



ORAL NARRATION OF BIBLE **STORIES AND BIBLE STUDY**

Salvation Stories

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The Demon Possessed Man
Mark 5:1-20

“This is a true story of the Word of God from Mark 5:1-20”

Jesus and his disciples crossed over to the other side of a lake. As Jesus stepped out of the boat, a man came out of the cemetery to meet him. This man lived among the tombs and had a demon in him. No one had the power to master him, even with a chain. Often, he was bound with iron on his feet and chains on his arms, but he broke them all. No one could control him. Constantly, day and night, he screamed among the tombs and on the hills. He slashed himself with stones.

When the possessed man saw Jesus from afar, he ran and bowed down before Jesus. Shouting with a very loud voice he cried out, “Jesus, Son of God most high, what do you want from me? Please, in the name of God, do not torment me!”

He said this because for Jesus was saying, “Evil spirit, leave this man!” Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” The man replied, “My name is army because we are many. He begged Jesus, “Do not drive the spirits out of this country.”

Now a large herd of pigs was feeding nearby on the mountain. The demons implored Jesus, “Send us into the pigs. Let us enter into them.” Jesus gave them permission. The demons came out of man and entered the pigs. The pigs ran down the steep slope and into the lake. There were about two thousand pigs. They all drowned in the water.

The pig herders fled into the city and into the countryside. They told what had happened. People came to see for themselves what happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who was possessed by the army of demons. Now he was sitting down. He was wearing clothes and he was completely normal. The people were seized with fear.

Others there, who had seen what happened to the demon-possessed man and the pigs described the events to the newcomers. The people started begging Jesus to leave their area.

Jesus stepped back into the boat. The man who had been possessed but was now well begged Jesus, “Please, I want to go with you.” Jesus did not let him. Instead, Jesus said to him, “Go to your family and tell them all that the Lord has done for you, and how he has been merciful to you.”

The man left and proclaimed in ten cities the great things Jesus had done for him. Everyone was amazed.

“This is a true story of the Word of God from Mark 5:1-20”

Participative Bible Study:

1. *What characteristics of God have you seen in this story?*

How did you discern this from the story?

2. *What did you learn about man in this story?*

3. *What lessons have you learned from this story?*

4. *What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you that you need to repent of... and obey... after studying this story?*

The responses from the question “What do you need to obey?” must be applicable within the course of a week so that the people giving responses can be held accountable to the changes they need to make in their spiritual lives. At the next meeting ask them about their decision and how they were able to hold to obedience in this area of their lives.

As a leader, if you have any thoughts from the story to add or highlight, do them now.

For the leader, lessons from the story to be emphasized:

a. We would like to suggest a few things about Mark 5:1-20. When people are telling this story to others for evangelism, after telling it they may say:

“In this story we find two types of people. The first person knelt before Jesus, and he was completely changed. The other people witnessed the miracle of Jesus and his power over the demons. Their reactions were to ask Jesus to leave. You, what type of man are you? One day I humbled myself before Jesus. I confessed my sins. I surrendered my life to Christ, and he became my King, my personal Savior. Jesus changed me drastically. He continues to work in me. And you? Have you been radically changed by Jesus?”

If the listener agrees to start a new life with Christ, he must be guided in a prayer of repentance. Collect his contact information and connect him with a church and, if possible, make appointments with him to continue telling and studying Bible stories together.

5. *Who will you tell this story to this week? Each must say the name of a person.* They're not simply making a promise to you, but they are making a promise before God to share this story with others.

The Israelites and the Poisonous Snakes

Numbers 21:4-9

Note: This story takes place after the Israelites escaped from Egypt.

“This is a true story from God’s Word from Numbers 21:4-9.”

The Israelites marched in the desert towards the Red Sea. On their way they became impatient. They begin to criticize God and Moses saying, “Why did you make us leave Egypt? For us to die in this desert? Here there is no bread. There is no water, and this terrible food disgusts us.”

The Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people. They bit the Israelites and many of them died. Those who were left came to Moses and said, “We have sinned against God and you, Moses, by criticizing you. Pray to the Lord for us. Ask Him to remove these poisonous snakes.”

Moses prayed for the people.

The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake out of bronze and place it on top of a pole. Every person who is bitten by a snake and looks at the bronze snake will live."

So, Moses made a bronze snake and placed it on a pole. Each person who was bitten by a snake, And looked up at the snake, his life was saved.

"This is a true story from God's Word from Numbers 21:4-9."

Participative Bible Study:

- 1. What characteristics of God have you seen in this story?
How did you discern this from the story?*
- 2. What did you learn about man in this story?*
- 3. What lessons have you learned from this story?*
- 4. What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you that you need to repent of... and obey... after studying this story?*

When people respond to this question find someone in the group that will hold them accountable to make the spiritual change in direction needed. If you are meeting weekly, take note of these acts of repentance and obedience and find out how they are doing in these areas each week.

As a leader, if you have any thoughts from the story to add or highlight, do them now.

For the leader, suggested lessons from the story to be emphasized:

a. Supplementary Questions:

- 1. What sins did the Israelites commit in this story?***
- 2. How did God punish them?***
- 3. Which people were bitten by snakes?***
- 4. Describe characteristics of Moses.***
- 5. What did the Israelites who were left after many died of snake bites, ask Moses to do?***
- 6. Explain what you observe as Moses' leadership skills?***
- 7. How did God answer Moses' prayer?***
- 8. Did God chase the snakes away from the Israelites?***
- 9. Were only bad Israelites bitten?***
- 10. What did God command Moses to do?***
- 11. How did the people receive healing from the poisonous snake bites?***
- 12. What did the people have to look upon to be healed? What did the snake represent?
Think again of how God punished the Israelites for their sin. By sending what to bite them?***

(Answer: The snake represented their punishment. They had to look upon their punishment to be saved)

The Israelites needed to look on their punishment for their sins to receive healing. To be saved. They needed to understand that before God their sins deserve punishment. Also, that God and God alone offered a solution.

13. What is story teaching you?

5. *Who will you tell this story to this week?* **Each must say the name of a person.** They're not simply making a promise to you, but they are making a promise before God to share this story with others.

Nicodemus and the Serpent

John 3:11-17

“This is a True Story from God’s Word from John 3:1-17”

Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader, came to see Jesus at night. He said to Jesus, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for or no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Jesus replied, “I tell you the solemn truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” Nicodemus responded, “How can someone be born when they are old? Can a person enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be reborn?”

Jesus answered, “I assure you no one can enter God’s kingdom unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. Nicodemus, you should not be surprised that I said, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? In truth I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we give testimony to what we have seen, but you do not accept our testimony. I am talking to you about earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?”

No one has gone up into heaven except the one who came from heaven —the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, which means to pay for his sin in hell, but instead have eternal life in heaven with God. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

“This is a True story from God’s Word from John 3:1-17.”

Participative Bible Study:

1. *What characteristics of God have you seen in this story?*
How did you discern this from the story?

2. *What did you learn about man in this story?*
3. *What lessons have you learned from this story?*
4. *What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you that you need to repent of... and obey... after studying this story?*

When people respond to this question find someone in the group that will hold them accountable to make the spiritual change in direction needed. If you are meeting weekly, take note of these acts of repentance and obedience and find out how they are doing in these areas each week.

As a leader, if you have any thoughts from the story to add or highlight, do them now.

For the leader, suggested lessons from the story to be emphasized:

a. What does it mean when Jesus said that a person must be born of water and Spirit to enter into God's Kingdom? (Answer: water = physical birth. Flesh give birth to flesh. Spirit = each person must be "born again" by the Spirit of God)

b. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life."

NOTE: If the class doesn't remember the story of Numbers 21:6-9, retell it now.

c. We discussed in the story of Moses and the Bronze Serpent that:

1. God punished the Israelites for their sin by doing what? (Answer: sending among them poisonous serpents that bit everyone.)

2. When Moses prayed for the people what did God instruct Moses to do? (Answer: make a bronze serpent and place it on a pole.)

3. What did the serpent represent? (Answer: the punishment for their sin)

4. What did a person have to do to be healed from the poisonous snake bite? (He had to look up at the punishment for his sin)

5. What happened when a person was bit by a serpent and DIDN'T look at the serpent on the pole? (He died)

d. When we look up at Jesus on the cross, what are we looking at? (Answer the punishment for my sin. We've all been bitten and poisoned by sin. Christ, the sacrificial lamb of God is our solution. He took my punishment on himself, in my place so that I will not be punished for my sin.)

e. When we call ourselves "Saved" what are we saved from? (Answer: the punishment I deserve for my sin)

f. What is the punishment I deserve for my sin? (Answer: death, which in spiritual biblical terms means hell for eternity)

5. *Who will you tell this story to this week? Each must say the name of a person.* They're not simply making a promise to you, but they are making a promise before God to share this story with others.

How My Sins Affect My Relationship with Christ

1 John 1:5-9

Note: 1 John was written to Christians

You must have for this Illustration:

3 clear large drinking glasses without decorations; 1 working flashlight; a bowl of dirt; a spoon; an empty bucket; a bucket filled with water; a pitcher; a table on which you can conduct the demonstration; a woman who is going to do actions that fit the narrative.

Before you begin the illustration:

Fill one glass with dirt

Fill two glasses with pure water

Tip: This illustration should be rehearsed several times before presenting it to a group. You can change the illustration as you wish for your setting. The illustration described here is only an example of how to do this presentation.

Leader Instructions are in light print.

1. Introduction:

“We’ve talked about the serpent on the pole from Numbers 21. We’ve discussed Nicodemus and Jesus’ words from John 3.

You’ve already consecrated your life to Jesus Christ. You believe He is the Son of God. You have invited Him to live in you. You believe you are His. Now I have a question: ‘If you become angry, walk down the road grumbling and a huge truck loses control, smashes into you and you die before confessing your sin of anger and grumbling, will you go to heaven or hell??’

Wait for responses from everyone. If people are shy to give a response, have everyone close their eyes to respond with their hand raised if they will go to heaven to hell. Don’t chastise anyone for their answer or say who is right or wrong. Explain that we will discover the Truth in this illustration.

2. Lift up the glass full of dirt. Say:

“The dirt represents sin. This glass of dirt is your life before you knew Jesus. John 12:46 Jesus says, ‘I have come as LIGHT into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.’”

3. Now, turn on the flashlight, shine it toward the people listening to you and try to pass the light through the glass of dirt. Of course, that won’t work. Now say:

“You heard that Jesus died on the cross for you. You asked Jesus to forgive your sins.”

Empty out the glass and clean it in the bucket of water you will make dirty. Continue by saying, **“God forgave your sins and poured into you His Holy Spirit.”** Fill the glass with clean water from the clean water bucket.

4. Now point the flashlight once more at the people and say:

“God’s word reveals to us that ‘God is light and in Him there is absolutely no darkness at all’” (1 John 1:5).

5. Now hold up the glass of clean water and shine the light through it so all can see.

“When we are pure before Jesus, cleansed of our sin, the Light of Christ shines through us. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit and walk in the Light of Christ’s presence, what are the characteristics that will spill out of our lives?” (Possible Responses: love, joy, peace, patience, self-control, humility, forgiveness, good works, faith...)

The Story

6. This is a sketch for you to illustrate with water, flashlight and dirt. If you want, a woman can mime your words. Each time the woman in the story sins, add a spoonful of dirt to the glass of pure water. You may adjust the story to fit the women you are speaking to. Tell the group:

“We have already said that this person (Lift the glass of pure water again) gave her life to Jesus. She has received forgiveness for her sins because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. She is filled with the Holy Spirit. But today: She woke up late. Her mother is sick and she was tending to her mother’s needs into the early hours of the morning.

She starts thinking, ‘I have to go to the market to sell rice! I am already too late. I have to find money for the children's schooling.’ With tired eyes moving quickly to the shower she kicks her foot against a heavy wooden chair. She cries out, ‘Stupid chair, who put you there?’ In anger she shoves the chair and it tips over and crashes to the floor.

a. Ask the group: **“Has the woman sinned?”** If people say, “no.” Ask them if Jesus would have acted like she did. Continue by asking: **“What sins has she committed?”** Remember with each sin mentioned put dirt into the clean glass of water that represents her life. Possible answers:

She didn’t exercise self-control. Galatians 5:23

She was angry. 2 Corinthians 12:20

She was impatient. Ephesians 4:2

These scripture verses are references. You do not need to read them in the course of the illustration.

7. Continue the story: **Her little six-year-old girl comes to her and asks, “Mama could you help me with my math work?” She shouts, "Go ask your questions to someone else! Can't you see that I'm in a hurry? »**

a. Ask the group: **“Has the woman sinned? What sins has she committed?”** Remember with each sin mentioned put dirt into the clean glass of water that represents her life. Possible answers:

Anger. Ephesians 4:31

Lack of gentleness. Galatians 5:22-23

8. Continue with the story: **She discovers that her eldest daughter has not yet swept the**

house. She speaks forcefully, “You lazy child! You can’t do anything right! Can't you do even this little job? You've been a problem for me since you've been born!”

a. Ask the group: “**Has the woman sinned? What sins has she committed?**” Remember with each sin mentioned put dirt into the clean glass of water that represents her life. Possible answers:

Unkind, cutting words came out of her mouth. Ephesians 4:29

She acted unlovingly toward her daughter. Titus 2:4

9. Continue with the story: **The Holy Spirit within her causes her to realize that she has sinned against God and her daughter. The Holy Spirit kindly pushes her to ask forgiveness from her children for how badly she has acted towards them. But she refuses! She says to herself, “Me ask my children for forgiveness? They are only children! I'm an adult! They need to learn that life is tough. This is good training for them!”**

a. Ask the group: “**Has the woman sinned? What sins has she committed?**” Remember with each sin mentioned put dirt into the clean glass of water that represents her life. Possible answers:

She grieved the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30 "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God."

She rejected humility. James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord."

10. The story continues: **She quickly put a pot of bouilli on the fire while at the same time was getting ready for the market. The bottom of the bouilli burned terribly because of her inattentiveness. Still, she served it to her husband. "My love," he responded after drinking a little, "I can't eat this. It is burned! Do we have anything else to eat? I have a hard and difficult job to do today. I need something that will give me energy."**

She retorts, “You? you have a hard job to do?? You are an insensitive man! You ask too much of me every day, you and the children. I have too much hard work to do at every moment! When you've given birth once is when you can tell me about hard work! Find something else yourself to eat!”

a. Ask the group: “**Has the woman sinned? What sins has she committed?**” Remember with each sin mentioned put dirt into the clean glass of water that represents her life. Possible answers:

She didn't respond with love John 13:24

She had abusive speech. Colossians 3:8

She didn't show loving submission. Ephesians 5:21

She was complaining. Phil 2:14 Do everything without complaining”

She is not serving her family to please Jesus. 1 Cor. 10:31 "So whether you eat or drink or do anything else, do it all for the glory of God."

11. Continue with the story: **“As she leaves the house her thoughts are angry and spinning. Talking to herself she says, "Life is too difficult! My husband doesn't understand me! What does he do for me except criticize my cooking? He treats my co-wife better than he does me. I was that lovely scarf he gave her. What does he think that I am blind?”**

a. Ask the group: **“Has the woman sinned? What sins has she committed?”** Remember with each sin mentioned put dirt into the clean glass of water that represents her life. Possible answers:

She had negative thoughts. Phil. 4:8

She was jealous. Romans 13:13

She was envious. Titus 3:3

12. Continuing on: **“She leaves the house and walks to the market to the market to sell rice. She shouts to people: ‘Come and buy! Come and buy! Best quality rice, very good price!!!’”** In her heart the Lord is reminding her that her rice isn’t high quality. But she needs the money and she says to herself, **‘This is the market. Nobody tells the truth! That’s the way business is!’”**

A very poor woman comes up to her and asks, ‘Do you have 200 CFA francs so that I can buy a little something to eat. My husband just died, and his family took all our belongings. I have nothing. It shames me to even ask this of you. Our seller knows she has a few extra coins now, but anything extra she hoped to buy new earrings with. She thinks to herself, ‘I’m always giving, giving, giving. I’m tired of it. She kindly says, ‘I am so sorry. I have nothing today to give you. But I will pray that Jesus will provide for all your needs.’”

a. Ask the group: **“Has the woman sinned? What sins has she committed?”** Remember with each sin mentioned put dirt into the clean glass of water that represents her life. Possible answers:

She lied. Col. 3:9

She stole from others by selling her rice at a false high price. Mark 10:19

She didn’t have compassion. Colossians 3:12

She refused to help. 1 John 3:17

She was thinking of herself before others. Ephesians 5:3

She was weary of doing good. 2 Thessalonians 3:13

13. Show everyone the women’s glass filled with water and dirt. Say: **“After the market she goes to Bible study at church. The time of praise does not touch her heart. She tries to pray, but it’s as if her prayers fall to the ground. She says to herself, ‘I don’t have joy in me. Why don’t I sense the presence of Jesus?’”**

a. Ask those present:

1. Is the Holy Spirit still in her?

Correct answer: "Yes, because there is still water, but there is also much evidence of sin."

2. Why can't she praise Jesus or sense his presence?

Correct answer: "Because of the sins clogging up her relationship with Christ."

3. What does she need to do?

Correct answer: Confess her sins specifically to Jesus!

You say, **"We have already learned that our sins, after we give our lives to Jesus, do not cause us to go to hell. Why? Because Jesus took all the punishment for all my sin, all your sin, when He was on the cross. No matter when we die, we will stand before God the Father covered by**

the forgiving blood of Jesus. This is grace. We don't deserve it. We are still, in fact, sinners. But we won't pay for eternity for our sin. But our sins, after we are Christ's, block our relationship with Jesus Christ. Our sins diminish the presence and power of the Holy Spirit within us. You see this clearly with the sin/dirt in the life of this women."

14. Now you lift the cup filled with dirt. Say: **1 John 1:5-7 with verse 9 "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."** Try to pass the light of the flashlight through the cup filled with dirt (sin) and water. No light passes through.

"Verse 6: If we say we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. Verse 8: If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. But verse 9 says. If we confess our sins God who is faithful and just forgives our sins and cleanses us from all our iniquities."

15. At this point, with the group participating by shouting out the sins the woman needs to confess, begin confessing the sins the woman has committed. Each time you confess a sin, remove a spoonful of cup dirt from the glass.

Then wash the cup with water and fill it with pure water. Pass the light of the torch through the cup filled with pure water.

You Say: **verse 7 "So, if we walk in the light, as He Himself is in the Light"**

Put two or three cups of pure water side by side and pass the light through all three at once.

"We have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin."

Jesus said: 'I, who am the light, have come into the world so that everyone who believes in me will no longer live in darkness.' John 12:46

God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:5-9

May Christ make us aware of the sin in our lives so that we may confess and walk in His Light of purity and be one with each other."

Creation to Christ

A Compilation of Biblical Truths from Creation to Christ's Return

"These are truths from God's Word:"

In the very beginning there was God and nothing else. He has always existed.

He spoke and when he spoke, He created the universe and everything in it, including man and woman.

He created man from the dust of the earth, then breathed the breath of life into him.
He created the women from a rib taken from the man.
He placed the man and woman in a perfect garden he had created.

God gave them only one command to obey. He told them to eat the fruit from all the trees in the garden but one, the tree. This one they were not to eat.
When He looked upon all His creation he said, "It is good."

God had a perfect relationship with the man (Adam) and woman (Eve), until the woman, who was deceived by the evil one in the form of a serpent, ate the fruit of the forbidden tree and gave some also to her husband.

Their disobedience was sin and brought sin into the world. It broke their relationship with God and brought physical and spiritual death into the world. God further punished the man with hard labor to survive and an earth that wouldn't easily give fruit to eat. God further punished the woman with greatly increased pain in childbirth.

He made the snake to crawl on its belly in the dust and gave a promise that the snake would bite the heel of the woman's progeny, but this person will crush the snake's head. Afterward, God chased Adam and Eve from the garden so they wouldn't eat from the Tree of Life and live forever.

Adam and Eve had many children. Their children had children and the earth began to fill. Every one of them sinned.

God spoke to a man named Abraham and promised to give him a son through whom He would create a people for God an innumerable as the sand of the sea. God promised that through Abraham all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

Abraham believed God. God blessed Abraham with a son and countless descendants. Sometimes these descendants were obedient to God. Sometimes they were not.

God gave them a system of animal blood sacrifices because of their sin. These sacrifices pointed to a time when all sin would be forgiven through one final sacrifice, once for all.
God sent special messengers to Abraham's descendants, His people, to remind them how to live a life that pleased God.

One of these messengers was named Isaiah. He proclaimed God's promise, "We all like sheep have gone astray. Each of us has turned to our own way. But the Lord has caused the sin of us all to fall upon "him" the Messiah. The promised one who would be born of a virgin, who would be whipped and beaten and die to pay the punishment everyone should pay because of his sin and disobedience to God. He would be the ultimate sacrifice, the Savior. He would cleanse people of their sins, something the animal sacrifices could never do.

God kept his promise. At exactly the right time Jesus, who was completely God and completely man was born of a virgin. He lived a perfect life. He healed the sick, raised the dead, calmed storms. Demons obeyed him.

Many people followed Jesus. Jesus taught them, "If you follow me I will give you eternal life. I will hold you in my hand, and God the Father will hold you in His hand and no one can take you out of my hands. God and I are one."

Those who did not believe in Jesus became very angry that he said he and God were one. They convinced the government to have him executed. Just as God had said Jesus was whipped. He was beaten. He was nailed to a cross with the sins of the whole world heaped on him. He died.

Three days later he rose from the dead by the power of God. Jesus showed himself, alive, to his followers. For forty days he was with them, teaching them—this God-man who had raised from the dead.

Jesus told them, "I am leaving soon. But when I do I will send the Holy Spirit to you who will remind you of everything I have taught you. I have been given all authority in heaven and in earth, therefore go into all the world and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all the things I have taught you."

One day Jesus did leave. He went up into the clouds before a multitude of his believers. As the believers stood watching two angels appeared and asked, "Why are you standing here staring into the sky? Jesus will return on day the same way he has left." From that moment on the followers of Jesus wait expectantly for his return.

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to His followers. They went everywhere telling people about Jesus. Those who believed they baptized, which means they invited them into water to be submerged in water. This was to symbolize as Jesus died and was placed in the tomb. The person is then brought up out of the water to symbolize that, as Christ came back to life now the person had a new life in Christ. This was a public testimony that they had turned from their sin and now was a new person in Jesus.

The followers of Jesus met regularly together to worship God, pray, learn more about Jesus and to take care of one another's needs.

I, too, am one of Christ's followers. I tell people about Jesus and how they can have freedom from the punishment of their sins in Him, and I live, waiting expectantly for Christ to return.

"These are truths from God's Word."

(Scripture References: Genesis 1:3, 1:27, 2:16, 3:8, 13:16, 15:5-6; Genesis 21; Isaiah 53; Mark 5:5-20; John 10:25-31; Matthew 26, 27, 28; Acts 1:3-8; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 8:12, 20:21, 26:21)

Participative Bible Study, ask these questions:

1. *What characteristics of God have you seen in this story?*

How did you discern this from the story?

2. *What did you learn about man in this story?*

3. *What lessons have you learned from this story?*

4. *What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you that you need to repent of... and obey... after studying this story?*

When people respond to this question find someone in the group that will hold them accountable to make the spiritual change in direction needed. If you are meeting weekly, take note of these acts of repentance and obedience and find out how they are doing in these areas each week.

As a leader, if you have any thoughts from the story to add or highlight, do them now.

Suggested lessons from the story to be emphasized:

This compilation story can be used to explain to someone who Jesus is if they do not know. You may easily switch out and in different truths of the Old Testament to craft the compilation to meet the spiritual needs of the listeners.

5. *Who will you tell this story to this week? Each must say the name of a person.* They're not simply making a promise to you, but they are making a promise before God to share this story with others.