How did Jesus say that Peter learned this about Jesus?

What do you say?

What do people today think Jesus is?

- A good man who lived long ago.
- A man who spoke about God.
- A sinner.
- the Messiah and Savior

***You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
Matthew 16:16***



Bad "Good Man" and the Good "Bad Woman"

Bible Truths:

1. It is hard for proud people to humble themselves and ask Christ to forgive them.
2. The Lord is ready to forgive and forget all our sins when we fully trust him to do so.

Luke 7:36-50

A very rich and religious man invited Jesus to eat in his house. When everyone was there, a woman came in whom the people did not like, calling her a great sinner. She cried and washed the feet of Jesus with her tears, kissing his feet and pouring sweet-smelling oil on them. This really bothered the owner of the house and he thought that if Jesus were really wise, he would know that this was a bad woman and would not let her touch him.

Jesus knew what the man was thinking and said, "Simon, I want to ask you something. A certain man loaned 500 gold coins to one person and 50 gold coins to another. When the two came and told him they did not have the money to pay him back, the man said that they did not have to pay him anything. Now, which of these two people do you think loved him the most?" Simon answered, "I suppose that the person who owed him the most loved him more than the other."

Jesus answered, "Yes, you are right Simon. Do you remember that when I came into the house, you did not wash my feet as is our custom to do? But this woman has washed my feet with her tears and wiped them dry with her own hair. You did not give me a kiss, as is our custom. But she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not pour oil on my head, as is our custom, but this woman has poured oil on my feet. I tell you, the many sins of this woman are all forgiven. But he who is not forgiven much does not love much."

Then, Jesus looked at the woman and said, "All your sins are forgiven." Those who were in the house were very surprised and asked each other, "Who is this who forgives sins?" Jesus then told her, "Your faith has saved you. Go home in peace."

Talk about the story:

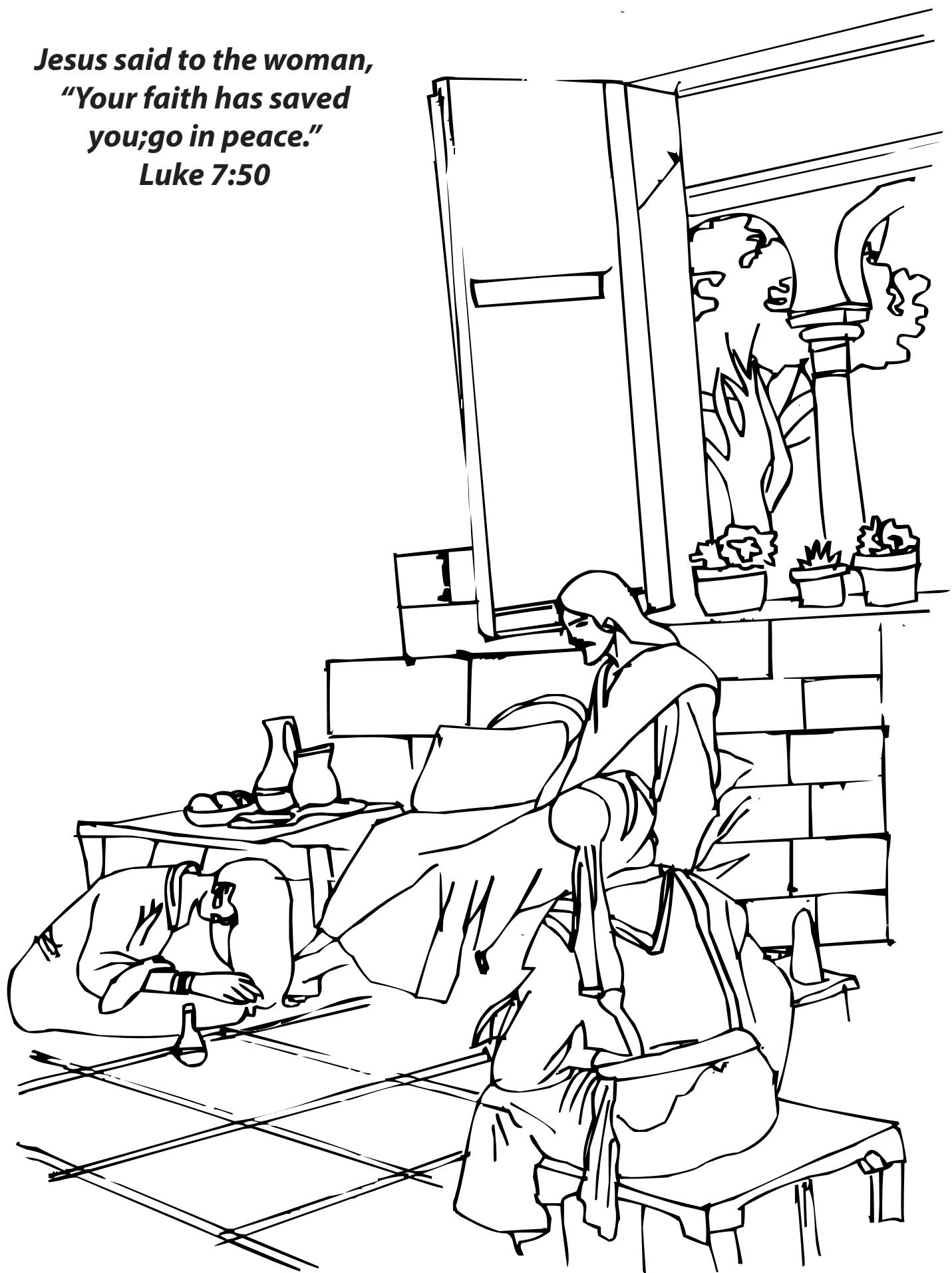
Who was Simon, the man who invited Jesus to his house? Describe the woman who came into the house and tell what she did. Why did this bother Simon? What was the story Jesus told about the two people who could not pay their debts? Which of these two people loved most the people who had lent them the money? What did Jesus say to the woman that surprised many of the people in the house?

What do you say?

Did Simon ask Jesus to forgive him of his sins? Why do you think Jesus forgave the sinful woman but not Simon? Have you asked Jesus to forgive you of all your sins? Are you forgiven?

***Jesus said to the woman,
"Your faith has saved
you; go in peace."***

Luke 7:50



Jesus Loves the Children

Bible Truths:

1. The Kingdom of God belongs to those who are ready to receive it with the faith and simplicity of little children.
2. Jesus has a special love for all children.

Mark 10:13-16

Jesus continued to teach wherever he went. One day, as he was walking toward Jericho, he came upon a group of mothers who brought their little children for him to bless. All the children were very happy to see Jesus and came up and hugged him.

When the disciples saw this, they stopped the children and told them to stay away from Jesus. They thought that Jesus did not have time for children. This made Jesus unhappy and he told them, "Let the children come to me, and don't try to stop them, because the Kingdom of God is for people who are like children."

The disciples obeyed Jesus and let the children and their mothers gather around him. Jesus hugged all the children, loving them. Jesus began to speak, saying, "I tell you that if a person does not receive the Kingdom of God just like a child, he will never get into it."

Afterwards, he blessed all the children, putting his hand upon each one's head, showing his love for every one.

Talk about the story:

Who met Jesus on the road? Why were the mothers bringing their children to Jesus? What did the disciples think about this? What did they do? What did Jesus do about this and what did he say about the faith of little children?

What do you say?

Do you understand that Jesus loves you personally? In what ways has Jesus blessed you? How would you explain these words; The Kingdom of God is for people who are like children? What do you think is so special about children to the Lord? What can you do to help children know about Jesus?

***And Jesus took the children in his arms,
put his hands on them and blessed them.***

Mark 10:16



Two Very Different Sisters

Bible Truths:

1. There are many differences in brothers and sisters.
2. It is important to serve Jesus and others, but the most important thing is to know Jesus well, loving him with all your heart.

Luke 10:38-42

Near the city of Jerusalem was the little town of Bethany. When Jesus walked into this town, a woman called Martha invited him to stay in her house. Jesus accepted the invitation and he and his disciples were in the living room and Jesus was teaching. Mary, Martha's sister, was fascinated, carefully listening to every word Jesus spoke.

Martha was preparing a meal for her family and for Jesus and his disciples. She began to get angry because Mary wasn't helping her at all. At last, Martha came into the living room and asked Jesus if he did not notice that Mary was just listening to him and not helping her out in the kitchen. Then, she asked Jesus to send Mary straight to the kitchen to help her in the work.

Jesus looked at Martha with love and told her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried about many things. But Mary has chosen the best thing and no one will take it from her."

Talk about the story:

Where was the town of Bethany? What was the name of the woman who invited Jesus to stay in her house? Why did Martha get angry at her sister, Mary? What did Martha ask Jesus to do about Mary? How did Jesus answer her?

What do you say?

What do you most admire about Martha?

- She was the first person in Bethany to invite Jesus to stay at her house.
- She fixed dinner for Jesus and so many other guests.
- She was a hard-working, generous woman.

How would you best describe Mary?

- She seemed "laid back."
- She was lazy.
- She was fascinated by Jesus.
- She loved so much to learn from Jesus that other things were not important.

How important is it to you to know Jesus better? Are you more like Martha or Mary? Explain your answer.

***"Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things,
but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better..."***

Luke 10:41-42



The Great Commandment

Great Bible Truths:

1. God's people are subject to His laws which bring blessing and peace.
2. The great commandment is to love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all the strength. The second commandment in importance is to love others in the same way that you love yourself.

Mark 12:28-34

The Jews had many laws and religious rules, including many things of little importance. So one day a teacher of the Jewish laws asked Jesus, "What is the most important of all the commandments?"

Jesus answered him from the Old Testament, "The first commandment of all is 'Hear, Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.'" And even though he had only asked about the first commandment, Jesus continued answering him about the second in importance, "The second commandment is, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No commandment is as important as these two."

The man was pleased, saying that Jesus was totally right. He ended by saying that loving God with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength and loving the other person as yourself is more important than all the other commandments. They are more important than all of the religious sacrifices. When Jesus heard that the teacher of the law had answered very well, he congratulated him saying that he was not far from the Kingdom of God.

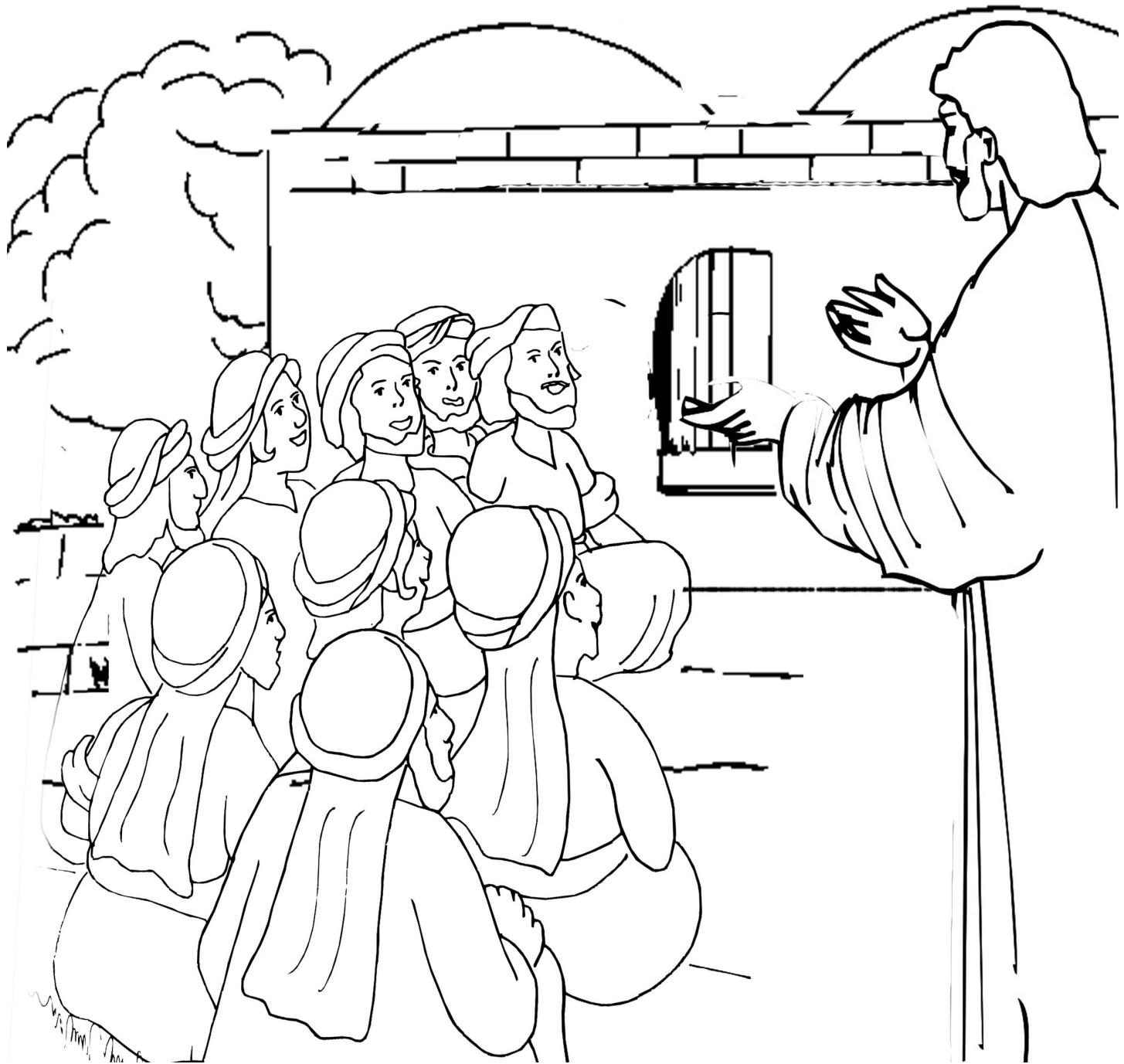
Talk about the story:

What was the question that the teacher of the law had for Jesus? What was Jesus' answer to this question about the most important of the commandments of God? According to Jesus, what is the second most important commandment? Was the teacher of the law satisfied with the answers of Jesus?

What do you say?

If someone loves God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength, would he do things that do not give honor to God? If he loves other people like he loves himself, would he do hurtful things to them? Do you fulfill these two laws? If not, ask God for the desire and power to do it and your life will become great in the eyes of God and of people.

"Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"
Mark 12:28b



The Poor Faith of a Rich Man

Great Bible Truths

1. The only completely good person is the Lord Jesus.
2. We receive eternal life when we give our lives to Jesus, deciding to follow him.

Luke 18:18-29

A certain rich ruler came to Jesus and asked, "Good teacher, what must I do to get eternal life? "Why do you call me 'good'?" asked Jesus. "No one is good except God. You know the commandments, 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not lie, honor your father and your mother.'"

"I have kept all these commandments ever since I was a boy," the ruler answered. When Jesus heard this, he said, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give the money to the poor and then you will have treasure in heaven. Then, come and follow me."

When he heard this, the man was very sad, because he was very rich and he could not give up his riches to follow Jesus. So he turned and walked away from Jesus. Jesus turned to his disciples and said, "It is very hard for those who are rich to enter into the Kingdom of God. I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God."

"Then, who can be saved?" asked the disciples. "What is impossible for man is possible with God," answered Jesus. Peter said, "Lord, remember that we have left everything to follow you. "I tell you that anyone who leaves wealth or house or family for the sake of God's Kingdom will be given a hundred times more in this life and in the time to come, eternal life."

Talk About the Story:

1. How would you describe the faith of the rich ruler? (mark the right answers with an x)
 - He admired Jesus as a good man, but not as God Himself.
 - He believed in God enough to obey His commandments.
 - He preferred to keep all his wealth instead of following Jesus.
 - He had no faith at all in Jesus.
2. When the rich ruler turned away from Jesus, what did Jesus do?
 - He told him to come back, that he could keep all his wealth.
 - He let him go, telling the disciples that it is very hard for the very rich to be saved.
3. What did Peter remind Jesus and what promise did Jesus give him?

What About Yourself?

When you think about yourself and Jesus, are you more like the rich man, who kept everything for himself or Peter, who was willing to leave everything behind to follow Jesus?

***And he said, The things which are impossible
with men are possible with God.
Luke 18:27***



An Angry Crowd Tried to Kill Jesus

Great Bible Truths:

1. There will always be people who do not believe in Jesus and who hate him.
2. Those who believe in Jesus are his sheep who listen to him. He gives them eternal life and no one can steal them from God, His Father.

John 10:22-42

One day, Jesus was walking through the great Temple in Jerusalem, when his enemies cried out to him, "How long are you going to keep us wondering? Tell us plainly, are you the Messiah or not?"

Jesus answered them, "I have already told you, but you wouldn't believe me. Because you do not believe me, you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never die. No one can snatch them away from me. What my Father has given me is greater than everything, and no one can steal them from my Father's care. I and the Father are one."

When his enemies heard this, they picked up rocks to throw at him and kill him right then. Jesus spoke, "I have done many good deeds that you have seen. For which one of these will you stone me?" They answered, "We will not stone you because of good deeds, but because you are pretended to be God!"

Jesus answered, "Do not believe my words, then, if I am not doing what my Father wants me to do. But if I do what He wants, even though you do not believe me, you should at least believe my deeds in order that you may know that the Father is in me and that I am in the Father." This only made them angrier, and they tried to grab him. But he slipped out of their hands and left the city to preach down by the Jordan River where John the Baptist had preached before.

The people who came to hear him said, "John did no miracles, but everything he said about this man is true." And many people there believed in Jesus.

Talk about the story:

Where did Jesus meet his enemies? What did they ask him and how did he answer them? What did Jesus say about his sheep knowing him? What did he say about his knowing them? What did he say he gives to all his sheep? Can anyone steal from his sheep the eternal life he has given them? Why did the crowd say they were going to stone him to death? What had the crowd seen that should have made them believe in Jesus? How did Jesus get away? Where did he go and what did he do afterwards?

What about yourself:

Are you more like the people who wanted to stone Jesus or like those who believed in him? Do you believe Jesus not only gives you eternal life but will see to it that you do not lose it?

My sheep listen to my voice: I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never die.
John 10:27-28

