

*From the
beginning
to the End*

An Intermediate ESL Reader

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Lesson One: God Created the First People

A. Discuss the following questions before reading.

1. What does the Bible say about the beginning of the world?
2. How did God create the world?
3. After God created everything, what was it like?
4. How did God create the first people?

B. Read the following passage.

When the Lord God made the heavens and the earth, no grass or plants were growing anywhere. God had not yet sent any rain, and there was no one to work the land. But streams came up from the ground and watered the earth. The Lord God took a handful of soil and made a man. God breathed life into the man, and the man started breathing. The Lord made a garden in a place called Eden, which was in the east, and he put the man there. The Lord God placed all kinds of beautiful trees and fruit trees in the garden. Two other trees were in the middle of the garden. One of the trees gave life—the other gave the power to know the difference between right and wrong.

From Eden a river flowed out to water the garden, then it divided into four rivers. The first one is the Pishon River that flows through the land of Havilah, where pure gold, rare perfumes, and precious stones are found. The second is the Gihon River that winds through Ethiopia. The Tigris River that flows east of Assyria is the third, and the fourth is the Euphrates River.

The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it. But the Lord told him, “You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden, except the one that has the power to let you know the difference between right and wrong. If you eat any fruit from that tree, you will die before the day is over!”

The Lord God said, "It isn't good for the man to live alone. I need to make a suitable partner for him." So the Lord took some soil and made animals and birds. He brought them to the man to see what names he would give each of them. Then the man named the tame animals and the birds and the wild animals. That's how they got their names.

None of these was the right kind of partner for the man. So the Lord God made him fall into a deep sleep, and he took out one of the man's ribs. Then after closing the man's side, the Lord made a woman out of the rib. The Lord God brought her to the man, and the man exclaimed,

"Here is someone like me!

She is part of my body, my own flesh and bones.
She came from me, a man. So I will name her Woman!"

That's why a man will leave his own father and mother. He marries a woman, and the two of them become like one person. Although the man and his wife were both naked, they were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:4-25 (CEV)

C. Write T (true) or F (false) on the line next to each sentence.

1. _____ God created the man with a handful of soil.
2. _____ God put the first man in the Garden of Eden.
3. _____ God told the man to eat the fruit from all the trees.
4. _____ There were three important trees in the middle of the garden.
5. _____ The man gave names to the animals in the garden.
6. _____ The man was sad when he saw the woman.
7. _____ The man and woman were not ashamed.
8. _____ When a man marries a woman, they become one person.
9. _____ God made a woman from a handful of soil.

D. Circle the letter for the word or phrase that best defines the underlined word in the sentence.

1. The LORD God took a handful of soil and made a man.
 - a. a little dirt
 - b. much dirt
2. God breathed life into the man ...
 - a. air
 - b. ability or power to live
3. ... and the man started breathing.
 - a. put something into something else
 - b. take air into your lungs and send it out again
4. ... gave the power to know the difference between right and wrong.
 - a. a way in which two or more things are not like each other
 - b. strong feeling of love
5. I need to make a suitable partner for him.
 - a. a piece or part of something
 - b. one of two people who are married and live together
6. Although the man and his wife were both naked, they were not ashamed.
 - a. Because
 - b. in spite of the fact that
7. Although the man and his wife were both naked, they were not ashamed.
 - a. not having clothes
 - b. cold
8. Although the man and his wife were both naked, they were not ashamed.
 - a. feeling bad, embarrassed, or guilty about something
 - b. feeling that something is not usual or expected

E. Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. ____ exclaim | a. used to being with humans |
| 2. ____ suitable | b. curved bone near the lungs |
| 3. ____ tame | c. say with excitement |
| 4. ____ rib | d. but not |
| 5. ____ except | e. good, right, acceptable |

Use the words above to complete the following sentences.

1. God told the man to eat from all the trees _____ one.
2. The man gave names to the _____ animals.
3. God took a _____ from the man's side.
4. God made a _____ person to live with the man.
5. The man _____ that he liked his new partner.

F. Match the first part of the sentence with the second part that best makes a complete sentence.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Although they were naked, _____ | they were not ashamed. |
| 2. Although John was sick, | he didn't use his umbrella. |
| 3. Although it was raining, | he wanted to wear shorts. |
| 4. Although he was hungry, | he didn't go to the hospital. |
| 5. Although it was cold, | he didn't want to eat. |

H. Answer the following questions by writing complete sentences. Then discuss your answers.

1. What was the world like in the beginning?

2. What did you learn about God in this lesson?

3. What did you learn about people in this lesson?

4. What did you learn about the relationship between God and the first people in this lesson?

Lesson Two: The First People Disobeyed God

A. Discuss the following questions before reading.

1. Was the Garden of Eden a nice place to live? Who lived there?
2. In your opinion, where is the nicest place to go for vacation?
3. When you go to that nice place, are there things you can and cannot do?
4. Who decides what you can and cannot do?

B. Read the following passage.

The snake was sneakier than any of the other wild animals that the Lord God had made. One day it came to the woman and asked, “Did God tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?” The woman answered, “God said we could eat fruit from any tree in the garden, except the one in the middle. He told us not to eat fruit from that tree or even to touch it. If we do, we will die.” “No, you won’t!” the snake replied. “God understands what will happen on the day you eat fruit from that tree. You will see what you have done, and you will know the difference between right and wrong, just as God does.” The woman stared at the fruit. It looked beautiful and tasty. She wanted the wisdom that it would give her, and she ate some of the fruit. Her husband was there with her, so she gave some to him, and he ate it too. Right away they saw what they had done, and they realized they were naked. Then they sewed fig leaves together to make something to cover themselves.

Late in the afternoon a breeze began to blow, and the man and woman heard the Lord God walking in the garden. They were frightened and hid behind some trees. The Lord called out to the man and asked, “Where are you?” The man answered, “I was naked, and when I heard you walking through the garden, I was frightened and hid!” “How did you know you were naked?” God asked. “Did you eat any fruit from that tree in the middle of the garden?” “It was the woman you put here with me,” the man said. “She gave me some of the fruit, and I ate it.” The Lord God then asked the woman, “What have you done?” “The snake tricked me,” she answered. “And I ate some of that fruit.”

So the Lord God said to the snake: “Because of what you have done, you will be the only animal to suffer this curse—for as long as you live, you will crawl on your stomach and eat dirt. You and this woman will hate each other; your descendants and hers will always be enemies. One of hers will strike you on the head, and you will strike him on the heel.”

Then the Lord said to the woman, “You will suffer terribly when you give birth. But you will still desire your husband, and he will rule over you.”

The Lord said to the man, “You listened to your wife and ate fruit from that tree. And so, the ground will be under a curse because of what you did. As long as you live, you will have to struggle to grow enough food. Your food will be plants, but the ground will produce thorns and thistles. You will have to sweat to earn a living; you were made out of soil, and you will once again turn into soil.”

The man Adam named his wife Eve because she would become the mother of all who live. Then the Lord God made clothes out of animal skins for the man and his wife. The Lord said, “These people now know the difference between right and wrong, just as we do. But they must not be allowed to eat fruit from the tree that lets them live forever.” So the Lord God sent them out of the Garden of Eden, where they would have to work the ground from which the man had been made. Then God put winged creatures at the entrance to the garden and a flaming, flashing sword to guard the way to the life-giving tree.

Genesis 3:1-24 (CEV)

C. Write T (true) or F (false) on the line next to each sentence.

1. _____ The snake wanted the woman to obey God.
2. _____ The man and woman ate from the tree and made God happy.
3. _____ The man and woman realized that they were naked.
4. _____ They were glad to see God in the garden.
5. _____ The woman said that the man tricked her and she ate the fruit.

D. Circle the letter for the word or phrase that best defines the underlined word in the sentence.

1. The snake was sneakier than any of the other wild animals ...
 - a. being happy because of how smart you are
 - b. doing things in a secret and dishonest way
2. God understands what will happen on the day you eat fruit from that tree.
 - a. to be caused as the result of an event or action
 - b. to say that you want to do something
3. The woman stared at the fruit.
 - a. to want to eat something for a long time
 - b. to look at something for a long time without moving the eyes
4. She wanted the wisdom that it would give her, ...
 - a. the ability to make good decisions
 - b. the ability to know everything
5. ... they saw what they had done, and they realized they were naked.
 - a. to know something that you did not know before
 - b. to hear something loud for the first time
6. They were frightened and hid behind some trees.
 - a. Afraid
 - b. cold
7. “The snake tricked me,” she answered. “And I ate some of that fruit.”
 - a. to deceive
 - b. to help
8. ... the ground will be under a curse because of what you did.
 - a. a statement about what will happen in the future
 - b. a statement about something bad that will happen to someone

E. Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. _____ enemy | a. bad plants that grow by themselves |
| 2. _____ struggle | b. to have liquid come out of the skin |
| 3. _____ thorns and thistles | c. to watch and protect something |
| 4. _____ sweat | d. to feel bad and have bad things happen |
| 5. _____ crawl | e. a person's children and grandchildren |
| 6. _____ suffer | f. to work very hard |
| 7. _____ guard | g. move very close to the ground |
| 8. _____ descendants | h. having a good taste |
| 9. _____ tasty | i. someone who hates you |

Use the words above to complete the following sentences.

1. The woman thought that the fruit looked _____.
2. The man will _____ to earn a living.
3. The man and woman will _____ because they disobeyed God.
4. God made the snake _____ on the ground.
5. The woman and the snake's _____ will be _____.
6. The man will _____ to grow food from the ground.
7. There will be many _____ growing in the ground.
8. God put creatures in the garden to _____ the tree.

F. Answer the following questions by writing a complete sentence.

1. What did the snake want the woman to do?

2. How did the snake trick the woman?

3. Why did the man and woman hide from God?

4. What will it be like for the man and woman outside the garden?

5. How long will the man and woman live outside the garden?

G. Answer the following questions by writing complete sentences. Then discuss your answers

1. Why did the first man and woman eat the fruit when they knew that God didn't want them to?

2. Why did the man blame his wife, and the woman blame the snake?

3. Why did God punish the man, woman, and snake?

4. How was God kind and merciful to the man and woman?

Lesson Three: God Destroyed with a Flood

A. Discuss the following questions before reading.

1. What were the first people on the earth like?
2. What is a flood?
3. What happens during a flood?

B. Read the following passage.

More and more people were born, until finally they spread all over the earth. The Lord saw how bad the people on earth were and that everything they thought and planned was evil. But the Lord was pleased with Noah, and this is the story about him.

Noah was the only person who lived right and obeyed God. He had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. God knew that everyone was terribly cruel and violent. So he told Noah: Cruelty and violence have spread everywhere. Now I'm going to destroy the whole earth and all its people. Get some good lumber and build a boat. Put rooms in it and cover it with tar inside and out. Make it four hundred fifty feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. Build a roof on the boat and leave a space of about eighteen inches between the roof and the sides. Make the boat three stories high and put a door on one side. I'm going to send a flood that will destroy everything that breathes! Nothing will be left alive. But I solemnly promise that you, your wife, your sons, and your daughters-in-law will be kept safe in the boat. Bring into the boat with you a male and a female of every kind of animal and bird, as well as a male and a female of every reptile. I don't want them to be destroyed. Store up enough food both for yourself and for them. Noah did everything the Lord told him to do.

The Lord told Noah: Take your whole family with you into the boat, because you are the only one on this earth who pleases me. Seven days from now I will send rain that will last for forty days and nights, and I will destroy all other living creatures I have made.

Seven days later a flood began to cover the earth. For forty days the rain poured down without stopping. And the water became deeper and deeper, until the boat started floating high above the ground. Finally, the mighty flood was so deep that even the highest mountain peaks were almost twenty-five feet below the surface of the water. Not a bird, animal, reptile, or human was left alive anywhere on earth. The Lord destroyed everything that breathed. Nothing was left alive except Noah and the others in the boat. A hundred fifty days later, the water started going down.

By the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the earth was completely dry. God said to Noah, “You, your wife, your sons, and your daughters-in-law may now leave the boat. Let out the birds, animals, and reptiles, so they can mate and live all over the earth.” After Noah and his family had gone out of the boat, the living creatures left in groups of their own kind.

Noah built an altar where he could offer sacrifices to the Lord. Then he offered on the altar one of each kind of animal and bird that could be used for a sacrifice. The smell of the burning offering pleased God, and he said: Never again will I punish the earth for the sinful things its people do. All of them have evil thoughts from the time they are young, but I will never destroy everything that breathes, as I did this time.

Genesis 6:1, 5, 8-10, 13-22; 7:1, 4, 10, 17-24; 8:14-21 (CEV)

C. Write T (true) or F (false) on the line next to each sentence.

1. _____ God decided to punish all the people on the earth.
2. _____ God was pleased with Noah.
3. _____ God said that people think and plan good things from youth.
4. _____ God told Noah when it was safe to leave the boat.
5. _____ God will punish the people of the world with a flood again.

D. Circle the letter for the word or phrase that best defines the underlined word in the sentence.

1. God knew that everyone was terribly cruel and violent.
 - a. hurting others
 - b. helpful, friendly, caring
2. God knew that everyone was terribly cruel and violent.
 - a. willing to give more than expected to help others
 - b. likely to hurt others and be dangerous
3. I'm going to send a flood that will destroy everything that breathes.
 - a. bad weather with a lot of wind, ice, and snow
 - b. large amount of water that covers a usually dry place
4. But I solemnly promise that you ... will be kept safe in the boat.
 - a. to prevent someone from being heard
 - b. to make a statement that you will definitely do something
5. ... the boat started floating high above the ground.
 - a. to stay on the surface of a liquid without sinking
 - b. to go down below the surface of a liquid
6. Noah built an altar where he could offer sacrifices to the Lord.
 - a. a table made of stones used for offering sacrifices
 - b. a building where people go to worship God
7. Noah built an altar where he could offer sacrifices to the Lord.
 - a. a gift for God
 - b. food from God
8. Never again will I punish the earth for the sinful things its people do.
 - a. good, helpful, and kind things
 - b. bad, disobedient things

F. Answer the following questions by writing a complete sentence.

1. Who did God want to destroy?

2. Who was God pleased with?

3. What did God tell Noah to build?

4. Where did the water for the flood come from?

5. What did God promise to Noah?

G. Answer the following questions by writing complete sentences. Then discuss your answers.

1. What were most people in the world like during the time of Noah? Today what are most people like?
2. How did Noah show that he believed and trusted God?
3. Why does God have the right and power to destroy all the living things on earth?
4. Why did God show mercy to Noah and his family?

Lesson Four: God Chose Abraham

A. Discuss the following questions before reading.

1. What were the people on the earth like during the life of Noah?
2. What did God think about these people?
3. How did Noah please God?

B. Read the following passage.

After Terah was seventy years old, he had three sons: Abram, Nahor, and Haran, who became the father of Lot. Terah's sons were born in the city of Ur in Chaldea, and Haran died there before the death of his father. The following is the story of Terah's descendants. Abram married Sarai, but she was not able to have any children.

The LORD said to Abram: Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you. I will bless you and make your descendants into a great nation. You will become famous and be a blessing to others. I will bless anyone who blesses you, but I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you. Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you.

Abram was seventy-five years old when the LORD told him to leave the city of Haran. He obeyed and left with his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the possessions and slaves they had gotten while in Haran. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram went as far as the sacred tree of Moreh in a place called Shechem. The Canaanites were still living in the land at that time, but the LORD appeared to Abram and promised, "I will give this land to your family forever." Abram then built an altar there for the LORD.

Later the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision, "Abram, don't be afraid! I will protect you and reward you greatly." But Abram answered, "LORD All-Powerful, you have given me everything I could ask for, except children. And when I die, Eliezer of Damascus will get all I own. You have not given me any children, and

this servant of mine will inherit everything.” The LORD replied, “No, he won’t! You will have a son of your own, and everything you have will be his.” Then the LORD took Abram outside and said, “Look at the sky and see if you can count the stars. That’s how many descendants you will have.” Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD was pleased with him.

Abram was ninety-nine years old when the LORD appeared to him again and said, “I am God All-Powerful. If you obey me and always do right, I will keep my solemn promise to you and give you more descendants than can be counted.” Abram bowed with his face to the ground, and God said: I promise that you will be the father of many nations. That’s why I now change your name from Abram to Abraham. I will give you a lot of descendants, and in the future they will become great nations. Some of them will even be kings.

Although Abraham was very old, Sarah had a son exactly at the time God had said. Abraham named his son Isaac, and when the boy was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, just as the Lord had commanded. Abraham was a hundred years old when Isaac was born, and Sarah said, “God has made me laugh. Now everyone will laugh with me. Who would have dared to tell Abraham that someday I would have a child? But in his old age, I have given him a son.”

Genesis 11:26-29; 12:1-7; 15:1-6; 17:1-6; 21:2-7 (CEV)

C. Write T (true) or F (false) on the line next to each sentence.

1. _____ Abraham married Sarah and she had many children.
2. _____ Abraham asked God to bless him and bless others too.
3. _____ God told Abraham to leave his country.
4. _____ God told Abraham to go to the city of Ur in Chaldea.
5. _____ Abraham believed God and God was pleased with him.
6. _____ Abraham and Sarah had a son named Isaac.
7. _____ God changed Abram’s name to Abraham.

D. Circle the letter for the word or phrase that best defines the underlined word in the sentence.

1. Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go ...
 - a. a member of your family
 - b. a person visiting your family
2. I will bless you and make your descendants into a great nation.
 - a. to make it difficult for someone to do something
 - b. to protect, help, and make good things happen
3. You will become famous and be a blessing to others.
 - a. popular, well known
 - b. thick, heavy, wide
4. I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you.
 - a. to make something bad happen to someone
 - b. to solve a problem or improve a bad situation
5. ... with his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the possessions and
 - a. something that you own or have, your things
 - b. people you are related to, family
6. "I will protect you and reward you greatly."
 - a. to give someone money that was lost or stolen
 - b. to give something to someone for doing something good
7. Abraham believed the Lord, and the Lord was pleased with him.
 - a. to think that something is true, to be sure it is true
 - b. to think that something is not true or that it is unlikely
8. Abraham believed the Lord, and the Lord was pleased with him.
 - a. the Lord was not happy with Abraham
 - b. the Lord said Abraham was innocent and perfect

E. Circle the letter of the best answer or answers for each blank according to the reading.

1. God told Abraham to leave _____.
 - a. his country
 - b. his relatives
 - c. Haran
 - d. Canaan

2. God told Abraham to go to _____.
 - a. Ur
 - b. his country
 - c. the land he will show him
 - d. the land he came from

3. God said he would make Abraham's descendants into _____.
 - a. a large army
 - b. a large country

4. God said he would _____ Abraham.
 - a. bless
 - b. curse
 - c. give many descendants to
 - d. bless others because of

5. When God spoke to Abraham, he _____ God.
 - a. believed
 - b. doubted
 - c. trusted
 - d. had faith in

6. God declared Abraham right with him because Abraham _____ God.
 - a. believed
 - b. obeyed
 - c. listened to
 - d. doubted

7. God was good to Abraham and Sarah and kept his _____.
 - a. son
 - b. promise

8. When Isaac was born, Sarah _____.
 - a. was sad and cried
 - b. was happy and laughed

F. Answer the following questions by writing a complete sentence.

1. What did God tell Abraham to do?
2. How will God bless Abraham and his descendants?
3. Who will be blessed because of Abraham?
4. Why was God pleased with Abraham and declared Abraham right with him?
5. What name did Abraham give his son?

G. Answer the following questions by writing complete sentences. Then discuss your answers.

1. What did God ask Abraham to do? Do you think that these were easy or difficult things for Abraham to do? Why?
2. God told Abraham that his descendants would be a great nation and that some of his descendants would be kings. Do you think it was easy for Abraham to believe this promise? Why or why not?
3. How did Abraham show that he believed God and trusted him?
4. Why did God choose Abraham and bless him? Was he good to Abraham because Abraham was a good man?

Lesson Five: Jesus was Born

A. Discuss the following questions before reading.

1. What did God promise to Abraham?
2. How would God bless everyone on earth?
3. How was Jesus an answer to these promises?

B. Read the following passage.

Jesus Christ came from the family of King David and also from the family of Abraham.

This is how Jesus Christ was born. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David's family. But before they were married, she learned that she was going to have a baby by God's Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding. While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel," which means "God is with us." After Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married, just as the Lord's angel had told him to do.

Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family. Mary was engaged to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, and while they were there, she gave birth to her first-born son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him on a bed of hay, because there was no room for them in the inn.

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where

is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod brought together the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, “Where will the Messiah be born?” They told him, “He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote, ‘Bethlehem in the land of Judea, you are very important among the towns of Judea. From your town will come a leader, who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.’” Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too.”

The wise men listened to what the king said and left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star. When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him.

Matthew 1:1, 18-24; Luke 2:3-7; Matthew 2:1-11 (CEV)

C. Write T (true) or F (false) on the line next to each sentence.

1. _____ Jesus was a descendant of Abraham and Sarah.
2. _____ Mary became pregnant with Jesus by the power of God.
3. _____ An angel told Joseph that his son will save people from their sins.
4. _____ God’s promise about a virgin came true just as the prophet had said.
5. _____ King Herod was excited to hear about the baby born to be king.
6. _____ The wise men wanted to see the baby born to be the next king.
7. _____ The wise men brought gifts for Joseph and Mary.

D. Circle the letter for the word or phrase that best defines the underlined word in the sentence.

1. This is how Jesus Christ was born.
 - a. name of person who is in the family of David
 - b. name of person who God chose to set the people free from sin
2. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph ...
 - a. planned to marry
 - b. had a fight with
3. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary ...
 - a. to make feel happy
 - b. to make feel ashamed, bad
4. ... name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
 - a. thoughts or ideas
 - b. disobedience
5. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David’s hometown, ...
 - a. the town where someone was born
 - b. the town where someone lived for most of their life
6. Where will the Messiah be born?
 - a. name of person who will be king after King Herod
 - b. name of person who God sent to set the people free from sin
7. The wise men ... knelt down and worshiped him.
 - a. to show honor and respect to someone
 - b. to tell someone about all his problems and weaknesses
8. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them ...
 - a. expensive spices used to make things smell nice
 - b. two kinds of metals that are very expensive like gold

E. Match the following words with their meanings. Write the correct letter on the line.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. ___ kneel down | a. kind of grass that animals eat |
| 2. ___ dream | b. a person who takes care of sheep |
| 3. ___ virgin | c. hotel, place to sleep while traveling |
| 4. ___ save | d. rest your body on your knees |
| 5. ___ thrilled | e. a person who has never had sex |
| 6. ___ inn | f. group of thoughts while you are asleep |
| 7. ___ shepherd | g. very excited |
| 8. ___ hay | h. rescue, take away from danger |

Use the words above to complete the following sentences.

1. A _____ named Mary was engaged to Joseph.
2. Joseph saw an angel in a _____.
3. The angel told Joseph that Jesus will _____ people.
4. Joseph and Mary couldn't find a room in an _____.
5. Mary laid the baby Jesus on _____.
6. Herod learned that the Messiah would be like a _____.
7. The wise men were _____ to see the baby.
8. They _____ and gave gifts to the baby born to be king.

F. Answer the following questions by writing a complete sentence.

1. How did Mary get a baby before marrying Joseph?
2. Why did Joseph decide not to call off the wedding?
3. What did Joseph learn from the angel about the baby?
4. Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem?
5. How did King Herod know that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem?
6. What did the wise men do when they saw Mary with her child?

G. Answer the following questions by writing complete sentences. Then discuss your answers.

1. How was Jesus' birth different from the birth of other people? Why was it necessary for Jesus' birth to be different?

2. How did God communicate to people that Jesus the Messiah was coming?

3. Why did God send Jesus?

4. Why was Jesus also called Immanuel?

Lesson Six: Jesus Healed Many People

A. Discuss the following questions before reading.

1. What promises did God make to Abraham?
2. Did Abraham please God? How?
3. How will God bless everyone through Abraham?
4. Why did Jesus come?

B. Read the following passage.

As Jesus came down the mountain, he was followed by large crowds. Suddenly a man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus. He said, "Lord, you have the power to make me well, if only you wanted to."

Jesus put his hand on the man and said, "I want to! Now you are well." At once the man's leprosy disappeared. Jesus told him, "Don't tell anyone about this, but go and show the priest that you are well. Then take a gift to the temple just as Moses commanded, and everyone will know that you have been healed."

When Jesus was going into the town of Capernaum, an army officer came up to him and said, "Lord, my servant is at home with such terrible pain that he can't even move." "I will go and heal him," Jesus replied.

But the officer said, "Lord, I'm not good enough for you to come into my house. Just give the order, and my servant will get well. I have officers who give orders to me, and I have soldiers who take orders from me. I can say to one of them, 'Go!' and he goes. I can say to another, 'Come!' and he comes. I can say to my servant, 'Do this!' and he will do it."

When Jesus heard this, he was so surprised that he turned and said to the crowd following him, "I tell you that in all of Israel I've never found anyone with this much faith! Many people will come from everywhere to enjoy the feast in the kingdom of heaven with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But the ones who should

have been in the kingdom will be thrown out into the dark. They will cry and grit their teeth in pain.” Then Jesus said to the officer, “You may go home now. Your faith has made it happen.” Right then his servant was healed.

Jesus went to the home of Peter, where he found that Peter’s mother-in-law was sick in bed with fever. He took her by the hand, and the fever left her. Then she got up and served Jesus a meal.

That evening many people with demons in them were brought to Jesus. And with only a word he forced out the evil spirits and healed everyone who was sick. So God’s promise came true, just as the prophet Isaiah had said, “He healed our diseases and made us well.”

Matthew 8:1-17 (CEV)

C. Write T (true) or F (false) on the line next to each sentence.

1. _____ Large crowds followed Jesus.
2. _____ Jesus wanted to heal the man with leprosy.
3. _____ The man’s leprosy disappeared the next day.
4. _____ Jesus asked the man to tell everybody what Jesus did.
5. _____ Jesus went to the house of an army officer.
6. _____ Jesus was surprised by the officer’s faith.
7. _____ The officer had only a little faith in Jesus.
8. _____ Many people who should be in heaven will be thrown out.
9. _____ Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law.
10. _____ God’s promise about healing came true.

D. Circle the letter for the word or phrase that best defines the underlined word in the sentence.

1. Suddenly a man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus.
 - a. a disease that destroys your skin
 - b. a sickness that gives you a high fever and makes you cough

2. At once the man's leprosy disappeared.
 - a. to grow
 - b. to become impossible to see

3. Just give the order, and my servant will get well.
 - a. a treatment
 - b. a command

4. ... he was so surprised that he turned and said ...
 - a. feeling angry or upset about something
 - b. thinking that something would not happen

5. ... I've never found anyone with this much faith ...
 - a. trusting in yourself
 - b. trusting in God

6. Many people will come from everywhere to enjoy the feast ...
 - a. a large meal for many people
 - b. a wedding

7. They will cry and grit their teeth in pain.
 - a. to push together hard
 - b. to remove or take out

8. He healed our diseases ...
 - a. to make a disease go away so that someone becomes healthy
 - b. to take someone to the doctor so that the person becomes healthy

E. Circle the letter of the best answer or answers for each blank according to the reading.

1. Jesus was followed by _____.
 - a. a man with leprosy
 - b. a lawyer
 - c. a prophet
 - d. large crowds
2. Jesus told the man with leprosy to _____.
 - a. tell everyone what happened
 - b. go to the priest
 - c. take a gift to the temple
 - d. give money to the poor
3. An army officer wanted _____ .
 - a. to be healed
 - b. his servant to be healed
4. The army officer had _____.
 - a. little faith
 - b. great faith
5. _____ will enjoy the feast in the kingdom of heaven.
 - a. Jacob
 - b. Many people from everywhere
 - c. Abraham
 - d. Isaac
6. The ones who should have been in the kingdom will _____.
 - a. be thrown out into the dark
 - b. cry and grit their teeth in pain
7. Peter's mother-in-law _____.
 - a. had a fever
 - b. died from a fever
 - c. was healed by Jesus
 - d. served Jesus a meal
8. Jesus forced out evil spirits with _____.
 - a. prayers
 - b. a ceremony
 - c. a drink
 - d. a word

F. Answer the following questions by writing a complete sentence.

1. What did the man with leprosy want Jesus to do?
2. What did Jesus tell the man with leprosy to do?
3. How did the army officer show respect to Jesus?
4. What did Jesus say about the army officer's faith?
5. Who will enjoy the feast in the kingdom of heaven?
6. How did Jesus force out evil spirits?

G. Answer the following questions by writing complete sentences. Then discuss your answers.

1. Why was Jesus healing people and forcing out evil spirits?
2. Where did Jesus get the power to heal people?
3. Why was Jesus surprised by the army officer's faith?
4. What is the "feast in the kingdom of heaven"? Who will enjoy the feast with Abraham? Why?

Lesson Seven: Jesus Taught about Life

A. Discuss the following questions before reading.

1. Who was Jesus?
2. Why did people come to see Jesus?
3. Who had faith in Jesus?
4. What did Jesus do in addition to healing?

B. Read the following passage.

There was a man named Nicodemus who was a Pharisee and a Jewish leader. One night he went to Jesus and said, “Sir, we know that God has sent you to teach us. You could not work these miracles, unless God were with you.” Jesus replied, “I tell you for certain that you must be born from above before you can see God’s kingdom!”

Nicodemus asked, “How can a grown man ever be born a second time?”

Jesus answered: I tell you for certain that before you can get into God’s kingdom, you must be born not only by water, but by the Spirit. Humans give life to their children. Yet only God’s Spirit can change you into a child of God. Don’t be surprised when I say that you must be born from above. Only God’s Spirit gives new life. The Spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it wants to. You can hear the wind, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going.

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

Jesus replied: How can you be a teacher of Israel and not know these things? I tell you for certain that we know what we are talking about because we have seen it ourselves. But none of you will accept what we say. If you don’t believe when I talk to you about things on earth, how can you possibly believe if I talk to you about things in heaven?

No one has gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from there. And the Son of Man must be lifted up, just as that metal snake was lifted up by Moses in the desert. Then everyone who has faith in the Son of Man will have eternal life.

God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent him to save them! No one who has faith in God's Son will be condemned. But everyone who doesn't have faith in him has already been condemned for not having faith in God's only Son.

The light has come into the world, and people who do evil things are judged guilty because they love the dark more than the light. People who do evil hate the light and won't come to the light, because it clearly shows what they have done. But everyone who lives by the truth will come to the light, because they want others to know that God is really the one doing what they do.

John 3:1-21 (CEV)

C. Write T (true) or F (false) on the line next to each sentence.

1. _____ Nicodemus was a Jewish leader.
2. _____ Nicodemus came to see Jesus at noon.
3. _____ Nicodemus knew that God sent Jesus to teach the people.
4. _____ Jesus said that Nicodemus must be born a second time.
5. _____ Only God's Spirit can change a person into a child of God.
6. _____ Nicodemus has gone up to heaven.
7. _____ God loved the people of the world and sent his only Son.
8. _____ Everyone who has faith in God's Son will be condemned.
9. _____ People who do evil things love the light and come to the light.

D. Circle the letter for the word or phrase that best defines the underlined word in the sentence.

1. ... you must be born from above before you can see God's kingdom!
 - a. changed into a new person by God's Spirit
 - b. come to the world as a baby for a second time
2. ... you must be born from above before you can see God's kingdom!
 - a. Israel
 - b. heaven
3. No one has gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, ...
 - a. another name for Nicodemus
 - b. another name for Jesus
4. Then everyone who has faith in the Son of Man will have eternal life.
 - a. to live in heaven with God forever
 - b. to live on the earth in Israel and never die
5. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people.
 - a. to allow someone not to be punished
 - b. to give a punishment to someone who did something bad
6. No one who has faith in God's Son will be condemned.
 - a. to believe strongly that someone is right
 - b. to not trust or believe in someone
7. ... people who do evil ... are judged guilty because they love the dark
 - a. obeying the commands of God in the Bible
 - b. having done something wrong, something that is a crime
8. ... people who do evil ... are judged guilty because they love the dark
 - a. are told that God decided that they are guilty
 - b. are told that God decided that they are not guilty

E. Circle the letter of the best answer or answers for each blank according to the reading.

1. Nicodemus was _____.
 - a. a Jewish leader
 - b. a Pharisee
 - c. a teacher
 - d. a soldier

2. Nicodemus came to see Jesus because _____.
 - a. he wanted to talk with Jesus
 - b. he thought Jesus came from God

3. Before you can see God's kingdom, _____.
 - a. you must be born from above
 - b. God's Spirit must change you.

4. Only _____ can change you into a child of God.
 - a. the Son of Man
 - b. God's Spirit

5. No one has gone up to heaven and down from there except _____.
 - a. Nicodemus
 - b. Noah
 - c. the Son of Man
 - d. Abraham

6. God loved the people of this world so much that he _____.
 - a. gave Jesus
 - b. gave his only Son

7. People who have faith in God's Son will _____.
 - a. be condemned
 - b. have eternal life
 - c. not see God's kingdom
 - d. not be condemned

8. The people who do evil things _____.
 - a. hate the light
 - b. are judged guilty by God
 - c. will see God's kingdom
 - d. die

F. Answer the following questions by writing a complete sentence.

1. When did Nicodemus come to see Jesus?
2. What did Nicodemus think about Jesus?
3. What did Nicodemus need to do before he could see God's kingdom?
4. Who will have eternal life?
5. What did God send his Son into the world to do?
6. Who is the light?

G. Answer the following questions by writing complete sentences. Then discuss your answers.

1. What did Jesus say about being born from above and God's Spirit?

2. How did Jesus know about things in heaven?

3. Why did God send Jesus, his only Son?

4. What is a child of God? Describe a person who is a child of God?

Lesson Eight: Jesus was Arrested and Died

A. Discuss the following questions before reading.

1. What did Jesus teach about?
2. What did the people think about Jesus?
3. How did Jesus die?

B. Read the following passage.

After Jesus had been arrested, he was led off to the house of Caiaphas the high priest. The nation's leaders and the teachers of the Law of Moses were meeting there. The chief priests and the whole council wanted to put Jesus to death. So they tried to find some people who would tell lies about him in court. But they could not find any, even though many did come and tell lies.

The high priest stood up and asked Jesus, "Why don't you say something in your own defense? Don't you hear the charges they are making against you?" But Jesus did not answer. So the high priest said, "With the living god looking on, you must tell the truth. Tell us, are you the Messiah, the Son of God?" "That is what you say!" Jesus answered. "But I tell all of you, 'Soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of God All-Powerful and coming on the clouds of heaven.'"

The high priest then tore his robe and said, "This man claims to be God! We don't need any more witnesses! You have heard what he said. What do you think?" They answered, "He is guilty and deserves to die!"

Jesus was brought before Pilate the governor, who asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Those are your words!" Jesus answered. And when the chief priests and leaders brought their charges against him, he did not say a thing. Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear what crimes they say you have done?" But Jesus did not say anything, and the governor was greatly amazed.

The governor's soldiers led Jesus into the fortress and brought together the rest of the troops. They stripped off Jesus' clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. They made a crown out of thorn branches and placed it on his head, and they put a stick in his right hand. The soldiers knelt down and pretended to worship him. They made fun of him and shouted, "Hey, you king of the Jews."

When the soldiers had finished making fun of Jesus, they took off the robe. They put his own clothes back on him and led him off to be nailed to a cross. The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to see who would get his clothes. Then they sat down to guard him. Above his head they put a sign that told why he was nailed there. It read, "This is Jesus, King of the Jews." The soldiers also nailed two criminals on crosses, one to the right of Jesus and the other to his left.

At noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until three o'clock. Then about that time Jesus shouted, "Eli, eli, lama sabachtani?" which means, "My god, my god, why have you deserted me?" Once again Jesus shouted, and then he died.

That evening a rich disciple named Joseph from the town of Arimathea went and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate gave orders for it to be given to Joseph, who took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. Then Joseph put the body in his own tomb that had been cut into solid rock and had never been used. He rolled a big stone against the entrance to the tomb and went away. All this time Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting across from the tomb.

Matthew 26:57, 59-66; 27:11-14, 27-29, 31, 35-38, 45, 50, 57-61 (CEV)

C. Write T (true) or F (false) on the line next to each sentence.

1. _____ Jesus was arrested and taken to the house of the high priest.
2. _____ The leaders and teachers of the Law wanted to learn from Jesus.
3. _____ Jesus said that he was God.
4. _____ The soldiers nailed three people on crosses.
5. _____ Mary Magdalene put Jesus' body in the tomb.

D. Circle the letter for the word or phrase that best defines the underlined word in the sentence.

1. After Jesus had been arrested, he was led off to the house of Caiaphas.

- a. was set free at a place b. was shown the way to a place

2. The chief priests and the whole council wanted to put Jesus to death.

- a. to kill Jesus b. to move Jesus to a new place

3. Why don't you say something in your own defense?

- a. to say good things about people who attack you b. to protect yourself from the bad things that people are saying

4. Don't you hear the charges they are making against you?

- a. a statement that a person is a good and kind person b. a statement in court that a person has done something wrong

5. The high priest then tore his robe and said, "This man claims to be God!"

- a. to say that something is true b. to help someone

6. They answered, "He is guilty and deserves to die!"

- a. likely to harm people b. having broken a law

7. They answered, "He is guilty and deserves to die!"

- a. to want or hope for something very much b. to get something because he has behaved in a bad way

8. The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to ... get his clothes.

- a. to tie something to something else with string or rope b. to hold something to something else with a nail

E. Circle the letter of the best answer or answers for each blank.

1. After Jesus was arrested, he was led off _____.
 - a. to a garden
 - b. to the house of Caiaphas
 - c. to be put to death
 - d. to a tomb

2. The high priest wanted _____.
 - a. to help Jesus
 - b. to put Jesus to death

3. The high priest asked Jesus about _____.
 - a. Jerusalem
 - b. heaven
 - c. the Messiah
 - d. new life

4. The high priest tore his robe because _____.
 - a. he was happy
 - b. Jesus claimed to be God

5. The high priest and council said that Jesus _____.
 - a. was innocent
 - b. deserved to die

6. The soldiers _____.
 - a. made fun of Jesus
 - b. helped Jesus
 - c. took Jesus to Egypt
 - d. nailed Jesus to the cross

7. After they nailed Jesus to the cross, he _____.
 - a. died
 - b. lived

8. After Jesus died on the cross, _____ put his body in the tomb.
 - a. the soldiers
 - b. Joseph

F. Answer the following questions by writing a complete sentence.

1. After Jesus was arrested, where was he taken?

2. Who wanted to put Jesus to death?

3. What did Jesus say in his defense?

4. Why did the high priest tear his robe?

5. Where did the soldiers take Jesus?

6. Who asked for Jesus' body?

G. Answer the following questions by writing complete sentences. Then discuss your answers.

1. Why did the high priest and council of religious leaders want to put Jesus to death?
2. Why didn't Jesus say anything in his defense? Why didn't he try to show that he was innocent or escape?
3. Why did Joseph take Jesus' body and put it in the tomb?
4. Why did Mary Magdalene and the other Mary sit across from the tomb?

Lesson Nine: God Raised Jesus Back to Life

A. Discuss the following questions before reading.

1. What happened to Jesus?
2. Why did it happen?
3. Who helped Jesus after he died?

B. Read the following passage.

The Sabbath was over, and it was almost daybreak on Sunday when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. Suddenly a strong earthquake struck, and the Lord's angel came down from heaven. He rolled away the stone and sat on it. The angel looked as bright as lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards shook from fear and fell down, as though they were dead.

The angel came to the women, "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to a cross. He isn't here! God has raised him to life, just as Jesus said he would. Come, see the place where his body was lying. Now hurry! Tell his disciples that he has been raised to life and is on his way to Galilee. Go there, and you will see him. That is what I came to tell you."

The women were frightened and yet very happy, as they hurried from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and greeted them. They went near him, held on to his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "Don't be afraid! Tell my followers to go to Galilee. They will see me there."

While the women were on their way, some soldiers who had been guarding the tomb went into the city. They told the chief priests everything that had happened. So the chief priests met with the leaders and decided to bribe the soldiers with a lot of money. They said to the soldiers, "Tell everyone that Jesus' disciples came during the night and stole his body while you were sleeping. If the governor hears about this, we will talk to him. You won't have anything to worry

about.” The soldiers took the money and did what they were told. The people of Judea still tell each other this story.

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy. A week later the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!” Thomas replied, “You are my Lord and my God.”

Jesus’ eleven disciples went to a mountain in Galilee, where Jesus had told them to meet him. They saw him and worshiped him, but some of them doubted. Jesus came to them and said: I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth! Go to all the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world.

Matthew 28:1-15; John 20:19-20, 26-28; Matthew 28:16-20 (CEV)

C. Write T (true) or F (false) on the line next to each sentence.

1. _____ The women went to the tomb on the Sabbath.
2. _____ An angel rolled away the stone at Jesus’ tomb.
3. _____ The guards attacked the angel.
4. _____ The women were not afraid of the angel.
5. _____ The angel spoke to the women.
6. _____ The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders.
7. _____ Thomas doubted but later had faith in Jesus.

D. Circle the letter for the word or phrase that best defines the underlined word in the sentence.

1. The Sabbath was over ...
 - a. Saturday
 - b. an annual Jewish festival
2. He rolled away the stone and sat on it.
 - a. to break into many small pieces
 - b. to push something so that it moves like a wheel
3. They went near him ... and worshiped him.
 - a. to kneel before someone and treat him as God
 - b. to speak kindly towards someone
4. ... some soldiers who had been guarding the tomb ...
 - a. to stop people from coming near
 - b. to search completely
5. So the chief priests ... decided to bribe the soldiers with a lot of money.
 - a. to give someone money for a job well done
 - b. to give someone money so that they will do something bad for you
6. Stop doubting and have faith!
 - a. to be very sad
 - b. not to believe
7. I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth!
 - a. the power to be in control
 - b. riches
8. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
 - a. to bless
 - b. to put completely under water

E. Circle the letter of the best answer or answers for each blank according to the reading.

1. The angel _____
 - a. came down from heaven
 - b. attacked the guards
 - c. rolled away the stone
 - d. sat on the stone

2. The angel knew that the women were _____ .
 - a. afraid
 - b. happy
 - c. looking for Jesus
 - d. in a hurry

3. The angel told the women to _____ .
 - a. look at the place where Jesus' body was lying
 - b. tell Jesus' disciples that he had been raised to life

4. When they saw Jesus, the women _____ .
 - a. went to him
 - b. began to cry
 - c. held on to his feet
 - d. worshiped him

5. The soldiers who guarded the tomb _____ .
 - a. staid with the angel
 - b. spoke to the chief priests

6. The chief priests _____
 - a. met with the soldiers
 - b. gave the soldiers money

7. Jesus met the eleven disciples _____ .
 - a. in Galilee
 - b. in Egypt
 - c. in a room
 - d. on a mountain

8. Jesus told his disciples to _____ .
 - a. hide in a room
 - b. teach people about him

F. Answer the following questions by writing a complete sentence.

1. On what day of the week did the women visit the tomb of Jesus?

2. Why were the guards so afraid?

3. Why were the women so happy?

4. What did Thomas say about Jesus?

5. How much authority was Jesus given?

6. What did Jesus tell his disciples to do?

G. Answer the following questions by writing complete sentences. Then discuss your answers.

1. Why did the angel roll away the stone in front of Jesus' tomb?
2. Why did Thomas call Jesus his "Lord" and his "God"?
3. Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth and he is always with his disciples. What does that tell us about Jesus?
4. Why should Jesus' followers go and teach people about Jesus?

Lesson Ten: The Good News about Jesus

A Discuss the following questions before reading.

1. Why did Jesus come?
2. What did he teach about faith?
3. What did he teach about the new life?
4. What did he teach about being right with God?

B. Read the following passage.

At the beginning, God created the earth and all the living things on the earth. God created the first two people, Adam and Eve. When God created Adam and Eve, they obeyed God and were friends of God. But then they listened to the snake, which was Satan, the enemy of God, and disobeyed God.

God punished Adam and Eve. He made them leave the Garden of Eden. He told them that they would work hard, have a lot of suffering, and then die. Ever since Adam and Eve, all humans are born separate from God and so disobeyed him. Because all people disobey God, he condemns them and also punishes them.

People are not able to please God because they do not believe what God says and disobey him. But some people have faith in God and believe what he says. Abraham was a man who had faith in God. Because he had faith in God, God was pleased with him and said Abraham was right and innocent.

God made a promise to Abraham to bless all the people in the world through his descendents. God sent Jesus, a descendent of Abraham, to bless all the people in the world. Mary gave birth to Jesus, so he was a man even though he did not have a human father. Jesus came from heaven and went back to heaven because he was also God. Jesus is both God and human, the God-Man.

Jesus Christ came to save people from God's punishment for their sins and disobedience. Jesus died on a cross to save people. He died in their place so that God would not punish them. After Jesus died and was placed in the tomb, God raised him back to life. Jesus told the people that if they have faith in him, he would save them. They would live forever in heaven with God. But if they do not believe in Jesus, God will condemn them and punish them for their disobedience forever. Then they would live forever in a place far away from God and filled with suffering.

People with faith in Jesus know that they have disobeyed God and deserve to be punished. They are sorry and ask God to forgive them. They know they are helpless and unable to live a perfect life to please God. They believe that God will not punish them only because Jesus died for them. So they trust Jesus and live for him.

C. Write T (true) or F (false) on the line next to each sentence.

1. _____ At the beginning, God created the first people, Adam and Eve.
2. _____ God punished Adam and Eve by making them leave the garden.
3. _____ People are able to please God because they listen to God.
4. _____ God made Abraham right with him because he was a nice person.
5. _____ Jesus had a human father because he was God.
6. _____ Jesus came to save people from God's punishment.
7. _____ Jesus died for people so that God would not destroy them.
8. _____ If people have faith in Jesus, God will condemn them.
9. _____ People with faith in Jesus are sorry about disobeying God.
10. _____ People with faith in Jesus know that they deserve punishment.

D. Circle the letter for the word or phrase that best defines the underlined word in the sentence.

1. God created the earth and all the living things on the earth.
 - a. sun, moon, and stars
 - b. people, animals, and plants
2. Because all humans disobey God, God condemns them and ...
 - a. to allow someone not to be punished for something
 - b. to give a severe punishment to someone who did something bad
3. Abraham was a man who had faith in God.
 - a. to think that someone has good ideas
 - b. to believe strongly and be certain that someone is right
4. Because he had faith in God, God was pleased with him ...
 - a. happy, satisfied, knowing that the right thing is done
 - b. to enjoy, like, think that someone is funny
5. Jesus was innocent, and because he died, people do not have to die.
 - a. having disobeyed God
 - b. not guilty of disobeying God
6. They would live forever in a place ... filled with suffering
 - a. feeling pain or something bad
 - b. enjoying something good
7. They are sorry and ask God to forgive them.
 - a. to do good things to someone who has been good
 - b. to decide not to punish someone who has done something bad
8. So they trust Jesus and live for him.
 - a. to believe that someone is honest and good
 - b. to listen to what someone says and think about it for a long time

E. Circle the letter of the best answer or answers for each blank according to the reading.

1. When God created Adam and Eve, they _____.
 - a. lived in a garden
 - b. obeyed God
 - c. were friends of God
 - d. wore clothes made from leaves

2. God punished Adam and Eve by _____.
 - a. making them work hard
 - b. making them work in the garden

3. Because all people disobey God, God _____ them.
 - a. forgives
 - b. punishes
 - c. blesses
 - d. is pleased with

4. Abraham _____.
 - a. had faith in God
 - b. didn't trust God

5. God promised to bless all the people of the world through _____.
 - a. Abraham
 - b. Noah

6. Jesus _____ to save people from God's punishment.
 - a. came
 - b. died on a cross

7. If people do not believe in Jesus, God will _____ them.
 - a. bless
 - b. punish
 - c. condemn
 - d. forgive

8. People with faith in Jesus _____.
 - a. trust Jesus
 - b. ask God to forgive them
 - c. live for themselves
 - d. are not sorry for disobeying God

G. Answer the following questions by writing complete sentences. Then discuss your answers.

1. Are you able to live a perfect life and not disobey God? Why or why not?

2. Who is God pleased with? Why?

3. Why did Jesus die on the cross?

4. What did Jesus say about the two places where people will live forever and what kind of people will live there?

5. What do people with faith in Jesus think about themselves and God?