# A Gift of Faith Book

14

# TALKS AND TIPS





Part 2

# A Gift of Faith Book



# Talks and Tips

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#### About Abraham

Here are some good qualities about Abraham:

- He followed God's instructions.
- He believed God's Word.

- He trusted and waited for a long time.
- He shared the best with others.
- He forsook whatever God asked him to.
- He loved God more than anyone else.
- He looked forward to Heaven.
- He chose to do things God's way.
- He took time to listen to God.
- He obeyed whatever God said.
- He finished his jobs.
- He was a pioneer, trying God's new ideas.

#### **Abraham**

There was a man who lived in the Bible times. His name was Abraham and God said it was time for him to move somewhere else. His nephew Lot decided to go with him. Of course, they had lots of animals. There wasn't enough grass for the hundreds of animals to get well fed. So they decided to divide into two teams.

Abraham let Lot choose the place where he wanted to be. He chose what looked like the best land. It was like God's garden, as it was a place that was well watered and plants and trees grew well there.

Abraham went to the other place. God said, "You are going to have lots of land; not only this land. I'll give you and your children a new place, and you and they will be in charge of lots of it. I'm going to be your father, and soon there'll be enough people to fill up the whole world, like as many as the stars in the sky—billions."

But he didn't have any children yet.

One day he noticed three angelic-looking men walking down the road. He said to his wife Sarah, "Please make some food." And he said to the three visitors, "Please stay here to have some food and water."

As they were eating their food the angels said, "You're going to have a son soon." You know, a house is not like a tent. In a house you have big thick walls, but in a tent you can hear everything that's going on.

While Sarah was inside the tent she heard them saying that Abraham and Sarah would have a child soon. She laughed in her heart thinking, "I'm so old. How can I ever have a child now?"

But it did happen and they named him Isaac, that means "he shall laugh," and he did laugh. They had a good time.



# Joseph

Once there was a man named Joseph. He had to move to a land called Egypt. He had to move there whether he wanted to or not. Whatever someone asked him to do, he did it from his heart and did a good job.

He loved God and listened to Him. God blessed him and cared for him. People really liked the good jobs he did.

He also had a gift of understanding dreams. He would just ask God, and then he would tell whoever needed to know.

One time Pharaoh had an important dream. He asked God what the dream was about and God told Joseph the meaning.

The dream was about seven years of plenteous crops growing and seven years of famine.

Pharaoh made Joseph in charge of saving up food in the time of plenty, and then when the famine came, there was still food in Egypt.

His relatives came to move there so they could get food. They moved from a far-away land, and they were all happy.

# About Joseph in Egypt

Here are some things about Joseph who was in Egypt:

- He listened to what God told him about dreams.
- He worked faithfully.
- He cheerfully did his jobs well.
- He helped save grain for everyone.
- He loved and forgave others.

# Joseph the Carpenter

# Here are some things about Joseph:

- He listened when God talked to him.
- He obeyed right away.
- He took good care of Mary and baby Jesus.
- He was a good daddy.
- He worked hard being a good carpenter.



#### About Nehemiah

# Here are some things about Nehemiah:

- He worked hard.
- · He finished the job.
- He didn't get distracted.
- He had faith, not fear.
- He loved the Lord.
- He helped people follow God's way.



#### Samuel

There was a girl named Hannah, and she really wanted a child. She asked God for one, and said that if God gave her a child, she would teach him to follow the Lord and to love and serve Him.

She did get a child. She named him Samuel. He learned to hear from God. He stayed with the priest Eli and every year Hannah went to see him.

One night Samuel heard God talking to him. It was so real he thought it was Eli saying, "Come, come. I want to talk to you." Samuel came to Eli three times.

The third time Eli said, "It's probably God talking to you. Next time you hear that voice, please answer God who is trying to talk to you."

Next time he heard it he said, "I am listening, God. I am listening to you." He grew up to be a good prophet.

#### About Samuel

# Here are some things about Samuel the Prophet:

- He was dedicated.
- He was brave.
- He was faithful.
- He did what was on God's mind.
- He respected what was in God's heart.
- He treasured the Lord's words.
- He speedily obeyed.
- He was a good listener to God and others.
- He prayed fervently and faithfully.



#### A Little Child

Some people asked Jesus, "Who is the most important?" Jesus took a little child, put him in front of him and said, "This is an example of someone who is really important."

Right then everyone was amazed. Jesus said, "Be like this child—humble and trusting."



#### Bezaleel

Bezaleel was a man who lived long ago. These are some things that the Bible said about him:

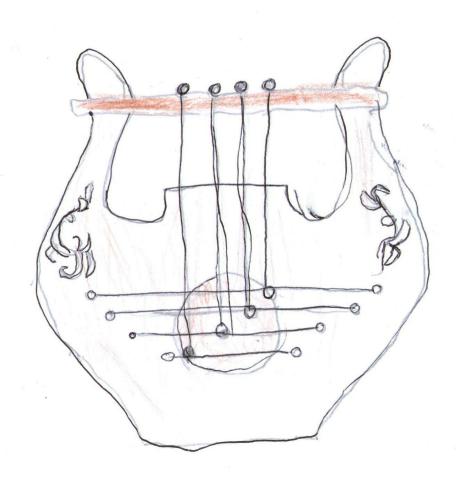
- He had the Spirit of God.
- He had wisdom.
- He had understanding.
- He had knowledge.
- He had a wise heart.
- He knew how to work hard.
- Bezaleel did all that the Lord said to do, as Moses instructed him.



# David's Songs

There was a man called David and he loved to write songs. He had a harp and he liked to play songs on the harp. Sometimes King Saul was sad and not feeling so well, and then David would come and sing his songs to cheer him up. When David was the King, he was so happy that he was able to bring the Ark of the Covenant to where he was living! They had a big praise party.

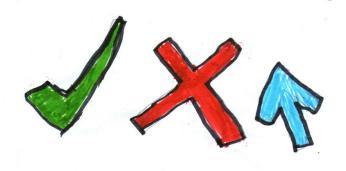
One of the songs he wrote that is in the Bible is, "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters." David wrote the songs, because he loved singing and writing songs to the Lord, and praising the Lord with songs. He wrote many songs that are written down in the Bible.



# King David

# Here are some things about King David:

- He patiently waited for his turn.
- He was a good shepherd.
- He talked with the Lord a lot.
- He learned from mistakes.
- He was humble before the Lord.
- He taught his son Solomon wisely.
- He wrote many prayers, praises and songs in the Book of Psalms.
- He loved God's Word more than anything else.
- He learned of God's loving mercy and forgiveness.



#### Mistakes

Everyone makes mistakes. Even great men in the Bible made mistakes. It made them realize how much they needed God. Making mistakes can keep us humble. When we are humble God can do great things through us.

We can learn through our mistakes because practice makes perfect. If you make a mistake, it can be a good thing, because it helps you learn something new and teaches you to pray.

#### Jacob's Dream

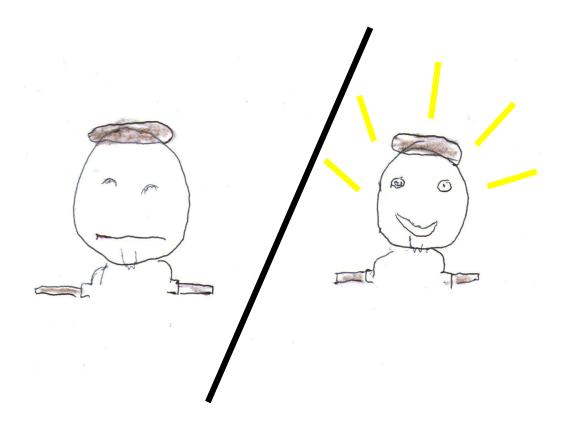
A man was travelling. His name was Jacob, and he needed to find a place to rest. There weren't any



hotels out in the countryside, so he found a rock for his pillow, and nothing else.

When he slept he had a dream, and in it he saw angels going up and down a ladder to Heaven, and he heard God speaking to him. This encouraged him so much.

Jacob did go to the destination that he was supposed to go to, and God took care of him and he had all that he needed. He loved and respected God and obeyed Him.



#### Blind Man

There was an old man. He'd been blind until he was old. One day he was begging on the street, and he heard a crowd passing, and Jesus was in it.

He yelled out loudly amongst the noise and talking. He said, "Jesus, have mercy on me!" Then someone said, "Don't talk so loudly. There is already too much noise."

But the blind man said it even louder, "Jesus, have mercy on me!" Finally Jesus heard him and did heal him.

Before He healed him he said, "Do you have faith I can heal you?"

The blind man said, "Yes," and then he could see.



# Boy Jesus

When Jesus was twelve years old, He went to the temple. Mary and Joseph were looking for Him. They didn't know where He was. Jesus knew so much, and He was talking to the teachers in the temple and He was only twelve years old.

They were amazed because He knew God's Word so well. When Joseph and Mary came to the temple where Jesus was, they said it was time to go home, and then He went home.

When Jesus grew up He started preaching all over the place and talked to the people in the Temple again.

# Jairus' Daughter

Jairus was a ruler—a very important ruler, and his daughter was very sick. They thought she would die.



Then he came looking for Jesus and he found him.

Jairus bowed down at Jesus' feet, begging Him to come and heal his daughter of the sickness that she had. Then Jesus went with Jairus.

As soon as they entered the house he said, "Get up, little girl," and she did. Jesus had healed her.

#### Jesus and Children

Jesus was in the field and people were coming to the field. They wanted to see Him. The adults were crowding around, and the children were trying to come but they were turned away.

Jesus quickly said that no one should tell the children to go away, and he called for the children to come. He said, "Let the children come to me. The children remind us of Heaven."

Jesus hugged and blessed the children. Jesus loves the children so much.



#### Lunch for All

One time Jesus was tired. He wanted to rest. So he sailed in a boat to the other side of the river. But there were multitudes of people. Some of them had families and some of them didn't.

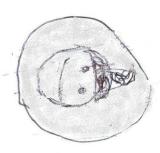
Some of them were sick, and sometimes they had travelled far to see Jesus. But even when Jesus was tired He spent His time healing them and teaching them. He had compassion on them all.

There was one boy, who had five loaves of bread and two fishes. He gave them to Jesus. Jesus blessed it and thanked His Father for it.

Then He said, "Give this out." But some of the disciples weren't so sure it would be enough for a multitude of people.

But Jesus said, "Just go. Give it out. It will be fine," and they did. And then it was enough and everyone got food.







#### Two Mites

One time Jesus went to the temple with His disciples, and there were multitudes of people there. There were some special jars that people would drop coins into and give it to whoever needed it.

There was one lady who had only two mites—some small coins of very little value—and she dropped those into the jar, as her way of giving to God, and to help others.

Jesus said something very unusual. He said that she had given more than any of the rich people, because she had given all she had—whereas the wealthy people had plenty left after they gave several coins. She gave her all to God, and He would take good care of her and make sure she had all she needed.



## Baptism of Jesus

John the Baptist told everyone to be sorry for their sins. When Jesus came to the river, John the Baptist also baptized Jesus.

Then they saw a dove flying down and it landed on Jesus. It was then that He got the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit came on Jesus after He was baptized. God said, "This is my beloved Son."



# Elijah

Elijah was a man who was a prophet. There was a famine, to teach everyone a lesson to not do things their own wrong way, but to turn to God and to respect Him. God told Elijah to go to a brook and stay there, and he would have water to drink.

God told birds to bring him food there. Then, to help the people to worship God and believe in Him, God did something very amazing. He sent fire from Heaven to the altar where Elijah was praying to God. The fire came from God and burned the rocks and wood. They knew God was real!



## Fiery Chariot

Elijah was travelling with Elisha. Elijah was soon going to go to Heaven. They needed to cross a river. There weren't any bridges over the river. Elijah had a coat. He took off his coat and swatted the river with it. The river turned into walls of water with a pathway of dry ground through it. Elijah and Elisha walked across. Then God sent down a fiery chariot to take him up to Heaven.

## Angel Chariots

Elisha looked up into the sky and it looked so bright. They saw why--because there was a fiery chariot with horses pulling it and angels were surrounding them. His servant couldn't see them at first. Then Elisha prayed for God to show him the angels. Then he could see them, and then they knew God was taking care of them.



### Job

Job was a man that was very great, and he tried to do what was right. The whole town knew about him. One day, all he had was taken away. People came and took his things, and his animals were gone. He then got sick too. He learned that God is very amazing and can do anything, and we on Earth need to depend on Him to help us and make things nice and to keep the Enemy from causing us troubles, like those he had.

After he was humble and said he was sorry for the proud way he acted, and he prayed for others, then God did the miracle of making things in his life start to get better. It got so much better that Job even got to have twice as much as he had at first. God is the only one who can make us have wealth. Job learned that God was very wise, and He was the only One who could help us to be good.





# Mary and Martha

Jesus was visiting two ladies. One was Mary and one was Martha. Martha was working so hard. She wanted Mary to get up and help her. Jesus said, "It's more important to listen to Me than to make things that are nice for others." After she listened to Jesus, she had more inspiration and strength to do the work of helping others.



## Daniel Prayed

Daniel was a man of prayer. He always had three times of prayer, every day. One time King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and he couldn't understand it—neither could his team of helpers understand it. But Daniel prayed and the Lord showed him what the dream was.

### Daniel's Food

Once upon a time there was a king, and the king called four men to help him figure things out and ask tricky questions. He gave them some school time, but he wanted their minds to be fresh and easy to think. So he let them eat his food, which he thought was the best.

But Daniel and his friends had been told not to eat that kind of food because that kind of food wasn't as good as the king thought it was. So Daniel said, "Try us. Give us only healthy food for ten days, and give the other guys your food." So they did.

The king's helpers were surprised to see that all the people that ate the healthy food were bright and shiny, could think clearly, and had nice round faces.

But all the people who ate the king's food had very unhealthy looking faces and weren't so wise and smart. So the king's helpers continued to give those four wise young men only the healthy food.

When the king talked to these men, he found out that Daniel and his three friends were ten times better than all of his other men that he had called.

In the Daniel story we learned to eat good food. If something isn't right, we should ask for it to be changed. If we pray, God will make us wise.



### Storm Stilled

Jesus was sleeping in a boat and a big storm happened. The disciples were afraid that the storm would make the boat sink. The Lord said, "Peace! Be still!" The waves and the wind were still. Another time when there was a storm, Jesus was walking on the water. When Jesus came into the boat the storm stopped.



#### Sickness

A sickness can be difficult, but it can also be good. It can help you get closer to Jesus. It makes you thankful for the good health you usually have. It can help others appreciate you, and you appreciate others, and teach you how to comfort and how to be loving to others. You can experience the miracle of healing from Jesus.

#### **Doctor Jesus**

Jesus is with you wherever you go. Even though you cannot see Him, He can see you. He can be in one house with one of your friends, and in another house with you.

Jesus is even with you in the hospital and He can comfort you. He's like a doctor in the hospital, and will take care of you and help you to get better.



### Moses and Miracles

There was a man named Moses. God told him to be in charge of many people—tons and tons. God did miracles because they were travelling through the desert to go to somewhere new. God made a cloud in the shape of a pillar to lead them where they needed to go. The cloud travelled where they had to go.

When the cloud stopped they stopped, and when the cloud moved they moved. At night time, when the sky was dark, God made the special cloud appear brighter, and red and orange and yellow, like a pillar of fire.

One time there was a big sea, and God said for Moses to hold up his hand, and then a big wind came—whoosh—and parted the sea. It made a path to walk on.

When there wasn't enough food, God rained down manna from heaven—like little tiny pieces of breadseed things that tasted like honey. When you collected a lot of them together, you could have some food to eat for that day.

One time when there wasn't enough water God told Moses to hit a rock with his staff. It broke a hole in the rock, and the rock poured out gushing water like a waterfall. Everybody had water to drink!

#### A Glass of Lemon Juice

The other day at snack time, a thought came to me while I was drinking some freshly made lemon juice. One glass of lemon juice I can easily drink, because it's not so big compared to me. But for a Lego man trying to drink it, it would seem like far too much and impossible.

It would take a man the size of a Lego man a very long time to drink even one cup of a drink. But to me it's fast and easy. I was thinking how it's that way with us and Jesus. Some things that seem very hard to us, or even impossible, to Jesus are very fast and easy—because He's so much bigger. So when we have something to do that seems too hard for us, we can just call on Jesus to help us to do it.



### Oil and Water

The Holy Spirit gives us love and patience. His Word washes and makes us clean inside. It's just like a machine that needs to be cleaned and well-oiled to work properly. With God's Word and with His Spirit in us we can do our jobs well.



#### Naaman

One time there was an important man and his name was Naaman. He was sick with leprosy, but he didn't know how he could get healed. His servant knew about Elisha and knew that Elisha could help him. So the little servant told Naaman that Elisha could help him.

Then Naaman went to Elisha's house, but when Naaman came, Elisha didn't come to tell him what to do. Elisha's servant told him, "Wash in the Jordan River seven times and you will be cleaned from this leprosy."

He felt too important to do such a humble job. However, after awhile, he went. He washed one time and said, "It didn't work." But then he remembered it was seven times.

Then the people who told him were counting, "One, two three, four, five, six, seven." Then Naaman got healed after one, two three, four, five, six, seven washes. He went back to his country. He was able to tell everybody about how he was healed. It was God who healed him.

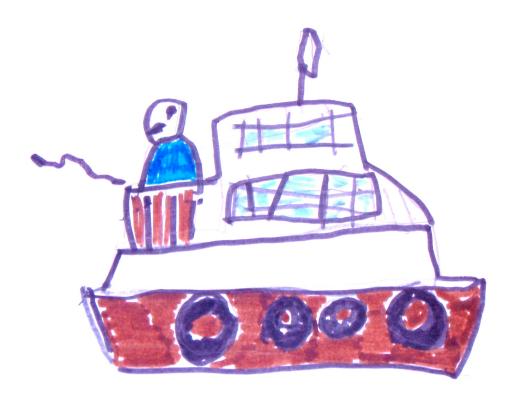


#### Fishermen

The disciples were fishing all night, but they hadn't caught a fish at all. In the daytime they got out to mend their nets, feeling quite discouraged and disappointed because they lived on the money they got from selling the fish they caught.

Then Jesus came along and said, "Go fishing and cast your nets on the other side." So they did, and after they did they caught more fish than they would have if they had caught fish at the night time.

Then Jesus said, "Come, follow me and be fishers of men," and they won lots of souls. They helped people to know Jesus was God's Son and to believe on Him.



### Jonah

Jonah was supposed to go to Nineveh, but he went on a boat instead to a different place. A big storm happened. Jonah was swimming in the water, then a different form of transportation came to take him back to the land. A whale came and took him back.

In the city of Nineveh, where he warned them that trouble was coming for their wrongdoing, everybody was sorry and wanted to change. Then God forgave them and gave them another chance.



## Christmas Angels

Angels came to announce the first Christmas. They came to talk with normal people on Earth, but angels are mostly in Heaven. Mary saw an angel who said she would be the mother of Jesus. The name of the angel was Gabriel.

Another angel came in a dream to Joseph, and told him to take good care of Mary and baby Jesus.

Another angel came to Zachariah, telling him that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a special baby who would announce to people that Jesus was coming.

The angels came to the shepherds telling them that they would see baby Jesus in the manger.

## Christmas Story

One day Mary was just in a little house, and right then a bright angel named Gabriel came to her. She was a little bit afraid. The angel told her not to be afraid. So then she wasn't afraid. But the angel told her that she was going to have a baby named Jesus. One time when Joseph was sleeping, Gabriel came to him in a dream and told him, "Take good care of Mary." So he did.

Then one day a governor came and said that everybody had to travel to their hometown to pay some money, and they had to travel.

So they travelled. Mary sat on a donkey and Joseph led it. When they arrived at Bethlehem, all of the inns (they actually are called hotels nowadays) were full.

Joseph and Mary just felt that they couldn't have a baby if they didn't have a place to stay. Then an innkeeper said, when they opened the door of the inn, "I don't have any room here, but I've got a stable you can stay in if you'd like." Then they travelled to the stable.

The little baby Jesus was born. That same night, there were shepherds on a hill just guarding their sheep, and suddenly a shiny angel named Gabriel appeared to them and said, "Fear not (because they were also afraid) because I have good news for you. Baby Jesus is born in a manger. Go and see him tonight." The shepherds, leaping up, wanting to see baby Jesus, ran down the hill into Bethlehem and came to the stable, all bowing down in front of him, glorifying him.



Also, there were some wise men that had travelled from a place that was further away from there. They saw a very special star.

They knew baby Jesus was born, because the star in the sky was a sign telling them that. So they travelled on their camels looking for Him for a long time, but finally they reached him.

They gave him three presents: myrrh, frankincense and gold. That's the story of the first Christmas.

The End