
PART ONE –THE OLD TESTAMENT

DIVISIONS OF BIBLE

- Bible is a holy book of Christian religion consisting of Old and New Testaments.
- It is a library of scriptures or the book of holy writings.

DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE

1. The Old Testament- This has 39 books
 2. The Testament- This has 27 books
- The Bible has 66 books.

DIVISION OF BOOKS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. Pentateuch Books

- They remind the Israelites of their covenantal promises.
- Examples of these books include
 - a. Genesis
 - b. Exodus
 - c. Leviticus
 - d. Numbers
 - e. Deuteronomy

2. Historical Books

- They tell the history of the Israelites
- They give history of how the Israelites were behaving before God.
- They pass history or information from one generation to another.
- Examples of these books include

1. Joshua	6. Kings 1,11
2. Ruth	7. Chronicles
3. Judges	8. Ezra
4. Ruth1,11	9. Esther
5. Samuel 1,11	10. Nehemiah

3. Wisdom Books

- They deal with variety of life experiences such as love, praise, prayer and suffering
- They discuss history, prayer and general moral teachings
- They teach good manners and behaviours in the youth.

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- Examples of these books include
 - a. Job
 - b. Psalms
 - c. Ecclesiastes
 - d. Songs of Songs
 - e. Proverbs

4. Prophetic Books

- They describe the work of prophets
- They are of two kinds and these include

a. Major Prophetic Books

Are those books with more stories or recording

Examples

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel

b. Minor Prophetic Books

Are those books with little recordings.

Examples include

- Hosea
- Joel
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Zechariah
- Malachi

DIVISIONS OF BOOKS IN THE NEW TESTAMENTS

These include

1. Gospels

- These are books that tell the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Examples include
 - a. Mathew
 - b. Mark
 - c. Luke
 - d. John

2. History

- It is the division found in both Old and New Testaments.
- The examples of these books are Acts.

3. Letters

- These are books that apostles wrote to several churches meant to guide the early church.
- Examples include
 - ✓ Romans 1,11
 - ✓ Corinthians
 - ✓ Galatians
 - ✓ Ephesians
 - ✓ Philippians
 - ✓ Colossians 1,1
 - ✓ Thessalonians 1 & 11
 - ✓ Timothy
 - ✓ Titus
 - ✓ Philemon
 - ✓ Hebrew
 - ✓ James I & II
 - ✓ Peter I, II, III
 - ✓ John
 - ✓ Jude

4. Apocalyptic books

- These are books written in symbolic language or figures
- These books were written during tension circumstances.
- Revelation is an example of such books
- Daniel in the Old Testament is another example.

Importance of apocalyptic books

- They gave hope to the oppressed from harsh rulers.
- They delivered God's message during tension circumstances

Disadvantages of apocalyptic books

- Some people could not understand the message of God as they are difficult to interpret.
- Recipients could miss some information

Why today some leaders do not entertain criticisms from people?

- They are selfish
- They consider themselves important than others
- They want to be above everybody

LITERARY FORMS OF THE BIBLE

Literary forms of Bible are different styles and types of writings of presenting books in the Bible.

Six literary forms of Bible include

1. Narratives

- Narratives are accounts of what happened in the past about a nation or a person.
- Examples of narratives include
 - a. Psalms
 - b. Lamentation
 - c. Solomon narratives
 - d. Abraham narratives

Importance of narratives

- They pass on history and traditions from one generation to another.
- They attempt to explain the origin of certain things

2. Poetry

- Poetry is a collection of poems.

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- Poetry is an example of oral literature
 - Examples of poetry include
 - a. Song of the vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7)
 - b. Psalms
 - c. Songs of Songs
 - d. Lamentation

3. Songs

- A song is a short piece of music with words that you sing.
- One can sing a song when praying to God
- Musical instruments e.g. a flute may be used in a song of praising God.
- A song is also an example of oral literature.

Importance of poetry and songs

- a. Praising God for protecting them
- b. Entertaining people during ceremonies e.g. enthronement of a king.
- c. Conveying messages to authorities e.g. in a political rally

4. Oracles

- Oracles are prophecies made by prophets on God's behalf to predict the future or give warnings for disobeying God.
- They begin with "I the Lord says...." Or end with "I the Lord have spoken".
- The works of Ezekiel and Isaiah have a lot of oracles.

Importance of oracles

- a. God used them for addressing his people.
- b. They are used to predict the future.

5. Parables

- A parable is an imaginary story with some teaching about the kingdom of God.
- A parable has a lesson usually at the end

Importance of parables

- a. They attract the attention of listeners

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- b. The listeners remember the message for a longer period of time.
 - c. A parable is a powerful teaching aid to convey the truth about the kingdom of God.

The parable of the sower is one of the examples.

6. Myths

These are ancient stories that explain facts about human existence and inner meaning of the universe.

THE PATRIACHS

1. Patriarch

- Is the male head of the family or community that people have a lot respect for.
- Biblical figures regarded as fathers of the human race

2. Matriarch

- Is a female head of the family or community

PATRIACHS IN THE BIBLE

These include

1. Abraham
2. Isaac
3. Jacob
4. Joseph

ABRAHAM THE PATRIARCH

- His father was Terah who lived in the city of Ur in Babylonia.
- Terah had three sons
 - a. Abram
 - b. Nahor
 - c. Haran
- Haran was the Lot's father.
- Abram's wife was Sarai
- He later moved to Haran where he died. God called Abram in Haran.

God's Call to Abram (Genesis 12: 1-9)

- The Lord appeared to Abram and told him the following

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1. To leave Haran and his relatives and go to the land God would show him.
 2. God promised Abram many descendants who would become a great nation.
 3. God promised to bless him and bless all nations through him.
 4. God promised to make Abram's name famous.

How Abram Responded to God's Call

1. At the age of 75, he moved from Haran to Canaan.
2. He took his wife Sarai and Lot and all his slaves and wealth to Canaan.

Importance of This God's Message to Abram

- Abram was encouraged to believe in God, so his faith was strengthened
- From Sechem, he lived at a place between Bethel and Ai.

Why Abram built an altar

1. For offering sacrifice
2. For worshipping God.

HAGAR AND ISHMAEL (GENESIS 16: 1-5)

- Sarai was barren and could not give children. This forced Sarai to ask Abram to have sexual intercourse with her Egyptian slave woman named Hagar. Sarai wanted to have a child through her.

BAD CULTURAL PRACTICES IN THE STORY

1. Sarai took Hagar and gave her to Abram to be his concubine.
2. Abram had sexual intercourse with Hagar who was not his wife.
3. Abram told Sarah to do what she wanted with Hagar. Sarai
` ill-treated Hagar because she despised her and became proud as she became pregnant.

WHY THE ABOVE CULTURAL PRACTICES ARE BAD

1. The first could help in spreading HIV and AIDS.
2. Leads to violation of human rights

THE ANGEL OF GOD MEETS HAGAR (GENESIS 16:7-16)

- The Angel met Hagar at a Spring in the desert on the road to Shur.
- The Angel recognized her as a slave of Sarah.

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- The Angel asked Hagar where she was going
 - The Angel revealed that she was running away from Sarai.

ANGEL'S MESSAGE TO HAGAR

- She should go back to Sarai and be her slave.
- God promised her many descendants.
- She will have a son and will be named Ishmael because the Lord heard her cry of distress.
- Ishmael will live like a wild donkey. He will be against everyone and everyone will be against him.

What made Hagar to call god “a god who sees”

- God intervened in her problems
- Ishmael was born when Abram was 86 years old.

The Covenant

- Covenant is a legally binding agreement based on faith between two parties.
- Is a special or formal agreement made between God and his people
- In a covenant, both parties have a duty to perform.

God's Covenant with Abram (Genesis 17:1-27)

The two parties in this covenant are God and Abram.

Duties of Abram in the covenant

1. Should obey God
2. Should do what is right

Duties of God in The Covenant

1. God would give Abram many descendants.
 - Abram would be the father of father of many nations.
 - Abram's name was changed to Abraham because he was the father of many nations.
 - “Abram” means exalted father while “Abraham” means father or ancestor of many nations.
2. Some of Abraham's descendants would be kings.
3. God would give the land of Canaan to Abraham and his Canaan to Abraham and his descendants forever.

The physical sign of God's covenant to Abraham

- Was circumcision of every male child when he is eight days old
- It showed there was covenant between God and Abraham and his descendants

RESPONSE OF ABRAHAM TO THE COVENANT

- The same day he circumcised his son Ishmael and all his male slaves
- He circumcised himself
- Abraham's wife was changed to "Sarah" because she would be the mother of many nations.

IMPORTANCE OF CIRCUMCISION NOWDAYS

1. Helps in the prevention of cervical cancer to women.
2. Helps in the reduction of infection of some sexually transmitted diseases.

GOD PROMISES A SON TO ABRAHAM

- God said that Sarah will become pregnant and bear a son.
- Sarah laughed because she could not believe that a man of 100 years could impregnate a woman.
- God told Abraham that his son will be called Isaac because Sarah laughed.
- Isaac means "laughter".
- God said he will fulfill his covenant through Isaac not Ishmael.

GOD'S MESSAGE TO ABRAHAM ABOUT ISHMAEL

1. Ishmael would be blessed by God
2. God would give Ishmael many descendants
3. Ishmael would be a father of twelve princes.

WHY GOD WOULD BLESS ISHMAEL

- He was the son of Abraham, a man blessed by God.

ISAAC THE PATRIARCH

THE BIRTH OF ISAAC (GENESIS 21:1-8)

He was born when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years. He was circumcised when he was eight days old.

HAGAR AND ISHMAEL ARE SENT AWAY (GENESIS 21:9-21)

Sarah sent her away because she did not want Ishmael to inherit Abraham's property. She wanted Isaac to get everything. She was selfish.

WHY ABRAHAM WAS UNWILLING TO SEND THEM AWAY

1. Ishmael was his son.
2. Ishmael was a gift from God to him.

WHY ABRAHAM LATER BOWED DOWN TO SARAH'S DEMANDS?

1. God asked Abraham to do what Sarah was demanding.
2. God said it would be through Isaac that He will let his promise come true.

WHY SARAH IS WRONG IN THE STORY?

She was the one who asked Abraham to take Hagar as a wife.

THE NEW HOME FOR HAGAR AND ISHMAEL

The desert or wilderness of Haran

THE PROBLEM HAGAR AND ISHMAEL FACED IN THE NEW HOME

1. They ran out of water
2. They were thirsty and Ishmael was about to die.

HOW GOD INTERVENED IN THEIR (HAGAR & ISHMAEL) SITUATION

He gave them water. He showed Hagar a well where she drew water.

SACRIFICE

- According to Old Testament, sacrifice means killing an animal and burns it as an offering to God.
- An altar was used to make a sacrifice.

HOW PEOPLE TODAY MAKE SACRIFICES TO GOD?

1. Offering money
2. Giving the needy material support.
3. Working at the church
4. Buying food and other items for people who work for the Lord.

GOD COMMANDS ABRAHAM TO OFFER ISAAC AS A SACRIFICE (GENESIS 22:1-9)

- God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.

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- Abraham responded positively by taking Isaac to Mount Moriah to offer him to God.
 - They took three days to reach the place.
 - He ordered the servants to stay with the donkey while he goes with Isaac to the mountain to worship God.
 - He carried the knife and live coals for starting the fire while Isaac carried wood.
 - Isaac asked his father where the lamb for the sacrifice was.
 - Abraham told him that God will provide them with one.
 - When they reached the place, Abraham built an altar. He tied up Isaac and placed him on the altar.
 - He picked up a knife to kill him. God stopped him and he showed him a ram which he sacrificed instead of Isaac.
 - God promised Abraham many descendants because of his obedience.

ISAAC'S KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SACRIFICES

He had vast experience. He knew what was missing for them to offer the sacrifice to God.

WHY ABRAHAM WAS FORCED TO SAY "GOD WILL PROVIDE ONE"

1. He wanted to make it clear that what he was about to do was the wish of God and not him.
2. He wanted to express his faith in God.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF ISAAC WAS TOLD HE WAS THE SACRIFICE?

- He could run away
- There could be misunderstanding
- He would have asked a lot of questions to his father.
- They could not proceed to the place of sacrifice.

GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM AT MOUNT MORIAH

He will be blessed and be given many descendants who would conquer their enemies.

GOD'S PURPOSE IN TESTING ABRAHAM

To find out if he really trusted in God.

LOOKING FOR A WIFE

DIFFERENT WAYS OF GETTING A WIFE AMONG MALAWIANS

1. Paying lobola
2. Elopement
3. Co-habitation
4. Wife inheritance

A WIFE FOR ISAAC (GENESIS 24:1-67)

- Abraham wanted his son to get a wife from his home country, Haran, among his relatives.
- He did not want his son to marry a Canaanite woman.
- He was very old and he had to tell his oldest servant to get a wife for his son.
- He asked the servant to make a vow that he will get a wife for his son.
- He did not allow him to take Isaac back to Haran. He assured him that God will help him.
- The servant went with camels, gifts and other servants.
- He arrived in Haran, and was outside the city at the well.
- He prayed to God for success. He said that a woman who will draw water for him to drink and also made his animals to drink and also made his animals to drink, she will be the wife of Isaac.
- After his prayer, Rebecca came to draw water. She gave him water to drink and also gave water to the camels to drink.
- She was a daughter of Bethuel and Milcah. Bethuel was the son of Nahor, Abraham's brother. Laban was a brother to Rebecca.
- The servants gave Rebecca gifts such as an expensive gold ring, two large gold bracelets, clothing, silver and gold jewelry.
- Laban welcomed the servant in the following ways
 - a. He invited him to his home
 - b. He unloaded the camels and gave the animal feed
 - c. He brought water for the servant to wash his feet and brought food before them

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- d. Bethuel's family was democratic in that they invited Rebecca to say her views before accepting the marriage despite the servant having precious gifts.

JACOB THE PATRIARCH

- Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebecca.
- She was barren and could not have children, Isaac prayed for her.
- When Isaac was 60 years old, Esau and Jacob were born.

DESCRIBING ESAU AND JACOB

ESAU	JACOB
Was the first born	He was a twin brother to Esau
Has a hairy body	He used to help his mother in the kitchen work
He was a hunter and loved by his father	He was loved by his mother
He sold his birth rights to Jacob	He bought Esau's birth right

ESAU SELLS HIS BIRTH RIGHTS TO JACOB (GENESIS 25:27-34)

- One day, Esau came from hunting hungry
- He found Jacob at home cooking bean soup
- He asked for the red stuff because he was starving
- Jacob told him that he will give it to him if he gives him rights as first born son.
- Esau accepted because he was about to die
- Jacob asked him to vow and Esau vowed and was given bread and bean soup.

HOW MALAWIANS TODAY MAY LOSE THEIR RIGHTS TO VOTE IN AN ELECTION

- If one sells a voter registration identity card.
- If one exchanges a voter registration identity card for other materials. This means that a chance to vote has been taken away.

ISAAC BLESSES JACOB (GENESIS 27:1-45)

- Isaac was old and he wanted to bless his first born son Esau.
- Rebecca did not want to see Isaac blessing Esau.
- Isaac told Esau, the rightful to be blessed as the first born son, to go hunting.
- Esau was told to prepare some meat so that after eating, he should bless him.
- Rebecca heard Isaac telling Esau about the blessing.
- She told Jacob to kill a termed animal and she helped him to cook the food.
- She asked Jacob to put on the skin of an animal so that when Isaac touched him, he could be convinced that he was Esau.
- She also told Jacob to put on Esau's clothes so that he could produce Esau's smell before his father.
- Since Isaac was blind, he used senses to recognize the one to be blessed. These are
 - a. Sense of hearing. He said the voice was of Jacob and not Esau.
 - b. Sense of touch. He touched Jacob and he was convinced that he was Esau since his body was hairy.
 - c. Sense of smell. Since Jacob put on Esau's clothes, Isaac could notice the smell of Esau.
- Jacob managed to cheat his father and got the blessings.

PEOPLE WHO COULD BLESS OTHERS IN MALAWIAN SOCIETY

Reverends, Priests, Church leaders, Prophets, Sheiks, Church elders and Parents

OCCASIONS WHERE PEOPLE RECEIVE BLESSINGS TODAY

- During worshiping in the church or mosque
- During baptism
- During enthronement of king or president

JACOB'S DREAM AT BETHEL (GENESIS 28:10-22)

- Jacob left Beersheba in Canaan and started a journey to Haran.
- Rebecca did not want to lose him as Esau planned to kill him.

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- Isaac wanted Jacob to go to Haran to his uncle Laban so to get a wife from among his relatives.
 - The sun set for Jacob at Bethel and he slept there using a stone as a pillow.
 - Jacob had this dream at Bethel: He saw a stairway (staircase) joining heaven and earth.
 - Angels were going up and down on the stairway. God was standing beside Jacob.
 - God gave Jacob this message: He is the Lord of Abraham and Isaac. He will give the land of Canaan to Jacob and his descendants. He will give Jacob many descendants. All nations would be blessed through him and his descendants. He will be with him and protect him wherever he would go. He promised to bring Jacob back to the land of Canaan.

JACOB'S REACTION TO GOD'S MESSAGE

- Jacob realized that God was present at holy place.
- He thought the holy place was the house or the dwelling place of God.
- He thought the place was the gate that opens into heaven.
- He took the stone he used as a pillow and set it up as a memorial.
- He named the place Bethel meaning "House of God".
- He made a vow to God that he will give a God a tenth of everything God would give him. He said if God will protect him and help him to come back to Canaan, he would worship God.

THE CHILDREN BORN TO JACOB IN HARAN (GENESIS 29:31-35)

- Jacob married the two daughters of Laban namely Leah and Rachel.
- Rachel was younger to Leah and was the beloved wife of Jacob.
- Leah's slave maid was Zilpah and Rachel's maid was Bilhah.

LEAH'S CHILDREN TO JACOB

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- These include Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon and Diana- The only daughter.
 - Rachel was barren and she could not bear children. She gave her maid Bilhah to Jacob so that she can have children through her.

BIHAH'S SONS TO JACOB

- These were Dan and Naphtali
- When Leah saw what happened, she gave Zilpah her maid to Jacob so that she could have more children than Rachel.

ZILPAH'S SONS TO JACOB

- These were Gad and Asher.
- Later, Rachel gave birth to two sons.

RACHEL'S SONS TO JACOB

These were Joseph and Benjamin (the only son born in Canaan).

COMPARING REBECCA AND RACHEL TO SARAH

1. SARAH AND REBECCA

- Both were barren
- Both were married to patriarchs
- A prayer was used for them to have children or a child

2. SARAH AND RACHEL

- Both were barren
- Both were married to patriarchs
- Both allowed their husband to have sexual intercourse with the house maid to have children by them.

SIMILARITIES AMONG SARAH, RACHEL AND LEAH IN TERMS OF WAYS OF GETTING CHILDREN

- All of them allowed their husbands to have sexual intercourse with the house maid to have children by them.

THE BAD CULTURAL PRACTICE IN THE STORY

- Sharing of husbands with maids.

THE DANGER OF THIS CULTURAL PRACTICE

- If one in the circle is HIV positive, chances are high that the other members could contract HIV and AIDS

WHY JACOB LOVED BENJAMIN SO MUCH

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- He was a child of his old age and was born to his beloved wife, Rachel.

JOSEPH THE PATRIARCH

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS (GENESIS 37:1-36)

- Jacob loved Joseph more than all his sons because he was born to him when he was old
- To show his love, he made a beautiful robe for Joseph.

WHY JOSEPH WAS HATED BY HIS BROTHERS

1. He was the only son who was loved so much by their father.
2. He used to bring bad reports to his father about his brothers were doing.
3. Because of his dreams which showed that he would be great.

JOSEPH'S DREAMS

Joseph had two dreams:

1. He dreamt he was in the field with his brothers tying sheaves. His sheaf stood up and the sheaves of his brothers formed a circle and bowed down to his sheaf. He shared this dream to his brothers.

REACTION OF HIS BROTHERS TO THIS DREAM

- They were not happy
- They hated him even more.

MEANING OF THIS DREAM ACCORDING TO HIS BROTHERS

- Joseph would be king and his brothers would be his subjects and bow down to him
2. Saw the sun, the moon and eleven stars bowing down to him.

REACTION TO THIS DREAM

- His brothers became jealous of him
- Jacob was bothered and wondered how Joseph's brothers and parents could bow down to him.

JOSEPH IS SOLD AND TAKEN TO EGYPT

- His brothers went to Shechem to take care of the flock and then proceeded to Dothan.

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- Joseph was sent to check if his brothers were safe and if the flock was alright. He found them at Dothan.
 - His brothers plotted to kill him because they were jealous of him.
 - Reuben wanted to save him because as first born he had the responsibility of taking care of his brothers. He suggested of putting him into a dry well.
 - Later, Judah suggested of selling Joseph to the Midianites traders.

ONE SIN LEADS TO ANOTHER

- Joseph was sold and his brothers lied to their father about what happened to him.
- They took Joseph's robe and dipped into the blood of a goat they slaughtered so that it would appear that Joseph was killed by a wild animal. They reported the news to their father.

JACOB'S REACTIONS TO THE NEWS OF JOSEPH'S DEATH

- He tore his clothes in sorrow
- He put on sack cloth
- He mourned for Joseph for a long time
- He refused to be comforted by his children.

WHAT CONVINCED JACOB THAT HIS SONS SAID THE TRUTH?

- They showed him Joseph's robe in blood.

WHY REUBEN DID NOT REVEAL THE TRUTH TO HIS FATHER?

- He was afraid of his brothers
- He did not really like Joseph

THE SELLING OF HUMAN BEINGS NOWSDAYS

- It still exists due to the following evidence
 - a. News about child trafficking on radios
 - b. News about the killing of albinos in attempt to find their bones for business
 - c. Arrests for some people possessing private parts of human beings.

JOSEPH IN EGYPT

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- He was imprisoned because he was falsely accused of attempting to rape Potiphar's wife.
 - In prison, he interpreted the dreams of Chief Baker and the Wine steward
 - The wine steward was restored or reinstated by the king of Egypt while the chief baker was killed.

JOSEPH INTERPRETS THE KING'S DREAMS (GENESIS 41:1-36)

- The king of Egypt had two dreams and he did not know their meanings. These dreams were
 1. He was standing by the River Nile. He saw seven cows that were fat and sleek. They came out of the river and began feeding on grass. Seven other cows, thin and bony came and stood by the other cows on the river bank. Later, the thin cows swallowed the full ones.

After the first dream, the king fell asleep again and had another dream.

2. He saw seven ears of corn, full and ripe growing on one stalk. Then seven other ears of corn sprouted, thin and scorched by the desert wind. The thin ears of corn swallowed the full ones.

HOW JOSEPH INTERPRETED THESE KING'S DREAM

- The king invited Joseph after the report of the wine steward about his release from prison.
- Joseph said that the two dreams had the same meaning.
- God had shown the king what he was going to do.
- Seven fat cows means seven years of plenty food.
- Thin cows eating fat cows mean that the time of plenty food will be entirely forgotten because of famine.
- The repetition of the dream means that the matter had been fixed by God and it would take place in the near future.

WHERE JOSEPH GOT THE POWERS OF INTERPRETING DREAMS

He got the powers from God.

HOW THE KING RESPONDED TO THE INTERPRETATION OF HIS DREAM

- He made Joseph governor over Egypt and in-charge of food.
- He was made second in command

He was appointed after realizing that God's spirit was with him

He was made governor at the age of 30.

HOW THE KING CROWNED JOSEPH AS GOVERNOR

- The king removed from his finger the ring engraved with the royal seal and gave Joseph.
- He gave Joseph a fine line robe.
- He placed a gold chain round Joseph's neck
- He gave Joseph the second royal chariot to ride in.
- He gave him the Egyptian name Zaphenath Paneah.
- Asenath, a daughter of Priest Potiphera, was given to him as his wife.

JOSEPH AS GOVERNOR OF EGYPT

- During the seven years of plenty food, he collected food from all over Egypt and kept in all cities.
- During the seven years of plenty food, he was blessed with two sons . The first born Manasseh and Ephraim, the second born.
- During the seven years of famine, the Egyptians did not suffer because of the food he stored.
- People from all over the world went to Egypt to buy corn.

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS GOES TO EGYPT TO BUY CORN (GENESIS 42:1-24)

- His brothers came to Egypt to buy corn because there was famine at home
- Benjamin was left at home because Jacob feared that something bad might happen to him.
- His brothers did not recognize him and they bowed down before him with their faces touching the ground. This reminded Joseph of his dreams. He accused his brothers of being spies who had

come to see where Egypt was not protected. He kept his brothers in prison for three days.

- They were released on condition that one will remain in prison while the rest would go home with corn and bring Benjamin with them.
- His brothers said that they were treated harshly because of what they did to their brother Joseph. This shows that they were really religious people.

LESSONS FROM THIS STORY

1. We should love our relatives
2. Cheating does not pay.

THE WORK OF MOSES

“Exodus” means movement of a lot of people from a place.

HEBREWS SLAVERY IN EGYPT

- When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, he invited the whole family to come and stay in Egypt.
- They were given the land of Goshen where there was enough grass for their animals.
- They stayed in Egypt for about 400 years.
- When the king who knew Joseph died, Joseph died, Egyptians started ill-treating the Israelites.
- The new king was not happy with the Israelites becoming numerous and strong.
- He also feared that in case of war, the Israelites could join the enemy forces and defeat the Egyptians.
- The Egyptians oppressed the Israelites in the following ways
 1. The king imposed hard labour so that they should be tired and have no time to produce children. They were forced to build cities of Pithon and Rameses.
 2. The king ordered the two Egyptian mid wives Shiphrah and Puahto kill Israelite baby boys during birth. They were told to let girls live.
 - He came up with this plan when the first plan failed.

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- The mid-wives feared God and did not kill the male babies.
 - They lied to the king saying that Hebrew women gave birth easily and their babies were born before they got there.
3. The king ordered that all baby boys born to Israelites should be killed by throwing them into Nile River. Only girls were allowed to live.

THE BIRTH OF MOSES (EXODUS 2:1-10)

- Moses was born during the time when the king of Egypt commanded that all Hebrew baby boys should be killed as a way of controlling the population of the Jews.
- This forced Moses' mother to hide Moses for three months in fear for his life.
- Later, Moses was hidden in the tall grass at the edge of Nile River.

HOW MOSES WAS RESCUED FROM BEING KILLED

- The king's daughter found Moses along the Nile River and adopted him as her son.
- She gave him the name "Moses" meaning saved from water.

THE CALL OF MOSES (EXODUS 3:1-22)

- Moses married Zipporah, the daughter of priest Jethro in Midian.
- Moses was taking care of the sheep of his father-in-law at Sinai, the holy mountain of God.
- There, he saw a miracle. He saw the bush in fire but it was not burning up.
- As he was going closer, God told him not to go closer.

WHAT GOD SAID TO MOSES

- Should take off his sandals because he was standing on the holy place.
- He said he was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

RESPONSE OF MOSES

- He covered his face.
- He was afraid to see God

GOD GIVES MOSES MISSION

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- He was asked to go to the king of Egypt to tell him to release the Israelites and lead them the Promised Land.
 - God said He heard the prayers of the oppressed Israelites in Egypt.

MOSES'S CONVERSATION WITH GOD

- Moses asked God his name in case the Israelites would ask him. God said his name was "I am who I am" or "I am".
- God told Moses to go to the leaders of the Israelites and tell them that God wanted to bring them out of Egypt because they were treated harshly and they will be given fertile land.
- God advised Moses to go to the king of Egypt and tell him to allow the Israelites to go away.
- God made it clear that the king will be unwilling and he will force him to do so.
- God told Moses that he will use his power to punish Egypt and the King will allow the Israelites to go.

AARON'S WALKING STICK

- Aaron was elder brother to Moses.
- God recommended using his walking stick to perform miracles before the king of Egypt.
- When they appeared to the king, Aaron threw his stick and turned into a snake.
- The king wondered and he called his wise men and magicians. They also made their snakes by throwing down their sticks.
- Aaron's stick swallowed their snakes. This showed that the God of Israel is the greatest than the wise men and the magicians.

DISASTERS THAT STRUCK EGYPT (EXODUS 7:14-12:51)

- The king was stubborn and did not release the Israelites.
- God gave Moses power to perform miracles with an intention to force the king to let the Israelites to go.
- The following are the disasters Moses performed in Egypt
 - ✓ **Blood**- He turned water into blood
 - ✓ **Frogs**- Were everywhere in Egypt

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- ✓ **Gnats**- All the dust in Egypt turned into gnats.
 - ✓ **Flies**- Egyptian houses were full of flies
 - ✓ **Death of animals**- All animals of Egyptians died except those of Israelites.
 - ✓ **Boils**- Open sores were on people and the animals.
 - ✓ **Hail**- There was a heavy hailstorm
 - ✓ **Locusts**- Ate up everything and filled the king's palace and people's houses
 - ✓ **Darkness**- There was total darkness throughout Egypt for three days.
 - ✓ The death of the first born of Egyptians.
 - Moses ordered the Israelites to kill a lamb or young goat and put the blood on the door posts.
 - The angel would pass over the houses with blood on the door posts but would enter and kill the entire first born in houses without blood on the door posts.
 - The funeral of the first born in all Egypt. This disaster forced the king to permit the Israelites to go to the Promised Land.

CROSSING THE RED SEA (EXODUS 14:1-31)

- When the king of Egypt learnt that the Israelites had escaped, he changed his mind and ordered that they should be brought back.
- The king and his soldiers ran after them. The Israelites were cornered because in front there was the Red Sea and on the other sides there were mountains.

REACTIONS OF THE ISRAELITES

- They were not comfortable
- They accused Moses why he took them from Egypt to die in the desert.

MOSES'S MESSAGE OF HOPE TO THE ISRAELITES

- He said God would fight for them and there was no need to get worried.

HOW GOD FOUGHT FOR THE ISRAELITES

- God told Moses to hold his stick over the sea. The water was divided and the Israelites crossed on dry ground.

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- The Egyptians tried to cross but were drawn into the sea as Moses held his hand out of the sea. This made the Israelites to have faith in God

MANNA AND QUAILS (EXODUS 16:1-36)

- In the desert, the Israelites had no food and they complained to Moses.
- Moses asked for help from God.
- God gave them manna and quails which they ate for 40 years up to the time they entered into the Promised Land.

INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN ON THE COLLECTION OF MANNA & QUAILS

- a. To collect enough for the day and not to collect for tomorrow
 - b. On the sixth day, they were to collect for two days that on Sabbath people should not work.
- Some people did not follow the instructions. They were greedy that they collected more than enough and they kept the remainder.
 - Such food on the next day was full of worms and smelt rotten
 - However, the food collected on the sixth day did not go bad when kept because God told them to do so,

DANGERS OF FAILING TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS IN MEDICINE AND EXAMINATIONS

- It can lead to problems such as death, comma, failure in examinations and penalty.

WATER FROM THE ROCK (EXODUS 17:1-7)

- From the desert of Sin, the Israelites camped at Raphidim.
- They had no water to drink. They turned to Moses and blamed him. They accused him of bringing them out from Egypt to kill them of thirst.

HOW MOSES ASSISTED THE PEOPLE

- He advised them to trust in God and not to put God to test.
- He prayed to God for water and God answered his prayer.

-
- God asked Moses to strike the rock and water came out of it and people drank.
 - Moses named the place “Massah” meaning testing and “Meriba” meaning complaining.

THE COVENANT AT MOUNT SINAI

- From Raphidim, the Israelites camped at the foot of Mount Sinai and Moses was invited by God.
- He went up to the mountain to meet him.
- God revealed his plan of establishing a covenant with his people.

DEFINITION OF COVENANT

- It is a formal agreement between two or more people.

PARTIES IN THIS COVENANT

God and Moses or God and the Israelites

DUTIES OF EACH PARTY IN THE COVENANT

1. God

- To protect and provide the Israelites with what they need

2. MOSES AND THE ISRAELITES

- a. To obey God and keep his covenant and will be God’s people
 - b. To serve God as priests
- A priest has access to God and acts as an intermediary between God and people.
 - In this way, the Israelites will know the will of God.

RITUAL PURIFICATION REQUIREMENTS THE ISRAELITES WERE ASKED TO UNDERGO

- a. Washing their clothes
- b. Refraining from sexual intercourse.

These symbolized ‘the attitude of the heart and their total consecration to God.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (EXODUS 20:1-17)

These were given for the Israelites and all humankind who believe in God to follow.

A. THE COMMANDMENTS THAT SHOW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A PERSON AND GOD

These include

-
1. Worship no god but only the true God.
 2. Do not make images of anything in heaven or on earth or in water and worship them
 3. Do not misuse God's name.
 4. Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.

B. THE COMMANDMENTS THAT SHOW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A PERSON AND THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY

1. Respect your father and your mother

C. THE COMMANDMENTS THAT SHOW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A PERSON AND THE SOCIETY

1. Do not commit murder
2. Do not commit adultery
3. Do not steal
4. Do not accuse anyone falsely
5. Do not covet

HOW DID THE ISRAELITES BENEFIT FROM THE COVENANT

- They were chosen to be God's people such that God would protect them from their enemies.

THE DEATH OF MOSES AND LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

- Moses was shown the Promised Land. God told him that he would not enter Canaan.
- He died at mount Nebo in Moab at the age of 120. God buried him in the valley of Moab.
- The Israelites mourned for him for 90 days,
- Transition of power was smooth because before his death, he appointed Joshua, son of Nun to be his successor.
- The Israelites obeyed Joshua and kept all the commandments with God gave them through Moses.

JOSHUA SENDS SPIES INTO JERICHO (JOSHUA 2 : 1-24)

- He did this for him to find more about Jericho so that he strategise on how to attack it.
- He wanted to conquer it easily.

THE SPIES IN JERICHO

-
- The king of Jericho noticed this and he sent some men to capture them because they were spies.
 - Rahab, a prostitute accommodated the two spies and hid them on the roof of the house under some stalks of flax.
 - She lied to the king that the spies visited her but they left before sunset.

HOW SHE THE VICTORY OF THE ISRAELITES

- Rahab asked for a favour of not killing her together with her family when the Israelites will be destroying Canaan.
- The spies promised to save her together with her family on condition that she will not tell anybody about them.
- After this, she let them down from the window by a rope and asked them to leave.

ISRAELITES' ENTRY INTO THE PROMISED LAND

- They entered under the leadership of Joshua.

HOW THEY CROSSED THE JORDAN RIVER (JOSHUA 3:1-17)

- The river flooded and it was during harvest time.
- Joshua guided by God asked the priests to carry the Covenant Box and start crossing the river.
- As soon as they entered the river, they stopped and the river stopped flowing.
- The Israelites crossed on the dry ground.
- The water was divided for them to cross.

MEMORIAL PILLAR OF JOSHUA (JOSHUA 4:1-24)

- God asked Joshua to ask twelve people from each tribe to collect a stone from the Jordan River to where they would camp.
- They piled them up as a memorial pillar.

IMPORTANCE OF THE MEMORIAL PILLAR TO THE ISRAELITES

- It would remind the future generation that the Covenant Box and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry ground because of God.
- The Israelites camped at Gilgal where they set up a Memorial Pillar.

THE FALL OF JERICHO (JOSHUA 6:1-24)

- Jericho was among the first cities to be conquered by Joshua.
- The people of Jericho knew that the Israelites would attack them so they were keeping the gates of the city closed.
- God told Joshua that they will defeat the people of Jericho and he gave the following instructions
 1. The Israelites should march round the wall of the city of Jericho once a day for six days.
 2. Seven priests each carrying a trumpet should go in front of the Covenant Box.
 3. On the seventh day, they should march seven times while the priests would be blowing the trumpets.
 4. After the trumpets, people should shout at once and the city walls will fall down.
 5. The army should go in and attack.
- The Israelites followed what God commanded and on the seventh day, the walls of Jericho fell.
- Joshua told the people that the Lord had given them the city of Jericho.
- He gave the people the following orders
 1. The city and everything in it must be totally destroyed as an offering to God.
 2. Nobody should take anything from the city because that could bring trouble and destruction to all the Israelites.
 3. The only thing to be taken from Jericho could be anything that was made of silver, bronze and iron for the Lord.
- Only Rahab and her family were spared because she hid the spies.
- Joshua and his people attacked people and killed them including their animals.
- The city was set on fire after taking all things made of silver, bronze and iron.

THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

- God raised Judges to lead the Israelites in time of crisis.
- When the Israelites sinned, God would allow neighbouring countries to oppress them.
- When they turned to the Lord, he would raise a judge to lead them against the oppressor.
- Judges therefore were “military leaders”. These include
 - a. Deborah
 - b. Gideon
 - c. Samson
 - d. Samuel
- Besides being a judge, Samuel was a prophet.

DEBORAH –THE FIRST WOMAN JUDGE (JUDGES 4:1-24)

- She was one of the successful judges of the Israelites. She proved beyond doubt that women, if given chance, could perform wonders.

CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE CALL OF DEBORAH

- After the death of Judge Ehud, the Israelites sinned again before God.
- As a punishment, God let them to be conquered by king Jabin of Canaan who ruled them with cruelty and violence for 20 years.
- Sisera was the army commander of king Jabin.
- The Israelites cried to God for help and God Deborah to rescue them.

DEBORAH

- Deborah was the wife of Lappidoth.
- Was a prophet and was also serving as a judge.
- She judged cases between Ramah and Bethel in Ephraim.
- Her army commander was Barak.

DEBORAH’S MESSAGE TO BARAK

- One day , she called her army commander and gave him this Lord’s message
 - a. He should take 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them to Mount Tabor.

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- b. God will bring Sisera to fight against him at River Kishon.
 - c. God will give him victory over Sisera.

RESPONSE OF BARAK TO GOD'S MESSAGE

- He said he would go to war against Jabin's army if she went with him. Barak showed lack of trust in Deborah's message

RESPONSE OF DEBORAH TO BARAK'S DOUBT

- She said she would go to war with Barak.
- She made it clear that God will defeat the Canaanites and their commander, Sisera will be killed by a woman.

CONFIDENCE IS GENERALLY MISTAKEN AS A MALE QUALITY CHARACTER. HOW THIS STORY CORRECTS THIS MISCONCEPTION

- Deborah shows confidence and courage. She did not hesitate to go to war.
- Jael, a woman, killed Sisera, the army commander.

HOW DEBORAH'S STORY DEMONSTRATE THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE SOCIETY

- It encourages women to take leading roles by showing how Deborah was successful.

THE WAR BETWEEN THE ISRAELITES AND THE CANAANITES

- Deborah waged war against the Canaanites with their king Jabin.
- When the camps fought, all soldiers of Jabin were killed except Sisera who ran away to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber.
- Jael welcomed Sisera in her tent.
- Sisera asked for water, Jael gave him some milk and he slept.
- As he was sleeping, Jael took a hammer and tent peg and killed Sisera by driving the peg into his head
- When Barak came to look for Sisera, Jael showed the dead body of Sisera. Barak was convinced that God fought for them.

WHY THE BIBLE GIVES US COURAGEOUS STORIES OF WOMEN LIKE DEBORAH AND BARAK

-
- For us to learn that women are people like men. If they are trained as we do with men, they can perform wonders.

LESSON FROM THIS STORY

- Women are performers just like men

GIDEON AS JUDGE OF ISREAL (JUDGES 6:1-40)

- The Israelites sinned against God through idolatry.
- God let the Midianites rule them for 7 years.
- They ill-treated the Israelites by destroying their crops and taking their animals.
- When the Israelites cried, God intervened by appointing Gideon to lead them to fight against their enemies.
- Gideon's role as a judge was to lead the Israelites to fight the Midianites

THE CALL OF GIDEON

- Gideon was from the village of Orpah, son of Joash, from the clan of Abiezer.
- The angel found him threshing wheat by winepress to hide from the Midianites.
- The angel's message to Gideon was as follows:
 - a. He said God was with him. He was a brave and a mighty man. Gideon wondered why the Midianites were troubling them if God was with him.
 - b. God ordered him to go and rescue the Israelites from the Midianites
- Gideon's excuses were as follows: He said he was from the weakest tribe of Manasseh and that he was the least important member of the family.
- God assured him that he will help him to defeat the Midianites.
- At first, he was not sure it was God who was speaking to him.
- He asked if it was possible for him to offer a sacrifice for God.

GIDEON'S SACRIFICE

- He brought meat and bread before the angel. He was advised to put them on the rock.

- The angel touched the meat and bread with his stick and fire came and burnt it and the angel disappeared.
- Gideon knew that indeed God was talking to him. He built an altar and called it “ The Lord is Peace”

GIDEON DESTROYS THE ALTAR OF BAAL

- That night, God asked him to destroy his father’s altar and destroy the symbol of goddess Asherah.
- Gideon with ten servants did what God said to him. He did it during the night because he feared his father and the people who worshipped Baal and Asherah
- People wondered what destroyed the altar to their gods. After investigations, they learnt it was Gideon.
- They asked Joash to bring his son so that they kill him. They were barbaric people.

HOW JOASH DEFENDED HIS SON

- He told the people not to kill him
- He said that Baal should deal with Gideon
- By trying to defend Baal, it shows that it was not a true God. This is why Joash challenged that Baal should punish his son.

GIDEON PREPARES TO FIGHT THE MIDIANITES

- He gathered soldiers in readiness for a fight.
- He once again asked God if they could win the battle.
- He asked for a sign. The sign was as follows: He asked God to rain dew on the wool and not the ground and this happened. Then he asked God to reverse this by raining dew on the ground and not on the wool. It happened that way and Gideon was assured of victory over the Midianites

COMPARING CHARACTERS IN OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

GIDEON	THOAS(DISCIPLE)
He doubted if the message he got was from God to the extent of asking for a sign	He could not believe that Jesus was arisen to the extent of asking to touch his wounds.

GIDEON DEFEATS THE MIDIANITES (JUDGES 7:1-25)

- Gideon took 32,000 soldiers with him and camped at the spring of Herod.
- The Midianites camped at Moreh hill.
- God told Gideon that his soldiers were too many and the number must be reduced because he was the one who was to fight for the Israelites.
- Gideon reduced his army in the following ways
 - a. He asked anyone who was afraid and trembling to go back home. 22,000 soldiers returned home and Gideon was left with 10,000 soldiers.
 - b. Gideon took the 10,000 soldiers to the river and asked them to drink water. Anyone who knelt down to drink water was not fit to be a soldier. Only those who could use their hands to bring water to the mouth were taken to war because they proved that they were always alert. From 10,000 soldiers, only 300 soldiers were taken by Gideon.
- God assured him of victory. Gideon with his servant Purah went to the camp of their enemies and found them sharing a dream.

A DREAM SHOWING GIDEON'S VICTORY

A loaf of barley bread rolled over their camp and hit a tent. The tent collapsed and lay flat on the ground.

INTERPRETATION OF THIS DREAM BY A MIDIANITES

- He said it was the sword of the Israelites, the son of Joash. God had given him victory over Midian and their whole army.
- This dream gave Gideon complete assurance that he will defeat the Midianites
- After this dream, he took his armies and defeated them.

LESSONS FROM THIS STORY

- God speaks to people in different ways. What is important is to respond positively to God's message.
- God punishes people through enemies as a way of shaping his people's behavior.

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- Punishment reminds people on the mistakes they made so that they do not repeat it.
 - People fear to commit sin again for fear of punishment.

SAMSON AS A JUDGE OF ISRAEL (JUDGES 13:1-25)

- The Israelites sinned again and God invited the Philistines to rule them over 40 years.
- They cried to God for help when they were tired of oppression. God heard their prayer and appointed Samson to be a judge and lead them to fight against the Philistines.

THE BIRTH OF SAMSON

- An Angel of God appeared and visited Manoah's wife in Zorah telling her that though she was barren, she would become pregnant and give birth to a son.
- The woman was advised not to drink any wine, beer or eat forbidden food because the baby was dedicated to God as a nazirite.
- When Manoah got the news, he prayed to God and asked the angel to come again and tell them what they should do with the boy.
- The angel came again and advised his wife to follow all he said.

CONVERSION BETWEEN MANOAH AND GOD'S ANGEL

- Manoah asked if he was the angel who visited his wife.
- The angel admitted he was the one.
- Manoah asked what his son should do and what kind of life he should follow.
- The angel advised him to follow what he said to his wife.
- When Samson was born, he was dedicated to God as a nazirite as the angel commanded.

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE BIRTH OF SAMSON AND ISAAC IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Both are born from a barren woman
- Their birth were announced by God's angel.

QUALITIES OF NAZIRITES

-
- Not to drink any wine or beer
 - Not to eat forbidden food
 - Not shaving hair

SAMSON AT GAZA (JUDGES 16:4-31)

- He chatted with a prostitute and the Philistines wanted to kill him but he ran away

CONSEQUENCES OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH FOREIGNERS

- Samson's relationship with a foreigner who was a prostitute would have the following consequences
 - a. He would contract sexual transmitted and HIV and AIDS if he could have unprotected sex with her.
 - b. He would be forced to worship idols if he could marry her.

SAMSON AND DELILAH

- Samson fell in love with Delilah, a Philistine.
- The five kings of Philistine asked her to trick Samson to reveal the secret of his strength so that they overpower and capture him.
- Each king promised her 11,000 pieces of silver.
- For three times, Samson cheated her but later he revealed that his hair had never been cut because he was dedicated to God as a nazirite. He said that if his hair is cut, he will be weak as anybody else.
- Delilah shaved him and he was capture by the Philistines.
- They bore his eyes and took him to Gaza. As a prisoner, he was grinding at the mill but his hair kept growing.

CONSEQUENCES OF INTERMARRIAGES BETWEEN THE ISRAELITES AND OTHER NATIONS WORSHIPPING IDOLS

- Danger that would come as a result of Samson marrying Delilah in terms of:

a. Security

He would be attacked by Philistines because he would be close to them

b. Religion

He would be worshipping idols as his foreign wife could do

c. Culture

The two would not agree on some issues

THE DEATH OF SAMSON

- The five Philistine kings and 3,000 Philistines met together to celebrate and offer a sacrifice to their god Dagon for giving them victory over Samson.
- Samson was brought to entertain them in that building.
- Samson with the help of a boy by hand touched the pillars that held up the building.
- He prayed to God for his strength and God gave him.
- He pushed the two pillars and shouted “Let me die with the Philistines”.
- The building fell down and killed everyone who was in that building including Samson.
- Samson killed more people at his death than he had killed during his life.
- His family came and took his body and buried it in a tomb of his father.
- Samson ruled for 20 years.

LESSONS FOR TODAY FROM THE STORY OF SAMSON

- It is good to use our talents according to the wish of God . For example, if God gives you riches, make good use of them so that other people should see the greatness of God through you.

THE STORY OF RUTH

- The story of Ruth took place during the time of Judges.
THE FAMILY OF ELIMLECH AND NAOMI (RUTH1:1-22)
- Elimelech and his wife Naomi were living in Bethlehem in Judah.
- “Naomi” means pleasant.
- They had two sons
 - a. Mahlon
 - b. Chilion
- Elimelech and his family moved to Moab to flee from famine.

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- In Moab, Mahlon married Ruth and Chilion married Orpah.
 - Elimelech died in Moab and later after 10 years, Mahlon and Chilion died.
 - Sometime later, Naomi heard that there was good harvest in Judah and she planned to go back.
 - Naomi asked daughter in-laws to go to their mothers because she had no other sons to marry them.
 - Orpah went back but Ruth insisted to go with her and she said the following
 1. Don't ask me to leave you
 2. Let me go with you
 3. Wherever you go I will go
 4. Wherever you live ,I will live
 5. Your people will be my people
 6. Your God will be my God.
 - When they reached Bethlehem, people were excited to see Naomi.
 - Naomi called herself “Marah” because God made her life bitter by killing her husband and children.
 - “Marah” means bitter.
 - They arrived in Bethlehem during barley harvest.

RUTH WORKS IN THE FIELD OF BOAZ (RUTH 2:1-23)

- Boaz was a rich man and relative of Elimelech.
- Ruth got the permission from Naomi to gather corn from his field.
- Boaz was kind to her and he showed love to Ruth in the following ways
 1. He gave her corn and asked his workers to treat her well.
 2. He welcomed her to work in his fields and not to anyone else.
 3. He permitted Ruth to drink from the water jars that Boaz workers had filled
 4. He gave her some food such as bread, sauce and roasted grain.
 5. He instructed his men to pull out some corn from the bundles and leave it for her to pick up.

RUTH'S RESPONSE TO BOAZ 'S KINDNESS

- She bowed down with her face touching the ground.
- She wondered why Boaz was so kind to a foreigner.

MAIN STRENGTH OF RUTH

- She followed the true God of Israel
- She was good at following advice from her mother-in-law.

EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT BOAZ WAS GOD FEARING

- He had a loving heart that could not let a human suffer

RUTH FINDS A HUSBAND (RUTH E: 1-18)

- Naomi advised Ruth to go and sleep at Boaz's feet in the field.
- Ruth did as she was instructed and she told Boaz plainly that he should marry her.
- Boaz promised to ask a close relative of Ruth's late husband to marry her.
- He said that if he will turn down the offer, he will marry her.
- He advised her to be patient.

CULTURAL PRACTICES WHICH COULD PROMOTE THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS IN THE STORY

- Naomi advising Ruth to go and sleep at Boaz's feet in the field. Ruth followed the advice and went to Boaz where she told him plainly to marry her.
- A man and a woman sleeping together could lead to unprotected sex and in the process if one is HIV positive, he or she could transmit to the other.

BOAZ MARRIES RUTH (RUTH 4: 1-22)

- Boaz met Elimelech's nearest relative, a man Boaz mentioned to Ruth.
- He asked the ten leaders of Bethlehem to witness as he was asking him to buy a field from Naomi and take Ruth as his wife.
- The man refused and gave Boaz permission to buy the field and marry Ruth in the presence of elders.
- Boaz bought the field and married Ruth.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RUTH AND KING DAVID

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- Boaz and Ruth had a baby named Obed. When he grew up, he became the father of Jesse who became the father of King David.

THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL

IMPORTANT PEOPLE AND PLACES IN THE STORY

1. **Jeroham** – The father of Elikanah
2. **Hannah**- Wife of Elikanah and mother of Samuel
3. **Hophni and Phinehas**- These are the two sons of Eli, the priest at Shiloh Temple.
4. **Ramah**- Home of Elikanah and his wives
5. **Shiloh**- It was where the Tent of Meeting (Temple) was.

ELIKANAH AND HIS FAMILY (1 SAMUEL 1:1-8)

- Elikanah had two wives- Hannah and Peninah
- He was from the tribe of Ephraim.
- Hannah was barren while Peninah had children
- Elikanah loved Hannah very much and assured her of his loving care.
- Elikanah was a devout man who worshipped and sacrificed every time at Shiloh.
- Peninah used to mock Hannah for being childless. Hannah reached the extent of crying and not eating.

HANNAH AND ELI (1 SAMUEL 1: 9-18)

- One day, Hannah prayed in the Temple at Shiloh.
- Eli, the priest was sitting in his place by the door and he was looking at Hannah as she was praying.
- Her lips moved but no words were heard. She prayed silently because she wanted only God's attention not human sympathy.
- She begged Eli to pray for her because she knew how to go beyond the priest to meet God directly.
- She prayed for a child because she was tired of being mocked for not having children.
- She prayed fervently and humbly addressed God as Almighty God. She promised that if God will give her a son, she will dedicate him to the Lord.

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- When Eli noted that Hannah's lips were moving but made no sound, he thought she was drunk. He reproached her for drunkenness.
 - Eli told her to go in peace and said that God should give her what she asked him for.

SAMUEL'S BIRTH AND DEDICATION (1 SMUEL 1:19-28)

- From Shiloh, Elikanah and his wives went back to Rama.
- Hannah became pregnant and she gave birth to a son named Samuel meaning "I asked the Lord for him"
- After nursing him, Hannah brought her to Eli and dedicated him to the Lord.
- Samuel was to live in the house of God for the rest of his life.
- Hannah brought a three year old bull, 10kg of flour and a leather bag full of wine.
- By doing this, Hannah demonstrated the spirit of offering and sharing.
- Today, this spirit between people can help to improve relationship. It can also reduce the number of the needy in the community.
- Christians today demonstrate the spirit of giving by making offerings in the churches, cheering up the sick in hospitals and prisons and give them material support.

THE CALL OF SAMUEL (1 SAMUEL: 1-22)

- Samuel was serving the Lord under the direction of Eli.
- They were sleeping in the house of God. Samuel slept in the sanctuary where the sacred covenant box was.
- God called Samuel by name but he did not know that it was God calling him.
- Instead, he reported to Eli. On the third time, Eli advised him to say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.
- When God called him the fourth, Samuel responded as he was advised.

GOD'S MESSAGE TO SAMUEL

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- He would punish the family of Eli because his sons had spoken evil things against God.
 - God said that Eli was aware of what his sons were saying but he could not stop them.
 - Samuel told Eli about the God's message. Eli said that he is the Lord and he can do whatever seems best to him.
 - Later, Samuel became a leader and all the Israelites were listening to him.
 - Samuel's offices were as follows: a judge, a prophet and a priest.

THE RISE OF MONARCHY IN ISRAEL

- "Monarchy" is defined as a system of having a king or queen.
- Today, some countries are ruled by presidents and others by kings or queens.
- The following countries have a monarchy system of government:
 - a. Belgium, Denmark, Vatican City, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Norway and Qatar. These are continent of Europe.
 - b. Canada and Jamaica are in North America
 - c. Morocco, Lesotho and Swaziland in Africa
 - d. Malaysia and United Arab Emirates are in Asia.
 - e. Australia is in the continent of Australia.

REASONS FOR THE RISE OF MONARCHY IN ISRAEL

- The Israelites demanded for a king from Samuel because
 - a. They wanted to be like other nations who had kings
 - b. They were disappointed with the behavior of two Eli's sons.

SAMUEL'S SONS

- These were Joel and Abijah. They were judges. They judged cases at Beersheba.
- Some of the bad things they did were accepting bribes and not deciding cases honestly.
- The people reacted to their bad leadership by asking Samuel to rule over them.

SAMUEL'S REACTIONS TO PEOPLE'S REQUEST

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- He was not happy and he felt they had REJECTED HIM AS God's representative.
 - He prayed about it.

GOD'S RESPONSE

- God said that the Israelites had rejected him not Samuel because God was the king of the Israelites.
- He was told to tell the Israelites how their king would ill-treat them.

WHAT GOD SAID WOULD BE THE TREATMENT FROM THEIR KING?

- Israel was a "Theocracy" i.e. a nation ruled by God himself not by a human king.
- God advised Samuel to tell the Israelites that their king would do the following:
 1. Making their sons as soldiers
 2. Making their sons working for their kings e.g. ploughing his fields and harvest his crops.
 3. Their daughters will be working for their kings e.g. making perfumes, cooking and baking.
 4. He will take their best servants and animals work for the king
 5. He will take their best fields, vineyards and olive grove and give them to his officials.
 6. He will make all the Israelites slaves of their king.

THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL

- The first king of Israel was Saul
- Abiel was the father of Kish
- Kish was the father of Saul

THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MADE SAUL TO MEET SAMUEL

- He was looking for his father's animals that wandered off.
- Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin. He had the following qualities
 - a. He was a handsome young man
 - b. He was the tallest in Israel

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- Saul as king led the Israelites to fight against the Philistines and Amalekites and was successful

SAUL DEFEATS THE AMMONITES (I SAMUEL II: 1-15)

- Saul's first challenge was the battle against the Ammonites to rescue the people of Jabesh in Gilead.
- Saul got the news that Jabesh city was under attack when he was coming from the fields.
- Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit and he called all the Israelites to join him and Samuel in the battle.
- When calling people, Saul involved Samuel's authority because he did not presume that his own status was sufficient to make people obey.
- The people came because the fear of God came upon their hearts. They were 300,000 men from Israel and 30,000 from Judah.
- Saul sent comforting words to the people of Jabesh.

SAUL DEFEATS THE AMALEKITES (1 SAMUEL 15:109)

- God instructed Saul to attack the Amalekites and kill the people as well as their animals.
- The Kenites were spared because their ancestors had been kind to the Israelites as they were coming from Egypt.
- Saul and his soldiers defeated the Amalekites and captured their king Agag. They did not kill him despite being instructed to kill all the people.
- The best animals were also spared to be offered as a sacrifice to God.
- This was disobedience to God's instruction.

GOD REJECTS SAUL AS KING OF ISRAEL

- After the act of disobedience, Samuel came to tell Saul that God had rejected him as king.
- He said someone else better than him would be appointed to replace him.
- Saul begged forgiveness but Samuel told him that there was no hope for that.

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- He said God would not change his mind.
 - Samuel demanded that King Agag should be killed in front of their altar at Gilgal

LESSONS FROM SAMUEL'S ACTION FOR COUNTRIES TODAY

- To run a country is a serious business therefore leaders need to be guided by God.
- Leaders and their followers must do what comes from God without questioning.

STRENGTH OF KING SAUL

- He defeated the Ammonites

WEAKNESSES OF KING SAUL

- He disobeyed God.

DAVID THE SECOND KING OF ISRAEL

- Samuel went and appointed David as a new king
- David was handsome and a healthy young man.
- He was the last born of the eight sons of Jessie.
- He belonged to the tribe of Judah from the town of Bethlehem.
- He was anointed with olive oil and the Spirit of God controlled him.
- After anointing David, Samuel returned to Rama.

LESSONS FROM THE STORY OF SAMUEL ANOINTING DAVID

- God give people different talents and what is needed is to identify them.
- Anyone regardless of physical appearance could serve the Lord in any way.
- People have the potential to do wonders in their communities.

DAVID DEFEATS GOLIATH (I SAMUEL 17:1-58)

- Goliath was from the city of Gath. He was very tall about three metres.
- He wore bronze armour and a helmet that weighed about 57kg.
- He challenged the Israelites to choose one person who would fight against him on condition that if he won, the Israelites would be the slaves for the Philistines.

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- Likewise, if the Israelites won, the Philistines would be the slaves for the Israelites.
 - King Saul and all his men were all afraid of Goliath.
 - David asked King Saul to face Goliath because he was defying the army of the living God.
 - The king offered David his sword and armour.
 - David tried them but refused to use them because he was not used to them.
 - He faced God Goliath without any protection.
 - Goliath challenged David saying he will kill him and give his body to birds and animals.
 - David accused Goliath of defying the God of Israel.
 - David said that God will give victory over Goliath so that the world should know that God is the most powerful.
 - David slung a stone at Goliath and killed him. He cut his head using Goliath's sword.
 - This caused fear and panic among Philistines and started to run away.
 - After killing Goliath, Abner, the army commander of Saul's army took David to appear before the king.
 - King Saul asked who his father was. David said that he was the son of Jesse from Bethlehem.

DAVID BECOMES KING OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH (2 SAMUEL 5:1-10)

- After the death of King Saul and his sons in a battle, there was need for a new king in Israel.
- The elders of all tribes came to David at Hebron and gave three reasons why he was to be their king. These are
 1. All the Israelites both in the north and south were of the same flesh and blood i.e. was related.
 2. David demonstrated his military prowess during Saul's reign by defeating Goliath.
 3. God had promised David that he would rule Israel.

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- David was 30 years old when he became king.
 - He ruled Hebron in Judah for $7\frac{1}{2}$ years.
 - He became a leader for both Israel and Judah for 33 years.
 - He became king for 40 years.
 - When David became king, Jerusalem city belonged to the Jebusites.
 - King David waged war against the Jebusites and he was successful hence he named Jerusalem as David's city.

DAVID'S DESIRE TO BUILD THE TEMPLE (2 SAMUEL 7:1-17)

- During the reign of King David, Nathan, was a prophet of God.
- David told Nathan that he was living in a good palace made of cedar yet the covenant box was kept in a tent.
- The same night God told the prophet that David should not build the temple for Him because he killed many people in war.
- He said his son Solomon who would succeed him as king would build a Temple for God.
- It was important to build a house for God because:
 - a. They would keep the Covenant Box there.
 - b. It would be a place for worship.

DAVID AND BATHSHEBA (2 SAMUEL 11:1-27)

- Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah.
- King David was walking on the palace roof and he saw Bathsheba bathing.
- He called her and had sexual intercourse with her.
- Bathsheba became pregnant.
- David invited Uriah who was fighting against the Ammonites in war.
- The King permitted Uriah to sleep with his wife but Uriah refused because it was not the tradition. It was stated that one should not sleep with his wife when his friends are in a camp.
- When the plan failed, David told his commander in a letter to put Uriah in the front line where the fighting was the heaviest and let him be killed.

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- Joab, David's army commander obeyed and Uriah got killed.
 - After mourning, David married Bathsheba.
 - God was not happy and the son died.
 - It was through Bathsheba that King David bore Solomon who succeeded him.

ONE SIN LEADS TO ANOTHER

- This is true in David's story in that he committed adultery with Bathsheba and later put Uriah to death. He also married his wife.

DANGERS OF WHAT DAVID DID TO BATHSHEBA

- He could contract HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- He could be punished by God for committing adultery.
- He would lose respect, integrity and reputation as king since as a leader he was to be exemplary.

STRENGTHS OF KING DAVID

- He defeated Goliath
- His desire to build the Temple.
- He was much better in pleasing God

WEAKNESSES OF KING DAVID

- He committed adultery with Bathsheba
- He married Uriah's wife after killing him

SOLOMON THE LAST KING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

- Solomon was the son of David through Bathsheba.
- Adonijah, David's son assembled his supporters to crown him as King.
- Prophet Nathan was not happy and he took an action.
- He approached Bathsheba and informed her of what was happening and the risk she would face together with Solomon if Adonijah became king.
- Nathan and Bathsheba approached King David and told him what was happening.

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- This was important because David at one time made a vow that Solomon was to succeed him.
 - King David reacted by calling Zadok , the priest, Nathan , the prophet and Benaiah, the army commander of his body guard.
 - He instructed them to place Solomon on King's own mule and take him to the spring of Gihon.
 - He told Zadok and Nathan to anoint him as King using Holy Oil.
 - Zadok and Nathan represented two key offices of Israel
 - a. The Prophet who communicated the will the of God
 - b. The Priest who communicated the needs of the people to God.
 - The anointing Solomon emphasized the unity of their choice.

CONFLICT OVER SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE

- This was between Adonijah and Solomon.
- David contributed to this conflict because he had many wives. He did not follow good procedures on who would succeed him.
- Such conflicts exist among people today. There are many such cases in courts.
- These conflicts are resolved by family members and sometimes with the help of courts.

KING SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM (1 KINGS 3:1-15)

- Solomon went to Gideon and offered sacrifices.
- God appeared to him and told him to ask for anything.
- Solomon asked for wisdom so that he could lead God's people well.
- He did not ask for
 - a. Long life for himself
 - b. Riches
 - c. Death of his enemies
- God gave him wisdom.
- In addition to this, God also gave Solomon the following
 - a. Wealth and honour than any other king
 - b. Long life

KING SOLOMON JUDGES A DIFFICULT CASE (1 KINGS 3:16-28)

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- Two prostitutes came and presented themselves before King Solomon.
 - One woman accused the other of stealing her baby and the other denied.
 - Two prostitutes came to him to have their case settled.
 - They were living in the same house.
 - One prostitute killed her baby during the night. She laid on it.
 - She took the dead body and put on the side of the other prostitute and got the living baby.
 - During the morning, the other prostitute realized that the dead baby was not hers.
 - They both argued for the living baby.
 - They also argued before the King Solomon as they tried to explain about the living baby.
 - Each claimed that the living baby was hers.
 - The King ordered that the child should be cut by a sword into halves and gives the half to each of them.
 - The woman whose child was hers begged not to have the baby killed.
 - The other prostitute agreed to King's decision of killing the baby.
 - Thereafter, King Solomon gave the child to a woman who said that the child should not be killed.
 - It was wisdom that made Solomon famous.

SOLOMON TURNS AWAY FROM GOD (1 KINGS 11:16-28)

- God commanded the Israelites to avoid intermarriages with other tribes which worshipped idols. His people would be attracted to worship idols.
- Solomon married many wives from Egypt, Moab, Hittite, Ammon, Edom and Sidon.
- He married wives from foreign nations because he was selfish and pride. He also wanted to have good relations with other countries so as to enhance peace during his time.

- The women forced him to turn away from God and started to worship idols
- He turned away from God because he wanted to please his wives,
- He worshipped **Astarte**, the goddess of Sidon **Molech** the disguising god of Ammon and **Chemosh** the disguising god of Moab.

GOD'S INTERVENTION

- God appeared twice to King Solomon warning him of worshipping idols but he would listen

GOD'S PUNISHMENT TO KING SOLOMON (1 KINGS 11:9-13)

- He said that he would take away the kingdom from Solomon and give it to one of his officials.
- God, however, kept the promise made to David by telling King Solomon's son be king of one tribe.

STRENGTHS OF KING SOLOMON

- He asked God for wisdom to rule the people with justice.
- He put the welfare of people at heart by asking for wisdom.

WEAKNESS OF KING SOLOMON

- He married many foreign wives which led to worship of idols in Israel.
- He turned away from God.
- He contributed to the division of Israel.
- He misled the Israelites into worshipping idols

NB: The common sin for David and Solomon is both had many wives.

THE NORTHERN TRIBES REVOLT

REHOBAM AND JEROBOAM

- Rehobam was Solomon's son. He was the heir to the throne.
- Jeroboam was one of the Solomon's officials. He ran away to Egypt to flee from Solomon who wanted to kill him.
- When Jeroboam heard that the people wanted to crown Rehobam as King, he came back to Israel.

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- The tribes from the North asked Rehoboam to lessen heavy burdens which Solomon placed on them so that they crown him as King.
 - Rehoboam asked the people to give him three days and would give them the response.
 - He consulted the Elders who advised him to consider what the people requested if he wanted to serve him royally.
 - He rejected this advice and consulted the young men who advised him to double whatever his father was doing to the people.
 - After three days, Rehoboam told the people that he could not soften the burden instead he will increase it.
 - When the people heard this, they rebelled against him and did not make him king.
 - Instead, they made Jeroboam their king of the Northern Kingdom with eleven tribes.
 - Rehoboam in the Southern kingdom became the king of Judah, the only tribe.

HOW THE STORY OF REHOBAM AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL DEMONSTRATE THE FOLLOWING IDEAS

a. Freedom of speech

- People were free to consult their leaders and say what they wanted

b. Decision making

Rehoboam asked for more time to make a decision. He made a decision after consulting.

c. The paying of taxes

Taxes should be reasonable. People complain about heavy taxes.

JEROBOAM TURNS AWAY FROM GOD (I KINGS 12:25-33)

- His main sin was that he made idols and encouraged the people of Israel to worship them
- He was not happy to see people going to Jerusalem in Judah to offer sacrifices in the Temple because he feared they would

transfer their allegiance to King Rehoboam who turn would kill him.

- He made two bull caves of god. He placed one at **Bethel** and the other at **Dan**.
- He asked the people not to go to Jerusalem but worship idols in Israel.
- He instituted a religious festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month.
- On that day, he went to **Bethel** and offered a bull as a sacrifice. This was bad because the king had no authority to institute a special day of a religious festival in the worship of God.
- The king started his own religion and he was worshipping idols.

REHOBOAM

- **He instructed the soldiers from Judah to attack the fellow Israelites in Israel.**
- When the soldiers were going for war, Shemaih, the prophet, advised them not to fight their own brothers, they should go home. He said that what had happened was the will of God. When they heard this, they listened and went back.
- In this way, the soldiers displayed the elements of democracy.

THE PROPHETS

- A prophet is a man or a woman appointed by god to speak to the people on his behalf.

ROLES OF A PROPHET

1. Teaching the word of God

He preached the word of God as God commanded them

2. Foretelling future events

He predicted what would happen in the future for the individual, group of people or country

3. Advising people on the will of God

4. Mediation

He acted as an arbitrator during disagreements between people.

THE WORK OF PROPHET ELIJAH

- He was from Tishbe in Gilead.
- He encouraged the people to worship God. He proved beyond doubt that God of Israel was the only God.

PROPHET ELIJAH AND THE DROUGHT (1 KINGS 17:1-24)

- He was the prophet during the time of King Ahab.
- He prophesized that there would be a great famine for two to three years.
- God asked Elijah to go and hide near the **Brook of Cherith**
- The Brook would supply him with water and ravens would feed him with bread and meat every morning and evening.

ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW AT ZAREPHATH

- When the brook dried, God ordered Elijah to Zarephath where He ordered a widow to feed him.
- The widow was found gathering firewood to prepare her last meal together with her son.
- Elijah asked her for some water to drink and then bread
- Elijah insisted her to make a small loaf of bread to give him.
- He promised the following to happen
 - a. The bowl would not run out of flour until the Lord sent the rain.
 - b. The jar would not run out
- When the woman obeyed to what the prophet said, they had enough to eat for many days.
- The bowl did not run out of flour and oil did not run out from her jar.

HOW ELIJAH RAISED THE SON OF THE WIDOW AT ZAREPHATH

- The son of the widow became seriously ill and died.
- He was the only son of the widow
- The widow accused Elijah of reminding God of her sins that led to the death of her son.
- Elijah asked her to bring the son to him.

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- He took the boy to the room where he was staying.
 - He laid the boy on his bed.
 - He prayed loudly to God asking why he did a terrible thing to the widow by killing her son.
 - He also reminded God to restore the child to life.
 - God answered the prayer of Elijah. The child started to breathe again.
 - The child was taken back to his mother.
 - This made the widow to admit that he was the man of God and that God was really speaking through him.

ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL (1 KINGS 18:1-40)

- God commanded Elijah to present himself to Ahab because he would send the rain.
- Famine in Samaria was worst.
- Ahab called Obadiah so that they go and look for enough grass to feed the horses.

WHO WAS OBADIAH?

- He was the in-charge of the palace.
- He was the devout worshipper of the Lord.
- He hid 100 prophets of God in two groups, each 50. He did this when Jezebel was killing the prophets of God.
- He met Elijah and was asked to call King Ahab to meet him.
- Obadiah complained that if Ahab will not find him, he will kill him.
- Elijah assured him that he would present himself before the king.
- When King Ahab met him, he said “so there you are- the worst trouble maker in Israel”.
- Elijah said he was not but Ahab and his father because they disobeyed God’s command and worshipped idols.
- Elijah ordered Ahab to call all the people of Israel to meet him at Mount Carmel.

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- 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the goddess Asherah were to come.
 - There was a contest between the prophets of Baal and Elijah.

THE CONTEST BETWEEN THE PROPHETS OF BAAL AND ELIJAH

- Elijah wanted the people to know the true God. They agreed that the true God should bring down fire for sacrifice.
- Two bulls were prepared for a sacrifice.
- Prophets of Baal killed one, cut it in pieces and put it on wood.
- They were told not to lit fire on the wood.
- Elijah was to do likewise with the remaining bull.
- The prophets of Baal prayed to their god.
- The God that was to answer by fire was real God.
- The prophets of Baal prayed but fire did not come.
- Elijah made fun of them saying the following
 - a. They should pray louder for their god was day dreaming.
 - b. He said their god was travelling
 - c. He said their god was sleeping
- The prophets of Baal cut themselves but fire did not come.
- Elijah built an altar with stones and ordered that water should be poured on the altar where there was meat and firewood.
- When he prayed, fire came and consumed the sacrifice, wood and water. This proved that the God of Elijah was a true God.
- The prophets of Baal were ashamed because their god did not give them fire.
- The prophets of Baar were brought to river Kishon where they were killed.

HIS MESSAGE

- God is the only God not Baal.

THE END OF DROUGHT

- Elijah prayed at Mount Carmel and the rain came.

ELIJAH GOES TO MOUNT SINAI

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- Elijah fled to Mount Sinai because Jezebel wanted to kill him since he killed her prophets.
 - On his way to Sinai, he begged God to let him die. The angel provided him with bread and water to drink. This gave him strength to walk for 40 days to Mount Sinai where he slept in a cave.
 - At Mount Sinai, God asked him why he was there. He responded saying he was running away from Jezebel who wanted to kill him.
 - He said all the Lord's prophets were killed except himself.
 - God spoke to Elijah in a soft whisper of voice. He did not speak to Elijah through the wind, earthquake and fire.
 - God instructed Elijah to do the following
 - a. To anoint Hazael as king of Syria
 - b. To anoint Jehu as king of Israel.
 - c. To anoint Elisha to succeed him as a prophet.

THE CALL OF ELISHA (1 KINGS 19:19 21)

- Elisha was successful farmer who had twelve yokes of oxen to plough his farm.
- Elijah found Elisha ploughing with a team of oxen in his field
- Elisha was ploughing with the last team.
- Elijah took off his cloak and put it on Elisha, a gesture that made Elisha understood as a call to discipleship.
- He responded happily but asked for a permission to say goodbye to his parents before leaving to follow.
- He burned the farm equipment to prevent any thought of ever returning to this occupation.
- The slaughtering of oxen and giving the meat that they ate and blessed him as they gave him best wishes for his new job.
- Elisha left his oxen and ran after him.
- After saying goodbye to his relatives, Elisha followed Elijah as a helper and disciple.

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- Finally, he succeeded him as a prophet.

ELIJAH IS TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN (2 KINGS 2: 1 18)

- He was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind.
- Elijah told Elisha at Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho to stay.
- Elisha still followed him. Other prophets in cities warned Elisha that Elijah would be taken away from him.
- At River Jordan, they crossed on a dry land.
- Elijah struck the water with the cloak and water was divided and they crossed on dry ground.
- After crossing the river, Elijah asked Elisha to ask for anything before he was taken away.
- He asked for a double share of his power so that he became his successor.
- Elijah told him that he would receive it as he was being taken to heaven.
- A chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire carried Elijah in a whirlwind.
- Elijah only picked up a cloak of Elijah that fell down.

ELISHA CURES NAMAAN FROM LEPROSY (2 KINGS 5: 1 27)

- Namaan was the commander of the Syrian army
- He was highly respected and loved by the King of Syria.
- He was a great soldier and God gave him success in his wars.
- However, he suffered from a skin dreaded disease (leprosy).
- He kept a little Israelite girl as a slave captured in one of the raids.
- She had thorough knowledge of their God.
- The girl told her mistress that if Namaan would go and see the prophet who lived in Israel, he would be cured of his leprosy.
- Naaman asked his master to give him a letter of introduction to the king of Israel.
- When Namaan met the king of Israel, the king read the letter, tore his clothes in dismay and said he was not a God to have power to give life or death.

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- He said the king of Syria was looking for an excuse to start a war.
 - Unlike a slave girl, the King of Israel did not believe or know that prophets of Israel would cure leprosy.
 - Prophet Elisha intervened by calling for him. He ordered his servant to tell Namaan to go and wash himself seven times in the river Jordan.
 - Namaan was furious because he was not treated with great respect as he was used. He thought Elisha would come and wave his hand on him and pray to the Lord, his God.
 - He said Abana and Pharpar were good rivers in Damascus to wash than those in Israel.
 - Later, after being advised, he humbled himself and went down to Jordan River and washed himself seven times.
 - He was completely healed.

LESSON FROM THIS STORY

- People's thoughts are not the thoughts of God.
- Namaan wanted to design God's salvation to suit him.
- God wanted him to bathe in Jordan River seven times.
- Namaan would not be healed if he would bathe in another river.

REACTION OF NAMAAN AFTER HIS HEALING

- He went to Elisha and said that he was convinced that there is one God, the God of Israel.
- He wanted to give gifts to Elisha but he refused.
- He took some soil from Israel to his country and declared that he would be worshipping God only.
- But as commander of the army, he would be accompanying the king of Syria to the shrine of their God Rimmon and bow down with other officials.
- He made it clear that he would not be able to avoid doing that even though he was a believer in God of Israel.

LESSON FROM THIS STORY

Spiritual growth is gradual. It is slow but sure.

ELISHA'S MESSAGE IN THE STORY

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- People's thoughts are not what God thinks.
 - Spiritual growth is gradual.

GEHAZI'S GREED (2 KINGS 5:19 -27)

- Gehazi was the servant of Elisha and he was not happy seeing Namaan going without paying anything to Elisha.
- He gave in to greed and ran after Namaan.
- He told him a lie and got himself some money and changes of fine clothes.

HOW ELISHA REACTED TO GEHAZI'S GREED

- He told him that it was wrong to collect money from Namaan.
- He said Namaan's disease of leprosy will come upon him and his descendants forever.
- Gehazi was punished by becoming leprous.

HOW GREED IS DEMONSTRATED TODAY

- People steal money from public coffers and companies e.g. cash gate. This happens because of greed.

PROPHET AMOS IN THE PREEXILIC PERIOD

- Pre-exilic period is a period before the Israelites were taken to exile as slaves or captives.
- Prophet Amos came from Tekoa in Judah.
- He was a shepherd and a caretaker of fig trees before he became a prophet.
- As a prophet, he worked in Israel or Northern Kingdom.
- He was not from a prophetic family.

AMOS AND AMAZIAH (AMOS 7:10-17)

- Amaziah was a priest at Bethel in Israel during the reign of King Jeroboam.
- Amos' message was justice which was to flow like a stream in Israel.
- He said that if people do not listen, they will be taken into exile.
- Amaziah was not happy with this message. He reported to King Jeroboam that Amos was plotting against the King by saying that the king would die and the people would be taken into exile.

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- Amaziah suppressed part of Amos' message because he only reported about judgment and not the reasons for the judgment.
 - Amaziah warned Amos that:
 1. He should not preach in Bethel because it was the place where the king worshipped and it was the centre of worship in Israel.
 2. He should preach in Judah and be paid there.
 - Amos said that he was not after money but was prophesying what God told him.
 - Amos announced doom for Amaziah and Israel as follows
 1. Amaziah's wife would be a prostitute in the streets.
 2. Amaziah's children would be killed in a war.
 3. His land would be taken by other people.
 4. He would die in a heathen country
 5. The people of Israel would be taken into exile.

PROPHET EZEKIEL IN EXILIC PERIOD

- Ezekiel was a prophet who worked in exile in Babylonia.
- The Israelites were taken there as punishment from God for their sins.
- They stayed in exile for 50 years.
- God sent prophets such as Ezekiel to tell them that their punishment was over and they should go back to their country.
- He preached that salvation or doom of a person that does not depend on ancestors or relatives but on one's present condition.

THE VISION OF THE VALLEY OF THE DRY BONES (EZEKIEL 37:1-28)

- He was taken to a valley in spirit of God where he saw the bones of people who died sometime back.
- The bones were very dry. God asked him if the bones would have life.
- He replied saying only God would know that.
- God asked him to prophesy to bones to have sinews, muscles and be covered with skin.
- After prophesying, there was noise as bones joined together.

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- Bones were covered with sinews, muscles and skin.
 - The bodies however had no breath.
 - God commanded Ezekiel to prophesy to the wind to enter into the bones and give them life.
 - After prophesying, breath entered the bodies and they came to life and stood up.
 - They were enough of them to form an army.

MEANING OR THE MESSAGE IN THE VISION OF DRY BONES

- People of Israel were like dry bones.
- They said they were dried up and without hope and future.
- God would open their graves and take them out and bring back to the land of Israel.
- The Israelites should listen and go back to God and he will make them his beloved children again.

JUDAH AND ISRAEL IN ONE KINGDOM (EZEKIEL 37:15-28)

- Ezekiel was told by God to take two sticks and write on one stick "The kingdom of Israel". He was to hold the two sticks end to end in his hands so that they look like one stick.
- This meant that the kingdom of Judah and Israel were one country.

IMPORTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE TO JEWS IN EXILE:

- It assured them of warm welcome by their relatives who were already in Israel.
- It showed that all the Israelites were one and they had to live like one.

EZEKIEL'S MESSAGE IN THE STORY

- Israel had been given a new life and should go to the Promised Land.
- Israel and Judah were no longer separated but one kingdom.

PROPHET HAGGAI IN POST EXILIC PERIOD (HAGGAI 1: 1-15)

- Post-exilic period was a period after exile whereby the Israelites returned to Judah.

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- When they returned, they constructed the foundation of the Temple and abandoned the construction.
 - They were busy constructing houses instead of building the Temple. This made them to have a lot of problems.
 - Prophet Haggai was sent by God to tell the people that they should rebuild the Temple.
 - His message
 1. The people are saying this is not the right time to rebuild the Temple but it is not true.
 2. People are busy building their houses while neglecting the Temple.
 3. People are experiencing poor harvest because they are not building the Temple.
 - The message was delivered to two officials
 - a. Zerubbabel- The governor of Judah
 - b. Joshua- The high priest of Judah.

PEOPLE'S REACTIONS TO HAGGA'S MESSAGE

- They responded positively by starting the work of rebuilding the Temple.

THE GLORY OF THE NEW TEMPLE (HAGGAI 2:1-9)

- There was general observation that the new Temple was not as beautiful as the old one built by King Solomon.
- The new temple was part of God's plan to establish his presence on the earth for the benefit of all nations.
- The prophet advised that they should not worry that their temple was a poor one. If God would want the earlier one, he would arrange that people should construct it since all the wealth of the earth belongs to God.

LESSON FROM GOD'S ANSWER

- What matters to God is the hearts of people and not what is seen outside.

THE SINFULNESS OF THE RETURNED JEWS (HAGGAI 2:10-19)

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- God condemned people's sin. He said that disobedience and wrong priorities mean that everything they did including their sacrifices were unclean in God's eyes.
 - God punished them by making their harvests to be poor.
 - Refusing to repent was the worst sin since it eliminated all hope of forgiveness and salvation.
 - They were asked to repent and enjoy bumper yields from God.
 - Zerubbabel was identified to be a king of Israel after the return from exile.

PART 2:THE NEW TESTAMENT THE GOSPEL& BIRTH STORIES

- Gospel is any book in the Bible with stories about Jesus Christ from his early life up to resurrection.
- Gospel also refers to good news of Jesus Christ.

THE FOUR GOSPELS

- These are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

- Jesus was born during the time Jews waited the coming of Messiah.
- He was born to a virgin who was conceived by the Holy Spirit.
- The wise men from the east who studied stars recognized his birth by seeing a star.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST (MATTHEW 1:18-25)

- Mary was engaged to Joseph. Before they had sexual intercourse, Mary was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit.
- Joseph was a man who always did what was right. He planned to break the engagement privately and not to disgrace Mary publicly.
- An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and advised him to take Mary as his wife.
- He said that Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit. He said Mary will have a son and he will name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.
- Mary became pregnant to fulfill what prophet Isaiah predicted that “ a young woman will become pregnant and bear a son who will be named Emmanuel”
- Emanuel means “God is with us”.
- Joseph married Mary as he was advised. He had no sexual relations with her until child was born. He named him Jesus which means “savior “ or “God Saves”
- Joseph made Jesus a descendant of David hence he is important in the history of Jesus.

HOW JOSEPH DISPLAYED SELF CONTROL IN THE STORY

- He did not put Mary to public disgrace or shame by publicizing her pregnancy.
- He divorced her privately

THE VISITORS FROM THE EAST (MATTHEW 2:1-12)

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This fulfilled the prophecy of Joel and Micah.
- It was during the reign of King Herod. The people from the East, the Magi recognized Jesus 'birth. They saw a star that marked his birth.
- They were astrologers, a scientific name given for people who study stars.
- They followed it to Jerusalem where it disappeared. They enquired from King Herod where the King of Kings was born. They said they saw his star.
- Herod was upset because his position was at stake. He also asked the Chief Priest and the Teachers of the Law where the Messiah would be born.
- He was told it was in Bethlehem as prophets' prophesized.
- He gave the magi the following instructions
 - a. To go and make a careful search for the child.
 - b. To report to him where Jesus was born so that he worship him.
- The magi were full of joy when the star reappeared. When they found the baby, they knelt down , worshipped him and presented the gifts as follows
 - a. Gold which showed that he was king
 - b. Frankincense which signified that he was a priest.
 - c. Myrrh, a gift for someone to die
- The visitors from the East did not go back to Herod because God warned them in a dream. Herod planned to kill the baby.

LESSON IN THE STORY

- Christians should learn to worship God with joy and gladness.

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- Jesus was indeed the intended king and Messiah evidenced by gifts given to him by the magi,

JOHN THE BAPTIST (MARK 1:1-8)

- He cleared the way for the Lord as prophet Isaiah predicted. He did this by preaching to the people in the desert and baptizing people in the River Jordan.
- His message was as follows:
 - a. Turn away from your sins
 - b. Be baptized
 - c. God will forgive your sins.
 - d. The one coming, Jesus was greater than him.
 - e. Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- John's clothes were made of camel's hair and wore a leather belt. His food in the desert was locusts and wild honey.

THE ROLE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

- He prepared the way for the coming of Messiah.
- He bore witness to Jesus as Messiah..
- He acted as a forerunner of Jesus Christ.
- He baptized Jesus in the River Jordan.
- He was a link between the Old and New Testaments.

COMPARING JOHN THE BAPTIST TO PREACHERS OF TODAY SIMILARITIES

- John asked the people to be baptized people and the preachers of today to do the same.
- John warned people about the coming judgement on evil doers just like the preachers of today.
- John asked the people to repent their sins just like the preachers of today.

DIFFERENCES

John preached in the desert and people followed him there. Preachers of today work in places where there are people.

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS CHRIST (MARK 1:9 -11)

- Jesus was baptized by John Baptist in the River Jordan.

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- During his baptism, heaven opened, the Spirit came down in the form of a dove and a voice was heard saying “You are my own dear son. I am pleased with you”. This shows he is the Son of God.
 - Jesus was baptized for the following reasons
 1. To as to identify himself with sinful nature of humankind.
 2. It was also a symbol of his death and resurrection
 3. He had taken upon himself the sins of humankind
 4. To set an example for followers to emulate him
 5. To show people that baptism was genuine and approved by God.
 6. TO MARK Jesus ‘own public ministry.

SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS BATISM

- It demonstrates the humility of Jesus. He was baptized like any other person yet he was the son of God.
- It helped to put an end to that confusion that John was the Messiah.
- Jesus received the Holy Spirit which was necessary for ministry.
- It introduced Jesus to the people as son of God.

IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM TO CHRISTIANS TODAY

- It helps Christians to be baptized and identify themselves with Christian Church.
- Christians receive the Holy Spirit through baptism.
- Baptism brings new life to believers.
- Baptism makes a believer a child of God.
- Baptism cleanses Christians and prepares them for the Kingdom of God.

TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS CHRIST (MATTHEW 4:1-11)

- After his baptism, Jesus went into the desert because he wanted to prepare for his ministry.
- He prayed and fasted for 40 days and nights and thereafter he was hungry.
- Satan came and tempted him.

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- A “temptation” is a strong feeling of wanting to do something contrary to what you are supposed to do . It is anything that drives one away from God’s will.
 - Satan wanted Jesus to do the following in the temptations
 1. To prove his divine sonship
 2. To misuse his authority and powers for earthly popularity
 - Jesus had the following temptations
 1. If you are God’s son, order stones to turn into bread. Jesus said that human beings cannot live on bread alone but on every word that God speaks.
 2. If you are God’s son, throw yourself down, angels will take care of you. Jesus said “do not put the Lord to test” In this temptation, the devil shows cleverness by quoting scripture so as to lead Jesus astray.
 3. The devil told Jesus to kneel down and worship him and will be given everything. Jesus said ‘go away Satan, worship the Lord and serve only Him”.
 - Jesus demonstrates the understanding of scripture when handling these temptations by quoting scripture from the book Deuteronomy.
 - Denominations today teach the youth scripture for the following reasons
 1. Youth are a foundation of the church.
 2. For them to overcome the devil during temptations
 3. To strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ.

SIGNIFICANCE THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRISTIANS TODAY

- Christians should expect temptations in their daily lives.
- Christians should read and recall scripture so as to defeat the devil.
- Christians should know that it is not sinful to be tempted.
- Christians should know that temptations serve to strengthen their faith.

JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

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- He began his ministry after the imprisonment of John the Baptist.
 - John the Baptist was put in prison because of accusing Herod Antipas of marrying Herodias the wife of his brother Phillip. He said such marriage is illegal before God.
 - The message of Jesus Christ was as follows:
 - 1. The right time has come**
This meant that the time of God's salvation had come.
 - 2. The kingdom of God is near**
This meant that the rule of God was about to be established by Jesus. This was the central teaching of Jesus Christ.
 - 3. Turn away from your sins and believe the good news**
This meant that repentance was the only condition for salvation.

THE CALL OF DISCIPLES (MARK 1:14-20)

- These first four disciples were fishermen
 - a. Simon and Andrew- were brothers
 - b. John and James- were brothers
- Later, Jesus chose twelve disciples whom he called apostles
These were
 - Simon whom Jesus called Peter
 - James and John whom Jesus called "Boaneges" meaning "sons of thunder"
 - Andrew
 - Phillip
 - Bartholomew
 - Matthew
 - Thomas
 - James-Son of Alphaeus
 - Thaddeus
 - Simon-the Patriot
 - Judas Iscariot- who betrayed Jesus.
- A disciple is a learner or student of Jesus Christ while apostle is someone who is sent out by Jesus on a mission

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- Jesus chose the disciples for the following reasons
 1. To be his closest friends. He wanted them to be with him
 2. To continue his mission as he goes back to heaven
 3. To train them on mission work. He would send them out to preach, drive out demons and heal the sick.

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (MARK 4:1-20)

A parable is defined as an earthly story that teaches something about God . It is an imaginary story with some teaching about the kingdom of God.

WHY JESUS TAUGHT IN PARABLES

1. To attract people's attention and listen attentively to his teachings
2. So that people should understand him better
3. He wanted his followers to search the meaning for themselves.
4. To provoke interest from the audience.
5. Parables were his teaching aid.
6. He wanted people to think critically issues
7. To separate serious seekers of the Kingdom of God from the onlookers.

NARRATION OF THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

- Jesus said that a farmer was scattering seeds in the garden.
- Some seeds fell on the path and were eaten by birds.
- Other seeds fell on a rocky ground with little soil. They sprang up but because the soil was not deep enough, growth was limited and they died. They were scorched by the sun.
- Some seeds fell among thorns. Twigs grew up and choked the plants . They did not produce fruits.
- Some seeds fell on good soil and produced good fruits.

THE MEANING OF THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

- The sower is Jesus who teaches the people.
- Seeds that fell on the path are people who hear the message but some comes and takes away.

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- Seeds that fell on a rocky ground are people who receive the message gladly but do not sink into their hearts. When trouble or persecution comes because of the message, they give up at once.
 - Seeds that fell among thorns are people who hear the message but are taken up with worries of the world e.g. love of riches, other desires which choke the message.
 - Seeds that fell on good soil are people who receive the word of God, accept it and change behaviours of others.

THE VIST AT NAZARETH (MARK 6:1-6)

- Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on Sabbath at Nazareth, his home town.
- When people heard him, they reacted in the following ways
 1. They were amazed with his teaching
 2. They asked where Jesus got his wisdom
 3. They asked how Jesus performed miracles.
 4. They asked if he was not the carpenter, the son of Mary.
- The people did not believe in Jesus because they knew him as an ordinary person. They did not believe he was the promised Messiah. They had no faith in him.
- In reaction, Jesus said that prophets are respected everywhere except in their own home town and by their relatives and their family.
- Jesus did not perform more miracles at Nazareth because the people had little faith in him.

JESUS SENDS OUT THE TWELVE ON A MISSION (MARK 6:7-13)

- Jesus sent the apostles on a mission for the following reasons
 1. To preach the good news so that people repent their lives.
 2. To heal the sick
 3. To cast out demons.
- He sent them two by two so that they help each other and that the testimony of the two was valid.
- Jesus gave them the following instructions

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1. Not to take anything for the journey e.g. bread, money and extra shirt. Jesus wanted them to depend or trust in God for their needs, to travel light and save time.
 2. To wear sandals and take a stick. They were to put on one tunic.
 3. To stay in the same house wherever they are welcomed. Jesus wanted them to save time.
 4. Wherever they are not welcomed, they were to leave it and shake dust off their feet. This was to be a sign of warning and judgement for them.
- The disciples healed the sick by rubbing olive on them
 - According to Jesus, the ordinary people had the responsibility to feed the disciples.
 - Today, Christians have responsibility to feed pastors and priest.

LESSONS FOR CHRSTIANS IN THE STORY

- Riches can prevent us from preaching the word of God
- There is power of the Holy Spirit in holy water or olive oil which people use today for healing the sick.
- People should not misapply the anointing water or oil by using it as a charm or fetish like non-believers.

HOW ANOINTED /HOLY WATER IS USED TODAY

- It is used for blessing buildings such as houses and churches.
- It is used for healing the sick people.
- It is used for chasing witches and wizards in houses.

THE MIRACLES THAT JESUS PERFORMED

- A “miracle” is defined as an act which does not follow natural rules and is attributed to the work of God.
- It is an extra ordinary event that is beyond human understanding.
- It is a supernatural act where one sees God at work.

WHY JESUS PERFORMED MIRACLES

1. To show that the Kingdom of God was in control.

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2. To show he had power over sicknesses, demons, nature and death.

TYPES OF JESUS' MIRACLES

1. Nature Miracles

Jesus walking on water, stilling of the storm and feeding of the Five Thousands

2. Healing Miracles

The healing of Simon's mother-in-law, the healing of the paralytic man etc.

3. Exorcism

This is an act of driving out demons e.g. the healing of a man with evil spirits in Gerasa.

4. Raising of the Dead

The healing of Jairus' daughter

THE HEALING OF SIMON'S MOTHER IN-LAW (MARK 1:29-34)

- She suffered from fever. Peter informed Jesus about her sickness
- Jesus took her hand and helped her up.
- She got up and attended to them.
- Jesus healed her on the Sabbath

THE HEALING OF A MAN WITH SKIN DREADED DISEASES (LEPROSY) (MARK 1:35-45)

- Jesus met him at a lonely place.

HOW JESUS HEALED THE MAN

- The man knelt down and begged Jesus to make him clean
- Jesus was filled with pity and said that he was willing to make him clean
- He stretched his hand and touched him
- He ordered that he should be clean.
- The disease left the man.

INSTRUCTIONS JESUS GAVE THE MAN AFTER THE HEALING

- He should not tell anybody about the miracle because people would declare him Messiah. He did not want people to know he was the Messiah. Knowing his identity would cause

misunderstanding of his mission since people would make him king.

- He should go and present himself to the priest so as to be examined and certified that he was healed.
- To go and offer a sacrifice in accordance to the Law of Moses.

THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC (MARK 2:1-12)

- When people heard that he had gone into city, they went to him in large numbers.
- They filled the room completely.
- While Jesus was preaching, some men brought a paralyzed man to him.
- They could not bring him to Jesus through the door because of the crowd of people.
- They made a hole on the roof and lowered the man to him on his mat.
- When Jesus saw their faith, he forgave the man's sins.
- The forgiveness of sins angered the Teachers of the Law and accused him of blasphemy.
- According to them, only God could forgive sins. They did not know that Jesus was God. Jesus' true identity was hidden to them.
- Jesus knew their thoughts and he asked them why they were thinking about such things.
- He asked what was easier to tell the paralyzed man that his sins were forgiven or to tell him to rise up and take his mat and go home.
- He then ordered the man to get up and pick his mat and go home.
- The purpose of this miracle was to show that he had power to forgive sins.

WHY JESUS FORGIVE SINS OF THE PARALYZED MAN

- To show he had power to forgive sins.
- He knew that sin is the basis of all suffering.

HOW THIS MIRACLE S DIFFERENT FROM OTHER MIRACLES

- Jesus healed him because of faith of those who carried him
- Jesus forgave sins first before healing the man.

WHY JESUS ADMIRERD THE FAITH OF THE FOUR MEN

It was decision to take the man to the house where Jesus was teaching.

HEALING ON THE SABBATH

- “Sabbath” was a holy day of rest among Jews where no one was allowed to do any work. It was a day of resting and prayer.
- Jesus was hated by religious people because he broke the Sabbath by healing people.

THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SABBATH AMONG THE FOLLOWING

1. THE PHARISEES

They understood that Sabbath is above human beings and it must control them

2. JESUS

He believed that Sabbath was made for man and man is the master of the Sabbath. Man should control the Sabbath.

3. THE PEOPLE OF TODAY

- Sabbath is a holiday that they can do their private work.
- According to Jesus, healing on Sabbath is good because man’s needs are more important than observing Sabbath rules.

JESUS HEALS A MAN WITH A PARALYZED HAND (MARK 3:1-12)

- Jesus went to the synagogue on Sabbath.
- A man with a paralyzed hand was there.
- Some people with ill-intentions wanted to accuse Jesus of doing wrong.
- They watched him closely to see if he would heal on Sabbath or not.
- Jesus called the man to come in front.

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- He asked people what Law required to be done on the Sabbath whether to help or to do harm, or to save someone's life or to destroy it.
 - The people did not answer him hence Jesus became angry because the people were stubborn and wrong.
 - Jesus ordered the man to stretch his hand and it was well again.

REACTIONS OF THE PHALISEES AFTER THE HEALING

- They became angered and left the Synagogue.
- They conspired with some members of Herod's party against Jesus.

THE CRIME JESUS COMMITTED IN THIS HEALING

- He cured the man on the Sabbath.

THE CALMING OF THE STORM (MARK 4:35-41)

- Jesus told his disciples that they should go to the other side of Lake Galilee. As they were travelling, Jesus Christ was sleeping on a cushion.
- Suddenly, there was a storm on the lake and the disciples were in danger.
- They called out to Jesus for help. They asked if Jesus did not care that they were about to die.

HOW JESUS CALMED THE STORM

- He got up and spoke to the storm as if it were a person.
- He rebuked the storm. He commanded the wind to be quite and the waves to be still.
- The wind and the waves calmed down.

REACTIONS OF DISCIPLES

- They were afraid to see that nature obeyed him.
- They asked each other who Jesus was.

WHAT THE STORY REVEALS ABOUT THE DISCIPLES

- They did not know the true identity of Jesus that he is God.
- They had little faith in Jesus. This is why Jesus rebuked them.

LESSONS IN THE STORY ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF JESUS

- Jesus is the master of creation.

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- Jesus has power over creation

HOW PEOPLE TODAY REACT IN DISASTER TIMES

- They overreact and experience fear.
- They feel panic and become angry
- They turn to the leader as a scapegoat
- Sometimes they accuse God for not caring them.

JESUS HEALS A MAN WITH EVIL SPIRITS AT GERASA (MARK 5:1-20)

- Gerasa is the gentile country evidenced by its people keeping pigs.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MADNESS IN THE MAN WITH EVIL SPIRIT

- He was a very violent man
- He had abnormal strength hence could break up the chains in his arms and feet.
- He was too strong to be controlled by people. They failed to overpower him.
- He lived in burial caves or tombs. Day and night he was wandering among the tombs and through the hills.
- He moved about undressed
- He was cutting himself with stones.

WHY THE MAN CALLED HIMSELF “MOB”

- They were many demons in him.

REQUEST S THE EVIL SPIRITS MADE TOO JESUS.

- Not to sent them abyss.
- To allow them to enter into pigs that were eating along the hill side near the lake.

HOW JESUS HEALED THE MAN

- He asked the name of evil spirits.
- He ordered them to come out from the man and enter into the pigs as they requested.

EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT THE MAN WAS HEALED BY JESUS

- He was dressed and was in the right mind.

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- He asked Jesus if he could follow him.

WHY JESUS DID NOT ALLOW THE MAN TO FOLLOW HIM

- He wanted him to go and show himself to his family and tell them how much the Lord had done to him.
- He wanted him to spread the good news about salvation among his people.

LESSONS IN THIS STORY

- Jesus has power over demons.
- Jesus is really the son of God.
- The meeting of Jesus with mob symbolizes the meeting of the Kingdom of God and that of Satan.

WHY THE PEOPLE IN GERASA ASKED JESUS TO GO AWAY

- For fear of losing animals.

JESUS HEALS JAIRUS DAUGHTER AND A WOMAN WITH SEVERE BLEEDING (MARK 5:21-43)

- These are two miracles that Jesus performed on the same day

WHO JAIRUS WAS

- The official of the local synagogue.
- He begged Jesus to go with him to heal his twelve year old daughter who was very sick

THE HEALING OF A WOMAN WITH FLOW OF BLOOD OR SEVERE BLEEDING

- The woman suffered for twelve years.
- She spent everything she had on doctors but her condition got worse.
- When she heard about Jesus, she decided in her heart to go and touch his cloak and would be healed.
- The woman touched the cloak of Jesus and her bleeding stopped.
- Jesus asked who touched him.
- The woman trembled in fear as she knew that she was discovered.
- Peter was surprised because there were many people pressing against Jesus.

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- He said he felt powers leaving him.
 - The woman presented herself to Jesus and explained why she touched him.
 - Jesus said that her faith healed her.

WHY THS WOMAN TOUCHED JESUS SECRETLY

- She was ritually unclean because of blood.
- She was ashamed of her disease.
- She feared people would prevent her from meeting Jesus.
- Unclean people could not go to public places and meet people.

REACTIONS OF THE WOMAN WHEN JESUS ASKED “WHO TOUCHED ME?”

- She trembled and threw herself at Jesus’ feet
- She realized that Jesus had noticed her.
- She felt she had made Jesus unclean
- She explained why she touched Jesus

HOW JESUS RAISED JAIRUS DAUGHTER

- After Jesus healed a woman with flow of blood, some members came from Jairus house.
- They reported to Jairus that her daughter was dead and that there was no need for Jesus to proceed to his house.
- Jesus did not bother with the message. He told Jairus to believe and not to be afraid.
- Jesus asked other people to remain and he took only Peter, James and John to Jairus’ house.
- He found people mourning.
- He told them that the child was not dead but sleeping. People laughed at him because they knew that the child was dead.
- Jesus ordered the people to get out because they had no faith in him.
- He entered with his three disciples including Jairus and his wife.
- He took the dead girl by hand and said, “Talitha Koum” meaning “little girl, I tell you to get up”.
- The dead girl got up at once and started walking around.

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- The people were completely amazed.
 - Jesus told them not to tell anyone because people would know him as Messiah. He asked them to give her some food to revive her physical strength.

LESSONS IN THIS STORY

Jesus had power over death.

JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND (MARK 6:30-44)

- Jesus decided to go to a lonely place with his twelve disciples after the mission of the twelve for the following reasons
 1. For the disciples to share experiences from the mission.
 2. For the disciples to rest as people interrupted them.
- People knew where Jesus and his disciples were going and they travelled faster and reached the place before them.
- Jesus filled with pity as he saw the crowd of people because they were like sheep without shepherd. He taught them many things.
- The disciples ask Jesus to send the people away from the lonely place because it was getting late. They wanted people to find food and lodging in the surrounding villages.
- Jesus told them that it was their responsibility to find food for the people.

HOW JESUS FED THE GREAT CROWD

- He used five loaves of bread and two fish
- He looked up to heaven and gave thanks to God.
- He broke the loaves of bread and gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people.
- He divided the two fish and gave them all.
- People ate and had enough.
- Twelve baskets of leftovers were collected. The leftovers were measured in units called baskets.

THE TYPE OF THIS MIRACLE

- Nature miracle

LESSONS FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY FROM THE MIRACLE

- Sharing is important

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- Prayer is important in our lives
 - If you are stranded, pray and God will help you.

WHY JESUS SENT THE DISCIPLES AHEAD OF HIM AFTER THIS MIRACLE

- He wanted to say goodbye to the people.
- He wanted to have time for prayers.

JESUS WALKS ON WATER (MARK 6:45-52)

- As Jesus was praying, the disciples were raging against the wind on the lake. The wind was changing their direction.
- They saw Jesus walking on water. When they saw him, they were shocked and they thought he was a ghost.
- Jesus told them not to be afraid.

SIMILARITIES IN FEEDING OF THE GREAT CROWD AND JESUS WALKING ON WATER

- In both miracles, Jesus deals with nature.
- Both miracles show that Jesus is master and has power over creation.

JESUS HEALS THE DAUGHTER OF A SYROPHOENICAN WOMAN (MARK 7:24-37)

- The miracle took place in the Gentile region of Tyre and Sidon.
- Jesus wanted this to be secret journey but news about him travelled far.
- A woman came to him and begged to heal her daughter who suffered from an evil spirit.
- Jesus was reluctant to heal her daughter because she was a gentile yet his mission was for the Jews first.
- Jesus told her that he was to feed the Children first. He also said that it was not right to take the children's food and give it to the dogs.
- The woman said that even dogs under the table eat the children's leftovers.
- Her faith prompted Jesus to heal her daughter.
- He told her to go home and would find her daughter healed.

WHAT THE FOLLOWING REPRESENT IN THE STORY

- a. Children- Refers to Jews
- b. Dogs- Gentiles

LESSONS FOR THE PEOPLE TODAY IN THIS STORY

- Ask and it shall be given
- Salvation is for everybody
- Faith is needed for one to be healed.
- People should not give up when if the first chance fails. Things do not always work to people's expectations.

JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN AT BETHSAIDA (MARK 8:22-26)

- At Bethsaida, people brought a blind man to Jesus so that he heals him.

HOW JESUS HEALED HIM

- He led the blind man out of the village by hand.
- He spat on man's eyes and placed his hands on him.
- He asked if he could see anything
- The man said that he was seeing people but they looked like trees walking about.
- Jesus placed his hands on man's eyes.
- The man looked intently and saw everything clearly.
- Jesus ordered the healed blind man not to go back into the village.
- People would know that Jesus was the Messiah i.e. Messianic secret.
- Jesus was hiding his identity to the people for fear of being killed by authorities.

JESUS CHRIST' IDENTITY

PETER'S DECLARATION AT CAESAREA PHILLIPI (MARK 8:27-30, 9:1)

- Jesus took his disciples to a village near Caesarea Philippi.
- He wanted to know about his identity among the people.

"WHO DO PEOPLE SAY I AM?"

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- The disciples said he was John the Baptist, Elijah and one of the prophets of long ago.

“WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?”

- Peter said he was Christ.
- Jesus ordered his disciples not to tell anyone about him because people would know that he was Messiah. They would force him a political king.

JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH (MARK 8:31-38)

- Jesus spoke about his suffering ,rejection and death as they were going to Jerusalem for the following reasons
 1. He wanted them to know that he was the suffering Messiah.
 2. To show them the nature of his mission.
 3. To show them that was not a political king as others expected.
- Jesus also said the following to his disciples
 1. They should forget self and carry the cross.
 2. He said that anyone who wanted to save his life will lose it and those who would lose it because of the gospel will save it.
 3. He said that if one is ashamed of him, Jesus will be ashamed of him when he comes with the holy angels.
 4. He said that others will not die until they see the kingdom of God come with power.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS (MARK 9:1-9)

- Jesus took Peter, James and John to a high mountain to pray.
- While at the mountain, Jesus changed his appearance.
- His clothes shined whiter than anyone would wash them in the world.
- Two heavenly figures appeared and were talking to Jesus Christ
- The disciples were afraid and Peter said the following
 1. He said that it was good to be there.
 2. He said they will make three tents one for Jesus, for Moses and one for Elijah.
 3. He was frightened and did not know what to say.
- A cloud appeared and covered them with its shadow.

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- A voice from the cloud and said, “This is my own dear son, listen to him”.
 - Later, Moses and Elijah disappeared and Jesus Christ was alone with them.
 - As they came down from the mountain, Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about the transfiguration until resurrection.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE APPEARANCES OF MOSES AND ELIJAH

- Jesus Christ fulfills Old Testament promises.
- Jesus will share suffering of all the prophets in the Old Testament.
- Elijah was expected by Jews to return and announce the Messiah. His presence confirmed that Jesus was the promised Messiah.
- Elijah and Moses meant that the prophets and the Law were all in him.
- It proved that there is life after death.
- It confirmed that Jesus was the son of God.
- It shows that Jesus was a suffering Messiah.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MOSES AND ELIJAH APPEARING WITH JESUS:

- It improved that the old and New Testaments are one.
- It strengthened the faith of the disciples in god.

COMPARING THE TRANSFIGURATION & THE BAPTISM OF JESUS:

Similarities:

- The word heard during the transfiguration and the Baptism are similar.

Differences:

- During baptism, the words were addressed to Jesus himself while in transfiguration, the words, were addressed to the disciples.

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- The words addressed to disciples during transfiguration were meant to strengthen disciples' faith.

THE JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

THE REQUEST OF JAMES AND JOHN (MARK 10:35-45)

- James and John, sons of Zebedee requested Jesus for a place of honour in God's kingdom.
- They begged to let them sit with Jesus one at right and one at his left.
- In response, Jesus told them the following
 1. He told them that they did not know what they were asking.
 2. He asked if they would drink the cup of suffering and get baptized the way he would.
 3. He said he had no right to choose who will sit at his right and left.
- The other disciples became angry with them because they noted selfishness in them. They asked for something which was for the group.
- Jesus collected his disciples by telling them the following
 - a. If one wanted to be great, he must be the servant of the rest.
 - b. He said he came not to be served but to give his life to redeem many people.

LESSEONS IN THE STORY

- Selfishness is bad. People should not just think about themselves but consider others.
- Humility is good. Whoever wants to be a leader must a slave of all

JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM (MARK 11:1-11)

- At Mount Olive, near towns of Bethpage and Bethany Jesus sent two disciples to go into a village ahead of him.
- He told that they find a colt tied up that had never been ridden.
- He told them to untie it and bring it to him.
- He said that if anyone will ask the, they should tell him that the Master needed it.

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- They brought the colt to Jesus.
 - They threw their cloaks over the animal and Jesus got on.
 - People spread their cloaks on the road
 - Others cut branches in the fields and spread them on the road.
 - People praised God with a loud shouting.
 - Jesus entered the temple while riding a donkey.
 - Jesus rode on a donkey to show that he was a peaceful and a humble king, not a militant one.
 - This journey to Jerusalem was important because he went to fulfill his mission of saving the people by dying on the cross.
 - Jesus went back to Bethany after reaching Jerusalem.

THE ANIMAL THAT SIGNIFIES THE COMING OF THE MILITANT KING

- It is a horse.

JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE (MARK 11:12-19)

When Jesus went into the temple, he did the following

- a. He drove out those who were buying and selling
 - b. He turned over the tables of the money changers and the stools of these selling pigeons.
 - c. He quoted prophet **Jeremiah** and said, “May Temple will be called a house of prayer but you have turned it into a hideout for thieves”.
- The part of the temple was abused by the religious leaders was the **court of the gentiles**.
 - Jesus drove them out of the temple because they misused the temple that was meant for prayer for all nations.
 - The teachers of the law and the chief priests began to find ways of killing Jesus after the cleansing of the temple
 - They were angry with Jesus of the following reasons:
 1. They were afraid of him as the crowd was amazed with his teaching.
 2. They were jealous of him as he was becoming more popular than them.

3. He undermined their authority by cleansing the temple.

THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS CHRIST: (MARK 14:1-2)

- The chief priests and the teachers of the law wanted to arrest Jesus secretly before Passover festival.
- They feared that if they arrest him during the festival period, people might riot because he was loved by many people especially the poor.

JESUS IS ANNOINTED AT BETHANY (MK.14 -10).

- Jesus went to Bethany and was in the house of **Simon** who once suffered from dreaded skin disease.
- As Jesus was eating on the table, a certain woman poured her expensive perfume over his head.
- This woman did this to express her deep appreciation and devotion to Jesus Christ.

REACTIONS TO WOMAN'S ACTION:

- Some were horrified because they saw her actions as wasteful
- They thought the perfume would be sold and use the money for helping the poor.

JESUS RESPONSE TO THE ACCUSERS:

- He said that the woman did the right thing.
- She prepared his body for burial in advance
- They will always have the poor and can help them any time they want.
- They will not always have him.
- What the woman did will form part of the gospel and will be told over and over again.

LESSONS FROM THIS STORY:

- We would learn to prioritize things. We should concentrate on one thing and do the other later.
- We should not accuse people before we understand what they are doing.

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- We should offer the best to god and our friend .We should not keep the best for our selves. We should not offer things of low quality to god and our friends.

JUDAH'SISCARIOT AGREES TO BETRAY JESUS (MARK 14:10 - 11)

- The chief priests wanted to send soldiers to arrest Jesus
- However, soldiers would not be able to identify him .There was need for one to show them.
- Judas Iscariot agreed to be tray Jesus.

WHYJUDASI SCARIOT BETRAYED JESUS:

- (1) He was seduced by the power of money
- (2) He shared the popular expectation that messiah was to be victorious.
- (3)Jesus seemed to be on the losing side so he wanted to be on the winning side to save himself
- (4)He thought Jesus would defend himself if they tried to arrest him while he gained the money.
- (5)He was motivated by Satan
- (6)He loved money and was greedy.

LESSONS ON THE BE TRAYAL OF JESUS CHRIST:

- People should find good ways of getting money. Practices such as selling expired items such as medicine and food are bad .practices of selling each other is also bad.
- **Cheating does not pay.** Judas wanted to cheat the thief priests by robbing them but in the end he did not enjoy the money he received. He killed himself.

THE LORD'S SUPPER:

JESUS EATS THE PASSOVER MEAL WITH HIS DISCIPLE: (MK.14:12-21)

HOW JESU PLEPARED HIS PASSOVER:

- Jesus sent two of his disciples to prepare the Passover.
- He gave them the following instructions :
 - (1) They were to go into the city where they would find a man carrying a jar of water

(2)He told them to follow the man in to the house the enters.

(3)He told them to ask the owner of the house where Jesus would eat the pass over with his disciples.

- Jesus told them that they would be shown a large furnished upper room.
- He told them to make the Passover ready
- This happened as Jesus said.
- Jesus 'Last supper was comprised of un leavened bread and wine.
- He took a piece of bread and prayed and shared to his disciples.
- He also took a cup of wine, prayed and gave it to them.
- He said that the wine was his blood which was poured for many, sealing God's covenant.
- Bread stands for his body while wine stands for his blood.
- After eating, they sing a hymn and went to Mount of Olives.

JESUS PLEDICTIONS DURING THE LAST SUPPER:

- He said one of the disciples especially Judas Iscariot will betray him.
- He said that all disciples will run away from him to fulfill scriptures.
- He said that peter will deny him three times before the cock crows twice.
- Peter said that he would not leave him alone

WHY JESUS HAD HIS LAST SUPPER IN SECRET:

- To have special time with his disciples free from disturbances
- He did not want to give Judas time to bring enemies to disturb them.
- To strengthen disciple's faith.
- To bid a fare well with his disciples.

IMPORTANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER TO CHRISTIANS TO DAY:

- It signified a heavenly feast which Christians will share in the kingdom of God.

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- It makes Jesus 'presence become real.

HOW JEWS CONDUCTED THEIR PASSOVER:

- Lambs were killed.
- Roasted meat was eaten while standing.
- They ate with bitter herbs to remember their slavery in Egypt.
- They ate unleavened bread to show that they were pure before God.

JESUS PRAYS IN GETHSEMANE (MK. 14: 32-42)

- Jesus went to Mount Olives in Gethsemane with his disciples to pray.
- He went Peter, James and John.
- He told them to pray so that they should not be tempted.
- The disciples however, were sleeping when Jesus returned.

WHAT JESUS SAID IN HIS PRAYER?

- He said that if it was possible, he should not go through that time of suffering
- He asked God to take that cup of suffering away from him not as he wanted but as God wanted.

WHAT JESUS SAID WHEN HE FOUND THE DISPLES SLEEPING FOR THE 3RD TIME:

- (1) He told them that the hour had come when the son of man will be handed over to the power of sinners.
 - (2) He told them to look the man who was betraying him.
- He showed human nature of fear to the impending death.
 - He later prayed that they should take the cup and his Father's will be done.
 - The angels came and strengthened him.

THE ARREST OF JESUS: (MK.14:43 -52)

HOW JESUS WAS ARRESTED BY THE SOLDIERS:

- Jesus took three disciples namely: Peter, James and John.
- He went with them to Gethsemane for prayer .Thereafter, Judas Iscariot come with a group of soldiers to arrest Jesus.

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- Judas Iscariot led the soldiers that were sent by the teachers of the law and chief priests.
 - They were armed with swords and club .Judas gave them a sign that the one he would kiss was Jesus and ware to arrest him.
 - When they arrived, Judas kissed Jesus and the soldiers arrested him.
 - They held him tight. One of the disciples drew a sword and cut off the ear of the High priest slave.
 - Jesus asked them why they came with swords and clubs to arrest him as if he was an outlaw.
 - He then told them that they were fulfilling scriptures.
 - His disciples left him and ran away. One disciple who followed Jesus ran away naked when they tried to arrest him.
 - Judas Iscariot came with a crowd of people armed with swords and clubs.

THE TRIALS OF JESUS: THE COUNCIL SANHEDRIN.

- The Sanhedrin was the highest Jewish body responsible for religious and civil affairs.
- It was headed by the High priest.
- It had 71 members.
- It served the following purposes:
 - a. Discussing national affairs hence acted as parliament.
 - b. It was the high court, judging cases according to Jewish law.
- It had no power to pass death sentence.
- The chairman was the high priest (of the Sadducees party)
- It comprised of 70 members i.e. the elders, chief priests, the scribes (teachers of the law) and the Pharisees.
- Jesus was accused of **blasphemy** for claiming that he was the messiah.
- To Jewish religious leaders, this was an insult to God.

JESUS IS BROUGHT BERORE THE COUNCIL: (MARK 14: 53 -65)

- From Gethsemane, Jesus was taken to the house of the high priest and appeared before the council

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- Peter followed him from a distance. He sat with guards by the fire.
 - Before the council , Jesus was accused of the following charges :
 - (1) That he could destroy the Temp and build it in three days.
 - (2) Blasphemy for saying that he was the Messiah
 - The high priest tore his robe and the agreed that Jesus should die.

HUMAN RIGHTS THAT WERE VIOLATED AS JESUS APPEARED BEFORE THE COUNCIL:

- He was accused falsely and judged to be killed.
- Some people spat on him.
- They blindfolded him and hit him.
- The guards slapped him.

PETER DENIES JESUS (MK.14:66-72)-HOW PETER DENIED JESUS.

- Jesus was arrested and brought before the council.
- All the disciples scattered and ran away except Peter who gathered his courage and followed him.
- Peter was in the courtyard warming himself with other people.
- One of the High Priest's servant women came by and looked straight at him. She said that he too was with Jesus of Nazareth.
- Peter told her that he did not know and understand what she was talking about. After this, a cock crowed.
- The Servant woman saw him there and began to repeat to the bystanders that Peter was one of them. Peter denied again.
- After sometime, the bystanders accused Peter again and that he could not deny because he too was a Galilean.
- This made Peter to swear that he was telling the truth and he let God punish him if he was not saying the truth.
- He said he did not know the man they were talking about.
- A cock crowed a second time and peter remember what Jesus said that before a cock crowed twice, he would deny him three times that he did not know him.

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- Peter broke down and cried.

WHY PETER DENIED THE EVERKNOWING JESUS

- He was afraid of being arrested and put in prison
- He did not recall Jesus saying about persecution
- He was afraid of death.

JESUS BEFORE PILATE :(MK.15:1-5)

- The case was brought before the governor, Pilate for the following reason:
 - a. They needed his approval Of a death sentence
 - b. They wanted to see Jesus crucified.
- The chief priest s accused Jesus of many things but Jesus did not defend himself .this amazed palate. He expected Jesus to defend himself
- Jesus did not defend himself to let scriptures fulfilled.
- Jesus death on a tree was a sigh of gods curse on him, a proof that he could not be a messiah.
- Charges leveled against Jesus before plate were as follows:
 - a. Telling people not to pay taxes to Caesar
 - b. Claiming himself to be a king of Jews or messiah

HUMAN RIGHTS THAT WERE VIOLATED AS JESUS APPEARED BEFORE PILATE

- He was accused falsely

THE BEHAVIOUR OF PILATE

- He was morally bankrupt character. He handed over Jesus to be crucified though he knew he was innocent.

LESSONS FROM THIS STORY

- It is not good to misuse one's responsibility for the sake of buying cheap popularity.
- Judges should learn to be just.