

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

1. The Bible is like a _____.
2. There are two main parts in the Bible:
the Old _____,
(with _____ books),
and the _____ Testament,
(with _____ books).
3. The Bible is the written _____ of God.
4. The _____ helps us
understand what the Bible means.
5. This year in Sunday Church School, we will learn about the stories
in the _____ Testament.

The books of the New Testament are:

The Gospel According to Saint **Matthew**

The Gospel According to Saint **Mark**

The Gospel According to Saint **Luke**

The Gospel According to Saint **John**

The **Acts** of the Apostles

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the **Romans**

The **First** Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the **Corinthians**

The **Second** Epistle of Paul the Apostles to the **Corinthians**

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the **Galatians**

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the **Ephesians**

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the **Philippians**

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the **Colossians**

The **First** Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the **Thessalonians**

The **Second** Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the **Thessalonians**

The **First** Epistle of Paul the Apostle to **Timothy**

The **Second** Epistle of Paul the Apostle to **Timothy**

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to **Titus**

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to **Philemon**

The Epistle to the **Hebrews**

The General Epistle of **James**

The **First** General Epistle of **Peter**

The **Second** General Epistle of **Peter**

The **First** Epistle of **John**

The **Second** Epistle of **John**

The **Third** Epistle of **John**

The General Epistle of **Jude**

The **Revelation** of Jesus Christ

The word *gospel* means *good news*.

The word *epistle* means *letter*.

The **bolded** words are the shortcut titles.

LESSON 2: "SURPRISE! YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE A BABY!"

from Luke 1:1-80

The people had waited a very long time for God to send a new King that He had promised.

One day when Zechariah, a priest, was working in the Temple, an angel came to him. Zechariah was surprised and afraid to see an angel.

The angel said, "Do not be afraid. You and your wife Elizabeth will have a son, and you will name him John. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit. When he grows up, he will help people get ready for the King who will lead the people."

Zechariah said, "But how can this happen? Elizabeth and I are too old to have a baby."

The angel said, "I am Gabriel, God's messenger. This is God's message for you. Because you did not believe me, you will not be able to speak until the baby is born."

Zechariah couldn't talk, but made motions with his hands and wrote notes to tell other people what had happened.

Soon after this, the angel Gabriel visited a young woman named Mary. (Mary was related to Elizabeth.) Gabriel said, "Rejoice, God is with you and has chosen you. You will have a son, and will name Him Jesus."

Mary was surprised and afraid. She said to Gabriel, "How can this happen? I do not have a husband."

Gabriel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. You will have God's Son, and He will lead the people. Nothing is impossible for God."

Mary said, "I will do whatever God wants me to do." After Gabriel left, Mary went to see Elizabeth and Zechariah, and stayed with them for several months. They shared their stories and praised God for His promises.

1. The first four books of the New Testament are called the

_____.

2. These books tell about the life of _____ on Earth.

3. The authors of these books are called the _____.

4. Their names are

_____,

_____,

_____, and

_____.

5. In today's story, who brought God's messages?

6. How are both of the babies' births miracles?

Zechariah and Elizabeth were too _____ to have a baby.

Mary did not have a _____.

7. Circle the characters in this story who we see on icons in our church:

Gabriel Zechariah Elizabeth John Mary Jesus

LESSON 3: JESUS IS BORN!

from Luke 2:1-40

Mary was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. About six months after Mary visited Elizabeth and Zechariah, Joseph needed to go on a trip.

Joseph had to travel from his home in the city of Nazareth to the city of Bethlehem. Mary went along with Joseph.

When they arrived, there was no place for them to stay, so Joseph and Mary stayed in a cave, with animals.

While they were there, Mary had a baby boy, just as the angel Gabriel had said! Mary placed the Baby in a manger, the place where the animals ate.

That night, there were some shepherds watching their sheep nearby. Suddenly there was a bright light. The shepherds were surprised and afraid.

An angel came and spoke to the shepherds. "Do not be afraid. I have good news for you. The One you have been waiting for has come!"

The angel told them that God's Son was born that day and where to find Him. Then a large group of angels joined the angel and they praised God.

After the angels left, the shepherds hurried and went to look for the Baby. They found Mary, Joseph, and the Baby. They told everyone they knew about what they had seen. And the people who heard the good news thought it was marvelous!

When the Baby was eight days old, Mary and Joseph named Him Jesus, just as the angel Gabriel had said.

When Jesus was 40 days old, they took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem to present Him to God and to offer a sacrifice. An old man named Simeon and an old woman named Anna met the young family and blessed them.

Today's story comes from the book in the Bible written by Saint Luke the Evangelist. The reference (or "address") of the story is written **Luke 2:1-40**.

1. **Luke** is the name of the _____ of the Bible (and, in the case, is also the name of the author of this book).
2. The **2** is the _____.
3. The **1-40** are the _____.
4. We read the reference, "Luke, _____ 2, _____ 1 to 40."
5. In today's story, Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem, which is about 70 miles. How do you think they felt when they arrived?

6. Who keeps showing up in these stories to give good news?

7. What did the shepherds do right away after they heard the good news?

8. In the Orthodox Church, what happens to babies when they are 40 days old?

LESSON 4: JESUS VISITS HIS FATHER'S HOUSE

from Luke 2:41-52

Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem every year to celebrate the Feast of Passover. It took about a week to walk from their home in Nazareth to the city of Jerusalem.

One year, when Jesus was 12 years old, the family went to the feast as usual.

When the feast was over, Joseph and Mary started walking back home with relatives and friends. They thought that Jesus was with other people in their group.

At the end of the first day, Joseph and Mary looked for Jesus, but they could not find Him. He was not with the group.

Joseph and Mary turned and went back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus.

On the third day, they finally found Him. Jesus was in the temple with the teachers. He was listening to them and asking them questions.

Everyone was surprised at the things that Jesus was saying.

Mary said to Jesus, "Son, why have You done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you. We were worried."

Jesus said to them, "Why did you look for Me? Didn't you know that I would be in My Father's house, doing His work?"

Then Jesus went home with them to Nazareth and obeyed them.

Jesus grew taller, stronger, and wiser. His Father in Heaven was pleased with Him, and people liked him, too.

1. Where did Joseph and Mary travel every year?

2. What is the name of the Feast they celebrated?

3. What is the biggest Feast that we as Orthodox Christians celebrate?

Did you know?

The answer to #3 is another name for the answer to #2?

4. When Joseph and Mary went back to Nazareth, where was Jesus?

5. Who was He talking with?

6. What did Jesus do when He returned home?

Extra:

What do you think Jesus and the teachers were talking about?

LESSON 5: JOHN PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS

from Matthew 3:1-17, 4:1-11; Mark 9:1-15;
Luke 3:1-22, 4:1-13; John 1:19-34

When Zechariah and Elizabeth's son John had grown up and become an adult, he traveled around the Jordan River.

He wore clothes made out of camel hair. He ate locusts (a type of grasshopper) and wild honey.

As he went, he told people to repent. Repent means to stop doing bad things and start doing good things instead.

Many people came from their homes to hear John speak. They told John the bad things they had done. He baptized them in the Jordan River.

Some people wondered if John was the King that they were waiting for. John said, "Someone greater than I am is coming. I baptized you in water. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

John said many things to prepare the people for when the greater one would come to them.

One day, Jesus (who also was now an adult) came to the Jordan River. He asked John to baptize Him. John said, "Here is the One we are waiting for."

When John baptized Jesus, Jesus prayed. The Holy Spirit came like a dove and rested on Jesus.

A voice spoke from Heaven, "This is My Son. I am pleased with Him."

Then Jesus went into the desert. For 40 days, Jesus prayed and didn't eat anything.

Then the devil (called the tempter) came and tempted Jesus three times. The devil wanted Jesus to obey him instead of obeying God.

Jesus told the devil to go away. He said that He was only going to obey God. The devil left and angels came to help Jesus.

1. What names do we use for John?

John the _____ or

John the _____

2. What is the word that means to stop doing bad things and start doing good things?

3. Other than John, who are the three main characters at the baptism?

4. What do we call these three characters?

5. What do we call this event, that we celebrate in January?

6. Who tempted Jesus?

7. Did Jesus obey the tempter?

Extra: How did Jesus prepare for when He was tempted?

LESSON 6: JESUS INVITES FISHERMEN TO BE HIS FOLLOWERS

from Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

One day, Jesus went to the Sea of Galilee. Crowds of people came to hear him speak.

Jesus saw two boats by the sea. The fishermen, Simon and Andrew, were washing their nets.

Jesus got into one of the boats and asked them to push the boat in the water a little way from the land.

He sat in the boat and taught the people who were gathered on the shore.

When he finished, he told Simon, "Take your boat into the sea and let down your nets to catch fish."

But Simon said, "We have worked all night and haven't caught any fish. But, because you asked us to, we will try again."

When Simon and Andrew had done this, they caught so many fish that the nets began to break!

They signaled to their friends James and John to come and help. They filled both boats with the fish that they had caught. The boats began to sink.

Everyone who saw it was amazed at how many fish the fishermen had caught.

When Simon saw this, he knelt down in front of Jesus. He said, "Lord, go away from me. I'm not good enough to be near You."

Jesus told the fishermen, "From now on, you will catch people, not just fish."

The four fishermen left their boats on the shore and followed Jesus.

1. Why did the crowds gather around Jesus?

2. In this story, what three things did Jesus ask the fishermen to do?

a. Jesus asked to use their _____

b. Jesus asked them to let down their _____

and catch _____

c. Jesus said that they would now catch _____,
not just fish.

3. What are the names of the four fishermen in this story?

4. Find Matthew 10:2-4. Can you find the fishermen's names? What are the names of the other men whom Jesus invited to follow Him?

5. What do we call these 12 men?

_____ or _____

LESSON 7: IT'S A MIRACLE! JESUS DOES SOMETHING NO ONE ELSE CAN!

from John 2:1-11

One day, Jesus and His disciples were invited to go to a wedding. Jesus' mother was also at the wedding.

During the feast, the wine ran out. Jesus' mother told Him, "They have no more wine to serve."

Jesus said, "Why is that our concern?"

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do."

Jesus told the servants, "See those six water jugs? Fill them with water."

The servants filled the jugs with water, up to the top.

Then Jesus said, "Take some to the master of the feast." So they did.

When the master of the feast tasted the water, it wasn't water. It was wine!

The master of the feast didn't know where the wine had come from (but the servants knew).

He told the groom (the man who was getting married), "Everyone always serves the good wine first, but you have saved the best until the end!"

This was the first of the miracles that Jesus did to show that He was God and His disciples believed in Him.

1. In this story, where were Jesus, His disciples, and His mother?

2. What was the problem in this story?

3. Who was involved in fixing the problem?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

4. Can you turn water into juice, soda, or wine? _____

Do you know anyone who can? _____

5. What do we call it when God does something that people can't?

6. The Theotokos still asks her Son to help people. We can ask her to pray for us when we have problems that people can't fix!

LESSON 8: JESUS CARES ABOUT A GIRL AND HER FAMILY

from Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 5:21-43, and Luke 8:40-56

One day, Jairus, a leader of the Jewish people, came to Jesus. He fell down at Jesus' feet.

He cried out, "My daughter is sick and dying." He begged, "Come to my house, and heal her, so that she won't die."

Jesus went with him to his house right away. On the way, Jesus took time to heal a woman who was sick.

While He was helping the woman, messengers came to Jairus, and said, "Your daughter is dead. You don't need to bother Jesus anymore."

Jesus heard the message, and said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid. Believe, and she will be made well."

When they got to the house, many people were there, crying loudly because the girl had died.

Jesus said to them, "Stop crying. The girl isn't dead. She is sleeping." Some of the people said mean things to Jesus.

Jesus went to the girl's room with her father and mother, and his disciples Simon Peter, James, and John.

He took the girl by the hand and said, "Little girl, get up."

Immediately the girl came back to life and got up! Her parents were filled with joy! Jesus told them to give her something to eat.

The news of this miracle was told all throughout the land. Jesus cared for a little girl and her family. Jesus is stronger than death!

1. What was the problem in this story?

2. Why did Jairus ask Jesus to help?

3. Did Jesus go right away? _____

4. How do you think Jairus felt when Jesus stopped to help a woman who was sick?

5. How do you think Jairus felt when he got the message about his daughter?

6. Was the girl dead? Or was she sleeping?

7. Have you ever woken up someone who was sleeping? _____

Was it easy or hard? _____

Do you think it was hard for Jesus to wake up the girl from being dead?

8. As Orthodox Christians, what do we say when someone has died?

They are _____ .

LESSON 9: JESUS FEEDS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE

from Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14

One time, Jesus and His disciples were busy helping people. Jesus said to His disciples, "Let's go to a quiet place and rest for awhile."

Many people followed Jesus and His disciples to the quiet place. Jesus saw all the people and cared about them, so He didn't send them away. He healed the sick people and taught the people about God.

When it was evening, the disciples came to Jesus and said, "It's getting late and the people are hungry. Send them away so they can go buy something to eat."

Jesus said to them, "They don't need to leave. You give them something to eat."

The disciples said, "It would cost thousands of dollars to buy food for all these people."

Jesus asked, "How much food do you have?"

Andrew, one of the disciples, said, "There is a boy here with five loaves of bread and two fish, but that won't feed many people."

Jesus told the disciples to have all the people sit down in the grass.

He took the bread and the fish, lifted them up to Heaven, and gave thanks. Then He gave the bread and fish to the disciples and told them to share the food with the people.

The disciples passed the bread and fish to the people. All the people ate as much as they wanted. There was even some left over!

Jesus told His disciples to gather the pieces of bread and fish that were left over. They gathered 12 baskets full of bread and fish.

More than 5,000 men, plus women and children, were there that day. They heard Jesus teach, the sick were healed, and everyone had plenty to eat!

1. What were Jesus and His disciples busy doing?

2. What was the problem in this story?

3. How did the disciples want to solve the problem?

4. Who helped solve the problem? What did each do?

a. Who: _____

What: _____

b. Who: _____

What: _____

c. Who: _____

What: _____

5. During the Divine Liturgy, who lifts up bread, gives thanks, and gives it to the people?

What is this called? _____

LESSON 10: JESUS WILL JUDGE US BY HOW WE TREAT OTHERS

from Matthew 25:31-46

One time, Jesus told a story about what will happen in the future after everyone had died.

"The King will sit on a throne, with angels all around Him. Everyone who has ever lived will come to Him.

"He will separate everyone into two groups, just like a shepherd separates his sheep and goats. He will put the 'sheep' on His right side and the 'goats' on the left.

"He will say to those at the right, 'Come, join Me in Heaven. When you were on Earth, you fed Me when I was hungry. You gave Me something to drink when I was thirsty. You let Me stay at your house when I needed a place to stay. You gave Me clothes when I didn't have any. You visited Me when I was sick and in prison.'

"The people on the right will say, 'When did we do all those things for You?'

"The King will say to them, 'Whenever you did something good for someone else, you really did it for Me.'

"Then the King will say to those at the left, 'Go away from Me. When you were on Earth, you didn't feed Me when I was hungry. You didn't give Me something to drink when I was thirsty. You didn't let Me stay at your house when I needed a place to stay. You didn't give Me clothes when I didn't have any. You didn't visit Me when I was sick and in prison.'

"The people on the left will say, 'When did that happen? When did we see You hungry, thirsty, without clothes and a home, sick, and in prison?'

"The King will say to them, 'Whenever you did not do something good for someone else when you had the chance, you did not do it to Me.'

"Then the King will send all the people on the left into punishment forever, but the people on the right will be full of joy and come to live with Him in Heaven forever."

1. Who is the King in this story?

2. What will the King do to everyone when they come to Him?

3. List three things the one group did that the other group did not do.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

4. Which group of people will go to Heaven?

5. When you help someone who has a need, who are you really helping? If you don't help someone, who are you not helping?

6. In the book of Genesis, it says that God created people "in His image." The word image is the same as the word "icon." Every person is an icon of God. How do you treat icons?

7. How should we treat all people?

Look for people you can help this week!

LESSON 11: FORGIVE ME, THE SINNER
from Matthew 18:23-35

One day, our Lord Jesus Christ told this parable. (A parable is a story with a special meaning.)

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who wanted to settle things up with his servants. One servant was brought to him. This man owed the king lots of money, but could not pay it. The king said that the man, his wife and children, and all that they had, needed to be sold to pay back what he owed.

“But the servant fell to his knees and begged the king, ‘Be patient! I will pay back everything!’”

“The king felt sorry for the man and let him go. He even said the man didn’t have to pay back the money.

“When the servant left there, he saw another servant. This man owed him a few coins. The first servant grabbed the second one by the throat and said, ‘Pay me what you owe me!’

“The second servant begged, ‘Be patient with me. I will pay you!’ But the first servant threw the second one in jail until he could pay his debt.

“All the other servants saw what happened and told the king. The king called in his servant. He said, ‘You are bad! I forgave you your debt when you asked me to. You should have had mercy on your friend.’

“And he sent the servant to jail until he could pay what he owed.”

Our Lord Jesus said that it is the same for us. God has forgiven all our many sins, and because of that, we must forgive those around us for their few sins.

(This story and questions adapted and used by permission of AODCE, antiochian.org/letusattend.)

1. What problem did the servant who was brought to the king have?

2. What did the servant ask the king to do?

3. What did the king do?

4. Who did the servant see when he left the king?

5. What did the servant say and do to him?

6. Was that fair?

7. At Forgiveness Vespers, we ask everyone to forgive us for our sins. We say,

" _____ me, the _____."

When other people ask us to forgive them, we say, " _____

_____."

LESSON 12: JESUS AND HIS FRIEND LAZARUS

from John 11:1-44

One time, Jesus received a message that his good friend Lazarus was sick. Instead of going right away, He stayed where he was for two more days.

Then He and His disciples went to the town where Lazarus lived with his two sisters, Mary and Martha.

When they got close, Martha went to meet them. She said to Jesus, "Lazarus has died. If You had been here, my brother would not have died."

Jesus said to Martha, "He will rise again. Whoever believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha said, "I believe that You are the Son of God."

Then Mary came to where Jesus was. She said, "If You had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw Mary and her friends crying, He cried too.

They went to the tomb, where Lazarus had been buried four days earlier. Jesus told the people, "Take the stone away from the tomb."

Martha said, "But, Lord, his body will stink. It's been in there for four days."

Jesus said, "Martha, if you believe, you will see the glory of God."

Then Jesus prayed, "Father, I know that You always hear me. I'm praying to You so that the people will believe that You sent Me."

Then, Jesus said in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

And Lazarus, the man who had been dead for four days, came out of the tomb, alive!

1. What are the names of Jesus' three friends in this story?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. What happened to Lazarus in the first part of the story?

3. What happened to Lazarus in the middle of the story?

4. How do you think his sisters felt?

5. Why did Jesus cry?

6. What happened to Lazarus at the end of the story?

7. The miracle in today's story is a "preview" of another miracle that we celebrate. What miracle is that?

LESSON 13: JESUS DIED. JESUS LIVES!

from Matthew 27-28, Mark 15-16, Luke 23-24, and John 19-20

The leaders saw the miracles that Jesus had done. They heard Jesus teach about Heaven. They were jealous of Jesus and did not think that He could be God's Son.

Some of the leaders paid Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, 30 pieces of silver to tell them where Jesus was. The leaders came with soldiers at night and took Jesus to the governor.

The leaders convinced the governor that Jesus should die. The soldiers took Jesus outside the city and nailed him to a cross to die. Two thieves were also nailed to crosses, one on His left and one on His right.

Some people made fun of Jesus while He was hanging on the cross. Some of Jesus' followers watched what happened. Jesus told His disciple John to care for His mother, Mary.

While He was dying, Jesus prayed for the people who were hurting Him, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." Then Jesus died.

There was an earthquake. One of the soldiers said, "This Man was the Son of God."

Two of His followers, Nicodemus and Joseph, took His body down from the cross and buried It in a tomb. This seemed to be the end of Jesus.

Two days later, some women followers went to the tomb, but it was open, and Jesus' body wasn't there.

An angel came and told them, "He is not here! He is alive! Go and tell the disciples the good news!"

Jesus is more powerful than death!

1. Who were the characters in today's story?

2. Why did the leaders want Jesus to die?

3. Who was Jesus thinking about when He was on the cross?

4. What surprise did the women find when they got to the tomb?

5. Fill in the words from the Pascha hymn: "Christ is risen from the

_____, trampling down _____ by
_____, and upon those in the tombs bestowing
_____." Christ is risen!

**LESSON 14: JESUS GIVES FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS FOLLOWERS
AND SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT**

from Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:14-20, Luke 24:44-53, and Acts 1-2

After Jesus came back to life, He appeared to His followers, and told them "Peace be with you all." He talked with them and showed them how the writings of the Old Testament told about Him.

On the fortieth day, He took them to the top of a mountain and told them, "Go into all the world and help people become my disciples. Teach them and baptize them. Don't forget that I am with you always."

He also told them to wait in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit, promised by God.

Then, Jesus lifted up His hands and blessed them. He was taken up into Heaven so the followers couldn't see Him anymore. Even though they missed Jesus, they were filled with joy because He was alive and promised to come again.

The followers obeyed Jesus and went to Jerusalem. They waited. They spent the next ten days praying. On the Day of the Feast of Pentecost, while they were praying, suddenly a loud noise, like the sound of a rushing wind, filled the room.

Then God's fire appeared over each one of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak other languages.

People outside heard what was going on and came to see what was happening. They heard the followers of Jesus speaking about God in their own languages.

Peter preached a sermon about how this was what the people were waiting for. More than 3,000 people believed in Jesus that day and were baptized!

1. Who did Jesus talk with after He came back to life?

2. Why did Jesus tell them to do?

_____ into all the world. _____ people become

_____ of Jesus. _____

them and _____ them.

3. Where did Jesus go?

4. Where is Jesus now?

5. What happened on the Day of the Feast of Pentecost?

The _____

came to live in the followers of Jesus. More than _____

people believed in Jesus and were _____.

LESSON 15: THE STORY OF SAINT STEPHEN

from Acts 6:5-15; 7:1-60

So many people were becoming followers of Jesus that the disciples couldn't lead all of them by themselves.

They prayed and chose seven deacons to help them do God's work and care for the people who were becoming Christians.

One of the seven deacons was a man named Stephen, who was full of faith and the Holy Spirit. Stephen did many miracles among the people.

Some people didn't like that Stephen was doing God's work. They took him to the leaders and some of the people made up lies about him. Stephen's face looked like the face of an angel.

The high priest asked him if the lies were true. Stephen gave a long speech. He told how God had been at work in their ancestors' lives, preparing them for when Jesus came. He said that the people were stubborn, because they did not believe in Jesus and they killed Him.

The people were angry with Stephen because he was telling them the truth. But Stephen calmly looked up to Heaven. He said, "I see Jesus and God in Heaven."

The people shouted, held their ears shut, and ran at Stephen. They took him out of the city and threw stones at him to kill him.

Stephen prayed, "Lord, forgive these people who are hurting me. Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Then he fell asleep in the Lord. Stephen was the first martyr. A martyr is a person who is killed because he believes in Jesus.

One of the men who was watching was a young man named Saul.

1. What did the disciples do when so many people became Christians that they couldn't take care of them all by themselves?

2. What was Stephen like? What did he do?

3. What did the people do to Stephen?

4. Who else said when He was dying, "Lord, forgive these people who are hurting me. Lord, receive my spirit"?

5. What do we call someone who has been killed because they believe in Jesus?

LESSON 16: THE STORY OF SAINT PAUL

from Acts 7:58-28:31

One of the men who was watching Saint Stephen when he was killed was a young man named Saul.

He did not like the followers of Jesus. He got permission to travel to a city called Damascus and arrest the followers of Jesus who lived there.

While he was on his way, suddenly a bright light shone around him from heaven. He couldn't see! He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why you being mean to me?"

Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?"

The Lord spoke again. "I am Jesus, the One you are hurting.

Saul was astonished and was shaking. He asked, "What do You want me to do?"

The Lord said, "Get up and go into the city. There someone will tell you what to do."

Saul got up and went into the city, with help from his friends. For three days he couldn't see. He spent the time praying to God.

Meanwhile, a disciple named Ananias saw a vision of Jesus giving directions. "Go and meet Saul. He is going to become someone who tells a lot of people about Me."

Ananias went and met Saul. He laid his hands on Saul and prayed for him. Immediately Saul was able to see, and he was baptized.

Saul, who was also called Paul, traveled for many thousands of miles, telling everyone he met about how Jesus changed his life. He wrote letters to encourage the people who followed Jesus. You can read some of those letters in the New Testament.

1. Describe Saul at the beginning of today's story.

2. What happened to Saul when he was traveling to Damascus?

3. How do you think Ananias felt when Jesus asked him to go meet the man who was coming to arrest him?

4. What was Saul's other name?

5. Find his name at the beginning of one of these books in the New Testament:

Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.