




TEACHER'S SCRIPT

THE BIBLE OVERVIEW

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THE BIBLE OVERVIEW

KEYS TO HELP YOU TEACH

1. Some of the notes reflect the personal background of the author. We included these in the script to follow along with the videos. Feel free to substitute your own personal stories or comments when applicable.
2. Words in **BOLD** are action words for you. For example, if the bolded word says “**PRAY**” that is your cue to pray. If the bolded word says “**SLIDE**” that is your cue to advance the PowerPoint slide.
3. **Green highlighted sentences and words** indicate portions that are included in the participant’s guide.
4. The **underlined, green highlighted words** are the answers to the fill-in-the-blanks.
5. Be sure to read the **green sentences** within the Overview script exactly as they are written so the participants can fill in blanks. These main sentences will help piece the storyline together.
6. **Gospel Connection points are highlighted in blue.** These are essential connections to show how Jesus is foreshadowed, prophesied, reflected and confirmed throughout the entirety of scripture from Genesis to Revelation. We have added a key word or phrase to summarize each Gospel Connection section. The key word and scripture references are already listed in the participant guide, you just need to briefly touch on these points.
7. At least one Gospel Connection will be provided for you in each section with hopes of you finding many others of your own.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

LET'S GET STARTED

Welcome, I am so glad that you will be joining us on this incredible journey through the overview of the Bible. Let me begin by saying that I am certainly not the first person who has created a tool to help understand the Bible. Many people over the years have developed helpful materials. Two resources that have been especially helpful to me are: “30 Days to Understanding the Bible” by Max Anders and “Clarifying the Bible” by Mitch Maher. I was introduced to both of these resources in 2012 while completing the Downline Institute. I am so grateful for the influence each of these resources have had in my life and would recommend them as a way to become more familiar with your Bible. As a pastor to women in my local church and as a disciple-maker, I worked to develop this tool that breaks down the Bible in the simplest of terms. I have found that having this set up as a workshop style format has been key because I believe that retelling the content is what causes us to really remember what we have learned so we are able to share it with others. I pray that the Bible Overview can serve you in this way.

I am not sure what your experience with the Bible is, but I grew up knowing many individual stories from the Bible. For example, I knew David and Goliath and Jonah and the whale, but these stories stood alone and I wondered how each mattered to the whole of scripture. I also wondered, what does this story have to do with knowing God more?

The Bible stories felt to me like a pile of unfolded laundry. Clean but messy, hard to find what you were looking for. Clean laundry needs to be hung up in an orderly manner so you can see clearly what you are looking for. Just as laundry needs order, the books of the Bible needed structure to help me make sense of it.

Learning the Bible Overview provided that necessary framework for me. It was as if I now had a nice long rack with hooks to hang the main points of the Bible story on. This framework allowed me to see the Bible in proper order, with main categories, people and stories, that I could easily retrieve when necessary and add details as I learned more. This allowed me to begin to see this beautiful, continuous story of God, from Genesis to Revelation, in a whole new light.

We are going to start the Bible Overview with a short introduction to the whole Bible. We will then spend three weeks going through the storyline of the Old Testament, followed by three weeks of going through the storyline of the New Testament. (this schedule may vary)

Over our time together we will learn about and gain a better understand of the beautiful story of God and His great love for us. I am fully convinced that as we spend time with God and in His Word, the Holy Spirit will transform how we view, understand, and know God through the Bible.

Let's begin by praying for our time together.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

SCRIPT FOR INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

If you open your books to the introduction, we will get started. Please bear with me as this section tends to run a little longer than the others, but there is great information we don't want to miss.

I will be teaching from the perspective that:

SLIDE: The Bible is divinely inspired by God Himself (It is God breathed, the Spirit brings it to life.) (2 Tim 3:16)

SLIDE: The Bible is without mistake.

SLIDE: The Bible carries the very authority of God Himself. (It has power and its teachings are sufficient for everything we need to understand about God and life.)

Now, some facts about the Bible:

SLIDE: The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years.

SLIDE: It was written by over 40 different authors.

SLIDE: It was written in three languages: The Old Testament was written in Aramaic and Hebrew.

The New Testament was written in Greek.

SLIDE: It was written across three different continents - Asia, Africa and Europe.

The writers of the Bible had diverse occupations, from fishermen, to shepherds, to kings.

Some of the authors wrote from a prison cell in times of distress, while others wrote from the king's palace in times of peace.

SLIDE: With all this diversity, the Bible is one story, with a beginning, a middle, and an end. It is one book, indicating it is written by one author, God. God inspired human authors to record exactly what He desired.

SLIDE: The entire Bible is made up of 66 books.

SLIDE: The Bible is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Today, we are going to start by focusing on the Old Testament.

SLIDE: The Old Testament consists of 39 books written before the birth of Jesus Christ.

BC simply means “before Christ,” or before the birth of Christ.

SLIDE: The 39 books are divided into 17 Historic books, 5 Poetic books, and 17 Prophetic books.

If you have your Bible with you, open to the Table of Contents. It may help you to mark these divisions in your Bible for future reference.

Again, the first 17 are the historic books. Draw a line under Esther.

The next five are the poetic books: they begin with Job and end with Song of Solomon.

And finally, the remaining 17 are the prophetic books.

SLIDE: To understand the Old Testament, one must realize that the 17 historic books cover the complete storyline of the Old Testament.

SLIDE: The remaining books (poetic books and prophetic books) fit in at the proper time within the timeline. An example of this would be the book of Job, which occurred during the time of Genesis.

In order to learn the overview as simply as possible, we are going to study the storyline of the Old Testament by breaking the Old Testament into six different eras or time periods.

SLIDE: The six eras are: Creation, Nation, Conquest, Kings, Exile, Return.

I will explain the format of the book starting with the map. On the page right after your introduction, you will see a foldable map that we will be referencing. Once you open the flap you will see the first era we will be walking through. This is the format we will use throughout the study.

For each era, there will be a key sentence on the right-hand page which will summarize that era.

Following that we will have four key points on the pages of that era. These will provide more detail to help guide you through the Story.

In the center of your pages, you will find an area called the Gospel Connection. Let me take just a minute to explain how we will use this area.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The word **GOSPEL** means **GOOD NEWS**. In our context, it refers to the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ and the implications that has on the life and eternity of those who receive Jesus as Savior. In the Old Testament, we identified prophecies that foretold the coming Messiah as well as stories and people who foreshadowed the coming Christ.

Even though the Old Testament was written hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, we see evidence of the coming Messiah, Jesus, throughout. When we come across a scripture that foreshadows Jesus or prophecies concerning Him, we will write it in the Gospel Connection section. The Old Testament points towards Jesus and the New Testament confirms what was prophesied in the Old Testament.

So the structure that will guide us on this journey through the eras are the key sentences, key points, and Gospel Connections, as well as the maps.

We will also take time at the end of each era for you to break up into groups of 2-3 people to retell what you have learned. You will be able to use notes and help one another, but we have found that the retelling has been key in retaining the information and feeling confident to share it with others.

Geography: There are many ways we could have presented this overview, but for this study most of our visuals will be maps. If you are a linear thinker who loves timelines and graphs, we hope to give you the information necessary to do further research on your own.

SLIDE: Look at the map and get oriented to this area by studying the bodies of water.

Let's start by pointing out the bodies of water as anchor points for the land's geography since these do not change: Mediterranean Sea, Sea of Galilee (larger body of water at the north end of the map), Jordan River, and Dead Sea which is the larger body of water at the south end of the map. If you look to the East, you will see the Euphrates River and the Tigris River, which both empty into the Persian Gulf.

Everything we will be studying in the Old Testament takes place in this area.

SLIDE: This is a modern-day map for you to become familiar with the area on which we are focused.

That should give us all we need to get to the fun stuff - so let's get started!

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

CREATION



SCRIPT FOR CREATION

Welcome/Prayer:

PRAY and ask for the Holy Spirit to help us understand what we are learning. For example: “Jesus, open our hearts and minds that we might understand the Scriptures. We ask that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father sent in your name, will teach us all things and remind us of the things you told us, as you promised us in John 14:26.”

SLIDE: Creation

SLIDE: Key Sentence: God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they chose their own way, and sin entered the world beginning God’s pursuit to redeem His people.

The four key points:

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Flood
4. Tower

First Point – Creation

God existed before creation and we see Him bringing order from nothingness. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and everything in it. (Gen 1:1)

He created the first human man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, to have relationship with Him and for them to dwell in His presence. God set them apart from all other creation, as they were uniquely created in His image:

- 1.) mentally (the ability to reason and choose)
- 2.) morally (the knowledge of right and wrong)
- 3.) socially (made for relationship and fellowship)

Man’s first home was in a special garden called Eden. His unique role was to reflect God’s image by partnering with Him in multiplying and subduing the earth.

SLIDE: Looking at the map, we do not know for sure where Eden is located, but some scholars believe it may have been in the fertile land between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

CREATION

In the garden of Eden, everything was perfect, just as it should be. Harmony was universal. There was harmony between Adam and Eve; they were naked and unashamed. The animals shared the garden peacefully and the earth was in perfect balance. There were no storms or earthquakes or tornados. There was no sickness or sadness, poverty or death. And, God walked with Adam and Eve and was in perfect relationship with them. They were literally dwelling in the presence of God.

There were many trees in the garden but only two mentioned by name. The first was the Tree of Life, which is the tree that sustained a person for eternity. The second was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, which allowed for understanding of both good and evil.

Adam and Eve were given dominion over the garden and had full freedom with only one restriction. They could eat from any tree in the garden except for one, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God had given man free will, meaning they could choose to obey God or choose to disobey Him.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Light

Look at these Scriptures in your Gospel Connection box. We will touch on them now, and you can revisit them later. The key word is light. God brings light into darkness - we see this over and over again throughout Scripture.

1. Genesis 1:3 - says the spoken words of God created physical light for a dark world.
2. John 1:1-14 - records Jesus being sent to a dark world to bring the light of truth.
3. 2 Corinthians 4:6 - says God's glory is on display in the face of Christ to shine on the darkness of sinful hearts.

Second Point – Fall

As mentioned, man was given free will to obey or disobey God. In the midst of paradise, the Bible tells us that Satan, the great deceiver, clothed himself as a snake and entered the garden. He targeted Eve with lies and deception and led Eve to believe that God was holding out His full goodness for her. Eve began to question God's heart.

Eve, having free will, chose to reject God's authority, and she ate the forbidden fruit. She also gave the fruit to her husband Adam, who was with her, and he ate as well.

Adam and Eve chose their own way over God's way and sin entered the world.

This was an absolutely catastrophic moment in human history that would not only affect Adam and Eve, but each person who would come after them. (Romans 5:12)

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CREATION

Every frightening or tragic thing that has been experienced from that day until now, originated in that moment in time when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and sin entered in the world.

Scripture tells us their eyes were opened and they realized they were naked. They were ashamed, so they sewed fig leaves together, attempting to cover their own sin and shame.

Then, Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden and they hid from Him. He asked them if they had eaten from the tree that He commanded them not to eat from, and the blame game began.

Adam said, "This woman you put here with me gave it to me." Adam was blaming God for giving him this woman and the woman for giving him the fruit. Eve pointed to the serpent as the great deceiver who tricked her. (Genesis 3:12-13)

Consequences followed the first sin; spiritual death immediately (broken relationship between God and man) and eventually physical death.

Other consequences followed as well. The earth would be cursed, there would now be hardship and toil in work for Adam, pain in childbearing for Eve, and the serpent would slither on the ground from that point forward. Ultimately, God would banish Adam and Eve from the Garden, their perfect home, and from His presence. (Genesis 3:14-18)

As they were leaving the garden, we see further indication that sin comes with a cost. Adam and Eve had covered themselves in fig leaves, but we read as they left the garden, they were covered in animal skin. (Genesis 3:20)

Adam and Eve sinned, and since the wage of sin is death (Romans 6:23), blood had to be spilled to pay for the sin. God provided a way, an innocent animal died in place of them. The blood of the animal was a temporary payment for their sin, and the skin was a temporary covering for their shame.

When sin entered the world that day, a barrier developed between man and God. But, God had a plan to save us from sin so that we could be in a relationship with Him again. God took the initiative to cover/save Adam and Eve even as they sinned.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Sacrifice/Grace

We have three Gospel Connections to record:

1. Hebrews 13:11-12 - God provided this animal sacrifice that pointed to a future sacrifice, Jesus, who would permanently cover their sin, once and for all. All Old Testament sacrifices find their fulfillment in the blood of Jesus in His sacrificial death.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

CREATION

2. Genesis 3:15 - And, even during this tragic scene, we see God give a promise of hope.
3. Romans 16:20 - Then God told Eve that one of her descendants would one day crush the head of the serpent, a promise pointing to the Messiah, Jesus, who will one day destroy Satan and his works. This is the first mention of the good news of a Savior, Jesus Christ.

As they left the garden, God told them to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, and that is what they did.

Third Point – Flood

As the people multiplied, so did sin and God was sorry that He made man.

Sin had become so prevalent that God decided to wipe all living things from the face of the earth.

But there was one righteous man, Noah, who found favor in God's eyes. God told Noah He was going to flood the earth and Noah was to build an ark, (a large boat). He was told to take his wife, three sons and their wives, and two of every kind of animal, male and female, into the ark (and more of some animals for later sacrifice to the Lord) and Noah did everything as the Lord commanded. Noah and his family and the animals entered the ark and the Lord closed the ark behind them. (Gen 7:16)

And just as the Lord said, the waters began to flow. Water came from the earth, and from the sky. "On that day all the fountains of the great deep burst open..." (Genesis 7:11). It rained for 40 days and 40 nights and all living things were destroyed on the earth, but Noah and his family were safe within the ark.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Judgment/Rescue

I Peter 3:20 - The flood was a judgment for sinful people, and the ark provided the rescue for the righteous. In the same way, the cross (death) was judgment for sinful people and Christ provided the rescue for the righteous.

As the waters began to recede, Noah and his family, saved from judgment, faced a new beginning with great hope.

They left the ark, built an altar, and made sacrifice to the Lord. (Genesis 9:13) This pleased God, and He made a covenant or promise to them to never flood the earth again. And the sign of this promise would be the rainbow in the clouds. God again told them be fruitful, multiply, and spread out to fill the earth. They did multiply, but they did not spread out.

Fourth Point – Tower

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CREATION

The people all lived together. At this time, the whole world had one language. The people decided that they should build for themselves a great city with a tower that reaches to the heavens. However, they were doing this by their own efforts to bring glory to themselves and not God. God saw their rebellious hearts and responded by confusing their language. Since having a common language allowed them to communicate with one another, God confused their language so they could no longer collaborate in rebellion. This is why it is called Babel which means “noisy confusion.”

The Lord then scattered the new generation of people over the face of the earth according to their language and this was the birth of the nations.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - God Provides

John 14:6 - The tower is a reminder that man cannot reach heaven by his own works. God provides a way for us to dwell with Him through the gift of grace from Jesus. Jesus tells us Himself that He is indeed the only way to the Father. “I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me.”

This concludes the era called Creation. Just as a reminder, the key sentence was: God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they chose their own way and sin entered the world, beginning God’s pursuit to redeem His people.

The four key points were:

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Flood
4. Tower

RETELL

ASK your group to break up into smaller groups of two or three people and spend some time retelling the information they have just learned. Spend about eight minutes on this segment depending on the number of people you have in your group.

As the teacher, this is a good time to interact directly with your participants.

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NATION



SCRIPT FOR NATION

Welcome/Prayer:

PRAY

SLIDE: Nation

SLIDE: Key Sentence: God created the nation of Israel to share His plan of salvation with all people.

The four key points:

1. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
2. Joseph
3. Moses
4. Exodus

First Point – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

We are already seeing a cycle that will continue through the Bible: people sin, consequences follow, and then God rescues/redeems.

God continued with His plan to pursue and redeem His people through a man named Abraham.

Abraham's family would eventually grow into a nation of people. From this nation of people the world would be blessed. (Genesis 12:1-3)

SLIDE: At that time, Abram, later to be called Abraham, lived in Ur (modern day Iraq). God told him to leave his home and go to a land that God would reveal. Abraham had faith in God and His promises; therefore he obeyed God and his faith was credited to him as righteousness.

SLIDE: So Abraham and his family left Ur and traveled north. After a brief stay in Haran, Abraham went to the land of Canaan.

Historically, this land has been called different names. At the time, the land he went to was called Canaan. After the Exodus, it was referred to as the Promised Land. It is later called Israel, then Palestine. Finally in 1948, it went back to Israel. Each of these names refers generally to the same area of land. However, due to changes in the political climate throughout history, the borders have changed.

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NATION

So Abraham and his family settled in the land of Canaan and God made a covenant with Abraham promising him three things:

1. Land
2. Seed or descendants
3. Blessing

Abraham was married to Sarah and she was barren. Yet, God had promised Abraham that an heir would come from his own body and his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. Abraham believed God's promise and it was credited to him as righteousness. They waited on this child. (Genesis 15:4-6)

As time passed, Sarah grew impatient waiting on a child of her own and decided to take matters into her own hands. She gave her Egyptian maidservant Hagar to her husband, and her plan was for the two to build a family through Hagar.

Hagar had a son and his name was Ishmael. However, Ishmael was not the son God had promised. God confirmed to Abraham that he and Sarah would have a baby and this child would be the son of promise. (When I say "son of promise" I am referring to a person who is in direct lineage or family line of Jesus.)

Eventually Abraham and Sarah did have a son and they named him Isaac.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Provision

Genesis 22:14 - We know that Abraham deeply loved Isaac. One day, God told Abraham to take his son, his only son of promise that he loved and sacrifice him as a burnt offering to the Lord. Abraham obeying God, bound his beloved son and laid him on top of the wood. Just as he was prepared to sacrifice his son, an angel of the Lord stopped him. Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by his horns in the thicket. He took the ram and sacrificed it and called the place THE LORD WILL PROVIDE. This is an important substitutionary sacrifice. The ram died in Isaac's place foreshadowing Jesus who will die in the place of many.

Isaac married Rebekah and had twin sons, Jacob and Esau. Of the two, Jacob was the son of promise.

Jacob married Leah and Rachel, and each woman had a servant. Jacob had 12 sons with these four women. God eventually changed Jacob's name to ISRAEL. So, these twelve men are also referred to as the twelve tribes of Israel.

The nation of Israel began with the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Descendant

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NATION

1. Genesis 3:15 - The promises given to Abraham included descendants and the “seed” that was mentioned in the garden of Eden who would be the Savior. The “seed” would not only bless Israel but the whole world.
2. Galatians 3:16 - tells us that seed is Jesus Christ.

Second Point – Joseph

The second youngest son of the twelve born to Jacob was named Joseph, and he was Jacob’s favorite. Jacob gave Joseph a fine coat of many colors, and the brothers knew he was favored, so they hated him. Joseph didn’t help matters when he shared with his brothers a dream he had in which they all bowed down before him.

SLIDE: Joseph’s brothers plotted to kill Joseph but decided instead to sell him into slavery to get rid of him. Joseph was sold and taken to Egypt. Once in Egypt, Joseph faced many hardships; but, God was with him and protected him, ultimately prospering him.

One of the hardships Joseph faced was being placed in jail unfairly. While he was there, he interpreted dreams. Some time later, Pharaoh had a dream that could not be interpreted. Pharaoh’s cupbearer remembered a Hebrew boy who was in jail who could accurately interpret dreams. They sent for Joseph.

Joseph told Pharaoh that God would tell him what the dream meant, and God was faithful to reveal the meaning. He believed there would be seven years of abundance in Egypt followed by seven years of famine.

Joseph’s interpretation of the dream was trustworthy, and Pharaoh elevated him to second in command in all of Egypt. His job was to prepare for the coming famine.

The years of abundance and famine came just as Joseph had prophesied. Not only was Egypt experiencing famine but the surrounding nations were as well. In fact, Joseph’s father, Jacob and his family in Canaan were affected by the famine. When Jacob and his sons heard there was grain in Egypt, they went there to find food for their family. Once they were in Egypt, Joseph recognized them. This was a time of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Upon request, Joseph was given permission by Pharaoh to bring his entire family (approximately 70 people) from Canaan to Egypt to live. They settled in the land of Goshen as shepherds and prospered. The Hebrew people multiplied greatly.

God was using Joseph in His plan to save and grow the nation of Israel.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Forgiveness

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Genesis 45:1-28; Ephesians 1:7 - Joseph was rejected by his brothers. Yet when his brothers turned to him seeking forgiveness, Joseph forgave his brothers, was reconciled with them, and ultimately saved them. In the same way, Jesus is rejected by us, yet Jesus forgives us, reconciles us to Himself and saves us. Joseph told his brothers, "what you meant for harm, God used for good."

Joseph eventually died, and as time passed there arose a Pharaoh who did not remember Joseph. He saw how numerous these Hebrew people had become and feared a rebellion.

So to protect his nation, **the current Pharaoh, who did not remember Joseph, enslaved the Hebrew people and treated them harshly.** Yet even with great opposition, the Hebrew people continued to multiply. (Exodus 1)

Third Point – Moses

The Hebrew people were in Egypt for over 400 years. Because they were oppressed and treated harshly, they eventually cried out to God to set them free.

Scripture says that God heard their cries and He remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Exodus 2:23-25). God responded by raising up a man named Moses.

Moses had an interesting life. He was a Hebrew born in Egypt, during a time when Pharaoh was killing Hebrew baby boys. By God's sovereign hand, Moses, as a baby, was saved from certain death and was placed in a basket in the Nile River. He was found and adopted by Pharaoh's daughter in Egypt. He was raised in the best of circumstances until he was 40.

At age 40, he killed an Egyptian man who was beating a Hebrew man. After Moses' identity was revealed, he fled to the Midian desert where he spent 40 years tending sheep. One day, while tending his flock, an angel of the Lord appeared in the flames of a fire in a bush, but the bush did not burn up. God called to him from the bush and told Moses that he was being sent back to Egypt where he would rescue God's people from Egyptian slavery. Moses would go to the Pharaoh and tell him to let God's people free.

Moses was reluctant at first. He asked God, "If the Egyptian people ask who sent me, what should I say?" God responded, "Tell them, I AM has sent me to you." (Exodus 3:14) Ultimately Moses obeyed God and went to Egypt to speak to the Pharaoh.

Moses asked Pharaoh ten different times to let his people go and each request was denied. Following each denial, God sent a plague. Each plague was directed at one of the Egyptians' false gods and demonstrated God's power over each. (An example of this is that the Egyptians worshiped a sun-god, but God darkened the sky for three days.) It wasn't until the 10th plague that Pharaoh relented. God warned the Pharaoh that unless

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NATION

he released the people, every firstborn son in the land of Egypt would be killed. Pharaoh had a chance to avoid this fate by releasing the people, but he refused.

But by God's grace, God gave the people an opportunity to be saved from this judgment. **In order to be saved from certain death, the people were told to take an unblemished lamb, kill it, and cover their doorposts with its blood.** That night, an angel of death passed through Egypt. The angel would "pass over" the homes where the blood covered the doorpost while all other firstborn sons would perish.

This was the first Passover and would be celebrated each year from this point forward.

There was a great outcry in Egypt that night as there was a death in every household not covered by the lamb's blood. Pharaoh's own son died that night. With that final blow, Pharaoh told Moses to take his people and leave Egypt.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - Righteous Judgment

1. 1 Corinthians 5:7 - Here, we see righteous judgment coming. The only way to be saved was by the blood of an innocent lamb covering your home. The lamb died in place of the firstborn son. This foreshadows the future sacrifice of Jesus Christ, whose blood covers us and saves us. Paul makes this connection very clear in the New Testament when he says, "Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed." Jesus died in place of us.
2. John 1:29 - We see John the Baptist seeing Jesus and saying, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Fourth Point – Exodus

SLIDE: The Hebrew people gathered their belongings, took plunder from the Egyptians, and left Egypt so quickly that they didn't even have time for their bread to rise. Remember the family of Jacob that lived in Canaan and had arrived in Egypt escaping the famine 400 years before? There were approximately 70 people at that time. During the 400+ years in a foreign land, they multiplied greatly and now, there were an estimated 2.5 million Hebrew people leaving Egypt.

The family that started with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had indeed become a nation.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Freedom

1. Exodus 3:7-10 - Just as Moses set the people free from bondage to slavery in Egypt, so Jesus sets us free from the bondage of sin. He sets us free and we are no longer called slaves.
2. John 8:34-36 - Jesus sets us free from sin.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

NATION

After the people left Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind as he realized he had released his entire work force. The Egyptian army pursued the Hebrew people.

As the Hebrews arrived at the Red Sea, they realized they were in trouble. There was a raging sea before them and a hostile army behind them. They thought they were doomed, but God had a plan for His people. The angel of God, who was leading Israel as a pillar of cloud, moved from in front of the people to behind the people, protecting the people of Israel from Egypt's army. (Ex 14:19-20)

God allowed Moses to lift his staff and the Red Sea parted for the Hebrew people to pass through safely. Once they were to the other side of the Sea, Pharaoh's army approached, and they too entered the dry land to pursue the people. However, God released the water, and Pharaoh's army was wiped out in a day. Not one survived.

Moses took his people to Mt. Sinai. At Mt. Sinai, the Lord revealed the law to His people. This included, but was not limited to, the Ten Commandments. The law was important because it reflected God's holy character, and revealed our inability to obey it perfectly; thus, the realization of our own sin and our need for a Savior.

God told the people to build a tabernacle (a portable temple) where God would come down and dwell with them. God's heart is and has always been to dwell with His people.

It was now time to take back the land that belonged to their forefathers and Moses numbered the fighting men. They headed north and sent spies into the Promised Land to explore its people, land and towns. Was this really the land flowing with milk and honey that had been promised to them?

SLIDE: They went to Kadesh Barnea where Moses selected 12 men, one from each tribe (family of Jacob) and sent them in to the land to report their findings.

The spies were in the land for 40 days and they returned with the report that it was indeed all that they had believed it would be and more.

But the people who occupied the land were powerful giants, and the Hebrews were like grasshoppers before them. The cities were large and fortified. Ten of the spies said they could not take the land from these people; but two said they could with God's help - those two were Joshua and Caleb (Num 13:26-33).

SLIDE: Unfortunately, the people listened to the ten fearful spies, and as a consequence for their unbelief, the Hebrew people wandered in the desert for 40 years: one year for each day they spied the land.

During those 40 years in the desert, everyone 20 years and older would die in the desert from the unbelieving generation. It would be the next generation who would enter and conquer God's promised land.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

NATION

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Trust

Joshua 1:1-4; Revelation 21:1-3 - Those who trust God receive His promise and enter the Promised Land. In the same way, we must trust God too, in order to receive His promises and enter into His Promised Land, heaven.

SLIDE: Finally, Moses took the people north to the east side of the Jordan River.

Moses reminded the people of all God's laws and gave them three commands for when they took the Promised Land:

1. Kill all the Canaanites
2. Do not marry their women
3. Do not worship their gods

Moses then told Joshua, in front of all the people, that he would now lead the charge and conquer the land. He would then divide the land among the tribes for their inheritance. He reminded Joshua that "the Lord will go before you and be with you and the Lord will give you victory." Joshua was filled with spirit of wisdom because Moses laid hands on him - so the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord commanded Moses. (Deuteronomy 34:9)

Then, Moses climbed Mt. Nebo and died. (Deuteronomy. 34:1-5)

This concludes the era called Nation. Just as a reminder, the key sentence was: God created the nation of Israel to share His plan of salvation with all people.

The four key points were:

1. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
2. Joseph
3. Moses
4. Exodus

RETELL

ASK your group to break up into smaller groups of two or three and spend some time retelling the information they have just learned. Spend about eight minutes on this segment depending on the number of people you have in your group. Again, use this time to interact with your participants.

HOMEWORK: Challenge the group to go home this week and practice retelling these eras to someone else.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

CONQUEST



SCRIPT FOR CONQUEST

Welcome/Prayer:

PRAY

SLIDE: Conquest

SLIDE: Key Sentence: God brought His people into the Promised Land and appointed judges to govern.

The four key points:

1. Jericho
2. Promised Land
3. Ruling the Land
4. Judges Cycle

The first point - Jericho

After Moses' death, Joshua took leadership over the people, and the task at hand was to take possession of the promised land that God had given the forefathers. Joshua and his men were now east of the Jordan River, and their first battle was at Jericho. (Joshua 1:1-9)

To defeat Jericho was critical. It was a strong, fortified city and the gateway to the rest of the Promised Land.

Joshua sent two spies into the land to scout out Jericho. Upon entering the walled city of Jericho, the men stayed at the home of a woman named Rahab, who was a prostitute. Rahab had heard that the Lord of the Hebrews had dried up the Red Sea for His people to escape Egypt. She had also heard about many other wonders that their God had accomplished and she was convinced that the Hebrews' God was going to allow them to defeat Jericho. Therefore, she was willing to protect them while they were in the city. In return, she asked that she and her family be spared when they attacked Jericho. The spies agreed to this. They returned telling Joshua that God had surely given them the land because all the people of Jericho were melting in fear because of them. Joshua moved forward with his plans to take Jericho. (Joshua 2)

However, the Jordan River, at flood stage, stood between the Hebrew people and Jericho. God was ready to remind His people of His greatness, and also confirm Joshua as leader just as He had done with Moses. When the priest's feet, carrying the ark of the covenant, touched the water, the river parted, and the people crossed over safely.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

CONQUEST

SLIDE: When they got to the outskirts of Jericho, they found the city closed tightly, with no one going into or out of the city because the people feared the Hebrews.

Not only was Joshua a well-respected, brilliant military strategist, he was also a wise, God-fearing man. Instead of coming up with his own plan to take Jericho, he sought the Lord.

God gave him an interesting strategy. First, they were to march around the city ONE TIME with armed men for six days. They were to have seven priests carry trumpets of ram horns in front of the ark. Then, on the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times. When they heard a long blast on the trumpet, all the people were to shout, and the walls of the city would come tumbling down.

Joshua had told the men not to take plunder for themselves; but they could take silver, gold, bronze and iron for the treasury of the Lord.

They followed the instructions of the Lord and **as expected, the walls came tumbling down on the seventh day and they took the city of Jericho. They took the plunder for the treasury of the Lord.**

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Belief

Joshua 2:8-12; Romans 3:21-26 - We see Rahab and her family were saved as promised because of their belief in the God of Israel, just as we are saved because of our belief in Jesus Christ. Sinful man, saved by faith. Another interesting point here is that Rahab, the prostitute, is in the family line of Jesus. What encouragement, that God accepts and uses sinful people in mighty ways.

However, during this great victory, one man named Achan disobeyed God and secretly kept some plunder for himself.

Second Point – Promised Land

Remember this is the land God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob many years before.

After a sound victory in Jericho, Joshua sent men to the small town of Ai, (pronounced A - I). It seemed a certain victory after taking Jericho; however, the Israelites were defeated.

Joshua cried out to the Lord and God responded by telling him that Israel had sinned. Someone had disobeyed God's orders and had stolen plunder from the Lord's treasury. Joshua discovered it was Achan and destroyed him, as well as his family. **The people of God remembered that God was all-knowing and He took sin very seriously.**

Joshua and his men returned to Ai, conquered it, and continued with the conquest.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

CONQUEST

The strategy used to conquer the Promised Land was to divide and conquer.

SLIDE: They cut across the middle of the land, conquering as they went.

SLIDE: Then they went south conquering.

SLIDE: Then they headed north. Finally, the land was theirs.

Their record was 31 victories with only one loss.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - Promised Land

1. Joshua 11:23 - we see that Joshua foreshadows Jesus in that he takes his people into the Promised Land.
2. Revelation 21:1-3 - we see that Jesus will take us to our Promised Land, heaven. The names Joshua and Jesus are essentially the same name. Jesus is the Hebrew translation and Joshua is the English. Both mean "The Lord is Salvation".

Third Point – Ruling the Land

SLIDE: Once the land was completely conquered, the people began to settle the nation by dividing the land among the twelve tribes. Three of the tribes (Reuben, Gad and ½ tribe of Manasseh) settled on the east side of the Jordan River, while the remaining tribes settled west of the Jordan. These families or tribes created a loose federation. This time of conquest was a highlight in the history of the nation of Israel.

Finally, before his death, Joshua addressed the people and encouraged them to fear and serve the Lord. He encouraged them to stay faithful to God. He reminded them of what happened to their father's generation that died in the desert due to their unbelief and unfaithfulness to God.

We see in scripture that Moses spent time discipling Joshua though the years. Therefore, when Moses died, Joshua was prepared to lead.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Discipleship

Matthew 28:16-20 - We see this in the life of Jesus as well, Jesus disciplined 12 men in order to continue His work when He returned to the Father.

However, we see no indication that Joshua disciplined the younger generation. When he died, there was no one ready to assume his role as leader.

Fourth Point – Judges Cycle

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

CONQUEST

The conquest of the Promised Land was the height of Israel's history at this point, and it was followed by some of the darkest days of their history. The people took their eyes off of God. They did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did whatever was right in their own eyes.

During this time, God ruled His people with the help of judges. These judges were special deliverers who presided over the affairs of Israel. They were political and military leaders who were sent by God to deliver Israel from their oppressors.

The Israelites disobeyed God by:

1. not completely destroying the Canaanites (eliminate evil)
2. intermarrying with women of other religions (stay holy and set apart)
3. worshipping their gods (do not put anything before God)

This led the Israelites into a destructive cycle that marked this time period.

SLIDE: The Judges Cycle was this: Sin - Conquest (servitude) - Repentance (cry out) - Deliverance (salvation) - Freedom (peace)

The cycle was as follows: God's people would sin. As a consequence, they would be taken into captivity/servitude by another nation. They would cry out to God in their enslavement, and God would respond by sending them a judge to "save" them. During the lifetime of the judge, the people would prosper. However, as soon as the judge died, the cycle would begin again.

This happened seven times over the course of 300-400 years.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Redeemer

Acts 2:38 - the Judges Cycle points to Jesus. As we sin and then cry out in repentance - Jesus saves, and peace and freedom follow.

The events of the book of Ruth do not further the storyline of the nation of Israel; however, this story does take place during the time of the judges.

I want to mention here that during this dark time, we continue to see God's kindness and love through the story of redemption found in the book of Ruth. (Ruth 4:14) A man named Boaz took his relative Ruth, a widow, as his wife. During this historical period, a kinsman-redeemer was someone who could restore a person. This kinsman-redeemer had to be willing and able to take on the care of the widow as well as be related to her. Boaz was all of these, pointing to Jesus, who is our kinsman-redeemer. He is able to restore us because He is fully God. He is related in that He is fully man, and He is willing to save us because He loves us.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

CONQUEST

So now that we've come to the end of the Conquest era, we find that the people are crying out for a king.

For centuries, Israel did not have a king. On Mt. Sinai, God told Moses that if the Israelites would follow in His ways and serve Him, they would not need a human king. The nation of Israel was led by prophets who relayed God's word to the people and judges who led people in times of war or peace. But, God Himself was their King.

Samuel, a prophet of God, knew that this request for a human king was a rebellion against God. He was not pleased with the people's request for a king but Samuel decided to seek God's advice regarding this request.

The Lord told Samuel to listen to the voice of the people "for they haven't rejected you, but they have rejected me from being King over them." So Samuel agreed to appoint them a king; but not before warning the people of the hardships an absolute human ruler would bring. But the people persisted.

This concludes the era called Conquest. Just as a reminder, the key sentence was: God brought His people into the Promised Land and appointed judges to govern.

The four key points were:

1. Jericho
2. Promised Land
3. Ruling the land
4. Judges Cycle

RETELL

ASK your group to break up into smaller groups of two or three and spend some time retelling the information they have just learned. Spend about eight minutes on this segment depending on the number of people you have in your group. Again, use this time to interact with your participants.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

KINGS



SCRIPT FOR KINGS

Welcome/Prayer:

PRAY

SLIDE: Kings

SLIDE: Key Sentence: God gave the people their desire to have a human king, and eventually conflict in Israel led to a divided kingdom.

The four key points:

1. Saul
2. David
3. Solomon
4. Kingdom Divided

First Point – Saul

The people wanted God's blessing, but they did not want God's kingship. They wanted to be ruled by a king like other nations.

In 1051 BC, Samuel appointed a man named Saul to become the first king of Israel.

Saul was the people's choice as he is described in scripture as an "impressive young man without equality among the Israelites - a head taller than any of the others." (1 Samuel 9:2) He looked kingly. The people were more impressed with outer appearances than with the heart, so they were pleased. However, scripture tells us that God does not look at outward appearances but at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7)

Saul had a strong start as king and brought stability and unity to the nation of Israel. He transitioned the loose federation of the 12 tribes into a united kingdom.

Although Saul was a competent military leader, we see by Chapter 16 he had been rejected by God. He lost God's favor by not obeying God fully, and he was more concerned with worldly things than he was with spiritual matters.

While Saul would be allowed to serve out the rest of his life as king, God had already picked the next king. God sent Samuel to the city of Bethlehem to anoint the new king he had chosen. Eventually Saul learned that a young shepherd boy named David had been anointed as the next king. Saul was filled with anxiety, jealousy and fear of his successor. Saul spent an exorbitant amount of time and focus trying to kill young David. Saul's final

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KINGS

years were profoundly tragic. Not only were these years marred by poor decisions, but his lack of leadership also had a negative impact on the nation. His final act of disobedience was intentionally falling on his own sword during battle and taking his own life.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - King of kings

Ephesians 1:18-23; Revelation 19:16 - The first king that the people cried out for would not be the last King the people would cry out for. Compare and contrast the king they wanted and the King of kings we will ultimately receive. God gave them what they wanted in a human king but He knew the king they needed, the King of kings and Lord of lords, would be coming for ultimate reign over creation.

Second Point – David

As a boy, David had been anointed as the next king by Samuel. However, he spent many years on the run and hiding as Saul sought to kill him. God built his faith during those hard years, and we see some of those moments of intimate prayer recorded in the book of Psalms.

After Saul's death, David became king. (1011 BC)

His reign was characterized by expansion as he was a mighty warrior. He extended the borders of Israel all the way to the Euphrates River, and he founded Jerusalem as the capital city of Israel.

He was a mighty warrior, but what we see most consistently in David's life is that he loved God deeply. **The Bible says David was "a man after God's own heart." (Acts 13:22)**

However, as much as David loved God, David was not without sin. His life took a radical turn when he saw a beautiful, married woman named Bathsheba. He proceeded to instigate a relationship with her. He had hoped it would not be revealed, but then Bathsheba became pregnant. To cover his sin, David had her husband killed in battle in an attempt to disguise the incident. This led to terrible consequences. The prophet Nathan confronted David. **Once David understood the weight of his sin, he cried out to God and asked to be forgiven. God did forgive him and He restored David.** However, he suffered grave consequences, and he lost his son that was born to Bathsheba.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Repentance

Psalm 51; Isaiah 1:18 - These verses give us a glance into the heart of David as he cried out to God in repentance. He asks to be made as white as snow. David did not fully understand it, but his cries were for the cleansing that was to come. The mercy, love, hope, and compassion he was seeking will ultimately be found in Jesus.

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Until this point in time, the people worshipped God in a portable tent called a tabernacle, and God's presence was there. Because of David's great love for the Lord, David wanted to build God a permanent dwelling place, a temple. This temple would provide a place for priests to carry out their duties and for people to gather and worship in outer courts. It also would become a permanent place for the Ark of the Covenant. In Old Testament times, the Ark of the Covenant represented the presence of God, and His power went with them wherever they traveled.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Dwelling

Acts 2:1-4, 38-39; I Corinthians 6:19 - Since the death and resurrection of Jesus, God no longer uses the Ark of the Covenant to dwell with His people. Under the new covenant the Holy Spirit indwells believers and we are His temple.

David began planning for this magnificent temple, but the prophet Nathan revealed to him that God said he would not be the one to build the temple, because he had shed blood as a military leader. It would be his son, Solomon, a man of peace, who would build the temple (1 Chronicles 22:8-9). However, David was told that his descendants would rule Israel forever.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Descendant

There are several Gospel Connections for us to look at in the life of David. First, we see that God has gradually, throughout scripture, revealed more detail of who the Savior would be. The Savior was first promised in the garden, and then God further revealed that the Savior would come through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (nation of Israel). From the sons of Jacob, the Messiah would come from the line of Judah. Now, He is revealing that the Savior will come through the house or family line of David and will rule forever.

1. Luke 2:3-5 - King David, was one of the primary portrayals of the Messiah to come. Like Jesus, he was born in Bethlehem, was a good shepherd and the anointed King of Israel. When David was anointed King of God's people, he did for them what they could not do for themselves. He stood in their place and brought victory against their enemies. He "saved" Israel and one of his promised descendants will be the true Savior.
2. Matthew 1:1-17 - records the genealogy of Jesus Christ which includes David. God reveals to David that He would establish his legacy and one of his offspring would be the one who would crush the head of Satan and be a blessing to all nations as recorded in Genesis 3:15.

Third Point - Solomon

After David's death, his son Solomon became king. His reign was marked by glory. It was sometimes referred to as the golden age. Early in his reign as king, Solomon made a

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KINGS

request of God. In humility, he asked God to give him a discerning and wise heart so he could govern the people well. God was pleased with his request, and 1 Kings 4:29 tells us that, "God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore."

We reap the benefit of his wisdom even today, as he was the principal writer of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

Solomon had remarkable success in his lifetime. He excelled in wisdom as well as wealth and honor. He succeeded in the building and dedication of the First Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The temple was important to the people because that is where God's presence dwelled.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - God with us

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; John 1:14 - God's presence in the Temple pointed toward Christ's presence with the people during His incarnation, when He came down to earth as a man.

Even being the wisest man to live did not keep Solomon from sin. Dating back to Moses, God had warned His people not to intermarry with women from different nations or their hearts would eventually turn to other gods. However, Solomon did not obey. In fact, scripture says that he had 700 wives and 300 concubines. His wives led him astray.

It says his heart was not as fully devoted to the Lord his God as his father David's heart had been. God was angry with him for turning his heart to other gods, and God told him that the kingdom will be torn from his hands. But, for the sake of his father David, God would not divide the kingdom in his lifetime, but the kingdom would be taken from his son and only a small portion of Israel would be ruled by his descendants.

Solomon's kingship that began so powerfully ended disastrously.

Fourth Point – Kingdom Divided

At Solomon's death, (931 BC) his son Rehoboam (Ray-uh-bo-um) was expected to become Israel's next king. The people of Israel made a reasonable request of Rehoboam, to lighten the burden on them from his father's reign. He consulted first with his father's advisors who told him to respect their request and they would follow him loyally. He didn't listen to their counsel. Instead, he went to his childhood friends. They encouraged him to respond harshly. The king arrogantly rejected the people's request and told the people he would actually make their work more difficult.

SLIDE: The people, which consisted of ten of the twelve tribes, renounced him as their king and the result was a divided kingdom.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

KINGS

Those ten tribes formed the Northern Kingdom and kept the name Israel, and was ruled by a man named Jeroboam.

Rehoboam remained the king of the Southern Kingdom that was now called Judah.

Judah consisted of two tribes: Judah and Benjamin.

For over 200 years, the land and people were divided into two parallel monarchies.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Kingdom

Matthew 12:25 (a kingdom divided will not stand); Revelation 21:22-27 (no more division) - Why was there a divided kingdom? The kingdom was divided ultimately because of the sinful nature of the tribes. Yet, when Jesus Christ reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords, the kingdom will be divided no longer, with no more sin or sorrow.

This concludes the era called Kings. Just as a reminder, the key sentence was: God gave the people their desire to have a human king, and eventually conflict in Israel led to a divided kingdom.

The four key points were:

1. Saul
2. David
3. Solomon
4. Kingdom Divided

RETELL

ASK your group to break up into groups of two or three and spend some time retelling the information they have just learned. Spend about eight minutes on this segment depending on the number of people you have in your group. Again, use this time to interact with your participants.

HOMEWORK: Challenge the group to go home this week and practice retelling these eras to someone else.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

EXILE



SCRIPT FOR EXILE

Welcome/Prayer:

PRAY

SLIDE: Exile

SLIDE: Key Sentence: God rightly judged Israel and Judah, who were led by mostly unrighteous kings, by sending them into exile.

The four key points:

1. Northern Kingdom (Israel)
2. Southern Kingdom (Judah)
3. Prophets to Israel
4. Prophets to Judah

In review, following the time of the judges, the people asked for a human king. The Kings era included three kings: Saul, David, and Solomon reigning in Israel for 40 years each. At Solomon's death, the nation divided into the Northern Kingdom - Israel, and the Southern Kingdom - Judah.

First Point – Northern Kingdom (Israel)

Over time, the Northern Kingdom had 20 different kings and of them, not one was righteous or God-fearing. God sent two prophets warning the people of Israel to turn back to God. The prophets warned if they did not turn back to God they would be taken into captivity by another nation, but the people did not listen. We will talk more about the specific prophets shortly.

Just as the prophets had warned, God did raise up a people to conquer Israel, and in 722 BC, the Assyrians attacked the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

The Assyrians were known for their ruthlessness and cruelty.

SLIDE: The Assyrians attacked the Northern Kingdom, Israel. They scattered the people of Israel across the Assyrian Empire.

Because the people of Israel were dispersed to many areas over the Assyrian empire, the unity of the people was broken and they soon began to adapt to the new culture. They were less attached to their Hebrew identities, and they began to accept foreign

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

EXILE

gods. They assimilated into the Assyrian culture, and this nation of people, in the Northern Kingdom, never again emerged in world history.

These people are often referred to as the “ten lost tribes.” The Northern Kingdom did not listen to the prophets of God and were destroyed.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Lost

John 3:16; Luke 19:10 - Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Second Point – Southern Kingdom (Judah)

Remember that Rehoboam and two tribes of Israel (Judah and Benjamin) formed the Southern Kingdom. The Southern Kingdom of Judah had 20 kings. Eight out of the 20 were righteous and followed God at least during part of their reign.

We mentioned that the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom in 722 BC. Over the next 100 years the world leadership changed again. During this time, the world leadership changed when the Assyrians were defeated by the Babylonians.

Although the Southern Kingdom of Judah fared a little better, as far as longevity, than the Northern Kingdom did, she ultimately turned from God too.

During this time, God sent prophets to plead with them to turn back to God and remind them what had happened to the people of the Northern Kingdom, Israel. But the people of Judah continued to do what was right in their own eyes.

So, the Babylonians defeated Judah and took many of their people into exile.

The exile occurred in three waves.

SLIDE: The first wave occurred in 605 BC where around 10,000 of the most excellent people were deported from Judah to Babylon (modern day Iraq). It was during this time that Daniel, Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego were taken into exile as very young men along with other prominent citizens.

SLIDE: The second wave was in 597 BC. These exiles were also primarily wealthy professionals and craftsmen. Ezekiel was among them.

SLIDE: The final wave was in 586 BC and this was the final destruction of Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar's army. It was this final siege where the temple that Solomon had built was destroyed, and the city burned. This was a time of deep sadness for the Hebrew people.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

EXILE

There was an important difference between the Assyrian exile and the Babylonian exile. While the Assyrians (who took the Northern Kingdom, Israel) spread the captives out across their land, the Babylonians (who took the Southern Kingdom, Judah) did not disperse the captives. This allowed the opportunity for some of the Hebrews to form community and retain unity as a people as well as practice religious beliefs and worship their own God. This is what happened with Daniel and his friends. They were able to maintain parts of Jewish life. They stayed connected to one another and encouraged each other to be faithful to God even in exile.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Daniel

1. Daniel 1:8 - We see Daniel's life foreshadowing Jesus. Daniel went to a foreign land and remained true to his God. He was willing to give up the luxuries and fine food offered in the king's court in order to follow God. He encouraged others to stay faithful because he knew from the prophet Jeremiah that the Hebrew people would be in captivity for 70 years before they could return to Jerusalem.
2. Luke 9:58 - In a similar fashion, Jesus, came to earth and stayed true to God and He taught His followers to do the same. And, He taught believers who stay true to God will have the promise of our homeland, heaven. Jesus, too, willingly lived humbly without luxury in a foreign land.

Third Point – Prophets to Israel

A prophet is simply a messenger of God. God sent messengers to both Israel and Judah before they were taken into exile. They spoke of judgment in addition to hope. Right now, we are going to look at the prophets sent to the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

As mentioned before, God sent two prophets to Israel to warn the Israelites of judgment before they were taken into exile.

SLIDE: These prophets to Israel are known as pre-exilic prophets: Amos and Hosea. They are called pre-exilic simply because they prophesied BEFORE the exile. Both prophets warned of a foreign dispersion if they turned from God. Again, after this scattering of people, this nation of people never emerged again in world history.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Unfaithful

Hosea 1:2; 1 Corinthians 1:9 - Hosea had a wife named Gomer who was unfaithful to him just as Israel was unfaithful to God. God led Hosea to take her back and restore her, just as Jesus did. Hosea's life was a picture of God's faithful love for His people Israel, a foreshadowing of the coming redeemer, Jesus.

Fourth Point – Prophets to Judah

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

EXILE

In the same way that God warned the Northern Kingdom of judgment, God in His grace sent prophets to Judah as well. Like in Israel, He sent prophets before the exile occurred, with the message of REPENT, RETURN TO GOD and a warning of coming judgment.

SLIDE: Pre-exilic prophets to Judah: Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk and Jeremiah

While the captives were in exile, God provided prophets to encourage them to stay faithful to God in a foreign land and to remind them that they would one day return home.

SLIDE: Exilic prophets to Judah: Lamentations (Written by Jeremiah), Ezekiel, Daniel

These prophets were called exilic because they prophesied to the people while they were in exile.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Hope

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 - The prophets warned of judgment for sin and that God would have to deal with sin. When sin is dealt with, the barrier is removed between us and God and there we find great hope. The people were encouraged to stay faithful to God while in exile. The prophets' message was one that the Messiah would fulfill perfectly. Jesus is faithful and is our HOPE for reconciliation with God the Father.

It was during this time in exile that Daniel was thrown into the lion's den for praying to his God. When the lion's mouths were kept shut and Daniel was saved, Daniel's God was made known as mighty.

It was also during this time that Daniel's friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship anyone other than God and they were thrown into a fiery furnace. Again, God saved them, not a hair on their heads were scorched. And God was again made famous in all the land.

I wanted to mention here that there are three men who have books in the Bible who served as prophets to people other than the Israelites, they were:

SLIDE: Other Prophets:
Prophet to the Edomites: Obadiah
Prophets to the Ninevites (Nineveh was the capital of Assyria): Jonah and Nahum

Now, Jeremiah the prophet had prophesied that the people would be in captivity for 70 years and released by a King named Cyrus.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

EXILE

God provided prophets for after the exile as well and we will talk about them in the next session.

The world leadership changed again when the Babylonians were conquered by the Persians, and the Persian King was Cyrus. True to prophecy, not only did Cyrus allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem to reestablish their temple and religious practices, he funded it.

This concludes the era called Exile. Just as a reminder, the key sentence was: God rightly judged Israel and Judah, who were led by mostly unrighteous kings, by sending them into exile.

The four key points were:

1. Northern Kingdom (Israel)
2. Southern Kingdom (Judah)
3. Prophets to Israel
4. Prophets to Judah

RETELL

ASK your group to break up into groups of two or three and spend some time retelling the information they have just learned. Spend about eight minutes on this segment depending on the number of people you have in your group. Again, use this time to interact with your participants.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

RETURN



SCRIPT FOR RETURN

Welcome/Prayer:

PRAY

SLIDE: Return

SLIDE: Key Sentence: The Hebrew people were released from exile, and some returned to rebuild Jerusalem while they waited for the coming Messiah.

The four key points:

1. Zerubbabel (temple)
2. Ezra (people)
3. Nehemiah (wall)
4. Between the Testaments

Now, just as the prophets had said, King Cyrus of Persia allowed some of the Hebrew people to return to Jerusalem. And just as the people were taken into captivity in three waves, they would also return in three waves.

First Point – Zerubbabel (temple)

SLIDE: The first group to return in approximately 538 BC and was led by Zerubbabel, the head of the tribe of Judah at the time. He took approximately 50,000 people back to Jerusalem with him. Zerubbabel's primary job upon return to Jerusalem was to rebuild the temple of God. He started that process but there was opposition from the people already living in the land and the building of the temple stopped for 16 years.

SLIDE: God sent two post-exilic prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, to tell him to complete the temple. These prophets were post-exilic because they came after the exile. The prophets reminded him of the importance of rebuilding the temple of God. With that reminder and encouragement, Zerubbabel and his people did get back to work and finished the temple.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - Presence of God

Isaiah 7:14; John 1:14 - The temple is the place where the presence of God dwelled. It points toward a time when Jesus, God in the flesh, would literally be present with His people.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

RETURN

Second Point – Ezra (people)

SLIDE: The next group to return to Jerusalem was led by Ezra in 458 BC. Ezra was a priest and a scribe. The people had been out of Israel for over 70 years, and they did not know how to worship God or what temple worship looked like. **Ezra's job was to reteach the people about spiritual things and sacrificial worship.** Scripture tells us that "...Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel." (Ezra 7:10)

He restored the people and the priesthood, the ones who cared for the temple.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - Substitutionary Sacrifice

Leviticus 1:3-5; Romans 8:1-4 - The entire sacrificial worship was based on a substitutionary sacrifice. An innocent animal dying in place of a sinful person. This points to Jesus, who is sinless, dying for sinful people.

Third Point – Nehemiah (wall)

SLIDE: The third wave of people returned to Jerusalem in 445 BC under the leadership of Nehemiah. Nehemiah was in a trusted position with Artaxerxes, the king of Persia, when he learned that his people who had returned to Judah were in distress because of the broken walls.

Now, **Nehemiah asked the Persian king for permission to return and rebuild the wall around Jerusalem,** and it was granted.

At this point, the temple had been rebuilt and the people were taught how to worship God in the temple. However, Jerusalem was still not protected by a city wall. This was a big deal because fortified walls and gates protected God's people. The gates and walls would guard what would come in and go out. It was a way to protect God's people from harm and to keep His people pure in heart. It was also a sign of strength and dignity.

Once Nehemiah returned, he surveyed the damage and strategized on how to best rebuild. I love the strategy that Nehemiah chose. He rallied the people, and they committed themselves to the common good of the city. The priests were assigned certain gates and they worked together, each person assigned a portion of the wall. Many were asked to repair and build the portion of the wall closest to their own home. With each doing his part, in spite of continued opposition, the wall was miraculously rebuilt in just 52 days.

Now the temple was rebuilt, and the people were retaught in spiritual matters, and the wall was also rebuilt. Once everything was in place, it unfortunately did not take long for the people to go back to their old ways, trusting themselves instead of God.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

RETURN

The final prophet in the Old Testament was Malachi. He was a post-exilic prophet. He told the people to return to God (3:7) and that God will restore their hearts (4:6). Some of the last words God left for His people before 400 years of silence are, "I have loved you." (1:2) This is the message of Jesus - He loves us and will restore us!

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - Continue the work

1. Nehemiah 13:6, 30-31 - Nehemiah eventually left Jerusalem to return to King Artaxerxes, King of Persia. He appointed others to continue his work after he left.
2. Mark 16:19, Matthew 28:18-20 - Just as Jesus ascended into heaven, but appointed his disciples (and us!) to tell everyone about Him so that His work would be continued after He left.

The book of Malachi concludes the Old Testament, and it will be 400 years before the New Testament begins.

Fourth Point – Between the Testaments

This 400-year time period is often referred to as "between the testaments" or the "silent years" because there is nothing recorded in scripture concerning these years, and we do not hear from prophets during this time.

However, God was still very much at work. From secular history, we know that the world leadership changed again.

The Greeks, led by Alexander the Great, defeated the Persians.

While the Greeks reigned, they unknowingly began to set the ground work for the Messiah's arrival.

The Greeks forced everyone to conform to Greek culture, which included speaking the Greek language. Once again, the people had a common language and could communicate with anyone who was under Greek rule.

The world leadership changed again when the Romans defeated the Greeks.

World Leadership - Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome

Upon taking leadership, the Romans unknowingly further prepared for the coming Messiah by creating travel and road systems throughout the land and sea that would allow for easy travel and accessibility.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

RETURN

These things would ultimately be helpful when the Messiah arrived: the message could be understood from a common language, and the people could travel about easily, spreading the Word.

The Romans were harsh and oppressive, but so were the political and religious leaders of that time.

The political leaders during this time were the Maccabees and the Zealots.

The religious leaders were the Pharisees and Sadducees. They put many unnecessary rules and regulations on their people.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - Prepare the way

Jeremiah 29:11 - The military, political, and religious leaders of the time unknowingly prepared the way for the Messiah.

The people were oppressed and were looking for the Promised Messiah. The Old Testament ends with the high hope of redemption that the arrival of the Messiah would bring.

We have just moved through the entire Old Testament!

This concludes the era called Return. Just as a reminder, the key sentence was: The Hebrew people were released from exile, and some returned to rebuild Jerusalem while they waited for the coming Messiah.

The four key points were:

1. Zerubbabel (temple)
2. Ezra (people)
3. Nehemiah (wall)
4. Between the Testaments

RETELL

ASK your group to break up into groups of two or three and spend some time retelling the information they have just learned. Spend about eight minutes on this segment depending on the number of people you have in your group. Again, use this time to interact with your participants.

HOMEWORK: Challenge the group to go home this week and practice retelling these eras to someone else.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

KEYS TO HELP YOU TEACH

1. Some of the notes reflect the personal background of the author. We included these in the script to follow along with the videos. Feel free to substitute your own personal stories or comments when applicable.
2. Words in **BOLD** are action words for you. For example, if the bolded word says “**PRAY**” that is your cue to pray. If the bolded word says “**SLIDE**” that is your cue to advance the PowerPoint slide.
3. **Green highlighted sentences and words** indicate portions that are included in the participant’s guide.
4. The **underlined, green highlighted words** are the answers to the fill-in-the-blanks.
5. Be sure to read the **green sentences** within the Overview script exactly as they are written so the participants can fill in blanks. These main sentences will help piece the storyline together.
6. **Gospel Connection points are highlighted in blue.** These are essential connections to show how Jesus is foreshadowed, prophesied, reflected and confirmed throughout the entirety of scripture from Genesis to Revelation. We have added a key word or phrase used to summarize each Gospel Connection section. The key word and scripture references are already listed in the participant guide, you just need to briefly touch on these points.
7. At least one Gospel Connection will be provided for you in each section with hopes of you finding many others of your own.

Instructions on workbook setup:

1. Open your book to the first era. For each era, we will use a key sentence, four key points, and the map.

We will also take time at the end of each era for you to break up into groups of 2-3 people to retell what you have learned. You will be able to use notes and help one another, but we have found that the retelling has been key in retaining the information and feeling confident to share it with others.

2. The Gospel Connection is in the center of your page. The word GOSPEL means GOOD NEWS. In our context, it refers to the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ and the implications that has on the life and eternity of those who

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

receive Jesus as Savior. In the Old Testament, we identified prophecies that foretold the coming Messiah as well as stories and people who foreshadowed the coming Christ.

In the New Testament we will be looking for Gospel Connections that confirm Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.

- a. We see that Jesus Christ is the perfect fulfillment of each prophecy spoken of the Messiah. (100% accuracy)
 - b. We see His followers as eyewitnesses who see Jesus fulfilling these prophecies and they proclaim He is indeed the Messiah.
 - c. We see God proclaiming that Jesus is His Son.
 - d. We see Jesus proclaiming He is the Son of God.
3. Where we are: The Old Testament ended with 400 years of silence called “Between the Testaments.” Even though God appeared “silent” during these 400 years, we now know that He still working and preparing the way for His coming Messiah. At this time, the Jewish people are oppressed and are looking for a Savior.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

SCRIPT FOR INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Welcome/Prayer:

PRAY

Let's get started!

SLIDE: The New Testament is made up of 27 books.

These 27 books are divided into three types of books:

1. **SLIDE:** Historic
2. **SLIDE:** Epistles/Letters
3. **SLIDE:** Prophetic

SLIDE: Five Historic books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts

Of the Historic books the first four are called The Gospels, and they record the birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ from four different authors. Each author has a unique perspective and is writing to a different audience.

Collectively, they show us more of Jesus.

1. Matthew - was written to Jewish Audience and represents Jesus as King
2. Mark - was written to a Roman/Gentile audience and represents Jesus as Servant
3. Luke - was written to a Gentile audience and represents Jesus as man
4. John - was written to everyone/world and represents Jesus as Lord

The final historic book is the book of Acts -

5. Acts - was written by Luke and picks up where the Gospels leave off. The book of Acts records the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the founding of the early church, and the spread of its message.

SLIDE: 21 Epistles/Letters

In the 21 Epistles/Letters, the first 13 books (from Romans to Philemon) are referred to as the Pauline Epistles because they were written by Paul.

The next eight books (Hebrews to Jude) are referred to as General Epistles because they were addressing more of a general audience rather than individual persons or congregations as is the case with the Pauline Epistles.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

SLIDE: One Prophetic Book: Revelation

The final book of the Bible is the Prophetic book of Revelation. It teaches what will take place in the future and of Christ's second coming when He returns to earth again. We have seen Him in the gospels as a suffering servant and in Revelation, we will see Him as judge, warrior, and CONQUERING KING.

SLIDE: Map pointing out the geography of New Testament events.

Let's start by pointing out the bodies of water as anchor points for the land's geography since these do not change: Mediterranean Sea, Sea of Galilee (larger body of water at the north end of the map), Jordan River, and Dead Sea (larger body of water at the south end of the map.)

In order to learn the New Testament overview as simply as possible, we are going to study the storyline of the New Testament by breaking it into six different eras or time periods.

SLIDE: The six eras of the New Testament are Jesus' Early Years, Jesus' Ministry, Jesus' Triumph, The Church, The Gospel Spreads, and Now and to Come.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' EARLY YEARS



SCRIPT FOR JESUS' EARLY YEARS

Welcome/Prayer:

PRAY

SLIDE: Jesus' Early Years

SLIDE: Key Sentence: Jesus, God in flesh, was born in Bethlehem as was foretold by the prophets.

The four key points:

1. Promised Birth of John the Baptist
2. Mary and Angel
3. Jesus' Birth
4. Jesus at the Temple

First Point – Promised Birth of John the Baptist

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Forerunner

Isaiah 40:3 - We see that it was prophesied that God would send a forerunner for the Messiah, one who will go before the Lord to make ready a people to be prepared for the Lord.

A priest, named Zechariah, who was upright in the sight of the God, was serving on priestly duty at the temple in Jerusalem when he was chosen by lot to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And there, an angel of the Lord named Gabriel appeared to him and told him he and his wife Elizabeth, who was barren and well along in years, would have a son. He would be called John.

John's life would be specifically purposed for making a way for the Messiah. (Luke 1:76-77)

When his time of service was over, Zechariah left Jerusalem and went back to his home in Hebron (heb-ron), in the Judean Hill Country. Once home, Elizabeth became pregnant.

Elizabeth had a young relative named Mary. Mary was highly favored by God.

Second Point – Mary and the Angel: Luke 1:26-38

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' EARLY YEARS

Mary was a young girl who lived in Nazareth. She was engaged to a man named Joseph. Mary and Joseph were legally bound by the engagement but not yet living as husband and wife. Joseph and Mary were both descendants of King David.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary and told her that she would have a son. Mary asked, "How can this be since I am a virgin?"

The angel told Mary that the power of the Most High will overshadow you. The Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. You will give Him the name Jesus.

Mary's Response: "I am the Lord's Servant, may your word to me be fulfilled." Joseph learned the news that Mary was expecting a baby. Being a righteous man, he did not want to expose her to public disgrace. He planned to end the engagement or divorce her, privately.

But an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and told him to take her as his wife because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

The angel told Joseph that he should give the baby the name Jesus and He will save His people from their sins. Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - Royal Lineage

1. Jeremiah 23:5, Romans 1:3 - It is prophesied that the Messiah would be born from the family line of David. Joseph, Jesus' legal father, and his mother Mary were descendants of King David.
2. Isaiah 7:14 - The mother of Jesus was Mary, a virgin, as was prophesied 700 years before in Isaiah and she was told the child's name would be "Immanuel" which means "God with us."
3. John 1:1-14 - tells us that God is made flesh and lived among us.

We are beginning to see Old Testament prophecy fulfilled in the life of Jesus, and this is just the beginning!

Third Point – Jesus' Birth: Luke 2:1-7

SLIDE: Now Mary and Joseph are living in Nazareth - (draw attention to where Nazareth is located on map.)

The Bible tells us in Luke 2 that Caesar Augustus was the Roman leader, and he called for a census to count the people. Each person was to go to his hometown to be counted. Joseph's hometown was Bethlehem, also called the City of David, because it was King David's birthplace.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' EARLY YEARS

SLIDE: He took Mary, his fiancée who was late in her pregnancy, to Bethlehem (about 70-mile trip south of Nazareth). Here is where the time came to for the baby to be born.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Bethlehem

Micah 5:2 - Micah prophesied that this One who would be ruler...whose going forth is from everlasting...will be born in Bethlehem.

There was no room for them in any of the hotels/inns. So they took what was available, and **Jesus Christ came into the world in the humblest of circumstances.**

He was born likely in a stable where animals live because we know He was laid in a manger, where animals eat. Jesus humbled Himself to become a man and can identify with us and understand our struggles as humans.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6 - Seven-hundred years before Jesus was born Isaiah wrote, "Unto us a child is born...and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Mary and Joseph may have thought they were the only ones who were celebrating the birth of this child in that quiet place, but from scripture we learn that even the angels and the heavens and stars were rejoicing and announcing this holy baby.

There were shepherds in the fields that night who received a visit from an angel telling them this: "good news of great joy for all people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. This will be a sign, you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12)

The shepherds went and found Jesus just as it was told to them. The shepherds rejoiced, glorified and praised God.

There were also the Magi (wise men) from the east, who had seen a star in the east and had come to Jerusalem to find and worship the King of the Jews. (Matthew 2:16)

The wise men went to Jerusalem looking for Jesus. Herod the Great, who was the ruler of Judea at the time, was greatly disturbed by the news of a new king. He told the Magi to find the king and let him know where Jesus was so he could worship Him too. But his true intention was kill this child, Jesus, who threatened his throne.

The Magi found the baby and worshipped him. Having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod to reveal Jesus' location, they went another way back to their home.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' EARLY YEARS

Notice that the shepherds and the Magi came to worship Jesus. This is a picture of how Jesus is accessible to all, rich and poor, lowly and high, the near and far.

SLIDE: Joseph was warned in a dream about Herod's intention to kill Jesus, so he took Mary and Jesus to Egypt for safekeeping.

Tragically, when Herod realized the Magi were not going to tell him where Jesus was, he ordered all the baby boys under the age of two in the area of Bethlehem to be killed.

After Herod died, God called His Son out of Egypt as prophesied in Hosea 11:1.

SLIDE: Joseph, Mary and Jesus returned to Nazareth, and this is where Jesus grew up.

Little is known about Jesus' childhood years, but we do know that Joseph worked as a carpenter, and Mary had more children.

Fourth Point – Jesus at the Temple: Luke 2:41-52

We see Jesus again when He is 12 years old.

SLIDE: Every year, Jesus' family, along with many other Jewish families, would travel to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. This was an annual feast that commemorated the original Passover, as recorded in Exodus.

The original Passover occurred hundreds of years before when Moses was leading the Hebrew people out of slavery in Egypt. Pharaoh was unwilling to let the Hebrew people go, so God sent a plague after each of his denials to release God's people.

There were ten plagues in all and the final plague was what finally convinced Pharaoh to release the Hebrew people. In this plague, the angel of death passed through Egypt and every first-born son was killed unless the family obeyed God's instructions. The instructions were to kill an unblemished lamb and cover their doorpost with the blood of the lamb. If their homes were covered, the angel of death would pass over their home and their sons would be saved. Hence, the first Passover.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - Passover Lamb

This Passover Lamb foreshadowed a coming, sinless lamb of God (as Jesus was called), whose blood would permanently cover sin and save us.

1 Corinthians 5:7 - tells us Christ is our Passover Lamb...

Here was Jesus, a 12-year-old boy joining thousands of people to celebrate the Passover, which is simply a dress rehearsal for the Passover in the future where Jesus Himself will be the Passover Lamb.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' EARLY YEARS

When the Passover celebration was over, the group of family and friends started back home. One day into the trip, Mary and Joseph discovered that Jesus was not with them. Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem searching for Him and after three days, Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple.

Jesus seemed surprised that they didn't know to look for Him in "His Father's House." The temple was the dwelling place of God on earth, so it was natural for Jesus to be in the Temple, with His Father.

We see in Scripture Jesus was obedient to His parents, and returned home with them. He grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:52)

This concludes the era called Jesus' Early Years. Just as a reminder, the key sentence was: Jesus, God in flesh, was born in Bethlehem as was foretold by the prophets.

The four key points were:

1. Promised Birth of John the Baptist
2. Mary and Angel
3. Jesus' Birth
4. Jesus at the Temple

RETELL

ASK your group to break up into smaller groups of two or three people and spend some time retelling the information they have just learned. Spend about eight minutes on this segment depending on the number of people you have in your group.

As the teacher, this is a good time to interact directly with your

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' MINISTRY



SCRIPT FOR JESUS' MINISTRY

Welcome/Prayer:

PRAY

SLIDE: Jesus' Ministry

SLIDE: Key Sentence: *At age 30, Jesus began His ministry and fulfilled God's promise of bringing hope to our broken world.*

The four key points:

1. John Prepares the Way for the Lord
2. Baptism of Jesus
3. Temptation of Jesus
4. Teaching/Miracles

First Point – John Prepares the Way for the Lord: Luke 3:1-18

After many years, we see John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, again. Remember he was born with a specific purpose, to prepare the way for the Lord.

He is grown and ministering to people by preaching repentance, being cleansed of sin, and baptizing them because something big is about to happen. John the Baptist's job was to point people to Jesus. He helped them prepare their hearts by telling them to repent of their sin, and that Jesus would take away their sin. Once their hearts had repented, they were ready to receive Jesus.

Because of his teaching, many people from the Judean countryside and Jerusalem confessed their sins and were baptized in the Jordan River.

John, the baptizer, had been preaching repentance and had followers of his own. Many wondered if he himself was the Messiah. He freely confessed he was not the Christ. And he continually pointed to the One who would come, one whose sandals he was unworthy to untie.

John told the people that he would baptize with water, but One was coming who was more powerful and would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Proclamation

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' MINISTRY

Isaiah 40:3 - John is the fulfillment of Isaiah 40:3 "a voice calling to make straight the way for the Lord." Thus pointing to Jesus as Lord.

Second Point – Baptism of Jesus: Luke 3:21-22

SLIDE: Then Jesus, who was 30 years old at this time, went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John.

As Jesus came up out of the water, heaven was opened and the Spirit of God descended like a dove and God's voice from heaven proclaimed, "This is My Son in whom I am well pleased." This will lead us into our Gospel Connection.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - God's approval

Luke 3:21-22 - Here we see the fullness of God in three persons - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God Himself is confirming that Jesus is His Son.

This immersion in water was a public sign of belief and trust in Jesus. Baptism implies identification. The Jews being baptized were making a public proclamation that they were identifying with, and agreeing with, their need to repent and turn to God, and that they would continue to follow Jesus in their lives.

We know that Jesus did not sin - His baptism identified Him as the Christ through confirmation of God the Father and the Holy Spirit. It was an agreement with John's message of repentance and living right before God. This was a public proclamation, and this was the beginning of His public ministry as He submitted Himself to the role of Savior.

In John 3:30, John the Baptist humbly tells his own disciples that Jesus would increase and he (John) would decrease.

Third Point – Temptation of Jesus: Luke 4:1-13

SLIDE: Immediately following His baptism, Jesus, who was filled with the Holy Spirit, was led (by the Spirit) to the desert to be tempted by Satan. While in the desert, He fasted, or abstained from food, for 40 days.

In the Bible, the number 40 is often associated with testing/suffering. Some examples are Noah and the flood - it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Also, Joshua sent the spies into the Promised Land to see if it was truly flowing with milk and honey, they were there for 40 days. Unbelieving Israelites, who thought the giant men in the Promised Land were too much for God's people, wandered in the desert for 40 years.

So Jesus being in the desert for 40 days is significant – during this time, Satan tempted Jesus in some of the same ways Satan tempts us today. (Luke 4)

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' MINISTRY

1. **Physical Comfort** - We know Jesus is hungry, as He had been fasting for 40 days. Satan came and tempted Jesus in His weakness with food, a physical comfort. Satan said, "Turn this stone to bread" and Jesus' response from scripture was "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."
2. **Power and Success** - Next, Satan attempted to distract Jesus by taking Him to the highest point of the temple. Satan told Him to prove to all who He really was - "If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down" - and scripture says, "He will command His angels concerning You and they will lift You up in their hands and You will not strike Your foot against a stone..." But Jesus responded, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."
3. **Worldly Influence/Self-Reliance** - Finally, Satan offered Jesus dominion and power over all earthly kingdoms. This would have allowed Jesus to rule while bypassing His suffering and dying for us. All Jesus would have needed to do was bow down and worship Satan. Jesus responded: "Away from me Satan! For it is written to worship the Lord your God and serve Him only." With that, Satan left Him, and the angels attended to Him.

Jesus' temptation was another way that He identified with us. He also showed us how to overcome temptation. **Jesus teaches us to fight temptation with the sword of the Word of God.** (Ephesians 6:17) Please note, Jesus used the Word of God to fight with, and so must we.

His Word trumps temptation because it carries God's authority. Jesus modeled for us how to be victorious.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Victory

Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21 - Jesus was tempted as Adam was, but Jesus did not fail. Therefore, Jesus is sometimes referred to the Better Adam or the true Adam. He did what man could not do.

God's beloved Israel was tempted in the desert. They grumbled and disobeyed God. However, when Jesus was tempted in the desert, He was victorious over temptation. What they could not do for themselves, He did perfectly on their behalf.

After his victory over the devil, Jesus began to recruit disciples and they journeyed north to the land of Galilee.

Fourth Point – Teaching/Miracles

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' MINISTRY

Jesus went on to teach the people and perform miracles, but He did not do it alone. Jesus recruited 12 followers that He said would become “fishers of men.” These were known as His disciples.

SLIDE: The 12 Disciples were: Andrew, Bartholomew or Nathanael, James the Elder, James the Lesser or Younger, John, Judas, Jude or Thaddeus, Matthew or Levi, Peter or Simon Peter, Philip, Simon the Zealot, and Thomas.

Jesus spent most of His time with 12 common men we know as the disciples. Jesus invested His life in them, He invested truth about His Father, God, and He did this in the context of a relationship. He knew they were going to be the foundation stones of the future church.

SLIDE: We see the shaded areas where Jesus and His disciples traveled and ministered in the regions of Galilee, Samaria, Judea, and Perea on the eastern side of the Jordan River.

Jesus' ministry began at age 30, and Jesus was crucified at age 33. During His three-year ministry, Jesus and His disciples traveled through these regions numerous times. Jesus taught people by reading from the Old Testament scriptures (Jews were familiar with the Old Testament) or by using parables (for Gentiles).

A parable is a simple story that illustrates a spiritual lesson. Jesus used illustrations that the people were familiar with, such as teaching from a vineyard where He taught that He is the vine and we are the branches. And we must be connected to Him in order to live and bear fruit. The people could clearly see the need for the branch to be connected to the vine for life and abundance. They also saw what He was saying about their need for Him. He taught, as He went, in synagogues, and on mountainsides, and in homes.

Jesus spoke with authority as He taught, and many people came to know God through Jesus' teachings. He also performed miracles, and this confirmed that He truly was the Messiah.

These miracles were supernatural events that showed Jesus' compassion, power, and authority as Messiah.

Jesus' teachings and miracles ALWAYS pointed to God the Father. In His miracles, we saw Jesus with compassion, authority and power that demonstrated He was the Christ. Jesus showed He was indeed the Messiah by being the fulfillment of prophecy.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Miracles

Isaiah 35:5-6 - Here Isaiah prophesies of the coming Messiah, “The eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped, then the lame will leap like a deer and the mute tongue shout for joy.”

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' MINISTRY

We are going to look at a few of the many miracles and where they took place.

SLIDE: Let's start by identifying Capernaum - (Ca-fern-EH-um) - This was Jesus' home base during His ministry years and was in the region of Galilee.

SLIDE: His first miracle occurred in Cana - put a box around Cana (KAY-nah). Jesus and His disciples were at a wedding, and the hosts of the wedding ran out of wine. Jesus felt compassion for the hosts of the wedding. He had the servants fill barrels with water and He turned the water into wine - fine wine. This was the first recorded miracle that the disciples witnessed and their faith in Jesus grew.

SLIDE: Put a box around the town of Bethsaida (John 6:5). One of the most well-known miracles was when Jesus fed the 5,000. When Jesus saw the large crowd, He had compassion on them and healed their sick. He wanted to feed them, and the disciples brought Jesus all they could find which was five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus took these and looked up to heaven, gave thanks to God the Father, and broke the bread. The 5,000 men (and families) were fed and satisfied with food left over. Jesus is powerful and He is not only sufficient, He is more than enough. When the people are physically hungry again, He tells them "I am the Bread of Life," Our one TRUE source of life. The people will get physically hungry over and over again, but Jesus will continually satisfy their spiritual hunger as their Bread of Life. (John 6:35)

SLIDE: Put a box around Jericho .(Luke 18:35) As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When the man heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. The people in the crowd told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." The blind man called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied. Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, and praised God. The man was not only given physical sight, he was also given spiritual sight. Again, the miracles Jesus performed authenticated that He was truly God, and that He was powerful and compassionate.

This concludes the era called Jesus' Ministry. Just as a reminder, the key sentence was: At age 30, Jesus began His ministry and fulfilled God's promise of bringing hope to our broken world.

The four keys points were:

1. John Prepares the Way for the Lord
2. Baptism of Jesus
3. Temptation of Jesus
4. Teaching/Miracles

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' MINISTRY

RETELL

ASK your group to break up into groups of two or three and spend some time retelling the information they have just learned. Spend about eight minutes on this segment depending on the number of people you have in your group. Again, use this time to interact with your participants.

HOMEWORK: Challenge the group to go home this week and practice retelling these eras to someone else.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' TRIUMPH



SCRIPT FOR JESUS' TRIUMPH

Welcome/Prayer:

PRAY

SLIDE: Jesus' Triumph

SLIDE: Key Sentence: Jesus became the fulfillment of the Passover Lamb in His death, burial and resurrection.

The four key points:

1. Last Supper
2. Death/Burial/Resurrection
3. Post Resurrection Appearances
4. Ascension

Background information: Jesus and the disciples were traveling to Jerusalem to celebrate what would be Jesus' last Passover.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Fulfillment

Zechariah 9:9 - In fulfillment of prophecy Jesus entered Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey the week of Passover. This signified Jesus' humility. He came into Jerusalem as a humble servant. This is called the Triumphant Entry.

Because many believed that Jesus was the Messiah and followed Him, the religious leaders were jealous and scared. The chief priests and elders developed a plot to kill Jesus.

Judas, one of Jesus' 12 disciples went to the chief priests and asked what they would pay him to hand over Jesus to them. The priests gave him 30 silver coins, which was the price of a slave, which fulfills the prophecy in Zechariah 11:12. Judas began to look for a time to hand Jesus over to them, betraying Christ.

First Point – Last Supper: Luke 22:14-22

Jesus was going to celebrate the Passover dinner or His Last Supper with His disciples. Jesus sent Peter and John ahead to prepare for them, and they prepared a place in the upper room of a home.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' TRIUMPH

Jesus and His disciples reclined at the table and shared a meal. This meal was important to Jesus because He wanted to be with His beloved disciples on this night. During this meal, He told them that:

1. His appointed time had come
2. One would betray Him
3. The others would scatter
4. He would be going away to a place they could not go (John 13:33), but someday they would follow Him there (John 13:36)
5. He told Peter that he would deny knowing Jesus three times before morning
6. He commanded them to love one another (John 13:34)

Jesus took bread, gave thanks, then broke the bread, and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take and eat, this is my body."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks and then offered the cup to His disciples, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood ... which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28)

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Communion

1. Exodus 12:34 - This is the foreshadowing of what was imminent - Jesus' body would be broken and His blood spilled. The wine they drank was to remind them of the lamb's blood that saved the people of God in Egypt from slavery. The bread was unleavened (leaven represents sin) with piercings and stripes in it. This is a picture of Jesus with no sin, being pierced, and whipped as He delivered us from slavery to sin.
2. John 3:16 - He willingly suffered and died for us because He loved us. We are asked to remember this sacrifice even now through participating in Holy Communion.

SLIDE: After dinner, Jesus and His disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, where He told the disciples to sit while He went to pray. Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him and went to pray. His soul was overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. His sweat was like blood.

Jesus asked God three times for the cup of suffering to pass by Him if possible - but not His will but God's will.

Following His own desires would allow Him to avoid the immediate suffering, but obeying God's will would accomplish eternal salvation for His beloved people.

After He prayed, a crowd approached and Jesus asked, "Who do you seek?" They responded, "Jesus of Nazareth" and Jesus said, "I am He."

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' TRIUMPH

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - I AM

1. Exodus 3:14 - In our English translation this sentence reads, "I am He". In the original language (Greek), it reads, "I AM". This is linked back to Moses, "What if they ask your name, what shall I tell them?" God said, "Tell them 'I AM' has sent me to you."
2. Psalm 41:9 - Judas came to Jesus and kissed Him, which identified Jesus to the soldiers, thus fulfilling prophecy that Jesus would be betrayed by a friend.

Jesus was arrested and taken to trial that night. The disciples became afraid and scattered.

This was the fulfillment of a prophesy in Zechariah 13:7.

During this night, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, just as Jesus said he would do.

Jesus was taken before the chief priest and the Sanhedrin (ruling council of the Jews). They falsely testified against Jesus, and Jesus remained silent and did not answer them. Finally, the high priest asked Jesus, "Are you the Christ?" to which He responded, "I AM." The high priest called Jesus' response blasphemy because a mere man was claiming to be God. This is a fulfillment of Isaiah 53:7 and Matthew 26:63.

Because the Jewish courts could not impose the death penalty, they took Jesus to Roman authorities.

Jesus was taken before Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor and later to Herod, who had jurisdiction over the area of Galilee.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Innocent

1. Luke 23:4 - Pilate and Herod, who were the authorities overseeing the trial, proclaimed Jesus innocent - they found no fault in Him. This confirmed Jesus to be the sinless, unblemished Lamb.
2. Matthew 27:12 - We even saw Judas, the betrayer, proclaim Jesus as innocent. He returned the 30 silver coins that he was paid to identify Jesus. And he said, "I have sinned, for I have betrayed innocent blood."

But Pilate feared the people and longed to please the crowd, so he handed Jesus over to be crucified. (Mark 15:1)

Second Point – Death/Burial/Resurrection

SLIDE: Golgotha – means "Place of the Skull", which is also translated "calvary".

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' TRIUMPH

Cross: Jesus was flogged (the soldier uses a whip with many tails to which bone and metal were tied to the ends. These sharp ends grab the skin of the back and then pulled down, tearing the skin from the back) and people insulted Him and spit on Him. It was a Roman custom to release one prisoner during Passover. Pilate offered Jesus as the one to be released, but the people refused and said **CRUCIFY HIM**.

A notorious criminal named Barabbas, who was a murderer, was released instead of Jesus.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - Great Exchange

Isaiah 53:5; Luke 23:18-19 - Jesus was an innocent man who would suffer and die in the place of a sinful man.

A crown of thorns was pressed into His head. He carried His own cross until He was no longer able, and a man named Simon of Cyrene carried it the remainder of the distance for Him.

Roman crucifixion was capital punishment for slaves and criminals of the lowest order.

Jesus was hung on a cross, with nails driven into His hands and feet. Jesus was hung between two criminals as the people watched. They sneered and mocked Him. The soldiers cast lots and divided His clothes among themselves.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Scorned

1. Psalm 22:16 - One-thousand years before this, King David prophesied that a band of evil men would encircle him and pierce his hands and feet.
2. Psalm 22: 6-7 - The Messiah will be scorned and despised by people, and insulted.
3. Psalm 22:18 - Soldiers cast lots and divided His clothes.

Death: As the Jewish men in Jerusalem who were celebrating Passover were taking their unblemished lambs and binding them for sacrifice, the REAL Passover Lamb, JESUS CHRIST, who was bound to the cross, was speaking some of His last words from the cross...He asked John to take care of His mother, Mary, and He asked God to forgive the people because they did not know what they were doing.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Forsaken

Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46 - And as the sin of the world fell on Jesus, there was an agonizing spiritual separation between God the Father and God the Son. This was foreshadowed by David as both he and Jesus cried out, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?"

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' TRIUMPH

Scripture tells us that Jesus died in the ninth hour, which was at 3:00 pm. This is the time that the priests were in the temple killing the lambs. He gave up His spirit to His Father saying, "It is finished."

The earth quaked, and rocks split.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Eyewitness

Matthew 27:54 - Centurion and those guarding saw this and were terrified and said, "Surely He was the Son of God."

The work He had been sent to do was complete. The debt we owe for sin was now paid in full. The one who knew no sin had become sin for us. Our sin died on the cross with Him - God's amazing grace.

As He breathed His last breath, the curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom. This curtain divided the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies where God's presence remained. When it was torn in two, it signified that NOW man had direct access to God due to the reconciling work accomplished by Jesus.

Burial: Joseph, a wealthy man from Arimathea, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. He took Jesus from the cross and wrapped His body in linen cloth. Jesus was placed in a tomb cut in rock, in which no one had been laid before.

Jesus was in the tomb for three days...

Resurrection: On the first day of the week (Sunday), the women took spices to the tomb. They found the stone had been rolled away and the body of Jesus was not there. Two angels appeared and said, Jesus has risen! "He is not here, He has risen!" (Luke 24:6)

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Resurrection

Matthew 24:7 - The angel said to them - "Remember how He told you while He was still in Galilee 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'"

Then they remembered His words and they ran to tell the others what had happened.

Jesus was victorious over death. Because He lives, we know that we will live eternally too.

SLIDE: READ from Bible Isaiah 53:2-12

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Prophecy

Isaiah 53:2-12 - Prophecy from this passage is unmistakably pointing to Jesus.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' TRIUMPH

Third Point - Post Resurrection Appearances: Luke 24:13-49

The Bible records eleven post-resurrection appearances by Jesus. His post-resurrection appearances confirmed He was dead and rose again fully ALIVE! He appeared to Mary, James, Peter, the disciples, and to over 500 people. But today, we are going to talk specifically about two of those appearances.

1. Jesus appeared to two travelers on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. When Jesus asked what they were talking about they were kept from recognizing Him and they said, "Don't you know what has happened?" "Jesus of Nazareth was a prophet and was powerful in word and deed before God and all people. The chief priests and rulers handed Him over to be crucified. But we had hoped He would be the One who was going to redeem Israel. And what's more, on the third day He rose from the grave!"

Then Jesus reminded them what the prophets said about the Christ, that he would have to suffer these things. Ultimately, they recognized Him as Jesus. This was taken from Luke 24:17-27.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Immanuel

Isaiah 7:14; Luke 24:27 - Beginning with Moses, and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself. Jesus proclaimed He is the Christ; Immanuel, God with us.

2. The next post-resurrection appearance we will talk about is at the Ascension on Mt. of Olives which takes us to the last point.

Fourth Point – Ascension

Forty days after He was resurrected He stood on the Mount of Olives.

SLIDE: The Mount of Olives is where Jesus told His disciples to meet Him. He said in Acts 1:8, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be My witnesses (person who gives testimony or evidence of it) in Jerusalem (home), in all Judea (region), and Samaria (region north/rejected people), and to the ends of the earth."

We will be referring to Acts 1:8 often.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Ascension

Acts 1:11 - Eyewitness Account - Jesus told the disciples to wait to receive the power of the Holy Spirit that would come to them. Then He stood on the Mount of Olives in

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

JESUS' TRIUMPH

Jerusalem and ascended, fully alive, before their very eyes, to His Father in heaven and sat at the right hand of God.

As they were looking in the sky, an angel appeared to them and asked them why they were looking into the sky. The angel then said, “This same Jesus who was taken into Heaven will come again in the same way you have seen Him go. He will return.”

The angels were proclaiming that ONE DAY JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN!

The people worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. They praised God and they waited, as Jesus had said, for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would give them the power they needed to be his witnesses, and this is still true for us today.

This concludes the era called Jesus' Triumph. Just as a reminder, the key sentence was: Jesus became the fulfillment of the Passover Lamb in His death, burial and resurrection.

The four key points were:

1. Last Supper
2. Death/Burial/Resurrection
3. Post Resurrection Appearances
4. Ascension

RETELL

ASK your group to break up into groups of two or three and spend some time retelling the information they have just learned. Spend about eight minutes on this segment depending on the number of people you have in your group. Again, use this time to interact with your participants.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

THE CHURCH



SCRIPT FOR THE CHURCH

Welcome/Prayer:

PRAY

SLIDE: The Church

SLIDE: Key Sentence: *As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came to empower His people and unite the church.*

The four key points:

1. Pentecost
2. Early Church and Growth
3. Persecution and Scattering
4. Peter's Ministry

To recap what has just happened: Jesus was crucified, He died and was buried, and then three days later, He rose again and walked the earth for 40 days making eleven post-resurrection appearances. He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift His Father promised, the counselor, who we know is the Holy Spirit. Then He ascended, fully alive, into Heaven as they watched.

First Point - Pentecost

Now, ten days later (the 50th day after Jesus rose from the grave – which is why we call it Pentecost – the Greek word for Pentecost means “fifty”), 120 believers were gathered together when suddenly there was a sound like the blowing of a violent wind that came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them, and *they were filled with the HOLY SPIRIT and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.*

Throughout Scripture fire is often associated with the presence of God and His holiness. (Isaiah 10:7; Exodus 3:2; Psalm 97:3; Malachi 3:2)

Looking back at the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was active. We saw times where the Holy Spirit filled someone for a task or a time. But it is here, at Pentecost, that *we see for the first time the Holy Spirit indwelled in believers permanently. (John 14:16-17)*

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

THE CHURCH

There were God-fearing Jews in Jerusalem from every nation. When they heard about this, they were bewildered because each heard them speaking in his own language.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Holy Spirit

Joel 2:28-32 - This outpouring of the Spirit was prophesied over 800 years before, by the Prophet Joel who prophesied saying, "I will pour out My Spirit on all people...even on My servants, both men and women, I will pour My Spirit in those days..."

When the Spirit of God indwells a person, he or she is changed.

Peter is an example of a notably changed life once the Spirit indwelt him.

Looking back at the Last Supper, Jesus said Peter would deny knowing Him three times; however, it was Peter who insisted that he would never disown Jesus even unto death. That is why it's so surprising that Peter's first denial that night was to a young servant girl - the least threatening person imaginable. His heart was willing to be faithful, but his flesh was weak.

Fast forward to the day of Pentecost, we see this same Peter telling a crowd that this Jesus that they killed is Christ, the Messiah.

The people were cut to the heart by his message, they repented and were baptized. Three-thousand were added to their number that day.

In Acts 1:8 we are reminded that Jesus was foretelling His followers that they would be His witnesses starting in Jerusalem. In fact, Pentecost signals the birth of the Church. At this time, we are seeing the birth of the Church in Jerusalem led by Peter, composed of followers of Jesus. We will talk more about Peter and his ministry shortly.

Many Biblical scholars refer to Pentecost as the reversal of Babel. God did the opposite of what He did at the tower of Babel. If you recall, after Noah and his family exited the ark, God told them to spread out and multiply. They did not spread out and the people, cooperating with one another through a shared language, began building a tower that would bring glory to themselves, not to God. So God confused their languages to halt their rebellion and building. They were no longer able to understand one another.

In contrast, at Pentecost, God allowed the people, with different languages, to understand each other. They needed to work together to build something of great importance - God's Church. This time, the building would be by the power of God, for the glory of GOD, not man. We see Jesus here as Redeemer and the One who restores.

Soon after the 3,000 were converted, we see that Peter (filled with the Holy Spirit) spoke boldly to the Sanhedrin, who were religious leaders. They told Peter and the apostles not

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

THE CHURCH

to teach the name of Jesus anymore to which they responded, "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

The Holy Spirit empowered Peter to boldly proclaim the truth of Jesus.

Second Point – Early Church

Now every day the people of God met in the temple courts. They shared everything; they ate together with glad and sincere hearts. They praised God, and enjoyed the favor of all people.

The Apostles taught them, prayed, and many miracles were performed, pointing the people to God. The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

As the church grew, they needed more leadership to help care for the needs of the people. So the 12 disciples (Judas was dead at this point, but we see in Acts 1:26 that Matthias took his place) decided to choose men among them, "full of the Spirit and wisdom". These men were responsible for widow care and food distribution. Now, the apostles could continue to focus on the spiritual well-being of the people. They choose seven men. A man named Stephen was among them.

Stephen, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people, but opposition arose. He was falsely accused of blasphemy, seized and he was brought before the Sanhedrin.

He responded to this opposition with a speech that was truthful, but not well-received. Among other things, Stephen told the people they were "stiff-necked... and had killed the Righteous One." The people were furious at this, and scripture says they gnashed their teeth at him.

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and said, "Look! I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

With that they rushed toward him, dragged him out of the city and stoned him. Stephen was the first martyr.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Persecution

Psalm 119:86 - It was foretold that we would be persecuted without cause.

It is here in scripture we are introduced to a man named Saul. He was the one giving approval to the death of Stephen. Saul was from Tarsus and from a devout Jewish family. He was a well-educated, zealous Pharisee (legalistic religious leader).

He felt it was his righteous duty to aggressively persecute the newly established Church.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

THE CHURCH

We will talk more about Saul in a minute.

Third Point - Persecution and Scattering

Immediately following Stephen's murder, a great persecution arose.

With the exception of the 12 disciples, all of the other believers fled for their lives and went in different directions, some to Judea, some to Samaria, and other places as well.

SLIDE: (Judea and Samaria)

Wherever they went they were proclaiming the good news, and the number of believers grew.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - Church Growth

1. Acts 1:8 - Jesus told the disciples they would take His Word to Jerusalem and then to Judea and Samaria.
2. Genesis 50:20 - God used this persecution to spread the gospel. What man intended for harm, God used for good.

But now, instead of adding to the number of believers, we read that "the Word of God grew and was multiplied". (Acts 9:3; 12:24)

Fourth Point – Peter's Ministry: Acts 8:4

We have already talked about how the Holy Spirit changed Peter, but now we will focus on the impact of His ministry.

Peter is one of the original disciples of Jesus. He is frequently portrayed as being impulsive but deeply devoted to Jesus. He was originally named Simon, and was an ordinary, uneducated fisherman from Galilee. Jesus would change his name from Simon to Peter which means "rock." Jesus did not name Peter for who he was, but for who Jesus knew he would become.

On the night that Jesus was arrested, Peter and the other disciples were scattered and Peter denied Jesus three times, just as Jesus said. (Matthew 26:34)

Yet after Jesus' resurrection, Jesus lovingly restored Peter. Just as Peter denied Jesus three times, Jesus asked Peter three times if Peter loved Him. When Peter answered yes, Jesus told Peter to care for His sheep - His people.

With all his faults, Peter was chosen by Jesus as a future leader of the church.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

THE CHURCH

SLIDE: In Matthew 16:18, Jesus says, "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this ROCK I will build my church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

Peter received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and he immediately began to lead the early church in Jerusalem. As the people scattered during the persecution, Peter continued to provide leadership to those who had gone to Judea and Samaria to preach the gospel there.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - Church Growth Continues

Acts 1:8 - We see here, in obedience, Jesus' followers go forth to make disciples in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria.

This concludes the era called The Church. Just as a reminder, the key sentence was: As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came to empower His people and unite the church.

The four key points were:

1. Pentecost
2. Early Church and Growth
3. Persecution and Scattering
4. Peter's Ministry

RETELL

ASK your group to break up into groups of two or three and spend some time retelling the information they have just learned. Spend about eight minutes on this segment depending on the number of people you have in your group. Again, use this time to interact with your participants.

HOMEWORK: Challenge the group to go home this week and practice retelling these eras to someone else.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

THE GOSPEL SPREADS



SCRIPT FOR THE GOSPEL SPREADS

Welcome/Prayer:

PRAY

SLIDE: The Gospel Spreads

SLIDE: Key Sentence: **The Church formed and began to fulfill Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations.**

The four key points:

1. Paul's Life/Conversion
2. Paul's Ministry
3. Paul's First/Second Journey
4. Paul's Third Journey and Imprisonment

First Point – Paul's Life/Conversion

Now we see Saul again, who will later be called Paul, who had given approval to Stephen's death. He was attempting to destroy the church by going house to house, dragging off men and women who followed Jesus, and putting them in prison.

Saul breathed out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and received permission to pursue people of THE WAY (What the Church was called then) in Damascus. If he found anyone there who believed in Jesus, he would take them to Jerusalem as a prisoner.

But things did not go exactly as planned for Saul. This is recorded in Acts 9. As he neared Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him and he fell on the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

Jesus replied saying, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with him were speechless, they heard the noise but did not see anything. Saul arose from the ground but when he opened his eyes, he could not see anything. So the men traveling with Paul led him by hand into Damascus. For three days, he was blind and did not eat or drink.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

THE GOSPEL SPREADS

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord told Ananias in a vision to go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. (Acts 9:11-12)

Ananias says, "Lord I have heard many things about this man Saul and the harm he is doing to the saints."

The Lord responded by saying, "Go! I have chosen this man to be the chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles."

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Light

Isaiah 42:5-7 - Jews will be a light to the Gentiles.

So Ananias went to the house, placed his hands on Saul, and Saul was healed and filled with the Holy Spirit. The scales fell off Saul's eyes and he could see again. He arose and was baptized, and after taking some food he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus and at once **Saul began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Christ.**

People were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the one who came to persecute and arrest believers in Jesus?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled Jews in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

Saul is who we know as the apostle Paul in the New Testament. Saul was the Hebrew name given to him by his parents. However, his Father was a Roman citizen; therefore, he inherited Roman citizenship. Saul also had the Latin name Paul. After his conversion, Saul knew he would share the gospel with the Gentiles and used his Roman name, Paul. The Gentiles were accustomed to this name. (Acts 16:37, 22:25-28).

Paul was blind and then suddenly he could see, just as we were all once blind to spiritual truth but when we encounter Jesus, we can SEE spiritual truth. This dramatic conversion experience happened to the man who wrote approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the New Testament and who took the story of Jesus to the ends of the known world.

Second Point – Paul's Ministry

Up until this point, the believers had preached the gospel (story of Jesus) only to the Jews in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. Peter led the majority of those teachings.

Paul took the story to the Gentiles, as well as the Jews, and to all the known parts of the world. (Remember a Gentile is anyone who is not a Jew).

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - Ends of the Earth

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

THE GOSPEL SPREADS

Acts 1:8 - Paul provided leadership for global ministry.

He had a simple model that he followed when he started a church:

1. He would go to a large city and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ Christ.
2. Many people would become believers.
3. He would gather these new believers into house churches.
4. He disciplined them in the faith by teaching them to submit to the Holy Spirit, be devoted to prayer, and follow the teaching of Scripture.
5. He would choose leaders from among these and train and commission them to lead the church.
6. MOST IMPORTANT - He would trust God and these new leaders to grow the church
7. Move to a new city and repeat the process

Third Point – Paul's First and Second Journey: Acts 13-14

Note: The chronology and dating of the events in Paul's life are still disputed among scholars. You may find variation with these.

TRACE ON YOUR MAP: The dotted line is Paul heading out, and the faded line is him returning.

SLIDE(s): (Cycle through cities as you are listing the names of the cities. We may not mention every stop, but we will mention the majority.)

Paul and Barnabas left from Antioch.

Antioch, Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Pisidian (Pa-si-den) Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and then back- Lystra, Iconium, Pisidian Antioch, Salamis, Antioch

(You can use your own example here):

This made me think of how we sometimes travel. We have family in Atlanta, Georgia, and also in Asheville, North Carolina. When we go see family, we stop first in Atlanta and spend time there. We then drive on to Asheville and spend time with our family there. As we are headed back towards home, the children always ask to stop back by Atlanta to see the family once more, even if it's for a short visit. Just another chance to tell them we love them and encourage one another.

Paul's letters from Romans to Philemon (Fi-LEE-mon) are arranged from the longest to shortest in the Bible - but we will look at how they fit historically into his life and ministry.

SLIDE: After the first trip, Paul writes one letter to the Galatians. (This blank is on the map of Paul's first journey in the participant book.)

Tip: After Paul's first trip he wrote one letter.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

THE GOSPEL SPREADS

Second Mission Trip: Acts 15-17

SLIDE(s): (Cycle through cities as you are listing the names of the cities)

Paul and Silas go from Jerusalem to Antioch. They left from Antioch to visit people from his first trip. His plans changed and he ended up in Greece (in the Corinth area).

This is where he traveled: Jerusalem, Antioch, Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Pisidian Antioch, Troas, Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus and Jerusalem.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Imitate

1 Corinthians 11:1 - Paul encouraged the people to imitate him as he imitated Christ.

SLIDE: During 2nd trip Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians.

Tip: During the second trip, he wrote two letters.

Fourth Point – Paul’s Third Journey and Imprisonment (sometimes referred to as the 4th journey)

Third Mission Trip: Acts 18-21

SLIDE(s): (Cycle through cities as you are listing the names of the cities)

Paul headed to Asia with his primary ministry partner, Timothy.

He went to Antioch, Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Pisidian Antioch, Ephesus, Troas Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth, Thessalonica, Philippi, Troas and Jerusalem.

SLIDE: During his third journey, he wrote 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians and Romans.

(This blank is on the map of Paul’s third journey in the participant book.)

Tip: During the third journey he wrote three letters.

Upon his return from his third journey, he was arrested on false charges which takes us to his imprisonment in Acts 22-28.

He was arrested and, because he was a Roman citizen, he appealed to Caesar in Rome.

SLIDE: (Cycle through cities as you are listing the names of the cities)

He started in Jerusalem, stopped a few places along the way and ended up in Rome, where he spent two years under house arrest.

SLIDE: During this time, he wrote four letters: Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon and Philippians. (This blank is on the map of Paul’s fourth journey in the participant book.)

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

THE GOSPEL SPREADS

The book of Acts ends with Paul in Rome under house arrest. But from his letters we can piece together the remainder of his life. Most scholars believe Paul was released from house arrest in Rome and continued to minister.

SLIDE: After his release from house arrest, he wrote 1 Timothy and Titus. (This blank is on the map of Paul's fourth journey in the participant book.) Paul was arrested again and encountered a much harsher imprisonment in Rome.

SLIDE: During this imprisonment Paul wrote his final letter: 2 Timothy.

Notice the last three letters he wrote before his death were to his personal disciples.

Although the Bible doesn't tell us how Paul died, many believe, from Christian tradition, that Paul was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Persecuted

Matthew 24:9 - "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me."

Let's end this session with Acts 1:8 again. Peter was the primary leader in taking the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. Paul was the primary leader in taking the Word of God to the ends of the known world. After the churches were established, it was the responsibility of the individuals within these churches to continue to spread the good news of Jesus.

This concludes the era called The Gospel Spreads. Just as a reminder, the key sentence was: The Church formed and began to fulfill Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations.

The four key points were:

1. Paul's Life/Conversion
2. Paul's Ministry
3. Paul's First/Second Journey
4. Paul's Third Journey and Imprisonment

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

THE GOSPEL SPREADS

RETELL

ASK your group to break up into groups of two or three and spend some time retelling the information they have just learned. Spend about eight minutes on this segment depending on the number of people you have in your group. Again, use this time to interact with your participants.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT NOW AND TO COME



SCRIPT FOR NOW AND TO COME

Welcome/Prayer:

PRAY

SLIDE: Now and to Come

SLIDE: Key Sentence: *As promised, Jesus will come again as the worthy, conquering King.*

The four key points:

1. *God's Grace*
2. *Our Mission*
3. *Perseverance*
4. *Anticipate the King's Return*

In the first three key points of this era, we are going to step away from the storyline of Scripture and have three mini lessons on the “now” in our era title. This refers to the things we experience or contribute to in the overall story of God during our lifetime. In the fourth key point, we will address the “to come” portion of the era title. At that point, we will return to the storyline of scripture and look towards Jesus' return.

First Point – God's Grace: Ephesians 2:4-10

God's grace is His unmerited, undeserved favor or blessing.

We see the first glimpse of this amazing grace in the garden of Eden. Adam and Eve, through disobedience and their desire to be self-sufficient, ushered sin into the world. The consequence of sin is death, both spiritual and physical. This sin led to a relational separation between God and man.

This grieved God because He loved humanity and longed to dwell with His people. This was a tragic time. Yet as Adam and Eve left the garden clothed in animal skin, we know the blood of an innocent animal was spilled to temporarily cover their sin and it was the HOPE of a future Redeemer whose blood would permanently cover sin.

Consequences remained, and every descendant of Adam and Eve, every person born after them, from the seed of Adam, inherited this sin nature and is therefore relationally separated from God.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT NOW AND TO COME

However, there was hope for a coming Redeemer who would finally right the wrong of sin.

This Redeemer would have to be a unique person. He would have to be:

1. Sinless (unblemished Lamb)
2. Willing to give us His perfect record in exchange for ours
3. Willing to take the punishment that we deserved

Where we stand in history, we know that this Redeemer is Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says “For it is by grace (undeserved favor, blessing), you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, (you cannot do it yourself), it is the gift of God — not by works (being moral, or a good person) so that no one can boast.”

Many believe the criteria to enter the presence of God is to be a good and moral person; or, to do enough good things to outweigh your bad things. In fact, good works are an important part of the Christian life. Once you are saved by God’s grace, good works are a natural outflow of love and gratitude for Him. BUT - works are NOT the criteria to be reconciled to God.

One of the most sobering scriptures in the Bible, in my opinion, is the following verse:

Matthew 7:21-23: “Not everyone who says Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you...’”

If works are not the criteria, what is?

John 3:16: “God so loved the world that HE gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever should believe in Him would have eternal life.”

And there is no way for you to help yourself out of this mess, regardless of how hard you try. In humility, you must believe by faith that Jesus is only one way to God, His Word is the only truth, and eternal life is found in Him and Him alone.

To believe that you are a sinner and the consequences for your sin is eternal separation from God and to receive the gift of His life for yours - this is the criteria for eternal life.

Romans 10:9 says, “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

NOW AND TO COME

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world...as an atoning sacrifice for our sins as seen in 1 John 4:9-10.

Gospel Connection: Key Phrase - The Way

John 14:6 - Jesus is the fulfillment of ALL Old Testament sacrifices. Jesus said it Himself, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me."

Once you receive His grace, John 5:24 says, "Very truly I say to you whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be judged but crossed over from death to life."

This is a picture of God's amazing grace. He is even the one who gives you the gift of believing. You can have a personal and growing relationship with God where His grace will continue to empower and strengthen you, day by day.

Jesus is the only option for saving His people, and we can freely choose Him. But once we physically die or Jesus returns - and we do not know the day or the hour of either of those events - that window for our choice is closed. He has been very patient in His love.

Second Point – Our Mission: Matthew 28:18-20

We have been saved by God's grace for a purpose. Along with the privilege of being a child of God it is our responsibility to share Christ with others.

Jesus' heart is to reach the entire world.

All authority was given to Him to decide how to best accomplish this.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Authority

Daniel 7:13-14 - Jesus holds all authority as does the son of man.

His strategy for reaching the world is shocking – the mission started with Jesus investing His life and truth in 12 men and then commissioning them to do the same. Now, over 2,000 years later, His mission continues through us to the entire world.

Matthew 28:18-20

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Four words: Go, make (disciples), baptize, and teach.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

NOW AND TO COME

One of these four verbs is an imperative, which means it is a command - **MAKE** - Circle it. What do we make? Disciples!

First of all, what is a disciple? It is simply a learner, and follower of Jesus, one who learns from Jesus how to be like Jesus. A disciple is one who worships, serves and bears witness to Jesus Christ. So, making disciples is the command in this verse.

The other three words are participles: how do you make disciples - as you go. As you go to work or school or a sporting practice or the store or to your neighbor's house. As you go about your day, look for opportunities to intentionally invest in people around you.

Baptize: This is an evangelical portion of the great commission. Tell people about Jesus, bring them into the family of believers, give them our God and a people with which to identify.

Finally, teach them all about Jesus. Always be looking for opportunities to teach about the truths of Jesus, in formal settings or casual settings; in a classroom, around a dinner table, or on a walk with your child. Here's something important to remember: your children are your primary disciples! Look for ways to teach one another about the grace and beauty of Jesus.

In Jesus' conclusion of the Great Commission He tells His disciples, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age". (Matthew 28:20) Our power for sharing the good news is that God is with us, we are not alone. His presence and power are fully available.

In conclusion: Generation after generation, the faithful have continued to obey the Great Commission and have shared the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is why you and I know Jesus! Someone told us - but it cannot stop with us. We are commanded by Jesus to continue to reach the world - starting in our own "Jerusalem" - our home, neighborhoods, towns, Judea, the marginalized in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. If this sounds overwhelming to you, remember that reaching the "ends of the earth" can look different to each person; by physically going, by praying, by supporting financially, or in many other ways. Feel free to be creative! God will provide all we need to accomplish His mission.

Third Point – Perseverance: James 1

We have been saved by grace and Jesus gave us a mission, a purpose for this life, That is great news! But, we must be mindful that we will face difficulties, hardships, and obstacles, in this broken world.

Jesus tells us this clearly in John 16:33. "In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world."

Life will be difficult, even for believers.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT NOW AND TO COME

James says that we should not see trials in the same way the rest of the world does.

Most see hard times through a temporal or temporary perspective. The here and now is the main focus, our mind is focused on what we are experiencing.

But God sees difficulties in a different light.

He is more interested in growing our everlasting character than He is interested in our temporary comfort. Therefore, God will use trials to grow our character.

James 1:2-6 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." He goes on to say that if we lack wisdom to ask Him, have faith, and He will provide it.

God allows our struggles to produce in us perseverance, wisdom and faith, and these are eternal characteristics.

He knows that this life on earth is short at best, and **He wants us to spend our earthly life living for Him and His glory, growing in depth of character each day.**

This perspective of believing that what we do today matters for eternity, is called an eternal perspective.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Incomparable

1 Peter 2:21 - This is how Jesus lived: temporary suffering did not compare to the eternal impact His death and resurrection has had.

We suffer as well; but, we suffer with the hope that God will work, even our difficult times, for good.

Just look at the events occurring in our world today. Many Christians are being persecuted and even killed for their commitment to Jesus. Peter encourages us even today in 1 Peter 3:14: "If you suffer for what is right you are blessed." We are called to persevere though hardship - and the crown of life will be given to us. (You can use your own example here) In my family we consider it an honor to represent Jesus, regardless of the cost. We often pray in our home, "Lord may we live for you each day, and be willing to die for you if necessary."

Fourth Point – Anticipate the King's Return: Revelation 20:1-6, 22:12-17

TEACHER'S SCRIPT NOW AND TO COME

We have talked about God's grace, our mission, and the call to persevere. We now return to the storyline of scripture.

This story, the Bible, has always been and forever will be, ALL about Jesus.

In the beginning, there was a promised seed or descendent that would come from Abraham who would make a way for man to have a relationship with God again. Throughout the Old Testament, we see foreshadowing of Jesus and prophecy that speaks of this anticipated Savior.

The New Testament opens with the coming of our Savior, this is Jesus' first coming to earth. Today we are looking forward to His return to earth, or His second coming. We read about this future event in Revelation, which is the final book of the Bible and the only prophetic book in the New Testament.

The book of Revelation is written by the Apostle John, who was in exile on an island called Patmos at the time.

Revelation is a further unveiling of Jesus Christ. There is quite a bit of symbolism in the book of Revelation and much debate on how to interpret Revelation.

Today, we are going to look specifically at the prophecies in Revelation that tell of Jesus' return to earth or His second coming and how it compares with Jesus' first coming to earth as a baby.

There are distinct and important differences in the first coming of Jesus and what is told of His second coming.

Jesus' first coming is a matter of historical fact and has already occurred. Jesus' second coming is a matter of prophecy and is yet to come.

From our first week together in the New Testament we know that Jesus came, for the first time, as a tiny baby in the humblest of circumstances with no fanfare. He did not draw the attention of the world. When Jesus comes for the second time, He will come as the King of kings and Lord of lords. And "every eye will see." (Revelation 1:7)

Prior to His death, He rode into Jerusalem for the Passover celebration on a donkey. This signified humility.

Next time, He will come riding on a white horse as a warrior/conqueror - to judge mankind.

During His life on earth, the government was run by men. When He returns, the entire world and the government will rest on His shoulders. He will rule!

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

NOW AND TO COME

Gospel Connection: Key Word - Throne

Isaiah 9:6-7 - ...Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever.

In His first coming, Jesus came as the Lamb of God to bring peace to the human heart, to reconcile us to God, again in humility. When Jesus comes again, He will return as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. The one rejected by men will return in power and glory. In Revelation, we see a spectacular picture of Jesus returning as our Warrior King who will judge the people of the earth and bring peace forever.

Gospel Connection: Key Word - King

1. Isaiah 33:17, 22 - Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty...the LORD is our King.
2. Jeremiah 23:5 - A King shall reign and prosper...
3. Daniel 7:14 - His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that will not be destroyed.
4. Philippians 2:9-11 - The day is coming when the whole world will see Jesus as He really is. When that happens, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. This will be a terrifying day for unbelievers and yet a glorious day for the children of God.

In Revelation 19, John tells us that he saw heaven open, and there before him was a white horse whose rider was called Faithful and True. This rider is just and He judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on His head are many crowns. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood and His name is the Word of God. (John 1:1)

The armies of heaven were following Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of His mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:11-16)

This event, His return, ushering in the ultimate time of God's Kingdom - is our hope. A kingdom where there is NO more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things will pass away. The dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. We will be His people and He will be our God.

Do you see what is happening here?

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and everything was as it should be. That perfection was lost in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned. And God began to pursue His people in order to fully redeem them one day.

Now we see this restoration - God began the pursuit of restoring His people, and now we are seeing it come to fruition.

TEACHER'S SCRIPT

NOW AND TO COME

Ultimately, the New Jerusalem, Heaven, is Eden restored.

SLIDE: READ from the Bible Revelation 22:1-7; 12,14,16-17, 20-21

The Tree of Life is eternally sustaining to those who eat from it. Because of sin, we were forced away from the Garden of Eden and the Tree of Life. Now, because of the righteousness of Christ, we are welcome to eat and receive this sustenance. We will eat from Tree of Life again!

We have seen that the Old Testament prophecies that point towards the birth and life of Jesus Christ have come to pass with 100% accuracy. Just as the prophecy of Jesus' second coming will come to pass exactly as it is written, and His Kingdom will last forever.

And, oh, what a day it will be! Come, quickly Lord Jesus! Amen and Amen. (Revelation 22:20)

This concludes the era called Now and to Come and the entire Bible Overview! Just as a reminder, the key sentence was: As promised, Jesus will come again as the worthy, conquering King.

The four key points were:

1. God's Grace
2. Our Mission
3. Perseverance
4. Anticipate the King's Return

RETELL

ASK your group to break up into groups of two or three and spend some time retelling the information they have just learned. Spend about eight minutes on this segment depending on the number of people you have in your group.

PRAY that God would use this for personal growth with Jesus and to share with others.

HOMEWORK: Share with others! Start in your own home and move out from there.