

These Bible stories have not been crafted for any particular audience. You must do that. Please select a story to tell and then write it out in your own words using the story crafting tips in the left column. Learn the story from your written version but don't tell a memorized version. Just tell it naturally. The more you tell the story better it will get!

Creation

Genesis 1-2
Based on NLT (1996)

Words/Phrases to Consider

'patterned after himself'

This should be translated in such a way that it doesn't necessarily mean that man looks like God. One suggestion for translating this is like the TEV: 'They will be like [God] and resemble [God].'

'flesh and bones like me'

This phrase refers to Adam exclaiming in joy that finally he had found someone like himself. It is a less literal rendering of the Hebrew idiom, 'flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone.'

Blessed*

Someone or something is 'blessed' when God does something favorable to him. In the creation story, the specific blessing given has to do with God giving mankind the ability to reproduce and multiply.

'excellent in every way'

When God saw that his creation was 'excellent in every way,' this implies that it was pleasing to God—he judged it suitable and fitting for its purpose.

Genesis 1:1-27

In the beginning there was God. He spoke and when he did, he created the whole world and everything in it. God *made* light *and* water. *He made the* dry ground *and all kinds of* plants *and* trees. God *made the* sun, *the* moon, *and* the stars. *He made all kinds of* fish, birds, and animals. *And then*, God created people...He patterned them after himself.*

Genesis 2:7-9, (15)

God formed a man's body from the soil of the ground and breathed into him and he began to live. Then God placed the man in a *garden of fruit trees*. God planted all *kinds* of trees in the garden. *They were* beautiful trees that produced delicious fruit. At the center of the garden he placed *two* trees--the tree *which gave* life and the tree *which gave the understanding* of good and evil.

Worldview

Be sure that the word of 'naked' used here is appropriate. For some cultures, it is more appropriate to say, 'They didn't have on clothes.'

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Story Crafting

Many oral peoples find it difficult to remember the 'list' of the seven days of creation in Genesis 1. Genesis 1 was actually more of a hymn, but Genesis 2 is a re-telling of the creation story in a more narrative way. We have chosen to summarize Genesis 1 and take most of the story from the Genesis 2 account, as people seem to be better able to remember the story when told this way.

We left out the names of the rivers in Genesis 2 for ease of retelling. However, if your people group really like the rivers for some reason, you should include them.

We chose to re-word Genesis 2:3 in order to make it easier to understand and less complicated to translate. For example, instead of saying that God made the seventh day 'holy,' we described the day as being 'set apart.'

Because some people thought that God slept when we say he 'rested,' we said 'stopped working' instead.

Genesis 2:16-17

But God told the man, Adam, "You may...eat any fruit in the garden except fruit from the tree *which gives the understanding* of good and evil. If you eat...*this tree's* fruit, you will...die."

Genesis 2:18, 21-25

God said...man *shouldn't be* alone. So God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He took one of Adam's ribs and made a woman from the rib and brought her to Adam. "At last!" Adam exclaimed. "She *has* flesh and *bones like me!*"* Adam and his wife, Eve, were naked, but neither of them was ashamed.

Genesis 1:28, 31

God blessed* them and told them, "Multiply...and be masters over the fish, the birds, and all the animals." Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was excellent in every way.* *God had created the world and everything in it in six days.*

Genesis 2:2-3

The next day, the seventh day, God stopped working. God set apart one day of the week for himself because he had finished creating the world.

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

Creator; relational; has the power to bless

Church

Setting aside a 'special' day, holy and blessed, dedicated to God, lays the foundation for church

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Disobedience

Genesis 3
Based on NLT (1996)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Cursed*

This word in the text actually means punishment or judgment and means that something unpleasant is going to happen to that person. Although many languages have a way to pronounce a curse on someone or something, be sure that the word you choose does not have any magical connotations.

Descendants*

See Glossary

Intra-story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same words for 'good and evil' and 'naked' that you used in the Creation story.

'Woman' was changed in this story to 'Eve' since she was named in the previous story; this is to help provide cohesion between the two stories.

Worldview

Some people may worship snakes, so it's important that the snake look like the 'bad guy' in this story. Some people groups have heard this story, but don't believe that this story really happened because there is an animal talking; they consider this more of a fable or folktale. Almost all Bible scholars agree that the snake is Satan, based on references such as Rev. 12:9, 20:2; 2 Cor. 11:3. If needed for full understanding, you may add an explanation in the story that the snake is Satan.

If you work in a culture where sacrifice is important, and you want to mention sacrifice in your story set, you could include the part of the story in which God clothes Adam and Eve in animal skins.

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the snake was the *most cunning* of all the *animals...God had made...Satan entered into the snake...he asked Eve*, "Did God really say you must not eat any of the fruit in the garden?" "Of course we may eat it," *Eve* told him. "It's only the fruit from the tree *which gives the understanding of good and evil** that we are not allowed to eat. God says we must not eat it or even touch it, or we will die." "You won't die!" the snake hissed. "God knows that *when you eat this fruit* you will become just like *him*, knowing everything, both good and evil."

Genesis 3:6-7

Eve was convinced. The fruit looked so fresh and delicious, and it would make her so wise! So she ate some of the fruit. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. *Adam* ate it, too. At that moment, *something inside them changed*; they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness.* So they *put...leaves together...to cover their nakedness*.

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Story Crafting

We gave the 'tree which gives the understanding of good and evil' a name which shows action, so that the audience will understand a little more of what the purpose of the tree really was.

We chose to simplify the punishments/curses in order to make the story easier to retell.

We left out the idea of woman desiring man and man dominating woman because it is difficult for many hearers to understand and an exegetically complicated section to introduce so early in the story set. For the same reasons, we chose to simplify God's banishment of man and woman from the garden.

Since we've already named Eve for ease of story-telling, we left out Gen. 3:20 in the story. We've simplified the casting out of Adam and Eve by leaving out the phrase, 'The people have become as we are,' because the main point is that people know both good and evil (Translator's Handbook). We've summarized and simplified the fact that God prevented them from coming back to the garden by leaving out the angel and the sword, which can be problematic to translate.

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

All-knowing; separated from evil and sin; opposes sin and evil; just; one who punishes sin or disobedience; relational

Assurance of salvation

Foundation laid by creating enmity between man and Satan with 'man' to be victorious

Devotional life

Foundation laid by man walking and talking with God and God walking and talking with man

Genesis 3:8-13

Toward evening *Adam and Eve* heard God walking about in the garden, so they hid themselves among the trees....God called to Adam, "Where are you?" *Adam* replied, "I heard you, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked." "Who told you that you were naked?" God asked. "Have you eaten the fruit I commanded you not to eat?"

"Yes," *Adam* admitted, "but it was the woman you gave me who brought me the fruit, and I ate it." Then God asked *Eve*, "How could you do such a thing?" "The snake tricked me," she replied. "That's why I ate it."

Genesis 3:14-15

So God said to the *snake*, "Because you have done this, you will be punished....You will *crawl* in the dust as long as you live. From now on,...your *descendants* and *the descendants of the woman* will be enemies. *You will bite his heel, but he will crush your head.*"

Genesis 3:16

Then *God* said to *Eve*, "You will *give birth* to children with intense pain and suffering."

Genesis 3:17-19

God said to *Adam*, "Because you...ate the fruit I told you not to eat, I have placed a curse* on the ground. All your life you will struggle to *live* from it. It will grow thorns and thistles....You will sweat to produce food, until *you die*..."

Genesis 3:21-24

Then *God* said, "Now people...*know* everything, both good and evil. What if they eat the fruit *from* the tree *that gives* life? Then they will live forever!" So *God* *sent Adam and Eve out of the garden and prevented them from returning to the tree that gave life.*

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Abraham

Genesis 12:1-7, 15:1-6
Based on NLT (2004)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Relationship*

Some languages may not have one term for 'relationship,' or the term has unwanted connotations. Some languages express the idea in terms of action. TEV translates Gen. 15:6 as 'Abram put his trust in the LORD, and because of this the LORD was pleased with him and accepted him.'

Worship*

In this case, 'worship' probably refers to both Abraham's sacrifice (his action) and his calling God by his personal name (prayer).

Belief/Trust*

This verb describes Abraham's response to God's promise. It probably implies more than mental agreement, but putting his faith/confidence in God.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same word for 'descendants' and 'blessed' that you used in the 'Disobedience' story.

Transition

Adam and Eve's disobedience separated them from God. Yet God did not forget his very special creation. Many years passed and God chose one man from whom to raise a whole nation that would be his. God wanted relationship with this nation and with all people. This is the story of Abraham.*

Genesis 12:1-3

God said to Abraham, "Leave your native country, your relatives..., and go to the land that I will show you. I will make a huge nation of people from your descendants. I will bless* you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others....All the families on earth will be blessed through you."*

Genesis 12:4-6

So Abraham left as God had instructed,...Abraham was seventy-five years old when he left his homeland. He took his wife, Sarah ...and all his wealth—his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household...—and headed for the land that God would show him. When they arrived there, Abraham traveled through the land....when he eventually stopped... he set up camp beside a great tree...

Genesis 12:7

Then God appeared to Abraham and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." And Abraham worshipped...God, who had appeared to him.*

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Story Crafting

God had not changed Abram's name to Abraham yet, but for the sake of simplicity we chose to use 'Abraham.' If later you feel that Abram's name change is important to the story set and include that story, you would want to change his name back to 'Abram' in this story.

We have purposely left out the name of Canaan and other locations mentioned so that the story would be easier to remember and retell.

We chose to substitute, in Gen. 12:7, 'worshipped God' for 'built an altar' to state in a more simple way what actually happened. Including 'built an altar' would require discussion and explanation that would detract from communicating the main goal of this story.

Abraham's age was left in this story because we've found that audiences think it is interesting, and that it highlights how special God's promise and subsequent fulfillment of the promise of descendants was to Abraham.

The verses chosen for this story reflect our goals in telling it. Our goals in this story were to set up God's promise to Abraham that he would make him into a great nation (a promise which he subsequently kept) and that through this nation, all people would be blessed. We also wanted to highlight why God counted Abraham in a right relationship with him.

Genesis 15:1-3

Some time later,...*God* spoke to *Abraham* in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid...I will protect you, and you *will receive a great reward.*"

But *Abraham* replied, "O...*God*, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since you've given me no children...a servant in my household will inherit all my wealth. You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir."

Genesis 15:4-5

Then *God* said to him, "No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir." Then *God* took *Abraham* outside...and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. *That's how many descendants you will have!*"

Genesis 15:6

And *Abraham* believed* *God*, and because of that, *God* considered him to be in right relationship with him because of his trust.

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

One who makes promises; one who blesses; relational; one who will create a people for himself; one who leads, guides and directs; one who reveals himself and his will; worthy of being worshipped; one who has the power to bless; one who protects and rewards; one who speaks to people; one who cares about his people; one who calls out individuals for his purposes

Church

God will establish his people – laying foundation for church; worship

Devotional life

Based on relationship and trust; walking and talking with God

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David King

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 5:4; 7:1-29
Based on NLT (1996)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Spokesman*

Choose a term for prophet that adequately describes the prophet's function. A prophet: receives a call from God; takes God's message to men because he has been given it by God himself; has as his only priority bringing the Word of God to men.

We chose 'spokesman' because, in English, it can convey these three meanings, but doesn't carry an unwanted connotation of a 'fortune-teller.' If you use a religious term, be sure that the average hearer will understand it.

Anoint*

Anointing in the Old Testament signified an act of God in which someone received divine favor or appointment to a special place, service, or function in the purpose of God (especially for kingship). It often is associated with God's Spirit being given. In this case, the act was done by a man appointed by God to do it. He filled his horn (a ram's horn) with oil and poured the oil on David's head. If the people in your area have a similar ceremony (with an appropriate word to go along with it) to appoint someone to a special task, you could use the phrase 'anointed his head (with oil).' If they don't, you could say something like, 'He poured oil on his head to appoint him/show him as the next king.'

Spirit of God*

You can translate this term directly as 'God's Spirit.' The specific meaning here is that David suddenly and fully was possessed by God's Spirit. In other words, God 'qualified him to be governor of his people, by infusing such graces as wisdom, prudence, counsel, courage, liberality, and magnanimity' (Adam Clarke's Commentary). The Hebrew ruach [spirit] can have the physical meanings 'wind' or 'breath.' It can also mean 'power' or 'authority' that God gives to someone to do extraordinary things. *For a more complete treatment of 'God's Spirit,' please see the glossary (God's Spirit).*

Transition:

God did keep his promise to Abraham, and his descendants became a great nation. God raised up many leaders for his people. One of these leaders was a man named David. This is how he became king.*

1 Samuel 16:1-5

One day, God said to Samuel, his spokesman, "...go to Bethlehem. Find a certain man...who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my new king. Invite him to worship me, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint* for me."...So the spokesman did as God instructed him...and invited them.*

1 Samuel 16:6-7

When they arrived, God's spokesman took one look at the first son and thought, "Surely this is the one God wants as king!" But God said to him, "...I have rejected him. I do not make decisions the way you do! People judge by outward appearance, but God looks at a person's thoughts and intentions."

Sin*

Sin refers to an act of disobedience to God. Be sure that the word you use here is not so intertwined with religious acts (especially Christian) that it does not convey meaning to the average person anymore. If necessary, you can use 'disobedience.'

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Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same word for 'belief' and 'descendants' that you have been using.

Story Crafting

We left out some names for ease of remembering and retelling, but if you find that it is too difficult to say 'God's spokesman' throughout this story, you may include Samuel's name.

We simplified the reason for Samuel going to Bethlehem simply as 'to worship' in order for the story to be easier to remember and retell, and to avoid detracting from the main plotline.

We simplified the section of the story in which all seven of the sons were presented to Samuel. If it is helpful to include this portion as a storytelling device, i.e. your audience really likes repetition and hearing that each son, in turn, was rejected, then you can include that section in your story.

T4T Principles

Character and Nature of God

Keeps his promises; worthy of worship; reveals himself and his will; talks to people; knows the thoughts and intentions of people; makes decisions differently than man; his Spirit comes upon people; calls out individuals for his purposes; his love is unfailing

Church

Household of worship; idea of God's eternal kingdom

Assurance of salvation

God's kingdom is eternal

Devotional life

Walking and talking with God; worship in the home

Samuel 16:10-13

...All seven of *the* sons were presented to *God's* spokesman. But *the* spokesman said...*"God* has not chosen any of these." Then *he* asked, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," *the father* replied, "but he's out in the fields watching the sheep."...*When this son was brought in, God* told *his* spokesman, "This is the one *I* choose."

So, as David stood there among his brothers, *the spokesman* anointed *his* head with oil. And the Spirit of *God** came on *David*.

2 Samuel 5:4; 7:1-16

Many years passed and David did become the new king. God had brought peace to his land. One day, David summoned Nathan, another of God's spokesmen. God told Nathan to say to David, "...I chose you to lead my people when you were just a shepherd boy, tending your sheep out in the pasture...I have destroyed all your enemies. Now I will make you famous throughout the earth. I will build a house for you—a dynasty of kings. One of your descendants will rule and if he sins, I will use other nations to punish him. But my love is unfailing. Your kingdom will continue for all time."*

2 Samuel 5:18, 25, 28

When David heard this message from God, he praised God. He believed God, saying, "O God, do as you have promised....For you are God.... Your words are truth."*

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David & Bathsheba

2 Sam 11:1-27

Based on NLT (1996)

Worldview

'...he slept with her...'

Many languages have euphemisms for sexual relationships. Use a term appropriate and not offensive for your audience.

2 Samuel 11:1

One time, in the spring, the time of year when kings go to war, David sent his...army to fight. But David stayed behind....

2 Samuel 11:2-5

Late one afternoon, David got out of bed after taking a nap and went for a stroll on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a beautiful woman taking a bath. He sent someone to find out who she was and he was told, "She is Bathsheba, the...wife of one of your most trusted soldiers." Then David sent for her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her....Then she returned home. Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent a message to David to let him know, and there was no doubt that the baby was his.

2 Samuel 11:6-13

David sent word to... the commander of his army, to send her husband home. When he arrived, David asked Bathsheba's husband how the war was going. Then he told him to go home and relax....But he didn't go home. He stayed that night at the palace entrance with some of the king's other servants. When David heard what he had done, he asked him, "...Why didn't you go home last night after being away for so long?" He replied, "The army is....sleeping out in the fields. How could I go home and relax?" So David told him to stay another night....David invited him to dinner and got him drunk. But even then, he couldn't get the soldier to go home to his wife. Again, he slept at the palace entrance.

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Story Crafting

'..and there was no doubt that the baby was his...'

This phrase is added to the story, based on the text's explanation: 'She had just completed the purification rites after having her menstrual period.' The text includes this information to prove that the baby must have been David's---it wasn't her husband's baby.

Some names are left out for ease of remembering and retelling.

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

Displeased with sin

2 Samuel 11:14-17

So the next morning David wrote a letter to *the commander of his army* and gave it to *Bathsheba's husband* to deliver. The letter *told the commander*, "Place *this soldier* on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed." So, *the commander did as he was told*. And *Bathsheba's husband* was killed, along with several other soldiers.

2 Samuel 11:18, 22-25

So, *the commander of the army*....sent a messenger....with a battle report to David. He told him that *Bathsheba's husband had been killed along with others*... "Well, tell *the commander* not to be discouraged," David said. "*People are killed in battle!* Fight harder next time...!"

2 Samuel 11:26-27

When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. When the period of mourning was over, David...brought her to the palace, and she became one of his wives. *Later* she gave birth to a son. But *God* was very displeased with what David had done.

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Nathan's Story

2 Sam 12:1-25

Based on NLT (1996)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Forgive*

Some languages do not have an adequate word for 'forgive.' If that is the case, understanding what 'forgiveness' means is imperative to translating it correctly. Forgiveness involves two people, one of whom has done something wrong to the other and offended him. The one who was offended sets aside his rights and does not punish the other as he deserves. If the other accepts the forgiveness, the relationship between the two is restored and the guilt is removed.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same words for 'anoint,' 'sin,' and 'spokesman' as you did for the David King story.

Transition

Because God was displeased with what David had done.....

2 Samuel 12:1-4

He sent his spokesman, Nathan, to tell David this story: "There were two men in a certain town. One was rich, and one was poor. The rich man owned many sheep and cattle. The poor man owned nothing but a little lamb he had worked hard to buy. He raised *and took care of it as if it was one of his own children*. One day a guest arrived at the home of the rich man. But instead of killing *one of his own lambs*, he took the poor man's lamb and killed it and served it to his guest."*

2 Samuel 12:5-6

David was furious. He *said*, "...Any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole and for *doing such a cruel thing*."

2 Samuel 12:7-12

Then Nathan said to David, "You are that man! *God says, 'I anointed* you king...I gave you an entire kingdom*. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. Why, then, have you *disobeyed* me and done this horrible *thing?...you murdered a man and stole his wife*. *Because you have treated God with contempt*, from this time on *violence will always be in your family....What you did secretly will happen to you in the open*."

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Story Crafting

'....because you have disobeyed me...'
Some people find it difficult to address the concept of disobedience to God when the actions of disobedience have not been addressed in a Moses story. If you find that you need to make clearer what the acts of disobedience against God were in this story, you could make it explicit by saying something like '...because you have disobeyed me by murdering and committing adultery.'

We have left out certain details about what David did during the time the baby was sick (praying and fasting) to tighten the main plotline of the story and to avoid detracting from our goals in telling this story.

2 Samuel 12:13-14

Then David confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned* against *God*." Nathan replied, "Yes, but *God* has forgiven* you, and you won't die for this sin. But *because of what you have done*, your child will die."

2 Samuel 12:15-18

After Nathan returned to his home, *God* made Bathsheba's baby *very sick*. David begged God to *heal* the child,...*but seven days later the baby died*.

2 Samuel 12:24-25

David comforted Bathsheba, and *then* slept with her. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. And *God* loved him.

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

Displeased with sin; uses his spokesmen to confront sin; uses stories; provides; does not like disobedience; punished sin; forgives sin; keep promises

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Promise

Isaiah 53

Based on NLT (1996) and NIV

Words/Phrases to Consider

Righteous(ness)/bear all their sins*

The Old Testament idea of righteousness is based on relationship between God and man, or between man and man. 'Righteousness' refers to holiness. The CEV (Contemporary English Version) translates this concept in Isaiah 53:11 in the following way:

*he will take the punishment
for the sins of others,
so that many of them
will no longer be guilty.*

In other words, 'righteousness' takes away guilt.

Savior*

See glossary

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same words you have been using throughout the story set for 'sin,' 'relationship,' and 'spokesman.'

Choose the same term to refer to God's people/the Israelites/Jews throughout the story set.

Transition

The king of God's people disobeyed God and led the people to disobey God, and finally God allowed the surrounding nations to overcome them as punishment for their disobedience. The people were scattered throughout the land. Yet God continued to send spokesmen to reveal Himself to His people. One of these spokesmen was named Isaiah. This is the message of hope that Isaiah brought to the people. A Savior* would come to free them, in more ways than one.*

Isaiah 53:2-3

God's Promised Savior will grow up in his presence like a tender green shoot, sprouting from a root in dry...ground. There will be nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance....We will turn our backs on him and look the other way. ...He will be despised, and we won't care.*

Isaiah 53:4-5

...we will think his troubles are a punishment from God for his own sins! But he will be...crushed for our sins. He will be beaten that we might have peace...whipped, and we will be healed!*

Isaiah 53:6

All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's path to follow our own. Yet *God will lay* on him the guilt and sins of us all.

Isaiah 53:7

He will be...treated harshly, yet...never say a word. He will be led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he will not open his mouth.

Isaiah 53:11 (partly from NIV)

After his suffering, he will see life again, and he will be satisfied. And because of what he has experienced, the Promised Savior will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.*

Isaiah 53:12

I [God] will give him the honors of one who is mighty and great, because he exposed himself to death. ...

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Story Crafting

Commentaries agree that this passage is referring to a future event. 'Prophetic past tense' is often used in translations, but refers to a future event. We've changed the tense of the verbs to future to reflect more accurately the meaning and to simplify the story for our audience.

We have chosen to use 'Promised Savior' instead of 'servant' here, to make our term for Jesus' redemptive role consistent throughout the story set. (See Simeon's speech in the birth story.) Commentaries agree that this 'servant' refers to the 'Messiah to come,' so you may use whatever term most clearly speaks to your people group; but it is best to keep this term consistent throughout this introductory story set. (See also glossary entry for 'Savior'.)

'led like a lamb to the slaughter'

Some people tell us that this line is confusing, having come directly after the description of people being like sheep. If it seems confusing, you can take out this line and say, 'He will be led to die,' or you can remove the analogy of us being like sheep who have wandered off the path. You could just say, 'We have wandered off of God's path---we have sinned.'

Example Crafted Story

After King David, God's people continued to sin and disobey God. Finally, he allowed surrounding countries to come in and conquer them, and the people were scattered throughout the land. But God did not forget his people. And he sent a spokesman,* Isaiah, to give them a message of hope. He told them:*

God is going to send us a Savior.* Some will hate him and treat him badly. He'll suffer. He's going to carry our burdens and our sorrows....He will be whipped and beaten to bring us peace.

We're kind of like sheep. You know how sheep are. They wander off the path and stray away, and we wander off of God's path. We sin and disobey God. But, God is putting all of our sins onto the Savior.

In fact, he's like a lamb that is being led to the butcher. He's not going to say anything. And he'll be punished and killed for our sins. But, the amazing thing is that he'll see life again.

And because of this many people will have restored relationship* with God.

That is the message that Isaiah gave to the people, and from that time on the people waited expectantly for the Promised Savior to come.

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

Punishes disobedience; reveals himself; uses his spokesmen; promises a Savior, restored relationship, and forgiveness; provides hope, a means of salvation, and peace; takes away sin; conquers death

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Birth

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:21-34, 39-40
Based on NLT (1996)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Angel*

If you have a Bible translation, your best option would be to use the word in the translation, unless no one outside the church understands it. If you do not have a Bible translation, your challenge is to find a word that conveys accurately the meaning of the original. An 'angel' is a supernatural, spiritual being who is a messenger from God. They appear to humans in human form, they are inferior to Jesus, and they often come with a specific message or to do a specific task. If there is no word in the language for 'angel' that a non-believer would understand, you could translate this as 'messenger of/from God,' 'envoy of God,' or perhaps 'ambassador of God.' Be aware, though, that 'prophet' also conveys those meanings. You might have to add 'spirit (messenger from God)' to this description.

Wisdom*

The biblical concept of wisdom includes the ideas of 'thinking things that are true and doing things that are good.' Only God can cause someone to be wise. In fact, it is implied in the New Testament that when someone has wisdom, he has insight into the will of God.

Save*

If your audience needs it, you may need to be more explicit with from what God will save them, i.e. punishment for sin.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same words for 'God's Spirit' as you did in the David King story. Use the same words for 'bless,' 'Savior,' 'sin,' and 'descendant' that you have been using throughout the story set.

"Joseph, descendant of David..."

It is important to mention that Joseph is a descendant of David as we see Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promise to David that his descendants would rule forever.

Transition

After many years, God did finally send this Promised Savior. This is his story...*

Matthew 1:18

This is how Jesus...was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But *before the marriage took place*, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant *through the power of God's Spirit.**

Matthew 1:19-21

Joseph, her fiancé, *was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly*, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

As he considered this, an angel* *from God* appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, *descendant of David*," the angel said, "do not be afraid to go ahead with your marriage to Mary...the child *inside* her was conceived by *God's Spirit*. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, *because he will save* his people from their sins.**"

Matthew 1:24-25

When Joseph woke up, he did *what* the angel...commanded *and took Mary as his wife*. *But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born...*

World View

Virgin

This means 'before they lived together as man and wife.' It also implies 'before they had sexual relations.' Use whatever description in your language implies clearly that Mary had not been with a man, but that is appropriate for even mixed audiences to hear and reproduce.

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Story Crafting

'through the power of God's Spirit'

Other ways to say this could be 'God's Spirit caused her to be pregnant,' or 'the power of God's Spirit made this happen.' However you say this, be sure that sexual intercourse between God's Spirit and Mary is NOT implied.

'city where they worshipped God'

'Jerusalem' will re-occur in the story set several times, so we've decided to introduce that place name. We have included this explanation of what was so special about the city.

'place of worship'

We've chosen to use 'place of worship' in place of 'temple' so that there is no confusion with the Hindu temples.

We chose this version of the birth story, because both the angel's words to Joseph ('he will save his people from their sins') and the dedication of Jesus in the temple show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Isaiah prophecy from the Promise story.

We simplified the dedication section of the story so that we would not have to explain the sacrificial system of the temple in this story set. We did not include the names of Jesus' hometown and area for simplification of remembering and retelling.

Transition

A few months later, a son was born to Mary.

Luke 2:21-22; 25, 28

Eight days *after his birth*,...he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel...His parents took him to Jerusalem, *the special city where they worshipped God*, to present him to *God in their place of worship*,...*When they got there they met an old man who had been waiting for the Promised Savior to come and save his people. When he saw Jesus*, He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying...

Luke 2:30-32

"I have seen the Savior you have given to all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations...."

Luke 2:33-34

Joseph and Mary were amazed at what was being said about *Jesus*. Then *the old man* blessed* them, and he said to Mary..., "*This child will be rejected by many...*, and it will be their undoing. But he will be the greatest joy to many others."

Luke 2:39-40

...Jesus' parents... returned home...There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom*,...and *God's favor was on him*.

T4T Principles

Nature and character of God

Keeps his promises; his Spirit is active; speaks and reveals his will; assures his children; speaks in dreams; uses spokesmen; sends a Savior

Church

Going to temple; worship; consecrating children

Devotion

Worship

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*Jesus' Baptism**

Luke 3:1-22; Matthew 3:7-9
From NLT (1996)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Baptism*

This word needs to be considered carefully before attempting to translate. If you have a Bible translation, you may choose to use what the translation uses. If the translation uses the borrowed term, but no one understands it, you might want to consider explaining the term. (English also uses a borrowed term, *baptize*). If you are working with long-term believers, you need to see with what term they feel most comfortable. If you need to find a new term, a careful study of the meaning of the concept of 'baptism' is needed. The Greek word means 'to put inside or under water,' or 'to wash in a spiritual sense.' John's baptism was done when a person wanted to stop sinning and obey God so God would forgive his sin. Some ideas for translating this term include:

- 1) to wash someone in water to make him ceremonially clean
- 2) to wash someone with water as part of his initiation into the religious community
- 3) using 'bath' with a qualification such as 'bath of enlightenment' (Tamil), or 'bath of dedication'
- 4) using the word for a custom in the culture that refers to ceremonial washing to make something ritually clean
- 5) use the borrowed term with an appositional "unpacking of meaning," i.e. <<he was baptized, he was ceremonially washed...>>

Heaven/Voice from Heaven*

Heaven could be translated as 'the sky' or 'the place where God lives.'

'A voice from heaven' is readily accepted as being God's voice itself. It is acceptable to use 'God's voice.'

Transition

Jesus grew to be a young man. God sent a spokesman ahead of him to prepare the way for the people to receive the Promised Savior*, Jesus.*

Luke 3:1-2

After some time, a message from God came to a man named John, who was living out in the wilderness.

Luke 3:3

Then John went from place to place...telling people that they should be baptized to show that they had turned from their sins* and turned to God to be forgiven.**

Matthew 3:7-9

Some religious leaders came to hear John, and he said, "You...snakes! Who warned you to flee God's coming wrath? Prove by the way you live that you have...turned to God. Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing. I tell you, God can create *descendants* of Abraham from these very stones."*

Words/Phrases to Consider

'Turn from their sins and turn to God to be forgiven'

This is the NLT's way of saying 'repentance.' It is a good picture of what actually happens when we repent, and we encourage an explanation of this kind instead of using one term for 'repent.'

'He will baptize you with God's Spirit'

Jesus' baptism would be different than John's in that it would include God's Spirit, who would enable people to do and continue doing what pleased God.

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Words/Phrases to Consider

Religious leaders*

Matthew 3:7 actually identifies these men as Pharisees and Sadducees, and we chose to introduce these key players in Jesus' life. They return later in the story set. Both Pharisees and Sadducees were Jewish religious parties at that time. Many scribes and priests were members of one of these sects. If possible, it is best to keep these sect names generic, i.e. 'religious leaders.' If you use a term for 'religious leaders' used in a major religion here, be sure that those names don't refer ONLY to a member of that specific religion.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same words that you have been using throughout the story set for 'spokesman,' 'sin,' 'Promised Savior,' 'forgive(n),' and 'God's Spirit.'

Story Crafting

The phrase 'with fire' is included in the Matthew and Luke accounts, but not in the Mark account. Commentators have differing opinions as to what 'the fire' refers, but most seem to focus on the judgment aspect of it. If using a literal rendering of 'the fire' is too confusing for your audience, you could: 1) choose to follow the Mark account and not include that phrase; 2) state that the Savior 'will judge the world,' instead of using the phrase 'with fire.' This would be accurate in that it would include the ideas presented in Luke 3:17, as well.

If your audience does not understand 'the heavens opened,' you could choose to skip this line in the story.

'Descendants of Abraham'--Many people/language groups might equate terms like 'Israel and 'Israelites' with the modern-day country, which is not very popular in much of the world. A more meaningful rendering of this term might be expressed better as 'descendants of Abraham.' This rendering also highlights the theme of relationship in this story set.

Luke 3:10-14

Then the crowd asked, "What should we do?" John replied, "If you have two coats, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry."

Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, "Teacher, what should we do?" "Show your honesty," he replied. "Make sure you collect no more taxes than the...government requires you to." "What should we do?" asked some soldiers. John replied, "Don't extort money, and don't accuse people of things you know they didn't do. And be content with your pay."

Luke 3:15-16

Everyone was expecting the *Promised Savior* to come soon, and they were eager to know *if John was him*. John answered their questions by saying, "I baptize with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I am not even worthy to be his slave. He will baptize you with *God's Spirit** and with fire."

Luke 3:21-22

One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself *came and* was baptized.

Afterwards, as he was praying, the heavens* opened, and *God's Spirit* descended on him in the form of a dove. And a voice from heaven* said, "You are my Son. *I love you* and I am *very* pleased with you."

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

He sends his Spirit; uses spokesmen; acknowledges Jesus as his Son; keeps his promises; forgives sin; judges sin; speaks and reveals his intentions and will

Church

Baptism; God's people are more than descendants of Abraham

Devotional life

Example of Jesus praying

Sharing the Gospel

John told people to be baptized, turn from sin, and turn to God

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Possessed Man

Mark 5:1-20

Based on NLT (1996)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Evil Spirits*

'Evil spirits' refer to spiritual beings who serve Satan as his agents, being under his authority. These spiritual beings have power to oppress a human being and even have control over him. We know from the Bible that evil spirits were created by God and chose to disobey him. It seems that many South Asian languages do not have a term that can express that adequately. (Their 'evil spirit' may refer to a dead person's spirit that 'haunts' people.) Try to choose a word that refers to an independent spirit being that is evil and opposed to God. If there is one, you can also use a neutral word for an independent spirit being and add a qualification like 'spirit from Satan,' or 'bad/evil spirit.' Be aware that extra explanation might be necessary during the discussion time.

Son of the Most High God*

The singular form "Son of God" is a title expressing the idea of intimate relationship between God and another person, as between a father and his son.

The term 'Most High God' was a Jewish title for God. Be sure that the literal translation of this word 'high' does not just refer to physical size. Acceptable alternate ways of translating the term include 'greatest,' or 'only,' or 'most powerful' God.

Closest Followers*

'Closest followers' refers to the twelve disciples of Jesus. We have chosen to use this phrase instead of 'disciples,' as 'disciples' may be a word not easily recognized or translated. If the language has an understood term for the devoted followers of a guru, you may use that term here. A later story will introduce 'followers;' you may want to differentiate 'followers' and 'closest followers.'

Tomb*

If the term 'tomb' is difficult for your audience, it can be described as a 'hole or cave in which to place dead people.'

Transition (Based upon Mark 3:8-11)

The news about Jesus had spread far and wide, and many people came to see him for themselves. As a result, many sick people would crowd around him, trying to touch him. And whenever those possessed by evil spirits caught sight of him, they would fall down in front of him shrieking, "You are the Son of God!*"*

Mark 5:1

Jesus and His closest followers came by boat to the other side of the lake.*

Mark 5:2-5

Just as Jesus was climbing from the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit ran out from a cemetery to meet him...Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to control him. All day long and throughout the night, he would wander among the tombs* and in the hills, screaming and hitting himself with stones.

Mark 5:6-8

When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him. He ran to meet Jesus and fell down before him. He gave a terrible scream, shrieking, "Why are you bothering me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?*" For God's sake, don't torture me!" For Jesus had already said to the evil spirit, "Come out of the man, you evil spirit."

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Worldview:

Pigs

There is a Muslim people group in North Africa that can not believe that anyone would want to guard or herd pigs. If you are working in a Muslim people group, you might want to consider using a generic term for 'animal,' or explaining in the story that in this culture pigs were valuable livestock.

Story Crafting

The NLT chooses to change 'Legion' to 'Many' to simplify the English story. Be careful that your audience does not think that the evil spirits have 'many names.' We used 'evil spirits' throughout this story rather than 'demons' in order to simplify the terms used.

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

Even evil spirits acknowledge God/Jesus as Son of the Most High God; has power over evil spirits; does "great things"

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus said to go and tell the great things God had done

Mark 5:9-13

Then Jesus asked, "What is your name?" And the evil spirit replied, "*Many*, because there are many of us here inside this man." Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. "Send us into those pigs," the evil spirits begged. Jesus gave them permission. So the evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of two thousand pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake, where they drowned.

Mark 5:14-17

The *men guarding the pigs* fled to the nearby city and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. Everyone rushed out to see for themselves. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, but they were frightened when they saw the man who had been *possessed by the evil spirit*, for he was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane. Those who had seen what happened to the man and to the pigs told everyone about it, and the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

Mark 5:18-20

When Jesus got back into the boat, the man who had been *possessed by an evil spirit* begged to go, too. But Jesus said, "No, go home to your friends, and tell them what wonderful things God has done for you and how merciful he has been." So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to tell everyone about the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.

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Assurance

John 10:14-39

Based on NLT (2004)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Eternal Life*

'Eternal life' in the New Testament has two aspects: life that never ends; a quality of life beginning when someone allows God to rule his life.

Some options for conveying the two-fold meaning of this phrase include: 'real life that never ends;' 'new life that never ends.'

Or...

If your language does not have a noun for 'life, you can render this term 'really live unendingly because of him' or 'he will cause such people to never come to the end of real living.'

Father*

If your audience would not understand that 'Father' refers to God, you may want to say 'God' or 'God, the Father.'

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure to use the same terms you have been using throughout the story set for the 'place of worship,' 'Promised Savior,' 'Son of God,' and 'religious leaders.'

Be sure that you have already introduced 'Jerusalem' in the 'Birth of Jesus' story.

Transition

Many of the religious leaders did not approve of Jesus. They often tried to trap Jesus by asking him questions. One day they were talking to Jesus, and he said,*

John 10:14, 17-18

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,...The Father* loves me because I voluntarily die/give my life so that I can live again. No one can take my life from me. I give it voluntarily. I can give it when I want to and also... take it... again...."

John 10:22-24

Again...Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of an important religious festival. He was walking in their place of worship....The people surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Promised Savior,* tell us plainly."*

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Story Crafting

Voluntarily die/give my life

If you find that this part of the story is too confusing to the audience at this point, you can choose not to include it. It is not necessary to the main idea of this story in this story set.

Be sure that the analogy of 'I am the good shepherd' works for your audience. Sometimes metaphors are not understandable, and you might have to translate this as 'I am like a good shepherd.'

John 10:25-27

Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me...you don't believe me because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to *me*; I know them, and they follow me."

John 10:28-30

"I give them eternal life,* and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for *God* has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

John 10:31-39

...the people picked up stones to kill him, *saying...*"You, a mere man, claim to be God." *Jesus answered*, "...why do you say *I show disrespect to God* when I say, 'I am the Son of God'*...But if I do *my Father's* work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me..." Once again they tried to arrest him, but he got away and left them.

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

God loves Jesus; powerful; is one with Jesus; gives followers to Jesus; Jesus is Son of God

Assurance of salvation

Jesus said, "no one can snatch them out of my hand."

Devotional life

Jesus' followers listen to him and follow him

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Sight

Luke 18:15-17, 31-42
Based on NLT (1996)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Followers*

You have been introduced already to 'closest followers.' Again, if the language has an understood term for the devoted followers of a guru, you may use that term here. You also may want to differentiate 'followers' and 'closest followers,' as 'closest followers' refers to Jesus' twelve disciples, those with whom he was in closer relationship.

Belief*

If there are two terms in the language, as in English, 'faith' and 'belief,' and one has a more religious connotation, you might consider using the term with the least religious connotation. For example, here we have used the term 'belief' rather than 'faith.'

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same terms that you have been using throughout the story set for 'bless' 'closest followers,' 'relationship' (see 'Story Crafting' on next page), 'belief,' and 'spokesman.'

Luke 18:15-17

One day some parents brought their little children to Jesus so he could touch them and bless* them, but *Jesus' closest followers** told them not to bother him. Then Jesus called for the children and said to *his followers,** "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them!...anyone who doesn't have their kind of belief* will never *experience a relationship with God.*"*

Luke 18:31-34

Gathering *his twelve closest followers* around him, Jesus told them, "As you know, we are going to Jerusalem. And when we get there, all the predictions of the ancient *spokesmen** concerning *me* will come true. *I* will be handed over to *soldiers* to be mocked, treated shamefully, and spit upon. They will whip *me* and kill *me*, but on the third day *I* will rise again."

But they didn't understand a thing he said.....

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Story Crafting

The 'Kingdom of God' refers to the activity of God's ruling, but it especially refers to the relationship between God and his people. Because we have not set up a 'kingdom' or 'kingship' theme in the story, we have decided not to use the specific term 'kingdom of God' here because it might be confusing to the audience. We have decided instead to focus on the theme of this story set—God's relationship with man. Telling the scene of Jesus with the children gives the opportunity to highlight the relationship theme.

We have included Luke 18:31-34 to again emphasize the fulfillment of prophecy in Jesus' death.

We have included 'descendant of David' in this story to highlight the promise in the David stories of a Messiah/Promised Savior coming from David's line. We have used 'descendant' instead of 'son' so that it's clear that Jesus is not the direct son of David. (See note in Glossary for a more complete discussion of the term 'descendant'.)

Luke 18:35-39

As they approached *a nearby town*, a blind beggar was sitting beside the road. When he heard the noise of a crowd going past, he asked what was happening. They told him that Jesus...was going by. So he began shouting, "Jesus, *descendant of David*, have mercy on me!" The crowds ahead of Jesus tried to hush the man, but he only shouted louder, "*Oh descendant of David*, have mercy on me!"

Luke 18:40-41

When Jesus heard him, he stopped and ordered that the man be brought to him. Then Jesus asked the man, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Luke 18:41-42

"I want to see!"

And Jesus said, "All right, you can see! Your *belief* has healed you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus, praising God. And all who saw it praised God, too.

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

Wants man to have a child-like faith

Devotional life

Following Jesus, praising God.

Sharing the Gospel

Changed life is a testimony

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Triumphal Entry

Luke 19:28-44
Based on NLT (2004)

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same words that you have been using throughout the story set for 'followers,' 'closest followers,' 'blessings,' 'Savior,' 'religious leaders,' and 'place of worship.'

The 'king who comes in the name of God' clearly refers to the Messiah, or the Savior to come. If you want to keep the term 'Promised Savior' consistent throughout the set, you could use that term here instead of 'king.'

Worldview

The people 'spread out their coats on the road ahead of him' as a sign of reverence or respect, showing that the people did not mind having a ruler trample on their own things. If this is not readily understood by your audience, you can add a phrase such as, '....out of respect for Jesus.'

Transition

One day Jesus and his followers were traveling toward the city of Jerusalem.*

Luke 19:29-31

As they came *near Jerusalem*, Jesus sent two of *his closest followers** ahead. "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying that *young donkey*?' just say, 'The *Teacher* needs it.'"

Luke 19:32-35

So they went and found the *young donkey*, just as Jesus had said. And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, "Why are you untying that *young donkey*?"

And *his followers* simply replied, "The *Teacher* needs it." So they brought the *young donkey* to Jesus and threw their *coats* over it for him to ride on.

Luke 19:36-37

As he rode along, the crowds spread out their *coats* on the road ahead of him. When they reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

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Story Crafting

'Peace in heaven' refers to a peaceful relationship between God and people. 'Heaven' was used in place of God. You could say something like 'Let there be peace with God/peace between God and man' here.

We included this story to again highlight the role that the religious leaders played in Jesus' death.

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

Jesus comes in the name of the God

Devotional life

People hung on every word Jesus said

Luke 19:38

"Blessings* on the King/Savior* who comes in the name of God! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!"

Luke 19:39-40

But some of the *religious leaders** among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!"

He replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!"

Luke 19:41

But as they came closer to Jerusalem and Jesus saw the city ahead, he began to weep.

Luke 19:42

"How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, *now you cannot see peace!*"

Luke 19:47-48

After that, he taught daily in the *place of worship*,* but the *religious leaders* began planning how to kill him. But they could think of nothing, because all the people hung on every word he said.

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Last Supper

Luke 22:1-23; John 13:3-17
Based on NLT (1996)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Master*

The original 'Lord' has the connotation here of 'master', 'supreme head,' or 'owner.' At a surface level, this is a title for a respected man, such as 'sir.' Any of these is an acceptable rendering.

'No servant is greater than his master'

The meaning here is that Jesus' followers can not consider themselves too important to act as servants, because Jesus himself did so. They also can not expect better treatment from the world than Jesus received.

Bread*

Your audience may not understand the term 'bread.' You may substitute another 'generic' word for bread such as 'roti.'

Represents/Symbol*

Translator's helps agree that Jesus was referring to the bread and wine as symbols or representations of his body and blood. Jesus used similar figures of speech when he made statements such as, 'I am the door' and 'I am the bread of life.'

Covenant/Promise*

The word 'covenant' refers to a promise given by a stronger person to a weaker person.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same words ' that you have been using throughout the story set for 'followers,' 'closest followers,' 'save' and 'religious leaders.'

Transition

Jesus and his followers arrived in Jerusalem. It was nearing the time of an important religious festival, and many people were in the city.*

Luke 22:3-6

Then...Judas..., one of Jesus' twelve closest followers,...went over to the religious leaders*...to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted...and promised him a reward. So Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus so they could arrest him quietly when the crowds weren't around.*

Luke 22:14-15

...Jesus and his twelve closest followers, including Judas, sat down together at the table to celebrate the meal for the religious festival. Jesus said, "I have looked forward to eating this...meal with you before my suffering begins."

John 13:3-5, 12-17

Jesus knew that *God* had given him authority over everything ...So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash his *closest* followers' feet and to wipe them with the towel he had around him....

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Master,'* and you are right, because it is true. And since I, *your* Teacher and *Master*, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do *for each other* what I have done *for* you. *It's* true...that a servant is not greater than the master....You know these things—now do them!..."

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Worldview

In cultures where the mention of wine would be highly offensive or cause people to disrespect Jesus, you might try just saying 'cup' or 'cup of liquid.'

Story Crafting

If your audience does not understand from what God is saving us, you might need to make the new promise more explicit by saying something like 'to save you from your sins,' 'to forgive your sins,'...etc.

Your audience may or may not be familiar with promises/covenants sealed in blood. If they are not, you may change this phrase to something like '...an agreement made possible by my death/by my allowing people to kill me.'

Translators' helps agree that Jesus was referring to the bread and wine as symbols or representations of his body and blood. Jesus used similar figures of speech when he made statements such as 'I am the door,' and 'I am the bread of life.'

We have included the scene of Jesus washing his disciples' feet because it seems very important in Asian cultures to highlight the idea of servant leadership, which is demonstrated well in many cultures by the word picture of washing feet. Many people have told us in testing that this is the most important part of the story.

Luke 22:19-23

Jesus also took a loaf of bread..., thanked God for it,...and gave it to his closest followers to eat. He said, "This bread represent*s my body, given for you. Do this in order to remember me." After supper he took a cup of wine and said, "This wine is a symbol* of God's new promise* to save* you—an agreement sealed with the blood I will shed for you.*

"But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray me. For I...must die since it is part of God's plan. But how terrible it will be for my betrayer!"...*They began to ask each other which of them would ever do such a thing.*

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

He has provided a new covenant or promise; has a plan

Church

Servant hood/service; Lord's supper instituted

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Arrest and Trial

*Luke 22:39, Matthew 26:36-65; 27:1-2, 11-14;
Luke 23:13-21, Matthew 27:24-26
Based on NLT (1996)*

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same words that you have been using throughout the story set for 'closest followers,' 'religious leaders,' 'Promised Savior,' 'Son of God,' and 'place where we worship God.'

'Then they began to spit in Jesus' face and beat him with their fists...' Jesus told his disciples this would happen in the 'Sight' story. Make sure to include this in your story to provide cohesion between stories.

Luke 22:39, Matthew 26:36

Then, accompanied by *his closest followers*,* Jesus left *the place where they were eating* and...brought them to an olive grove *just outside the town*....He said, "Sit here while I go on ahead to pray."

Matthew 26:45-56

A little later, he returned to his closest followers and said,..."Look, the time has come... my betrayer is here!" *And Judas, one of his twelve closest followers*, arrived with a mob that was armed with swords and clubs....*They* grabbed Jesus and arrested him,...*and all his closest followers* deserted him and fled.

Matthew 26:57-65

They led Jesus ... to the home of ... the head religious leader,* where the teachers of religious law and other leaders had gathered. Inside, *they*...were trying to find witnesses who would lie about Jesus, so they could put him to death...Then the *head religious leader* stood up and said to Jesus, "Well, aren't you going to answer these charges?..." But Jesus remained silent. Then the *head religious leader* said to him, "I demand in the name of the living God that you tell us whether you are the *Promised Savior*,* the Son of God.*" Jesus replied, "Yes, it is as you say." Then the *head religious leader* tore his clothing to show his horror, shouting, "...Why do we need other witnesses? You have *heard him dishonor God with his words*." Then they began to spit in Jesus' face and beat him with their fists.

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Story Crafting

Much of the dialog chosen for this story was based on the prophecy from Isaiah 53. 'Jesus remained silent,' Jesus being 'whipped,' and Jesus being given an unjust trial are all fulfillments of the prophecy. The governor asks Jesus 'Are you the King...?' We have not developed a strong kingship theme in this story set, but we have included God's promise to David that his dynasty would continue forever.

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

God's word/promises fulfilled; Jesus says he is the Savior and Son of God

Matthew 27:1-2

...Early in the morning, the *religious leaders* met again to discuss how to persuade the...government to sentence Jesus to death. Then they bound him and took him to...the governor.

Matthew 27:11-14

Now Jesus was standing before...the...governor. "Are you *these people's King?**" the governor asked him. Jesus replied, "Yes, it is as you say."

But when the *religious leaders* made their accusations against him, Jesus remained silent. "Don't you hear their many charges against you?" *the governor* demanded. But Jesus said nothing, much to the governor's great surprise.

Luke 23:13-21

Then *the governor* called together the *religious leaders** along with the people, and he announced his verdict. "You brought this man to me, accusing him of leading a revolt. I have examined him thoroughly on this point in your presence and find him innocent...Nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty. So I will have him *whipped*, but then I will release him." Then a mighty roar rose from the crowd, and with one voice they shouted, "Kill him..." *The governor* argued with them because he wanted to release Jesus. But they shouted, "*Kill him! Kill him!*"

Matthew 27:24-26

The governor saw that he was not getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this man. The responsibility is yours!"

And all the people yelled back, "We will take responsibility for his death—we and our children!"

So *the governor*...ordered Jesus *whipped* with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the...soldiers to *execute* him.

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Execution

Luke 23:32-56
Based on NLT (2004)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Paradise*

'Paradise' refers to the place where the righteous dead go. It can be translated or described in several ways:

'the very good place called paradise.'

'place of well-being'

'place of happiness/of happy people'

Some religious groups already have a term for 'paradise,' but it carries a different meaning than the biblical term.

Father*

Again, if your audience does not understand that 'Father' refers to 'God,' you may want to say 'God' or 'God, the Father' here.

Spirit*

'Spirit' here refers to the 'soul,' or 'life,' and it is the center of the inner life of man---his feelings and emotions.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same terms you have been using throughout the story set for 'save,' 'Promised Savior,' 'Father,' 'religious leader,' 'tomb,' and 'followers.'

Luke 23:32-33

Jesus and two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. They were taken to a place called The Skull. There they drove nails through his hands and his feet and nailed him to a cross, two planks of wood. And he was raised up...on his left—a criminal...on his right—a criminal...

Luke 23:35

The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save* himself if he is really God's *Promised Savior**"

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the *Promised Savior*, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!"

But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come *back with power to rule*."

And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."*

Luke 23:44-46

By this time it was noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. The light from the sun was gone....Then Jesus shouted, "Father,* I entrust my spirit* into your hands!" And with those words he *died*.

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Story Crafting

This story shows someone's response to Jesus, because this criminal accepted Jesus as God's Promised Savior/Messiah. The kingdom concept has not been developed fully in this story set, but the fact that Jesus will someday rule as king is implied in both the 'David King' and 'Promise' stories.

'Come back with power to rule' is an acceptable rendering of 'come into your kingdom'.

You may determine that your audience does not understand 'cross' and that you have to describe it as something like 'planks of wood' or 'a cross made of two planks of wood.'

We chose a version of the Execution story that best highlights the fulfillments of the prophecies in this story set.

Luke 23:50-53

...there was a good religious leader who did not agree with what the others had done. He went to the governor and asked for Jesus' body...he took the body down from the cross (the planks of wood) and wrapped it in a long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb* that had been carved out of rock.*

Luke 23:54-56

This was done late on Friday afternoon...As his body was taken away, the women *who had been his followers** followed and saw the tomb where his body was placed. Then they went home and prepared spices and ointments *to prepare his body for burial according to their custom.* But by the time they were finished, their *religious day of rest* had begun, so they *were required by their religious laws to wait until after the day of rest was over before they could go back to the tomb.*

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

God is Father

Assurance of salvation

Jesus said, "I assure you, you will be with me."

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Alive!

Luke 24:1-12, 36-49; Acts 1:8-10
Based on NLT (2004)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Ghost*

Jesus' followers thought that they were seeing the spirit of someone who had died.

Heaven*

Here, 'heaven' refers to the place where God lives.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure that you use the same words you have been throughout the story set for 'tomb,' 'closest followers,' 'followers,' 'Promised Savior,' 'forgive(ness),' 'sin,' and 'God's Spirit.'

Luke 24:1-4

Very early on Sunday morning (*after Jesus' death*), the women went to the tomb,* *to prepare Jesus' body (according to their custom)*. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find *his* body. *Two men, dressed in dazzling robes suddenly appeared to them.*

Luke 24:5-7

The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking *in a tomb* for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He *has* risen from the dead! Remember what he told you..., that *He* must be betrayed..., be *executed*, and that he would rise again on the third day."

Luke 24:8-9, 11-12

Then they remembered that he had said this. *So the women* rushed back from the tomb to tell *Jesus' closest followers**—and everyone else—what had happened. But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it. However, Peter, *one of the eleven closest followers*, jumped up and ran to the tomb to look. Stooping, he peered in and saw the empty *cloth* wrappings; then he went home again, wondering what had happened.

Luke 24:36-37

Later when the followers were gathered, they were talking about these things. Suddenly*, Jesus himself was standing there among them. "Peace be with you," he said. But the whole group was.... frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost!*

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Story Crafting

Be sure that your audience understands clearly that Jesus was dead, but is now alive.

We are using 'God's Spirit' here instead of 'Holy Spirit' because it can be complicated to find an appropriate term for 'holy.' (see glossary for 'God's Spirit') You may find that it is more readily understood to state explicitly that the men dressed in white are angels.

We have chosen to include sections of the story that highlight the fact that Jesus was fulfillment of prophecy, that he commanded them to go to all nations, and that he told them to wait for God's Spirit.

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

God sends His Spirit; power comes from God

Devotional life

Jesus causes one to understand Scripture

Sharing the Gospel

Take the message to the nations; be witnesses; get power from God

Luke 24:38-39

"Why *do you doubt?*" he asked...."Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies...."

Luke 24:41-43

Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of...fish, and he ate it.

Luke 24:44-48

Then Jesus explained to them *that all this took place to fulfill God's plan, that he, the Promised Savior** would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. *This is the Good News you must take to all nations, beginning right here:* 'There is forgiveness* of sins* for all who turn to me.' You *have seen and know* all these things."

Luke 24:49

"And now I will send *God's Spirit**....But stay here in the city until *God's Spirit* comes and fills you with power from *God.*"

Acts 1:8

"You will receive power when *God's Spirit* comes...And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—*right here....*and to *all parts of the earth.*"

Acts 1:9-10

It was not long after he said this that he was taken up into the sky while they were watching, and he disappeared into a cloud. As they were straining their eyes to see him, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. "Men," they said, "why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven,* and someday just as you saw him go, he will return!"

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God's Spirit

Acts 2:1-47

Based on NLT (1996)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Miracles, signs, and wonders*

These words refer to powerful deeds: a happening that evokes awe; something that points to a truth beyond itself.

Basically, all three words refer to similar things. Perhaps all three words were used to show that Jesus did many miracles of different types.

Lord's Supper*

This reference to eating together probably included both simply fellowshiping, i.e. eating together, and sharing in the Lord's Supper, i.e. the bread and wine that Jesus asked them to share in remembrance of him.

Think about how you explained this in the 'Last Supper' story, and try to explain this in a way that will relate back to that story. For example, you could say something like: '.....devoted themselves to Jesus' followers' teaching and fellowship, and eating and drinking together to remember what Jesus had done for them, just as Jesus told them to do.'

OR '....and remembering what Jesus had done for them, eating and drinking together.'

This means that you need to have made a point to say, in the Last Supper story, that Jesus told them to eat the bread and drink the wine to remember him.

Church*

If the word 'church' in the language conveys something different than the New Testament definition, you might choose to explain the term in a phrase instead of using the word 'church.' In the New Testament, the word never actually refers to a building, but to a group of people who believe in Jesus. In the New Testament, 'church' may refer either to a group of believers who live in one place, or to the wider community of the whole church of Jesus.

Believers*

This term refers to those who believe in Jesus and follow him. It is first used after the giving of God's Spirit at Pentecost.

Transition

The followers of Jesus stayed in the city to await the promised Spirit,* just as Jesus had instructed.*

Acts 2:1

On the day of *an important religious festival*, seven weeks after Jesus' *was raised from the dead*, those *who followed* Jesus*, were meeting together in one place.

Acts 2:2-4

Suddenly, there was a sound... like the roaring of a mighty windstorm,...and it filled the house where they were meeting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with *God's Spirit** and began speaking in other languages, as *God's Spirit* gave them this ability.

Acts 2:5-13

There were people in the city from all over the world for the festival. They came and heard his followers speaking. They said, "These are local people and yet we hear them speaking the languages of the lands where we were born...about the wonderful things God has done!" They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. But others in the crowd were mocking. "They're drunk, that's all!" they said.

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Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure that you use the same words you have been using throughout the story set for 'followers,' 'Spirit/God's Spirit,' 'closest followers,' 'Father,' 'Master,' 'Promised Savior,' 'sins,' 'baptize,' 'forgive(ness),' 'Abraham's descendants,' 'Lord's Supper' and 'saved.'

Story Crafting

Much of Peter's sermon has not been included, because we have found that it is difficult for people to remember all of it in this story. We have left in the parts of the sermon that relate directly to previous stories or to the story line. We also wanted to ensure that we highlighted Peter's response to the people when they asked him, 'What should we do?'

The NLT says that 'this promise is to you and to your children, and even to the Gentiles....' We have rendered that as 'not Abraham's descendants,' because the term 'Gentiles' has not been introduced in the story set.

T4T Principles

Character and nature of God

God is Spirit; God has a plan; God endorses Jesus, who is the Master and Promised Savior

Church

Believers gather together in one place; they are Spirit-filled; they are baptized; devoted themselves to teaching and fellowship; shared in the Lord's Supper and prayer; performed signs and wonders; numbers increased

Devotional life

Spirit-filled; devoted to teaching and prayer

Acts 2:14-16, 22-24, 33-37

Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other *closest followers** and shouted to the crowd,...“Some of you are saying these people are drunk. It isn't true! It's much too early for that. People don't get drunk by nine o'clock in the morning. No, what you see this morning was predicted centuries ago....Listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus...by doing wonderful miracles, wonders, and signs* through him, as you well know....but *you* murdered him. However, God *raised him back to life again*.... Now he sits *at the place* of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father,* as he had promised, gave him *God's Spirit* to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. So let it be clearly known ...that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified to be both *Master** and *Promised Savior!*”

Peter's words convicted them deeply, and they said to him and to the others..., “Brothers, what should we do?”

Acts 2:38-47

Peter replied, “Each of you must turn from your sins* and turn to God, and be baptized* in the name of Jesus, the *Promised Savior/Promised One* for the forgiveness* of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of *God's Spirit*. This promise is to you and to your children, and even to *those who are not Abraham's descendants**....”

Then Peter continued *speaking* for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners...Those who believed what Peter said were baptized* and added to the church*—about three thousand in all. They joined with the other believers* and devoted themselves to *Jesus' followers'* teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper* and in prayer. *Those who had been Jesus' closest followers* performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

And each day *God* added to their group those who were being saved.*

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African

Acts 8:26-38
Based on the NLT (2004)

Words/Phrases to Consider

Carriage*

A carriage could also be referred to as a 'wagon' or some vehicle pulled by horses or oxen. Someone was probably leading the wagon, and there was probably room for at least one other person to sit, since the Ethiopian asked Philip to sit with him.

Intra-Story Cohesion

Be sure that you use the same words you have been using throughout the story set for 'followers,' 'angel,' 'spokesman,' 'God's Spirit,' 'baptize,' and 'Son of God.'

Transition

Those who believed in Jesus went everywhere telling people the wonderful news about Jesus. One of these followers* of Jesus was named Philip...

Acts 8:26-27

An angel* *from God* said to him, "Go south down the desert road *that begins at Jerusalem.*" So he started out.

Acts 8:27-29

And he met the treasurer of an African nation...and he was now returning *to his homeland.* Seated in his carriage,* he was reading aloud from the book of the *spokesman** Isaiah.

Acts 8:29-30; 32-33

*God's Spirit** said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage." Philip ran over and heard the man reading:

““He was led like a sheep to the slaughter. And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth...”

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Story Crafting

We chose this story because of its beautiful connection to the Isaiah 53 story and its model of a response to Jesus followed by immediate obedience of baptism. If the audience recognizes Ethiopia as a present-day country, it should work well. If not, you could substitute 'a country in Africa,' or 'another country.'

Acts 8:34-35

The *African man* asked Philip, "Tell me, was the *spokesman* talking about himself or someone else?" So beginning with this *message from God's spokesman* Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.

Acts 8:36-38

As they rode along, they came to some water, and the *African man* said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?*" Then Philip answered, "You can, if you *truly believe*." The African replied, "I believe that Jesus...is the Son of God!*"

Philip ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

T4T Principles

Church

Baptism; role of Scripture

Sharing the Gospel

Those who believed went everywhere sharing the Good News; led by the Spirit

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Philippian Jailer

Acts 15:40; 16:4-40; 17:1
Based on NLT (2004)

Words/Phrases to Consider

'Opened her heart'

This is an English figure of speech that may not be understood in all languages. This phrase means that God made her willing/able to understand and accept/believe what was being said by Paul about Jesus.

'Household'

Referring to Lydia in vs. 15, this word might include everyone who lived in Lydia's household, including servants. (She may not have had a family, since she is identified as the head of her household.) In talking about the jailer in vs. 31, this word probably refers to his family.

'In the name of Jesus'

This phrase, translated literally, may not carry the full intended meaning. You may choose to say something along the lines of

- 1) 'by the name/authority of Jesus'
- 2) 'by the authority that Jesus has given me'
- 3) 'by the power which is in the name of Jesus'

'Believe in Jesus'

You might choose to make this phrase clearer by using a statement such as 'believe that Jesus will save you (from God punishing you for your sins).'

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same words that you have been using throughout the story set for 'followers,' 'believers,' 'church,' 'baptize,' 'evil spirit,' 'Most High God,' and 'saved.'

Transition

Before Jesus went to heaven, he had promised his followers that they would have power to share about him through all of the world. And that's what they did. This is the story of the travels of two men who led many others to follow Jesus.*

Acts 15:40; 16:4-5

Paul & Silas were sent to check on the new groups of believers in the region. They went from town to town....So the churches* were strengthened in their faith and grew larger every day.*

Acts 16:12-15

Then Paul & Silas went to the city of Philippi....On the day of worship, they went a little way outside the city to a river bank, where they thought people would be meeting for prayer, and they sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. One of them was Lydia...a merchant of expensive...cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to them, God opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. She was baptized* along with other members of her household,* and she asked them to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in Jesus," she said, "come and stay at my home." And they agreed.*

Acts 16:16-17

One day as Paul and Silas were going down to the place of prayer, they met a slave girl who was possessed by an evil spirit. She was a fortune-teller who earned a lot of money for her masters. She followed Paul..., shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God,* and they have come to tell you how to be saved.*"*

Acts 16:18

This went on day after day until Paul got so tired of it that he turned and said to the evil spirit within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus...to come out." And instantly it left her.*

These Bible stories have not been crafted for any particular audience. You must do that. Please select a story to tell and then write it out in your own words using the story crafting tips in the left column. Learn the story from your written version but don't tell a memorized version. Just tell it naturally. The more you tell the story better it will get!

T4T Principles

Church

Met in homes; baptism; encouraged and strengthened believers

Devotional life

Prayer and singing

Sharing the Gospel

Look for where God is at work; Spirit gives power to share

Assurance of salvation

Believe and you will be saved

Acts 16:19-21

Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. "The whole city is in an uproar because of these *men!*" they shouted to the city officials. "They are teaching the people to do things that are *against our customs.*"

Acts 16:22-24

A mob quickly formed... *Paul and Silas...* were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and *chained them.*

Acts 16:25-28

Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing....to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!"

Acts 16:29-30

The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Acts 16:31-34

They replied, "Believe in....Jesus* and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." And they shared the Good News *about Jesus* with him and with all who lived in his household....Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. *The jailer fed them at his house and they all rejoiced because they believed in God.*

Acts 16:35, 40; 17:1

The next morning the city officials *released Paul & Silas.* When Paul and Silas left the prison, they returned to the home of Lydia. There they met with the believers and encouraged them once more. Then they left *to go to another town.*

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Return

Acts 17:1-10; 1 Thess 1:1-10; 2:17-18; 3:2-8; 4:16-18

Based on the NLT (1996)

Intra-Story Cohesion

Use the same words that you have been using throughout the story set for 'descendants of Abraham,' 'Promised Savior,' 'followers,' 'believers,' 'God's Spirit,' 'God's Son' and 'heaven.'

Acts 17:1-5

...Paul and Silas *then continued to travel throughout the area near Philippi. One day they came to the city of Thessalonica. There, Paul told many people, who were descendants of Abraham,* about Jesus.* He said, "This Jesus I'm telling you about is the *Promised Savior.**" *Many people believed his words.* But some of the *descendants of Abraham* were jealous, so they gathered some worthless fellows from the streets to form a mob and start a riot. They attacked the home of a *follower* of Jesus*, searching for Paul and Silas so they could drag them out to the crowd.

Acts 17:6-7

Not finding them there, they dragged out...some of the other believers* instead and took them before the city *authorities.* *They shouted, "One of these men here has allowed Paul and Silas to stay in his home. Paul and Silas have caused trouble all over the world, and now they are here disturbing our city,"* they shouted.

Acts 17:8-10

Although the city was thrown into turmoil by these reports, the city authorities finally released these.....believers.....

For their protection, that very night the believers sent Paul and Silas *away.*

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Story Crafting

Much of the end of the story has been summarized in order to make it easier for the audience to remember and put into the context of a story.

This story is an example of how a 'teaching' from the Epistles may be presented in a story form. This story links the teaching from 2 Thessalonians with a corresponding narrative from the Book of Acts.

T4T Principles

Devotional life

Look forward to the Second Coming

Church

Persecution and suffering of believers;
word of encouragement to believers

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus' followers tell many people

1 Thessalonians 2:17-18; 3:2, 6-8; 1:1

But Paul never forgot about the believers in Thessalonica. In fact, he tried again and again to visit them, but he wasn't able. So Paul sent a friend named Timothy to encourage the believers in Thessalonica. When Timothy returned to Paul and gave a report, Paul was overjoyed to learn that these believers were continuing to follow Jesus in spite of persecution. So, he decided to write a letter to the believers in Thessalonica....a letter from himself, Silas, and Timothy. He said,...

1 Thessalonians 1:2

"We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly."

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7, 10

"...You received the message *about Jesus* with joy from *God's Spirit** in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. As a result, you have become an example to all the believers in *the area*. *These believers* speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of *God's Son** from *heaven**—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

"*And when Jesus comes back, he himself will come down from heaven with a loud shout,...*First, all the *believers* who have died will rise....Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be *taken up* in the clouds to meet *Jesus* in the air....*We will be with him* forever. So... encourage each other with these words."

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Foreword

FORMATTING NOTES:

Within the Scripture references, you will note ellipsis (...). These represent portions of Scripture we have not included here, as there often are details that are not conducive to a storytelling format. You also will note the use of *italics* within the Scripture references. These represent wording that may be difficult to translate and which we have adjusted for you.

In the following pages you will find our suggested list of biblical stories for an initial discipleship storyset for use with the S-T4T church planting and discipleship program. This storyset is a redemptive panorama covering God's redemptive plan from the moment of Creation to the coming of Christ and his Church. This particular storyset revolves around a specific redemptive 'theme' of restored relationship. In other words, this is one epic story about how man broke his perfect relationship with God, how God's plan was to restore that relationship through his son, Jesus, and how we can have a restored relationship with God by placing our faith in Jesus.

For each story, we have copied portions of the NLT (New Living Translation). We made some decisions about which portions of the biblical text should be included in order to facilitate your crafting of the story. For example, we have not included all portions of the creation story from the first two chapters of Genesis so that you may more easily see the flow of the storyline.

We have also included notes about worldview, storycrafting, biblical words, and T4T principles that we hope will be of help to you as you craft these stories.

THESE STORIES ARE NOT ALREADY CRAFTED. You should craft each of these stories to speak to the worldview and storytelling style of your particular audience. These lists of Scripture references are not to be 'translated.' They are simply meant to be a guide for you as you craft meaningful stories. The stories you craft should be specific to your audience, so they may or may not look exactly like the stories listed below.