

SIMPLE *stories*

32 simple stories

THAT TELL THE STORY OF THE BIBLE

from the beginning to the new beginning.

T O M C A S T O R

CONTENTS

Introduction . 5

STORIES

Creation . 7

Conflict . 8

Broken . 9

Rain . 11

Promise . 12

Chosen . 13

The Prophet . 14

Born . 15

Turn . 17

The Well . 18

Walk . 20

Forgiven . 21

Soil . 22

Storm . 23

Freedom . 24

Shepherd . 25

Alive . 26

The One . 27

Blind . 28

Welcome . 29

Goodbye . 30

Condemned . 31

Finished . 32

Surprise . 34

Go . 35

Spirit . 36

Rise . 38

The Cost . 39

Africa . 40

The Road . 41

Chains . 43

New . 45

A LEADER'S GUIDE . 47

How to Use the Stories with One Person . 48

How to Use the Stories with a Story Group . 50

How to Use the Stories to Teach English . 52

Thanks . 57

INTRODUCTION

Of all of the stories ever told, the story that the Bible tells is the most important one of all. The story begins long before there was anything else. It tells how God made everything. It tells how he made the first man and woman. It tells how that first man and woman chose not to listen to God and the world became a broken place. Then, it tells of all that God did to fix that broken world and the broken people in it. That story ends with a new beginning—a new heaven and a new earth.

This book tells some of that story. The stories start at the beginning. They end with God's new beginning. They do not tell the whole story. But they do tell some of the most important parts of it.

We wrote these stories with two kinds of people in mind. We wrote them for people who are new to the English language. And we wrote the stories for people who are new readers of the Bible. That is why we used simple language. In fact, we use a word list of 1200 of the most common English words to tell all of the stories.

None of the stories are long. But all of the stories are very important. Why are they so important? They are important because they are not only stories about God. They are stories about all of us as well. It was not just the world long ago that was broken. Our world is broken too. It was not just the first man and the first woman that needed to have their broken lives put back together. We need our broken lives made whole again as well.

We hope that you will enjoy the stories. We also hope that God will help you understand the stories. And we hope that, in these stories, you will meet the only one who can fix broken worlds and broken people. He is the Son of God and his name is Jesus.



CREATION

STORY ONE

In the beginning was God. And God created everything. He spoke. And when he did, he made the whole world and everything in it. God said, **'Let there be light.'**

And there was light. Then God made the skies, and the land and the water. And he made all the trees and plants that cover the earth. He made the Sun, and the moon and the stars. And he filled the waters in the seas with fish. He filled the sky with birds. And he made all the animals that walk on the earth. And he saw all this and saw that it was good.

And then, God took some of the soil that he had made and he formed a man. And he breathed into the man, and he became a living being.

God took this man and put him in a garden that God had made for him. And God put two trees in the middle of the garden. The fruit from one tree gave life. The other tree gave the knowledge of good and evil. And God told the man, **'You can eat fruit from any tree in this garden. But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For if you eat from that tree, you will die.'**

Now the man was alone. So God said, **'It is not good for man to be alone. So I will make a companion for him.'**

Then God put the man to sleep and he took a bone from his side. And from it, God made a woman.

And God put them both in the garden that he made for them. And he blessed them and he told them to have many children and to fill the earth with people. And he told them to rule over His creation.

The man was named Adam. The woman was named Eve. And they were both naked and felt no shame. God saw all this and saw that it was good.

So God made everything in six days. And on the seventh, day, God rested from his work.



CONFLICT

STORY TWO

In the beginning, God made everything. He made the things that we can see and things that we cannot see. He made spirits called angels. When he made the earth, they were there shouting with joy! God made the angels to serve him and to honour him.

But some of the angels rose up against God. And they became known as evil spirits. Their leader is Satan. He and his evil spirits are still working in the earth today. They work against God and God's plans.

But God is still in control. He is stronger than all of the spirits that he created.

One day, God will judge Satan and his evil spirits. Then he will throw them all into a fire that never goes out.



BROKEN

STORY THREE

Now the snake was more clever than any other animal that God had made. One day, the snake went into the garden. And Satan spoke through the snake and said to Eve. ***'Did God really say you must not eat any of the fruit in the garden?'***

Eve said, ***'We can eat of all of the fruit. But we can not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. God said we must not eat it or even touch it or we will die.'***

The snake said, ***'You will not die. God knows when you eat this fruit you will be just like him. You will know everything both good and evil.'***

Eve looked at the fruit. She saw that it was good to eat. She saw that it could make her wise. So she took some and ate it. And then she gave some to Adam and he also ate it. At that moment, something inside of them changed. They saw that they were naked and they felt shame. So they took some leaves and put them together to make clothes.

In the evening, Adam and Eve heard God walking about in the garden. When they heard him, they hid themselves among the trees.

And God said, ***'Adam where are you?'***

Adam said, ***'I heard you so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.'***

God said, ***'Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the fruit that I told you not to eat?'***

Adam said, ***'The woman you gave me brought me fruit and I ate it.'***

Then God asked Eve, 'What have you done?'

And she said, ***'The snake persuaded me and I ate some of the fruit.'***

And God spoke to the snake. He said, ***'Because you have done this, you are cursed. You will crawl in the dust as long as you live. You and your children and the woman and her children will always be enemies. And one day you will bite her child's foot, but he will step on your head.'***

And God said to the woman, ***'You are going to have great pain when you give birth to a child. And you will want to rule your husband, but he will rule over you.'***

And God said to Adam, ***'Because of what you have done, the ground is cursed. It will grow weeds. And you will have to work hard and struggle to be able to grow your own food.'***

Then God made clothes for Adam and Eve from the skins of animals. And he put them out of the garden that she had made for them. So the man and the woman left the garden and they could never return.



RAIN

STORY FOUR

Adam and Eve had many children. Their children had children and grandchildren. Soon the earth was filled with people. But, just like Adam and Eve, these people did not listen to God.

God saw that the people on the earth were always doing bad things. And God was sad that he had made people on the earth. So God said, ***'I will take away all the people that I have made from the earth. I will destroy every living thing that breathes.'***

But there was one man who pleased God. His name was Noah.

So God came to Noah and spoke with him. God told Noah that he was going to destroy the world with a flood. He told him to build a huge boat. He told him how to make it. And he told him to gather two of every kind of animal that God had made. He was to bring them into the boat as well. And God made a promise to Noah. He told him that he would keep Noah and his family safe in the boat.

So Noah did everything that God told him to do. He built the boat. He gathered the animals. He brought food for his family and the animals too.

When he finished his work, God told Noah to get into the boat. So Noah took his wife and his family and all of the animals and got into the boat. When he did, God closed the door behind them.

Then it began to rain. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. The whole earth was covered with water. The water was as high as the tallest mountains. So God destroyed every person and animal that walked on the earth. Only those in the boat were safe.

Noah and his family were on the boat for many months. But God did not forget Noah. Soon, the waters began to go down. One day, God told Noah to take his family and the animals and to get off the boat. After they left the boat, Noah built an altar to worship God. And God was pleased with Noah.

Then God told Noah and his family to have many children. He told them to fill the earth with people again.

And he made another promise to Noah. God said that he would never again destroy the earth with a flood. So God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his promise. After that, whenever Noah saw a rainbow, he remembered the promise that God had made.



PROMISE

STORY FIVE

After the flood, Noah's family grew. His children had children. And their children had children. Many years passed and the world was filled with people again.

In those days, there was a man named Abraham. He and his wife Sarah did not have any children.

When Abraham was about 75 years old, God came to him and spoke to him. He said, **'Leave this land and go to the land that I will show you. I will give you many children. I will make you into a great nation. I will make your name famous. I will bless all of the nations through you.'** So Abraham did what God told him to do.

When Abraham came to the land, God spoke to him again. He said, **'I am going to give this land to your children.'** And Abraham began to worship God.

For many years, God blessed Abraham. He became very wealthy. He had many of animals. He had many of servants. But Abraham still did not have a son.

One day, God spoke to Abraham again. This time he said, **'I will protect you and reward you.'**

But Abraham said, **'God, what good is that if I do not have a son? One of my servants will receive all that I own.'**

So God said, **'Abraham, you will have a son.'** Then God took him outside and said, **'See the stars? Count them if you can. That's how big your family will become.'**

Abraham believed God. And God was pleased with him because he believed. So God accepted him as one who has done what is right.

One day, Abraham had put his tents near a huge tree. While he was there, God came to him and said, **'About this time next year Sarah will have a son.'**

Sarah was 90 years old. Abraham was 100 years old. And God did keep his promise. God gave Sarah a son, just when he said he would. When Sarah saw her son, she was very happy.

And she said, **'God has made me laugh. And everyone who hears our story will laugh with me.'**



CHOSEN

STORY SIX

God did keep his promise to Abraham. And Abraham's family grew very large. They became a great nation. They were known as the children of Abraham - the Jews.

Many years passed. And God began to speak to his people through men known as prophets. One of those prophets was named Samuel.

One day, God spoke to Samuel and said, **'Go to the town of Bethlehem. There you will find a man named Jesse. I have chosen one of his sons to be the next king.'**

So Samuel went to Bethlehem. He found Jesse there. And Jesse brought in his sons. When Samuel saw the oldest son, he thought, **'This must be the one that God has chosen!'**

But God said, **'Do not be impressed by his height or his good looks. People look at the outside, but I look at the heart. I have not chosen him.'**

Jesse had brought in seven of his sons. But God did not choose any of them. So Samuel asked Jesse, **'Do you have any more sons?'**

And Jesse said, **'Yes, my youngest, David. He is out in the fields taking care of the sheep.'** And so they sent for him.

When David came in, God told Samuel, **'This is the one I am choosing.'** So Samuel went to David and poured oil on him. He did this to show that David was God's choice. And from that day on, God's Spirit was with David. God even called him **'a man after my own heart'**.

After God made David king, God sent a different prophet with a message for him. And God said, **'I chose you when you were out in the fields watching the sheep. I have been with you. I have protected you from your enemies. And I will make your name great.'** He also promised, **'I will make sure that one of your sons will always be king. Your kingdom will last for ever.'**

When David heard this, he praised God. He said, **'God, your words are true. Make this all happen so that the whole world will know that you are God.'**

THE PROPHET

STORY SEVEN

When he was an old man, King David died. Through the years that followed, God kept speaking to his people through the prophets.

One of those prophets was named Isaiah.

Just like the other prophets, Isaiah spoke for God. He told the people not to forget God. He warned them that God would punish them if they turned away from him. But Isaiah also gave the people a message of hope.

He told them about a special person. That person would come some time in the future. He called this person the **'servant of God'**. A young virgin would be his mother. People would call him Immanuel. Immanuel means **'God is with us'**.

The Spirit of God would be with him. He would rule the kingdom of his ancestor David. And that kingdom would never come to an end.

But, Isaiah said, not everyone would welcome this servant. Many people would hate him. They would beat him. And he would do nothing to stop them.

He would always do what is right. But people would kill him. And God would not stop them. God would let this servant die in the place of guilty people. God's servant would suffer so that guilty people could be made right with God.

He would save his people from their sins.

For a long time after Isaiah spoke, the people had many troubles. A strong enemy came to fight them. Their army took the people away from their land. They took them to places that were far away from home. But the people did not forget the words of the prophets.

And so, they waited for the saviour that God had promised.



BORN STORY EIGHT

Many years passed. It had been more than 400 years since the last prophet spoke. And the people still waited for the Promised Saviour.

In those days, a strong army from Rome ruled the people of Abraham.

Now there was a couple named Mary and Joseph. And they had promised to marry one another. They both had come from the family line of David.

One day, an angel appeared to Mary. The angel spoke and said, ***'Greetings! The Lord is with you. He has blessed you in a special way. You are going to have a son. You will name him Jesus. He will be great. And God will make him king like his ancestor David. He will rule over the people for ever. His kingdom will never end.'***

Mary was confused. She said, ***'How can this happen? I am a virgin. I have never been with a man.'***

And the angel said, ***'Nothing is impossible with God. The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will make it so. The child will be holy. He will be called the Son of God.'***

And Mary said, ***'I am God's servant. Let this happen just as you have said.'*** And the angel went away.

Soon, Mary knew she was going to have a baby.

Now Joseph was a good man. When he learned that Mary was going to have a child, he wanted to leave Mary. But he did not want many people to know about it.

But, one night, an angel came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, ***'Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The child that is in her is there by the power of God's Spirit. You are going to name him Jesus. He will save his people from their sins.'***

So, when Joseph woke up, he did what the angel said. He took Mary as his wife. But he chose not to sleep with her until after the baby was born.

When it was almost time for the baby to be born, the king from Rome made a law. Every person had to return to his home town to be counted. Joseph's family was from the town of Bethlehem. And so Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem. While they were there, the baby

was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Now all of this happened to keep the promise that God made through Isaiah. 'The virgin will give birth to a son. They will call him Immanuel - **'God with us.'**



TURN STORY NINE

After he was born in Bethlehem, Jesus grew to become a young man. When Jesus was about 30 years old, God sent a prophet to his people. His name was John. God sent him to prepare the way for Jesus. He lived in a place away from the towns. He stood near a large river and spoke to the people. And many people came to listen to what he had to say. ***‘God’s kingdom is near,’*** he said. ***‘Turn away from your sins and turn back to God!’***

And then the people asked John, ***‘What should we do?’***

So John said, ***‘If you have two coats, give one to someone who does not have a coat. And if you have extra food give it to someone who is hungry.’***

And the men who collected taxes asked him, ***‘Well, what should we do?’***

And John said, ***‘Do not collect more taxes than you should. Do not keep the extra money for yourselves.’***

And then some soldiers asked, ***‘What should we do?’***

So John said, ***‘Do not make people give you money. Do not accuse people of things they did not do. Be happy with what you are paid.’***

When people understood his message, John baptized them. He would put them down into the water. Then he would bring them back out again. This was a sign that they believed that what he said was true. That is why the people called him John the Baptist.

And then some people asked John, ***‘Are you the Promised Saviour?’*** But John said, ***‘No, I am not the one. He is much greater than I am. I baptize you with water. But he will baptize you with God’s Spirit.’***

One day, Jesus went to the river where John was speaking. He asked John to baptize him.

So John baptized Jesus. And, when Jesus came up out of the water, he prayed. Just then, the sky opened up. And God’s Spirit came down on him in the form of a small bird.

And a voice from heaven said, ***‘You are my son, the one I love. I am very pleased with you.’***



THE WELL

STORY TEN

Jesus left the river and travelled from place to place. He chose 12 men to follow him. They were called his **'disciples'**. They were his closest students. And they went with Jesus to the towns and villages. Jesus taught the people in those places about God's kingdom.

One day, they went through the land of the Samaritans. Now the Jews did not like the Samaritans. Long ago, some of the Jews had chosen wives who were not Jews. The Samaritans were from those families. They were a mixed people. The Jews were not pleased with this.

As they were coming up to a town, Jesus was tired. So he sat down by a well and rested. His disciples went into town to buy food.

As Jesus was sitting there, a woman came out to get some water. Jesus asked her for a drink.

She said, **'How can you ask me for a drink? I am a Samaritan woman. You are a Jew. Your people do not have anything to do with my people.'**

Jesus said, **'If you knew who I was, then you would ask me for a drink. And I would give you living water.'**

The woman replied, **'Where are you going to get this water? You do not even have a bucket!'**

And Jesus said, **'The person who drinks from this well will need water again. But the person who drinks the water that I give will never need water again. The water that I give will bring life that lasts for ever.'**

So the woman asked for some of this water. And Jesus said, **'Go get your husband.'**

But the woman said, **'I do not have a husband.'**

Jesus said, **'You are right. In fact, you have had five husbands. And the man you are living with now - he is not your husband either.'**

The woman said, **'Sir, you must be a prophet. I know that when the Promised Saviour comes, he is going to explain many things to us.'**

And Jesus said, **'He is talking to you now. I am him.'**

So the woman ran back into town. She began to tell people. **'Come and see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he be the Promised Saviour?'**

So the people from the town went out to see Jesus. They asked Jesus to stay with them. So he stayed with them for two days. And many of the Samaritans believed in Jesus.



WALK STORY ELEVEN

Jesus kept going from town to town. He did many miracles. And he healed people who were sick. The news about him spread to many places.

One day, Jesus was teaching in a house that was full of people. Some leaders of the Jews were there as well. As he was teaching, some men tried to get into the house. They had a man with them who could not walk. They were carrying him on a mat. But they could not get in because the house was too crowded.

So they took the man to the roof. They made an opening and lowered him down on his mat. They put him right in front of Jesus.

Jesus saw that these men had faith. So he said to the man on the mat, **'Friend, your sins are forgiven.'**

As soon as he said that, some of the leaders of the Jews started to think, **'Who does he think he is? Only God can forgive sin. What he is saying is an insult to God!'**

But Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he said, **'What is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up and walk'? What I am about to do will show you that I have the authority to forgive sins.'** Then Jesus told the man on the mat, **'Get up and walk.'**

Immediately, the man got up. He rolled up his mat. Then he walked out through the middle of the crowd. And the man praised God. Then the people began praising God too. And everyone there was filled with wonder.



FORGIVEN

STORY TWELVE

In those days, everyone was talking about Jesus. One night, he went to eat at a man's home. This man was one of the leaders of the Jews.

While he was there, a woman came in. She fell down next to Jesus. And she started to cry. Her tears fell on his feet. Then she wiped the tears off his feet with her hair. She started to kiss his feet. Then she took a jar of very expensive oil. It smelled very good. And she poured it all over his feet.

When they saw this, the leaders of the Jews started thinking. They thought, ***'Jesus can not be a prophet. If he were, he would know what kind of wicked woman was touching him.'***

But Jesus said, ***'I have a story for you. There were two men who owed another man money. One of them owed him 50 silver coins. The other man owed 500 silver coins. But neither of them could pay the man back. And so he forgave both of them their debts. Which man do you think loved him more?'***

And the leader said, ***'I suppose the one who owed him more.'***

Jesus said, ***'You are right. When I came in, you did not give me water to wash my feet. She washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You did not greet me with a kiss on the cheek. But she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not welcome me and put oil on my head. But she has poured expensive oil all over my feet. Her great love for me shows that her many sins have been forgiven. But whoever is forgiven a little, shows only a little love.'***

Then Jesus looked at the woman. He said to her, ***'Your sins have been forgiven.'*** And the people all began to say to themselves, ***'How can he forgive sins?'***

Then Jesus said to the woman, ***'Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.'***



SOIL

STORY THIRTEEN

Crowds of people kept coming to Jesus. And, one day, he told them a story.

He said, ***‘There was a farmer who went to plant his seeds. He scattered them all over the field. And the seeds fell in different places.***

Some of the seeds fell on a hard path. People walked on them. Birds came and ate them.

Other seeds fell on rocks. They grew into plants. But they did not have deep roots. So they dried up.

And some of the seeds fell among the bushes. They started to grow. But the bushes crowded out the plants. And the plants did not bear grain.

But some of the seeds fell on good soil. Those seeds grew into a crop that was a 100 times more than the farmer planted.’

Later, his disciples came to him. And they asked him, ***‘Jesus, what did this story mean?’***

And Jesus said, ***‘The seeds in the story are like God’s word. The seed that was eaten by birds is like when people hear God’s word. But, before they can believe it, Satan comes. He steals it out of their hearts so they can not believe it.***

The seed that fell on the rocks is like when people receive God’s word with joy. But they do not have any roots. When a hard time of trouble comes, they fall away.

The seed that fell among the bushes is like the people who hear God’s word. But they worry about riches and the pleasures of life. This stops them from growing. So they never produce a crop.

But the seed that fell on good soil is like people who hear God’s word. They hold on to it. And it produces in them a huge harvest.’



STORM

STORY FOURTEEN

One day, Jesus and his disciples got into a boat. They were going to the other side of the lake. While they were going across, Jesus went to the back of the boat. He lay down and fell asleep.

Not long after that, a huge storm came. There was a lot of wind and waves. The waves came over the side of the boat. The water began to fill the boat. And the boat started to sink.

His disciples went back to where Jesus was sleeping. They said, ***‘Master, wake up! Save us! We are going to drown!’***

Jesus stood up. Then he spoke to the wind and the waves. ***‘Be quiet,’*** he said. And, immediately, the wind and the waves became calm. Then Jesus looked at his disciples and said, ***‘Why were you afraid? Do you not have even a little faith?’***

And his disciples looked at each other. They were surprised and in wonder. And they said, ***‘What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him.’***



FREEDOM

STORY FIFTEEN

One day, Jesus and his disciples went across the lake in a boat. In the place where they stopped, there was a man. Evil spirits were living in him. He lived near the place where they buried dead people. He ran about day and night crying out and shouting. He did not wear any clothes. And he would cut himself with sharp stones.

The people in that town would often catch him. They would tie him with chains. But he would always break the chains and get away. No one was strong enough to hold him.

When Jesus got out of the boat, this man ran down to him. He fell on his hands and knees in front of Jesus. And Jesus commanded the evil spirits to come out of him. But with a scream, the evil spirits said, **'Jesus, son of the most high God, please do not trouble me.'**

And Jesus asked him, **'What is your name?'** So the evil spirits said, **'We are an army.'** They said this because many evil spirits lived in him. And they asked Jesus, **'Do not send us to some far away place!'**

Now, there was a big group of pigs feeding near them. So the evil spirits said to Jesus, **'Send us into those pigs.'** So Jesus allowed them to do this. Then, the evil spirits left the man and went into the pigs. And the pigs went crazy. They ran down the hill and into the lake. And they all drowned.

Now, some men were taking care of the pigs. When they saw this, they ran back to town. And they told everyone along the way what had happened. Soon, a large crowd of people came out to the shore of the lake to see this. And they found the man who had been filled with evil spirits. He was wearing clothes. He was quiet. And he was sitting at the feet of Jesus.

This made the people afraid. So they asked Jesus to leave their region.

So, Jesus turned to get into the boat to leave. But the man came to him and asked, **'Can I come with you?'**

But Jesus said, **'No. Go back to your home and to your family. Tell them about this great thing that God has done for you.'** And that is what the man did. But he did not only go to his home. He went through the entire region. He told everyone what Jesus had done for him. And everyone that heard his story was astonished.



SHEPHERD

STORY SIXTEEN

Jesus continued to teach the people. Some people believed what he said. But other people did not. One day, Jesus said that he was like a shepherd. A shepherd is a person who takes care of sheep.

He said, ***'I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep. And they know me. The Father loves me. That is because I will give my life for my sheep. No one can take my life from me. I give it freely.'***

Now, the time came for a holy day in Jerusalem. Jesus and his disciples were there. He walked into the place of worship. And many people came to him. They asked, ***'How long are you going to make us guess? If you are the Promised Saviour, tell us clearly.'***

Jesus replied, ***'I have already told you, and you do not believe me. You do not believe me because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to me. They hear my voice. I know them. And they follow me.'***

'I give them life that lasts for ever. They will never die. No one can take them away from me. My father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can take them from the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

The people picked up stones to kill him. But Jesus said, ***'Why are you going to throw stones at me?'*** And the people said, ***'You show that you do not respect God. You make yourself to be God, but you are only a man.'***

Jesus answered, ***'Why do you say I do not respect God? I do my Father's work. If I am not doing the works of my Father, do not believe me. But if I do them, believe me because of the works that I do.'***

Once again, they tried to arrest Jesus. But he escaped from them and left the city.



ALIVE

STORY SEVENTEEN

After Jesus healed the man with the evil spirits, he got back into the boat. He and his disciples went back across the lake. And, when they got to a town, a crowd was there waiting for Jesus. In this crowd, there was a leader of the Jews named Jairus. He came to Jesus and said, **'My daughter is dying. Please come and heal her?'** Jairus' daughter was only 12-years-old.

So Jesus and his disciples started to go with Jairus to his house. The crowd followed them. In the crowd, there was a woman. She had a disease that made her bleed. She had been sick for 12 years. She thought, **'if only I could just touch the edge of his clothes, I would be healed.'** And so, as Jesus walked by, she reached out and touched his clothes. And, right away, she was completely healed.

Then Jesus stopped. He turned and asked, **'Who touched me?'**

And one of his disciples said, **'How can you ask who touched you? We are in a crowd. Everyone is touching you.'**

But Jesus said, **'I felt power go out of me. I know someone touched me.'**

Then the woman came out of the crowd. Shaking with fear, she said, **'I touched you. I have been bleeding for 12 years. I have spent everything I had on doctors, but they could not make me better. I only got worse. But, when I touched your clothes, I was completely healed.'**

And then Jesus said, **'Go in peace, your faith has healed you.'**

While Jesus was speaking to the woman, some men came up to Jairus. They had a message for him. They said, **'Do not bother the teacher any more. Your daughter is already dead.'**

But Jesus said to Jairus, **'Do not be afraid. Believe and she will be healed.'**

So they continued on to the house. When they arrived, people were already there weeping for the little girl. And Jesus said to them, **'Do not cry. She is not dead. She is only asleep.'** But they laughed at him because they knew she was dead.

Then Jesus went into the house. He took three of his disciples and the girl's parents with him. Then he took the girl by her hand and said, **'Little girl, get up.'** And the little girl stood up and began to walk about.

Then Jesus told her parents. **'Give her some food to eat.'**

And they were amazed at what Jesus had done.



THE ONE

STORY EIGHTEEN

Some time later, Jesus was praying. His disciples were close by. So he came to them and asked, ***'Who do people say that I am?'***

They replied, ***'Some say that you are John the Baptist. Other people say that you are Elijah. And some think that you are one of the other prophets who has come back to life.'***

Then Jesus said to them, ***'But who do you say that I am?'***

And Peter replied, ***'You are God's Promised Saviour.'***

Then Jesus told them not to tell anyone. And he said, ***'I am going to suffer. The priests and teachers of the law will refuse to accept me. I will be killed, and, on the third day, I will come back to life.'***

And then he told all of them, ***'If you want to be my disciples, give up the things that you want. Be willing to give up your life every day to follow me. Do not be ashamed of me and my words. If you are, I will be ashamed of you when I come back in my glory, and the glory of my Father and the angels.'***



BLIND

STORY NINETEEN

Jesus came near one of the towns. There was a blind man sitting next to the road. He was asking people for money.

He heard many people coming down the road. So he asked, **'What is happening?'**

They told him, **'Jesus is coming here.'**

The blind began to shout in a loud voice. **'Jesus, Son of David,'** he said. **'Have pity on me!'**

The people who led the way told him to be quiet. But he shouted more and more, **'Son of David, have pity on me!'**

Jesus stopped. He told the people to bring the blind man to him. When he came close, Jesus asked him, **'What do you want me to do for you?'**

He said, **'Lord, I want to see.'**

So Jesus said to him, **'Then see. You are healed because you believed.'**

Immediately, the man was able to see. He followed Jesus, thanking God. And everyone who saw this praised God too.



WELCOME

STORY TWENTY

Now Jesus started to go to Jerusalem. He wanted to be part of a holy day there. So he took his disciples and they went.

When they came near the city, Jesus stopped. His disciples got a young donkey. And they put their coats on its back. Jesus got on the donkey and he began to ride down the road to Jerusalem.

Now, a lot of people were in town for this holy day. When they heard that Jesus was coming, they went out to meet him. And a large crowd stood near the road when Jesus rode into the city. They began to take off their coats and throw them into the road in front of Jesus to honour him. Some of them took branches and threw them on the road too. And they shouted, **'Blessed is the king that God has sent!'**

Some leaders of the Jews were in the crowd. They were not happy that people praised Jesus. So they said to Jesus, **'Tell these people to stop saying things like that.'**

But Jesus said, **'If they are quiet, the rocks will shout it out.'**

As he came close to Jerusalem, Jesus began to cry. Then he spoke to the city. **'Jerusalem,'** he said. **'If only you knew what brings peace! But now it is too late. Peace is hiding from you. Now, your enemies will come and destroy you.'**

When he got to Jerusalem, Jesus came to the Temple. He saw that the people were using part of the Temple as a market place. So Jesus became angry. He began to turn over the tables and chairs of the merchants. He shouted, **'The prophets said that my house is to be a place of prayer. But you have turned it into a place of thieves!'**

The leaders in the Temple hated Jesus for this. They wanted to kill him, but the people loved him.

So, every day that week, Jesus taught at the temple. And, while he spoke, the leaders tried to trap Jesus. They wanted him to say something wrong. Then they could arrest him. But they could not fool him. And Jesus warned his disciples, **'Watch out for these men. They love the praise of people, but they are stealing from widows. And God will punish them without mercy.'**

So the leaders of the Jews kept looking for a way to have Jesus killed.



GOODBYE

STORY TWENTY-ONE

Now, Judas was one of Jesus' disciples, but Satan had entered him. He knew that the leaders of the Jews wanted to arrest Jesus. So Judas went to them. He said that he would turn against Jesus. But he wanted them to give him money. So they agreed and paid him. And Judas began to look for a way to turn Jesus over to them.

Now the holy day had begun. This holy day included a meal with special food. Jesus wanted them all to eat this meal together. So Jesus and all of his disciples met in a room to eat.

As they sat to eat, Jesus got up from the table. He took a towel and some water. And he washed the disciples' feet one by one. After he was done, he sat down. He said, ***'Do you understand what I did? I am your Lord and master. I have set an example for you by washing your feet. You should also wash each other's feet. After all, no servant is greater than his master.'***

As they were eating, Jesus became very sad. He said, ***'One of you who is eating with me is going to turn against me.'*** When he said this, the disciples were confused and worried. They started to ask, ***'Is it me? It is not me, is it?'***

Then Jesus said to Judas, ***'Go. Do what you have to do, but do it quickly.'*** So Judas got up and went out.

After this, Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for it and he broke it into pieces. He gave it to the disciples and he said, ***'This is my body. It is broken for you.'*** And they all ate some. Then Jesus took a cup of wine. He thanked God for it. Then he gave it to them and said, ***'This is my blood. It is poured out to forgive your sins.'*** And they all drank some. And he said, ***'Do this to remember me.'***

Then Jesus said, ***'I have a new command for you. Love each other like I have loved you. If you love each other, then everyone will know that you truly follow me.'***

After that, they sang a song of praise to God.



CONDEMNED

STORY TWENTY-TWO

After Jesus and his disciples ate together, it was night. They all left the room and went outside of the city. Jesus went to a garden there to pray.

After Jesus had prayed for a while, a crowd came up. They carried swords and sticks. Judas was leading them. He came to Jesus and kissed him. He did this so that the crowd would know whom to arrest.

Then Jesus said to the crowd, ***‘Why have you come to arrest me at night carrying swords and sticks? Every day I was with you in the Temple. And you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour. This is when darkness rules.’***

So the crowd arrested him. They took him to the leaders of the Jews who had gathered. And the leaders said, ***‘Tell us now! Are you the Son of God?’***

Jesus said, ***‘You are right to say that I am.’***

So the leaders of the Jews decided that Jesus must die. But they could not kill him. They did not have the authority to do that.

So they brought Jesus to the leader that was appointed by Rome. He welcomed them. Then he asked Jesus many questions. When he finished, he told the Jews, ***‘This man is innocent. He has done nothing to deserve death.’***

But the leaders and the crowd with them insisted. They said, ***‘Kill him! Kill him!’***

Now the leader from Rome wanted to let Jesus go free. But the crowd kept shouting, ***‘Kill him! Kill him!’***

So he agreed to put Jesus to death.



FINISHED

STORY TWENTY-THREE

After the crowd shouted to kill Jesus, the leader from Rome gave him to the soldiers. The soldiers took Jesus and beat him with a whip. Then they made a crown of sharp branches and put it on his head. And they laughed at him. Then they led him away with two criminals. A large crowd followed. Some of the women in the crowd were crying.

Now, they got to the place where they were going to kill Jesus. And they brought the cross with them there. The cross had been formed with two wooden beams. And they laid him on it. They drove nails through his hands and his feet to hold him there. Then they lifted the cross so it would stand up. They did the same thing for the two criminals. They put one on the left of Jesus and one on the right.

And Jesus said, ***'Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing.'***

Many people in the crowd made fun of Jesus. They said things like, ***'You saved other people. Can you save yourself?'***

'If you are the son of God, come down from that cross. Then we will believe you.'

And one of the criminals also joined in. He said, ***'If you are the Promised Saviour, save yourself. And save us too!'***

But the other criminal said, ***'You are dying. Do you not fear God? We deserve to die. But this man has done nothing wrong.'*** Then he said to Jesus, ***'Remember me when you come into your kingdom.'***

And Jesus said to him, ***'Today, you will be with me in paradise.'***

Now from about noon until three, the whole sky was dark.

Then Jesus called out, ***'My God, my God, why have you turned away from me?'*** And he said, ***'Father, into your hands I give my spirit. It is finished.'*** And, after he said this, he died.

One of the soldiers saw all of this. And he said, ***'Clearly, this man was innocent.'***

Then the crowd began to leave. They seemed very sad. And the men that followed Jesus watched all of these things. But they did not stand close by.

After this, a man went to the leader from Rome. He asked him for Jesus' body. He was one of the leaders of the Jews. But he was a

good man. He did not agree with the other leaders about Jesus.

The leader from Rome said yes.

So the man took the body of Jesus. He wrapped it in cloth and put it in a cave to bury it. Then, he had some men roll a huge stone over the entrance to cover it. Some of the women who followed Jesus saw him do this. And, when he was finished, everyone went away.



SURPRISE

STORY TWENTY-FOUR

The third day after Jesus died was Sunday. And, very early on that morning, some women were going to the cave where Jesus was buried. These women had followed Jesus for a long time. They carried oils with them. They were going to put them on Jesus' body. This was their custom for people who had died. As they went along, they asked each other, **'Who is going to move the huge stone?'** But, when they got to the cave, they saw that someone had already moved the stone.

So they went in, and they saw that it was empty. But, just then, two angels appeared, and the women were very afraid. So they bowed down on the ground. And the angels said, **'Why are you looking in a cave for someone who is alive? Jesus is not here. He has risen from the dead! Do you remember what he told you before? How he would be killed, and then, on the third day, he would rise from the dead?'**

Then the women remembered. Now the people who followed Jesus had gathered in one place. So the women went back there. And they told them what they had seen. But the disciples did not believe them. So Peter got up and ran to the cave. When he got there, he saw that it was empty. The strips of cloth that Jesus had been buried in were the only things there. And he went away wondering what had happened.

Later that day, the disciples were talking among themselves. Some of them were saying that Jesus was alive. Some of them said that they had seen him. Just then, Jesus stood right there in front of them. They were shocked and afraid. They thought they were seeing a spirit.

And Jesus said, **'Why are you afraid? Look at my hands and my feet and see that it is really me. Touch me and see that I am not a spirit.'** But they were astonished. They still could not believe that it was him. And so Jesus asked, **'Do you have anything to eat?'** And they brought him some cooked fish. And he ate it right there in front of them.



GO

STORY TWENTY-FIVE

For the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to many of the men and women who had believed in him. One time, he appeared to 500 people. They all saw him at the same time. And Jesus told them many things.

On one of those days, he reminded them what the prophets, like Isaiah, had said about him. He told them, ***'Because I died and came back to life, you will be my witnesses. And you will take the message that God will forgive sins to the whole world. You will have power that will come from God's Spirit.'***

Another time, Jesus told them, ***'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and God's Spirit. Teach them to do all of the things that I have taught you. And I will always be with you.'***

Then Jesus led them out of the city. And, while he was blessing them, he went up into the sky. As they watched, he went into the clouds and they could not see him.

And they were all looking up, trying to see him. All at once, two angels appeared. The angels said, ***'Why are you staring at the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven. And, one day, he will return in the same way you saw him go.'***



SPIRIT

STORY TWENTY-SIX

After Jesus went up into heaven, his disciples went to Jerusalem. They met in a room there. They stayed there to pray. Jesus had promised to send God's Spirit to them. So they waited there for God's Spirit to come.

At the same time, there was a holy day in Jerusalem. Many Jews had come to the city. They had come from all over the world.

All at once, a sound like a strong wind blew through the house. And something that looked like small flames of fire spread out over each of the disciples. Immediately, they were all filled with God's Spirit. And they began to speak in other languages. Because of the noise, a large crowd gathered about them.

Now the people who gathered about them were from all over the world. They did not all speak the same language. But they all could understand what the disciples were saying. And they were surprised. So they asked, **'How can we be hearing them in our own languages?'**

But some of the other people made fun of them. They said, **'These people are drunk.'**

But Peter said, **'Listen everyone. We are not drunk. It is too early in the morning. What is happening is what God promised a long time ago. Back then, God said that he would pour out his Spirit on all people.'** And then Peter told them the good news about Jesus. He told them that Jesus was the Promised Saviour. He said, **'Jesus proved this by doing all kinds of miracles. And, when the leaders killed him with your help, God raised him back to life again. This was just what God had planned. We know this because we have seen him alive with our own eyes. All of this proves that Jesus is the Promised Saviour. And now Jesus sits at God's right side. And God has now given us his Spirit just as he promised. That is what you are seeing and hearing now.'**

When everyone heard this, they were deeply troubled. So they asked Peter, **'What should we do?'**

Peter said, **'Turn away from your sins and turn to God. Be baptized in the name of Jesus. You will be forgiven for your sins. And you will receive God's Spirit.'**

That day, 3,000 people believed in Jesus.

Then each of them was baptized. And they joined those people who were following Jesus. They began to call this group the church. They met together each day. They listened to the first disciples teach them. They praised God and prayed together. They ate together and they shared what they had with each other.

For a time, everyone thought well of them. And, each day, new people believed in Jesus. And God added them to the church.



RISE

STORY TWENTY - SEVEN

One day, Peter and John went to the Temple to pray. They were two of the first disciples that Jesus had chosen. Now, there was a man sitting by the Temple. He was not able to walk, so he would ask the people who came by for money.

As Peter and John came near him, this man asked them for money. Peter said to him, **'I do not have any money. But I will give you what I have.'** Then he said, **'In the name of Jesus, stand up and walk.'**

Then Peter reached out his hand. He took hold of the man and helped him get up. And, immediately, the man's ankles and feet became strong so that he could stand. He began walking. And he began jumping. And he began praising God.

So the three of them went into the Temple. And the people there saw the man who had not been able to walk. He was now walking and praising God. So they all rushed toward them. And the man was holding on to Peter and John.

Now Peter saw that he had an opportunity to speak to the whole crowd. So he said, **'Why are you looking at us like we healed this man? God is the one who healed him because of faith in Jesus. This is the same Jesus that you turned away from and had put to death. But God brought him back to life. And we are witnesses of this. But you did not know what you were doing. So now turn away from your sins. Turn to God so your sins will be taken away.'**

Peter and John kept talking to the people about Jesus. As they were talking, the leaders of the Temple came to them. When they heard what they were saying, they arrested Peter and John. They put them in prison for the night. The next day, they asked them many questions. After they warned them to stop talking about Jesus, they let them go.

But many people had heard what Peter and John had said. And many of them put their trust in Jesus. So now, more than 5000 people were a part of the church.



THE COST

STORY TWENTY-EIGHT

More and more people began to follow Jesus. Some of the widows among them were poor and did not have enough food. So the church helped them and gave them food. But some of the people among them spoke another language. They began to complain. They thought that their widows were not getting as much food as some of the other widows.

By now, the first disciples that Jesus chose were called the apostles. They called the church together and said, ***'We should not neglect teaching God's word to be in charge of getting food to people. Choose seven wise men who allow God's Spirit to lead them. Let them do this work.'***

Everyone thought that this was a good idea. So they chose a man named Stephen, a man named Philip, and five other men. Then the apostles prayed over them and put their hands on them. This was a sign that they had given them authority to do this work.

And the word of God was reaching more and more people. Even some of the priests in the Temple believed and followed Jesus. And the church grew and grew.

Now, Stephen was a man who was full of faith. God even used him to do many miracles. One day, a group of men came to Stephen and started to argue with him about Jesus. But God gave Stephen wisdom and he answered them well.

So the men went away. They convinced some other men to tell lies about Stephen. They said that Stephen was saying bad things about the law and about God. The leaders of the Jews believed the men who lied. So they became very angry. They dragged Stephen outside of the city. Then they started to throw rocks at him to kill him. As Stephen was dying, he prayed and said, ***'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And do not hold this sin against them.'*** These were his last words. Then he died.



AFRICA

STORY TWENTY-NINE

After Stephen died, the Jews worked against the church in Jerusalem. The apostles stayed in the city. But many of the other people who followed Jesus left. They went to other places to live. And, when they got to a new place, they told the people there about Jesus.

Philip went to the region where the Samaritans lived. And he told the people there about Jesus. God used Philip in that place. He healed people who were sick. He made evil spirits stop bothering people. He did many wonderful works. And the people in that place were happy because of what he did.

One day, an angel came to Philip and said, **‘Go to the road that goes south out of Jerusalem.’** So Philip went. When he got there, he saw a man from Africa. He was riding in a cart. This man was an important official in his country. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship God. Now he was on his way home.

God’s Spirit said to Philip, **‘Go to that cart.’** So Philip ran over. When he got close, he heard the man reading from the words of the prophet Isaiah.

So Philip called out to him. He asked, **‘Do you understand what you are reading?’**

And the man said, **‘How can I understand it? I have no one to explain it to me.’**

Then he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. So Philip did. And he began with Isaiah’s words. And he told the man about Jesus.

And, as they went along in the cart, the official said, **‘Look! Here is some water. What is stopping me from being baptized?’** And so they stopped. They went down into the water. Then Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water, God’s Spirit took Philip away. The man from Africa never saw him again. So he went on his way. And he was very happy.

But Philip found himself in another town. So he told the people there about Jesus. Then he went from one town to another. And he talked about Jesus in those places too.



THE ROAD

STORY THIRTY

One of the leaders of the Jews in those days was named Paul. He went from house to house looking for people who followed Jesus. He would put them in chains and take them to prison. He even had some of them killed.

One day, Paul went to the high priest. He asked the high priest to give him letters. He would then give these letters to the officials in other towns. These letters would allow Paul to arrest people who followed Jesus in those towns. Then he could bring them back to Jerusalem to punish them.

So Paul left Jerusalem and he took the letters with him. As he was on the road to the city of Damascus, a bright light from heaven flashed all around him. He fell on the ground. And he heard a voice speak to him. It said, **'Why are you working so hard against me?'**

'Who are you, Lord?' Paul asked.

The voice said, **'I am Jesus. I am the one you are fighting against. Now get up and go into the city. Wait for me to tell you what to do.'**

So Paul got up. But he could not see anything—he was blind! So the men with Paul took him by the hand to a house in the city. He could not see for three days. And for three days, he did not eat or drink anything.

While he was at the house, he had a dream. He saw that a man would come to him. He would place his hands on him. Then Paul would be able to see again.

And God did send someone. He put his hands on Paul and prayed for him. At once, the darkness left his eyes and he could see. Then he was baptized and ate some food.

Paul spent several days in that city. And he would go to the places where the Jews would worship. Then he would tell them that Jesus is the Son of God. When the Jews heard this, they were confused and surprised. They knew why he had come to the city. But, the more he taught them, the more he proved that Jesus is the Saviour that God had promised.

After some time, Paul went back to Jerusalem. At first, the apostles there did not want to meet with him. They did not trust him. But there

was a man whom they did trust named Barnabas. He brought Paul to the apostles. He told them how Jesus met Paul on the road. And he told them how Paul had spoken about Jesus in Damascus.

So they welcomed Paul among them. And he went many places in Jerusalem and told people about Jesus. The Jews were not happy about this. So they made a plan to kill him. But Paul left the city and went back to his home town.

For a while, the church enjoyed a time of peace. The church became stronger and grew larger. And God's Spirit continued to help them.



CHAINS

STORY THIRTY-ONE

For many years, Paul went from place to place. He told people about Jesus so that people would believe. Then the church could grow in those places. One day, Paul and his friend Silas came to a place named Philippi.

And, as they went along, a slave girl started following them. She had an evil spirit in her. The evil spirit helped her tell people what was going to happen to them. She earned a lot of money for her owners by doing this.

For many days, she followed Paul and Silas and kept shouting, **'These men are servants of God. And they are telling you how to be saved!'** After a while, Paul became annoyed. So he said to the evil spirit, **'In the name of Jesus, come out of her.'** And the evil spirit left her.

When her masters saw this, they were not pleased. They knew that they would not be able to make money from the girl any more. So they dragged Paul and Silas to the authorities. They said, **'These men are teaching people to do things that are against our customs.'**

Then a crowd gathered against Paul and Silas. So the authorities took their clothes. And they beat them in front of everyone. They put them in prison. And they told the man who kept the prison, **'Make sure these men do not escape.'** So he chained them and put them in the deepest part of the prison.

That night, at about midnight, Paul and Silas were praising God and singing songs to him. Just then, the ground began to shake. All the doors in the prison flew open. And all the chains fell off the men inside.

When the man who kept the prison saw the doors open, he thought all the people inside had escaped. So he was going to kill himself.

But Paul said, **'Do not hurt yourself. We are all here.'**

So the man ran in and he fell down at their feet. Then he brought them out and said, **'What do I need to do to be saved?'**

And they said, **'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you and everyone in your house will be saved.'** Then they told the man and everyone in his house about Jesus. So the man washed their cuts. And Paul and Silas baptized the man and his whole family. And they were all filled with

joy. Then they went into the man's house and ate together.

The next morning, Paul and Silas left the prison. They stayed in Philippi for a while. They encouraged the people who believed in Jesus there. Then they left the city. There were many other places they wanted to go to share the good news about Jesus.

NEW

STORY THIRTY-TWO

Many years later, John, one of the apostles, was in exile for his faith. One day, as he was praying, Jesus appeared to him in a dream. He said, ***'Do not be afraid. I was dead, but look. I am alive. And I have power over death.'***

And then John saw into heaven. God was sitting in the highest place there. Millions of people sang praises to him. All of the angels sang as well.

Then John saw many things that will happen at the end of time. He saw Satan gather an army to fight against God. There will be a great battle. But God will defeat Satan. Then God will throw him into the fire that never goes out.

And then God will judge everyone who has ever lived. There will be some whose names are not written in the Book of Life. They are the ones who did not believe in God. The angels will throw them into the fire that never goes out.

And then John saw a new heaven and a new earth. God will live with his people there. They will see his face and worship him. They will live with him for ever. And God will wipe away every tear. There will be no more pain and no more death. No one will be sad there. And nothing evil will ever be allowed to enter.

There will be a river of life that flows from the place where God sits. And anyone can come and drink from it. On each side of this river, there will be a tree of life. And God's people may eat the fruit and live for ever.

Then Jesus said, ***'I am the first and the last. I am the beginning and the end. Look! I am coming soon.'***

HOW TO USE THESE STORIES *(A Leader's Guide)*

Since we first wrote these stories, we have found that people use them in many different ways. Some learn the stories to help them understand the Bible better. Some learn and share the stories with people who do not know God's Story. Some people meet in groups to learn the stories and talk about them together. Some use the stories to help people learn English. Sometimes they meet with just one person. Sometimes they meet in small groups. Here are a few ideas that may help you.

HOW TO USE THE STORIES WITH ONE PERSON

APPENDIX ONE



Pray.

Ask God to help you understand the story.



Listen to a story.

You can listen to the story online at www.hearastory.org. Or, the leader can learn the story well enough to tell the story.



Ask questions that can help you
REMEMBER the story.

- a. Who are the people in the story?
- b. Does anyone speak in the story?
What do the characters say?
- c. What happens in the story?
- d. When does it happen?
- e. In what order do things happen?
What happens first? Second? Next?



Listen to the story again.



Ask questions that can help you **UNDERSTAND** the story.

- a. What did you like about the story? What was your favorite part of the story?
- b. What part of the story was hard to understand?
- c. Was there anything in the story that confused you? Was there anything that made you feel uncomfortable?



Listen to the story again.



Ask questions that can help you **BENEFIT** from the story.

- a. What does the story tell you about God?
- b. What does the story tell you about people?
- c. How does the story apply to you?
What can you learn from the story?

HOW TO USE THE STORIES WITH A STORY GROUP

APPENDIX TWO

1

Pray.

Ask God to help you understand the story.

2

Listen to a story.

You can listen to the story online at www.hearastory.org. Or, the leader can learn the story well enough to tell the story.

3

Ask questions that can help you
REMEMBER the story.

- a. Who are the people in the story?
- b. Does anyone speak in the story?
What do the characters say?
- c. What happens in the story?
- d. When does it happen?
- e. In what order do things happen?
What happens first? Second? Next?

4

Listen to or tell the story again.



Ask questions that can help you **UNDERSTAND** the story.

- a. What did you like about the story? What was your favorite part of the story?
- b. What part of the story was hard to understand?
- c. Was there anything in the story that confused you? Was there anything that made you feel uncomfortable?



Listen to or tell the story again.

This time, ask one of the students to try to tell the story. The teacher and members of the class can help them as they try to tell the story if they need help.



Ask questions that can help you **BENEFIT** from the story.

- a. What does the story tell you about God?
- b. What does the story tell you about people?
- c. How does the story apply to you?
What can you learn from the story?

After working through the story three times and answering the questions, give each member of the group a written copy of the story. They can take the story with them and learn it. At the next group meeting, each person can take a turn telling the story.

HOW TO USE THE STORIES TO TEACH ENGLISH

APPENDIX THREE

◆ A The teacher welcomes and greets the students.

◆ B The students are asked to introduce themselves.

Then they are asked to tell about something that happened during their week. (What was the most interesting thing that happened? Or what was the most confusing thing that happened? Or what happened that made them the happiest?)

◆ C The teacher may want to review some vocabulary words from a previous week.

◆ D The teacher will then introduce the new story.



Pray.

Ask God to help you understand the story.



Listen to a story.

You can listen to the story online at www.hearastory.org. Or, the teacher can tell the story.



Ask questions that can help you **REMEMBER** the story.

- a. Who are the people in the story?
- b. Does anyone speak in the story?
What do the characters say?
- c. What happens in the story?
- d. When does it happen?
- e. In what order do things happen?
What happens first? Second? Next?



Listen to or tell the story again.



Ask questions that can help you **UNDERSTAND** the story.

- a. What did you like about the story? What was your favorite part of the story?
- b. What part of the story was hard to understand?
- c. Was there anything in the story that confused you?
- d. Was there anything that made you feel uncomfortable?



Listen to or tell the story again.

This time, ask one of the students to try to tell the story. The teacher and members of the class can help them as they try to tell the story if they need help.



Ask questions that can help you **BENEFIT** from the story.

- a. What does the story tell you about God?
- b. What does the story tell you about people?
- c. How does the story apply to you?
What can you learn from the story?

After working through the story three times and answering the questions, give each member of the group a written copy of the story. They can take the story with them and learn it. At the next group meeting, each person can take a turn telling the story. This will help the student practice speaking in a group. This can be used as a pronunciation exercise.

THANKS

We wrote these stories ourselves, but we did not write them alone. Thank you to our friends at StoryRunners (CRU). They taught us how to make good stories. They even let us travel to Africa with them to practice. Thanks also to our friends at Simply the Story (STS). They spent time with us in SE Asia and taught us many things about crafting a Bible Story. Thanks also to all the people who first told us these stories when we were children. That is when we first learned to love these stories. That is also when we learned to love the God who gave these stories to us.