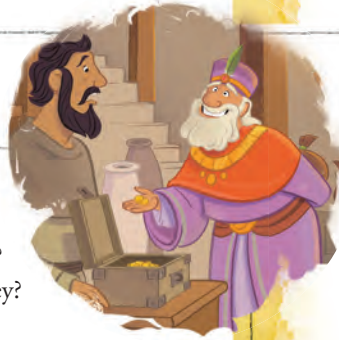


Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- When has someone else shown generosity toward your family? How did you feel?
- What could you share or give away to help others?
- How was Jesus generous toward sinners?

Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 4-5

STORY POINT: ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA LIED ABOUT THEIR GIFT TO THE CHURCH.

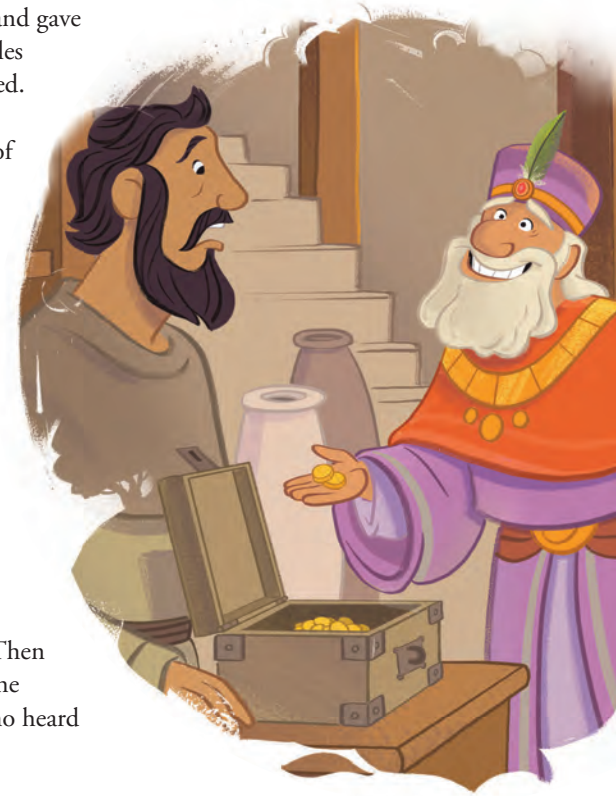
The early church was growing. A large group of believers met together in Jerusalem. They shared everything they had. If someone had more than he needed, he gladly gave it away so everyone had what he needed.

One man, Barnabas, sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. The apostles used the money to help people in need. Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, sold some land and pretended to give all of the money to the apostles, but they kept some of it for themselves.

When Ananias brought the money to the apostles, Peter asked him, "Why are you lying to the Holy Spirit?" When Ananias heard this, he fell down, died, and was buried. Everyone who heard about this was filled with fear.

About three hours later, Sapphira came to the apostles. Peter asked her, "Is this all the money you got for the land?"

"Yes," she said. "That's all of it." Then Sapphira fell dead too. Great fear came on everyone in the church and all who heard about these things.



Christ Connection: Ananias and Sapphira wanted to look generous, but they were greedy. The Holy Spirit changes our hearts to want to share with those in need because Jesus generously gave all He had so we can share in His riches and have forgiveness and eternal life.

Ananias Again

Find and circle the two pictures of Ananias that are the same.



Coin Code | Use the code to discover the words missing from the Christ connection.



Ananias and Sapphira wanted to look _____, but they were



_____ . The Holy Spirit changes our hearts to want to _____



with those in need because Jesus _____



gave all He had so _____

we can share in His _____



and have _____



and eternal _____



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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What blessings do we look forward to as followers of Jesus?
- Have you ever faced suffering or persecution because of your faith? How did you react or how would you react?
- Do you ever feel afraid or embarrassed to talk about Jesus? Why or why not?

Stephen's Sermon

Acts 6-7

STORY POINT: STEPHEN PREACHED ABOUT JESUS NO MATTER WHAT.

Stephen was one of Jesus' followers. One day, some Jews began to argue with Stephen. The Holy Spirit helped Stephen speak with wisdom. The Jews lied about Stephen; they said he had spoken against God. The people dragged Stephen to the Jewish court and told more lies.

Stephen began to preach about Jesus. He reminded the court about Abraham. God had made promises to Abraham and his son Isaac. He reminded them about Joseph and Moses. God was working out a plan. God worked through Joshua and David and Solomon.

Stephen told them these stories to explain that Jesus was the Messiah God had promised! But just like their ancestors rejected and killed the prophets in the Old Testament, these Jewish leaders had rejected Jesus and murdered Him!

Stephen's words made the Jewish leaders so angry! Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked up to heaven and saw Jesus standing there at the right hand of God.

The Jewish leaders rushed at Stephen. They threw him out of the city and began throwing stones at him. Stephen called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then he said, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" After this, Stephen died.

Christ Connection: Stephen was killed because he was a Christian. Jesus told His followers that they would be persecuted—hated, hurt, or even killed—for loving Him. Jesus also said that those who suffer for Him would be blessed. We can face suffering in this life because Jesus suffered first. He died and then rose again, and He is waiting for us in heaven.



FOLD

Found favor with God and wanted to build a temple (Acts 7:46)

Called by God to lead God's people out of Egypt (Acts 7:35-36)

Called by God to leave his home and go to the promised land (Acts 7:2-3)

Sold into slavery in Egypt but became a great ruler (Acts 7:9-10)

Built a temple for the Lord (Acts 7:47)

Sent his sons to Egypt to find food during a famine (Acts 7:11-12)



Abraham



Jacob



David



Joseph



Moses



Solomon

Historical Figures

Match each person with the correct description.

Stephen Quiz

Circle the correct answer for each statement or question.

Stephen was one of _____ men chosen to serve in the church. (Acts 6:3)

7	10
12	40

The Holy Spirit helped Stephen speak with _____. (Acts 6:10)

anger	wisdom
gentleness	lies

What is *blasphemy*? (Acts 6:11)

keeping silent in court	preaching about Jesus
studying the Bible	speaking against God

Stephen's face looked like the face of an _____. (Acts 6:15)

donkey	angel
demon	judge

Stephen accused the Jewish leaders of _____ Jesus. (Acts 7:52)

worshiping	murdering
obeying	loving

Whom did Stephen see standing at the right hand of God? (Acts 7:56)

Joseph	Moses
the Son of Man	John the Baptist

What did Stephen ask God to do to his enemies? (Acts 7:60)

forgive them	kill them
punish them	ignore them

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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Are you ashamed or embarrassed to tell others about Jesus? Why or why not?
- If we are saved, is it OK to keep sinning? Why? (See Romans 6:1-2.)
- How is Jesus better than Adam?

The Good News

Romans 5-6

STORY POINT: GOD SENT JESUS INTO THE WORLD TO RESCUE SINNERS.

Jesus' followers in the early church wanted everyone to hear the good news about Jesus. God had kept His promise to send a Savior. He sent His own Son, Jesus, to earth to rescue sinners. Jesus lived the perfect life we cannot live and died the death we deserve to die. On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead!

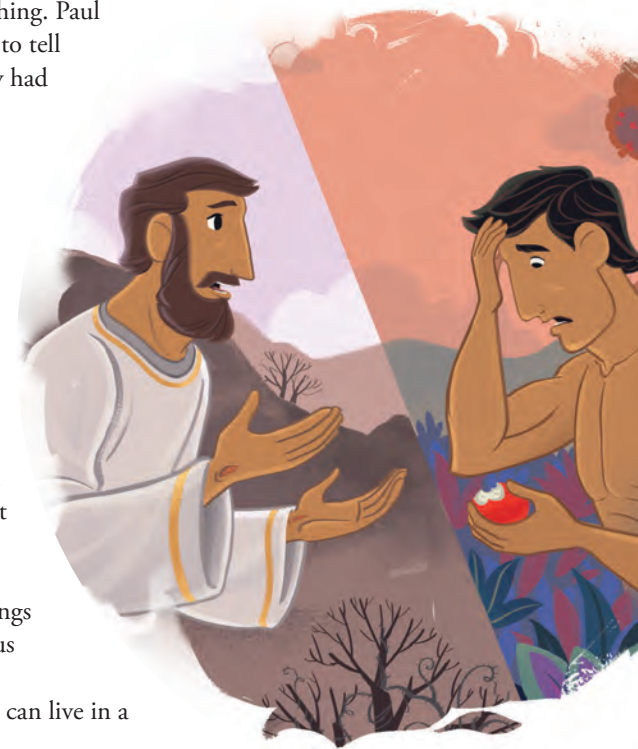
This good news changes everything. Paul wrote a letter to believers in Rome to tell them that Jesus was the Savior they had been waiting for.

Everyone sins and needs to be rescued. God saves people who believe the good news about Jesus. Because of their faith, God forgives their sins and gives them eternal life.

Paul wrote that God showed His love for us by sending His Son to die for us. Jesus died and rose again to make us right with God. Jesus is God's good gift to us.

Paul reminded the people about the first man, Adam. When Adam sinned, death came into the world. Adam brought death, but Jesus brings life. Adam disobeyed God, but Jesus obeyed Him perfectly.

Jesus sets us free from sin so we can live in a new way that honors Him.



Christ Connection: Because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. The good news of the gospel is that God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved.

What Is the Gospel?

Cross out the words that fit the descriptions. Then write out the remaining words in order to answer the question.

Cross out words that ...

- ... have more than 7 letters.
- ... are books of the Bible.
- ... are numbers.
- ... end with the letters *-ing*
- ... are the names of countries

The China two gospel reading ten
is India the baseball good Joel
news eight Ezra that colorful God
Numbers four sent Joshua His
academic Son, Bangladesh Jesus,
singing into calendar the nine
world writing to Canada telling
rescue Brazil wonderful sinners

What is the gospel?

Death in Adam, Life in Christ

Draw arrows to show if each statement from Romans 5:12-21 applies to Adam or to Jesus.



Sin came into the world through this man.

He was like the One who was coming.

Death ruled all people because of his sin.

He sinned and was judged guilty.

He is a gift of grace from God.

People have true life through this man.

His obedience makes people right with God.

We have life forever through Him.



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FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Why are good works important to show our faith?
- What does it mean if a person says he or she has faith but does not obey God?
- Can good works save you? Why or why not?

Doers of the Word

James 1-2

STORY POINT: JAMES SAID THAT FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS USELESS.

James wrote a letter to the Jewish believers. He told them the way believers should live. James explained that talking about God and the church is not enough. We have to do what God says. James wrote, "Be doers of the word. If you hear the word but don't do it, you fool yourselves." God's Word shows us the truth about ourselves. Anyone who hears and does the Word will be blessed.

James explained that people who really love God will show care to people too. God is honored when believers show their faith with actions. One way to do this is by helping orphans and widows.

We show love in what we say and do. James also wrote, "What good is it if someone says he has faith but does not do what is good and right? If someone is cold and hungry and you say to him, 'Go in peace, stay warm, and be well fed,' but you don't give him clothes or food, what good is it?" James said that in the same way, faith without works is useless.

Anyone can say that he has faith, but true faith is proven by good works. Abraham showed his faith when he obeyed God and got ready to sacrifice his son Isaac. Rahab showed her faith by risking her life to hide the spies in Jericho. God does not accept people because they do what is good and right; He accepts people who have true faith in Jesus.

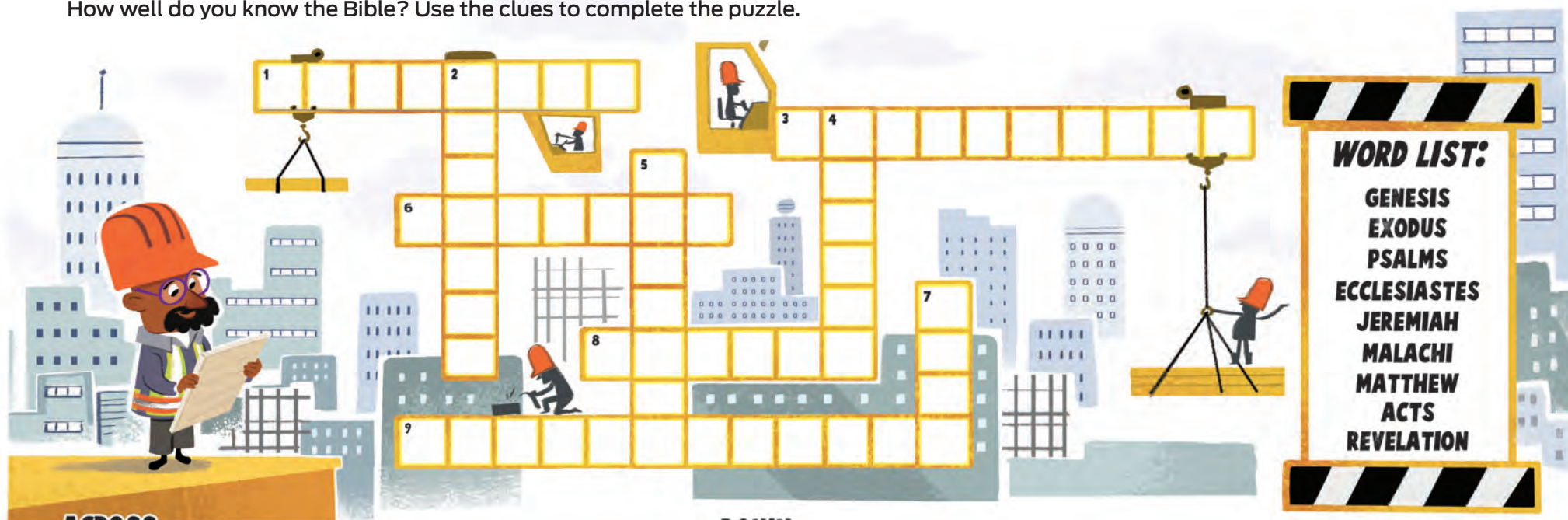
Christ Connection: Jesus said, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word" (John 14:23). James reminded believers to be doers of the word. Jesus rescues us from sin and frees us to live a life that honors God. By doing what is good and right, people who trust Jesus can show that they really believe in Him.



FOLD

God's Word Crossword

How well do you know the Bible? Use the clues to complete the puzzle.



WORD LIST:

GENESIS
EXODUS
PSALMS
ECCLESIASTES
JEREMIAH
MALACHI
MATTHEW
ACTS
REVELATION

ACROSS

1. second book of the Major Prophets
3. last book of the New Testament
6. first book of the New Testament
8. longest book in the Bible
9. book written by King Solomon about purpose in life

DOWN

2. last book of the Old Testament
4. book that tells of the Israelites' escape from Egypt
5. first book of the Bible
7. book written by Luke about the Holy Spirit and early church

Picture Puzzles

Solve the puzzles to figure out the missing words.

JESUS SAID, "IF ANYONE LOVES ME, HE WILL

_____.
(JOHN 14:23)

1



- N
+ P

2



AP = Y

3



- L