

Life Of Jesus  
Teaching Resource  
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Word Story

## LESSON 1 - JESUS SHOWS GOD

**Word Seed:** No one has ever seen God. The only Son [Jesus] is the One who has shown us what God is like —John 1:18 (ERV).

**Word Truth:** Jesus the Son of God shows you who God is and how to live for Him.

### WORD STORY

#### **Bible Text:**

*Genesis 1:27, 2:15-17, Romans 5:18, 12, 14, Galatians 4:4, Romans 5:6-8, John 3:16, 17:3, 1:18.*

God created humans in His own image, to be like Himself. Adam was the first man God created. And God put him in the Garden of Eden to work the soil and take care of the garden. He gave Adam this command: "You may eat from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat from the tree that gives knowledge about good and evil. If you eat fruit from that tree, on that day you will certainly die!" Unfortunately, Adam disobeyed God and sinned by eating the fruit from the tree.

So that one sin of Adam brought the punishment of death to all people. Sin came into the world because of what one man, Adam, did. And with sin came death. This death is not just dying physically but it separated people from God to be unable to live for Him. From the time of Adam, everyone had to die. Adam died because he sinned by not obeying God's command. But even everyone who did not sin that same way had to die.

When the right time came, God sent His Son, Jesus, who was born from a woman. Jesus died for us when we were unable to help ourselves. We were living in sin against God, but at just the right time Jesus died for us. Very few people will die to save the life of someone else, even if it is for a good person. Someone might be willing to die for an especially good person. But Jesus died for us while we were still sinners, and by this God showed how much He loves us.

Yes, God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus, so that everyone who believes in Him would not be lost but have eternal life. And this is eternal life: that people can know Him, the only true God, and that they can know Jesus Christ, the one He sent. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, Jesus, is the one who has shown us what God is like. He is Himself God and is very close to God the Father. And through believing in Jesus to receive eternal life, you can know God and live for Him.

## LESSON 2 – JESUS WAS BORN

**Word Seed:** She will give birth to a Son, and you will name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins—Matthew 1:21 (NCV).

**Word Truth:** Jesus was born to save you from your sins to live for God.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-21, Luke 2:1-20.

God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin girl, Mary, who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord is with you; you are very special to Him."

But Mary was very confused about what the angel said. She wondered, "What does this mean?"

The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is very pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant and have a Baby Boy. You will name Him Jesus. He will be great. People will call Him the Son of the Most High God.

Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I am still a virgin."

The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come to you, and the power of the Most High God will cover you. The Baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God. God can do anything!"

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let this thing you have said happen to me!"

Then the angel went away.

Before Joseph and Mary got married, he learned that she was expecting a baby. Joseph was a good man. He did not want to cause Mary public disgrace, so he planned to break the engagement secretly. But after Joseph thought about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to accept Mary to be your wife. The Baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son. You will name Him Jesus. Give Him that name because He will save His people from their sins." (The name Jesus means "the Lord saves.")

It was about that same time that Augustus Caesar sent out an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that everyone must travel to their own hometowns to have their name put on a list.

So Joseph and pregnant Mary left Nazareth and went to the town of Bethlehem, known as the town of David, in Judea. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her

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to have the Baby. She gave birth to her first Son. She wrapped Him up well and laid Him in a box where cattle are fed because the guest room was full.

That night, some shepherds were out in the fields near Bethlehem watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord was shining around them. The shepherds were very afraid.

The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid. I have some very good news for you—news that will make everyone happy. Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is the Savior. This is how you will know Him: You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box."

Then a huge army of angels from heaven joined the first angel, and they were all

praising God, saying, "Praise God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please Him."

The angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven.

The shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this great event the Lord has told us about."

So they went running and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the Baby, lying in the feeding box. When they saw the Baby, they told what the angels said about this Child. The shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking Him for everything they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.

### LESSON 3 – JESUS WAS DEDICATED

**Word Seed:** Offer your lives as a living sacrifice to Him—an offering that is only for God and pleasing to Him—Romans 12:1 (ERV).

**Word Truth:** You should offer your life to God.

#### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** Luke 2:22-40.

Forty days after the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph brought Him to Jerusalem so that they could present Him to the Lord. It is written in the law of the Lord: "When a mother's first baby is a boy, he shall be called 'special for the Lord.'" The law of the Lord also says that people with new babies must give a sacrifice: "You must sacrifice two doves or two young pigeons." So Joseph and Mary went with Jesus to Jerusalem to do this.

A man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem. He was a good man who loved God. The Holy Spirit was with him. The Holy Spirit told him that he would not die before he saw the Savior from the Lord. The Spirit led Simeon to the Temple. So he was there when Mary and Joseph brought the Baby Jesus to do what the Jewish law said they must do.

Simeon took the Baby in his arms and thanked God, saying: "I have seen with my own eyes how You will save Your people. Now all people can see Your plan."

Jesus' father and mother were amazed at what Simeon said about Him.

Anna, a prophetess, was there at the Temple. She was 84 years old. Anna was always at the Temple; she never left. She worshiped God by fasting and praying day and night. Anna was there when Joseph and Mary came to the Temple. She praised God and talked about Jesus to all those who were waiting for God to free Jerusalem.

Joseph and Mary finished doing all the things that the law of the Lord commanded. Then they went home to Nazareth, their own town in Galilee. The little Boy Jesus was developing into a mature young Man, full of wisdom. God was blessing Him.

## LESSON 4 – GOD SAVED JESUS

**Word Seed:** God is our protection and our strength.  
He always helps in times of trouble—Psalm 46:1 (NCV).

**Word Truth:** God protects and helps you.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Matthew 2:1-23.*

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked people, "Where is the Child who has been born to be the King of the Jews? We saw the star that shows He was born. We saw it rise in the sky in the east and have come to worship Him."

When King Herod heard about this, it upset him. Herod called a meeting of all the leading Jewish priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Savior would be born. They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea, just as the prophet wrote."

Then Herod had a private meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. Then he sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go and look carefully for the Child. When you find Him, come tell me. Then I can go worship Him too." But this was a lie.

After the wise men heard the king, they left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east, and they followed it. The star

went before them until it stopped above the place where the Child was. They were very happy and excited to see the star.

The wise men came to the house where Jesus was with His mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened the boxes of gifts they had brought for Him. They gave Him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country a different way.

After the wise men left, an angel from the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Get up! Take Jesus and Mary and escape to Egypt. Herod wants to kill the Child and will soon start looking for Him. Stay in Egypt until I tell you to come back."

So Joseph got ready and left for Egypt with Jesus and Mary. They left during the night and stayed in Egypt until Herod died.

Herod saw that the wise men had fooled him, and he was very angry. So he gave an order to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem and the whole area around Bethlehem.

Herod had learned from the wise men the

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time the Baby was born. It was now two years from that time. So he said to kill all the boys who were two years old and younger.

While Joseph was in Egypt, Herod died. An angel from the Lord came to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take Jesus and Mary and go to Israel. Those who were trying to kill Jesus are now dead."

So Joseph took Jesus and Mary and went to Israel. But he heard that Archelaus was now king in Judea. Archelaus became king when his father Herod died. So Joseph was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he went away to the area of Galilee. He went to a town called Nazareth and lived there.

## LESSON 5 - IN THE TEMPLE

**Word Seed:** Children, you belong to the Lord, and you do the right thing when you obey your parents—Ephesians 6:1 (CEV).

**Word Truth:** It is right to obey your parents.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** Luke 2:41-52.

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. When the festival was over, they went home, but Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know about it. They traveled for a whole day thinking that Jesus was with them in the group. They began looking for Him among their family and close friends, but they did not find Him. So they went back to Jerusalem to look for Him there.

After three days, they found Him. Jesus was sitting in the Temple area with the religious teachers, listening and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding and wise answers. When His parents saw Him, they wondered how this was possible.

And His mother said, "Son, why did You do this to us? Your father and I were very worried about You. We have been looking for You."

Jesus said to them, "Why did you have to look for Me? You should have known that I must be in My Father's house." But they did not understand the meaning of what He said to them.

Jesus went with them to Nazareth and obeyed them.

As Jesus grew taller, He continued to grow in wisdom. God was pleased with Him and so were the people who knew Him.



## LESSON 6 – JOHN PREPARED PEOPLE

**Word Seed:** John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light, Jesus—John 1:8 (NLT).

**Word Truth:** You prepare others for Jesus by being a witness for Him.

### WORD STORY

*Bible Text: John 1:6-9, Luke 3:2-18.*

There was a man named John, the Baptist, who was sent by God. He came to tell people about the Light, Jesus. Through him all people could hear about the Light and believe. John was not the Light. But he came to tell people about the Light. The true Light was coming into the world. Jesus is the true Light that gives light to all people.

John was living in the desert, and he received a message from God. So he went through the whole area around the Jordan River and told the people God's message. He told them to be baptized to show that they wanted to change their lives, and then their sins would be forgiven.

This is like the words written in the book of Isaiah the prophet: "There is someone shouting in the desert: 'Prepare the way for the Lord. Make the road straight for Him. Then everyone will see how God will save His people!'"

Crowds of people came to be baptized by John as a sign of their decision to change. He said to them, "Change your hearts! And show by your lives that you have changed. The ax is now ready to cut down the trees.

(This referred to the people who didn't obey God. They were like "trees" that would be cut down.) Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

The people asked John, "What should we do?"

He answered, "If you have two shirts, share with someone who does not have one. If you have food, share that too."

Even the tax collectors came to John. They were Jews hired by the Romans to collect taxes, but they often cheated, and the other Jews hated them. They wanted to be baptized. They said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

He told them, "Don't take more taxes from people than you have been ordered to collect."

The soldiers asked him, "What about us? What should we do?"

He said to them, "Don't use force or lies to make people give you money. Be happy with the pay you get."

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### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *John 1:6-9, Luke 3:2-18.*

Everyone was hoping for the Savior to come, and they wondered about John. They thought, "Maybe he is the Savior."

John's answer to this was, "I baptize you in water, but there is Someone (he was talking about Jesus) coming later who is able to do more than I can. I am not good enough to be the slave who unties His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with

fire. He will separate the good grain from the straw, that is, separate the good people from those who are bad. He will put the good part into His barn. And then He will burn the useless part with a fire that cannot be stopped." John said many other things like this to encourage the people to change, and he told them the Good News about Jesus.

## LESSON 7 - JESUS WAS BAPTIZED

**Word Seed:** If you don't do what you know is right, you have sinned  
—James 4:17 (CEV).

**Word Truth:** You must do what God says is right.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Matthew 3:13-17, John 1:29-34.*

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River. He came to John, wanting John to baptize Him. But John tried to stop Him. John said, "Why do You come to me to be baptized? I should be baptized by you!"

Jesus answered, "Let it be this way for now. We should do whatever God says is right." Then John agreed.

So Jesus was baptized. As soon as He came up out of the water, the sky opened, and He saw God's Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. A voice from heaven said, "This is My Son, the One I love. I am very pleased with Him."

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God. He takes away the sins of the world! This is the One I was talking about when I said, 'There is a Man coming after me who is greater

than I am, because He was living even before I was born.' I did not know who He was. But I came baptizing people with water so that Israel could know that He is the Savior."

Then John said this for everyone to hear: "I also did not know who the Savior was. But the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'You will see the Spirit come down and rest on a Man. He is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen this happen. I saw the Spirit come down from heaven like a dove and rest on Jesus. So this is what I tell people: 'He is the Son of God.'"

## LESSON 8 - JESUS WAS TEMPTED

**Word Seed:** I have taken Your words to heart so I would not sin against You  
—Psalm 119:11 (NCV).

**Word Truth:** You need to hide God's Word in your heart by knowing and obeying it to please Him.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Matthew 4:1-11.*

Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert. He was taken there to be tempted by the devil. Jesus ate nothing for 40 days and nights. After this, He was very hungry. The devil came to tempt Him and said, "If You are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread."

Jesus answered him, "The Scriptures say, 'It is not just bread that keeps people alive. Their lives depend on what God says.'" (This is written in Deuteronomy 8:3)

Then the devil led Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem and put Him on a high place at the edge of the Temple area.

He said to Jesus, "If You are the Son of God, jump off, because the Scriptures say, 'God will command His angels to help you, and their hands will catch you, so that you will not hit your foot on a rock.'" (This is written in Psalm 91:11-12)

Jesus answered, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" (This is written in Deuteronomy 6:16)

Then the devil led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and all the wonderful things in them. The devil said, "If You will bow down and worship me, I will give You all these things."

Jesus said to him, "Get away from Me, Satan! The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only Him!'" (This is written in Deuteronomy 6:13)

So the devil left Him. Then some angels came to Jesus and helped Him.

## LESSON 9 – JESUS AT WORK

**Word Seed:** My teachings and My miracles. The Father gave Me these works to accomplish, and they prove that He sent Me—John 5:36 (NLT).

**Word Truth:** You do the work of God by helping people.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Matthew 4:12-17, 23-24, 9:36-39.*

Jesus went back to Galilee from Nazareth. He went to live in Capernaum, a town near Lake Galilee in the area near Zebulun and Naphtali. He did this to give full meaning to what the prophet Isaiah said:

“Listen, land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the area past the Jordan River—Galilee, where those from other nations live. The people who live in spiritual darkness have seen a great light. The light has shined for those who live in the land that is as dark as a grave.”

From that time, Jesus began to tell people His message: “Change your hearts and lives, because God’s kingdom has come.”

Jesus went everywhere in the country of Galilee. He taught in the synagogues and told the Good News about God’s kingdom.

And He healed all the people’s diseases and sicknesses. The news about Jesus spread all over Syria, and people brought to Him all those who were sick. They were suffering from different kinds of diseases and pain. Some had demons inside them, some suffered from seizures, and some were paralyzed. Jesus healed them all.

Jesus saw the many people and felt sorry for them because they were worried and helpless—like sheep without a shepherd to lead them. Jesus said to His followers, “There is such a big harvest of people to bring in. But there are only a few workers to help harvest them. God owns the harvest. Ask Him to send more workers to help gather His harvest.”

## LESSON 10 – HOMETOWN REJECTED JESUS

**Word Seed:** Anyone who comes to God must believe that He is real and that He rewards those who truly want to find Him—Hebrews 11:6 (NCV).

**Word Truth:** You must believe in God to receive from Him.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Luke 4:14-21, Mark 6:2-6.*

Jesus went back to Galilee with the power of the Spirit. Stories about Him, of healing the sick and doing miracles, spread all over the area around Galilee. He began to teach in the synagogues, and everyone praised Him.

Afterwards, Jesus traveled to Nazareth, the town where He grew up. On the Sabbath day, He went to the synagogue as He always did. He stood up to read. The book of Isaiah the prophet was given to Him. He opened the book and found the place where this is written:

The Spirit of the Lord is on Me. He has chosen Me to tell good news to the poor. He sent Me to tell prisoners that they are free and to tell the blind that they can see again. He sent Me to free those who have been treated badly and to announce that the time has come for the Lord to show His kindness.

Jesus closed the book, gave it back to the helper, and sat down. As everyone in the synagogue watched Him closely, He began to speak to them. He said, "While you heard Me reading these words just now, they were coming true!"

His hometown people were amazed and said, "Where did this Man get this teaching? How did He get such wisdom? Who gave it to Him? And where did He get the power to do miracles? Isn't He just the carpenter we know—Mary's Son, the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And don't His sisters still live here in town?"

So they had a problem accepting Him.

Then Jesus said to them, "People everywhere give honor to a prophet, except in his own town, with his own people, or in his home."

Jesus was not able to do any miracles there except the healing of some sick people by laying His hands on them. He was surprised that the people there had no faith. Then He went to other villages in that area and taught.

## LESSON 11 – FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

**Word Seed:** “If any of you want to be My follower, you must stop thinking about yourself and what you want. You must be willing to carry the cross that is given to you for following Me—Matthew 16:24 (ERV).”

**Word Truth:** You must give up your own way to follow Jesus.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** Mark 1:16-20, 2:13-14, John 1:43-44, Mark 3:13-19.

Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee. He saw Simon (his other name was Peter) and his brother Andrew. These two men were fishermen, and they were throwing a net into the lake to catch fish. Jesus said to them, “Come, follow Me, and I will make you a different kind of fishermen. You will bring in people, not fish.” So they immediately left their nets and followed Jesus.

Jesus continued walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two more brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat, preparing their nets to catch fish. Their father Zebedee and the men who worked for him were in the boat with the brothers. When Jesus saw the brothers, He told them to come. They left their father and followed Jesus.

Jesus went to the lake again, and many people followed Him there. So Jesus taught them. He was walking beside the lake, and He saw a man named Levi, son of Alphaeus. Levi was sitting at his place for collecting taxes. Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.” Then Levi stood up and followed Jesus.

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He met Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.” Philip was from the town of Bethsaida, the same as Andrew and Peter.

Then Jesus went up on a hill and invited those He wanted to go with Him. So they joined Him there. And He chose twelve men to be His followers. He wanted these twelve men to be with Him and follow Him. And He wanted to send them to other places to tell people God’s message. He also wanted them to have the power to force demons out of people. These are the names of the twelve men Jesus chose:

Simon (the one Jesus named Peter), James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee (the ones Jesus named Boanerges, which means “Sons of Thunder”), Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon, the Zealot, Judas Iscariot (the one who handed Jesus over to His enemies).

## LESSON 12—SON OF GOD

**Word Seed:** But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God—John 20:31 (NCV).

**Word Truth:** You believe from God's Word that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Matthew 16:13-20.*

Jesus went to the area of Caesarea Philippi. He said to His followers, "Who do people say I am?"

They answered, "Some people say You are John the Baptizer. Others say You are Elijah. And some say You are Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Then Jesus said to His followers, "And who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." The word "Messiah" was a title for the special King that God promised to send as the Savior to defeat evil and establish the rule of God.

Jesus answered, "You are blessed, Simon son of Jonah. No one taught you that. My Father in heaven showed you who I am. So I tell you, you are Peter. And I will build My church on this rock. The power of death will not be able to defeat My church. I will give you the keys to God's kingdom. Whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven.

Then Jesus warned His followers not to tell anyone He was the Messiah.



## LESSON 13 – FORETOLD HIS DEATH

**Word Seed:** “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope”—Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT).

**Word Truth:** You can trust God with your future.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Isaiah 53:4-5, John 12:27-33, Matthew 16:21-23, John 16:33.*

In the Old Testament, prophet Isaiah foretold about the Messiah:

It was our suffering He took on Himself; He bore our pain. But we thought that God was punishing Him, that God was beating Him for something He did. But He was being punished for what we did. He was crushed because of our guilt. He took the punishment we deserved, and this brought us peace. We were healed because of His pain.

In the New Testament, Jesus prayed about His death: “Now I am very troubled. What should I say? Should I say, ‘Father save Me from this time of suffering’? No, I came to this time so that I could suffer. Father, do what will bring You glory!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have already brought glory to Myself. I will do it again.”

The people standing there heard the voice. They said it was thunder.

But others said, “An angel spoke to Him!”

Jesus said, “That voice was for you and not for Me. Now is the time for the world to be judged. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out. I will be lifted up (meaning to be nailed to a cross to die) from the earth. When that happens, I will draw all people to Myself.” Jesus said this to show how He would die.

From that time, Jesus began telling His followers that He must go to Jerusalem. He explained that the older Jewish leaders, the leading priests, and the teachers of the law would make Him suffer many things. And He told His followers that He must be killed. Then, on the third day, He would be raised from death.

Peter took Jesus away from the other followers to talk to Him alone. Peter said, “God save You from those sufferings, Lord! That will never happen to You!”

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**Word Truth:** You can trust God with your future.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Isaiah 53:4-5, John 12:27-33, Matthew 16:21-23, John 16:33.*

Then Jesus said to Peter, “Get away from Me, Devil! (Jesus meant that Peter was talking like the devil.) You are not helping Me! You don’t care about the same things God does. You care only about things that people think are important.”

And Jesus said, “I have told you these things so that you can have peace in Me. In this world you will have troubles. But be brave! I have defeated the world!”

## LESSON 14 - WITH THE PROPHETS

**Word Seed:** God, our great and wonderful Father, truly honored [Jesus] by saying, "This is My own dear Son, and I am pleased with Him—2Peter 1:17 (CEV)."

**Word Truth:** God honors you when you please Him.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Matthew 17:1-8.*

Some time later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John the brother of James and went up on a high mountain. They were all alone there. While these followers watched Him, Jesus was changed. His face became bright like the sun, and His clothes became white as light. Then two men were there, talking with Him. They were Moses and Elijah.

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If You want, I will put three tents here—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While Peter was talking, a bright cloud came over them. A Voice came from the cloud and said, "This is My Son, the One I love. I am very pleased with Him. Obey Him!"

The followers with Jesus heard this Voice. They were very afraid, so they fell to the ground. But Jesus came to them and touched them. He said, "Stand up. Don't be afraid." The followers looked up, and they saw that Jesus was now alone.

## LESSON 15—PEOPLE PRAISED GOD

**Word Seed:** So through Jesus let us always offer to God our sacrifice of praise, coming from lips that speak His name—Hebrews 13:15 (NCV).

**Word Truth:** God wants you to praise Him.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** Luke 19:28-40.

When Jesus came near Bethphage and Bethany, towns near the hill called the Mount of Olives. He sent out two of His followers. He said, "Go into the town you can see there. When you enter the town, you will find a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it, and bring it here to Me. If anyone asks you why you are taking the donkey, you should say, 'The Master needs it.'"

The two followers went into town. They found the donkey exactly like Jesus told them. They untied it, but its owners came out. They said to the followers, "Why are you untying our donkey?"

The followers answered, "The Master needs it." So the followers brought the donkey to Jesus. They put their coats on its back. Then they put Jesus on the donkey. He rode along the road toward Jerusalem. The followers spread their coats on the road before Him.

Jesus was coming close to Jerusalem. He was already near the bottom of the Mount of Olives. The whole group of followers was happy. They were very excited and praised God. They thanked God for all the powerful things they had seen.

They said, "'Welcome! God bless the King who comes in the name of the Lord.' Peace in heaven and glory to God!"

Some of the Pharisees said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell Your followers not to say these things."

But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if My followers didn't say them, these stones would shout them."

## LESSON 16—CLEARED THE TEMPLE

**Word Seed:** It is written in the Scriptures, 'My Temple will be called a house for prayer for people from all nations'—Mark 11:17 (NCV).

**Word Truth:** You should be respectful to God at church.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Matthew 21:12-17.*

Jesus went into the Temple area. He threw out all those who were selling and buying things there. He turned over the tables that belonged to those who were exchanging different kinds of money. And he turned over the benches of those who were selling doves.

Jesus said to them, "The Scriptures say, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer.' But you are changing it into a 'hiding place for thieves.'"

Some blind people and some who were crippled came to Jesus in the Temple area. Jesus healed them. The leading priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful

things he was doing. And they saw the children praising him in the Temple area. The children were shouting, "Praise to the Son of David." All this made the priests and the teachers of the law angry.

They asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?"

He answered, "Yes. The Scriptures say, 'You have taught children and babies to give praise.' Have you not read that Scripture?"

Then Jesus left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

## LESSON 17—WOMAN ANOINTED JESUS

**Word Seed:** In all the work you are doing, work the best you can.

Work as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for people—Colossians 3:23 (NCV).

**Word Truth:** For whatever you do to be meaningful, do it for God.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** Mark 14:3-9.

Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper. While He was eating there, a woman came to Him. She had an alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume made of pure nard. She opened the jar and poured the perfume on Jesus' head.

Some of the followers there saw this. They were upset and complained to each other. They said, "Why waste that perfume? It was worth a full year's pay. It could have been sold and the money given to those who are poor." And they told the woman what a bad thing she had done.

Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why are you giving her such trouble? She did a very good thing for Me. You will always have the poor with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have Me. This woman did the only thing she could do for Me. She poured perfume on My body before I die to prepare it for burial. The Good News will be told to people all over the world. And I can assure you that everywhere the Good News is told, the story of what this woman did will also be told, and people will remember her."

## LESSON 18—WASHED FOLLOWERS' FEET

**Word Seed:** I did this as an example for you. So you should serve each other just as I served you—John 13:15 (ERV).

**Word Truth:** You follow Jesus' example by serving others.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** John 13:1-17.

It was almost time for the Jewish Passover festival. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go back to God the Father. Jesus had always loved the people in the world who were His. Now was the time He showed them His love the most.

Jesus and His followers were at the evening meal. God the Father had given Jesus power over everything. Jesus knew this. He also knew that He had come from God. And He knew that He was going back to God. So while they were eating, Jesus stood up and took off His robe. He got a towel and wrapped it around His waist. Then He poured water into a bowl and began to wash the followers' feet. Washing of feet was something done in those days because people wore open sandals on very dusty roads and it was usually done by a servant. He dried their feet with the towel that was wrapped around His waist.

He came to Simon Peter. But Peter said to Him, "Lord, You should not wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "You don't know what I am doing now. But later you will understand."

Peter said, "No! You will never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "If I don't wash your feet, you are not one of My people."

Then Peter allowed Jesus to wash his feet.

When Jesus finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes and went back to the table. He asked, "Do you understand what I did for you? You call Me 'Teacher.' And you call Me 'Lord.' And this is right, because that is what I am. I am your Lord and Teacher. But I washed your feet. So you also should wash each other's feet. I did this as an example for you. So you should serve each other just as I served you. Believe Me, servants are not greater than their master. Those who are sent to do something are not greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, great blessings will be yours if you do them."

## LESSON 19—THE LAST SUPPER

**Word Seed:** Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you are telling others about the Lord's death until He comes—1Corinthians 11:26 (NCV).

**Word Truth:** You remember Jesus' death every time you take part in the Lord's supper.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Matthew 26:17-20, 26-30.*

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the followers came to Jesus. They said, "We will prepare everything for You to eat the Passover meal. Where do You want us to have the meal?"

Jesus answered, "Go into the city. Go to a man I know. Tell him that the Teacher says, 'The chosen time is near. I will have the Passover meal with My followers at your house.'" They obeyed and did what Jesus told them to do. They prepared the Passover meal.

In the evening Jesus was at the table with the twelve followers. While they were eating, Jesus took some bread and thanked God for it. He broke off some pieces, gave them to His followers and said, "Take this bread and eat it. It is My body."

Then He took a cup of wine, thanked God for it, and gave it to them. He said, "Each one of you drink some of it. This wine is My blood, which will be poured out to forgive the sins of many and begin the new agreement from God to His people. I want you to know, I will not drink this wine again until that day when we are together in My Father's kingdom and the wine is new. Then I will drink it again with you."



## LESSON 20—PRAYER AT GETHSEMANE

**Word Seed:** Father, please take this cup of suffering away from Me. Yet I want Your will to be done, not Mine—Mark 14:36 (NLT).

**Word Truth:** You should pray to God to help you to want and do what He wants for you.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Matthew 26:36-46.*

Then Jesus went with His followers to a place called Gethsemane. He said to them, "Sit here while I go there and pray." He told Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, to come with Him. Then He began to be very sad and troubled. Jesus said to Peter, James and John, "My heart is so heavy with great sadness, I feel as if I am dying. Wait here and stay awake with Me."

Then Jesus went on a little farther away from them. He fell to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me. But do what You want, not what I want."

Then He went back to His followers and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, "Could you men not stay awake with Me for one hour? Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation. Your spirit wants to do what is right, but your body is weak."

Then Jesus went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if I must do this and it is not possible for Me to escape it, then I pray that what You want will be done."

Then he went back to the followers. Again, He found them sleeping. They could not stay awake. So He left them and went away one more time and prayed. This third time He prayed, He said the same thing.

Then Jesus went back to the followers and said, "Are you still sleeping and resting? The time has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the control of sinful men. Stand up! We must go. Here comes the one who will hand Me over."

## LESSON 21—JESUS WAS BETRAYED

**Word Seed:** Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!—Matthew 26:41 (NLT).

**Word Truth:** You need to pray to God to help you to resist temptation.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** Matthew 26:14-16, 20-25, 31-35, 41, 47-50, 57-58, 69-75.

A while back, one of the twelve followers, Judas Iscariot, went to talk to the leading priests.

He said, "I will hand Jesus over to you. What will you pay me for doing this?"

The priests gave him 30 silver coins. After that Judas waited for the best time to hand Jesus over to them.

In the evening of the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, Jesus was eating at the table with the twelve followers.

Then Jesus said, "Believe Me when I say that one of you twelve here will hand Me over to My enemies."

The followers were very sad to hear this. Each one said, "Lord, surely I am not the one!"

Jesus answered, "One who has dipped his bread in the same bowl with Me will be the one to hand Me over. The Son of Man will suffer what the Scriptures say will happen to Him. But it will be very bad for the one who hands over the Son of Man to be killed. It would be better for him if he had never been born."

Then Judas, the very one who would hand Him over, said to Jesus, "Teacher, surely I am not the one You are talking about, am I?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you."

After they finished eating, Jesus and His followers went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus told the followers, "Tonight you will all lose your faith in Me. The Scriptures say, 'I will kill the Shepherd, and the sheep will run away.' But after I am killed, I will rise from death. Then I will go into Galilee. I will be there before you go there."

Peter answered, "All the other followers may lose their faith in You. But my faith will never be shaken."

Jesus answered, "The truth is, tonight you will say you don't know Me. You will deny Me three times before the rooster crows."

But Peter answered, "I will never say I don't know You! I will even die with You!"

And all the other followers said the same thing.

Later when Jesus went with His followers to a place called Gethsemane, He said to Peter, "Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation. Your spirit wants to do what is

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### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** Matthew 26:14-16, 20-25, 31-35, 41, 47-50, 57-58, 69-75.

right, but your body is weak." Instead Peter slept.

Later, Judas came there and he had a big crowd of people with him, all carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent from the leading priests and the older leaders of the people. Judas planned to do something to show them which one was Jesus.

He said, "The One I kiss will be Jesus. Arrest Him."

So he went to Jesus and said, "Hello, Teacher!"

Then Judas kissed Him. And the men came and grabbed Jesus and arrested Him.

The men who arrested Jesus led Him to the house of Caiaphas the high priest. Peter followed Jesus but stayed back at a distance. He followed Him to the yard of the high priest's house. Peter went in and sat with the guards. He wanted to see what would happen to Jesus. While Peter was sitting outside in the yard, a servant girl came up to him. She said, "You were with Jesus, that Man from Galilee."

But Peter told everyone there that this was not true. "I don't know what you are talking about," he said.

Then he left the yard.

At the gate another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Again, Peter said he was never with Jesus. He said, "I swear to God I don't know the Man!"

A short time later those standing there went to Peter and said, "We know you are one of them. It's clear from the way you talk."

Then Peter began to curse. He said, "I swear to God, I don't know the Man!"

As soon as he said this, a rooster crowed. Then he remembered what Jesus had told him: "Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don't know Me." Then Peter went outside and cried bitterly.

## LESSON 22—JESUS IN COURT

**Word Seed:** He was treated badly, but He never protested.  
He never opened His mouth to defend Himself—Isaiah 53:7 (ERV).

**Word Truth:** You do not have to argue to prove that you are right.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-15.

Those who arrested Jesus led Him to the house of the high priest. All the leading priests, the older Jewish leaders, and the teachers of the law were gathered there. They tried to find something that Jesus had done wrong so they could kill Him. But they could find no proof that would allow them to kill Jesus. Many people came and told lies against Jesus, but they all said different things. None of them agreed.

Then some others stood up and told more lies against Jesus. They said, "We heard this Man say, 'I will destroy this Temple built by human hands. And three days later, I will build another Temple not made by human hands.'" But also what these people said did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up before everyone and said to Jesus, "These people said things against You. Do You have something to say about their charges? Are they telling the truth?"

But Jesus said nothing to answer him.

The high priest asked Jesus another question: "Are You the Messiah, the Son of the blessed God?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, I am the Son of God. And in the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right side of God All-Powerful. And you will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven."

When the high priest heard this, he tore his clothes in anger. He said, "We don't need any more witnesses! You all heard these insults to God. What do you think?"

Everyone agreed that Jesus was guilty and must be killed. Some of the people there spit at Him. They covered His eyes and hit Him with their fists. They mocked Him, "Be a prophet and tell us who hit You!" Then the guards led Jesus away and beat Him.

Very early in the morning, the leading priests, the older Jewish leaders, the teachers of the law, and the whole high council decided what to do with Jesus. They tied Him, led Him away, and handed Him over to Governor Pilate.

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, that is right."

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### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-15.

The leading priests accused Jesus of many things.

So Pilate asked Jesus another question. He said, "You can see that these people are accusing You of many things. Why don't You answer?"

But Jesus still did not answer, and this really surprised Pilate.

Every year at the Passover time the governor would free one prisoner—whichever one the people wanted. There was a man in prison at that time named Barabbas. He and the rebels with him had been put in prison for committing murder during a riot.

The people came to Pilate and asked him to free a prisoner as he always did. Pilate asked them, "Do you want me to free the King of the Jews?" Pilate knew that the

leading priests had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous of Him. But the leading priests persuaded the people to ask Pilate to free Barabbas, not Jesus.

Pilate asked the people again, "So what should I do with this Man you call the King of the Jews?"

The people shouted, "Kill Him on a cross!"

Pilate asked, "Why? What wrong has He done?"

But the people shouted louder and louder, "Kill Him on a cross!"

Pilate wanted to please the people, so he set Barabbas free for them. And he told the soldiers to beat Jesus with whips. Then he handed Him over to the soldiers to be killed on a cross.

## LESSON 23—JESUS DIED

**Word Seed:** Christ died once for our sins. An innocent person died for those who are guilty. Christ did this to bring you to God, when His body was put to death —1Peter 3:18 (CEV).

**Word Truth:** Jesus died to save you from your sins.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Matthew 27:27-54.*

After Jesus was ordered to be killed by Pilate, his soldiers took Him into the governor's palace and gathered around Him. They took off Jesus' clothes and put a red robe on Him. Then they made a crown from thorny branches and put it on His head, and they put a stick in His right hand. Then they bowed before Him, making fun of Him.

They spit on Him. Then they took His stick and kept hitting Him on the head with it. After they finished making fun of Him, the soldiers took off the robe and put His own clothes on Him again. Then they led Him away to be killed on a cross.

The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. Then they threw dice to divide His clothes between them. The soldiers stayed there to guard Him. They put a sign above His head with the charge against Him written on it: "THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

Two criminals were nailed to crosses beside Jesus—one on the right and the other on the left. People walked by and shouted insults at Jesus. The leading priests, the teachers of the law, and the older Jewish

leaders were also there. They made fun of Jesus the same as the other people did. And in the same way, the criminals on the crosses beside Jesus also insulted Him.

At noon the whole country became dark. The darkness continued for three hours. About three o'clock Jesus cried out loudly, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" This means "My God, My God, why have You left Me alone?"

Some of the people standing there heard this. They said, "He is calling Elijah."

The word for "My God" (Eli in Hebrew or Eloi in Aramaic) sounded to the people like the name of Elijah

Again Jesus cried out loudly and then died.

When Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces. The tear started at the top and tore all the way to the bottom. Also, the earth shook and rocks were broken. The graves opened, and many of God's people who had died were raised from death. They came out of the graves. And after Jesus was raised from death, they went into the holy city, and many people saw them.

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WORD STORY
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**Bible Text:** *Matthew 27:27-54.*

The army officer and the soldiers guarding Jesus saw this earthquake and everything that happened. They were very afraid and said, "He really was the Son of God!"

## LESSON 24—JESUS ALIVE AGAIN

**Word Seed:** And just as Christ was raised from death by the wonderful power of the Father, so we can now live a new life—Romans 6:4 (ERV).

**Word Truth:** Jesus is alive again for you to live for God.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Matthew 27:57-28:15.*

After Jesus died on the cross, a rich man named Joseph who was a follower of Jesus from the town of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked to have Jesus' body. Pilate gave orders for the soldiers to give Jesus' body to him. Then Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a new linen cloth. He put Jesus' body in a new tomb that he had dug in a wall of rock. Then he closed the tomb by rolling a very large stone to cover the entrance. After he did this, he went away.

The next day, the leading priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. They said, "Sir, we remember that while that liar was still alive He said, 'I will rise from death in three days.' So give the order for the tomb to be guarded well for three days. His followers might come and try to steal the body. Then they could tell everyone that He has risen from death. That lie will be even worse than what they said about Him before."

Pilate said, "Take some soldiers and go guard the tomb the best way you know."

So they all went to the tomb and made it safe from thieves. They did this by sealing the stone in the entrance and putting

soldiers there to guard it.

The day after the Sabbath day was the first day of the week. That day at dawn Mary Magdalene and the other woman named Mary went to look at the tomb.

Suddenly an angel of the Lord came from the sky, and there was a huge earthquake. The angel went to the tomb and rolled the stone away from the entrance. Then he sat on top of the stone. The angel was shining as bright as lightning. His clothes were as white as snow. The soldiers guarding the tomb were very afraid of the angel. They shook with fear and then became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, the One who was killed on the cross. But He is not here. He has risen from death, as He said He would. Come and see the place where His body was. And go quickly and tell His followers, 'Jesus has risen from death. He is going into Galilee and will be there before you. You will see Him there.'"

Then the angel said, "Now I have told you."



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### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Matthew 27:57-28:15.*

So the women left the tomb quickly. They were afraid, but they were also very happy. They ran to tell His followers what happened. Suddenly, Jesus was there in front of them. He said, "Hello!" The women went to Him and, holding on to His feet, worshiped Him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go tell My followers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there."

The women went to tell the followers. At the same time, some of the soldiers who

were guarding the tomb went into the city. They went to tell the leading priests everything that happened. Then the priests met with the older Jewish leaders and made a plan. They paid the soldiers a lot of money and said to them, "Tell the people that Jesus' followers came during the night and stole the body while you were sleeping. If the governor hears about this, we will talk to him and keep you out of trouble."

So the soldiers kept the money and obeyed the priests. And that story is still spread among the Jews even today.

## LESSON 25—APPEARED TO FOLLOWERS

**Word Seed:** Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you see me. Those who believe without seeing me will be truly blessed."—John 20:29 (NCV).

**Word Truth:** You do not have to see Jesus to believe in Him.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** Luke 24:33-53, John 20:24-29.

After Jesus appeared to two of His followers going to a town named Emmaus, they went back to Jerusalem. There they found the followers of Jesus meeting together. The eleven apostles and the people with them said, "The Lord really has risen from death! He appeared to Simon."

Then the two men told what had happened on the road. They talked about how they recognized Jesus when he shared the bread with them.

While the two men were saying these things to the other followers, Jesus himself came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you."

This surprised the followers. They were afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

But Jesus said, "Why are you troubled? Why do you doubt what you see? Look at My hands and My feet. It's really Me. Touch Me. You can see that I have a living body; a ghost does not have a body like this."

After Jesus told them this, He showed them His hands and His feet. The followers were amazed and very, very happy to see that Jesus was alive. They still could not believe what they saw. He said to them, "Do you have any food here?" They gave Him a piece of cooked fish. While the followers watched, He took the fish and ate it.

Jesus said to them, "Remember when I was with you before? I said that everything written about Me must happen—everything written in the Law of Moses, the books of the prophets, and the Psalms."

Then Jesus helped the followers understand these Scriptures about Him.

Jesus led His followers out of Jerusalem almost to Bethany. He raised His hands and blessed His followers. While He was blessing them, He was separated from them and carried into heaven. They worshiped Him and went back to Jerusalem very happy. They stayed at the Temple all the time, praising God.

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### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** *Luke 24:33-53, John 20:24-29.*

Thomas (called Didymus) was one of the twelve, but he was not with the other followers when Jesus came. They told him, "We saw the Lord." Thomas said, "That's hard to believe. I will have to see the nail holes in His hands, put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side. Only then will I believe it."

A week later the followers were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and

stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at My hands. Put your hand here in My side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "You believe because you see Me. Great blessings belong to the people who believe without seeing Me!"

## LESSON 26—WILL COME BACK

**Word Seed:** After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me so that you may be where I am—John 14:3 (NCV).

**Word Truth:** Jesus is coming back for you.

### WORD STORY

**Bible Text:** Acts 1:1-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Before Jesus was carried up into heaven, He talked to the believers. With the help of the Holy Spirit, He told them what they should do. This was after His death, but He showed them that He was alive, proving it to them in many ways. The believers saw Jesus many times during the 40 days after He was raised from death. He spoke to them about God's kingdom.

One time when Jesus was eating with them, He told them not to leave Jerusalem. He said, "Wait here until you receive what the Father promised to send. Remember, I told you about it before. John baptized people with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will come on you and give you power. You will be My witnesses. You will tell people everywhere about Me—in Jerusalem, in the rest of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world."

After Jesus said this, He was lifted up into the sky. While they were watching, He went into a cloud, and they could not see Him. They were staring into the sky where He had gone. Suddenly two angels were standing beside them.

They said, "Men from Galilee, why are you standing here looking into the sky? You saw Jesus carried away from you into heaven. He will come back in the same way you saw Him go."

Years later, Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Thessalonica:

Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about those who have died. We don't want you to be sad like other people—those who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died, but we also believe that He rose again. So we believe that God will raise to life through Jesus any who have died and bring them together with Him when He comes.

What we tell you now is the Lord Jesus' own message. Those of us who are still living when the Lord Jesus comes again will join Him, but not before those who have already died. The Lord Jesus Himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with

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the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. And the people who have died and believed in Jesus will rise first. After that we who are still alive at that time will be gathered up with those who have

died. We, the believers, will be taken up in the clouds and meet the Lord Jesus in the air. And we will be with the Lord Jesus forever.

So encourage each other with these words.