

Little Bible Treasures

Text only—for 2019 edition

Written by: Chariane Quille

Little Bible Treasures is a unique jewel, containing beautiful content that has been carefully selected, making it truly appropriate for nurturing young children's gentle minds and tender hearts.

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Little Bible Treasures I

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1.) God Creates the Earth

God created the Earth and all the beautiful places in it. First He created the light.

"Let there be light", He said, and then there was light!

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Next, God spoke and created the sky and air around the world. He separated the water, leaving some below on the Earth, and placing some way up above.

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Then it was time for the land to be formed. After that, God filled the world with many pretty things like plants, fruit, food to eat, grass, trees, beaches, rocky mountains, and flower-filled meadows. It was a lovely place!

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2.) God Creates the Universe

God made some lights in the sky, so the Earth could have what it needs. He created the sun to shine and light up the day, and the moon to shine at night. The sun helps plants to grow and keeps the Earth warm.

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God also added stars and planets in the space surrounding the Earth—a whole universe!

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God created and placed everything just right so that Earth would be a great place to live.

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3.) Animals Are Made

God put fish and sea creatures in the oceans and rivers, lakes and ponds. He made birds that can travel through the sky, on land, and on the water's surface. He made birds that build their nests in trees, and birds that sing.

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Then land animals, both large and small, began to explore the new world God had made. There were huge and heavy animals, and tiny little flying bugs. There were fast-moving creatures and some very slow animals.

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Some had feathers, some had fur, some had scales, some had skin, some had shells, and some had wings. God liked them all, and they were all friendly and happy animals.

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4.) The First Man on Earth

The world was a beautiful place to be, and ready for the first human beings. God then used some soil from the ground to do the most amazing thing. Out of the dirt He made a man!

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Then He breathed life into him. The first man's name was Adam. God loved Adam!

God then gave Adam a fun job to do—to choose what each animal should be called.

Adam named all the animals.

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He liked his new animal friends, but he was also lonely, as he was the only person on Earth. Adam wished for a friend, a person he could live with and talk to, and love—someone made like him.

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5.) The First Woman on Earth

Do you like friends? Even though Adam—the first man to live on Earth—had a beautiful world filled with only good things, and had great things to see and lots of animals around that were kind and friendly, Adam wanted something more.

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God knew he needed a friend, a person to live with, talk to, and to be a companion for him. So after putting Adam to sleep, God prepared a special friend for him.

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When Adam woke up, he saw what God had made—a woman! Adam was very happy. He loved her and called her "Eve". She was the world's very first woman.

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6.) God Rests

God liked watching all the neat and cool things that His creation could do! He saw the funny animals at play, the pretty sunsets, the birds in the trees and sky, singing their songs.

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He could see the people running and exploring a new area they had just discovered, and a bright-coloured bug finding its way across the grass.

He gazed at the colourful displays in the meadows, decorated with all the beautiful types of flowers. It was so much fun for Him!

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God saw all that He'd made, and said it was good! God took time to stop and look and listen and enjoy it all. He took a day to rest. We can and should do the same—take time to rest, to talk with God, to enjoy nature, to laugh.

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7.) God's Garden, and His Gardener

The whole world was like one big, beautiful garden. It was a fantastic place to be. God wanted to make a really special place, a garden for Adam and Eve to live in and have all that they needed.

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God created a place called "The Garden of Eden" and there He put the first people He'd made. It was such a wonderful place to be. There were no thorns or harmful plants. The trees had plenty of fruit, and other types of food were growing in the garden.

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It was the most beautiful place that ever existed on Earth. Adam and Eve were perfectly safe there, and enjoyed exploring and helping to care for this garden that God had given them the job of looking after.

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8.) Trees and Choices

Even though the Garden of Eden was perfect and wonderful, and Adam and Eve were enjoying it greatly, there was something more important than just having a nice time and having fun: learning to obey God.

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Adam and Eve learned this lesson—to do things God's way, and not listen to someone telling them the opposite. God said they could eat from every tree in the Garden except for one, but they disobeyed, and then sad things happened. God had to take away some of their special blessings.

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They learned that they were the happiest when they obeyed God. Each person on Earth has to choose what they are going to do, just like Adam and Eve had to. Will you make the right choices that will make you and others, and most of all God, happy?

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9.) Enoch and Methuselah

Does it seem to take you a long time to grow up? Each birthday seems to be a long ways away, doesn't it? There was one man who lived to have nearly one thousand birthdays! His name was Methuselah. He lived to be 969 years old!

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Many years ago, people would live much longer than they do now. Methuselah's father was Enoch. He loved God very much, and tried to do what God wanted him to do. Sadly, though, most people weren't doing things God's way, and it was making the world a very unpleasant place.

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Enoch loved having time talking with God more than doing anything else, so one day God took Enoch up to live with Him, away from all the bad things going on in the world.

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10.) A Good Man for a Great Job

God wanted people to be happy on Earth, and to be His friends. However, many people chose to do only the things that were wrong, and that made God sad. He wished they would listen and obey, but they didn't. So God had to wash away all the dirt and ugly behaviour of the old world and start again.

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Noah loved God and obeyed Him. God told him to build a big, strong boat, and to load it with animals and plenty of supplies.

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It was going to be a long trip. God would wash the world with the flood, but in the ark, the big boat, they would be safe and dry.

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11.) Rain and a Rainbow

A big flood of water washed over the whole Earth. Everything was made clean again. Noah and his family and the animals aboard the ark were safe and dry. Noah's family worked hard through the long flood caring for the animals, while rocking and bobbing in their big boat.

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When at last it was dry enough on Earth, they could all go out again. Noah and his family were so glad to be out of the ark, and glad the world was all new and nice again.

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God then put a beautiful rainbow in the sky, as a promise that the great worldwide flood would never happen again.

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12.) The Tower of Babel

Building a very tall tower of blocks can be fun. Did you know that some men once tried to build a tower of mud bricks as tall as the sky? It was silly, and it would never reach up to heaven. They were being proud. God wanted them to stop doing it, and instead go and live in other parts of the world.

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They were to travel around, and to form smaller communities living here and there. Too many people all together, all doing the same thing, wasn't making the world what it needed to be. So God gave each family a new language to speak—a language no one else understood.

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Since no one could understand most of the others anymore, as they could before, they had to stop building the tall tower, and instead went to explore new places on Earth and do new things.

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13.) A Man on the Move

God told Abraham to travel to a new country and to visit new lands he'd never seen or been in before. It wasn't easy. There were no motorized vehicles; no cars, planes, or trains.

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Abraham and his team had to walk or travel on camels or other animals, or wagons. He had many animals. Abraham chose to obey. So he packed everything up and moved with his big team of helpers and all that they had. They lived in tents, as they travelled wherever God said to go.

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Abraham had a wife called Sarah, and God said that one day she would have a child. They looked forward to the day when this would happen. It took faith and patience to wait.

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14.) Living Peacefully

Abraham was a kind and generous man. One time when there wasn't enough grass for all the sheep, goats, and other animals to graze on, the shepherds wondered what to do. Abraham thought of a solution.

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His nephew Lot and his big team and all his animals were also travelling with them. Abraham suggested that Lot choose whatever new area he'd like to move to, so his flocks and herds could get all that they needed.

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Lot was given first choice, and he chose the best place he could find, and moved there. Abraham was glad to make Lot and his team happy and to bring peace.

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15.) Three Special Visitors

A team of three special men were travelling to the place where Abraham had pitched his tent. Abraham invited them to stay for a while to rest and eat. Sarah cooked some food for them. The men were angels, and they had a special message to give Abraham and Sarah.

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They announced that it was nearly time for God to send them their special son, the child God had promised to give them. Sarah, who was in the tent, heard the men talking about it.

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She smiled, as it seemed funny, since both she and Abraham were pretty old by then. It was a happy thought that finally they would soon have a baby!

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16.) Isaac

Isaac was Abraham and Sarah's very special and long-awaited son. They must have felt like the happiest parents in the world as they held little baby Isaac, the son God had promised to give them for so long.

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Baby Isaac made them laugh! They loved and cared for their son very well, and they enjoyed teaching him all they could.

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Abraham and Sarah taught their son Isaac about life, about God, and about having faith and patience, just like they had learned all those years.

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17.) Patience, Faith, and Rebekah

Isaac travelled around with his father Abraham and mother Sarah, and learned many things from them. Learning faith and patience day by day is what helped Isaac to wait for God's best.

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One day God gave him something he'd wanted for a long time. He wanted to have a wife and children, a family of his own. Abraham, his father, wanted to make sure he got the very best—someone who was kind and thoughtful, and someone who loved and obeyed God.

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Rebekah was the name of the sweet woman who God chose to marry Isaac. They loved each other, and after a while God gave them two children—twin boys. Their names were Jacob and Esau.

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18.) Isaac and the Wells

Did you ever have someone take something that you were using? Did it make you sad or upset? Isaac had learned to be patient and act kindly,

even when people took away something that he and his team really needed—a well for drawing water.

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Isaac let others have his own well, and he moved and worked hard to dig another one. God provided more water for Isaac and his team and all their animals.

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Soon those that hadn't been nice to him said they were sorry, and they became friends. It was a good idea to act kindly—because in the end Isaac got more friends.

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19.) Dream of Angels

Jacob had to learn a lesson to not take things that belonged to others. He wanted his father and brother Esau to promise that instead of Esau getting what belonged to him, that it would be Jacob's instead.

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Jacob was too greedy and so he had to go and live somewhere else for awhile. He was sad and sorry for his mistakes then.

As he was travelling, God did a wonderful thing to encourage him.

Jacob had a beautiful dream of angels on a heavenly ladder.

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He knew God was there right beside him, and loved him and would help him. Jacob chose to change and follow God's way instead, and God took good care of him.

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20.) Hard Work and a Family of His Own

Jacob travelled to the place where his uncle Laban was living, and stayed with him there for many years.

Jacob worked hard each day caring for Laban's sheep and goats and cattle. He married both the daughters of Laban—Rachel and Leah, and was the father of 12 sons and one daughter.

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Laban wasn't always nice to Jacob, and didn't keep his promises. This helped Jacob to learn what it felt like to be around someone who only thinks about themselves and isn't trustworthy.

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Jacob tried to keep being faithful to work hard and care for his family. God told him it was finally time to move back to his country. When Jacob and his family moved, he was a rich man, with lots of animals and goods. God had taken good care of him.

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21.) Being Friends Again

Jacob wanted to be kind to his brother Esau, and to say he was sorry for what he had done to make his brother sad. Jacob prayed that Esau would forgive him. God sent angels to Jacob to talk to him and encourage him on his journey back to his homeland.

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Jacob then gave his brother lots of animals as gifts, since Jacob had lots. He spoke kindly to him. He was trying to make things right again with this brother, and share with Esau some of the blessings that God had given him.

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Jacob knew it was only God who had given him all that he now had. Esau gave him a hug and showed him forgiveness. They became friends again.

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22.) Comparing and Coats

Jacob loved his son Joseph very much, and gave him a special, colourful coat.

It seemed to Joseph's brothers that he was getting all the best things, and they weren't very nice to Joseph.

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It would have been better if they had been kind and had more faith that good things would come for them too. God had something difficult for Joseph to do, so it was nice that he had a few special treats beforehand.

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Joseph had to go to Egypt to be a helper there. He missed his family, but was able to learn things there that he would need to know in order to do a special job later on.

God was preparing him to do something that would be a great help to his brothers and father and family.

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23.) Joseph in Egypt

Joseph worked hard in Egypt, and God blessed all that he did. No matter where he was, he did his best. Joseph had faith that God could tell people the meaning of dreams.

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One time Pharaoh called Joseph to tell him the meaning of an important dream that he'd had. God was telling Pharaoh through the dream that they needed to prepare for a coming time when there wouldn't be enough food.

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Joseph was then put in charge of storing up food during the plentiful years. Pharaoh made him one of the most important men in Egypt so he could do this special job.

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24.) Food in Egypt

Joseph's brothers travelled to Egypt to get food, since that was the only place to get some, as it hadn't rained enough and crops weren't growing. Joseph got to see his brothers again, and gave them the food they needed for their families. Joseph's brothers didn't recognise him, as he was dressed and spoke as an Egyptian.

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Joseph then told his brothers who he was, and hugged them. They were glad Joseph forgave them for not treating him nicely before. Joseph was glad that he had been in Egypt now, because he, his brothers and their families, as well as their father, could now have some of the food he'd helped to store.

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Pharaoh let Joseph's father, brothers, and all their families come and live in Egypt where they could have all the food they needed. He sent wagons for them to use in their big move to Egypt.

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25.) A Palace, a Prince, and Preparation

Many people who were from the families of Jacob's sons and their children were living in Egypt. They were called Hebrews or Israelites. Things got hard for them there after a while. God wanted them to move somewhere else.

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One day, a baby was sleeping in a little basket-bed-boat, floating near the edge of the river. His older sister was watching over him.

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Then Pharaoh's daughter saw the little baby and picked him up. She heard him cry, and loved him. She called him Moses. Moses' mother cared for him, and the Princess treated him like her own son as well.

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He grew up as a prince in the palace of Pharaoh. God was preparing Moses to be the man to do the job of helping the Israelites move out of Egypt many years later.

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26.) The Burning Bush

Moses didn't like the way that Pharaoh was treating the Israelites living in Egypt. Pharaoh was unkind and made the people work too hard. When Moses was a grown man he left Egypt and became a shepherd for many years in a place called Midian.

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One day, while Moses was watching the sheep, God appeared to him in a bush that was all lit up, like a fire! The bush was burning in a very special way, without getting burned up. God spoke to Moses from that burning bush. God told Moses to go back to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let all the Israelites leave.

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God said He would do amazing things to help convince Pharaoh to obey. Moses' brother Aaron came to see him, and God had the brothers be a team to do this very big job. There were many people to lead out of Egypt, but they had faith that God would be there to help them.

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27.) Brave Brothers

When Moses and Aaron talked to the leaders of the Israelites and told them God's plan, they were glad to hear that they would soon be able to leave Egypt! Moses and Aaron boldly told Pharaoh what God had said.

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God said that Pharaoh was to let the people leave Egypt and to stop working for him. But Pharaoh didn't like that idea. He tried to make things even more difficult for them. This was discouraging for the people, but Moses and Aaron kept bravely obeying God's Words.

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They had faith that it was all going to work out, if they prayed and listened to God and did whatever He told them to do.

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28.) Woeful and Wonderful

Pharaoh was in for some difficult times, because he didn't obey what God told him to do—to let the people go. Pharaoh said "no" to God and His messengers, Moses and Aaron. When he said the Israelites could not leave, then the river water was no longer nice and fresh, for several days. It was stinky, and Pharaoh got very thirsty!

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When Pharaoh continued to disobey, more and more troubles came to their land, to the Egyptian people, to the farms, and to their homes. Finally, after many difficult times, Pharaoh at last agreed and decided to obey God's command.

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The Israelites were free to leave and move to where God wanted them to go. It was a very big move, and they got going right away, bringing all their animals and belongings.

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29.) A Path to Praise About!

During the first part of the journey with Moses, the travelling team of Israelites needed a very big miracle!
In front of them was the Red Sea, and they needed to cross it.

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Pharaoh was not happy that they weren't coming back, and decided to try to make them return. When the people wondered what they were going to do, as there was no pathway to keep on travelling, Moses told them God would take care of the situation.

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Moses held his hands and rod out over the sea, and God sent a very big, strong wind.

The wind from God blew and blew on the sea, blowing away the water. Then instead of only water, there was a long dry pathway with walls of water on either side, all the way to the other side of the sea.

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The people were able to cross to the other side on dry land! When everyone was safely across, the waters returned again, covering up the pathway that God made.

The Israelites were so glad for the miracle that God had done. They praised God and sang songs to Him!

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30.) Wilderness, Water, and Wells

Moses and his team of travellers needed water, and were glad to finally find some. However, the water tasted bad!

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The people started to grumble. But does that help to bring a solution? No! The first thing to do is what Moses chose to do—he prayed and asked God about it.

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God said to throw a special tree into the water. When he obeyed what God said, then all of a sudden the water tasted good! Everyone was very happy, and could drink and wash, and their animals could drink the water too.

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Moses told everyone the lesson of that miracle. If they wanted to have good health and have what they needed, it was important to obey

whatever God told them to do. The next place they travelled to was very nice. It had 12 wells of water, and lots of trees for shade.

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31.) Amazing Food

The travelling team of Israelites needed food. When Moses prayed, God said He would send down food from Heaven. The next morning when they woke up they were amazed to see that there was a special kind of bread all over the ground. The people gathered it up and ate it. It tasted very nice! They called it "manna".

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Every morning, there it was again. For many years this special miracle food from God was there for them to collect, no matter where they travelled, or what kind of weather it was. They didn't need to plant and harvest crops, they just had to collect this manna off the ground.

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On one day every week they were able to collect twice as much, so they could rest the next day and have food to eat without having to work to gather it.

Wasn't God kind and thoughtful?

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32.) Water Out of a Rock

The Israelites needed water while they were travelling in the wilderness. It was difficult to be thirsty and not have water. Instead of praying for what they needed, the people started to complain to Moses and get upset.

Moses prayed and asked God what to do.

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God said He'd bring water out of a rock! Moses hit the rock, and water came pouring out! All the people and animals had water to drink.

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Another time the people learned to be more cheerful, and they sang a song, while some princes did what God said to do at that time—to use their sticks to dig in the ground. God then made a spring of water there for them.

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33.) A Blazing Mountain, a Blasting Trumpet, and Tablets of Stone

God wanted to show the people that He was real and was right there with them. God made a special display of light and power on a mountain for the people to see.

It was amazing! The mountain was fiery, and the sound of thunder and trumpets could be heard. They knew God was right there.

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Moses was called to go up on the mountain to talk with God. There he received instructions and rules to help the people know more clearly what to do, so they could follow God's way.

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Moses told the people everything God had said. Later, while Moses was again with God on the mountain, God wrote on tablets of stone some of the rules, for the people to easily remember and follow.

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These were called "The Ten Commandments." There were many things God said, and lots of instructions were also written down on scrolls to be read and remembered.

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34.) The Mercy and Light of God

God had given instructions to the people of Israel, but they didn't follow them well. Moses was very upset, and God was displeased too. The people were sorry for their wrongdoings, and God forgave those who wanted to make the right choices and follow Him.

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Moses needed more time alone with God to receive more instructions, as the first set of stone tablets had been broken, because of the people's disobedience and Moses' anger. God was kind and merciful and gave everyone a second chance. He talked with Moses as a friend and Moses listened to all that God said. A new set of stone "Ten Commandments" was made.

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When Moses came down from the mountain after this special time with the Lord, his face was very bright and was shining! Everyone knew that he had spent time talking to God.

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35.) The Cloud of the Lord

God had a very special way to lead the Israelites on their journey. He sent a big, bright, and amazing cloud to show them when and where to travel. When God moved the cloud pillar, the people packed up and moved also.

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They would camp at the new place for as long as God kept the cloud there. At night the cloud was bright and fiery, and could be seen in the dark night.

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God also instructed them in how to build a special tent, or tabernacle, for prayer, and how to build a special box called "The Ark of the Covenant", to hold special things—like the stone "Ten Commandments".

Skilled and wise people helped to make each thing. They made everything just the way God said to.

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At last, after learning many new things and travelling for many years, the big team of Israelites were ready to move in to the new land, full of faith and willing to do whatever God told them to do.

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36.) Aaron's Almonds and Moses' Song

Moses and Aaron were God's specially chosen leaders to help the Israelites know God's instructions, to pray for them, to talk with them, to help them, and to bring them to the new land that God was leading them to.

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God did many miracles through them to show the people that He was there with them. One time God made Aaron's old rod grow new blossoms and leaves, as well as almonds. God could do anything!

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Before Moses went to be with God in Heaven, God told Moses to write a new song to help the Israelites remember to do things God's way. Moses wrote it down and taught the people how to sing it.

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Joshua was a faithful helper to Moses for many years. He wanted to listen to God and do whatever He said to do. When Moses and Aaron had both gone to be with God, to receive their rewards for doing a good job, God made Joshua the new leader to help lead all the Israelites into the new land that God had promised they could live in.

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37.) Joshua, Jordan, and Jericho

Joshua became the new leader of the big team of people who were ready to enter into their new country. God told Joshua what to do, and how to enter the new land.

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The priests carried the Ark of the Covenant to the Jordan River and as soon as their feet touched the water, God parted it and made a pathway through the water.

They walked across on dry land.

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Next, a team of people and priests marched around the big high walls of the city of Jericho, once a day for six days and then seven times on the seventh day.

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The seventh day they shouted and blew trumpets, and God made those strong walls fall flat. There was nothing in the way anymore, and the Israelites could walk into their new land and make it their home.

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38.) Gideon and the Angel

The people that God had chosen to follow Him were no longer obeying Him. Then trouble happened, and as a result there wasn't enough food, because selfish people from another area came and took it. The people needed help, and they needed to start obeying God again. God chose Gideon to help the Israelites.

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An angel came and told Gideon that God needed him for an important job. Then the angel showed Gideon something amazing. With a touch of his staff, he made fire come out of a rock!

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Gideon believed that God had sent the angel, and prayed for God to help him. He wanted to obey whatever God said to do.

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39.) A Pitcher, a Torch, and a Trumpet

God surprised Gideon! He said that even though it was a very big job to make the land of Israel safe again, that Gideon only needed a small team of helpers to do the job of making some unkind and selfish people leave their country.

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Gideon and his team did as God said, and each one carried a clay pitcher, a torch, and a trumpet. At just the right time each one of them blew their trumpets loudly, broke the pitchers, and yelled out, holding up their torches.

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This shocked the sleeping, troublesome folks so much, that they started running away! God made them go away. Hurray! God promised that things would be nice again in the land of Israel, if they continued to obey and follow Him.

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40.) A Strong Man

An angel of God appeared to a woman, telling her about a special child that God was going to give her and her husband. God gave specific instructions to them on how they were to care for him. The child's name was Samson. God had told them that he should have long hair.

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Samson learned about God and obeyed His Word, and when Samson was grown he became a judge. He helped to tell the people about God's ways. God also used him to try to stop the people who were causing them all a lot of trouble.

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Samson had a special gift from God that helped him do his job. He was given extra strength! With God's help, when a miracle was needed, Samson was stronger than anyone else.

Whenever he prayed for God's help and obeyed God's instructions, no one could stop him from doing what God wanted him to do.

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41.) Kind Ruth

Naomi travelled to her home country, together with Ruth—who was like a daughter to her. When they arrived, it was the time when the barley was being harvested and Ruth went to the field to see if there was any spare grain for her and Naomi, as they needed food.

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A kind man called Boaz, who was the owner of the field, was a relative of Naomi. He was very generous, and let Ruth gather the spare barley every day of the harvest. He knew that she was a kind lady, and was taking good care of Naomi.

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Boaz loved Ruth and married her, and they had a baby who they called Obed. He was a joy to their family, and Grandma Naomi loved caring for him also. God was taking good care of them all, and everyone was very happy!

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42.) Hannah's Prayer and Promise

At first, Hannah was sad because she didn't have any children like other women did. Then Hannah prayed for a child—a little baby boy. She told God that she would like her child to love and follow Him all his life.

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So God gave her a son, just as she had prayed, and she was very happy! Hannah named her baby Samuel. He was a special child. —An answer to Hannah's prayers! Hannah loved him so much, and she prayed that he would follow God all his life and do what was best.

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She had waited so long to have a child, and it made her very glad that God had answered her prayer and gave her a baby.

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43.) Little Boy Samuel

Hannah loved her little boy Samuel, and praised God for giving her such a special child. When he was old enough, Samuel was brought to live with Priest Eli in the temple.

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That's where he could learn so many things, and could read *God's Word* written on the special scrolls—the very old books, like the ones that *God* helped *Moses* to write.

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Each year when *Hannah* and her husband *Elkanah* visited, she brought *Samuel* a nice new coat that she had made. The coat would fit him and keep him warm for the next year.

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Each year when *Hannah* and her husband *Elkanah* visited, she brought *Samuel* a nice new coat that she had made. The coat would fit him and keep him warm for the next year.

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Samuel grew strong and wise, and learned *God's Word*. After *Samuel*, *Hannah* had other children too. *God* took good care of *Samuel* and helped him to be a good example of loving *God* and following *His* ways.

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44.) Listening to God Speak

The Lord called out to Samuel one night, and Samuel heard Him. At first Samuel thought it was Eli calling him, but it wasn't. Samuel then sat quietly and listened to the Lord. He was helping Samuel learn what he needed to know, so that he could do a good job.

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Samuel prayed and listened to God a lot. Even when others were doing the wrong things, Samuel made good choices. Listening to God's Words helped him to know what was right.

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When Samuel was an adult he was a prophet and judge. He told the people what God said, and helped them to follow His ways.

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45.) A Faithful Judge and Prophet

Samuel was a good example. He read and studied God's Word and then put it into action. People began to listen to what Samuel said and to follow what he told them from the Lord.

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Samuel prayed for them. He told them to love and obey God most of all, and then things would get better for them—and that's just what happened!

The country began to be a better place, as the people obeyed God's Words.

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Samuel was a faithful judge and prophet. He travelled around helping as many people as he could to learn how wonderful God's Word was. The more people remembered and did what God said, the happier they were.

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46.) Samuel and Saul

After Samuel had been the judge of Israel for many years, the people wanted to have a king to rule over their country. One day, God told Samuel that there was a man coming to see him the next day, who was to be the king.

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Saul was looking for his father's donkeys and couldn't find them, so he asked Samuel to pray and ask God where they were.

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Samuel told Saul not to worry about the donkeys, because God said they had already been found. Samuel then told Saul that God was calling him to do an important job.

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As a sign that God would help him, Samuel poured special oil on Saul's head. Saul would make a good king if he stayed humble and obedient to God.

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47.) King Saul

Saul was the first king for the people of Israel. He was a tall and strong man. At first he wasn't proud, so God chose him to be the new king. Samuel talked with Saul and told him what God said would happen as he walked back home. Then those things happened just like Samuel said.

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Saul met some people who gave him bread, and also prophets with instruments. When Saul met them, amazingly he prophesied along with them.

He was surprised! God's Spirit had changed him—his heart and mind, and even the way he acted.

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When everyone gathered together to see who their king would be, Saul was shy at first, but then he was brave and stood up for everyone to see him. He was taller than everyone else! They all shouted, "God save the king!"

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48.) A Thundery Demonstration

It would be a big job for Saul to be the leader of the people. He would need to listen to Samuel the prophet, and obey the instructions God gave him.

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When Samuel was talking to the people on a bright and sunny day, he prayed for the Lord to have it rain and make a thunderstorm happen right then—and it did! This reminded everyone that it is good to respect and listen to God.

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God told the people, and King Saul, that they needed to follow His Words and be obedient to Him if they wanted things to go well in their country.

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God hears everyone's prayers and will help those who love and follow Him. Samuel said that he would always remember to pray for the people. That was one of his most important jobs and would be the greatest help to everyone.

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49.) A Good Heart

One day God said that it was time to prepare someone else to be the new king, as King Saul had stopped obeying what God said to do. He had become too proud. There was a young man named David who was watching over the sheep.

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He and his family were invited to a feast with Samuel, where God said that David was to be the new king after King Saul. Even though David's

brothers were strong, tall, and handsome, God said that the most important thing for a king to have is a good heart.

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David's heart was humble and obedient, and he loved God very much and wanted to please Him. God looks at people's hearts and is glad to find those whose hearts are filled with love and who want to follow His way.

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Samuel poured oil on David to demonstrate that he was chosen by God to do an important job, and that God's Spirit would be with him. David was chosen then, but he had many more years to prepare for his new job of being a king later on.

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50.) David's Harp

David was a good shepherd and cared for the sheep well. He watched over them and protected them, and didn't want even one of them to get lost.

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David liked to play music and sing songs on his harp. He sang, and praised, and prayed to God with songs. When King Saul was feeling grumpy, David came to play songs for him, and it cheered him up.

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David lived near King Saul and did a good job of helping him. He was humble and wise, and obeyed whatever God told him to do. Jonathan was Saul's son, and he and David were best friends.

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David was wise, and brave, and had lots of faith in God. He knew God would take good care of those that loved and obeyed Him. Many people liked David because he had God's wisdom and did all he could to help the people.

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Little Bible Treasures II

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51.) Psalms and Supply

David prayed and praised God often!

He wrote many of his prayers down, and we can read them in the Book of Psalms. There are many beautiful verses that give us faith in God's love and care. David loved God's Words and thought often about what God has said and about the great things God does.

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Sometimes David had difficult times and people weren't kind to him. One time, when he and his men were really hungry, a kind lady named Abigail loaded up her donkeys with lots of special food and brought the food to David and his team.

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David was so thankful for the kindness shown to him. Abigail loved David and wanted to take good care of him. God protected David and his team of men, and supplied what they needed as they travelled around the country.

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52.) King David and Dancing

David became the next king after Saul.

David loved and praised God often. One time he had a big celebration with many people, because the Ark of the Covenant was going to be

placed close to where he lived. It was a special sign that God was pleased with him.

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David felt glad that God let him place it there. People sang songs and played musical instruments, and King David showed his thankfulness and love for God by dancing and singing with all his heart. His love for the Lord was what gave him joy and strength.

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When things were difficult and he had a hard job to do, or when he was sick, or needed a place to stay and food to eat, King David would pray and ask the Lord to help him. God always answered his prayers and took care of him.

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King David was kept safe because he liked to listen to God's Words and would obey whatever God said to do. He wanted to make the Lord happy most of all!

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53.) Instructions and Supplies for Solomon

When King David was very old, it was time for his wise son Solomon to be the new king.

King David told his son that it was very important to obey God's Words most of all. Solomon was anointed to be the king. The people were glad to have their new king. They sang and played music, and celebrated with a big feast.

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King David told everyone that Solomon would build a big temple for the Lord. King David had made the plans and gave instructions for his son Solomon to follow. He also began to collect the special materials needed for building the temple.

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Many people would be needed to help build it, and people were willing and very happy to help. King Solomon sat on the throne and was in charge of leading the country, as well as the big temple building project.

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54.) The Temple Is Built

King Solomon had many people working together to build a fancy building to keep the Ark of the Covenant in. It was a temple for prayer, praise, and worshipping God.

It was like a fancy palace, to remind everyone that God was their king, and that they needed to follow Him most of all.

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Special things were used, like cedar and fir trees for wood, marble and gold and silver and precious stones, and many large building stones. When the temple was complete, many people gathered to celebrate and pray. King Solomon prayed a beautiful prayer to the Lord.

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Then God surprised them with a display of His power and sent down fire from Heaven onto the altar of prayer! A thick heavenly cloud also filled the temple for a while. Everyone was amazed, and felt how near God was. They wanted to always love and follow Him.

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55.) A Wise King

King Solomon had an amazing dream one night. God talked with him and asked him what he would like to have most.

King Solomon said he wanted to be wise and to know what to do, so he could be a good king.

God then gave King Solomon great wisdom and knowledge—more than any other king ever had.

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People wanted to hear what King Solomon had to say. The Queen of Sheba travelled from far away, with many camels and servants, bringing gold and spices and other gifts to King Solomon, because she wanted to talk with him.

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God gave King Solomon the wisdom to know how to answer all her questions, and she was happy to hear what he had to say.

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56.) A King's Proclamation

King Asa wanted everyone in the country—all the men, women, and children—to obey and respect God and His Word. He called the people together and told them what God wanted them to do. Everyone then promised to follow God's ways.

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King Asa prayed for *God's* help, and *God* continued to bless and protect the kingdom.

The king listened to the prophets that came to tell him *God's* instructions.

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The messages from *God* said that it was good to ask for His help, instead of only trusting in people, and that *God* was always looking for opportunities to do miracles for those that loved and obeyed Him.

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57.) *God Cares for Elijah*

Elijah was a man who listened to *God*, and did what He said to do. He was a prophet who told people *God's Words*. One time he said there would not be any rain and the crops couldn't grow, because people were not obeying *God*.

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God told Elijah what to do. He went and stayed by a brook and had fresh water to drink. God sent birds to bring him food in the morning and in the evening every day.

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Later, a woman in a city called Zarephath helped Elijah. She gave him water and the last bit of food that she had. Then, for a few years, by a miracle, her jar of oil and barrel of flour always had enough in them to feed her family and Elijah.

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One time the woman's son got very sick and then died. Elijah prayed for him to have life again and be healed—and he was! The woman knew that Elijah was one of God's prophets who spoke God's Words.

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58.) Fire and Water

God wanted people to love and follow Him and to change from their disobedient ways.

The Prophet Elijah told the king, and the people, to meet him on a mountain and that he would speak with them there.

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Elijah prayed for God to do a miracle and send fire from Heaven down onto the altar of prayer. All of a sudden a blast of fire came straight from God and burned the wood and everything on the altar, including the stones! Everyone was very amazed! They believed that God was powerful and close to them, and knew they should respect and worship Him.

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The Prophet Elijah then prayed for the rain to come, so the crops would grow. At first a little cloud was seen in the sky, and it soon turned into a very big rainstorm. Everyone was grateful for the refreshing rain. They knew that God loved and cared for them.

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59.) Heavenly Food and Encouragement

One time, the prophet Elijah was tired and needed encouragement. He went to sleep under a tree. Then an angel woke him up and gave him freshly baked bread and some water. Elijah ate it and felt better. He went to sleep again, and once more the angel woke him up to give him more heavenly bread and water.

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Elijah was going to have a long trip, and he needed this special angel food to give him the strength to travel. He walked, ran, and travelled for 40 days, and didn't even get hungry!
The special bread from the angel gave him lots of energy.

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When he arrived at his new place, he stayed in a cave. God talked with him and encouraged him. Then he travelled onward to continue doing the jobs that God wanted him to do.

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60.) The Boys Who Were Kings

God let children be kings at times—children who wanted to follow and obey Him. One boy was Joash, and he obeyed what God's Word said to do. Priest Jehoiada taught Joash God's ways and helped to instruct him, when he was the King.

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When Joash was king, a special chest was set up with a hole in it, for people to drop money in. The money was to be used to make repairs on the temple.

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Another boy that was a king later on was Josiah. He also helped to fix up the temple. When someone discovered a scroll of *God's Word* that was written down a long time before, that was hidden in a wall, they read it to the King.

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King Josiah wanted everyone to hear what it said and had it read to the people. He got everyone obeying *God's Word* again. As soon as he heard what God had said, he obeyed right away, and told everyone to do things *God's way*.

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61.) Hezekiah's Healing

King Hezekiah loved *God* and wanted to obey *God's Word*, and he told many others to love and follow Him too. He instructed people to sing songs to *God* with instruments, and to pray and praise. King Hezekiah trusted in *God's* protection, and the Lord took care of him.

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One time he was very sick and he prayed with all his heart for healing. The prophet Isaiah told him that God would heal him. Then God showed King Hezekiah a special sign, as a promise from God that he would get healed.

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God made the shadow of the sundial—the way they could tell what time it was—go backwards. Only God could make the sun shine in that unusual way! King Hezekiah was so happy to know that God was near him and that he would be healed soon.

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62.) Elisha Is Called

God spoke with Elijah the Prophet when he was on a mountain and gave him the instructions for his next job. Elijah listened to God's voice and then began his trip to do what God asked him to do.

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He was to go to a man named Elisha and invite him to travel with him and to be his helper. Elisha was to be the new prophet after Elijah.

When Elijah found Elisha, he was ploughing a field so that he could plant his crops. Elijah put his coat over him as a sign that he was calling Elisha to go with him.

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Elisha said goodbye to everyone and left as fast as he could, to work together with Elijah. Elisha was glad that the Lord had a special job for him to do.

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63.) A Heavenly Ride on a Fiery Chariot

Elijah the Prophet was going to be with the Lord in Heaven, and Elisha would do the job of passing on *God's Words* to the people when Elijah was gone. Elijah and Elisha were walking and needed to cross over the Jordan River. The Prophet Elijah took his coat and hit the water. It immediately parted and there was a path for them to walk on.

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As they continued to walk and talk, they saw a bright and shining fiery chariot with horses.
Then a whirlwind from God whisked the Prophet Elijah up into the chariot, to take him to Heaven—and his coat fell down to Elisha.

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When Elisha went to cross back over the river, he took Elijah's coat and hit the water. Then God made another path through the river so that Elisha could walk to the other side. He had God's power helping him, and he was the new prophet who would tell the people God's Words.

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64.) Amazing Water and Oil

The Prophet Elisha followed what God told him to do and he was able to help the people. When the city of Jericho didn't have good fresh water, God told Elisha to put some salt into it and to pray for it to be made pure. Then the Lord changed the water and it was good to drink.

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One time there was a woman who needed some money. She was very poor and only had a little bit of oil. She obeyed Elisha's instructions from the Lord and gathered lots of jars and pots. The woman poured and kept on pouring her little jar of oil, and by a miracle it filled all the many containers.

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The jar just kept pouring out and pouring out, until every jar and pot was filled! She was then able to sell the oil, and have all the money that her family needed. She had faith, and obeyed what God wanted her to do, and then she got to see a wonderful miracle.

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65.) Elisha's Room, and a Special Child

The Prophet Elisha travelled around the country telling others what God wanted them to hear, and teaching them God's ways. One time, a kind lady and man built a room for him to rest in when he came that way. Elisha was very glad.

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He wanted to do something special for them, so he prayed for them to have a child, since they didn't have any. The woman was so very glad to finally have a baby! It was the best gift ever. She and her husband loved their child very much.

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One day, when this child was a bit older, he got very sick. His mother placed him on Elisha's bed and quickly travelled to find the prophet. When Elisha came to the room and prayed for the boy, the boy revived and was alive and well again!

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66.) Food for Hungry Men

A kind man took some food from his farm and gave it to the Prophet Elisha and his team as a gift. He brought 20 barley loaves and some corn. There were one hundred men who needed food to eat, and it wasn't enough for all of them to share.

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God told Elisha to give it to everyone and that He would make sure that everyone would have enough. After the Prophet Elisha prayed, God blessed this man's gift of food and made it enough for everyone to eat.

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Everyone ate and had enough, and there was even extra food left over! The Lord had made the little bit of food feed a lot of people because they prayed, listened to God, and did what He said to do.

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67.) Humility and Healing

Naaman and his wife were sad because Naaman was real sick and had lots of sores on his body. Their servant girl told them about Prophet Elisha.

She said that if Naaman went to see Elisha, a miracle could happen and he could be healed.

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Naaman travelled to Elisha right away, because he was eager to be healed. The Prophet Elisha gave God's instructions to Naaman, and told him to wash in the Jordan River seven times, and then he would be healed. Naaman obeyed, and when he came out of the water he was so happy to see his skin was healed. He was well again!

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Naaman went to say "Thank you" to Elisha, but Elisha told him it was God who had healed him, and that he should pray and thank God for his health. Naaman said he would always remember to do that. He saw that God was powerful and amazing.

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68.) The Axe that Floated

Some men were cutting down trees near the Jordan River. They were the Prophet Elisha's team of men, who were learning to be prophets. They needed a bigger place to stay, so they were trying to build a new place and needed wood.

One man was using an axe, and the axe head suddenly flew off and fell into the river.

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He wasn't able to get it out, because it sank. He had borrowed the axe and needed to return it when he was finished chopping down the trees. He asked the Prophet Elisha what to do. God told Elisha to get a small stick and float it on the water.

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When he did that, amazingly, the axe head began to float on the water as well! The man took it out of the water and was so glad. He fixed the

axe and finished the job, and was able to return the axe to the one who had let him use it.

Everyone was so thankful for God's help!

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69.) The Fruit

The Prophet Elisha told the woman who had given him a special room that it was best for her to move, and to live somewhere else for a while. God had said there wouldn't be much food in that place for seven years. So she obeyed. She went with her family to a new place where there was enough food, and later she would return to her country again.

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Elisha's servant was telling the king about the miracle of this woman's son getting healed, and just then she walked in to talk to the king. Some people were now living in her house and using her farm, but she needed to live there again.

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The king was so glad to hear about the miracle of her son being healed that he wanted everything to be worked out so she could have her

farm, her fruit trees, and her house again. She had faith and obeyed the Lord, and then everything worked out well.

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70.) Abundance and Obedience

King Jehoshaphat was a good king and loved God. He sent important men to travel around his country and teach his people *God's Word*. God blessed the king for making the right choice to love and obey Him.

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One time, when he had a meeting with some other kings, there wasn't any water for the big crowd of people and their animals to drink. Elisha the Prophet prayed, and God said for them to dig ditches in a valley.

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The team obeyed and worked hard digging. The next morning, to their surprise, God had caused some water to rush over the valley and fill up all the ditches! Then they all had pools of water to drink from and were refreshed.

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71.) Amos, Joel, and Hosea

Amos, Joel, and Hosea were prophets.

While Amos was on the hillside caring for cattle, God called him to be a prophet and tell people God's Words. Amos obeyed, and became a messenger for God.

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A man named Joel was also a prophet.

God told him that He would give His Spirit and Words to anyone who wanted to hear His Words and obey Him.

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The Prophet Hosea gave the people a message from God. He was reminding everyone how much God loved them and wanted them to love Him too.

If people are sorry for doing wrong things, then God will forgive them. He loves you so much too, and wants to talk with you!

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72.) Jonah's Trip

The Lord had a job for Jonah, one of His prophets, to do. He was to take a trip to a city called Nineveh, where the people had been doing a lot of wrong things. God wanted Jonah to tell them that He was very displeased with their hurtful and unkind deeds. But Jonah chose to take a trip to another place instead. He didn't go where God said to go.

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However, on his ship ride, the Lord sent a big storm to show Jonah that he was going the wrong way. Jonah prayed and asked God to forgive him for disobeying. God said that Jonah was to get off the boat and swim in the stormy water.

Jonah bravely obeyed, and then God helped him to make it to land again.

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A big fish helped to bring Jonah safely to the land, so he could travel to Nineveh and tell the people there the important message from God. Jonah finally obeyed and did what God needed him to do.

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73.) Warnings and Forgiveness

When the King and the people of Nineveh heard the message from God that Jonah came to tell them, they were very sorry for their wrong doings.

Everyone stopped to pray and ask God to forgive them. God then said that He'd give them another chance to do things better.

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God would rather have people change and do things right, than to have to punish them. Jonah learned about God's love and care for everyone. It's good when we are sorry and ask the Lord to forgive us, and then change, and do things that make Him happy.

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God used a withering plant to demonstrate this lesson to Jonah. Just like Jonah cared about the welfare of the plant, so does God care about all the people on Earth. God wants everyone to grow well and live happy, loving lives, following in His ways.

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74.) Obadiah and Micah

Obadiah listened to God's Words. He told people that the best thing to do is to humbly follow God's ways. If we obey Him too, we will have His love, strength, and protection.

Micah was also a prophet. He told of a time when the world will be at peace again, and everyone will know about the Lord. It will be so wonderful when one day King Jesus makes things nice all over the world for everyone.

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75.) Nahum and Habakkuk

The prophet Nahum talked about how wonderful it is for people to tell others the good news—about the Words and love of Jesus, God's Son! Are you helping to tell others about Jesus too? That makes Him so happy! He loves you, and He will provide what you need.

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Habakkuk was a prophet who wrote about being happy and praising Jesus no matter what else is happening—even if there are things happening that aren't your favourite. Think about the good things, and have faith in God's care!

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Habakkuk was a prophet who wrote about being happy and praising Jesus no matter what else is happening—even if there are things happening that aren't your favourite. Think about the good things, and have faith in God's care!

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76.) Ezekiel the Prophet

Ezekiel the Prophet told the people what God wanted them to know. He would pray, and listen, and then do whatever God asked him to. It was his job to tell the people what would happen if they didn't choose to do the right thing.

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God asked him to do some interesting things. He asked him to act out His messages and show the people what He wanted them to remember. God also told Ezekiel about things that would happen much later on.

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Ezekiel was faithful to write down the many words from the Lord. He was a very obedient prophet, no matter how hard the job was. Ezekiel wanted to make God happy most of all.

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77.) Wings and Wheels

God also showed Ezekiel some amazing things in the spirit—things that people on Earth could not see and didn't know. He saw amazing visions of strong and bright angels, in a shining heavenly vehicle with extraordinary wheels!

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The Prophet Isaiah also saw a vision of the Lord's throne in heaven, and powerful beautiful angels were there. When the Lord asked who they could send to be a messenger to pass on God's Words, Isaiah readily offered to go and do it.

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The Lord and His angels need people on Earth to be God's helpers, and to pass on His Words. His angels will help you to do the job.

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78.) Isaiah the Prophet

The prophet Isaiah wrote in his book about some wonderful things that would happen on Earth. He received a message telling about Jesus, God's Son, coming to Earth as a human, so we could all be saved and receive His love and forgiveness.

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The Prophet Isaiah's book talks about the wonderful and peaceful way the world will be one day. All the animals will be gentle and tame, and everything will be pleasant.

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Jesus will make everything nice again. He will bless and care for us, give us healing, and provide all that we need. We can please Him by being kind and lovingly caring for others.

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79.) Jeremiah the Prophet

Jeremiah was a prophet who told people of the troubles that would come if they didn't listen to God, follow His instructions, and choose to do what God said was best.

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He didn't feel like he was old enough, or very important, or smart. Jeremiah didn't know what to say to the people, but God told him what to do and say, and he told people God's Words.

Sometimes people didn't want to listen or obey what God said.

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They didn't show respect and kindness to Jeremiah, but that didn't stop him from speaking God's Words. Jeremiah was a very obedient and faithful messenger, and he received God's protection and care.

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80.) Tough Times

Troubles came to everyone, just like God had said. The people had to move from their country to another place with a foreign king, and they had to stay there for quite awhile. The country that many of them had to move to was called Babylon.

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The people were sad to have to leave their country and their homes, and sorry that they hadn't listened and obeyed God's Words. Although it was a very difficult time, God was still close to them and loved them, and He would let them return later on. Jeremiah prayed for the people, and wrote down some of his prayers, and God's Words.

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He knew that God would always love them, even if they had been disobedient and had to go through sad times. God would be close to them no matter where they were. God would answer their prayers and listen to whoever talked with Him and asked for His help.

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81.) Wise Young Men

A king of Babylon called Nebuchadnezzar wanted some good young men to be his helpers in his palace; to talk with him and give him advice and ideas. There were four young men who had learned to pray and hear from the Lord, and who loved and obeyed God. Their names were Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

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They wanted to continue to do the good things that their parents had taught them to do—even when they were grown young men. They chose to only eat what was good, and didn't want to eat anything that wasn't healthful.

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This helped them to grow strong and healthy, and to look handsome. These young men impressed the king with their wise answers to his questions, so he chose them to be his advisers and helpers.

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82.) Job's Lessons

Job loved God and obeyed what He said to do. One time, when Job had lost everything he had and had gotten very sick, he learned to have faith anyway. God taught him that no matter what happens, He sees and knows everything and makes the right choices and does what He knows is best.

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Afterwards, God gave Job back twice as much as he had before he got sick and had such big troubles. And Jesus, God's Son sees you too, and knows what you are feeling. If you are hurt or sad, trust Jesus to make it all better for you.

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If you are doing well and have all that you need, realise that it's because Jesus gave it to you. Be humble and don't talk proudly. Jesus likes to hear the words of those who are humble, and know that He will do what is best.

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83.) Queen Esther

Esther was a beautiful and special girl who loved God. And God had something special for her to do. She had grown up with her older cousin caring for her, as she no longer had parents. Cousin Mordecai took good care of her and taught her about the Lord. They lived in the city near King Ahasuerus.

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The king wanted a nice lady to marry him and be the queen, so there were several ladies brought for him to see. Esther was humble, loving, wise, and pretty too. When the king saw her and talked with her, he liked her very much.

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Esther was made the new queen, and a big feast was held to celebrate! Because she was the queen, and also descended from the Israelites, a Jewess, God used her to talk with the king to help him make better decisions that would help her people, and protect them from trouble.

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84.) King Cyrus and King Darius

God inspired a good Persian king named Cyrus to let all the Israelites return to their home country again. He told them to rebuild their temple. King Cyrus returned to them all the gold and silver vessels that had been taken from the temple, while they were learning their lessons to follow God's ways.

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Everyone was eager to start doing what God's Word said to do, and they wanted to pray and praise together. Some people tried to stop them from rebuilding the temple, but God sent prophets to encourage the Israelites with His Words. When King Darius was the ruler later on, he told those people to stop making it difficult for the Israelites.

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85.) Ezra

The king realised that the best way for people to continue to go God's way was for them to be taught God's Word.

There was a man called Ezra who knew God's Word real well. He was a scribe, and he was given an important job. The king told Ezra to go and be a teacher to all the people.

He told many people to help them instead, and to give them all that they needed so that they could obey what God wanted them to do. King

Darius knew things would go better in the land if people were doing what God wanted them to.

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He was to help the people to know what God's instructions to them were—the rules and advice written down by Moses. The king offered Ezra anything that he needed from the country and from his own treasures, so that he could do a good job of helping everyone to follow and obey God's Words.

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Ezra knew it was very important to do as God said, if they wanted things to go well.
Ezra prayed a lot, and received the Lord's help. He faithfully taught people what God's Word said.

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86.) Nehemiah

Nehemiah had faith that with God, prayer, and a hardworking faithful team of helpers, he could rebuild the big long wall around the whole city of Jerusalem.

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At first Nehemiah was a servant of the king in another country, but he knew God wanted him to leave for a while to help build up the wall, so that the city of Jerusalem would be nice and safe again. The king said that he could go and do the job, and even gave him permission to use wood from the royal forest.

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It was tough work, and there were some people who were not so nice and who made it hard for faithful Nehemiah and his building team to do their job. But Nehemiah just prayed and kept on doing the work.

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Finally, the wall around the city was complete! They had persevered, and were glad to see what God had helped them to build. Nehemiah and Ezra then helped to teach the people living there how to follow God's Words, and do things His way.

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87.) Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

God sent His prophets as messengers to encourage and instruct the people. Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi were all messengers of God.

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The Words from God came to the prophets. They wrote them down, and told everyone the tips and counsel on how to have a happy life. When people were doing the wrong things, God told them that troubles would come to them, to teach them to do things God's better way.

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When people needed to be encouraged, the prophets passed on messages that gave them faith and courage. When people were trying to do the right thing, God told them how pleased He was.

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Some of God's instructions, given by His prophets, said for them to share, to be humble, to speak the truth, and to pray and ask for God's help. He loves each person and wants to make their life happier.

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88.) Mary and the Angel

A young lady named Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of a very special child—someone who would come to Earth and show people God's love.

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An important messenger was sent from God to tell Mary about the baby God was giving her. The Archangel Gabriel told Mary that all things were possible with God, and that the baby she would have was to be called Jesus. He was God's Son. Mary believed what Gabriel told her, and said "Yes" to God's plan for her life.

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Joseph, who was a carpenter, loved Mary and wanted to marry her. They lived in a place called Nazareth. Mary and Joseph would take good care of God's Son Jesus, while He was growing up on Earth.

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89.) Baby John

The Archangel Gabriel appeared to a priest called Zacharias when he was praying, and told him that he and his wife Elizabeth would finally have a baby, and he would be named John.

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They were both very old and had no children. Even though they were elderly, God would do the miracle of giving them a baby. Zacharias was very surprised to see the angel, and amazed to hear the message from him.

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Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. When Elizabeth's baby heard Mary saying hello, he jumped and wiggled around inside his mother. The baby was so excited to hear the voice of the mother of God's Son.

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Soon Zacharias and Elizabeth's baby was born, and they called him John, just as the angel had said. When John grew up, his job would be to tell people about Jesus, God's Son. He would tell the people to prepare for the wonderful event of Jesus' arrival.

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90.) A Dream and a Trip

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. He explained that the new baby Mary had inside of her was God's Son, Jesus. He told Joseph to take good care of Mary and the baby.

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Around the time when Baby Jesus would be born, a law was made that everyone was to return to their home town to pay taxes and be counted.

The Ruler wanted to know how many people lived in the country. So Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem.

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When they arrived in Bethlehem they tried to find a place to sleep, but all the rooms at the inn were full. The only place for them to stay was in a stable—the place where animals were kept at night.

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91.) Jesus Is Born

Joseph and Mary were glad to at least have somewhere to be, and it was just what God had planned—a humble place for His Son to be born.

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Even though Baby Jesus wasn't going to be born in a fancy palace, God was taking good care of His Son and watching over this humble family that loved and obeyed Him.

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Jesus was born in the stable, and Joseph did his best to help Mary and the new baby feel comfortable. He took good care of them, and made a little bed of straw in the manger for Baby Jesus to rest in.

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Jesus was God's Christmas gift to everyone—a baby who would grow up to be an example of God's love to everyone. The night Baby Jesus was born was the very first Christmas ever!

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92.) Shepherds and Angels

The angels from Heaven had planned a show and a song, to announce the great news that Jesus had been born. Some shepherds on a hillside near the town of Bethlehem had a great surprise!

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An angel of the Lord appeared to them and told them the great news—that God's Son had been born in a stable, and was sleeping in a manger.

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Then many angels also appeared and sang, "Glory to God in the highest! Peace on Earth to men of good will!" The shepherds were so happy to hear the good news, and when the angels disappeared, they went to find Baby Jesus.

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They knelt down by Baby Jesus, giving Him respect and honour, and praised God for sending His Son to the world. Then the shepherds told people all around that Jesus had been born! Everyone was amazed to hear about it.

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93.) A Star and Gifts

Far away, there were wise kings who were studying the stars. One day, they noticed a special star that meant that a new king—a special king—had been born.

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These kings wanted to show their respect to the best King of all, and chose the best gifts they could find. They packed up and left everything else behind to go on a long journey to find the Baby King Jesus.

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They were determined to find where Jesus was, and so on and on they travelled to find Him. The special star in the sky led them to the right place. The star appeared above the place where Mary and Joseph and young Jesus were living.

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The kings rejoiced to see it! They had at last found Jesus. The wise kings entered the house and knelt down to honour God's Son.

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They presented Him with the gifts they had brought: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

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94.) Simeon and Anna

Have you ever had to wait for something that you wanted? There was a man called Simeon who had been waiting for a long time for Baby Jesus to come to Earth. One day at the temple, when Mary and Joseph were visiting and holding Baby Jesus, Simeon finally got to see Him! Simeon was so glad!

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God's gift of love had at last been sent to the world. There was also a woman called Anna who loved and served God every day. She prayed,

and listened to Him. On that same day, God let her see Baby Jesus also.

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It was a very special time for both of these faithful people. They had waited so long for Jesus to bring God's love to Earth, and at last He had come.

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95.) Travel and Temple Talk

Joseph worked hard as a carpenter and took good care of Mary and Baby Jesus. Jesus learned many things while He grew up. Jesus would have a big job to do when He was grown. He prepared for it by helping His family, obeying His parents, being patient, and talking with His Father in Heaven.

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One time, when Jesus was twelve years old, His family took a trip to Jerusalem. The men in the temple were amazed at the wisdom that Jesus had, and the words He spoke. Jesus stayed at the temple for three days, talking and listening.

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At first His parents didn't know where He was, but then at last they found Him there in the temple. Jesus went home with His family and would wait until He was much older to begin His job of teaching, preaching, and healing.

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96.) John and Jesus

When John the Baptist was ready to start his job for God, he went to live in the wilderness near the Jordan River. He told everyone that it was time to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

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He talked with them about the right way they should be living and the kind way they should be acting. He baptised people in the river. And when Jesus came to the river He asked John to baptise Him as well.

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Then God sent His Holy Spirit to help Jesus with His mission of telling people God's Words, and healing many. He sent a dove to show them that the Holy Spirit was there, and spoke in a loud voice and said, "This is My Son!"

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Jesus then went into the wilderness for awhile, for extra prayer time in order to get ready for His big job ahead. He listened to His Heavenly Father, and chose to obey and do what He needed to. Afterwards, angels came to encourage Jesus there.

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97.) First Followers

When John the Baptist told Andrew and John that Jesus was the Saviour, they wanted to talk with Jesus and become His followers. Andrew told his brother Simon that Jesus was the one they had been waiting for, the one God had sent to Earth. They were so excited!

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When Jesus talked with Simon, He gave him a new name—Peter. Simon Peter believed and followed Jesus too. Next, a man called Philip met

Jesus and wanted to be His follower too. He ran to tell his friend Nathanael about Jesus and when Nathanael met Jesus, he also believed.

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These men were very happy that Jesus was there. They wanted to know all about God, follow Jesus, and hear His Words. These were some of Jesus' first disciples and followers.

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98.) The Wedding Surprise

Jesus and His disciples, as well as His mother Mary, were invited to a wedding. At the party, wine was served as part of the treats for the adults.

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Jesus' mother Mary noticed that all the wine was finished and that the guests needed some more to drink at the wedding. So Mary asked Jesus to help, and told the servants to obey whatever Jesus told them to do.

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There were six big empty jars that Jesus told the servants to fill with water. Then He said to scoop some out and serve it to the man in charge of the party. When he did, by a miracle, the water had turned into wine! What a fun surprise!

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Jesus did this special miracle with the power of God. It was the best-tasting wine they ever had! It showed God's love, and made people happy. Jesus really likes us to be happy, and He can give us whatever we need and even what we want, if we ask Him.

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99.) Fishermen

Jesus asked Simon Peter if He could use his boat for a while, so He could sit in it and talk to the people who were on the shore. Afterwards, Jesus asked if the fishermen had caught any fish that night. They hadn't.

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Jesus told them to take the boat out again to catch some fish. They obeyed, and lowered a net. Then all of a sudden the net was very full of fish!

Those in the boat had to call for their friends in another boat to come and help them bring the fish in!

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Then Jesus called the fishermen to come and follow Him. Jesus had a new job for them to do. Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John, were the fishermen that chose to follow Jesus and be His disciples.

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Later they met a man named Matthew, whose job was to collect money for the government. Jesus also called Matthew to come and follow Him. Matthew was so glad to be a disciple of Jesus instead of just collecting money.

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100.) The Messenger and Miracles

Jesus went all over the countryside and into villages telling and teaching people about God's love, and sharing the words and messages He came to bring them from Heaven.

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People were healed from of all kinds of sicknesses and diseases. Lame people were healed and could walk. He made blind people able to see. Many people travelled long distances just to see Jesus and to receive healing from Him.

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People brought their loved ones and children to Jesus, and He healed them and helped them all. Jesus told people the truth and preached to many crowds.

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Jesus loved them all, no matter who they were or what mistakes they had made. He came to Earth to give forgiveness to those who loved and believed in Him, and to show God's love to all.

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Little Bible Treasures III

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101.) Choosing the 12

Jesus needed a team of willing helpers who would travel around with Him. Jesus was going to train them to do the work of spreading the good news of His love to others.

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They would need to have God's power to do the job of telling many people about Jesus, and about Heaven. They would need to spend a lot of time listening to and learning from Jesus. They would need to be faithful and not give up. Jesus prayed, and then decided on 12 men to be His special close team of disciples.

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These disciples were glad to be chosen. Jesus promised them a big reward in Heaven, and blessings on Earth too, because they followed

Him and helped to tell many people about Him and about God's love, even though it was a big and difficult job sometimes.

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102.) New Life and Living Water

One night, Nicodemus asked Jesus about how to go to Heaven. Jesus answered his questions and told him that receiving God's gift of eternal life is like being born again, like a new child born into God's family. He is our Father in Heaven, and He will let us live with Him forever.

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Another day, Jesus and His disciples were travelling through Samaria. Jesus stopped to rest by a well, and a woman came with her pot to get water. The disciples had gone into the town to buy food, and would return to Jesus later.

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Jesus asked the woman for some water, and then talked to her about God's love and Spirit. He said it's like refreshing heavenly water! She believed that Jesus was God's Son and told everyone to come and talk

with Him. Everyone was so happy that Jesus was there, and wanted to hear all that He had to say.

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103.) **Comforting and Restoring**

Jesus loves to comfort and heal those who are sick. Jesus can heal anytime and anywhere, even if we can't see Him. We just need to believe by faith and ask for His help. One time a nobleman travelled a long way to find Jesus to ask for His help. This man's son was very sick.

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Jesus wanted to heal his child right then, at that moment—even though the boy was far away in his house. Jesus told the nobleman to return home, and that his son was healed. The nobleman showed his faith by obeying and going home. When he arrived, he was so glad to see that his son was healed! Jesus had done the miracle!

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Another time, the servant of an important Roman man was very sick. The man believed that Jesus could heal his servant instantly, without

even coming to his house. Jesus was glad to see this man's faith, and healed his servant right at that moment—without even seeing him.

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104.) Fever Cured Immediately

Jesus and His disciples went to visit Peter's house, where his wife's mother was also living. When they arrived, they found that the woman had a fever and was resting. Jesus touched her hand and healed her. The fever left her body immediately.

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She was so happy, and could then enjoy the visit with Jesus at her house. Eagerly she got up to bring them some food and water, and helped care for them. The woman was happy to help Jesus, as He had a big job to do, and He had healed her.

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When people heard that Jesus was at Peter's house, they came to the door to be healed by Him. He helped them and healed them all.

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105.) Four Men and a New Idea

There was a man who couldn't walk or get around on his own. His friends heard that Jesus was speaking in a certain house nearby. Four of them carried this sick man to the house.

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They wanted to ask Jesus to heal him. However, the house was so full of people that they couldn't go in. So up to the roof they went. They made a hole in the roof, and lowered their sick friend down to Jesus, who was in the house.

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When Jesus saw how much faith they had, and their willingness to do whatever they needed to do to get healing for their friend, He was pleased to heal him right away. Jesus told this man that he was forgiven for his sins.

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Jesus also told him to stand up, pick up his bed, and go home—all on his own. The man was able to walk at last! What a great day it had been. Everyone was amazed! The man happily went home to tell the great news to his family and friends.

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106.) Helping and Healing

Beside a certain pool of water, many sick, hurt, and handicapped people were waiting to be healed. They waited for a special time when God sent His angel to put special healing power in the water, and whoever jumped in first received healing.

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There was a man who had been waiting for 38 years to get healed, but couldn't move on his own, so he couldn't ever get into the water first. When Jesus passed by, He noticed this man, and went over to him. Jesus talked with the man and asked him if he wanted healing.

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The sick man wanted very much to get healed. Jesus then told the man to just get up, pick up his bed, and walk! The sick man immediately received strength and could move. How very happy he was! It felt great to be healed at last.

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Another day, Jesus healed a man who couldn't use one of his hands. It was too weak. Jesus told him to stretch out his hand, and when he did, it became strong and looked as good as his other hand. Now he could clap and rejoice! Jesus had compassion and cared about people.

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107.) Mountain Meetings

One day Jesus and His disciples, and anyone who wanted to listen to Jesus, climbed up a mountain. Jesus told them some special things. He said not to worry so much, but to trust God to take care of them. When you pray to Jesus, He will help to supply just what you need—food and clothes, and whatever you need.

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Jesus said to be kind and to treat others with God's love, and then we'll be blessed and rewarded. He said to forgive others, and that God would forgive us.

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Jesus said that those who love and know Him, and are trying to show and tell others what He is like, are as shining lights in the world. "Let your light shine", He said.

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108.) Stilling the Storm

Wild and stormy waves were splashing on the boat that Jesus and His disciples were in. Was Jesus worried? No. He was sleeping in the boat, right in the middle of the storm. The disciples wondered what to do. They felt unsafe, so they woke Jesus to help them.

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When Jesus saw the wind and waves, He told it all to stop. "Peace, be still!" He said. Immediately the lake was calm, the wind stopped blowing so strongly, and they were at peace and safe. Jesus reminded the disciples to have faith.

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The disciples were amazed that Jesus could do this miracle. He could even tell the weather what to do, and stop storms. They knew that Jesus, God's Son, could do anything.

Jesus is always with us and nothing is too stormy or too difficult for Him to take care of.

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109.) Twelve Years

A twelve-year-old girl, who was well-loved by her parents, had suddenly gotten real sick. Her father was an important ruler named Jairus. He knew that Jesus could help, and quickly went to find Him. He pleaded for Jesus to come and heal his daughter.

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Jesus agreed to go to Jairus' house. Those at the house were very sad, as they thought that the girl was no longer alive. Jesus said not to worry because the girl would be fine. Jesus and a few of His disciples went into the house with Jairus and his wife.

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When Jesus saw the sick girl lying very still on her bed, He said to her, "Little girl, arise!" And she right away opened her eyes and got up! She was very much alive and well again! Everyone was so happy and amazed.

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110.) Power to Preach

Jesus gave special power from Heaven to His disciples, because He had an exciting mission for them to do. He teamed up His disciples two-by-two and sent them out to travel around teaching, preaching, healing, and bringing God's Spirit to those they met.

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He said they didn't need to pack anything for their trip, as whatever they needed would be supplied for them as they went along. God would help them to have all that they needed—food, water, places to sleep, protection, warmth, and everything! The disciples obeyed and took their first missionary trip, with God's Spirit empowering them!

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When they returned to Jesus after their trip, they had many wonderful stories to tell. Everyone was so happy, as there had been

many miracles. It was a wonderful trip! They had all that they needed, just like Jesus promised.

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111.) Feeding Thousands

Thousands of people came to Jesus to be healed and to listen to Him, but they had no food. Everyone was hungry. One boy had five little loaves of bread and two small fish. He shared them with Jesus, and was surprised when he saw what happened with his lunch.

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Jesus prayed and blessed that small bit of food, and when His disciples began handing it out to the crowds, the food just kept multiplying! It was enough for all the people to have plenty to eat.

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That kind boy, who shared his food with Jesus that day, got to eat a good meal and was pleased that Jesus used it to feed all the many other people as well. There were even 12 baskets of food left over!

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112.) Walking on the Water

Jesus' disciples were in a boat crossing the lake and it began to get real stormy, but Jesus was on the mountain taking time to pray. When it was time for Jesus to join them, He walked out to them, right on top of the water and crashing waves. It was a miracle!

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Peter saw Jesus, and wanted to walk on the water too. Peter said, "If it is You, Jesus, please let me walk on the water and come to You." Jesus said, "Come!" So Peter began walking on the water over to Jesus!

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However, when he started to get worried about the waves and the storm, he started to sink and called for Jesus to help him. Jesus lifted him up and said he needed faith.

When we trust Jesus, He can even help us do things that seem impossible.

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113.) Good Ground

Jesus told a story to show us what having a good heart that is filled with God's Word is like. He told about a farmer planting seeds. As the farmer sowed the seeds, some fell along the wayside and the birds ate those seeds. Some seeds fell on rocky ground, and they didn't grow well because there wasn't deep soil for their roots.

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Some seeds fell among the thorns and weeds, and couldn't grow up and bear fruit there. Those ugly plants took all the space and nutrients away from the new little plants.

The seeds that fell on the good soil grew well and strong, and bore lots of fruit.

The farmer was happy.

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God's Word is like the seeds. If we have a good heart that is ready to hear and obey God's Word, we can grow up strong and do wonderful things to help Jesus and others. We'll bear the fruit of helping others to know Jesus!

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114.) See, Hear, Talk

Bartimaeus was blind, and as he sat on the side of the road asking for people to give him the things he needed, he heard a crowd of people nearby. When Bartimaeus found out that Jesus was walking with that crowd, he called out loudly for Jesus to help him.

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"What do you want?" Jesus asked him.

Bartimaeus said, "I want to see!" He had faith Jesus could heal him, and when he opened his eyes, he could see Jesus! He was healed! Bartimaeus loved Jesus and wanted to follow Him.

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Another time, a man that couldn't hear or talk was brought to Jesus. Jesus touched his ears and tongue, and then all of a sudden this man could hear everything and could talk, and knew how to speak the language, right then! Everyone was surprised and very happy!

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115.) Coin in a Fish

When Peter was being asked for money by some temple tax collectors, he didn't know what to do. The tax collectors also wondered if Jesus was going to pay His tax. Peter spent all his time helping others and travelling with Jesus as His disciple, and didn't have any coins to give them on that day.

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Jesus noticed Peter was feeling troubled about it, and said not to worry. Jesus would do a miracle to supply what was needed to cover the cost of both of their taxes. Jesus told Peter to go fishing with a

line and a hook, and to pull up the first fish he caught. There was going to be a surprise in the fish's mouth.

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Peter obeyed and when he opened the fish's mouth there was a coin in it! It was just the amount of money they needed to give to the men. Jesus can do anything, and will help to take care of us.

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When there is something we need, we can just pray and ask Jesus to help us get it, and then obey whatever He tells us to do. Jesus will supply whatever we need if it's good for us.

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116.) Choosing What Is Important

A short little man named Zacchaeus was real sad. He thought that the way to be happy was to get more things for himself, but it wasn't working. Zacchaeus was selfish and took too much from others. No one wanted to visit him because he was unkind, so he was very lonely.

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One day when Jesus was walking down the street, Zacchaeus wanted to see Him. Since he was so short, he climbed up into a tree to get a good view. When Jesus was walking past, He stopped and looked up at Zacchaeus and said, "Come down! I want to visit your house today." Zacchaeus was so happy, and very surprised.

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Zacchaeus learned from Jesus that being kind and giving would make him feel happier. He took half of everything he had and gave it to poor people, and he gave back extra money to those he had taken too much from. People were glad to be friends with this man who had learned the loving ways of Heaven.

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117.) Rich Young Ruler

There was a man who had lots of riches, but he was not happy. Jesus told him that the way to be happy and to please God was to share his riches with those who were poor and in need, and then to come and follow Him.

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Jesus invited him to be one of His disciples. If this rich ruler had obeyed what Jesus said, he would have many riches in Heaven. But this man decided to keep all his treasures for himself, and not to follow Jesus. The man felt even sadder then, as he walked back to his house.

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Just having a lot of things won't make anyone happy. Jesus was disappointed with this man's decision. Jesus wanted him to be happy, to be a part of His team, and to be able to receive many rewards in Heaven.

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118.) Love and Forgiveness

It can be hard to forgive those who do unkind or saddening things to you, or make things difficult for you. Jesus talked with Peter about how He wants us to forgive those who make mistakes—to not be mad at them, and to give them another chance to do better.

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Jesus taught His disciples that when we act loving, caring, and helpful, it will show people that we really are His disciples. If we are rude and selfish, angry and impatient, people won't be able to see a good example of God's love.

To be a true disciple of Jesus we need to show love, just like Him.

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We need to forgive and to be patient, gentle, and understanding. And not just one time, but again and again, like Jesus. We can pray for Jesus to give us His love for others.

When we show love it makes Jesus very happy, and we will be happier too.

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119.) Faith and Freedom

A blind man had sat in a certain place very often. He would go to the same spot for many years, and everyone around knew him.

When Jesus walked past him, He wanted to heal him. Jesus told him to wash his eyes in the pool of Siloam.

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This man had been blind his whole life, but when he obeyed, he was suddenly able to see! When he talked with Jesus later, he believed that Jesus was God's Son.

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One time, there was a woman whose back was all curled over and she couldn't stand up properly. Jesus was preaching and stopped right then to heal her.

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At last she was able to stand up straight and walk normally. It felt so good to be able to move around easily. The people who were listening to Jesus cheered!

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120.) Dinner Discussions

A fancy dinner was made, and Jesus and His disciples were invited to eat. Jesus talked to those there at the meal, and told stories that taught them good lessons. Jesus said that if they were invited to a meal, they should be humble and sit in the least fancy seat.

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He said to leave the best place for others to sit at, and that they shouldn't think of themselves as the most important person around. Jesus told them to invite the poor people to nice big meals too, and not just their rich friends who would give them good things in return.

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To give to someone who can't return anything back to you again is a kind thing to do. Jesus said that being generous to those in need would make God happy. He said that if people would give, they would receive great things in Heaven, because they shared unselfishly with others on Earth.

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121.) The Father's Love

Jesus told a story to show how much God loves us. The story was about a young man who wanted to go off and live a selfish life. He didn't help his father and brother on the farm. He spent all his money on foolish things.

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In the end, he was sad and hungry, and wished he was living with his father again. The sad man didn't know if his father would forgive him for leaving and wasting everything that he had. However, when the father saw his son returning, he ran out to welcome him home.

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He loved his son so much and was very glad to see him again. Jesus is like that father, and loves each of us so very much. When we are sorry for the silly and disobedient things we have done, and we choose to be close to Jesus again, He forgives us and is very happy.

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122.) Obedience and Gratefulness

Ten very sad men were walking down the road. Their sickness kept them from being around others. But then they saw something wonderful! Jesus was walking a short distance away, and these men called out loudly for Jesus to heal them. Jesus told them to walk to the priest by faith and tell him that they were healed.

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These men obeyed Jesus' instructions right away. They started walking to announce that they were healed, and as soon as they started obeying what Jesus said, they were healed!

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One man was so grateful to be healed, that the first person he wanted to see was Jesus. He ran back to where Jesus was and thanked Him enthusiastically! It made Jesus glad to hear this man saying "Thank you!"

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123.) A Good Shepherd

When a sheep is lost, a good shepherd goes to find it. When a sheep is hurt, he helps to bind up the hurt. The shepherd takes the sheep to feed on nice green grass, and brings them to calm and clean pools of water to drink.

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Jesus told a story of a shepherd that had one hundred sheep. He took good care of them. One day a sheep strayed and got lost. The shepherd left all the others in the fold to go and search for his one lost sheep. When at last he found it, he was so glad. He called his friends to celebrate!

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Jesus is like a good and loving shepherd. Jesus loves us so much that He will do whatever is best to keep us safe and close to Him. Jesus is happy when we follow Him closely, listen to His voice, and do what He asks of us. Jesus loves us and wants us to stay close to Him, because then He can take good care of us and we'll be much happier.

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124.) Lazarus

Jesus had a friend whose name was Lazarus. Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, always enjoyed it when Jesus came for a visit. One day Lazarus was very sick, and his sisters asked Jesus to please come. When He arrived at their home, Mary and Martha were crying and very sad because their brother had died.

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Jesus told them that a big miracle would happen, and that they should have faith. Lazarus was in a grave and a stone was at the entrance. "Roll away the stone!" Jesus instructed. After the people obeyed and rolled it away, Jesus prayed a prayer of thankfulness. He knew His Father in Heaven was going to do a great miracle.

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Jesus then shouted out, "Lazarus! Come forth!" To the astonishment of everyone, Lazarus was alive again and walked out of the grave to them! Many people believed in Jesus as a result, and were glad for this wonderful miracle. Jesus can do anything!

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125.) Heavenly Communication

Jesus taught His disciples a simple prayer to pray, that we call "The Lord's Prayer". It's a great prayer to learn, and to pray. We can also talk to Jesus in our own words, right from our hearts. Whatever words you use, He will be so glad to hear you talking with Him!

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Praying is simple. All we need to do is talk to Jesus, and tell Him what we are thinking and needing. Jesus always hears us when we pray, and wants to give us what is best.

When we pray, we can also tell Jesus how thankful we are for all that He has done for us.

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If we believe that He can do amazing things, then it makes Him very glad to give us His help. When our prayers are for things that Jesus knows are good, then He will do those things. He loves us, and will always do what is best for us and others.

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126.) Jesus and the Children

Children make Jesus so happy! He loves them very much. One day when Jesus was real tired and busy, some mothers brought their children to see Jesus. When Jesus saw the children, He told them to come to Him. It cheered Jesus up to see the children. He was never too busy to take time to talk with them.

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Jesus held them in His arms, blessed them, and prayed for them. He wanted everyone to know how much God loved the children—all kinds of children. Jesus said children are very important.

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He said that everyone should try to act with the love, joy, faith, and simplicity of a child. If people love and believe in Him, just as the children around Jesus did then, they will get to live in God's Kingdom—Heaven!

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127.) Generous Gifts

A woman who loved Jesus very much gave Him a special gift. She poured her most special perfume on Jesus' feet, to show Him her love. Jesus was thankful that she loved Him, and forgave her for the wrongs she had done. She was so happy that Jesus loved her and that she was forgiven.

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A poor woman also gave a generous gift. She only had two little coins left, and gave them as her gift to God. Instead of using them for her own needs, she gave them to those who were serving God.

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Jesus noticed her gift and said it was the biggest gift that anyone there had given, because she had given all that she had. God blessed her and took care of her, and gave her what she needed.

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128.) Important Things

Mary and Martha had a very special visitor—Jesus. They were getting everything ready for Him and His disciples to be their guests and eat with them. When Jesus sat down and was talking, Mary sat down too, so she could listen and talk with Jesus. She didn't want to miss a single word.

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Martha was trying to serve, and care for the visitors. She wanted Mary to come and help her, but Jesus told her that Mary was making a good choice—to first of all spend time with Him. To take time to listen to His Words was more important than all the other jobs.

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Mary and Martha would be happier if they took time with Jesus first of all, and not worry about all that needed to be done. Hearing Jesus' Words is the most important thing. Jesus' Words and love could give them the joy and the strength they needed to do the work afterwards.

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129.) Marvellous Moments on a Mountain

Jesus took some of His disciples to a mountain. He wanted to have time alone with them, to talk and pray. Then a wonderful thing happened! Jesus was changed, and became very white, and bright, and was shining. And there were two visitors from Heaven standing beside Him—Moses and Elijah.

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They had lived on Earth before. They were talking with Jesus, and the disciples were amazed! Then God spoke with a clear voice to them, saying "This is My Son! Listen to Him!" It is important that we listen to Jesus, God's Son.

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After Moses and Elijah went away, Jesus appeared as a normal man again. The disciples knew that they had seen and experienced a very special thing.

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130.) Hosanna

Many people heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem and were very excited about seeing Him. Jesus had done many miracles, and they wanted to welcome Him and to celebrate.

Jesus sent His disciples to go and borrow a man's donkey.

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The young donkey was given for Jesus to ride on. Jesus was the first person to ever ride it. To make the pathway extra special, big palm branches were cut down and placed on it. People even put their coats and other pieces of clothing on the path.

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People were shouting out joyfully, "Hosanna to the Son of David!
Hosanna in the highest!"

It was like a parade for Jesus the King!

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131.) Love and Humility

Jesus and His disciples were going to have a special meal. It was to be Jesus' last meal together with them all, before His time as a man on Earth was finished. A man had an upstairs room that he let them use, and Jesus told a few of His disciples to get everything prepared.

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As they ate the meal, Jesus talked with them and told them many things. He explained what was going to happen, and how He was going to leave soon.

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Then Jesus took a bowl of water and a towel, and washed each of the disciples' feet—just like a servant would do. He said, "To be really great, you should care for and help each other, like humble servants. People will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another."

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132.) In Remembrance of Him

During Jesus' last meal with His disciples, Jesus led them in a special ceremony. We call it Communion, or "The Lord's Supper".

Jesus passed around some bread and wine for the disciples to each take a little bite and sip of. It was to remind them of Jesus' gift of love and salvation.

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The whole loaf of bread reminds us of how we are all one team together with Jesus, as well as the healing He can give to us when we pray. The wine reminds us of the eternal life that Jesus gives to us, when we believe on Him, and His wonderful love for us.

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Afterwards, Jesus walked with His disciples to a garden where they rested under the trees and stars. In the garden Jesus prayed with all His heart, asking His Father to help Him.

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Jesus had a difficult job to do, and He was soon going to leave His friends on Earth for awhile. While Jesus was praying, an angel came to comfort and to strengthen Him.

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133.) Jesus' Gifts of Love and Life

Jesus is God's gift of love to the world—to each person in it. When people choose to do wrong, it separates them from God, and makes God

sad. God didn't want us to stay separate from Him, so He chose to forgive us.

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God sent His Son Jesus to Earth to bring this gift of eternal life to all who believe on Him and receive His love and forgiveness. Jesus chose to take the punishment for our sins, so that we could be forgiven and allowed to go to Heaven.

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Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to give up His life on Earth for us, to die while taking the punishment for us, so that now we can be saved and forgiven. But He rose up alive again!
Jesus lives forever, and so will we!

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134.) Jesus Is Risen—He Lives Forever!

Jesus' disciples and friends missed Him. Jesus had been gone from them for three days. It seemed they would never see Him again. They forgot that Jesus had promised to see them again with His new Heavenly body—alive forever.

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When the women went to see where Jesus' body had been placed after He died, they were surprised to see angels there. The angels said, "Jesus is alive! Go tell all the other disciples."

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Later on, Mary Magdalene saw someone in the garden. It was Jesus! He talked to her and she was so very happy to see Him again! He'd given His life on Earth, but had risen and was alive again, by the power of God. He lives forever, and can be anywhere, anytime, with anyone—even with you, right now!

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135.) Walking and Talking

Two of Jesus' disciples were walking and talking, when a man came and walked with them. They talked about Jesus, and how they missed Him. The man walking with them reminded them of the promises in the Bible that told of Jesus rising again.

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When they invited this man to come and eat with them, they all of a sudden realized that it was actually Jesus! He surprised and encouraged them, and then disappeared. They were so happy to have seen Jesus!

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A little later on, as a group of disciples were together, Jesus surprised them again.
He appeared there with them, and ate with them.

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136.) Breakfast on the Beach

Jesus appeared to His disciples several times with His new heavenly body. Thomas hadn't yet seen Him, and wondered if it was really true that Jesus had appeared to the disciples. The next time that Jesus appeared to His disciples, Thomas was there, and was glad to see Him again.

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On a different day, Peter and some others had gone fishing, but didn't catch anything all night. In the morning, Jesus was on the shore and told them to "Cast their net on the other side." When the disciples did, their net was filled with plenty of fish!

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They knew, all of a sudden, that it was Jesus. Peter quickly jumped into the water to go and see Jesus, and the others brought the fish to the shore and then went to talk with Him too.

They saw that Jesus had cooked some fish and bread over a warm fire, and they ate a nice morning breakfast with Jesus.

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137.) Clouds

Jesus talked with His disciples, and walked with them to a mountain. The time was coming for Him to be with them—and all of us—in a new way, an invisible way. He gave them some important instructions: To go to Jerusalem and wait for God to send them His Holy Spirit power.

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Jesus encouraged them that He would always be with them. As Jesus finished talking with them, He rose up into the clouds and then disappeared. Everyone was looking up to where Jesus had ascended.

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Then angels appeared and told them that when Jesus comes to Earth next, He would be coming back in the same way they saw Him taken up—He'd come back in the clouds in a way that all can see Him! The disciples were filled with joy, and went to Jerusalem as Jesus had told them to.

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138.) The Power of the Spirit of God

It was time for the good news to be spread around the world—the news that Jesus was God's Son, and that all who believed in His love and forgiveness could have eternal life. As the disciples waited in Jerusalem, just like Jesus told them to, one day they heard the sound of a strong wind right in their house. It was the wind of God.

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God's Holy Spirit came to each one of the disciples, to give them the power to do the job of spreading the good news. To show them that they now had God's Spirit, little flames of fire from God appeared above each one of them for a while. They were filled with power from Heaven. The disciples then went out to tell others about Jesus, and something amazing happened.

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All of a sudden, they could speak in new languages!—Languages they never knew before. Many people who had come to Jerusalem from all over the world could hear and understand the words they were saying, and believed in Jesus! The Holy Spirit of God can help us to be filled with His love, and to tell others about Jesus.

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139.) Together

Jesus' disciples continued to tell others about Him, and many others wanted to love and follow Him as well. Many people were healed, and God's power made many miracles and wonderful things happen!

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Those who believed in Jesus worked together as a team and helped one another. They shared their things with each other. They were like a big family now—God's family. They were brothers and sisters, all sons and daughters of their Heavenly Father.

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140.) The Lame Man Walks

There was a man who never had been able to walk in his whole life. Everyone knew him, and those who went into the temple saw him sitting there asking for gifts of money and food. When Peter and John went into the temple one day, they were able to give this lame man the best gift he'd ever received.

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Peter and John told the lame man that Jesus could heal him. The man believed and gained strength to stand up right then! He was instantly able to walk, run, and jump! All who knew him were surprised to see him walking.

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Peter and John told everyone who was watching about Jesus and His power to heal. They also explained His gift of love and forgiveness to all. Many people listened and believed in Jesus that day.

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141.) Power, Protection, and Perseverance

Every day the disciples would visit the temple area where there were many people, and spread the good news of Jesus to all. Some people who were in charge didn't like them doing that, and tried to stop them.

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The followers of Jesus prayed for the Spirit of God to give them even more power to keep on talking and telling people about Jesus. They didn't give up! God sent angels to help them and protect them, and as a result many others came to know about Jesus too.

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142.) Seven Wise Helpers

There were so many people who chose to follow Jesus' way, along with the disciples. There was lots to do to make sure that each one of them was being well cared for. The believers all worked together and helped each other.

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Seven men who were strong in faith, wise, and filled with God's Spirit, were chosen to help look after the needs of the new disciples—especially those with children who needed extra care.

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Stephen was one of those chosen. He was a powerful witness, and told many about Jesus. Many miracles were done through him. People were amazed to see the light on his face, as he spoke the words God told him to.

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Before he went to Heaven to receive his reward for a job well done, he had a peek of Jesus and the angels in the sky! If we are faithful to do our job for Jesus and help to pass on God's Word, we'll make Jesus happy too, and receive great rewards.

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143.) Philip's Amazing Trip

As Philip was travelling to tell people about Jesus, he saw an important man riding in a chariot. God told him to talk with that man, and to tell

him about Jesus. The Ethiopian man was reading a Bible scroll that told about Jesus coming to the world, but he didn't understand it.

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Philip was able to explain to the man what it meant. The man happily listened to Philip and believed that Jesus was *God's Son*. He asked to be baptized in the first pool of water they saw while travelling.

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When they came out of the water, *God's Spirit* suddenly took Philip away to another town. He just disappeared from that place and appeared in another! The Ethiopian man was amazed and praised God! Philip could spread *God's message* to new places, right then.

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144.) Saul Is Stopped—Paul Preaches

Paul was a changed man, after what happened to him one day. At first his name was Saul, and he didn't know the truth about Jesus. Saul was trying to stop Jesus' followers from teaching others about Him.

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But as he was travelling one day, Jesus stopped him with a bright light. He was so surprised that he fell to the ground. Jesus spoke and told him the truth, and said he should stop the wrong things he was doing.

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God then told a man called Ananias to visit Saul and to pray for him, as he couldn't see after that very bright light shone in his eyes. Then Saul was healed and could see again, and wanted to be one of Jesus' disciples too.

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He was filled with the Holy Spirit, and then went by the name Paul—a new name for a changed man. Paul now did what God wanted him to do. He travelled around preaching and telling many people about Jesus! Paul was a faithful follower and disciple of Jesus.

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145.) Arise

When Peter travelled and told people about Jesus, he also prayed for the sick, and they were healed. Aeneas had been sick in bed for eight years. "Jesus can heal you right now!" Peter told him. "Get up and make your bed."

Aeneas was healed right then, and got up!

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Tabitha was very kind to others, and made clothes for the poor. One day she got very sick, and people were so sad. They thought she'd never get well again. A message was sent to Peter asking him to please come. They said Tabitha had died.

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Peter prayed for her, took her by the hand, and she rose from the bed all healed and full of life again.

Many people who heard about those miracles of healing were amazed and believed in Jesus.

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146.) Cornelius

A man called Cornelius was praying one day, when God sent an angel to him with a special message. The angel told Cornelius about Peter, and told him the place where he was living. He said to find Peter and talk with him.

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Cornelius obeyed and sent his helpers to the very place God had said that Peter would be, and invited him to his house. At that same time, Peter had been praying. God told him that there were three men coming to the house, and that it was important for him to talk with them.

Peter obeyed God's voice, and talked with these messengers when they arrived at the house.

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Peter then travelled back with these men to meet Cornelius and talk with him about Jesus. All that were in his house listened, and believed what Peter told them about Jesus.

They also received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Everyone was very happy!

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147.) Peter's Adventure

There was a king who was trying to stop Peter from telling others about Jesus. He put Peter in a room where he had to stay. There were some men watching over him, to make sure he stayed there. The disciples were praying for Peter, so he could be free again to travel and tell people the good news about Jesus.

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In the night, an angel woke Peter up and told him to get up and put his sandals on. Then the angel walked with Peter right out of there. The doors and the big gate opened up by God's power, and Peter was free to walk to the house where the disciples were praying.

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They were so happy and surprised to see him again! Peter told them the amazing story about the angel, and continued on his journey of teaching and telling others the good news.

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148.) Paul's Adventures

Paul was a man who had courage and did his best to tell many others about Jesus' love. He had difficult times and it wasn't easy for him, but he didn't give up.

Paul prayed for people to be healed, and wonderful miracles happened! He travelled around to many places, and had an adventurous life.

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Paul experienced all kinds of difficulties, and also the joy of helping many people to believe in Jesus. He didn't give up telling people about Jesus, no matter what happened.

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Paul wrote many letters and books to be sent to those he met in the cities and towns all around. He wanted to teach them more about Jesus, and how to do things God's way. Those who do their best for Jesus, and don't give up, will get great rewards!

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149.) Heaven

Jesus loves you so much that He has prepared a very special place for you to live in one day. Are there things that are difficult for you now? Do you ever get sick or hurt? Are people sometimes unkind? Are you ever too hot or cold, hungry or thirsty?

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Well, in Jesus' new land called Heaven, you will only have joy, happiness, and well-being. His love will be all around, and you will be so very happy there. It's the most beautiful place that has ever been made.

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If you love Jesus and have let His love into your heart, you will get to go to this marvellous and wonderful heavenly place. Are you excited? There will be lots of fun for those who believe in Jesus and follow Him now.

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150.) The Millennium

One day, Jesus is going to make the whole world all nice again. There won't be any pollution or harmful things any more. All the animals will be nice and friendly. The thorns and thistles will be gone, and only beautiful and helpful plants will grow.

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Those who love Jesus and have followed His ways will get to help to teach others how to live in love, and how to make things on Earth pleasant. Won't that be a great job?

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Would you like to be one of Jesus' princes or princesses, helping to teach and instruct the people on Earth how to live and make the world a nice and happy place to be? If you believe in Jesus now and follow Him, you will be an important ruler from Heaven one day!

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Jesus Christ, God's Son loves you! He left His heavenly home to live on Earth for a while, over 2,000 years ago, to be God's gift of love to the world—to all of us.

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Do you want to receive the best gift of all?
Say a little prayer to receive Jesus' gift of eternal life with Him forever! He loves you!

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Dear Jesus,
Thank You for coming to Earth long ago, so that You could bring us love and forgiveness. I want You to forgive me for the wrong things that I have done.
Please fill my heart with Your love, and help me to do the things that make You happy.
I'm so glad that You will love me for eternity—and that because I believe in You, I will live forever in Heaven with You!