

WEEK 14

"God...loved us and sent his Son" (1 John 4:10)

SIMEON, ANNA AND BABY JESUS

The day was a special day for Mary and Joseph. It was a special day for Baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph were taking Jesus to the temple.

Joseph helped Mary upon the donkey. She held Baby Jesus as they traveled. Joseph carried two doves for a thank-you offering to God.

This was a special day for Simeon. He was an old man who lived in Jerusalem. He loved God. He prayed to God. God had made a promise to Simeon. He promised Simeon that he would see the Saviour.

Simeon felt that he must go to the temple. He felt that God wanted him to go.

Simeon walked as fast as his old feet could go. He climbed the long steps to the temple. He felt that something special would happen in the temple.

Simeon saw a man and woman coming into the temple. They were carrying a small baby.

Then Simeon knew why he had come to the temple. He knew the baby was God's Son. He asked if he could hold the baby. As he held Jesus, he gave thanks to God.

"Lord, you have kept your promise. I have seen the Saviour with my own eyes."

Mary and Joseph were amazed at his words. Simeon told them that their baby was sent by God.

That day was also a special day for Anna. She was a prophetess. She was very old. She lived in the temple. She was always praying to God.

Anna saw Mary and Joseph. She saw Simeon holding a baby. When Anna saw the baby, she knew he was Jesus. She knew God had sent Jesus. Anna gave thanks to God. She began to tell others who were looking for Jesus.

Luke 2:22-39



WEEK 15

"Thou art near, O Lord" (Psalm 119:151)

FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

It was night-time in Bethlehem. Jesus was asleep. Mary and Joseph were asleep.

An angel spoke to Joseph in a dream. The angel had a message from God. He said, "Wake up, Joseph. You must prepare for a long journey. The king wants to kill Jesus. You must take him far away. Go to Egypt. Stay there until God says it is time to return."

Joseph awakened Mary. He said, "An angel has just told me that we must move. It is not safe for our child here. Quickly prepare food. I will get the donkey."

Joseph led the donkey to the door. He put the bag of food on the donkey. Next, he helped Mary upon the donkey. Then, he handed Jesus to Mary. Joseph led the donkey down the path.

Joseph walked softly. Jesus slept in Mary's arms. They rode into the desert. Mary and Joseph knew God was near. They knew God would take care of them.

The journey was long. At last Joseph, Mary and Jesus reached Egypt. They lived there and were safe.

When the bad king died, the angel came to Joseph and said, "You may go back now."

Joseph and Mary took Jesus back to their country. They knew that God would keep them safe. He would always be near.

Matthew 2:13-23



WEEK 16

"A friend loves at all times." (Proverbs 17:17)

MARY AND MARTHA

When Jesus was a man, he had helpers. Jesus wanted to teach his helpers many things. Everywhere Jesus went many people crowded around him. They listened to Jesus teach. Sometimes they asked questions. Jesus was very busy.

Jesus and his helpers traveled to many places. One day they walked to the village, Bethany.

Jesus had friends living in the village. He thought, "Mary and Martha are my friends. They will welcome me."

Jesus walked along the dusty road to their house. Perhaps Martha saw him coming. She quickly told Mary. They went to meet him.

Martha brought Jesus some cool water to drink. Then she began to prepare food for him. She wanted to give the best to her friend, Jesus. She wanted him to be comfortable.

Mary, too, was happy to see Jesus. She walked beside him. She said, "Please sit down and talk to us. Tell me more about how God loves us all."

Martha came and asked Mary to help. Jesus said to Martha, "You are working very hard. The things you are doing are good. What Mary is doing is important also."

Often while travelling, Jesus stopped to rest at their home. He knew he would be welcome in his friends' home.

Luke 10:38-42



WEEK 17

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me" (Matthew 19:14)

THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND

"Hurry! Hurry! Let's not be late. I want to see Jesus," said a small boy. His mother and father had just heard that Jesus was nearby. Quickly they prepared to go see him.

Men and women were going to see Jesus. The children were washed and dressed neatly. They wanted to look their best for Jesus.

As they hurried along the road, some children skipped. Some ran. Others sang a happy song. They were all happy to be going to see Jesus.

Pretty flowers were growing along the road. Perhaps the boys and girls picked some of them.

"I want to take these as a gift to Jesus."

"May we sing a song for him?"

"What is Jesus like? What will he say to us?"

The children talked as they walked. They were happy. The mothers and fathers were happy, too. They were happy that their children would see Jesus.

There was a large crowd. A mother said, "This must be where Jesus is. There are so many people. How will the children be able to see him?"

Someone saw one of Jesus' helpers. "Please can you help us? We want our children to see Jesus."

"Jesus is very busy. He is too busy to talk with children today. You must return home," one helper said.

The children were sad that they could not see Jesus. They walked away from the crowd.

"Do not send the children away," Jesus said. "I am not too busy. I want to see them."

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17



WEEK 18

"I thank God" (2 Timothy 1:3)

HANNAH'S BABY

Hannah watched as the children played near her house. She enjoyed seeing them play together.

But Hannah was sad. None of the children belonged to her. She had no children.

Hannah thought, "I want to have a baby. If I had a baby I would care for him. I would feed him and wash him. I would teach him to love God."

One day Hannah's husband said, "We must go to Shiloh. We must make our journey to the temple."

Hannah began to prepare for the trip. She and her husband were going to the temple to worship God.

When they arrived at the temple, Hannah went inside. She knelt down and began to talk to God. "I want a baby very much. I would love him. I would take good care of him. I would teach him to love you," she said.

Preacher Eli saw Hannah. He did not understand her words. Hannah told Eli that she was talking to God. "I am telling God how much I want a baby," she said.

After worshipping God, Hannah and her husband returned home. Hannah was happy. She knew that God would answer her prayer. She knew that he would give her a baby.

When she returned home, Hannah was not sad. She began to prepare for the baby. She made clothes for the baby. She made a good place for the baby to sleep. As she worked, she thanked God for hearing her prayer.

When the baby was born, Hannah named him Samuel. "Thank you, God, for our baby," Hannah prayed.

Samuel's mother and father loved him very much. They took good care of him. They taught him to love God.

1 Samuel 1



WEEK 19

"I will help you" (Isaiah 41:10)

MIRIAM HELPS

Miriam was very happy. She had a brother named Aaron. She also had a new baby brother.

Her family was happy to have Baby Moses. However, they had to be very careful. They had to hide their baby to keep him safe. The king had told his soldiers to kill all baby boys.

Miriam helped care for Moses. She helped to keep him safe.

One day Miriam's mother said, "Baby Moses is growing bigger. He cries and laughs loudly. We must find another way to hide him. Gather some tall reed-grass for me."

Miriam brought the grass. Her mother made a basket. She daubed it with pitch so it would not leak.

"Miriam, wrap Baby Moses in a blanket. Bring him to me," her mother said.

They put Moses in the basket and took him to the river. They put the basket on the water. It floated. Baby Moses was warm and dry.

Miriam hid in the tall grass and watched the basket. Soon she heard someone coming. She was very frightened. "What will happen to the baby?" she thought. Miriam saw the king's daughter and her helpers. They have come to the river to bathe.

"Bring that basket to me," the Princess told her maid.

When the Princess opened the basket, she saw the baby. "This is a Hebrew baby, but I want to keep him," she said. "I want him for my own baby."

Miriam stepped from behind the grass. "Shall I get someone to care for the baby?" she asked.

"Yes, please find someone," answered the Princess.

Miriam ran quickly to her mother. "Mother, come. The Princess has found Moses," she said. "She wants someone to care for him."

Miriam and her mother ran back to the river. The Princess gave Baby Moses to his mother. "Take this child home with you and care for him. I will pay you for keeping him," she said.

Miriam and her family were very happy. God had helped them to keep their baby.

Exodus 2:1-9



WEEK 20

"Be ye kind one to another." (Ephesians 4:32)

A KIND UNCLE

Long, long ago there was a man who loved God. His name was Abram. He was a rich man. He had many cattle and sheep and goats. He had many servants to help care for his cattle.

Lot was Abram's nephew. He lived with his uncle. Lot also had many cattle and many servants.

Abram and Lot's families lived in tents. All of their servants lived in tents. They lived in a village called Bethel.

One day a helper came to Abram. He said, "Master, Lot's cattle are eating all the grass. There will be none for our cattle."

"Our cattle need the grass. They will become thin," said one of Lot's servants.

The two helpers began to quarrel. They were very angry.

Abram called Lot and they began to discuss the problem.

"Lot, our helpers are quarrelling. This is not good. There is not enough grass and water for all our cattle. It is better for you to live by yourself," said Abram.

"You may have your choice. You may take your family and herds anywhere you like. You can go to one place. I will go to another. Then there will be enough grass. There will be no more quarrelling," Abram said to Lot.

Lot looked around him. He saw the green grass in the valley. He knew his herds would have enough to eat.

"I will go there, Uncle Abram. I shall take my family and herds to the valley. There is much grass."

Afterwards, God spoke to Abram. God said, "Look around you. I will give you all you can see. You and your children will live in this land."

"Thank you, God," Uncle Abram prayed.

Genesis 13



WEEK 21

"Learn to do good" (Isaiah 1:17)

TIMOTHY LEARNS

"Grandmother, will you tell me a story?" Timothy asked.

Grandmother said, "Come and sit beside me. I shall tell you a story from the Bible scroll. What do you want to hear today?" she asked.

"I like the story about David," Timothy answered. "And I like other stories, too."

Timothy sat very still and listened as Grandmother talked. He liked to hear the stories.

Sometimes Timothy's mother would read from the Bible scroll. Timothy learned many Bible verses. Perhaps he learned songs about Bible friends. As Timothy grew older he learned to read. He was able to read the Bible scroll.

Timothy remembered the Bible stories. He remembered the Bible verses. They helped him to know the right things to do.

Timothy grew to be a man. One day Paul came to see him. He asked Timothy to come with him. Timothy became Paul's helper. They traveled to many towns. They told people about Jesus.

After their trip, Paul wrote to Timothy. These letters are part of our Bible today.

Paul wrote, "I would like to see you again. I remember how you love God. I know your mother and grandmother helped you. They taught you Bible stories and Bible verses. They taught you to love God. Always remember what they taught you."

Timothy may have said, "Thank you God. Thank you for my mother and grandmother. Thank you for the Bible and Bible verses."

2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14,15



WEEK 22

"Honour your father and your mother." (Ephesians 6:2)

JOSEPH OBEYS HIS FATHER

"Joseph, come to me," Jacob called to his son. "Your brothers are grazing the sheep and cattle at Schechem. I want you to go to them. See if your brothers are well. Come back and tell me how they are," he said.

"Yes, Father," Joseph answered, "I will do as you say."

Joseph knew he must walk a long way. He knew he might meet wild animals. But he was happy to obey his father.

He put some food in a basket. He picked up his walking stick. He started on his journey.

"It is a good day for a walk," thought Joseph. "God has made everything beautiful."

The sun was very hot, but Joseph did not stop. He walked and walked. Finally he came to the green pastures.

He thought his brothers would be near by. He could not see them. He looked all around, but he did not find them.

"Reuben, Reuben," Joseph called his brother. Then he listened. He heard no answer. He did not even hear the sheep. He could not find his brothers.

A man saw him. "Who are you looking for?" he asked.

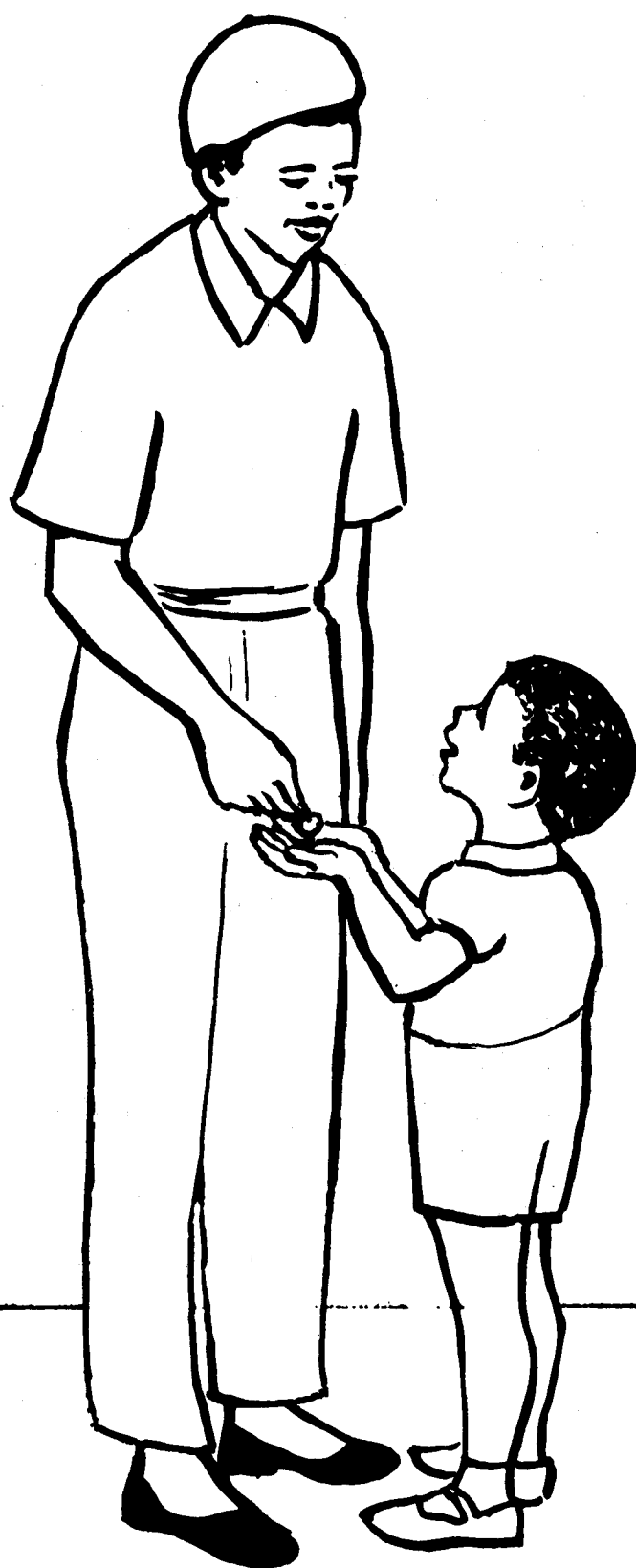
"I am looking for my brothers. My father has sent me to find them. Can you help me? Do you know where they are?" Joseph asked.

"They have gone from here. I heard them say they were going to Dothan," the man answered.

"Thank you, sir," Joseph said to the man.

Even though Joseph was tired, he began to walk again. At last he arrived at Dothan. He found his brothers there.

Genesis 37:12-17



WEEK 23

"I will sing to the Lord!" (Exodus 15:1)

WORSHIPPING IN THE NEW CHURCH

Solomon was king. He sent a message to his friend, Hiram.

"I want to build a church for my people. I want it to be a beautiful church. Will you help me?" Solomon wrote.

"I am glad to help," replied Hiram. He sold tall trees to King Solomon. He had the best cedar trees in the country. Solomon sent many men to get the trees. They also brought huge stones. They got the best of all materials. It took seven years to build the church. Finally it was finished.

All the people came to the new church. King Solomon talked to the people. He said, "Praise God. He has helped us build this beautiful church."

Then Solomon prayed, "Thank you, God. You helped my father, David. I want you to help me. Help me know what are the right things to do."

All the people praised God. They were glad to have a new church.

1 Kings 5-8



WEEK 24

"Bring an offering" (1 Chronicles 16:29)

A CHURCH THAT SHARED

Paul and Barnabas came to visit the people at Antioch church. They taught them about Jesus. They told them how Jesus helped others.

One day a man came from the Jerusalem church. He said, "There will be a famine there. Many people will be hungry."

"Here at Antioch we have some food. Perhaps we can help our friends," one said.

"We can all give something for our friends," said another.

Some of the people were rich. They had much money and food. Some of the people were poor. They had only a little.

Each person gave what he could. Those who had much, gave much. Those who had only a little, gave a little. When they put all the gifts together, they had much to share.

They asked Paul and Barnabas to help them. They asked them to take their gifts to Jerusalem.

The people at Antioch were happy to share. They were happy because they helped their friends.

Acts 11:27-30



WEEK 25

"The Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8)

JESUS READS THE BIBLE

Jesus grew up in the little town of Nazareth. When he became a man he left his home. He knew God had something special for him to do.

Jesus traveled to many towns. He taught people about God. He told them how much God loved them.

One day Jesus came back to his home town. He went to the synagogue to worship. He went inside and sat down with the other people.

Jesus was asked to read the Bible scroll. He stood before the people. He read some of the words of the prophet, Isaiah.

Isaiah had written about a special person God would send. This person would help people. He would make blind people see. He would tell them about God.

When Jesus finished reading, he closed the Bible scroll. He began talking to the people. He said, "I am that special person. God has sent me to preach Good News to you. God has sent me to help you. He has sent me to tell you about his love. I am God's Son."

The people listened carefully as Jesus talked. Some could not understand that he was God's Son. They did not understand that Jesus had come to show them God's love.

Luke 4:14-22



WEEK 26

"I will praise God with a song" (Psalm 29:30)

A SONG TO JESUS

Jesus and his helpers were going to Jerusalem. As they came near the city, Jesus said to them, "Two of you go to the next village. You will find a donkey there. She will have a baby colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me."

"If anyone asks, tell him that the Lord needs them. He will let you take them," Jesus said.

Jesus's helpers left immediately. They walked quickly. Soon they came to the village. They found the donkey and the colt. They untied them. Then they led them back to Jesus.

Jesus started to get on the donkey. One helper said, "Jesus, here is my coat. I will put it on the donkey's back. You may sit on it."

A large crowd had come to see Jesus. The people began to spread their coats on the ground. Some cut branches from trees. They took the branches and spread them on the road.

Many boys and girls were in the crowd. They had come to see Jesus. They began to sing a song about him.

"Praise God.

Praise God for Jesus."

The children sang as they ran along the road. They waved their tree branches. They ran and sang all the way into the city. They were happy to see their friend, Jesus. Jesus was happy to hear their praise song.

As they entered Jerusalem, some people asked, "Who is this man on the donkey?"

The men and women, boys and girls answered them. "He is Jesus," they said.

Matthew 21:1-11 and Psalm 100:1-2

