

Bible stories for the kindergarten program

Term 2

This document accompanies a picture document, to be used as visual aids while telling the story.

Theme	Pages
God is Pure & Holy	2 - 9
God is Creator	10 – 16
God is our Wise	17 - 25



Saul becomes Paul Acts 9

Pure-Holy Week 2

After Jesus went back to Heaven, the disciples told many people about Jesus. But it was dangerous! The same leaders that put Jesus on the cross, hated anyone who spoke about Jesus. They tried to catch them and put them in jail. One of these leaders was Saul.

Saul didn't understand that Jesus was God's son.

One day he decided to take a trip to the big city of Damascus, thinking that he might be able to catch some of Jesus' followers.

As he was going along the road to Damascus, all of a sudden, a very bright light shone down from heaven.

Saul got such a fright that he fell to the ground.

Then he heard a voice from heaven saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you working so hard to stop my plans."

"Who are you?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus," said the voice.

"Go into the city and you will find out what to do."

When the light had gone, Saul couldn't see anything. He was blind!

His friends who were with him didn't know what had happened. They took him by the hand and led him to the city of Damascus.

In that city lived a good man named Ananias. Jesus came to him in a dream and said, "I want you to go and find a man called Saul. I want you to help him."

Ananias found Saul. He touched Saul and said, "Jesus sent me so you could see again. Jesus wants you to be one of His friends."

Right away Saul could see again. Saul was a changed man. Love for Jesus filled his heart. He wanted everyone to know about Jesus.

And later, God changed his name to Paul, and for the rest of his life he told others about Jesus.

Paul and Silas in jail Acts 16:16-40

Pure-Holy Week 1

Paul had a good friend named Silas. Paul and Silas went from town to town telling everyone the good news about Jesus Christ the son of God.

It was the rule that no one could talk about Jesus, or they would be put into jail. They soon got arrested.

Paul and Silas did not worry. They knew that God was with them everywhere. Even in jail! At night they sang songs and prayed.

The other prisoners and guards listened to their songs and prayers.

One night there was an earthquake. The chains on the prisoners fell off and all the jail doors opened.

If the prisoners escaped the guards would be in trouble. But Paul and Silas did not run away.

The guard was so pleased that they were still there.

“God is with us and we want you to know about Jesus, God’s Son,” they told the guard.

“Tell me about him,” the guard said.

Paul explained how God sent his son to earth. He healed and helped people, then died on a cross. Now he is alive again, just as God had promised. Just believe that Jesus Christ is God’s Son. You too will become God’s friend.”

“I do believe that Jesus is God’s Son,” said the guard.

The Guard told all his family about Jesus. They all listened to Paul and Silas and they all believed in Jesus too. Like Paul and Silas they were now God’s children.

God made a beautiful world, and made the first people, Adam and Eve. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the world was not as beautiful, and people started to do wicked things. They started to forget about God.

Everyone in the world forgot about God except Noah and his family. God wanted to make a new start.

God said to Noah, "It is going to rain. Build a big boat with rooms for a mother and father of every animal."

Noah did what God told him to do. It was a VERY big boat. His family helped him too. Then they painted it all over with a special water-proof mixture. The boat was called "Noah's Ark."

When Noah had finished, a father and mother of each animal went into Noah's Ark. Noah did not have to find them. They just came, because God sent them.

God shut the door and it began to rain. The water got deeper and deeper. But Noah, his family and the animals were safe and dry inside the Ark.

After 40 days and nights the rain stopped. Noah opened the window of the ark. He saw water everywhere. He sent a bird to see if there was any dry land. But the bird came back. It could not find a place to rest. Then after a while he sent the bird out again. This time it brought back an olive leaf. The water was going down. Then he sent a bird out for the third time. This time it did not come back. It was time to leave the ark. Everyone could go outside again!

Noah and his family thanked God for keeping them safe and dry. God made a beautiful rainbow in the sky. They had never seen a rainbow before! It was a sign of God's promise that He would never again cover the whole earth with water.

Zacchaeus had lots of money, but he was not a nice man. His job was to collect money for the government, but he took too much.

When he took money from people, he took some money for himself as well. That was stealing. He was not kind and nobody liked Zacchaeus.

One day Jesus was coming to town and everyone went to see him.

Zacchaeus was too small to see over the crowd and no one would let him through. He quickly ran ahead and climbed up a tree.

He waited for Jesus to go past. Now he could see Jesus.

Jesus stopped under the tree. He looked up.

“Zacchaeus come down,” said Jesus, “I am coming to your house today.”

People said, “Doesn’t Jesus know that Zacchaeus is a bad man?”

When Jesus met Zacchaeus at his house He said, “From now on I want you to do what is good and right, Zacchaeus.”

Zacchaeus was sorry that he had taken people’s money. He paid it all back.

“I love Jesus now,” said Zacchaeus. “Now I will do what is good and right.”

The father who forgave his son Luke 15:11-32

Pure-Holy Week 3

There was a man who had two sons. The sons were grown up. One son said, "I want to leave home, Dad. Please give me some money so that I can go to the city to live."

"O.K.," said the father. "I will give you some money." So the son went to the city.

He had a good time in the city. He had lots of fun, but he did not always do good things. He spent all his money. He had no money left.

"I will go and get a job," said the son. "I will go and look after some pigs." So the son went to get a job with pigs. He did not like working with pigs. It was very smelly and dirty.

"I would really like to go home," said the son to himself. "But will Dad want me home again? I have spent all his money. He may be very cross with me."

The son went home. Was the father angry with the son? Did he tell him to go away? No! The father was very happy to see his son. He wanted his son home again. He gave him a big hug. He gave him a party!

God wants us to forgive people who do wrong things to us, just like the father forgave his son. God wants us to forgive others just as he forgives us.

Joseph and his coat of many colours Genesis 37

Pure-Holy Week 4

Joseph had ten big brothers and one little brother. He loved God and he loved his family.

His father loved Joseph very much. He gave him a special present. It was a new coat with lots of colours.

Joseph showed his new coat to his brothers. Joseph's brothers were annoyed. They wanted a colourful new coat too!

One day Joseph had a dream. He dreamt that the eleven brothers were bowing down to him, just like bundles of wheat. He told the brothers about it. Now they were really angry. They told Joseph to go away. Joseph's brothers were not kind to him.

The big brothers went to look after the sheep. One day his dad told Joseph to find them. Joseph put his new coat on straight away. He always obeyed his father.

It was a long way to go. When he saw his brothers, he called out and waved. But his brothers were still angry.

They were not kind and took his coat away. Then they put him down inside a big hole.

Joseph was sad, but he remembered that God was always with him. The brothers saw men coming on camels. They wanted a boy to help King Pharaoh. The brothers got Joseph out and sold him.

The men took Joseph away to Egypt. Joseph prayed and asked God to help him. He knew that God is always with us and wants us to do what is good and right. And so Joseph was good in Egypt.

But one day someone told a lie about Joseph. They said he did something bad, but in fact, he did not do anything bad.

Joseph was put in jail for something he didn't do.

Joseph was in jail a long time but God had not forgotten him. God had a special plan for him.

There was a man in the jail who had a dream. The man didn't know what the dream meant. He told Joseph about it. Joseph said, "God can tell the meaning of dreams. I will ask Him." So Joseph prayed, and God showed him what the dream meant.

One night, Pharaoh had a dream. He saw seven fat cows and seven thin cows. The thin cows ate up the fat, well fed cows, but the thin cows still looked hungry.

The next night he dreamed about seven fat stalks of corn and seven thin stalks of corn. The thin corn ate the fat corn, but still looked hungry.

Pharaoh got all his wise men and magicians, with their magic powers, to find out what the dreams meant.

But none of their magic worked. Then Pharaoh's best servant told him about a prisoner called Joseph, who could understand the meaning of dreams.

"Send for him at once," commanded Pharaoh.

Pharaoh told Joseph about the dream.

Joseph prayed to God about the dream. "God you are always with me. Please show me what Pharaoh's dream means," prayed Joseph.

God told Joseph what the dream meant. God said, "There will be a great harvest for seven years, when plenty of food will grow. Then there will be seven years of famine, when no food will grow. Tell Pharaoh that he needs to put a good man in charge of storing extra food, before the famine comes." Joseph told Pharaoh what God had said.

"There is no one better than you," said Pharaoh. "You will be in charge of storing the food, so that no one ever goes hungry."

Joseph became the most important man in Egypt.

Joseph is kind to his brothers Genesis 42-46

Pure Holy Week 4

Joseph's brothers had been unkind to him. Years before, they had sold him to King Pharaoh in Egypt.

Now Joseph was King Pharaoh's best helper. He knew God was with him in Egypt.

Joseph helped King Pharaoh understand the meaning of his dream. Joseph told him to get lots and lots of corn because soon people in other countries wouldn't have enough to feed their families."

Joseph's family lived a long way off, but even in their part of the land there was no food. Joseph's brothers had no corn left to eat. They were hungry, so their dad sent them to buy corn from King Pharaoh.

Joseph was put in charge of giving out the food. The brothers did not know this.

Would Joseph be kind to his brothers? Yes! Joseph gave corn to his brothers and gave some to them to take home to his dad.

He forgave his brothers for being unkind. Joseph loved God and he looked after his family.

God wants us to be kind to everyone, even if people are not kind to us first.

God made the world in 6 days Genesis 1

Creator Week 1

The first words in the Bible tell us that in the beginning God made the heavens and earth. At first the earth was covered with water and it was dark.

On Day 1 God made day and night.

God said it was good.

On Day 2 God made sky and sea.

God said it was good.

On Day 3 God made land, plants and trees.

God said it was good.

On Day 4 God made sun, moon and stars.

God said it was good.

On Day 5 God made fish and birds.

God said it was good.

On Day 6 God made land animals and people.

God said it was good.

On Day 7 God rested and everything God had made was good.

God made the world, and the sun and the stars, all in six days. And then on the seventh day He had a rest.

Do you remember what He made on each day?

On day 6 He made the land animals, and also His most special creation, people. When God made Adam and Eve, He wanted them to be His special friends. God made them to be friends with God. He made them so that they could love God and talk to God. This is something the animals cannot do.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed, they lost the special friendship they once had with God. However, many years later, Jesus came to earth as a human. Because of His death on the cross, people could ask to be forgiven for all the wrong things they do, and they could be friends with God once again.

God could have created Adam and Eve like robots. He could have made them to think and act exactly as HE wanted them to. However, God did not do this. He gave them a mind to think with. He gave them the ability to make choices. They could choose between right and wrong.

Adam and Eve knew the right thing to do. They knew that God had told them that it was wrong to eat a certain kind of fruit, but they chose to disobey.

It was then that sickness, sadness and death came into the world. These things were never part of God's plan. When God created the world, He said that it was GOOD. That means that it was perfect. These things came into the world because people did not obey God. People can try to be good, but they can never be as perfect as God asks them to be. However, when we ask Jesus to forgive us, we can be friends with God. One day there will be no more sickness and death, because Satan will be destroyed forever, and people who know Jesus will live with Him forever.

Jesus calms the storm Luke 8:22-25

Creator Week 3

One lovely evening Jesus and some of his friends got into a boat to row across the lake.

Jesus had been busy all day, teaching people about God and he was very tired. He lay down and went to sleep.

The wind began to blow and the waves got bigger and bigger. The little boat bobbed up and down. Jesus friends got scared.

“Jesus wake up. Help us! The waves are too big, and we are not safe,” they said.

Jesus stood up in the boat. “Wind and waves be still,” he said. And straight away the wind and waves stopped!

Jesus’ friends were surprised. “Jesus can even tell the storm to stop. Only God can do that!” they said.

They knew that they were safe with Jesus. The Bible says, “When I am afraid, I will trust in you.”

Jesus walks on water Matthew 14:22 - 33

Creator Week 3

Jesus sent his helpers and Peter across to the other side of the lake, in a boat. He was tired. He wanted to be by himself to rest and pray. He had been talking to lots of people, all day.

Soon, the wind began to blow and the waves got bigger and bigger! Peter and his friends were getting scared. "If only Jesus was here," they said.

Then they saw someone coming towards them, walking on top of the water! No one could walk on water like that! They were scared.

Jesus called out, "Don't be scared, it is only me." Peter couldn't believe his eyes and said, "If it really is you, Jesus, then tell me to come to you on the water." He got out of the boat and began to walk, on the water, to Jesus.

While he kept looking at Jesus, he was safe. But when Peter looked at the stormy sea he was scared and began to sink down in the water. "Help me, Jesus," he cried!

Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter. Even though the wind blew and the waves crashed around him, while he kept looking at Jesus, Peter was safe.

They got back into the boat and the storm stopped. Remember, that when you keep looking at Jesus you will be safe. Jesus will help you when you are scared, too.

Lazarus is brought back to life John 11:1 - 45

Creator Week 4

Jesus was in Jerusalem when someone came to tell him that his friend Lazarus, from the town of Bethany, was sick.

Two days later Jesus and his friends started off to Bethany, to see him, but Jesus knew that Lazarus had died.

Martha ran to meet Jesus. "If you had been here," she said, "my brother would not have died. But I know, it's not too late. You can do anything."

"Lazarus will live," Jesus said to her. "Go and get your sister, Mary." Jesus often stayed with Martha and Mary and their brother, Lazarus.

Jesus was sad. Lazarus was his friend.
They went to the cave where Lazarus was buried.
"Take the stone away," said Jesus.
"But, he has been dead four days," they told him.

"If you believe, then you will see what God can do," he replied.
"Lazarus! come out!" called Jesus.
Lazarus came out, still wrapped in bandages.

Martha and Mary unwrapped him. They were so happy that Lazarus was alive!

Many, who saw this miracle with their own eyes, believed that Jesus was God's Son.

Jesus brings a little girl back to life John 11:1 - 45

Creator Week 4

A little girl, the daughter of a man called Jairus, was very sick. Jairus hurried to find Jesus.

“Please come quickly. My little girl is very sick. I know you can make her better,” he said to Jesus

They were walking to Jairus’ house, when someone came to tell them it was too late. The little girl had died.

It is no use Jesus going now. But Jesus kept walking. A crowd followed to see what He would do.

When Jesus got to Jairus’ house everyone was crying. The little girl was only 12 years old. They were all sad.

Jesus went into the room where the little girl lay dead. He took her by the hand and said,
“Little girl, I say to you, get up.”

The girl sat up straight away. She was alive!
Jesus said, “Give her something to eat.”

It was a miracle!
Jairus had seen Jesus make his dead daughter come alive again!
Only Jesus could do such a miracle!

The Lord is my shepherd Psalm 23

Creator Week 5

Do you know what a shepherd does? A shepherd looks after sheep.

In the land of Israel, in Bible times, shepherds didn't stay in one place. They took their sheep here and there, looking for the best grass, shade from the sun, and cool water for them to drink. The shepherd also kept the sheep from danger. If wild animals come, the shepherd would use his special shepherd's crook, or staff, to chase the animals away. If a sheep got caught in a prickly bush, or went into a cave, the shepherd would get him out. A shepherd loves his sheep.

There is a song written in the Bible, called "The Lord is my shepherd". That means that God looks after us just like a shepherd. He provides us with food and water. He also keeps us from danger, just as the shepherd keeps his sheep from danger. Jesus loves us too, just as the shepherd loves his sheep. *(The children could repeat this after you, line by line.)*

The Lord is my shepherd.

He gives me everything I need.

He leads me to where the grass is green.

He leads me to cool water.

He helps me when I am sad.

He helps me to do what is right.

Even when I am in danger, I will not be afraid

Because He is with me.

Just as the shepherd uses his staff to protect the sheep,

The Lord protects me and makes me feel brave.

He gives me joy.

I am glad that His goodness will be with me all of my life.

And I will be with Him forever.

Jesus as a boy

Wise Week 1

Jesus grew up in the town of Nazareth, in the land of Israel. His father Joseph was a carpenter. That meant he made things from wood. Joseph taught Jesus how to make things with wood. Mary, His mother, took care of Him. She taught Him how to help at home, about the plants and animals, and she told Him about heaven and about God.

As Jesus grew up, He learned to read and write. In his free time, He walked with his brothers and sisters through the streets of Nazareth and in the fields, where He learned about people and about God's creation.

He saw the shepherds go into the fields with their flocks and watched the good shepherds who loved and cared for their sheep. He watched the people who worked at growing grapes. He saw them trim the vines that would grow the fruit.

Jesus watched as the farmers plant their seed. Some seeds fell on the pathway and were quickly eaten by birds. Some fell among thorns; some seeds fell on hard soil and were dried by the sun and some seeds fell in good earth. They grew into good healthy plants.

Jesus learned from everything around Him. God put wisdom in His heart.

Jesus was happy, like any other boy. But He was also different from the others. The greatest difference was He only did what God wanted Him to do. He never did anything wrong. He was like other people, except He had no sin. Sin is when we do things that God does not like. Jesus did not sin.

When Jesus was growing up, the people of Nazareth did not know that Jesus was the Son of God. They only knew that He was "Jesus, the son of Joseph, the son of the carpenter." They did not know that God in heaven was His real father.

The Baby Moses Exodus 1 & 2

Wise Week 2

There was a new king over the land of Israel. He was an Egyptian king called a pharaoh, but was not a good king, like the king in the days of Joseph. He was mean, and made the people of Israel do very hard work, with no rest. He did not even want them to have boy babies. The people of Israel were afraid of the mean king.

A lady had a baby boy and wanted to hide him from the king. She had a daughter called Miriam.

“Miriam, we will have to hide our baby,” said the mother.

“Why, Mummy?” Miriam asked.

“The king says he will kill every baby boy who is an Israelite,” the mother answered. “We live in Egypt now, but our fathers and grandfathers came from Israel many years ago.”

“Come now and help me hide our lovely baby. We must save him from the angry king. God said I must hide him.”

They gathered long grasses, called reeds, that grew beside the river and wove a strong basket. They floated it on the river among the reeds. It was so thick that the water could not get in the basket. Mother put the baby in the basket and hid it among the reeds.

“Miriam, please stay here and watch over our baby,” said the mother. Miriam stayed nearby and looked after her baby brother.

One day the daughter of the king came to swim in the river. She found the basket with the baby in it.

“Come and see!” she called to her maids. “There’s a little baby in the basket. I want to take him home and have him for my own. I’ll call him Moses.”

Miriam came out from the reeds and spoke to the princess. “Would you like me to get a nurse for him?” she asked.

She ran home to get her mother. The princess was glad to have a nurse for Moses and she went to the palace to care for her baby.

God was pleased. He wanted Moses to live because He had a special plan for his life.

The burning bush Exodus 3 & 4

Wise Week 2

When Moses grew up, he left the palace. He did not like to see how the king made his people work so hard. He went to another land and there he took care of sheep.

One day while he was watching the sheep, he saw a bush covered with fire. But it didn't burn up.

When he went closer to see the bush, God called him.

"Moses, I want you to go to the king. Tell him to let my people, the Israelites, to go free."

Moses was afraid. But God said, "I will be with you. I promise I will bring the people out of Egypt. I will lead them to a special land."

So God said, "Throw down the stick you are holding."

Moses threw it down. It turned into a snake.

God said, "Pick it up again."

Moses picked it up and it turned back into a stick.

God said, "I will use miracles like this to show the king that I am with you."

So Moses went back to Egypt. He told the people that God would take them out of Egypt. He would lead them to a new land.

Moses went to the pharaoh King.

“God has sent me to tell you to let God’s people go,” he told the King Pharaoh.

“No! They are my best workers,” Pharaoh said. “I will not let them go.”

So God sent frogs, and mosquitoes and flies and grasshoppers to Egypt to make King Pharaoh change his mind. He also sent a hail storm.

Pharaoh said, “I had better let those people go,” he said, “then all these horrible things might stop happening to me.”

But he changed his mind and wouldn’t let the people go.

God told Moses that He would send a sickness, and the oldest boy in every family would die, but not the Israelite boys. He told the Israelites to kill a lamb, and put the blood above their doors. When they did this, the sickness would pass over their house. And it did. No Israelite boys died.

But Pharaoh’s son died. He said, “This is enough. “I will let the people go.”

The Israelites were ready. They had packed up all their things. They started moving towards the Red Sea.

But King Pharaoh sent his soldiers to chase after the people.

“Hurry and bring them back. I need them to do all my work!” he said.

The people came to the Red Sea. The water was deep and they could not get across. The soldiers were nearly catching up and the people didn’t know what to do.

God sent a big, strong wind. It blew a path in the sea. Everyone walked safely across the dry path, to the other side. Then the sea rolled back again, and the soldiers who were chasing them did not make it across.

A long journey to a new land Exodus 16 & 17

Wise Week 2

Moses took the children of Israel from Egypt into the desert. God went ahead, in a tall cloud, every day.

Wherever the cloud stopped, the people stopped and set up their tents, until the cloud moved again.

God was with them, every night, in a tall pillar of fire. God kept them safe.

Sometimes the cloud would stop for a long time. Then the cloud would move.

“Follow the cloud,” someone would shout.

Everyone would hurry about, packing up their beds and pulling down their tents. It was a busy time.

But God’s presence, in the cloud, only moved as fast as the old people and the little children could walk.

There was no food in the desert, but God provided food. God sent little birds called quail, they could catch and cook to eat.

God also sent sweet bread called manna. They would find it on the ground each morning.

Moses knew that God was always with them and would take them safely, to their new land.

The Ten Commandments Exodus 19 - 20

Wise Week 2

The people of Israel were traveling in the desert. They reached a place called Mount Sinai.

Moses climbed up the mountain to talk to God, carrying two big, flat stones, while all the people waited at the bottom of the mountain.

God wrote His rules on the stones. God's rules tell people that God is the only real God to love and trust and how to do what is good and right, to other people.

God gave Moses the rules so that they would know what is the right thing to do and how to live good lives."

God's rules are called the Ten Commandments. Here are the rules He gave to Moses, and to all people who follow Him.

1. No other gods
2. No idols
3. No swearing
4. Keep one day especially for God.
5. Honour your mother and father.
6. Do not kill.
7. Love the person you marry and do not take someone else's wife.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not lie.
10. Do not be jealous of things other people have. Do not want their things for yourself.

A shepherd takes care of sheep. The sheep know the shepherd's voice, and they follow where he leads them. The shepherd does not follow behind the sheep, but walks in front of them to show them where to go. The shepherd leads his sheep to find good grass to eat and water to drink.

At night he leads them back to the sheepfold, which has a big wall or fence all around it. The sheep are safe inside the sheepfold, safe from wild animals and thieves. The shepherd stays guard at the entrance to the sheepfold and protects his sheep. The shepherd counts his sheep to make sure that not one is lost.

Each sheep is important to the shepherd. All shepherds care about and protect their sheep. Jesus told us that He is the Good Shepherd, the one who takes care of the sheep. Can anyone guess who the sheep are?

That's right, we are the sheep. Of course, we are not really sheep, but sometimes we can be like sheep.

Sheep don't think about whether there might be danger ahead. They just follow other sheep. This means that sheep will even follow other sheep right over the edge of a cliff! Jesus wants us to follow Him, and not just do what others do, without thinking.

Sheep sometimes go the wrong way and get lost. Yes, people can do that too. People can go away from Jesus. But Jesus, the Good Shepherd will forgive us if we go the wrong way and take us back into His family.

Sheep are not good at protecting themselves. If a wolf comes, they cannot fight the wolf. They are not even fast enough to run away from it. But the Shepherd fights the wolf and keeps it away from the sheep. Jesus, our Good Shepherd keeps our enemy Satan away from us too, when we follow Him.

God wants us to make the wisest choice. That is, to listen to the Good Shepherd, Jesus, and to follow Him.

A lady called Hannah was very sad, because she had no baby. She went to the temple to pray. Eli was God's servant at the temple. He told people about God. Eli prayed for Hannah, that God would give her a baby. God was good to her. She had a baby boy the next year.

"I will call him Samuel, for I asked the Lord for him."

When Samuel was three years old Hannah called him to her. "Samuel, I made a promise to God when you were born. I promised to give you to Him. I love you my son. I wanted you so much, but now it is time for you to go and live with Eli. I will come and visit you every day.

So Hannah took Samuel to Eli, and Samuel lived in the temple with Eli. One night, Samuel was asleep. He was lying on his mat in the temple. He woke up. He heard a voice call him:

"Samuel! Samuel!" said the voice.

"Did Eli call?" Samuel wondered. He ran to Eli. "Yes Eli, here I am," said Samuel.

"I didn't call you, Samuel," said Eli. "Go back to sleep."

But soon the voice came again: "Samuel! Samuel!" Again, Samuel ran to Eli. "Did you call me, Eli?" asked Samuel.

"No, my boy, I did not call you," said Eli. "Go back to sleep."

Then for a third time the voice came again: "Samuel! Samuel!" Again, Samuel ran to Eli and said, "You called me, Eli. Here I am."

"Samuel, it must be the Lord calling you," said Eli. "Go back and listen to Him."

Samuel went back and lay down. "Samuel! Samuel!" came the voice.

"Yes, Lord. I'm listening to you," said Samuel.

The Lord spoke to Samuel. "Tell the people to do good and right things. Then I will help your land and your people."

Samuel listened to God. All his life he told people what God wanted them to do.

Mary listened to Jesus Luke 10:38 - 42

Wise Week 4

Jesus loved staying at Martha's home in Bethany, with her sister Mary and brother Lazarus. It was a place where Jesus could really relax and rest, away from the crowds of people who followed Him.

Martha loved cooking. As soon as Jesus arrived, she began to prepare a delicious meal for Him and his friends. There was a lot to do and she would need Mary's help, so Martha cheerfully set to work. She hurried back and forth to the table with plates of food, while still making sure that nothing was burning on the stove, or in the oven. But where was Mary? It wasn't fair that she had to do all the work by herself!

Mary was listening to Jesus talk about God's love and His wonderful plan for people everywhere. Mary didn't want to miss a single word. But Martha was getting very annoyed!

"Jesus," Martha said, "Tell Mary not to be so selfish and lazy and make her come and help me. I can't manage so much work by myself."

Jesus loved Martha and He spoke to her gently.

"Martha, Martha, when you serve me, it is your gift to me. Do it because you really want to, with a loving heart and a smile on your face. It is more important that Mary spends time with me, listening to what I have to say."

Martha listened to the wise words Jesus said and went back to her work feeling much happier about what she was doing. She was doing it for Jesus, their good friend that they loved so much.