The Path of Radiant Light
An Introduction to the Gospel
The Path of Radiant Light

An Introduction to the Gospel
Contents

Introduction 9

Chapter One:
How the World Was Created 13

Chapter Two:
How Mankind Was Created 17

Chapter Three:
How Suffering Came into Our World 23

Chapter Four:
The Story of Cain and Abel 28

Chapter Five:
Noah and the Great Flood 1 33

Chapter Six:
Noah and the Great Flood 2 37
Chapter Seven: Abraham the Man Who Believed God 1
Chapter Eight: Abraham the Man Who Believed God 2
Chapter Nine: The Shepherd and the Burning Bush
Chapter Ten: Escape from Egypt
Chapter Eleven: Miracles in the Wilderness
Chapter Twelve: God’s Ten Commandments
Chapter Thirteen: God’s Holy Tent
Chapter Fourteen: King David and God’s Great Temple
Chapter Fifteen: The Prophet Isaiah and the Coming Mediator
Chapter Sixteen: The Birth of Jesus
Chapter Seventeen: Wise Men from the East
Chapter Eighteen: Jesus Heals Many
Chapter Nineteen: Jesus Heals the Demon-Possessed
Chapter Twenty: Jesus Gives Us Life
Chapter Twenty One: Jesus Teaches About Repentance
Chapter Twenty Two: Jesus Teaches About Eternal Life
Chapter Twenty Three: Jesus Teaches About God’s Final Judgment
Chapter Twenty Four: Jesus is Crucified
Chapter Twenty Five: Jesus Death on the Cross
Chapter Twenty Six: Jesus’ Resurrection
Chapter Twenty Seven: Jesus’ Good News
Chapter Twenty Eight: How to Receive the Best of All Gifts
Chapter Twenty Nine: How to Find Assurance
0.1 The Tibetan people have many famous stories. There are the stories of Gesar of Ling, the stories of Aku Tonpa, and the story of Milarepa. Everyone likes to listen to these stories and to tell them to other people. Good stories help us to understand life, and to live it well. Among all the world’s stories, there is one story that is the best of all. It is a true story. It is a story of how God’s love, joy, and peace can overcome sickness, death, family problems, and the work of evil spirits. And this wonderful story explains how we too can overcome the bad things of this life and receive the best gift of all.

0.2 Within this big story are many little stories. There are stories about nomads and farmers, a story of a great flood, a story about a shepherd who saw a burning bush, and a story about a great hero who delivered his people from slavery. There is a story about a king who built a great temple, and the story of a man who saw what would happen in the future.
There is a story about women who saw a great miracle. There is a story about a savior who offers peace and joy to all nations. All of these stories come from the Bible, God’s true and holy Word.

On the Chang Tang are many shepherds. The shepherds lead their flocks to good pastures. Wise shepherds know what their sheep need. They know the places where there is good grass. They know how to protect their sheep from wolves. Shepherds know these things today because they have gained wisdom by listening to the stories of those who were shepherds before them. The sheep going to pasture do not know where they came from or where they are going. They are like people who do not learn wisdom from stories. Like the sheep, all of us are travelers on the road from birth to death. Learn wisdom from the stories I am about to tell you, so that you will be like the shepherd and not like the sheep. Remember these stories and tell them to others, for they benefit all who hear them.

The Editors
Chapter One:

How the World Was Created

Adapted from Genesis 1:1-2:3

1.1 Our first story is about how the world was made. According to tradition, this story was first written down by a prophet named Moses, who lived about 1,200 BC (during the Shang dynasty).

1.2 Long before the world was made, God always was. The earth was then formless and empty, and there was darkness over the great sea. But God’s Spirit was moving like a wind over the waters. God said, “Let there be light”, and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light ‘day’ and the darkness ‘night’. This was the first day. God said, “Let there be a space between the waters so that they will be divided”, and the space appeared. God called the space ‘sky’; this was the second day.
ond day. God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered in one place, so that dry land will appear”, and so it was. God called the dry ground ‘earth’ and the gathered waters ‘seas’. And God said, “Let plants appear on the earth”, and it was so. God saw that it was good; this was the third day.

1.3 God said, “Let there be lights in the sky”. He made two great lights: the greater one to rule the day, and the lesser one to rule the night. He also made the stars. God saw that it was good; this was the fourth day. God said, “Let the waters be filled with various kinds of living things, and let different kinds of birds fly in the sky.” God blessed the living things he had made; this was the fifth day. God said, “Let there be different kinds of large and small living things on the earth” and it was so. And finally God said, “We will make mankind in our image to rule all the fish of the sea and the birds of the sky and the earth’s cattle and insects.” So God made man, male and female, and he blessed them. God saw all that he had made; it was very
good. This was the sixth day. After God made everything in the world, he rested on the seventh day.

1.4 That was the story of how God made the world. (The God in this story is not the Three Jewels, but the supreme God.) He made everything from nothing, just by his powerful word. He made the things we can see: the sky and the earth, the sun and the moon, and the stars. He made Tibet’s snow mountains and its northern plains, its rivers and lakes, its cattle and other animals. For our sake God made yaks and sheep and goats, the grass that the cattle eat, and the barley and wheat that we eat. God’s creation reveals his power, glory, and wisdom. As a prophet of ancient times said, “The heavens reveal God’s glory, and the skies show his works.”
1.5 Because God’s nature is love, He decided to create two people to have fellowship with him. We will hear about this in our next story.

1.6 Key Point:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
Chapter Two:

How Mankind Was Created

Adapted from Genesis 2:7-25

2.1 Our previous story explained how God created the world and all that is in it. Now listen to the story of how God made the first people.

2.2 God formed man’s body from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nose the breath of life, so the man became a living person. God planted a garden in a land called Eden, in the east, and there he put the man he had created. And God made to grow in the garden various kinds of trees with delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden, he put the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God put the man he had made into the Garden of Eden to tend and care for it. God
told him, “You may eat any fruit in the
garden, except fruit from the tree of the
knowledge of good and evil. If you eat
of its fruit, you will surely die.”

2.3 Then God said, “It is not good for the
man to be alone, so I will make a suit-
able helper for him.” So God made the
man fall into a deep sleep; while he was
asleep God took one of the man’s ribs
and closed up the place from which he
had taken it. Then God made a woman
from the rib and brought her to the man.
The man said,

“This is part of my own flesh
and bone! She will be called
‘woman,’ because she was tak-
en out of a man.”

So for this reason a man leaves his fa-
ther and mother and is joined to his wife,
and the two are united into one. Even
though the man and his wife were both
naked, neither of them felt any shame.

2.4 God, who is the source of everything
good, made two people and put them
in the garden of Eden. The two people
were very happy there. God gave them many good things to enjoy, such as delicious food to eat, a nice place to live, and work to do. As God’s stewards they cultivated the garden daily and cared for the animals God had made. In the evenings God came to the garden and talked with them. The man and the woman knew nothing about evil and wrongdoing. Because both of them were innocent and without fault, even though they were naked before God, they were not ashamed. Since God created people, their bodies are good and belong to him. God created people male and female so that men and women would benefit each other. God also made animals to live in the garden. God ruled over the man and woman, and they ruled over the animals. God made animals, insects, birds, and fish to live in this world; they do not become people after they die, nor do people become animals.

2.5 God made the man, the woman, and all human beings in his image. God is an eternal spirit, so man has an everlasting
ing spirit. God has a personal nature, so man has a personal nature. God speaks, so man is able to speak. God knows all things, so man is able to know things. God is good, so he created man to be good. Of all the living things that God made, only people have a loving relationship with God. Only they have the responsibility of obeying God’s commandments. As long as the first people lived according to God’s purpose for them, they were happy. But if they were happy then, why are we unhappy now? Where did suffering and death come from? That is our next story.

2.6 Key Point:

Man’s chief purpose is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.
Chapter Three:

How Suffering Came into Our World

Based on Genesis 3:1-24

3.1 In our previous stories, we learned how God made the world and human beings. But God also made beings we cannot see. He made good spirits called ‘angels’ who do his will. Later, some of these angels rebelled against God and became evil. The king of these evil ones is called Satan. Satan was proud. He hated God and the two people God had put in the garden, so he planned to destroy them. He disguised himself as a snake and hid in the Garden of Eden.

3.2 The snake said to the woman, “Has God really commanded you, ‘Do not eat of the fruit of any of the trees in the garden?’ The woman said to the snake, “We may eat of fruit of all the trees in
the garden. But we are not to eat the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden; nor even to touch it. If we disobey God’s command, we will die.” The snake replied to the woman, “You won’t die, because God knows that if you eat that fruit, you will gain understanding; you will become like God in knowing good and evil.” The woman looked at the fruit, and seeing that it was good and delicious to eat, and desirable for getting understanding, she took it and not only ate some, but gave some to her husband, and he also ate it. As soon as they had eaten, they received wisdom and knew that they were naked. They joined together fig leaves and made loincloths.

3.3 In the evening they heard the sound of God walking in the garden. The man and his wife both fled and hid among the trees. But God called to the man and asked, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard the sound of your coming and I was afraid, because I knew that I was naked and I hid.” God asked, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten the fruit that I told you not to eat?” The man answered, “The woman that you put here with me gave me the fruit, and
I ate it.” God asked the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The snake deceived me, so I ate the fruit.” God said to the snake, “Because you have done this wicked thing, among all the animals, you alone I have punished. From now on you will have to go on your stomach, and your whole life you will eat dust. I will make you and the woman to be enemies; your descendants and her descendants will hate one another. He will trample on your head and you will bite his heel”.

3.4 God said to the woman, “I will greatly increase your trouble in pregnancy and your suffering at childbirth. However, you will still want to stay with your husband, and he will rule over you.” And God said to the man, “Since you listened to your wife and ate the fruit I told you not to eat, I will make your field work difficult. For the rest of your life, you will have to do hard work to gather a harvest from the fields. The fields will grow thorns and weeds for you, and you will have to eat vegetables that grow in the field. You are made of dust, and until you return to the dust, you will have to
work hard to get fruit from the ground. Since you were made from dust, in the end you shall become dust.” Then the man, named Adam, called his wife Eve, for she was the mother of all people. God made clothing of animal skins for Adam and his wife, and dressed them in it. He drove them out of the Garden of Eden and set guards called ‘kerubs’ and a flaming sword to guard the way to the tree of life.

3.5 Instead of believing God, Adam and Eve listened to the deceiving snake. As soon as they ate the forbidden fruit, a part of their spirits died, even though their bodies still lived. They rejected God’s loving care and did as they pleased. Rejecting God and living according to our own desires is called sin. By disobeying God, Adam and Eve and their descendants and all mankind received a sinful nature. That nature is the origin of the suffering and death in this world. But God did not want people to suffer and die. He made a plan to rescue mankind from sin and death. He promised that one of the woman’s descendants would overcome the evil one.
That descendant would be a great mediator who could restore the relationship between God and man. But before he came to this world, humanity had to experience the results of sin. We will see these results in our next story.

3.6 Key Point:

**Sin is doing what God tells us not to do, or not doing what God tells us to do.**
Chapter Four: The Story of Cain and Abel

Adapted from Genesis 4:1-16

4.1 In our previous story, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were driven out of his presence. Their relationship with God was ruined, and before long their hearts would be filled with grief.

4.2 Adam was together with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and bore a son. She said, “By God’s help I have had a son,” and she named the boy ‘Cain.’ Later she had another son, Abel. Abel was a shepherd, and Cain a farmer. One day, Cain gave an offering to God from the fruits of the field, but Abel offered to God the best fat portions of the firstborn sheep. God was pleased with Abel and his offering, but he was not pleased with Cain’s offering. So Cain became very angry and looked dejected. God said to
Cain, “Why are you angry and looking so unhappy? If you do what’s right, I will certainly not reject you. But if you do evil, then sin is lying in wait for you, just as a wolf waits for a lamb. Though it wants to rule over you, you must master it.”

4.3 Then Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out into the field.” There Cain struck his brother Abel and killed him. Then God asked Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” and he answered, “I don’t know. Am I his keeper?” But God said, “Why have you done this evil deed? Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. You deserve punishment, so from now on you are not allowed to work the fields, because the blood of your brother whom you killed is soaked in the ground. Even though you try to raise crops, nothing will grow. You will remain homeless and wandering in the world.” Cain said to God, “I cannot bear such a punishment; Look! Today you have driven me out from your presence and from the fields, and if I keep on wandering the earth, whoever meets me will kill me.” But God said, “Not so. If another per-
son kills you, the killer will be punished seven times over.” So that no one would kill him, God put a mark on Cain. Then Cain went out from God’s presence and remained in the land of ‘Wandering’, east of Eden.

4.4 Although Abel believed God, his older brother Cain did not. Cain became angry and murdered his younger brother. God, who knows all things, saw this crime, and heard Abel’s blood crying to him from the ground. When he asked Cain about it, Cain lied to him. Like his parents Adam and Eve, Cain did not obey God’s command. His relationship with God was ruined. He too was driven out of God’s presence. It was just as though he had died. If those first people were so bad, and always displeased God, why didn’t God just destroy them all? Actually, that’s just what happened. It is our next story.

4.5 Key Point:

**Sin leads to death.**
5.1 In our previous story, Cain murdered his younger brother and was driven out of God’s presence. From that time onward, human nature got even worse. People became totally corrupt, and violence spread everywhere. God saw that people had nothing but bad thoughts, and that their behavior was very evil. But God was pleased with a righteous man called Noah. Among all the people of that time, only Noah was blameless.

5.2 One day God said to Noah, “Violence has spread everywhere because of the evil that people have done, so I will completely destroy them. Make a large wooden boat with rooms in it for yourself and your family, and apply pitch to it inside and out. I am going to cause a great flood that will destroy all living
things. But I will make an agreement with you. You and your wife and your three sons and their wives will enter the boat. Take with you into the boat a male and female of all kinds of animals and birds so that they will remain alive. And store up and take various kinds of food for them and also for you.” And Noah did as God had said.

5.3 Then God said to Noah, “Seven days from now, I will send rain and a great flood that will last for forty days and nights. I will destroy all the living things that I have made. Because you alone are honest in my sight, you and your family are to go into the boat. Take with you pairs of males and female animals so that all kinds of living things may remain alive.” So Noah and his wife and his three sons and their wives and a male and a female of all kinds of animals went with Noah into the boat. When Noah had done all God commanded, God shut the boat’s door. Seven days later, the great flood began. All the springs in the depths of the great ocean burst open, and all the floodgates of the sky also opened. For forty days the wa-
ter rose and became deep, so that the boat floated on the water; the surface of the water rose higher and higher. The boat continued to drift, and the waters became so deep and wide that they covered all the high mountains, coming to seven meters higher than their tops. And all the people and animals that breathed died in the waters of the flood. But all who were with Noah in the boat remained alive. The waters were spread over the earth for one hundred and fifty days.

5.4 God still remembered Noah and all those in the boat; he made a wind blow over the water so that it went down. The springs in the depths of the great ocean and the floodgates of the sky were stopped and the violent rain ceased. For a hundred and fifty days the water slowly receded; on the seventeenth day of the seventh month, the boat settled on a mountain range in the land of Ararat. Finally the water stopped going down, and Noah opened the roof of the boat, looked around, and saw that the ground was drying out. Then God said to Noah, “Now you and your wife and your three
sons and their wives come out of the boat. And lead out of the boat all the ani-
mals who were with you in the boat, for
they are to have many descendants, and
increase in number and fill the earth.”
So Noah and his family and the animals
came out of the boat.
5.5 The people of Noah’s time were
filled with wickedness. Like their ances-
tors Adam and Eve, they wanted to live
according to their own desires. They
paid no attention to God. So there was
violence and suffering everywhere. God
did not want such evil to continue, so he
destroyed those sinful people in a great
flood. But God had mercy on Noah and
his family. Noah obeyed God’s command
to make a boat, and he and his family
were saved from God’s punishment of
the sins of the world. In our next story,
God makes a promise to Noah.

5.6 Key Point:

God saves people from
sin.
Chapter Six: Noah and the Great Flood

Adapted from Genesis 8:20-9:17

6.1 In our previous story, God destroyed the evil people of Noah’s time. But he had mercy on Noah and his family. They alone were saved from the great flood.

6.2 When Noah came out of the boat, he built an altar, and from each clean type of animal he made a burnt offering to show reverence to God. God smelled the fragrance and thought, “Since I know that from birth the thoughts of man’s heart are evil, from now on even though man’s heart is evil, I will not punish the earth. As I have just destroyed them now, from now on I will not cut off all living things.” And God blessed Noah and his sons, saying: “Have many descendants; they will increase on the earth. And all
the animals will fear you. I will put them under your power. And I give all the living things to you for food; as previously I gave the plants, now I give all of them to you for food. However, do not eat meat with blood in it because life is in the blood. I will make this promise to you and your descendants and the animals that came out of the boat. From now on, I will not destroy them or the earth with another flood. This is the promise I make to you. The sign of the promise with all the creatures that are with you and with all future generations is this: Among the clouds of the sky I have put a rainbow. It is the sign of the promise made between myself and the world. When clouds cover the earth, and I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the promise made with you and all creatures not to destroy them by means of a flood.”
6.3 After hearing the story about Noah and the flood, you may wonder, “Noah made a blood-sacrifice to God, but God did not punish him for taking the life of a living being. Isn’t it sinful to take life?” God made people and animals to be different from each other. God created animals to live in this world only. Animals cannot do good or evil. Animals cannot have a relationship with God. But God created people to live in his presence forever. People can choose to do good or evil. People can have a relationship with God. Just as a loving father corrects his children’s behavior, so God punishes disobedient people, so that they may hate what is evil and do what is good. If no one were punished for sin, mankind would become even worse than before the great flood. The punishment for sin is death, so if everyone were punished for sin, mankind would be destroyed. Although Noah deserved death because of his own sin, God in mercy accepted the death of an animal substitute in place of the death of Noah. Since people sin every day, in ancient times animal sacrifices had to be offered again and again.
But sacrifices cannot change people’s hearts. So God decided to send into the world a perfect mediator who could take away sins once for all. God did this through the descendants of a man named Abram, whom we will meet in our next story.

6.4 Key Point:
The death of a substitute is required in order to take away sin.
Chapter Seven:

Abraham the Man
Who Believed God

Adapted from Genesis

7.1 After the great flood, Noah’s descendants greatly increased. Among them was a man called Abram. Abram lived around the 19th century B.C., in a city called Ur in Mesopotamia. Abram and his wife Sarai later moved to a city called Haran, in what is now Turkey. It was in Haran that God spoke to Abram.

7.2 God said, “Now leave your homeland and your relatives and go to the land I will show you. I will increase your descendants and that they will become a great nation. I will bless you so that you will become a blessing to others; you will become famous. I will bless those
who bless you, and I will punish those who curse you. And through you all the nations of the world will be blessed.” When Abram was seventy-five years old, according to God’s command, he and his wife Sarai, and his younger brother’s son Lot, came out from the city of Haran, taking their servants and all their wealth, and went to the land of Canaan. When they arrived, they went through the country and came to a holy place called Shechem. Then God appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your descendants”; so at that place Abram made an altar in order to worship God. He went to the mountain district east of the town of Bethel, and pitched his tent between Bethel and Ai. There again he made an altar and worshiped God.

7.3 After this, Abram and his wife Sarai visited the land of Egypt, and then came back to Canaan settled there. God said to Abram, “Look around in all four directions from the place where you are standing. All the lands you see I will give to you and your descendants; they will
be yours forever. No one will be able to count your descendants, because I will make them as many as the dust of the earth. Now go to all the land and look at it, for I will give you the whole land.” Then Abram took up his tent, and going to the land of Hebron, remained at the Oaks of Mamre. In that place he built an altar to God.

7.4 Now Abram’s nephew Lot separated from Abram and went to live in a city called Sodom. Sodom and another nearby city called Gomorrah were very wicked places. The kings of these two cities were defeated in a battle, and Lot became a prisoner of war. But Abram rescued Lot. As he returned from the victory over the kings, a priest named Melchizedek, king of Salem and a priest of God, met and blessed Abram. After that, God said to Abram in a vision, “Abram, do not fear. I will guard you like a shield to protect you from all danger; I will give you a great gift.” But Abram said, “O Lord God who is a great king, since I have no child, your gift will not help me. Eliezer of Damascus will be my only heir. Since you have given me no child, one among my servants will later
become my heir.” But God again said to Abram, “Eliezer will not be your heir; your own son shall be your heir.” God led him outside and said, “Look at the sky, and if you can, count the stars. Your descendants also will become as many as the stars.” Abram believed God, and God accounted him as righteous.

7.5 Abram and Sarai were very old when God spoke to them. Old people don’t usually give birth to children. So perhaps it was hard for Abram and Sarai to believe God’s promise. But Abram did believe God’s word, so God graciously considered him to be wholly pure, just like someone who had never sinned. In doing so, God made a way for people to have a right relationship with himself, through faith. In our next story, God shows Abraham how the sacrifice of a mediator will make a way of salvation from sin, and be a blessing to all nations.

7.6 Key Point:
A right relationship with God comes by means of faith.
Chapter Eight:

Abraham the Man Who Believed God


8.1 In our last story, God showed Abram a way to have a right relationship with himself through faith. In this story, God reveals that one of Abram’s descendants will be a blessing to all nations.

8.2 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God appeared to him and said, “I am God almighty. Always obey me and be blameless. I will make my covenant with you, and make your descendants increase greatly.” Abram prostrated in worship, and God said, “I will make you the father of many peoples. This is the promise I have made with you. From now on you will not be called Abram; you will be called Abraham, for I will make you the father of many nations”. (The meaning of Abraham is ‘father of many.’)
gave Abram’s wife a new name - Sarah, meaning ‘princess.’) God continued, “I will very greatly increase your descendants so that they will become many nations. Even kings will come from your descendants. And I will keep my eternal promise to you and all your descendants; and I will be your God and the God of all who come after you. And I will give the place where you are now living as a foreigner, the entire land of Canaan, to you and your descendants, as an eternal possession. And I will be the God of all your descendants.” As God said, he showed favor to Abraham’s wife Sarah and she became pregnant, and when Abraham was old, at the time God had said, she had a son. Abraham named the boy Isaac. When Isaac was born, Abraham was a hundred years old.

8.3 After all these things happened, God said to Abraham to test him, “Abraham!” He replied, “Here I am”, and God said, “Now take your own only son Isaac whom you love, and go to the country of Moriah. On the mountain that I will show you, kill him and offer him as a burnt offering.” The following day, Abraham got up early and cut the wood for the burnt offering, and then put a saddle on
a donkey, and taking two servants and son Isaac, went out to the place God showed him. On the third day, Abraham saw the place from a distance. Then Abraham said to the servants, “Wait here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there and worship, and return to you.” He made Isaac carry the wood for the burnt offering. Abraham carried the fire-embers and a knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father”, and Abraham answered, “Here I am, my son.” Isaac asked, “The wood, and the fire-embers are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham said “God himself will give us a lamb.” And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had shown him, Abraham made an altar, arranged the firewood on it, bound his son Isaac, and set him on top of the firewood of the altar. Then Abraham took up a knife to kill his son, but God’s messenger called from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!” and he said, “Here I am” and the messenger said, “Don’t touch the boy, or do any harm to him. Now I know that you truly obey God, for you have not kept even
And Abraham looked around and saw a ram whose horns were caught in a place where the bushes were thick, so he took the sheep, and killed it in place of his son and gave it as a burnt offering. And Abraham called that place ‘God will provide the offering.’ God’s angel called Abraham again, “God himself promises, ‘I swear on my name, because in faith you didn’t withhold your only son from me, I will certainly bless your descendants, increasing them like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore; your descendants will be victorious over their enemies. Because you obeyed me, through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed.’” Then Abraham and Isaac went back to the two servants, and with them returned to his place at Beersheba and stayed there.

8.4 God gave Abraham two commands: the first was that he must kill his son Isaac and make him a burnt offering; and the second that Isaac was to marry and have descendants. So then, how was it possible for Isaac to marry if he had to die? Abraham was a man of great faith, and he knew what to do.
He obeyed God’s commandment, knowing that God would provide a sacrifice in place of Isaac. For this reason Abraham told the servants, ‘Wait here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there and worship, and return to you’, and so it happened. In this way, God showed Abraham that his son Isaac was an example of the coming mediator. This mediator would take away our sins by dying in our place, and give us a right relationship with God.

8.5 Key Point:

**God will send a mediator who will take away our sin.**
Chapter Nine:

The Shepherd and the Burning Bush

Adapted from Exodus 2:11-21; 3:1-20

9.1 In our previous story, God showed Abraham that all nations would be blessed through his descendants. One of those descendants was a man named Moses. This is his story.

9.2 After Abraham and Isaac returned from the land of Moriah, Isaac married and had a son named Jacob. When Jacob became an adult, God gave him a new name, Israel. Israel had twelve sons, whose descendants later became twelve tribes. In order to escape a famine, these twelve tribes left the land of Canaan and settled in the land of Egypt. There the people of Israel increased greatly and became slaves of the Egyptian king, Pharaoh. For four hundred years they were mistreated, until the birth of an Is-
raelite named Moses. Moses grew up in the household of Pharaoh and became an educated man. When he was about forty years old, he went out to see his brother Israelites. When he saw an Egyptian mistreating an Israelite, he defended the man and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. The following day he saw two Israelites fighting, and when he tried to intervene, he said to them, “You two are brothers, so why are you fighting?” But the one who was mistreating his brother pushed Moses away and said, “Who appointed you a ruler and judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?” Hearing this, Moses fled from Egypt and lived as a foreigner in the land of Midian. There he married a local woman and became a shepherd.

9.3 One day, while Moses was watching the sheep near a mountain called Sinai, he saw a burning thorn bush. Though the bush was burning, it was not consumed by the flames. When he drew near to have a closer look at this, the voice of God came to him, saying, “Moses, Moses.” Moses was terrified and covered his face with his hands, saying, “Here I
am.” God said to him, “The place where you are standing is holy ground; take off your shoes. I am the God of your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I have seen the suffering of my people Israel and heard their cries of pain; I have come down to save them and to lead them to the land of Canaan which I promised to their ancestors. Now come, I will send you to the land of Egypt.” Moses answered, “Who am I to go before Pharaoh king of Egypt and to lead the people of Israel out of that land?” God said, “I will be with you; and you will worship me on this mountain. This is the sign that you will lead the people of Israel out of Egypt.” Moses said to God, “If I go to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you’ and they ask me ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, the one called ‘I am’ has sent me to you. They will believe you, and together with their elders you will go before Egypt’s king and say to him, ‘Yawehe God has met with us. Now let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness so that we may make offerings to him.’ But unless
the Egyptians see miraculous signs, Egypt’s king will not allow you to go. So I will strike Egypt and do great wonders in it. Then he will let you go.”

9.4 God gave Moses the power to do signs and wonders to show to the people of Egypt. But Moses was not gifted in speech, and he asked God to send someone else in his place. God said to Moses, “Your brother Aaron will speak for you” and again he commanded Moses to go back to Egypt. So Moses returned to Egypt, and he and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh the king as God had told them to do. But the king’s heart was hardened and he not only refused to let the people go, he oppressed the Israelites even more harshly. So Moses did nine great miracles which put the gods of the Egyptians to shame. Still Pharaoh did not let the people go.

9.5 Key Point:

**God is ‘I am’, the always-existing One, who sees the suffering of his people.**
Chapter Ten: Escape from Egypt
Adapted from Exodus 12:1-32

10.1 In our previous story, Pharaoh, king of Egypt, cruelly oppressed the people of Israel. Pharaoh’s heart was hard, and he paid no attention to God’s commands. It seemed there was no way for the Israelites to be delivered from Pharaoh’s oppression.

10.2 One day, God told the prophet Moses and his brother Aaron that the time had come for the Israelites to leave Egypt. Telling them how to prepare, he said, “Each household should select a flawless lamb and kill it in the evening. Pour its blood into a bowl and soak a bunch of hyssop leaves in it. Use the leaves to put the lamb’s blood on either side of the door and above it. In every home the Israelites should eat a meal of roasted lamb, bitter herbs, and unleavened bread. They are to have sandals on their feet and a staff in their hands, and eat as though ready to flee. None
of you is to leave the house until morning. I the Lord will go through the land of Egypt this night and by killing all the first-born of people and animals will judge the gods of Egypt. And the lamb’s blood on the houses in which you dwell will be a sign for you. When I go through the land of Egypt and see that blood I will pass by, and your firstborn children will not die.”

10.3 And so at midnight God went through the land of Egypt, passing by houses which had the sign of the lamb’s blood on their doors, and not allowing the destroying angel to enter. But the destroyer entered the houses without this sign and all the firstborn in it died. God killed all the firstborn from the firstborn of Pharaoh on his throne to the prisoner sitting in jail, and all the firstborn of the animals. That night Pharaoh and his servants and all the Egyptians got up and great crying and wailing was heard, for there was not a house where someone hadn’t died. But God spared the Israelites. The king of Egypt urgently called the prophet Moses and commanded that the people must leave, so they left Egypt. From that time the Passover has been a
festival recalling the time God saved the Israelites from Egypt.

10.4 Pharaoh was a very powerful king. His country was rich. He had a large army. He had many thousands of slaves. He made many offerings to the gods of his country. Because of all this, Pharaoh became proud and hard-hearted. He would not listen to God. Moses had no power. He was poor. He had no army. His people were slaves. But by faith he obeyed God’s commands. At God’s word, Moses’ people sacrificed a spotless lamb and were saved by its blood. This was a sign. It showed the people that one day God would send a perfect lamb. The blood of this faultless lamb would save God’s people from sin forever.

10.5 Key Point:

To live as we please and pay no attention to God leads to death. To obey God’s commandments is real life.
11.1 In our previous story, the prophet Moses and the people of Israel escaped from Egypt, but Egypt’s king, Pharaoh, together with his great army, pursued them into the desert.

11.2 Moses and the Israelites came to the shore of the Red Sea and camped there. They could go no farther. When they saw Pharaoh and his army approaching from behind them, they were terrified. They complained to Moses, and he told them, “Don’t be afraid. God himself will battle the Egyptian army in your place.” Then God’s angel went between the Israelites and the Egyptian army, so that the army was unable to attack the Israelites. God said to Moses, “Raise your staff and stretch out your hand towards the sea.” When Moses did so,
God caused a great east wind to blow all night so that the bottom of the sea was dried and the waters were divided in two. The Israelites traveled between the waters on dry ground, while the waters stood as a wall on their right and left. Pharaoh thought the Israelites could not escape, so the Egyptian army pursued them. But their soldiers and horses and chariots sank in the mud. Seeing God fight on the side of the Israelites, they became very afraid. When the Israelites arrived safely on the far side, God again commanded Moses, “Stretch out your hand towards the sea.” When Moses did so the sea’s waters returned and the whole Egyptian army drowned. In this way, the Israelites saw God’s great power and believed in him. They rejoiced and sang:

Praise the Lord God
For he has completely triumphed
The horse and rider are thrown into the sea.'
11.3 A short time later, Moses and the Israelites left the Red Sea and traveled towards the Sinai desert. After two months, they came to a place with no food. They became hungry, and the people complained against Moses and his brother Aaron. That night, God caused a very large flock of birds to descend on the camp, and a dew to fall; by morning this dew became a food called manna.

Later they came to a place with no water, and the people again complained against Moses. God commanded Moses to strike a certain rock with his staff, and water came out of that rock. So God gave the people food and water. Three months after leaving Egypt, Moses and the Israelites came to the wilderness of Sinai, the place where Moses had heard the voice of God from the burning bush. When the Israelites camped at the foot of Mount Sinai, God came down to the summit of the mountain, and Moses went up to meet him. There, God spoke to the people through Moses.

11.4 When the people of Israel were slaves, God freed them. When they were pursued by Pharaoh’s army, God guarded and protected them. When they
were hungry, God fed them. When they were thirsty, God gave them water. God showed his people that he loved them. He did things that none of the idols or gods of Egypt could do. But God wanted to do more than this for his people. He wanted to make a special relationship with them. So he told Moses to gather the people together at Mount Sinai, where he made an agreement with them.

11.5 Key Point:

God provides for his people.
Chapter Twelve:

God’s Ten Commandments

Adapted from Exodus 19-20

12.1 In our previous story, God told the prophet Moses to gather the people together at Mount Sinai, where he spoke to them. In this story we will hear what God said.

12.2 God said to Moses, “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I led you into my presence. If you obey me and keep the agreement I made with you, then of all peoples you will be my special treasured possession, for the whole world is mine. You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” Moses came down from the mountain and, calling the elders of Israel, explained to them all God had said. The Israelites responded, “All that God has commanded we will do”, so Moses told God what the people had said. Then...
God answered, “In three days I come to you in a thick cloud so that all the Israelites will hear what I say to you and believe you. All the Israelites must wash their clothes and get ready.”

12.3 On the third day there was thunder and lightning and darkness and the loud blast of a trumpet on the mountain, so that the people in camp trembled with fear. Moses led them to the foot of the mountain and the Israelites gathered there. God came down on the mountain like fire, and the mountain was covered with smoke; the whole mountain shook greatly. Then God said to Moses, “I am the Lord your God. You shall rely on or believe in nothing other than me. Do not make idols or any image of anything in the sky above, of anything in the earth below, or anything in the waters under the earth, nor bow down to or worship them. Do not use the name of the Lord your God in vain. Remember the Day of Rest and
keep it holy. You may do work on six days, but the seventh is the Lord your God’s Day of Rest; do not do any work on it. Honor your parents.
Do not murder.
Do not commit adultery.
Do not steal.
Do not bear false witness.
Do not greedily desire another’s house, or wife, or male or female servants, cattle, or anything else he has.”

12.4 When the Israelites heard the thunder and trumpet blast, and saw the fire and lightning, and the mountain covered with the thick cloud, they trembled with fear and stood at a distance. They said to Moses, “You speak to us and we will listen. But don’t let God speak to us or
we will die!” Moses said to them, “Don’t be afraid. God has come down so that you will honor him and so that you will not sin.” So the people saw these things standing at a distance, but Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was. In this way God gave the Israelites not only the ten commandments, but also many religious laws and rituals for worship. Through these events, God made a special agreement with the people. In this covenant, he became the God of the Israelites, and they became his specially chosen people.

12.5 God is like a loving Father who makes rules for his children in order to keep them safe. For example, a father tells his son not to go near the bank of a river. If the son obeys his father’s command, he will be kept safe. If he disobeys his father’s command, he may fall into the water and drown. In the same way, God gave us the ten commandments to keep us safe from sin. If we obey them, God will give us grace and blessing. If we disobey them, then God will punish us, just as a loving parent punishes a disobedient child. God gives us these ten commandments because he loves us.
12.6 Key Point:

God gives us commandments because he loves us.
Chapter Thirteen:

God’s Holy Tent

Adapted from Exodus 24-33

13.1 In our last story, God gave the Israelites ten commandments. But the people still had a sinful nature, just like Adam and Eve. No matter how hard they tried, they were not able to obey God’s commandments perfectly. Disobedience to God is called sin, and its result is death. But God did not want his people to die because of sin. So he made a plan to take it away.

13.2 God told Moses to make a holy tent. This holy tent was to be the place where God lived among his people. When the Israelites heard that God wanted to live among them, they were glad. They gave gifts from their possessions in order to make the things needed for the holy tent. Some gave gold, silver, brass, wood, cloth, oil, and precious stones. Others gave golden bracelets or earrings, or...
nments, jewels, and anointing oil. God gave Moses a plan for the holy tent. He appointed two skilled artisans to teach others how to carve, engrave, weave, and embroider. In this way, they made all the things needed for the holy tent.

13.3 God told Moses to prepare a rectangular-shaped holy place in the middle of the camp. The space was enclosed on four sides with walls of cloth, and inside was a courtyard. In the middle of the courtyard was an altar for burnt offerings, a place for washing, and the holy tent. The holy tent had two rooms. In the first room were a table, a golden candlestick, and a place to offer incense. In the second room was a gold-covered wooden box called the covenant box. Inside it was a golden vase filled with manna and the two stone tablets on which the ten commandments were written. When all this had been made ready, God said to Moses, “Bring the tribe of Levi to Aaron the priest. They will obey him and care for the holy place.”
13.4 The Israelites made the holy tent in order to make sacrifices. When one of them sinned, he had to choose an unblemished lamb. He took it to the courtyard of the holy place. In front of the priest, he placed his hands on the animal; this was to show that it represented him. The priest then killed the animal and made a burnt offering. In this way, the sinless lamb died in place of the guilty sinner. Through the blood of the sacrificed lamb, sinful people received the blessing of God instead of his punishment. But since the people sinned every day, this sin offering had to be repeated again and again.

13.5 The holy tent was an example of the savior God would one day send into the world. Like the priests serving in the holy tent, the coming savior would intercede for sinners. Like the priests, he would be a mediator between God and man. Like the lambs that were sacrificed, the coming savior would be a faultless sacrifice, but unlike the lambs, he would not have to die again and again. He would give his life just once to take away sin forever. Like Moses, the coming savior would be a prophet who speaks God’s word. The
holy tent was made to show us all these things.

13.6 Key Point:

We need a perfect mediator.
Chapter Fourteen

King David and God's Great Temple

Adapted from 2 Samuel 7:1-29

14.1 In our previous story, God told Moses to make a holy tent where offerings could be made. Although the people promised they would obey God’s law, in reality they lived as they pleased. Much suffering came from this situation.

14.2 Even though God was present among his people, the Israelites continued to break his laws, and so for forty years they had to wander in the Sinai Desert. After many years, Moses’ successor Joshua led the Jewish people to the borders of the land God had promised to their ancestor Abraham. About 1200 BC, (during the time of China’s Shang Dynasty) they drove out the original inhabitants of the land of Canaan. After
they settled the land, they forgot about God and his commandments and they worshiped the local gods instead. So God allowed foreign armies to invade the land again and again. As the people cried out to him for mercy, God sent a series of leaders called judges to rescue them from their enemies. Eventually, another prophet, called Samuel, appointed a man named Saul to be Israel’s first king. Saul’s successors David and his son Solomon ruled wisely and well. King David established Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

14.3 In King David’s time, about 1,000 BC, there was a prophet named Nathan. One day King David said to Nathan the prophet, “It isn’t right that I live in a palace while God lives in a tent.” Nathan encouraged him, “God is with you; go and do whatever you have in mind.” That night the word of God came to Nathan. “Tell King David this: Are you the one who wants to build a temple for me? From the time Israel left Egypt until today, I have not dwelt in a house. I took you from the sheep pen and appointed you..."
king over my people Israel. I will make your name great. I will firmly establish the kingdom of your descendant who will come after you. He will raise up a house for me and I will firmly establish his kingdom forever. And your family and kingdom will never end.” Nathan told King David this entire prophecy. David went into God’s presence and prayed, “O Supreme God, who am I that you have brought me this far? You are great and there is no one like you. You have established Israel as your people forever. You alone are God, and all your words are true. You have given an eternal blessing to the house of your servant.” David praised God because God had told him that one of his descendants would be the mediator who would save all peoples from sin.

14.4 In our previous stories we have learned that God’s mediator must be a priest who can take away people’s sins, and a prophet who can intercede with God for people. In this story we see that...
the mediator must also be a descendant of King David. So the coming mediator, who is the savior God would send into this world, must be a prophet, a priest, and a king. After the time of the prophet Nathan, God sent another prophet, named Isaiah, to Israel. He also spoke to the Jewish people about the coming mediator.

14.5 Key Point:

God’s mediator must be a prophet, a priest, and a king.
Chapter Fifteen:

The Prophet Isaiah and the Coming Mediator

Adapted from Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 7:14; 9:2-7, 53

15.1 In our previous story, we learned that the coming mediator will be a prophet, a priest, and a descendant of King David. In this story, we will hear more about the mediator.

15.2 About two hundred years after King David died, and about two hundred years before the Buddha was born, God called a man named Isaiah to be a prophet. Isaiah knew that God would send a perfect mediator to restore the relationship between himself and all nations. God told Isaiah many things about the coming savior. One day Isaiah came...
before King Ahaz. God said to Ahaz, "The Lord himself will give you a sign. A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." The meaning of Immanuel is, 'God with us.' Isaiah prophesied that the coming savior would be born of a virgin and would be God living among people. His birth would be a miraculous sign from God.

15.3 Later, God spoke to Isaiah again, saying, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; A great light has shined on those who live in darkness.' 'A Son is given to us;
The government will be on his shoulder;  
His names will be:  
Wonderful Counsellor,  
Almighty God and,  
Our eternal Father,  
The Prince of Peace.”

God also said that the kingdom and the peace of the coming savior will always increase; he will inherit the kingdom of his ancestor David, and rule his people with righteousness.
15.4 Isaiah’s third prophecy said that the future savior’s appearance would be like that of a common person, without any glory or beauty. People would despise and reject him; he would be called a man of sorrows. He would take away people’s sicknesses and sins. Even though the future savior would do nothing wrong, he would be persecuted to death. He would be like a lamb sacrificed for sins; when suffering he will bear it patiently. When he dies, he will be buried in the grave of a rich man. Because he will perfectly accomplish God’s will, God will give him a great reward. In summary, in these and other prophecies, God told Isaiah that the future mediator would be born of a virgin. He would be called Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace; that is, he will be equal with God. He will be a son of King David and he will inherit an everlasting kingdom. Though completely innocent, he will be persecuted. By means of his suffering, many people will be made righteous. At his death, his body will be put into the tomb of a rich man, and after that, he will intercede for sinners. In
this way, people will receive a right relationship with God.

15.5 After Isaiah died, the kings and people of Israel kept on disobeying God, for their hearts were hard. The officials oppressed the poor, and the government became corrupt. God’s prophets repeatedly warned the government to be honest and the people to keep his commandments, but the officials and the people would not listen to what God said. Israel’s society had become completely corrupt in God’s sight, so in 587 BC he sent the army of a country called Babylon to destroy Israel. The Babylonians exiled many Israelites to Babylonia. The Israelites had to remain in Babylonia for many years. But in 539 BC, the armies of the Persian Empire conquered Babylonia and the Persian king, Cyrus, allowed the Jews to return to their homeland. In the fourth century BC, the Greek king Alexander conquered the Persians. (Alexander was a great king who later conquered India almost up to the border of Tibet.) The Greek officials that he appointed ruled Israel, and they allowed
the Jews to continue to worship God at the temple in Jerusalem. But many Greek-speaking Jews, including even the priests, followed foreign customs, and Israel became disunited. Many Jews were waiting for the savior that God would one day send.

15.6 Key Point:

God’s mediator will bless people of every nation by giving them a right relationship with God.
16.1 In the previous story, we learned that the coming savior would be born of a virgin, would be God, and be the king of an everlasting kingdom. In this story, we will learn how this all happened.

16.2 In the first century BC, the armies of the Roman Empire invaded Israel. The Roman king, called Caesar, appointed the Herod family to rule Israel. But the Herods were corrupt and cruel rulers, so the Romans appointed a governor named Pontius Pilate, who ruled Israel from 26 to 36 AD, during the time of China’s Han dynasty. The common people had to pay heavy taxes to the Roman government, so they hated both the Romans and their tax-collectors. Many revolts broke out. Anti-Roman political parties such as the Pharisees became stronger. Finally, the savior God had...
promised was born, just as Isaiah had prophesied.

16.3 The story of Jesus Christ’s birth is like this: God sent the angel Gabriel to a town called Nazareth in the hill-country of Galilee, to the home of a virgin called Mary. Mary was engaged to become the wife of a man called Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. When he went to her house, Gabriel said to Mary, “Peace be to you who have received mercy. The Lord is with you!” When Mary heard this, she was greatly troubled, and thought about what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Mary, don’t be afraid. You have received mercy from God. See, you will become pregnant; a son will be born to you, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be a great man. He will be called the Son of the Most High God; the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David, and he will rule Jacob’s descendants forever and his kingdom will be without end.” Mary said to the messenger, “Since I am a virgin, how can this be?” and the angel said, “The Holy Spirit will come
upon you, and the miraculous power of the Most High God will be with you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. For there is nothing God is unable to do.” Then Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant, may it happen to me as you have said”, and the angel went away.

16.4 Now it had already been decided that Mary and Joseph would be married, but before they came together, Mary realized that she was pregnant by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. Since her husband Joseph was a righteous man who did not want to give her a bad name, he decided to divorce her quietly. While he was thinking about this, an angel appeared to him in a dream, saying “O David’s son Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your spouse. The child in her womb is conceived by the Holy Spirit. A son will be born to her. You are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this was to fulfill what the Lord said through the prophet Isaiah:

“See, the young woman will be pregnant and have a son; He shall be called Immanuel.”
Immanuel means ‘God is with us.’ After Joseph woke up, he did as the angel had commanded. Although he took Mary as his spouse, until the son was born he had no relations with her. He named the son Jesus.

16.5 The birth of the Lord Jesus fulfilled many of God’s promises to his people. God promised Adam and Eve that one of their descendants would overcome the devil Satan. God promised Abraham that kings would be among his descendants. God promised King David that one of his descendants would be the mediator who is prophet, priest, and king. God told the prophet Isaiah that the coming mediator would be born of a virgin. All these promises were fulfilled by the birth of the Lord Jesus. Because he is truly man, he knows our weaknesses, and because he is truly God the Son, he can intercede for us with God the Father. Because he is both man and God the Son, the Lord Jesus is the perfect mediator for us.
16.6 Key Point:

The Lord Jesus is the Savior God sends to the world.
Chapter Seventeen:

Wise Men from the East

Adapted from Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 2:1-12

17.1 In our previous story, we learned how Jesus’ miraculous birth fulfilled many of God’s promises. In this story, we will see how not only Jews, but people of other Asian nations also rejoiced at his birth.

17.2 Near the place where Jesus was born, there were shepherds guarding their flocks on the grasslands at night. Suddenly, God’s angel appeared before them and God’s glory shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid. Look, I am announcing very joyful news for all the people: Today in David’s city a Savior is born for you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will see a baby wrapped in cloths lying in a manger”.

As soon as he said this, a multitude of those who live in heaven appeared with the angel, praising God, saying:

‘Glory to God in the highest; on earth may peace come upon people with whom he is pleased.’

After the angels had gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let us go straight to the village of Bethlehem to see the thing the Lord told us about.” Going quickly to the place, they saw Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. They told them what the angels had said to them about the child. And all who heard the shepherds’ report were amazed.

17.3 Not long afterward, some wise men came to Jerusalem from faraway lands to the east of Israel. When they arrived in Jerusalem, Israel’s capital city, they asked, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star rise in the east, and we have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, because he did not want anyone else to be king. So he called the Jewish religious lead-
ers together and asked them where the savior was to be born. They said, ‘In Bethlehem, in the province of Judea; for long ago the prophet Micah wrote, ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” So King Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. He said, “Go and search for the child. When you find him, tell me so that I may go and worship him.” So the wise men left Herod, and followed the star until it stopped over the place where the child Jesus lay. When the wise men saw this, they were overwhelmed with joy. They went into the house, and saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Being warned in a dream not to return to King Herod, they left for their own country by another way.
17.4 Many centuries ago, God had promised Abraham that his descendants would be a blessing to all nations. In one Asian nation, there were faithful men who believed that promise. They came from a faraway country to worship the promised savior. It was fitting that they should come, for the Lord Jesus came to give salvation to people of all nations. All people, whether Tibetans, Chinese, or Indians; whether Buddhists, Muslims, or Hindus - all are invited to come to Jesus, for he is the one who gives peace, joy, and everlasting life to all nations.

17.5 Key Point:

The Lord Jesus is the Savior for all nations.
18.1 In the years following the visit of the wise men, Jesus grew up in the home of his father Joseph and his mother Mary. From the time he was about thirty years old, he proclaimed the message about God’s kingdom. He called twelve men to be his disciples; among them were Simon called Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Judas, who later betrayed him. With his disciples, Jesus went through the cities and the countryside, teaching in the places where the Jews met for worship, preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God, and healing all kinds of diseases. Large crowds followed him, and they were amazed at his teaching.

18.2 When he was in one of the cities, a man with a serious case of leprosy came to him and begged, “Lord, if you
are pleased to do so, you can make me clean." Jesus stretched out his hand and touching him said, "I want to do so. Be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy was completely gone. Jesus' fame spread even more widely than before, and large crowds gathered in order to hear his teachings and to be healed of their diseases. When Jesus went farther on, two blind men followed him shouting, "O Son of King David, have mercy on us!" When he entered the house, the blind men came to him. He said to them, "Do you believe I can do this?" and they said to him, "Lord, we do believe!" Then he touched their eyes and said to them "According to your faith it will be done for you", and their eyes were opened. Jesus sternly told them, "Don't tell this to anyone else", but the two men went out and talked freely, so that his fame spread everywhere in that district.

18.3 On another day, Jesus came to the town of Capernaum. As soon as it was reported that he was at home, such a crowd gathered at the door that there was not even any empty place left in which to stand. While he was teaching, four men arrived carrying a man unable
to walk. Because of the crowd they were not able to get through to him; so they took off the roof of the house above the place where Jesus was standing, made a big hole, and lowered the sick man on the bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins have been forgiven.” The experts in the religious law who were there thought to themselves, ‘Why does this man talk like this? This is nothing but blasphemy against God. Who other than God can forgive sins?’ At once Jesus knew their thoughts and said, “Why are you thinking such things? Is it easier to say to the sick man, ‘Your sins have been forgiven’, or is it easier to say, ‘Get up, take your bed, and go?’ But so that you will know that the Son of Man has authority in this world to forgive sins . . . Jesus said to the sick man, ‘I say to you, get up and take your bed and go back home.’” The man stood up at once, and taking his bed went out in front of everyone; all the people were amazed, and they praised God saying, “We have never seen anything like this.”

18.4 The people in Capernaum saw Jesus’ great miracle of healing, but they did not repent of their sins and believe
in him. So it is with us today. People around the world have heard of Jesus and the miracles he did, and yet many do not want to repent or believe in him for salvation. Jesus is the perfect savior. He knows our hearts. He loves us. He sympathizes with our weaknesses. He has the power to forgive our sins. He is ready to welcome us into God’s kingdom. He invites people of every nation to come to him. Will we be like the people of Capernaum, amazed at his miracles but unbelieving? Or will we be like the paralytic, repenting of our sins and making Jesus the savior of ourselves, our families, and our nation?

18.5 Key Point:

The Lord Jesus has power to forgive sins.
Chapter Nineteen:

Jesus Heals the Demon-Possessed

Adapted from Mark 1:23-27; Luke 8:22-39

19.1 In the previous story we saw that the Lord Jesus has power to heal all diseases and to forgive sins. He also has power over all spirits. Listen carefully to this story.

19.2 Once Jesus was teaching in a synagogue where there was a demon-possessed man, who shouted, “O Jesus of Nazareth, what do you have to do with us? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one of God.” But Jesus commanded the demon, “Be quiet! Come out!” and, the man fell to the ground like someone with epilepsy; he screamed loudly, and the demon came out of him. Amazed, the people asked each other, “What is this? Is this a
new teaching? He even commands the demons with great authority, and even the demons obey Him.”

19.3 On another occasion, Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went to the district of Gerasa on the far side of the lake of Galilee. When Jesus got out of the boat, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the city. The man had not worn clothing for a long time; he didn’t live in a house but among the tombs. Seeing Jesus, he prostrated before him and said with a loud voice, “Jesus, Son of the Most High God, what do you want with me? Please do not torture me.” For Jesus had commanded him to come out of the man. On many occasions when the demon had seized the man, people kept him under guard, and even though they bound him with chains and leg-irons, he broke them, and the demon drove him out into the wilderness. And Jesus said to him, “What is your name?” and the man replied, “Our name is legion.” This was because many demons had entered him. They implored him not to send them into hell. On the side of the mountain a large herd of pigs was feeding, and
the demons asked Jesus for permission to enter the pigs, and he gave it. The demons came out of the man, entered the pigs, and the pigs jumped off a cliff, sank in the lake and drowned. The swine-herds saw this and fled, telling everyone the news. The people came to see what happened, and when they got there, they saw the previously demon-possessed man now healed and wearing clothes, sitting at Jesus’ feet; so they were seized with fear. The people who saw this told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. The people of Gerasa and the surrounding country were terrified, and they all asked Jesus to go away, so he left in a boat. The man who had been demon possessed asked to go with him, but Jesus sent him away saying, “Return to your home and tell what great things God has done for you.” So the man went away and proclaimed through the whole city the story of what a great thing Jesus had done.

19.4 Everyone in the district of Gerasa knew about the man who was possessed by so many demons. To be possessed by one evil spirit causes great suffering. To be possessed by many of them causes
even greater suffering. Every day of his
life, this man was serving the devil. In
our times also, many serve the devil
by getting drunk, causing quarrels, tell-
ing lies, committing adultery, and doing
other sinful things. Such behavior is a
source of misery to everyone. Yet Jesus
can save even the most wicked slaves
of the devil, for he has power over all
spirits. In this story, Jesus did not need
to ask what kind of spirits possessed the
man, how many there were, or where
they lived. He did not need to do any
rituals to drive them out. With a word he
cast them out. He sent the man back to
Gerasa to proclaim the good news. No
one who believes in Jesus need fear evil
spirits any more.

19.5 Key Point:

The Lord Jesus has
power over all spirits.
Chapter Twenty:

Jesus
Gives Us Life

Adapted from John 11:1-44

20.1 In our previous stories, we saw that the Lord Jesus has power over all diseases and all spirits. In this story, we will see that Jesus even has power over death.

20.2 One day a man called Lazarus was sick at the village of Bethany. Bethany was the village of Martha and her younger sister Mary. Mary’s younger brother Lazarus was ill, so Martha and Mary sent a message to Jesus: “Lord, the friend you love is ill.” Jesus heard this and said, “This illness is not fatal. It has happened in order to reveal God’s glory, so that people will honor the Son of God.” Though Jesus loved Martha and her younger sister and Lazarus, he stayed two more days more in the place...
where he heard the message about Lazarus’ illness. Then he said to the disciples, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps; I will go to wake him up.” The disciples said to him, “Teacher, if he sleeps, he will get better.” (Though Jesus spoke about Lazarus’ death, they thought he was talking about sleep.) So Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died. But I am glad I was not there with him, so that you might believe. Now let’s go to him.”

20.3 When Jesus arrived, he saw that it had been four days since Lazarus’ body had been put in the tomb. Since Bethany was about three kilometers from Jerusalem, many Jews came there in order to comfort Martha and Mary on account of their younger brother’s death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to welcome him, but Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my younger brother would not be dead. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God will be given.” Jesus replied, “Your brother will rise again”, and Martha said, “I know that on the day at the end of time, when all the dead rise, he too will rise.” Jesus
ངོ་བརྒྱུད་མཐོང་ངེས་ཡིན་ཞེས་བཤད་པ་མ་ཡིན་ནམ་"ཞེས་གསུངས་པས། ཁོང་གིས་གསུང་སྐད་ཆེན་པོས་"ལཱ་ཟར། བ་ཐོན་ཤོག་"ཅེས་གསུངས་མ་ཐག  གཤིན་པོ་རྐང་ལག་རས་ཀྱིས་བསྡམས་པ་དང༌།  གདོང་པ་ཡང་རས་ཀྱིས་བཏུམས་པ་དེ་ཕྱི་རོལ་ཏུ་ཐོན།  ཡེ་ཤུས་ཁོ་ཚོར་"རས་བཀྲོལ་ལ་ཁོང་འགྲོོ་རུ་ཆུག་ཅིག་"ཅེས་གསུངས།

20.4 བཟི་སྲེུ་སྲེེ་གསུངས་པའི་ཧུ་བོད་ཞེས་པོ་རི་ག་ཅིག་དེ་རེལ་པོ་ཁ་ལྷ་བརྨོག་དེ་གཅིག་ག་བོས་རྩོམ་ཅིག་དེའི་ཕྱིར་མིར་ཡམ་དང་མཉམ་དུ་ཡོང་བའི་ཡ་ཧུ་དཱ་པ་མང་པོས་ཡེ་ཤུས་མཛད་པའི་དོན་དེ་མཐོང་ནས་ཁོང་

replied, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” Martha said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

20.4 བཟི་སྲེུ་སྲེེ་གསུངས་པའི་ཧུ་བོད་ཞེས་པོ་རི་ག་ཅིག་དེ་རེལ་པོ་ཁ་ལྷ་བརྨོག་དེ་གཅིག་ག་བོས་རྩོམ་ཅིག་དེའི་ཕྱིར་མིར་ཡམ་དང་མཉམ་དུ་ཡོང་བའི་ཡ་ཧུ་དཱ་པ་མང་པོས་ཡེ་ཤུས་མཛད་པའི་དོན་དེ་མཐོང་ནས་ཁོང་
who had come with Mary, after seeing the thing Jesus did, believed in Him

20.5 Key Point:

The Lord Jesus has power over death.
Chapter Twenty One:

Jesus Teaches About Repentance

Adapted from Luke 15:11-32

21.1 In our previous story, we learned that Jesus has power over death. Although all people die, because they ignore God are just as good as being dead. Jesus told a famous parable about a young man who thought only of his own desires and paid no attention to God.

21.2 He said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the property’, and so the man divided his property between them. A few days later, the younger son gathered all he had and went away to a far country. There he wasted his share of the wealth in wild living. When all the money was gone, there was a great famine in the land. The younger son became poor and
suffered from hunger and thirst. So he went and hired himself out to one of the local people, who sent him to the field to care for the pigs. No one gave him anything to eat, and he became so hungry he wanted to eat the pods that were fed to the pigs. Finally he came to his senses and thought, ‘My father’s servants have more than enough bread, but here I am about to die of hunger. I will go back to my father and say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and you. I’m not worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired men.’ So he got up and went to his father.”

21.3 “The father saw him coming a long way off. He felt compassion for his son and ran and hugged and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and you. I’m not worthy to be called your son. But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick - bring the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it - we will eat and celebrate, for my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. And so they celebrated. Now the older son was in
the field, and when he came back to the house he heard music and dancing. He called a servant and asked, ‘What is this?’ The servant replied, ‘Your father has killed the fattened calf because your brother arrived safely.’ When he heard this, he became angry and did not want to go inside. So his father came out and asked him to come, but he said to his father, ‘Look, I never disobeyed your commands and served you like a slave for these many years. Yet you never gave me so much as a young goat that I might celebrate with my friends. But when your so-called son who wasted your wealth with prostitutes arrived, you killed the fattened calf for him.’ The father said to him, ‘My son, you are always with me, so everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, for your younger brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.”

21.4 This is a story about all of us. Like the younger son, by nature we do as we please. We waste our lives in pleasures, lusts, and other harmful things. But we soon learn that sin is a hard master. Its wage is death. When we sin, we can never be really happy. The good news
of Jesus is that we do not have to live in this way. We too can come to our senses. We can repent and return to a loving Father. Even though we don’t deserve it, God the Father, like the father in this story, welcomes us and gives us a perfect relationship with him. We become like members of his family. This is the meaning of the scripture, “God is love”. The younger brother repented and received a forgiveness he did not deserve. The older brother thought he deserved his father’s blessing. He did not want his younger brother to be forgiven, because he did not deserve it. The older brother is an example of those who think they must accumulate merit in order to deserve God’s approval. In fact, no one can do this because merit cannot cancel sin. Since all of us are as unworthy as the younger brother, we should repent and accept the love of a great Father.

21.5 Key Point:

**God forgives sins, and welcomes sinners.**
Chapter Twenty Two:

Jesus Teaches About Eternal Life

Adapted from John 3:1-21

22.1 The Lord Jesus came to this world so that people of every nation may have eternal life. Now we will hear one of his most famous teachings about receiving eternal life. It was given to a man called Nicodemus, a leader of the Jewish people.

22.2 Nicodemus had come to meet Jesus at night. He said, “We know that you are a great teacher who has come from God, because no one can do these wondrous signs that you do, apart from God.” Jesus answered, “I tell you truly, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” So Nicodemus asked him, “How is it possible that an old man can be born again? Can he enter into his mother’s womb and be born a second time?” Jesus answered, “I tell you truly, unless a man is born by means of water and God’s Spirit,
he cannot enter God’s Kingdom. What is born of a body is a body, so also what is born of God’s Holy Spirit is spirit. Don’t be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it will, and you hear its sound, but where it comes from and where it goes you don’t know. So it is with all who are born of God’s Spirit.” Nicodemus asked, “How is this possible?”

22.3 Jesus answered, “You are a prominent teacher of Israel and you don’t understand even this? I tell you truly, what we know, we say; and what we have seen we testify to; but you people haven’t accepted this testimony. If you don’t believe after I tell you about things that happen on earth, how will you believe if I speak about things that happen in heaven? No one has gone up to heaven except for the Son of Man who came down from heaven. Just as the prophet Moses raised up the serpent-image in the desert, so the Son of Man also must be lifted up, so that all who believe in the Son of Man may obtain eternal life. For God so loved the world’s people that he gave his only son, so that whoever believes in him will not perish but have
eternal life. God did not send his Son to condemn the people of the world, but to save the people of the world through Him. Those who believe in the Son are not judged; those who do not believe in the Son have already been judged, because they did not believe in the name of God’s only Son. And the judgment is this: though the light has come into the world, because people’s deeds are evil, they loved the darkness of sin more than the light. For all who do evil deeds hate the light, and avoid it so that their wicked acts will not be revealed. However, those who do what is right come to the light so that it may be clearly seen that what they do comes from God.”

22.4 Jesus often taught people by means of parables. There is an example in the story of Nicodemus. Nicodemus knew that sin causes us to be separated from God, who is completely holy. Whatever is separated from God is spiritually dead. Dead people can do nothing to help themselves. Only God’s Spirit can make spiritually dead people come alive. This is what Jesus meant by being ‘born again’. Though the new birth is itself invisible, we can see its effects when people repent
of sin and become obedient to God. It is like the wind. Though we cannot see the wind itself, when there is a dust storm, we can see its effects.

22.5 Nicodemus still did not understand, so Jesus took an example from Israel’s history. Many centuries ago, the Jewish people lived as nomads in the desert. On one occasion God sent many poisonous snakes among them because the people had opposed him. During this time, God commanded the prophet Moses to make an image of a snake. The snake was not a god and the people were not to worship it, but it was a symbol of God’s forgiveness of sin. Those who looked at it with faith in God were saved from death. In the same way, those who believe in the Lord Jesus look to him and receive forgiveness of their sins and eternal life with God. Those who do so are not judged by God on the day at the end of time when he judges the human race. We will learn more about God’s final judgment in the next chapter.

22.6 Key Point:

God gives us eternal life through faith in the Lord Jesus.
Chapter Twenty Three:

Jesus Teaches About God’s Final Judgment

Adapted from Matthew 25:31-46

23.1 In our previous story, we learned that those who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus receive God’s gift of eternal life. When they die, they will be forever with God in heaven. Those who do not repent of their sins, and who reject Jesus, do not receive eternal life. When they die, they will be forever with Satan in hell. This will happen on the day at the end of time when God judges all people. Jesus spoke about this as follows.
23.2 He said, “When the Son of Man comes with the angels in glory, he will sit on his glorious throne and all nations will be gathered before him. As a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, so he will separate them, putting the sheep on his right, and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on the right, ‘You who are blessed by my Father, come and take the kingdom that was prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For when I was hungry you gave me food; when I was thirsty you gave me something to drink; when I was a stranger you gave me a place to stay; when I was without clothing you clothed me; when I was sick you took care of me; when I was in prison you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or, thirsty, a stranger or, without clothing and, give you food or drink or a place to stay or, clothing? Or seeing you sick or, in prison when did we come to visit you? The king will say to them, ‘I tell you truly, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me also.’ Then he will say to those on the left, ‘You cursed ones, depart from me into
the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; I was a stranger and you did not give me a place to stay; I was without clothing and you did not clothe me; I was sick and you did not care for me; I was in prison and you did not come to visit me.’ Then they also will say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or, thirsty or, a stranger or, without clothing or, sick or, in prison and not take care of you? He will answer, ‘I tell you truly, to the extent you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me either.’ Then these will go into eternal punishment and, the righteous to eternal life.”

23.3 God does not want anyone to receive eternal punishment. He wants everyone to repent and be saved. So Jesus tells us to do everything possible to seek eternal life. As he warned, “Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate that leads to destruction is wide and the road is broad, so many people go that way. The gate that leads to eternal life is narrow and the way is hard so just a few find it.” The way to eternal life is to hear and
obey Jesus’ teachings. As he said, “So all who hear the words I’ve said and put them into practice are like a wise man who built his house on a rock. Because that house was built on rock, though the rain fell and the flood came and the storm blew and struck that house, it did not collapse. All who hear the words I’ve said and do not put them into practice are like the fool who built his house on sand. When the rain fell and the floods came and the storm blew and struck that house, it collapsed and was completely destroyed.”

23.4 Key Point:

God is the judge of all people.
Chapter Twenty Four:

Jesus is Crucified

Adapted from all four gospels

24.1 In our previous story, Jesus taught about the last judgment. In this story, we will hear what Jesus did to save sinners from God’s judgment.

24.2 One day when Jesus was going to the capital city, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, “Listen! We are going to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the experts in the religious law. They will condemn him to death. He will be handed over to the foreigners and they will mock him, whip him, and kill him by hanging him on a cross. Then on the third day he will rise again.” When they arrived in Jerusalem, the high priests and his associates in the Sadducee party formed a plot to arrest him secretly and kill him.
24.3 Now in Jerusalem was a garden where Jesus often met his disciples. One of them, called Judas Iscariot, knew the place. One night he arrived together with a large crowd sent by the chief priests and elders of the people, carrying in their hands swords and clubs. Judas had previously arranged a sign for them by saying, “The one I greet with a kiss is he - arrest him.” Immediately Judas came to Jesus and said, “Teacher, peace be with you”, and greeted him with a kiss on the cheek. Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came and laid hands on him and arrested him. Then Jesus said to the crowd, “Have you come carrying swords and sticks to catch me like a robber? Though I sat day after day teaching in the Temple, you did not arrest me. But all this has happened so that the scriptures of the prophets would be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled.
As soon as it was dawn, all the chief priests and elders, those skilled in the religious law, and members of the state council discussed Jesus’ case; they bound Jesus and brought him over to Pilate the Roman governor. They accused Jesus by saying, “This man has deceived our people by saying that we shouldn’t pay taxes to Caesar, and that he himself is the Christ, a king.” Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” and he answered, “It is as you say.” The chief priests made many charges against him. Again Pilate said, “See how many charges these men are making against you! Don’t you have an answer?” But Jesus made no reply; Pilate wondered at this, but knew that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. In order to fulfill the wishes of the chief priests, Pilate caused Jesus to be whipped and handed over to the soldiers to be hung on the cross. The soldiers put purple clothes on him and a crown woven of thorns on his head. They
pretended to salute him, saying “Hail, King of the Jews!” They hit him on the head again and again with a stick and spit in his face, and kneeling before him pretended to worship him. After they finished abusing him in this manner, they took off the purple clothes and put his own clothes on him and led him out to be nailed to the cross.

24.5 Key Point:

The Lord Jesus suffered on the cross in order to save sinners from God’s judgment.
Chapter Twenty Five:

Jesus’ Death on the Cross
Adapted from all four gospels

25.1 In our previous story, Jesus was led out to be nailed to the cross. In this story, we will hear what happened when Jesus died.

25.2 The soldiers led Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means ‘place of a skull.’ They offered him wine mixed with spice but he did not take it. Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross. After casting lots to see what each would get, they divided his clothing among themselves. The charge against him was written as: ‘King of the Jews.’ The time at which they crucified Jesus was nine o’clock in the morning; at three o’clock in the afternoon, Jesus gave a loud cry and died. After these things, Joseph from the town of Arimathea, who was a secret disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked
Pilate to release Jesus’ body, and Pilate gave permission, so Joseph took Jesus’ body away. Nicodemus, who had earlier met Jesus at night, brought about 34 kilograms of mixed fragrant ointments. The two of them took Jesus’ body and according to Jewish burial customs, put in the perfume substances and wrapped it with cloth. There was a garden near where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb where no corpse had ever been put. Because it was the Jewish holy day of preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they put the body of Jesus there.

25.3 What was the reason Jesus had to suffer so terribly on the cross? Did he do something bad? Was it because of his karma? If you remember the stories I have told you, then you already know the answer. The animal that Abel offered, the sheep that was substituted for Isaac, the Passover lamb, and the sheep offered at the prophet Moses’ holy tent, all are examples showing the meaning of Jesus’ death. These animals died because people did what God told them not to do, or didn’t do what he told them to do. God is unimaginably holy, and hates
all sin. This is why sin ruins our relationship with God. The punishment for even one sin is death. It is so evil that it must be destroyed. Jesus died on the cross to take that punishment in our place. He knew that this was the only way of making atonement for our sins. By this act he restored our relationship with God.

25.4 Key Point:

The Lord Jesus died as our substitute.
26.1 In our previous story we learned about Jesus’ death on the cross. Jesus’ enemies thought that they had destroyed him. Then God did a miracle.

26.2 About sunrise on the first day of the week, two women went to see the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, and an angel descended from heaven; he rolled back the stone at the entrance to the tomb and sat on it. His body shone like lightning and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He has been raised as he said; he is not here. Come see the place where he lay. Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead and is go-
ing before you into Galilee; there you will meet him.’ Now I have told you.” The women were afraid, but greatly rejoiced. They ran quickly from the tomb to take the message to his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Peace be with you.” They came to him and, holding his feet, worshiped him.

26.3 On that same day of two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus. While they were talking with each other about all that had happened, Jesus himself came near and went along with them. But they did not recognize him. He said to them, “What were you talking about on the way?”, and they stood still, looking sad. One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know what has just happened?” And Jesus said, “What happened?” They answered, “Why, about what happened to Jesus of Nazareth. He was a powerful prophet in word and deed before God and all the people. Our chief priests and rulers handed him over to Pilate to be condemned to death, and crucified him. We had hoped that he would be the savior of Israel. It’s been three days
since these things happened, and some of our women amazed us by saying that this morning at dawn when they went to the tomb, they did not find his body, but came back saying they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Some of us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”

26.4 Then Jesus said to them, “O you foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all the prophets have said! Wasn’t it necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with the scriptures of Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them all that was written about himself. When they came near the village to which they were going, he acted as if he were going onwards, but they insisted, “It’s late and the sun is about to set, so please stay with us”, so he went in to stay with them. While he was eating with them, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God, and shared it with them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts moved

ཁོ་ཚོར་འགྲོོ་སའི་གྲོོང་གསེབ་དང་ཉེ་བར་སླེབས་སྐབས་ཁོང་ད་དུང་ཕར་ལ་ཕེབས་པའི་ཚུལ་མཛད།  འོན་ཀྱང་ཁོ་ཚོས་“ཕྱི་དྲོ་ཡིན་ཏེ་ཉི་མ་ནུབ་ལ་ཉེ་བས་ང་ཚོ་དང་མཉམ་དུ་བཞུགས་རོགས་“ཞེས་ནན་གྱིིས་ཞུས་ནས་ཁོང་ཁོ་ཚོ་དང་མཉམ་དུ་བཞུགས་པའི་ཕྱིར་གནས་ཁང་ནང་ལ་ཕེབས།  ཁོ་ཚོ་དང་མཉམ་དུ་ཅོག་ཙེར་བཞུགས་ཚེ་ཡེ་ཤུས་བག་ལེབ་ཕྱག་ཏུ་བསྣམས་ཤིང་དཀོན་མཆོག་ལ་བཀའ་དྲིན་ཆེ་ཞུས་རྗེས་དུམ་བུར་བགོས་ནས་ཁོ་རྣམས་ལ་གནང༌།  དེ་ནས་ཁོ་ཚོའི་མིག་ཕྱེ་ནས་ཁོང་སུ་ཡིན་པ་ཤེས་རྗེས་ཁོང་དེ་ཚོའི་མིག་ལམ་ནས་མི་སྣང་བར་གྱུར།  ཁོ་ཚོས་གཅིག་གིས་གཅིག་ལ་”ལམ་ལ་ཁོང་གིས་ང་ཚོར་གསུང་གླེང་དང་གསུང་རབ་གསལ་སྟོན་མཛད་སྐབས་
as he explained the scriptures to us on the road?” At that very hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the disciples gathered together saying, “The Lord really has arisen alive and has appeared to Simon!” They told them what had happened on the road, and how he had revealed himself to them through the sharing of the bread.

26.5 While they were explaining this, Jesus himself stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” They thought he was an evil spirit, and were terrified. But he said to them, “Why are you afraid, and why do you doubt? Look at my hands and my feet; it is I myself. Touch me and see, for an evil spirit does not have flesh and bone as I have.” Having said this, he showed them his hands and feet. While they still could not believe because of their joy, he said to them, “Do you have any food?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, which he took and ate in front of them. Then he said to them, “While I was with you, I said that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the writings of the prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the
scriptures and said to them, “It was written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that in his name repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

26.6 Key Point:

Jesus died.
Jesus rose from death.
Jesus will come again.
27.1 Do you remember our first story? In the beginning, God created the world and everything in it. He made mankind in his own image; male and female, and put them in the Garden of Eden. The two people disobeyed God’s command by eating the forbidden fruit. Like us, those first two people wanted to live according to their own desires rather than obeying God. In doing so, they rejected God’s love, offended him, and violated his infinite holiness. Despite this, in great mercy God promised them that one day, he would send a savior who could restore their relationship with him. After Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden, people’s hearts became even harder. Driven by a sinful nature, people kept on living according to their own desires. Finally God decided to destroy all of humanity with a great flood. But because Noah trusted and obeyed God, he and his family were saved. After the
flood, God called Noah’s descendant Abraham to obey him. Abraham believed God’s promises, and so God considered him completely righteous, just as though he had never sinned. When God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, Abraham obeyed, and God provided a sheep in Isaac’s place. This story showed what kind of death Jesus was to die.

27.2 Many years later, God called the prophet Moses to be a mediator between himself and Abraham’s descendants, the people of Israel. When God saved the Israelites from the king of Egypt, he commanded each Jewish family to put the blood of a flawless lamb on the door of their house. This too was to show an example of what kind of death Jesus was to die. Centuries later, God promised that a perfect mediator would come from among the descendants of King David. The prophet Isaiah also spoke about this coming savior. Finally, in the first century, God’s promised savior was born just as Isaiah had prophesied. Jesus taught people about God’s way of
salvation. He healed many diseases, for-gave sins, drove out demons, and raised the dead to life. So the Jewish high priest and the officials associated with him became jealous, and made a plot to arrest Jesus and kill him. They caused him to be bound and handed over to Pilate, the Roman governor. Although they accused him of many things, Pilate found Jesus to be innocent. In order to please the Jew-ish officials, Pilate sentenced Jesus to be put to death by being hung on a cross. On the third day after Jesus died, he was raised to life again, and over a period of forty days he appeared to his disciples.

27.3 Now listen to the Lord Jesus’ good news: God loves us and has made a way for us to be saved from sin and shame. That way is the Lord Jesus. For our sake, Jesus lived a sinless life and did God’s will perfectly. In our place, he suffered the punishment for sin. After dying on the cross, he rose to life again. In this way Jesus made a way for our relationship with God to be restored. Jesus now invites everyone to receive God’s salvation. He said, “Come to me, all you who are oppressed with weariness and heavy loads, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke and, learn from me, for I am gentle and humble; you will find rest for your souls; for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” In the next chapter, we will learn how to receive the benefits offered by the good news of Jesus.

27.4 Key Point:

Repent and believe the good news.
Chapter Twenty Eight:

How to Receive the Best of All Gifts

28.1 In the previous chapter, we learned that God made a way for us to be saved from sin and shame. If I wish to receive these benefits and live with God forever in joy and peace, there are four things I must do: 1) admit that I am a sinner; 2) repent of my sin; 3) believe in the Lord Jesus Christ alone; and 4) pray to Jesus for salvation. These four steps are explained below.

28.2 The first step is to admit that I am a sinner. In our stories so far, we have seen that people naturally like to live according to their own desires rather than obey God. This is because we all have a sinful nature. Driven by our sinful nature, we commit such sins as having evil thoughts, lying, disobeying parents, speaking evil
of others, lust, adultery, quarreling and jealousy. From such behavior comes many of the problems of Tibetan society. If we think carefully about life, we will see that all this is true. The result of sin is death, which is not only passing away from this life, but also having to remain apart from God forever in hell.

28.3 The second step is to sincerely repent of sin. Do you remember the story of the younger son who went to a far country? That son repented and returned to his father’s home. He realized that sin not only offends the God who loves us; it also hurts others. For this reason he felt shame and regret; he mourned because of the sins he committed. In another story, the Lord Jesus spoke about a tax collector. He was very wealthy because he had stolen a lot of money from the people. But when he met Jesus he repented, saying, ‘I give half my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.’ The Lord Jesus responded, “Today, salvation has come to this house.” In order to repent, we must pray for God.
to forgive us, and do as the younger son and the tax collector did.

28.4 The third step in following the Lord Jesus is to believe in him alone. Because we all have a sinful nature, no one can stop doing evil just by relying on his own will-power. Only Jesus gives the power to overcome sin; by depending on that power we can get rid of our evil ways and obtain a new life. God is unimaginably holy. He cannot be pleased by accumulating virtue, or by religious rituals, or good works. If we still depend on the gods, he will not hear our prayers. We must come before God sincerely, depending on his mercy alone. If we do this, he will certainly give us new life. As it is written in the Bible, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

28.5 We should think carefully about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. He said, “Whoever comes to me and does not love me more than father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my
disciple. Which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation but is unable to finish, all who see it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' So none of you can be my disciple who does not give up all his possessions. Though salt is good, if its salty taste goes away, with what can it be restored? It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

28.6 The fourth step in following the Lord Jesus is to pray to him for salvation. The Apostle John said, “This is the commandment, that we believe in the name of his son Jesus Christ”. If you want to believe in the Lord Jesus, pray like this: “Lord Jesus, I admit that I have sinned against you and others by disobeying God’s word. Now I repent and believe in you, trusting in your grace alone. Opening the door of my heart, I invite you in. From now on you are my savior and I will serve you. Thank you for giving me your wonderful salvation.”
Chapter Twenty Nine:

How to Find Assurance

29.1 If we pray to receive salvation, how can we know that we are saved? There are three ways we can know this. First, God the Father promises to save all who believe, and his word is always true. As the Apostle Peter said, “The word of the Lord endures forever. That word is the good news that was announced to you”. Second, God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, promises to save us. He said, “My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand”. “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away.” Third, God the Holy Spirit tells us we are saved. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.” Not only so, the Apostle
John says that those who are God’s children through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ have three characteristics: a) believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, b) obeying his commands, and c) loving one another. If we have these three characteristics, we know that we have been saved.

29.2 A Prayer for Assurance of Salvation

Father, you have promised to save all who have faith in the Lord Jesus. Help us to believe your promises, to rely on the word of your Son, and to trust the witness of your Holy Spirit. Grant us to obey your commands and to love one another, so that we may know that you have forgiven us. These things we ask in Jesus’ name, amen.

29.3 What do we do now that we have believed in Jesus and been saved? Just as infants grow up, so new believers in Jesus need to become mature and complete in their faith. Believers no longer live according to their own desires, but live according to God’s will. The Lord
Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

Five ways to do this are: 1) Read the Bible or listen to it daily; 2) Worship God and pray to him; 3) Meet with other believers; 4) Love and serve others; and 5) Tell others about the Lord Jesus. There are many resources available on the www.gsungrab.org website to help you.
If you would like to study further, please see these resources: