



# **Discussion Guide**

for the video

# *God's Story*

**From Creation to Eternity**

**Leader's Copy &  
Discussion Suggestions**



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(with actual length of video selection to be shown)

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## Discussion Guide

### Section #1: THE BIBLE

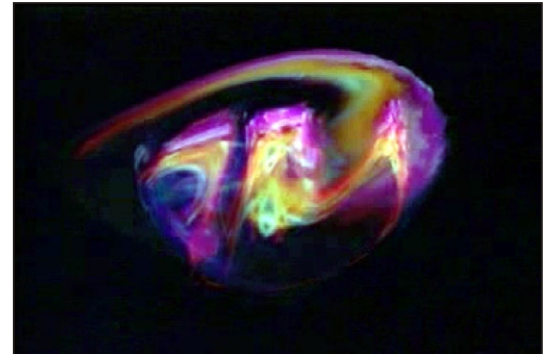
**Read to the Group:** Welcome to a discussion of the Bible as seen in the video, *God's Story*. This story from the Bible shows how God reached down to us creating us and loving us. It is the greatest story ever told because of the dramatic way it can personally impact us. As we view this video in sections, I will be stopping and asking for your opinions on what we have just seen. I am interested in hearing your observations on certain subjects. Let's watch its short introduction and I want to ask you a few questions.

#### Group Question:

1. After viewing this introduction, how do you see that the writing and message of the Bible is different from any other books in human history?

**Leader Information:** The depth of this discussion will probably be dependent on their understanding of Buddhist teachings. You are just asking for a reaction. Avoid spending a lot of time on this section. Rather than trying to convince them that the Bible is better than other teachings, just ask them if they see any difference. In time, the Lord will show the truth to those who want to know. Possible answers...

- Written by many authors (40) over a long period of time.
- Although most of the authors did not know each other and lived in different centuries, their writings all agree.
- God spoke the words and men wrote them down. It is not man's writings.
- The Bible is a message of love.
- The Bible tells us that we can know the Creator God.



#### Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

Begin with the introduction "God... the creator and giver of life" (Swirling ball that turns into earth)...through... "This is God's Story" (Opening of the Bible. If the title, *God's Story* reads in your language, you may or may not choose to show it at end of the opening Bible scene.) 1 minute



**Read this Scripture to the Group:** The Bible says,

“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

**Transition Statement:** We will begin this video journey that will show us some of the main stories written in the Bible now (*or* next time when we meet).

**Leader Information:** THE WORD OF GOD IS SHARPER THAN ANY DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD... Leader, trust the power of the Word of God to convince class members. As God's Word brought you to faith in Jesus, so will it continue to bring others who seek truth.

**Leader Scripture:** Be assured by reviewing these next verses that God Himself will be speaking to sincere seekers.

“So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

“For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened” (Matthew 7:8).

“But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

“We love him, because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).



## Discussion Guide

### Section #2: CREATION

**Read to the Group:** In the video, we have seen that God created the world out of nothing. We have seen that He has great power. We have seen that he created people and cared about them.

#### Group Question:

- 1 If you were to believe in God, what kind of a god would you want to believe in? How would you describe Him?

**Leader Information:** They will generally answer...all powerful, all knowing, caring, etc.

The list below is for your reference. Remember that the emphasis is on what they think God should be. Let the biblical story speak to them about who God is, rather than you lecturing them about who He is.

Your group may not be sure of themselves yet, and have problems speaking their thoughts out loud, or of forming thoughts on this question. You may decide to help them get started by referring to some of the qualities in the list below in a question form. For instance you could say, "Would he be loving? Would he be powerful? Would he know everything?"

- God is greater than all and more important than all.
- God is the highest authority.
- God communicates with man and man needs God.
- God is love
- God does not change
- God knows everything.
- God is everywhere all the time.
- God had no beginning and will have no end.
- God was there before the beginning of everything.
- God is spirit and has no material body.
- God created earth and everything including man, out of nothing.
- God is a God of order.



#### Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

Watch from "In the beginning God created" (Starburst of light)...through... "And God saw everything He made and it was very good." (Space shot of far away planet) 3 minutes, 26 seconds



- God is trinity in three persons.
- God is holy and righteous and cannot tolerate sin.

**Read to the Group:** In a few minutes we will continue to watch the video. Let us see how God compares to your idea of what God should be. I think you will see that He not only meets, but exceeds your expectations.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handywork” (Psalm 19:1).

**Read to the Group:** According to the Bible, God created the world and all that is in it.



**Group Questions:**

1. How can you see the hand of a master designer in the way the world and mankind are made?
2. What parts of creation would it be difficult to believe just happened by chance?

**Leader Information:** Possible responses...

- The way our bodies are made.
- The tiny little details on every insect.
- The intricacies of a spider web or snowflake.
- The vast variety of plants and animals.
- The medicinal value of many plants.



If you are teaching people who have been taught evolution, avoid discussing the validity of evolution and trust that God will speak to them on that issue. Sincere viewers will see the weakness of evolution as they watch the video and are faced with God's power and character. Should it be brought up, just ask the class to be open-minded while watching the video.

You may say, “You might find some concepts that are hard to believe or different from what you have heard before.” But remember, we are just here to observe and see what the Bible says. For now, while we watch this video, imagine that it might be true and ask God to confirm in your heart if the Bible really is trustworthy. Let us show respect to God's word and see how He will speak to us through His story. I cannot convince you of the truth of His Word, only God can do that.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

**Transition Statement:** Now, (*or* next time when we meet), let us observe how Adam and Eve enjoyed their life in the perfect Garden of Eden.



## Discussion Guide

### Section #3: ADAM AND EVE LIVING IN HAPPINESS IN THE GARDEN

**Read to the Group:** God provided everything in the Garden of Eden for man and woman to enjoy life to the fullest.



#### Group Question:

1. How did God show His care for Adam and Eve?

**Leader Information:** Possible responses...

- Created a wife for Adam
- Gave them a large variety of things to eat, a beautiful garden to live in
- Talked to them
- Gave them animals of every type to watch over and enjoy

**Read to the Group:** *God's Story* talks a great deal about choices.

#### Group Questions:

1. Has there ever been a time when you or your children made a bad personal choice?
2. What were the consequences of that choice?

**Leader Information:** Be prepared to share a brief example from your own life.



**Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:**

Watch from "And the evening and morning were the 6<sup>th</sup> day" (Space to close-up of globe)... through... "When bad choices are made" (Stream of light) 6 minutes, 18 seconds





**Read to the Group:** This is a quote from *God's Story* that is good to remember.

*Freedom to choose does not bring happiness when bad choices are made.*

The next section will show us something about sin. We always hesitate to call our bad choices sin because it would classify us as a 'sinner.' In our eyes it seems acceptable to call a bad criminal a sinner, but in politeness we usually avoid referring to non-criminals as sinners... especially ourselves. But we need to honestly investigate a correct definition of sin.

**Group Questions:**

1. At what point do you think a bad choice should be considered a sin?
2. What kinds of things do you think should be included in the definition of a sin?
3. What things do you think a perfect God would include?

**Leader Information:** These questions give you a chance to explain God's definition of sin as outlined in the Leader Information below.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:** As a concerned creator, God wrote His description of sin. He says in the Bible:

“Who ever commits sin breaks also the law: for sin is the breaking of the law” (1 John 3:4).

According to God, we can sin in many ways such as...

- Doing things that we know are wrong.
- Not doing things that we know we should do.
- Dwelling on bad thoughts in our mind. (If you are so angry with your boss that you think about ways to take revenge, this is a sin. When a man sees a woman he may have a instant feeling toward her. This is not a sin in itself. It is when he chooses to dwell or think about the woman in an inappropriate way that it becomes sin.)
- Breaking the laws of man and God, even if we haven't yet heard of that law.

**Group Question:**

1. What seems to be the difference between the laws that people make and the laws of God?

**Read to the Group:** From these examples we discussed, you can see that by God's measurement we all have sinned. None of us is perfect in every way. God's standard is higher than ours. His standard is perfection. We all have at least one black mark on a blank page. Let me show you what I mean. *(Hold up a white page of paper then use a pen or pencil to put black marks on it and explain.)*

This page is our life, and the marks on it represent our sin. Surely, we can all admit to having at least one sin in our life? Most of us will probably admit that we have at least one a

day, so we can see by the end of our life, that the page will be full of black marks. (*Continue to add more marks on the paper as you speak.*)

We were not the first people to sin. Soon, in the next video selection, you will see that Adam and Eve chose to disobey God's one command. They sinned. As we see in the story what happened to them because of their sin, we will find out what will happen to us.

**Group Questions:**

1. From what you can see about God's beautiful creation, can you think of any reason why Adam and Eve wouldn't believe that God had already given them the best?
2. Why might they choose to disobey?
3. What kind of parallels do you see in the lives of our children?
4. In what ways do youngsters ever use their own reasoning to choose to go against the directions of their parents, even when their elders know what is best for them?
5. Even when your parents were right, did you ever disobey them? Why?

**Read to the Group:** Another way God chooses to define sin is “Going our own way.” Adam and Eve chose to be independent of God. They disobeyed and decided to go their own way, not God's way. Sometimes children choose to express their independence by making their own choices, even when their elders know that it is the wrong choice for them.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

**Transition Statement:** This explanation of sin may be a little hard to understand, but as we continue watching the video, you will begin to see a repeating pattern of sinful choices in the stories. Sometimes these choices are obviously disobedience. At other times the actions will be more subtle. As we watch more of the video now, (*or next time when we meet*), let us look for choices that are made by the men and women of the Bible. Let's see what happens to people who sin, and see if anyone discovers a remedy.



## Discussion Guide

### Section #4: THE FALL: TURNING FROM GOD

**Read to the Group:** We see that Satan, also called Lucifer and the Devil, chose to turn away from God and go his own way. God also gives people the freedom to believe or not to believe. We have free will.

#### Group Questions:

1. Why do you think it might be important to God to give us the freedom to choose?
2. Can you imagine any reasons why God created people if He knew ahead of time that some people would not use their free will to trust Him?

**Read to the Group:** We were created to honor and glorify God through trusting and obeying Him. God created man in His likeness or image. God is spirit, so it is not our body that is like God. It is our spirit that is like God. We were made to know, love and obey God. In spite of all the hurt we have caused God, He still loves us. Even knowing ahead of time that many He created would use their free will to reject His leadership and love, He still chose create us.

Human parents do the same. They desire to have a child, even though they know the risk that the child might not obey them. They want a child to love and train, and in turn hope that the child will be grateful to them, be obedient and responsible, and love them in return.

#### Group Questions:

1. Do you see the evidence of sin and evil in the world today?
2. Where and how?
3. How does Satan complicate our use of free will?
4. Sometimes when we break laws or rules, is it because someone tempted us?
5. Have any of us ever broken rules just because we wanted to? *(As a leader you may want to share that you have broken many of God's laws. Be specific but not detailed.)*



#### Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

Watch from "Long before God created humans" (Stream of light)... through... "I made you from dust and you will return to dust." (Hands on fig leaves)  
5 minutes, 12 seconds



**Leader Information:** (This next information is long, but vital for the class to know. It is hard to read this much material out loud and still keep the group's attention. Study it many times until you know it very well. Try making notes to remind you of the content. If you have trouble remembering parts, read however much is necessary.)

God created many heavenly beings and gave them life. They are known by many different names in the Bible such as angels, messengers and servants. They were created to serve God. They do not have bodies like humans do, but at times these beings have appeared on earth in the form of men. They are powerful, but not as strong or powerful as God. They have great wisdom, but cannot be everywhere at once.

We need to believe that God is greater than everything He created. These heavenly beings were created perfect, but they were given a free will to choose whether to follow God or not.



Of all the beings God created, Lucifer, was the most beautiful and had great responsibility. He should have loved and obeyed God, but instead he developed pride in his beauty, intelligence and position. Lucifer wanted to take over God's position and influenced many other heavenly beings to follow him. Lucifer, also known as Satan, was the first one of God's created beings to commit evil.

But God knows everything, so He knew what Lucifer and the other rebellious angels were planning before it even happened. He knew Lucifer's thoughts, his heart, and his future actions. God is holy and righteous, so nothing sinful could stay in His presence. So then, because of Lucifer's pride and rebellion against God, Lucifer lost his place of honor and service in Heaven.

For Lucifer's sin of rebellion, God sentenced Him to eternal death. God prepared the Lake of Fire (Hell) to be an everlasting place of punishment for Lucifer and the other fallen angels. In a time yet future, they will be sent to that place. God is using Satan to demonstrate the wisdom and justice of the sentence by not immediately sending Satan to Hell and allowing him to try to be god.. God also uses Satan for another purpose. The very existence of Satan gives us an opportunity to use our free will. We can either follow Satan or choose to trust God.

Satan, through his lies and false teaching, attempts to be god, but of course those who follow him find out he is an imposter and that he can only destroy people's lives. We see Satan's hand at work in many ways. Satan tries to deceive people so that they might worship him robbing God of the worship that He deserves. Satan tries to influence people to do evil.

But, remember that we each have a free will. We have a choice. We can believe in God, and He will give us the strength to overcome Satan. Satan cannot make us do what he wants. We do not need to be afraid because God can give us victory. God is stronger than Satan, and God's plans will win.

(If anyone still asks why an all-powerful God does not get rid of Satan now, or even why God ever allowed Satan to exist in the first place, go back to the discussion of free will and God's offer of love to everyone. Point out that we need to appreciate how God is waiting for the

right time to carry out His sentence against Satan for his rebellion. This same patience is shown toward us since we also sin against God. A long time ago, Satan had the chance to honor God, but he chose not to trust God. So now, God gives us an opportunity to humble ourselves by admitting our sins, and to trust God and be forgiven.)

**Read to the Group:** God wanted to give Adam the very best. He wanted Adam to be dependent on Him and to guide him in every decision. God told Adam that if he ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he would die. But we don't see him die immediately, which shows us that God did not mean physical death.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23a).

**Group Questions:**

1. How did the relationship between God and Adam and Eve change after they ate the fruit?
2. Can this help us discover the true meaning of death in this situation?

**Read to the Group:** Death in this situation was separation from God; a broken relationship, a spiritual death. When Adam and Eve discovered the meaning of evil, their relationship with God immediately changed. They saw that they were naked and tried to cover their bodies. They felt shame and tried to hide from God. Then they made excuses to God about breaking His rule. Their natural pure relationship with God was broken. Adam and Eve began to try to provide for themselves and live independently from God. So death was spiritual, losing their relationship with God. (Unless you are covering only one section per week, it is best to present sections 4 & 5 together. We recommend keeping the meeting going at this point or you will leave them with no hope.)

**Transition Statement:** It may look now as if there is no hope for Adam and Eve and no hope for us either. As we will see in the next selection (*or* next time when we meet), the all-powerful Creator-God has a plan to rescue humanity.

## Discussion Guide

### Section # 5: THERE IS STILL HOPE

**Read to the Group:** Adam and Eve made themselves a covering of fig leaves in order to make themselves presentable to God, but God refused to accept that clothing.

#### Group Questions:

1. What material did God choose to make clothes for them instead of fig leaves?
2. Why do you think God decided to use skins for clothes, which meant that He had to kill an animal?

**Read to the Group:** We might think that the reason God did not approve of the fig leaves was because the leaves were not much of a covering. Leaves offer no weather protection and certainly are not long-lasting! But the real reason is that God wanted to show them the picture of a sacrifice. The idea that an innocent life would have to pay to cover their sins must have been a hard concept. Even today many people think that they must do good deeds to cover their sins. The concept that someone else, someone innocent, would die for us to cover our sins is sometimes hard to comprehend.

In the early part of the Bible, the Old Testament section, God outlined what He expected of the people. He knew people needed clear pictures of His justice, mercy and grace.

God is the one who chose to make Adam and Eve clothing out of animal skins. He killed the animals, took off the skins, made the clothes, and even put the skins on Adam and Eve. He did this to show that mankind cannot do anything to make itself acceptable to God. God would have to provide the acceptable covering. This covering had to include the spilling of innocent blood. Although, the blood of animals could never cover our sin, it serves as a picture of the punishment and remedy for all sin.

God already knew before He created the world that there would need to be a Deliverer. As we will see later in this video, the Bible explains how Jesus was destined to become the ultimate sacrifice for our sin.



#### Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

“The Fig Leaves which Adam and Eve” (Picture of hands on fig tree leaves)... through... “In God's Story there is still hope” (Closing of the Bible ). 1 minute, 18 seconds



Remember the page that represented our life? (Hold up a page covered with black mark and keep adding more black marks as you speak ) These black marks represented our sins and as we continue to sin our lives just get darker and darker. Do you also remember the Bible verse that said “The wages of sin is death”? Well the good news is that the rest of that verse goes on to say, “but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

(Hold up a second sheet, a clean piece of white paper.) Two thousand years ago Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for our sin. If we trust Him to save us, He covers our sin (cover the marked paper with the white one): His perfect life, His righteousness, allows us to restore our relationship with God.

At the end of this last segment of the video, Adam and Eve were devastated because of their sin and loss. They could have lived in the garden forever, but because of this separation they must also face physical death. When a branch is broken off of a tree, very soon it will wither and die.

God sustains life. When Adam's relationship with God was broken, so was his source of life. Therefore he must die physically. In addition, he must face the hardships of life outside of the ideal existence God had offered him in the Garden of Eden.

### **Group Questions:**

1. Do you hear any hope in the promise of a Savior who we find named in the Bible as Jesus?
2. Did Adam and Eve deserve God's love and this promise of hope?
3. According to what we have heard so far, does anyone truly deserve this promise from a perfect God?

**Leader Information:** God promised to send a deliverer who would overcome Satan and release mankind from the penalty of death. None of us deserves that promise, but God showed grace. Grace is “giving what is needed” instead of “giving what is deserved.” Even though we saw in creation that God has awesome power, He still cares about each one of us. Imagine, He offers forgiveness to us when we rebel against His leadership. We would be foolish not to appreciate, respect and even fear Him.

**Read to the Group:** If we ended the story right here you will not get a balanced picture of God. God has a problem if you can imagine one so great having a problem. On the one hand He is a righteous God, and a God of justice who cannot tolerate sin. On the other hand, He is a God of love, mercy and grace (*hold up one hand to show righteousness and justice and then the other to show love, mercy and grace*). In this video we will continue to see how God solves this problem through Jesus, satisfying both His righteousness and justice, as well as His love, mercy and grace (*bring the two hands together showing a new way*).

We will discover that God, who is a spirit, came to earth in a human body as Jesus Christ, God's son. In this way Jesus could live on earth as we live, yet, not sin. The first man, Adam, represented us all and he failed. But Jesus a new Adam-type representative, would stand against Satan. Since Jesus did not break any of God's laws, He qualified as an innocent sacrifice. He could then take on Himself the punishment we deserve for our sin. In this way,

God's justice would be satisfied, yet His love and mercy could also be made available to us. Through Jesus, God offers us a restored relationship with Himself.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive... And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit” (1 Corinthians 15:21-22 & 45).

**Leader Information:** It is important to mention somewhere in this discussion that Jesus is not a part of the creation. He is the creator. He did not evolve into God. He was God before His birth.

**Leader Scriptures:**

“But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared” (Titus 3:4).

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him” (Colossians 1:13-16).

“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 3:9)

**Group Question :**

1. Why did Adam and Eve's sin condemn us ALL to die?

**Read to the Group:** Adam brought sin and death into the world. Adam is our first forefather. We are all his descendants. Remember, Adam and Eve had perfect parentage, lived in a perfect environment and did not inherit anything bad from their ancestors, yet they sinned. The most perfect representatives ever possible for mankind failed. So when Adam sinned he not only changed the future for himself, but for us as well. When Adam sinned he ruined the perfect relationship he had with God.

Because of this, the perfection of the world was also ruined. He started a chain of events bringing much sorrow into the world. When Adam chose to disobey God he would be choosing Satan's destiny: eternal separation and punishment in Hell. Adam's eternal separation also



meant our eternal separation from God. Therefore death included:

- Separation from God relationally
- Separation from the body in physical death
- Separation from God forever and eternal punishment

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).



**Read to the Group:** Adam and Eve tried to make themselves acceptable to God by making clothing for themselves. But this outward appearance was not enough to restore the relationship (*show the bridge illustration as you present the following information*).

All people have a place in their heart that only God can fill. Not all people recognize the need, but you will hear phrases such as, “My life is empty and vain” (SYU-KUNGDE) or “My life has no meaning.” Others will be living with daily fear and anger.

The fact that all cultures have gods in their background, suggests that all have a need for God. In the beginning of time, God established a relationship with us, but that union was broken by sin. Adam and Eve tried to re-establish that relationship but their way didn't work. Today we also try to do things to make ourselves acceptable to God, but none of these are good enough. Only Jesus can reestablish that union.

**Group Questions:**

1. Did Adam and Eve suffer consequences for their sin?
2. Even though they had to move out of the perfect garden, did God offer them forgiveness?
3. Have we all suffered for sins we have committed?
4. Do you think God offers forgiveness today to us?
5. What difference could it make to you if He did?

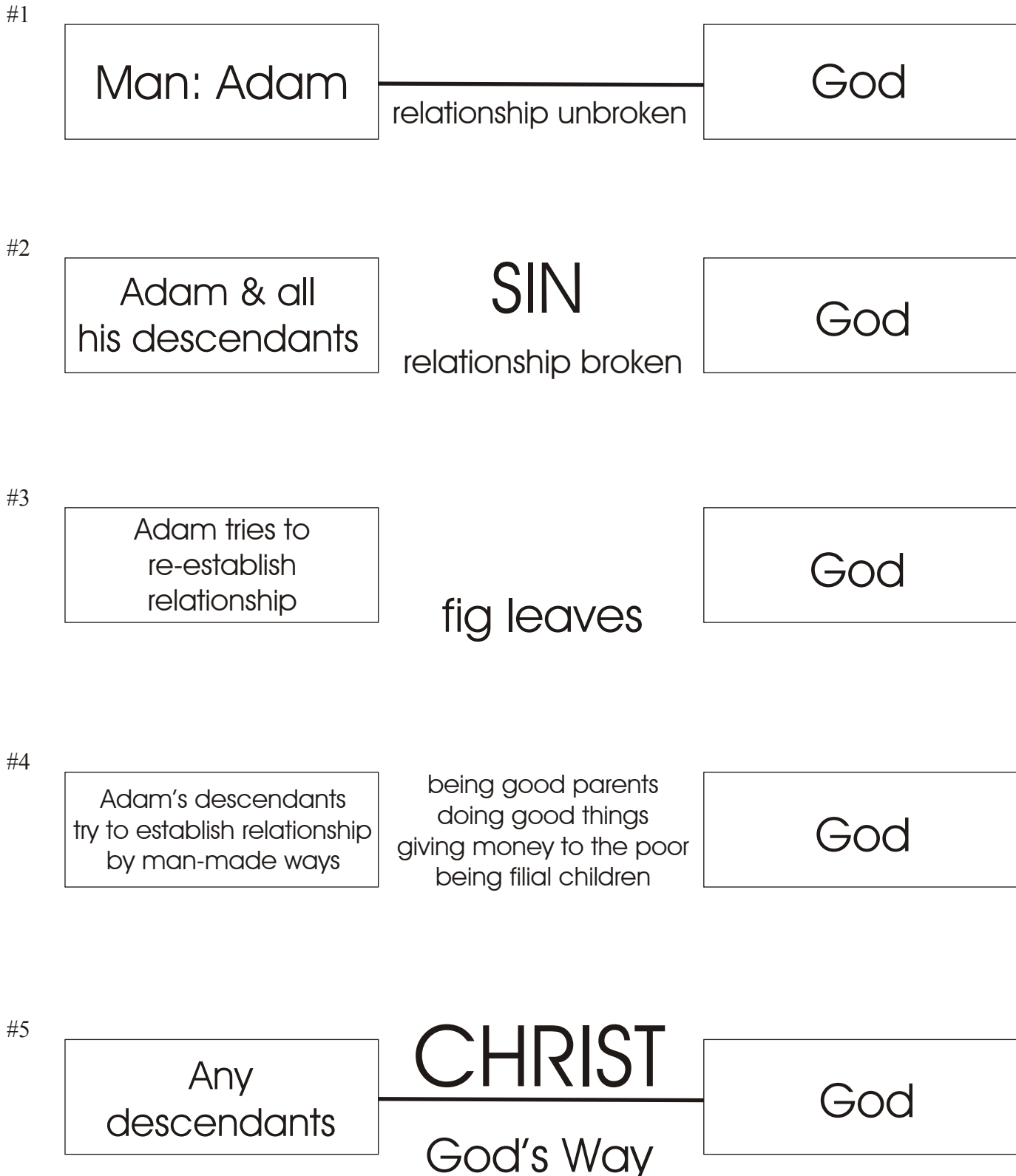
**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

**Transition Statement:** In their perfect garden, Adam and Eve failed to obey God. Will the harsher life outside the Garden bring people to faith in God? We would think that the children of Adam and Eve would learn a great lesson from the tragic mistake of their parents. The next video selection will show us just how much their children learned about respect and trust of God. We will see it now (*or next time when we meet*).



## The Bridge Illustration





## Discussion Guide

### Section #6: LIFE OUTSIDE OF THE GARDEN

#### Group Questions:

1. What did the two sons of Adam and Eve bring as a sacrifice offering to God?
2. How did God respond to the two different gifts and to the sons, Cain and Abel?
3. Which son showed faith in God and how do we see that faith demonstrated?
4. How do you see Cain's attitude toward God in the gift that he brought.
5. Why do you think Cain would even offer something to God if he didn't respect God enough to obey Him?
6. Explain what you think is the difference between responding to God out of love and respect rather than obligation or selfish pride?

**Read to the Group:** (Summarize the answers from the list below that your group may have just mentioned when answering the above questions. If they leave out any of the answers listed, tell them the additional ones.)

- Abel showed respect and faith in God by following God's instructions about sacrifice.
- He showed his faith through obedience.
- Abel trusted in God rather than in himself.
- He believed that God would send a deliverer, therefore he offered his sacrifice out of love, respect, and faith. Before Christ, believers brought animal sacrifices as an act of faith in God's promise.
- Cain showed his lack of faith or unbelief in God by following his own idea of sacrifice rather obeying God's instructions.
- People are showing selfish pride, behaving like they are as good as God when they try to substitute their plans for the plan of God.



**Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:**

“Then Adam's wife conceived” (Adam holding up baby)... through... “The first broken family” (Cain kneeling in sorrow).  
2 minutes, 12 seconds



Cain's gift was chosen by his own desire, not as a demonstration of his faith in God. Even if he had brought the right type of sacrifice, his gift would have been rejected if he did not have the right motive. God wants us to be obedient out of love and faith not out of obligation, expecting to get something or trying to impress God with our prideful deeds.

**Leader Information:** It is important to emphasize that obedience comes out of faith. BELIEVING is the critical issue not just outward actions.

**Abel believed that God would send a Deliverer therefore He offered a sacrifice as a picture of that redemption and a demonstration of faith.**



**Group Questions:**

1. Do you feel like Cain had a choice in the way he responded to God's rejection of his gift?
2. How did God reason with him?

**Read to the Group:** Cain and Abel were both sinners in God's eyes. Cain had a choice to believe or not to believe. God offered Cain another chance to believe and obey because God loved him and wanted to show him mercy and grace. But first Cain had to admit that God was right and that he was wrong.

Cain could never hope to live a perfect life so that he could be accepted by God. He also could not gain God's favor by presenting a sacrifice of his own design, one which did not meet God's requirements. He had to humble himself by following God's will, not his own reasoning. He had to believe that what God told him to do was good, holy, and right because the instructions came from the one true God, His creator.

**Group Questions:**

1. Cain did not listen when God reminded him that a lamb should be brought for sacrifice. Instead what did Cain do?
2. Why do you think he turned his anger on Abel?
3. Who have we seen so far in the God's Story video of the Bible that tried to blame others for their sin?
4. Do we ever try to blame others when we get caught sinning instead of confessing our sin to God?
5. Why do you think we do that?

**Read to the Group:** Cain's initial attitude was wrong. His lack of faith led to disobedience. Instead of confessing his sin, Cain's attitude turned to jealousy, anger, and hate. This rebellion became a pattern of evil in his life. God would have been willing to accept his repentance, but Cain made a choice.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaks” (Hebrews 11:4).

“The LORD searches all hearts, and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee” (1 Chronicles 28:9).

**Leader Information, Scripture:**

“Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

**Transition Statement:** So far we have observed the lives of the first people God put on earth. Now we will move forward in time and see how their descendants behaved. Since their ancestors ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they do know right from wrong. They have a conscience. Will they learn from their forefathers' experiences and respect God, or will they be rebellious and reject God's leadership? We will see now (*or* next time when we meet).



## Discussion Guide

### Section #7: NOAH: A MAN OF FAITH

#### Group Questions:

1. How did Noah show his faith in God?
2. How specific were the instructions God gave?
3. Describe the size of the ark.

**Read to the Group:** Since the video just covers highlights from some of the many hundreds of stories in the Bible, you did not see mentioned that Noah and his three sons took 120 years to build the ark. All of this time, Noah kept telling everyone that God was going to judge unrepentant sinners by causing a world-wide flood.

One hundred and twenty years is a long time to keep trusting God and building a huge boat while everyone around you is mocking your efforts; but it paid off since they were trusting the one true God. God gave very specific instructions on how to build the ark. Noah followed the directions exactly because he trusted God. When the boat was finished it would be the size of a large ocean freighter.

**Leader Information:** (Use this following topic only if your class members are already familiar with the Bible.) Bring up the fact that until the flood it had never rained before. This meant that Noah had to have a really great trust in the Lord to build this huge boat. Use Genesis 2:4-6:

“These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.”



**Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:**

“And the years passed” (Many evil people)... through... “I too will see it, and honor my covenant” (Rainbow and then close-up of Noah and his family)  
3 minutes, 52 seconds



(Use this next information if the idea of a Chinese flood account is brought into the discussion or if you feel it is right for your group.) Chinese culture has a flood story as do many other cultures. Even the symbol for boat in Chinese is a boat with eight mouths (people) in it! Can that be just a coincidence?



If many cultures have this kind of story, it would be logical to conclude that there really was a flood. Much archeological evidence also supports the idea of a flood (fossils and even well preserved remains of now extinct animals found buried in mud and shellfish fossils found on the tops of the highest mountains in the world).

When comparing the Chinese account with the Biblical account, look at the differences in the details. Also look at what the Bible's account teaches us in terms of our relationship with God.

**Read to the Group:** Remember the story of Cain and Abel? Let us compare the behavior of Cain and Noah.

**Group Question:**

1. What were the differences in consequences between Cain's life choices and what you saw in Noah's life choices?

**Leader Information:** Cain rejected God's leadership and he received judgement. Noah was saved because of his faith. Noah was not good enough to be saved, but in his life he demonstrated faith in God so God chose to honor him for his faith. The story says he walked with God. Noah and his family were saved from the judgement given to the world because he agreed with and trusted in God.

**Group Question:**

1. Do you see any similarities between the people of Noah's day and now?

**Leader Information:** (The group should answer this question rather than you. Otherwise you may come across as condemning. If needed, just try to lead them to these observations.) When you look at the biblical account, you see selfishness, envy, misuse of sex, violence, cruelty, hate, pleasing self, gossiping, deceiving others and unfair and cruel business practices. There simply was no interest in knowing or pleasing God.

**Group Question:**

1. How do you see that God also wanted to save the other people?

**Read to the Group:** Through Noah, God warned the people and gave them many opportunities to turn back to Him. But they chose to go their own way. Finally the day came when it was too late. By faith, Noah and his family entered the ark through the one door. God Himself closed

the door to the ark to keep Noah and his family safe. Then the rain came from above and the underground water supplies broke through, combining to create the flood. Judgement had come.

**Group Questions:**

1. Why do you think that God told Noah to build only one door on a boat 450 feet long?
2. If God was illustrating a point to Noah (and everyone since that time who hears this story) what might the point be?

**Leader Information:** Discuss that from the beginning until now God has always offered just one way of escape from judgement. Some in your group will probably have difficulty comprehending this point. Two central lies of Satan which have deceived millions throughout the ages are these. Satan says that there are many gods and that even if you believe in only one God, there are many different ways to approach Him. Some people would like to add God & Jesus to the list of gods they worship and cannot understand how there can be just one way to God. Avoid fighting with them on this point, but remind them to consider what they have learned so far about the nature of God.

**Read to the Group:** We have seen the power of God. Does He not have the right to design and demand one way of access to himself? Let us continue on with watching the video and at the end, we can discuss again this idea of only “one way.”

**Leader Information, Scripture:**

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” (John 10:9).

**Leader Information:** You may also need to handle the idea of the Trinity here, especially when you begin to mention God's Son, Jesus, who sounds like a second God. Only bring this up if they ask questions about there being two gods, God and Jesus.

God gave us a physical demonstration of who He is and showed us His love toward us by sending Jesus to walk with us. God gave us Himself in the form of the Holy Spirit so that we could have His daily guidance and strength living in us.

To introduce the Holy Spirit to a basic gathering, use simple terms drawn from their own environment. Remember Jesus used wind to explain the Holy Spirit, how you could feel but not see it. Remind them that as frail human beings on earth, we can never fully understand everything about God, but these illustrations might at least give us an idea.



You could simply say, “Look at an egg. It has three parts: shell, white and yolk. Each has a different job or purpose, and is totally different, but each is still truly egg.” An apple will also work for an illustration in the same way as does the egg.

For educated groups you might decide to use this “light” illustration, including the scientific terms.

The Bible says “God is light” (1 John 1:5), and yet Jesus says “I am the light of the World” (John 8:12). But, notice that light has three parts:

- a. Actinic, the ultra violet light that is neither seen nor felt, like God who we neither feel nor see.
- b. Calorific, the warmth of light that is felt but not seen is like the Holy Spirit who we do not see but can feel His presence.
- c. Luminescent, which is seen. It lights up the darkness for us as Jesus who is the light of the world and was seen in the body of man.

### Group Question:

1. Do you think that the fact that God shut the door has any importance?

**Read to the Group:** At first you think God shut the door just as a way to keep the unbelievers from entering the ark. But remember, God called out to people through Noah's preaching for 120 years trying to save them from the flood. God wanted people to believe the message and be rescued. But He wanted them to believe first, not to see the rain coming and then run to the ark. He knew if that happened they would be trusting a boat they could see, not trusting God.



The true illustration here is this. God shutting the door represents the safe keeping of those who trust in God. Trusting God is not something that is done just to get yourself out of trouble, neither is it some kind of perfect life-style. Noah trusted God and went into the ark which began a new way of life for him. Noah was safe in the ark, because God shut the door, but Noah entered the ark because he trusted God and wanted to follow Him.

### Leader Information, Scripture:

“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:5).

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one” (John 10:27-30).

**Read to the Group:** The next time you see a rainbow, maybe you will remember the promise God made to Noah.

**Group Questions:**

1. How do you think you might look differently at the rainbow?
2. What kind of comfort might you find in the covenant God made with Noah?

**Leader Information:** Their personal response could include: It shows that God has a plan for the future. It also shows that God has an interest in preserving mankind, saving us from our rebellion against Him.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (Hebrews 11:7).

**Transition:** Now that mankind has a chance to start over and have as their forefather the man of faith Noah, will they do better? Do you think that at last now they will remember that God honors faith and judges rebellion? Let us find out now (*or* next time when we meet).



## Discussion Guide

### Section #8: THE TOWER OF BABEL

**Read to the Group:** In the story of the tower of Babel, we see that people began to worship God's creation rather than the Creator. Through their pride in building a beautiful city, they took their focus off of God and instead cared only about their own lives and interests.

#### Group Questions:

1. What are some things that people worship, honor, or focus attention on in today's society?
2. What happens when we worship or honor creation (our things, our jobs, etc.) above all else?

**Leader Information:** They may say such things as: earning money, building fame and power, even family- especially honoring one person over another.

**Read to the Group:** These wrong focuses can cause problems in our health and relationships. When we place undue emphasis on ourselves and interests, we become self centered not God centered. This can influence us to make poor moral choices, possibly cheating or deceiving others.

This self-sufficient view leads us to pride and makes us unaware of our own weaknesses. When we place God first our priorities are rearranged into the right order. Remember Adam and Eve? God wanted the best for them. God wants the best for us. He wants us to enjoy life, but when we focus our attention away from God, ultimately there are deadly consequences.

#### Read this Scripture to the Group:

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you”  
(Matthew 6:33).



#### Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

“Many years after Noah” (People moving across valley)...through...  
“causing people to scatter abroad”  
(People moving away from the tower) 1 minute, 17 seconds



**Read to the Group:** Satan is a deceiver and he wants to convince societies that they should go their own way and not God's. Satan knew how to turn the hearts of the people in Babel away from God. But, it was their choice to turn away. As the number of people grew, they moved further and further away from God.

Still, the rainbow was a frequent reminder to them that God had a plan for them, but many turned away from God. Evil in the world grew just as it had before the flood. God had instructed man to populate the earth. Instead they congregated in this one city. They built it with great self-centered pride.

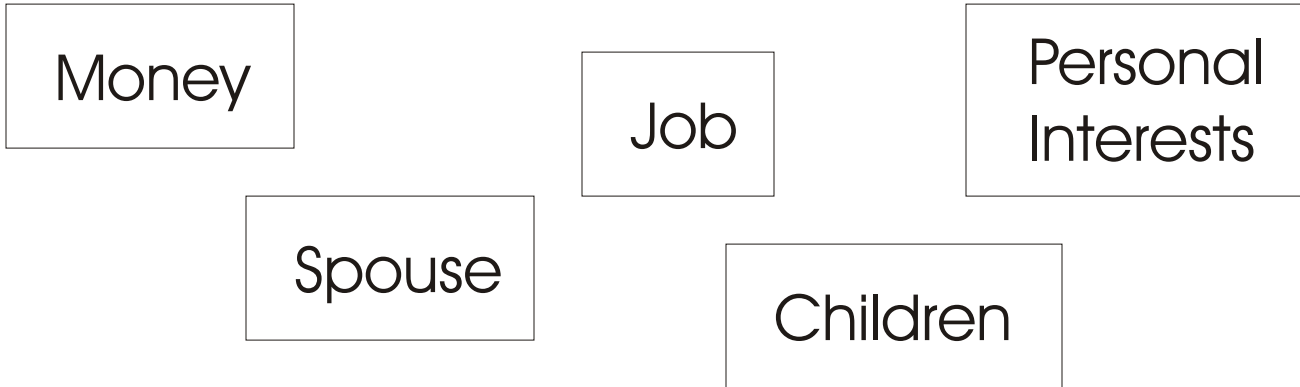
They began to worship man made idols rather than the living God. They worshiped idols made to resemble people, birds, animals, and reptiles. They also worshiped the sun, the moon, and the stars. They began to worship the objects of creation rather than the creator. To break up this man-centered direction, God broke their unity when he caused them to speak different languages, thus scattering them abroad. But God did not abandon the people. He continued through the years to try to draw them to Him.

**Transition Statement:** Well, sadly mankind did not appreciate the new start God gave them. Instead they tried to organize against Him. What else can God do to give mankind a chance to prove themselves faithful? We will watch more of the *God's Story* video of the Bible and find out now (*or* next time when we meet).

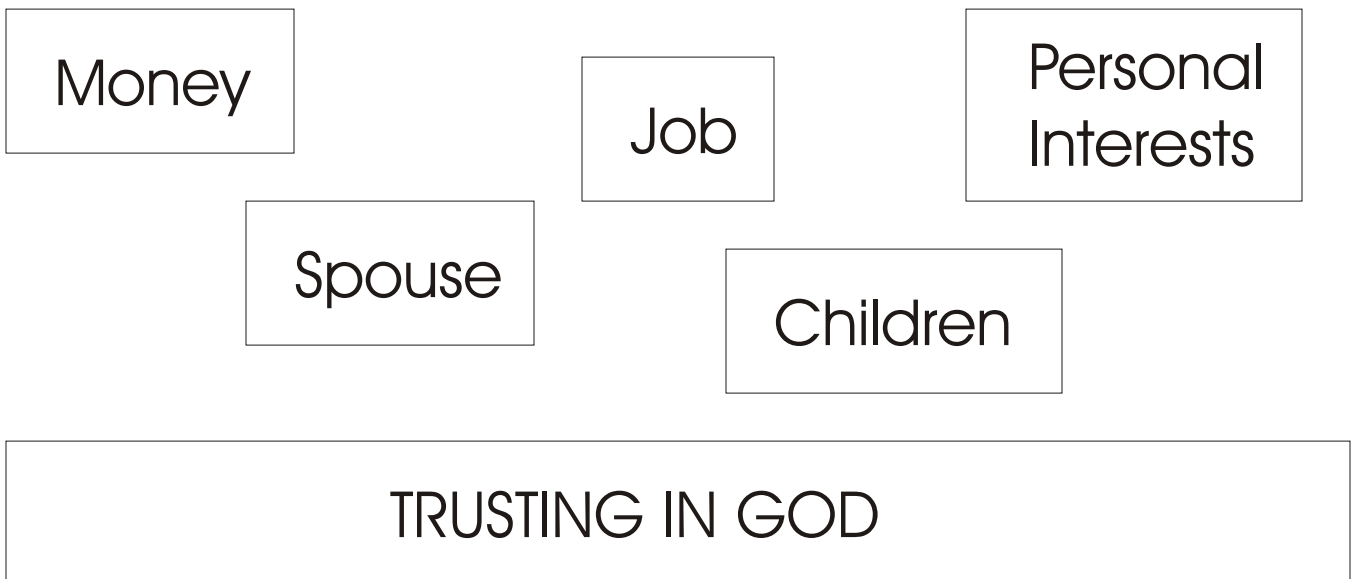


## The Block Illustration

Picture in your mind scattered building blocks labeled job, family, interests, hobbies... (You can draw these two pictures on paper to hold up for class to view or use our illustrations).



Picture a large base block with other blocks neatly stacked on top like a wall. This represents building our life foundation on a solid base of trusting God.





## Discussion Guide

### Section #9: ABRAHAM: A MAN OF FAITH

**Read to the Group:** When we look back at this history in the Bible, we saw that God was faithful to His promise to Abraham.

#### Group Questions:

1. In the story about Abraham in what ways did Abraham show faith and obedience?
2. In what ways did he show lack of faith?

**Read to the Group:** Abraham showed faith by going to the location of God's choice. Abraham was a man of wealth and position, but he was willing to follow God to a new land, even though others may have ridiculed him for following God in a new direction.

**Leader Information:** Remind them that faith has been important in all of the stories we have seen. Noah built an ark because of his faith. Abel offered a lamb because of his belief in God's instructions.

**Read to the Group:** Although Abraham was a man of faith, he was also human. At times he made poor choices and sinned, but he always returned to worship and believe in God and the promise of a Deliverer. It is because of that Deliverer that Abraham, and we as well, can have a relationship with God.

**Leader Information:** (Show the Bridge Illustration again, but this time put a cross over the name of Christ.)

#### Read this Scripture to the Group:

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles



#### Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

“Now about 400 years after” (Abraham with hands raised)... through... “Whom they named Isaac” (Second shot of grey haired Sarah holding Isaac)  
3 minutes, 20 seconds



with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:8-10).

**Group Questions:**

1. Can we see or can you imagine any consequences of Abraham's lack of obedience by his choice to have a child by Hagar?
2. Do we sometimes forget to consider the potential long-range consequences of our so-called “personal” sin?

**Leader Information:** Historically, we can see a consequence of Abraham's lack of obedience. The Arab nation, which descends from Abraham through Hagar, has always been in conflict with the Jewish nation which descends from Abraham through Isaac. They still argue over the inheritance. Although it isn't mentioned in the video, in addition there were personal consequences, such as jealousy between Hagar and Sarah.

**Read to the Group:** The Bible says that,

“By faith Abraham, even though he was past the age of producing children, and Sarah, his wife, who was barren and past child-bearing, were both enabled to become parents because they considered God faithful who had made the promise” (Hebrews 11:11).

**Transition Statement:** It is refreshing to once again see the life of a man who trusted God. Even though Abraham is not perfect, he seems to be trying. Let's look at one more part of Abraham's life now (*or* next time when we meet).

## Discussion Guide

### Section # 10 SACRIFICE OF ISAAC

#### Group Questions:

1. How did Abraham prove the depth of his faith?
2. Why do you think Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son?
3. What type of attitude must the son (now a strong young man) have had in order to be willing to be tied up and put on the altar?

**Leader Information:** Abraham responded in obedience to God. As far as Abraham knew, God really intended for him to sacrifice Isaac. But, Abraham trusted in God and believed that even if he did kill Isaac, that God could raise him from the dead - even though he had never seen God do this before. Abraham knew that God is faithful and always keeps His promises.

**Read to the Group:** Many people have difficulty understanding this story. On the one hand God promised to give Abraham a great legacy through his son Isaac, and then God tells Abraham to kill his son as a sacrifice!

#### Group Questions:

1. Why do you think that God wanted this story to be included in the Bible when He knew we would have problems understanding it?
2. What could this story possibly say to us?

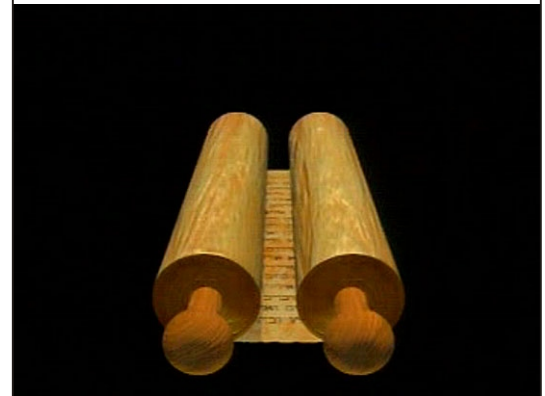
**Read to the Group:** We have difficulty understanding this story when we use only our human reasoning. As we learn more about the character of God, it begins to make sense to us. One reason God included the story in the Bible is this. As we see how difficult it would have been for Abraham to sacrifice his own beloved son, it demonstrates God's great love when He sacrificed His only beloved son for us.

But when the time came for God to sacrifice His own son, Jesus, He did not look for a substitute. The Bible says that before God made the world, He had already planned that Jesus would be rescue us. Jesus took our place and died for us, so that we, by faith, could have a restored relationship with God.



**Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:**

“Now when Isaac was grown” (Isaac as a young boy)... through... “Just as God had foretold Abraham” (Closing of scroll) 3 minutes, 39 seconds





## Leader Information, Scriptures:

“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” (1 Peter 1:19-20).

“...whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8b).

## Read this Scripture to the Group:

“By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure” (Hebrews 11:17-19).



**Read to the Group:** The video only briefly touched on the life of Isaac's son, Jacob (also called Israel), and his son Joseph. It did say that Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers. It also mentioned that God used this very sad episode to protect Joseph's family during a famine.

## Group Questions:

1. What do you think could have motivated Joseph to persevere through betrayal and hardship, and then to forgive his brothers?
2. Do you think that God who created us, has the ability and interest to work in the circumstances of our life to protect us?
3. Can you give any evidence of God's interest in us?

**Read to the Group:** At the end of his life, Joseph said this to his brothers who had betrayed him.

“But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive” (Genesis 50:20).

The Bible says that by faith Joseph, as he was dying, gave the commandment that his body should be one day be taken back to Israel. Although Joseph and all of his family had moved to Egypt, he believed God's promise that one day his family would go back to inherit the land of Israel.

**Leader Information, Scripture:**

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

**Transition Statement:** The life and faith of Abraham can teach us many truths about God. But as we now watch his descendants, after they have grown from a family to a nation while living in Egypt, we will learn much more. We will discover more now (*or* next time when we meet).

## Discussion Guide

### Section #11: MOSES: A MAN OF FAITH

#### Read this Scripture to the Group:

“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment” (Hebrews 11:23).

#### Group Question:

1. In this story, how does God show that He chooses His leaders according to their faith rather than natural ability?

**Read to the Group:** Moses lacked confidence. He also was a poor speaker. Even so God chose to use him. The Bible describes Moses as “meek,” which means trainable or willing to be shaped by God.

In the opinion of non-Christians, God often selects unlikely people to be His leaders. This is because He is looking for people of faith who will trust Him. When He finds faith, it is then very simple for God, the Creator of the Universe to instill the necessary qualities in those people whom He calls to lead. On the other hand, people who are looked up to and greatly admired by those around them often have much pride. Without humility before God, people are not fit to serve Him.

**Leader Information:** Note: If appropriate for your group, you may want to point out that this story is the same as the recent Hollywood movie “Prince of Egypt.”

Some of that movie accurately portrays the Bible account, but other parts do not. In one area, famous Hollywood movies about the Bible such as Prince of Egypt and The Ten Commandments, always fail to correctly present Bible stories. They portray leaders like Moses as always having been an imposing person and a natural leader. They do this because it makes sense to the human way of viewing life. They do not understand that God calls willing people of faith and develops them into great leaders using His power.



#### Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

“Now these descendants” (Camels and people walking in caravan)... through... “I will never see your face again.” (Pharaoh in background pointing, Moses on right front) 9 minutes, 20 seconds



**Read to the Group:** People in Bible days thought much the same as we do today. At times we need proof to believe something. God chose to use a burning bush, that was not consumed by the fire, to speak to Moses, so that he would believe that it was God who was speaking to him.

**Group Question:**

1. What would it take for you to believe that God is speaking to you personally?

**Read to the Group:** Some people test God by demanding a miracle. But God doesn't work on our time clock, nor can He be forced to respond to our demands. Notice in this story that Moses had already trusted God for many years. In fact Moses was 80 years old when God chose to demonstrate His power through a miracle. God decides if and when to show Himself through miracles. He knows what is right for each of us.



**Leader Information:** This is an opportunity to see where the group stands in terms of faith and help point them to the Bible and prayer as a foundation for their faith. God will probably not use a burning bush to bring them to Christ, but many times He has used miracles to help people believe. The problem with requiring miracles as the basis for our faith, is that when God doesn't perform an outstanding miracle the next time we face a problem, our faith can be shattered. Help point them to using prayer and the Bible as confirmation of the truth. Suggest saying, "Lord, please help me believe that what you say in the Bible is true."

We want people to know they can find God by trusting in His Word not by expecting Him to prove Himself by a miracle. Some who have been exposed to a lot of exciting testimonies by new Christians may feel that their experience doesn't measure up. Assure them that God sends a gentle urging and we respond to that through faith. It doesn't have to be a dramatic conversion, although at times it may be.

**Group Questions:**

1. How did Pharaoh's lack of respect for God bring disaster to his people?
2. How did Moses' faith bring blessings to his people?
3. Do you think our faith in God, or lack of it, could have an affect on people around us?

**Read to the Group:** Pharaoh refused to obey the one true God because he trusted in his own power and the gods of his time. People in Egypt worshiped the Nile River; the sun, the moon, and the stars, as well as many animals and insects. They also worshiped Pharaoh, so you can imagine how difficult it would be for Pharaoh to admit that he was not the greatest power in existence and that events would not happen the way he commanded.

God used each plague to show Pharaoh that he should submit to God. Each of the plagues pointed to the falseness of one of their gods. But Pharaoh would not submit. He chose instead to harden his heart toward God. God made each plague more severe than the one before it,

giving Pharaoh many opportunities to believe in the power of God. But after each plague was removed, Pharaoh's heart became even harder.

God used the pride of this unbelieving king. By destroying Pharaoh and all of his false gods, the true God showed everyone of that day, and all who have heard this story since that time, that only He is God. In fact in the Bible God told Moses, "My name is I Am!"

### Group Questions:

1. Did Pharaoh have a choice in how he responded to the warnings of God?
2. How could the Egyptians see so many miracles and still not believe?



**Leader Information:** Yes, he chose to harden his heart rather than to respond. God sent repeated plagues to push him toward making a correct choice, but each time Pharaoh closed his heart to the warnings. All along God knew that Pharaoh would never let the people go until after the final plague, but still He allowed Pharaoh to make his own decision.

(If someone knowledgeable asks why in the New Testament it says God hardened Pharaoh's heart, not Pharaoh hardened his own heart as it is

in the Old Testament, say this. "Both are true. The Bible says God knows who will rebel against Him their whole lives, so He may chose to harden their hearts even more to use them for His own purposes" (Romans chapter 9).

### Read this Scripture to the Group:

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them" (Hebrews 11:24-28).

**Transition Statement:** Just as we saw God's power in the creation story and in the flood story, God once again is demonstrating His greatness. Do you think Pharaoh will ever decide to let the nation of Israel go free? We will watch and see now (*or* next time when we meet).

**Discussion Guide**

**Section # 12 PASSOVER AND RESCUE FROM SLAVERY**

**Group Questions:**

1. What appears to be the significance of the ‘first son’ in Egypt?
2. Do you think it is similar to the way that Chinese people look at the first-born son?

**Leader Information:** For the Jewish nation the rights of inheritance are bestowed on the oldest son. This included special privileges, a larger percentage of the family inheritance, and family leadership. For most cultures this system of honoring the firstborn son is much the same.

**Read to the Group:** Notice the value God placed on this family of faith. These promised descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were called by the different names of Jews, Hebrews, and the Children of Israel. God told Moses to say to Pharaoh,

“Israel is my son, even my firstborn. If you do not let my son go, I will kill your son, even your firstborn” (Exodus 4:22-23).

**Group Questions:**

1. How does this story establish the reliability of God's commitments?
2. We saw God's faithfulness to those who belong to Him. What other character traits of God are seen in the way He dealt with individual people and nations?

**Leader Information:** On the second question let them pull out answers from what they have seen in the Exodus story. They may say such things as:

- He judges harshly those who do not believe in Him
- He not only loves people He also physically rescues His followers
- He can control nature

*a free lesson plan from ChristianAnswers.Net*



**Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:**

“Then the Lord said to Moses” (Moses and Pharaoh)... through...  
 “And the people believed in the Lord and His servant Moses” (Drowning of the Egyptians in the sea, Moses and people on right watching)  
 6 minutes, 19 seconds



- He gives people lots of chances before He judges them
- He is more powerful than human rulers or armies

You may decide to bring up some of these traits if they don't. Point out that the truths we learn from the way God worked with the nation of the Jews are intended to demonstrate the character of God toward all nations and to all people.

**Read to the Group:** God made a special covenant with Abraham. Because of this covenant, God fought for the Jews and protected them. We see His love, but we also see His great power. Today that same kind of love and power is made available to those who trust in Jesus Christ.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that fears him, and works righteousness, is accepted with him” (Acts 10: 34b-35).

**Leader Information, Scripture:**

“Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted....Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Corinthians 10:6 &11).

**Read to the Group:** The Jews were instructed to place blood around the door frame so that the angel of death would pass over their home.

**Group Question:**

1. What instructions did God give about a lamb?
2. Why do you think He protected people in the homes with the blood on the doors?
3. Do you see any similarities to any Chinese customs of keeping evil out of the homes?
4. How might you explain this similarity?

**Leader Information:** Possible responses to #1: One lamb for each household, a year old male, no imperfections, no bones broken, blood over top of doorway and sides.

Possible responses to #2: They obeyed God, God was showing them a blood sacrifice was needed to save them, They showed faith in God's instructions.

As parallels are drawn between the customs of a culture and the truths from the Bible, make sure the following point is made: Some truth from God has filtered into all cultures, but unfortunately many times the one creator God of the universe is not honored because vital details have been lost.

**Read to the Group:** Just as the flood story was written about in many cultures, it is interesting that this custom is also very similar. Very often we find stories similar to those in the Bible that are also found woven into the customs and stories of other cultures' beliefs.

The instructions to the Jews were very specific. If any Israelite chose not to believe God they would also lose their first born. If any Egyptian show belief by going in that night to the homes with the blood protection, they were spared.

The point was to demonstrate belief in God by following His exact instructions. The blood was a reminder that the punishment for sin is death. This Passover Feast became a picture of how God would provide a deliverer to save them from the penalty of death.

One more important event occurred after the Jews left Egypt. Pharaoh, the legal owner of the slaves, drowned along with the whole Egyptian army.

**Group Questions:**

1. What would that have meant to the Jews?
2. Why do you think God recorded this for us?

**Leader Information:** Reference for Pharaoh drowning:

Exodus 14:10 & 28: “And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.”



**Read to the Group:** Seeing Pharaoh drown would help the Jews visually see that their bondage was broken. Today many of us have had difficult backgrounds. Some possibly were abused or abandoned as children. Just as God defeated Pharaoh's hold on the Jews, God can break Satan's hold on our lives, and free us from the past to become a new creation.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“By faith the Israelites passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians when they tried to attempt it they were drowned” (Hebrews 11:29).

**Leader Scripture:**

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).



**Transition Statement:** God kept His promises. He destroyed Pharaoh for not freeing the nation of Israel and He rescued the Jews from slavery. After seeing all of these miracles, will this newly freed people, show their appreciation by honoring and trusting God? We will soon find out in the next segment of this Bible video as we watch it now (*or* next time when we meet).



## Discussion Guide

### Section # 13: GOD'S PERFECT LAW

#### Group Question:

- 1 The Israelites were in the wilderness (desert) for 40 years. In what ways did God provide for them during this time?

**Leader Information:** He provided for their needs - water and manna. You may decide to mention that the Bible gives many more details about God's provision during this forty-year time such as:

In spite of the miracles and rescue from Egypt, the Jews continually doubted God. Because of this God said the adults who left Egypt would not be allowed to go into the promised land of Israel, but the next generation would enter their home land. God caused the nation to wander in a desert area for forty years until all the doubters had died.

Still we see God's mercy. That desert place gets only one or two inches of rain yearly, yet God continually supplied food and water for a group numbering in the millions, demonstrating His power and love. He even showed His love for the people by not allowing their clothes and shoes to wear out during the whole forty years.

**Read to the Group:** While they were in the wilderness, God gave Moses many guidelines for the people of Israel to follow. The most important of these rules shows in a very short list, the high standards of God. They are called The Ten Commandments.

#### Group Questions:

1. Do you think the standards God had many years ago might still be important today?
2. How difficult do you think it would be to obey all ten laws perfectly?
3. Let's try to remember the list. How many can we remember together?



#### Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

“But soon after” (Moses and people watching seas close over Pharaoh’s army)... through... “A covering for your sin and I will forgive you” (People bowing down before a fire on altar) 2 minutes, 7 seconds



**Leader Information:** Hold your copy (*Handout #1*) of the list and check off each commandment as the group mentions them. After they have named all they can remember, hand them copies of Handout #1 that lists the Ten Commandments. Then read the whole list aloud. (Perhaps instead of you reading it, you can ask one or several in class to read the list aloud. Make certain you only call on members who you KNOW will not be embarrassed to read out loud in front of others!)

**Group Questions:**

1. In your town, how many laws would a person have to break to be called a “law-breaker?”
2. Have you ever broken any of God's laws?
3. Do you think that when you break God's laws that He is surprised?
4. Why not?
5. What happens to us when we break God's laws?
6. How can we wipe the slate clean?

**Read to the Group:** (*Use the two papers you used before in section #5 to illustrate sin. Hold up the one with black marks.*) Remember this illustration? Even if you only break one of God's laws, you are guilty. Your page is not perfectly white and clean and you deserve judgement from God. Remember how when a person trusts in Jesus' sacrifice that His perfect life covers your sins? (*Cover the page with the black marks by the pure white page with no marks.*)

God knew that it would be impossible for people to perfectly follow the Ten Commandments, but He wanted the people to see and admit their helplessness to do so. Because God knew they could never keep them perfectly He told them what to do when they broke the commandments. He also told them about His plan to bring a Savior into the world to cover their sins. They were still required to bring an animal sacrifice to demonstrate admission of guilt and faith in God's provision of forgiveness. By believing in God's instructions, their sins were covered.



We have the privilege of living in an age when we know the name of the Savior that the sacrifices represented. The Savior, Jesus Christ, God born as a human being, came 2,000 years ago. Now today we no longer are asked by God to bring an animal sacrifice to cover our sins. We can do as the Bible says and simply pray to God, admit our sinfulness, and ask for Jesus to be our Savior.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

**Leader Information, Scripture:**

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Romans 10:9).

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).



## Handout #1

### The Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make idols or bow down to them, nor serve them.
3. You shall not use the name of the Lord your God disrespectfully.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not lie about your neighbor.
10. You shall not lust for your neighbor's house, or his wife, or any thing that is your neighbor's.

## Discussion Guide

### Section #14: STRUGGLE FOR FAITH AND PROPHECIES OF HOPE

**Read to the Group:** For the next 1,400 years, until the Savior was born here on earth, God arranged for Priests to carry out special religious observances. Once a year the main highest Priest went behind a sacred veil, which separated the people from the holy presence of God. There the priest represented the whole nation before the Lord.

Later in *God's Story* we will see a supernatural disaster happen to this thick, ornate curtain. Watch for this event and see if you can figure out how it might be vitally significant to you.

God communicated with the Jews through judges, kings and prophets. But most of the people, most of the time, rebelled against God and His leadership and broke His laws.

#### Group Questions:

1. How did God punish the Israelites for their rebellion and for killing His prophets?
2. How did God show that He did not give up on His people despite their rebellion?

**Leader Information:** Punishment: He took them out of their own land. Love: Continued to speak through the prophets and sent prophecies of the coming Savior. Prophets delivered messages from God.

God gave a guideline in the Bible on how to test people who claimed to be prophets. If their short term prophecies all came true, 100%, then their long-term prophecies could be trusted. If their short-term prophecies failed to be accurate, they were to be executed!

#### Group Question:

1. Name as many of the prophecies listed in the video as you can remember.



**Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:**

“Finally, after forty years” (Camel caravan and people in valley)... through... “Many hundreds of years before the Savior came” (Closing of the scroll) 3 minutes, 41 seconds



**Leader Information:** Get your copy of the list (*Handout #2*) and check off the prophecies they name. After they recall as many as they are able, pass out a copy of Handout #2 to each person. Either you or members in the class who are comfortable reading out loud should read down the whole list. You should acknowledge each one they remembered as you come to them.

**Read to the Group:** These are only a few of the over 200 prophecies written in the Old Testament section of the Bible that describe the coming Savior.

**Group Question:**

1. If Jesus did actually fulfill these prophecies, how do you think the prophets were able to accurately predict these details, some written 1,000 years before He was born?

**Read to the Group:** Either there was some kind of trick or God really told the prophets what would happen because He already knew. The odds would be more than 1 in a million that even just a few of those prophecies would happen to the same man. But those seen in the video, and hundreds more, were all fulfilled in Jesus!

No one can dispute that the prophecies had been foretold, because they were written down in the Old Testament part of the Bible that the Jews used in worship. But once again knowing the facts does not always turn people to the truth.



**Transition Statement:** We will see in the next three sections that the esteemed religious leaders of the Jews, the Pharisees and Sadducees, had the Scripture prophecies, yet most of them did not accept Jesus as the promised Savior. They wanted a King to bring their nation to world prominence, but had no interest in trusting Jesus as a Savior from sins.

**Group Question:**

1. Can anyone imagine why they might have rejected Jesus?

**Leader Information:** Possible answers... Perhaps they were so self-righteous and blinded by pride that they did not recognize the sin in their lives? Perhaps they were more interested in imposing their beliefs on people than in following the Words of the Bible? Maybe they wanted the people to look up to them and were jealous when people showed interest in Jesus? (If the group brings these possibilities up or if you briefly mention them, keep the ideas in a question form).

**Read to the Group:** As we watch the next three sections together, perhaps we can discover why so many of the religious leaders rejected Jesus as the promised Savior?

**Group Questions:**

1. Do you remember in the story of Moses how we discovered the qualities that God looks for when he chooses leaders?
2. What qualities does God treasure in a leader?

**Leader Information:** God selects people to use as leaders when they show humility, flexibility, love toward others, trust in Him, and obedience to His Word. God finds no pleasure in those who do not trust Him. He will not use as leaders people with arrogance, pride, those who ignore His Word, and those who substitute their own rules for His laws.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

When Jesus came He said,

“He that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever shall exalt himself shall be dishonored; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted” (Matthew 23:11-12).

**Leader Information, Scripture:**

“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts” (Psalm 10:4).

“A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit” (Proverbs 29:23).

“But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for you neither go in yourselves, neither allow you them that are entering to go in” (Matthew 23:13).

**Transition Statement:** When we see the next sections of the video, let's try to discover which of the qualities we discussed show up in the religious leaders and which show up in the life of Jesus. We will finally get to see the arrival of the Savior now (*or* next time when we meet).





## Handout #2

### Prophecies About the Coming Savior

1. Micah foretold the exact city where the Savior would be born, Bethlehem.
2. Micah described the Savior's eternal nature saying "His existence is from old, from everlasting."
3. The coming Savior would descend from the royal line of David.
4. Malachi said "A special messenger would announce the coming Savior."
5. Malachi said "The messenger would prepare the people to receive Him."
6. Zechariah prophesied that the King would be a "righteous man."
7. Zechariah prophesied that the King would be a "humble man."
8. Zechariah said that the Savior would arrive "riding on the foal of a donkey."
9. King David described how the Savior Himself would know in advance that, "One of His close friends, with whom He ate bread, would betray Him."
10. Zechariah recorded that, "The price of the betrayal would be thirty pieces of silver."
11. Isaiah wrote that the coming Savior would be tortured by "whipping."
12. Isaiah wrote that "His face would be spat upon."
13. David described the method of execution as "piercing the Savior's hands and feet,
14. yet not breaking any of His bones."
15. David recorded that the Savior would say, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?"
16. He wrote that "onlookers would laugh and ridicule the Savior," saying, "He believed that the Lord would deliver him."
17. David also wrote that, "the Savior's bones would be out of joint."
18. David wrote, "In His thirst He would be given vinegar to drink."
19. David said that the Savior's persecutors would "divide His clothes among them."
20. David said that the Savior's persecutors would "gamble for His robe."
21. Isaiah said that onlookers would be "astonished" when they saw how the Savior's face was disfigured from the torture.
22. The prophecies in the Bible describe how one day, David's descendants, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, would "look at the Savior whom they had pierced."

## Discussion Guide

### Section #15: THE BIRTH AND CALL OF JESUS

#### Group Question:

1. Where do you see God's supernatural involvement in this story?

**Leader Information:** Possible answers: Prophecies fulfilled, angels appearing to people, virgin birth...

#### Group Questions:

1. Do these miraculous occurrences make the story more or less believable to you?
2. Would there really be a story without them?

**Leader Information:** Many will still have doubts, especially about the virgin birth. But help them see that without the supernatural (God) element there really is no story. The events that show His power are the parts that we have difficulty believing. We must take a step of faith. In order to prove that you believe an airplane will fly you must get on the airplane. Encourage them to ask God to help them in their unbelief. You could spend an hour or more discussing their doubts. Try to move on after about 10 minutes.

#### Read this Scripture to the Group:

“Behold, you shall conceive in your womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David” (Luke 1:31-32).

#### Group Questions:

1. Can you name any of the ancient prophecies that were fulfilled in this segment of the life of Jesus?
2. Why do you think the prophet, John the Baptist, pointed to Jesus and said, “Behold the lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world?”



**Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:**

“After seventy years of captivity” (Picture of globe)... through... “the lamb sent from God.” (short full face shot of lamb) 4 minutes



**Leader Information:** Possible responses you hope to hear: Jesus was born in the prophesied city of Bethlehem; Jesus was born of a virgin; John was fulfilling an old prophecy; Jesus would be a sacrifice to die for the sins of all people; John recognized Jesus as the promised Savior; God told Him to say that prophecy.

Whether they give good answers to question 2, or do not get anything close to right, don't comment and go to transition statement.

**Transition Statement:** Let's see as we finish the video if we can verify why John said this about Jesus. We might also find out if John was a true prophet from God when he said "Jesus was the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world."



## Discussion Guide

### Section #16: MINISTRY OF JESUS

**Read to the Group:** Jesus performed hundreds of miracles in public places, but still many said that they had to see more in order to believe.

#### Group Questions:

1. Why do you think people ask for more miracles after they have already seen some?
2. Can you remind us what might happen to our faith if it is only based on a miracle rather than on genuine trust in God?

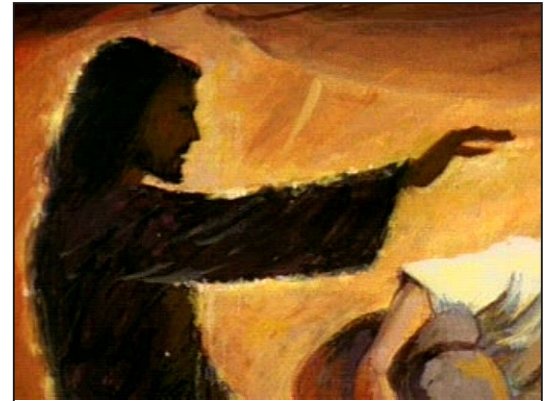
**Leader Information:** Some people really are not seeking truth. They only want personal benefits without any personal commitment or change. Once again, this is an opportunity to see where your class members stand in terms of faith. You can use this section to once more point them to prayer and trust of God's Word as their foundation. Remind them to find a confirmation of the truth through prayer and the words of the Bible. Encourage them to pray, "Lord, please help me believe that what you say is true."

#### Read this Scripture to the Group:

"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people" (Matthew 9:35).

#### Group Questions:

1. How do you see Jesus Christ demonstrating God's love to the people?
2. If He was walking in the world today, how could He reveal His love?
3. How would you want him to show love to you?
4. If you could speak to him what would you like to ask Him or say to Him?



#### Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

Begin with "Jesus revealed himself as the Promised Savior" (side shot of Jesus teaching with His hand out)... through... "neither shall any man snatch them out of my hand" (close-up of lamb in shepherd's hands). 7 min 26 sec



**Leader Information:** Their answers, about what happened and what they would want, will probably be the same as what the people of Jesus day wanted. Members of your class will want what Jesus said and did for the people in the New Testament times; healing, speaking in kindness and touching places in the heart that hurt. Perhaps mention that the deepest needs of all people, in all countries for all times, have been very much the same as the needs you feel.

**Group Questions:**

1. Nicodemus struggled with what Jesus said about being born again. How did Jesus explain the term ‘born again’?
2. What does ‘being born again’ mean to you?

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).

**Read to the Group:** Although most of the religious leaders did reject Jesus, some such as Nicodemus chose to follow Him. That is still happening today as well. In our days groups of Jewish Rabbis (religious leaders) still read the scripture prophecies together. Some of them, as they read, hear God speak to them clearly through the prophecies and their eyes open to the truth. They allow God to work in their hearts and make the choice to trust in Jesus Christ as the promised Savior.



**Group Question:**

1. After people had read the prophecies about Jesus and then saw Him fulfill every one, why do you think they did not all believe?

**Leader Information:** Let the group give their own thoughts here. Show agreement with the responses that reflect understanding of what God's Story has revealed up until now. Hopefully they will figure out why people still rejected Jesus even after they had heard and seen many miraculous things done by Him. They might recognize that:

The rejection of Jesus stemmed from:

- Wanting to do their own will instead of God's
- Being prideful
- Wanting to have power over others instead of allowing God to be the highest power
- Not admitting to being a sinner

Trusting Jesus as Savior came from:

- Wanting to please God
- Admitting their sinfulness
- Recognizing the impossibility of covering ones own sin
- Having a desire to know the truth

**Read to the Group:** I am going to read a list of some of the many phrases Jesus used to describe Himself and His work. After I read it, I will then hand a copy to each of you.

**Leader Information:** Read list (*Handout #3*) then give each person a copy of Handout #3. Give them a moment to glance at the list and then ask the next question. Only use question number three if you want to encourage the members to go into more detail than they did in their responses to question number two.

**Group Questions:**

1. How important to our existence are these words that Jesus uses to describe Himself to us?
2. Which of these phrases speaks to you most clearly?
3. Would any of you like to say why you liked a particular description of Jesus?

**Transition Statement:** Now (*or* next time when we meet) we will find out in the next segment how people responded to the kind deeds, miracles and teachings of Jesus.



## Handout #3

### Ways Jesus Described Himself

1. I am the bread of life.
2. I am the light of the world.
3. Who ever drinks of this water will never thirst.
4. I am the Door.
5. You shall know the Truth and the truth shall set you free.
6. I am the Good Shepherd.
7. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.



## Discussion Guide

### Section #17: THE BETRAYAL OF JESUS

#### Group Question:

1. When the Roman captain in charge of executing Jesus saw what had happened he said, "Truly this man was the son of God." Why do you think this unbeliever began to see the truth?

**Leader Information:** Possible responses: He saw many supernatural things happening; He saw God reflected in Jesus; Jesus spoke directly to God; Jesus forgave His persecutors.

#### Group Question:

1. We have seen in this section of the video a great deal of anger directed toward Jesus, but people have shown other attitudes in the story of Jesus' life. If you had been in the crowd, what type of attitude do you think you would have?

**Leader Information:** Possible answers: Doubting, mocking, wait and see, strong faith, sadness...

#### Group Question:

1. Jesus suffered greatly in this segment of the video. What was His attitude through it all?

**Leader Information:** He was angry at the corruption in the Temple, but mostly He was quiet and accepting of what would happen to Him. He showed forgiveness and great love toward everyone, even toward those He knew would betray Him.

#### Read this Scripture to the Group:

"And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, 'Truly I say unto you, One of you which eats with me shall betray me'" (Mark 14:18).



#### Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

Begin with "After 3 years of teaching" (back of Jesus teaching with hands up in air)... through... "sealed and guarded by Roman soldiers." (Tomb shot fades to black) 7 min 56 sec





“And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him... Then said Jesus, ‘Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.’ And they parted his raiment, and cast lots” (Luke 23:33-34).

### Group Questions:

1. Jesus talked about the forgiveness that we can receive because of His own death on the cross. If Jesus really can forgive people of their sins, what difference could it make in the life of a criminal?
2. In my life or yours?
3. How could you live differently knowing you had been forgiven?
4. Why now do you think that ornate curtain, the veil in the Temple split down the middle when Jesus died?



**Leader Information:** A weight should be lifted. The power of “If only” can be broken. We can overcome the past. Mostly we will have a restored relationship with God. For centuries that veil had separated the people from God, and only the main highest priest could go into the holy presence of God. After Jesus died on the cross for our sins, the veil, the separation was no longer needed. Jesus became the Great High Priest, our go-between, our mediator, so that each of us who trust Him could have access to God’s presence.

### Read this Scripture to the Group:

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).



**Leader Information:** Optional question to use if you believe they are right for your group. These are designed to further verify the supernatural nature of the Bible and the authenticity of Jesus as the prophesied Savior.

### Group Question:

1. List some of the prophecies you saw fulfilled in the ministry, betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus.

**Leader Information:** They were give the list of prophecies on handout #3, from section 14. This question is to find out if they recognized any of those prophecies fulfilled in the life and death of Jesus Christ.

They might list: He was a righteous man; humble man; He arrived riding on the foal of a donkey; knew in advance that one of His close friends, with whom He ate bread, would betray Him; the price of the betrayal was thirty pieces of silver; was tortured, by whipping; His face

was spat on; his hands and feet were pierced; his bones were not broken; He said “My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?”; onlookers laughed and ridiculed Him; the onlookers said “He believed that the Lord would deliver him”; His bones were out of joint; was given vinegar to drink; the soldiers divided His clothes among themselves; they gambled for His robe (If they mention any of the earlier prophecies surrounding His birth and baptism, that is fine also).

**Transition Statement:** Probably one of the most important parts of this story comes next. Many great leaders have come and gone, but of course none lived a perfect sinless life as did Jesus. But what comes next sets Him in a class above them all. If any of you here fear death, you will happily welcome the next (and very last) portion of *The God's Story* video overview of the Bible now (*or* next time when we meet).

## Discussion Guide

### Section #18: THE RESURRECTION TO ETERNITY

#### Group Question:

1. Right after Jesus' death, the disciples and others who believed in Jesus were afraid and went into hiding. What do you think it would take for them to begin going around the world telling others about Jesus and His plan for the world?

**Leader Information:** They had to believe that Jesus really did come back from the dead.

#### Group Questions:

1. What prophecies were given that describe what Jesus will yet do in the future?
2. What promises did Jesus make, and to whom did He make these promises?

**Leader Information:** Possible responses:

Question 1: You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit comes upon you; Jesus will come back again in the same manner as you saw Him go; Jesus will return to earth as the conquering King and righteous Judge; Christ will reign over all the earth.

Question 2: Jesus said, "Let those who are thirsty come. Let them freely drink the water of life;" "Behold, I come quickly;" "blessed are they who obey My words;" "He that hears My word, and believes on Him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not be condemned; but is passed from death unto life." The promises were made to anyone who is thirsty; He made the promises to anyone who would believe in Him.

#### Group Questions:

1. How did you feel when you saw that one day in the future God would sit on His throne and judge people?



**Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:**

Begin with "Now after three days" (Burst of light, soldiers fall back)... through... "This is God's Story for You." (closing Bible) total time 7 min 19 sec. Invitation and Prayer take 2 minutes and 41 sec. more. Turn off after boat scene and the address shown in English. Total time of last section is 10 minutes



2. Did you find the conclusion to God's Story moving or encouraging?
3. Are there some sections of this story that you are having difficulty accepting or understanding?

**Leader Information:** These responses should just be personal reactions. You may want to prepare a reaction of your own or share how you felt when you first learned the truth about the resurrection.

**Read this Scripture to the Group:**

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22).



**Leader Information and Scripture:** You may want to use these verses or others of your choice to finish the last class.

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).

“If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).

**Leader Information:** We suggest that you say something like the following to end this last meeting: “I am so glad that we have had this opportunity to watch this video together. Because we have watched it in many segments, I would just like to give you a quick overview of the gospel and what it means to become a Christian. This section is a little long, so let me read it to you. It is written on your Handout # 4” (Give each person a copy of *Handout #4*. Use either the invitation from the video or the one below).

The video section we just watched included a prayer to receive Christ. That prayer is also written here. Maybe you already prayed the prayer as you watched the video. If so, we would like you to tell us before you leave today. But we also want you to know, that you don't have to pray the prayer in our group. You can pray it whenever you are ready to make this decision. That is why we want to send this sheet home with you.

Since the video said the prayer rather quickly, I would like to read it for you one more time. If you want to become a Christian, repeat each phrase in your heart after I read it aloud (Read the invitation that you selected).

At this point, be very sensitive to the Holy Spirit as to how to direct the group. You might want to give them an open ended questions such as, “Well, any final thoughts on the video or the conclusion we just read?... Any questions?” or “I have enjoyed being with you and hope that we can continue to get to know each other better.”

(Have a plan ready for keeping the group together or providing follow-up) “Would you like to meet again next week? We can talk about...” *or* “How about we meet next week and go out to eat together.”

Make a special effort to talk to each person individually to find out their reaction to the video. This can be after the class or in a phone call. Arrange a personal time to meet with those who have made a decision or still want to discuss their questions.

The group insights below are just for class members to read for themselves on their take-home section.

**Read to the Group:** If you watched this video with a group, they will be able to help you grow in the Lord and teach you how to worship Him. If you watched this video alone and used this discussion guide for self-study please contact this address for more information about finding a Christian group meeting in your area.



## Handout #4

### SO WHAT DOES GOD'S STORY MEAN TO YOU?

It means...

JESUS loves you and  
wants to be your Lord, Savior and Friend

The Bible says that we should cast all of our care on God for He cares for us. This means that if we want to know God His way, we can pray and He will hear us.

The most important part of praying is faith knowing that He will answer. This faith begins by understanding who Jesus is: the Son of God. Then you must be willing to admit to God that you are not perfect, guilty before God. You have sinned and broken His laws and deserve to be judged, but you want mercy and grace from Him through His plan of forgiveness.

You recognize that God's plan is that Jesus died on the cross to cover your sins-- all those black marks on the pages of your life that block your relationship with God. When Jesus covers your sins, your life becomes clean and white-- a new creation. Jesus' death gives you a new and open relationship with God.

In order for this to happen to you personally, you must be willing to invite Jesus into your life and allow Him to guide you. You should want Him to become Lord of your life. Making Jesus Lord may not always be the easiest road, but it will be the most meaningful.

If you would like to make this decision to become a Christian, the following prayer shows you how to do so. You can pray this prayer if it is truly what you feel or just use your own words containing the thoughts in the prayer.

Lord I need you. I need your peace.

I believe your Word.

I want you to be with me always-

living inside me and giving me your strength.

I know that I have done wrong things in the past-

I have had wrong actions and thoughts. I have broken your laws.

I have also neglected things that I know I should have done.

I am not perfect.

Please forgive me for these sins.

I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that he died on the cross to pay for my sins.

I ask you, Jesus, to come into my life- to cleanse me and make me a whole person.

I give you my life and ask you to guide me. I am now yours.

Thank you for your willingness to hear.

In Jesus' name. Amen.