

# my covenant

Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people.

And they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient." 8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of

the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words."

Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

**Dive**

Year 1, Unit 2



Your word is a lamp  
for my feet, a light  
on my path.

-Psalm 119:105, NIV

Q. Who can save you?  
A. I cannot save myself.

Only \_\_\_\_\_ can  
save me.

-Q&A 7

Q. How does Jesus save you?

A. As a true \_\_\_\_\_  
although without sin,  
and also true \_\_\_\_\_  
he was able to bear the \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_  
for the \_\_\_\_\_ of all  
humanity.

-Q&A 8

PREVIEW

הַרְבֵּד יִלְגַּל־יְיָ  
יַתְּבִינֵל רוּאֵו

—Psalm 119:105, Hebrew

Q. Where do you learn about this salvation in Jesus Christ?

A. From the Bible.

It tells the story of God's saving acts

through his covenant with Israel (Old Testament) and through the new covenant in Jesus Christ (New Testament).

Q&A 9

By your words I can see where I'm going; they throw a beam of light on my dark path.

—Psalm 119:105, *The Message*

3

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# PREVIEW

# ig Story!



PREVIEW



# Your Life. God's Story.

So you've never been kicked out of paradise, stranded on a giant boat, or crowned the king of Israel. Just because your life story didn't make the big book doesn't mean it isn't important.

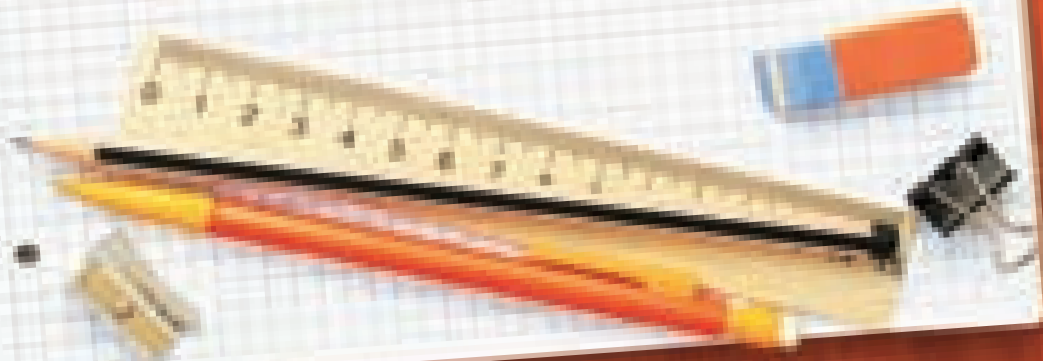
You have your own story to tell! When have you sensed God's presence? What gifts has God given you? When has God helped you through a hard time? When has God protected you?

Has God used you to show love to others? When have you felt God smile?

**Your life is part of God's story too! What is God up to in your life?**

**Use the space below to create your own story symbol.**

# PREVIEW



# The Holy Spirit Tells Me So . . .

**Q. How do you know the Bible is true?**

**A.** Because the Holy Spirit  
breathed into the authors,  
guiding them to write a true and  
completely reliable account of  
God's saving promises and acts.

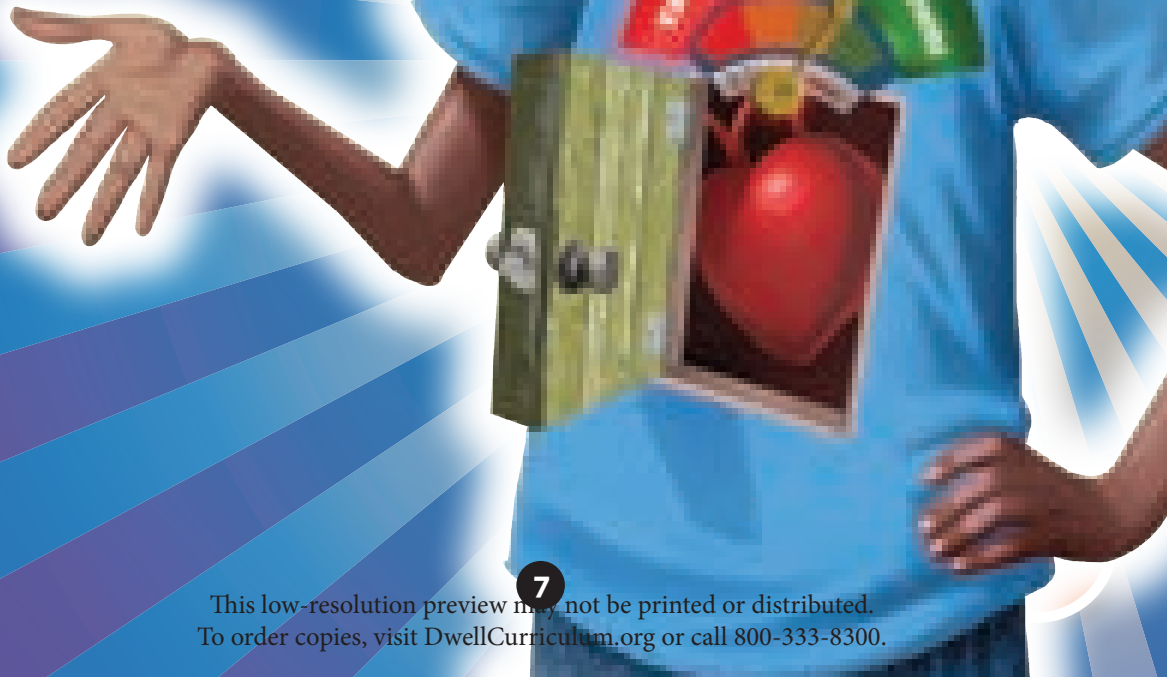
The same Spirit guided the  
church to choose

which books to include in the Bible.

And the same Spirit tells me,  
in my heart,  
that this is the true Word of God.

—Q&A 10

PREVIEW



# The <sup>\*</sup>Big Book

You'll need a Bible for this crossword challenge!

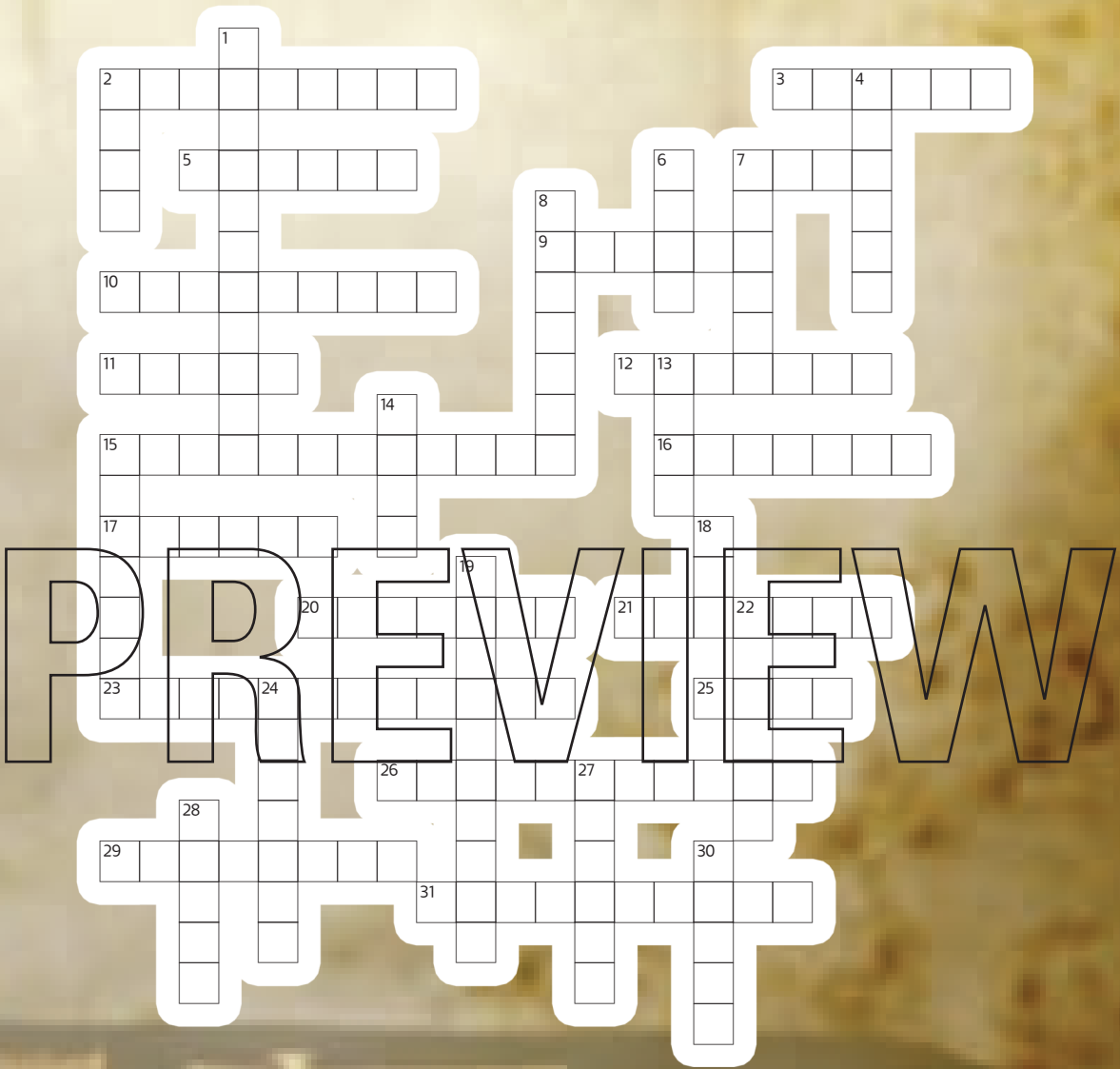
## Across

2. Book of laws and rules
3. Samson is in this book
5. The prophet who described the Messiah as an innocent sheep
7. Gospel that begins with "In the beginning"
9. Book that tells about Israel's escape from Egypt
10. Paul's letter to Christians in the Roman province of Galatia
11. Paul's letter to someone he calls his "true son" in chapter 1:4
12. Last book of the Old Testament
15. Book written by someone who calls himself "the teacher" in chapter 1:1
16. Paul wrote two letters to this young man who was taught the faith by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice
17. Book about a Persian queen who God used to save the Jews
20. The only gospel to tell the story of the wise men
21. The eleventh chapter of this book tells about the heroes of faith
23. This book laments (mourns) the fall of Jerusalem
25. This book of prophecy was written by a shepherd
26. In chapter 4:4 of this letter Paul advises, "Rejoice in the Lord always"
29. Book of wise sayings
31. This book describes Jesus' second coming

## Down

1. First of two books named after a prophet whom God called during the night in the temple
2. The longest gospel
4. The author of this book spent a night in a lion's den
6. Book that's just one chapter long
7. Book named after the man who followed Moses as Israel's leader
8. Old Testament book that begins with "In the beginning"
13. Describes the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem
14. The shortest gospel
15. Prophet who saw a vision of dry bones coming to life (see chapter 37)
18. Book about the mystery of human suffering
19. Two-part book about the kings of Judah
22. Paul's letter to Christians in the city that ruled the world
24. Named after the counting of the people of Israel
27. Songbook of the Bible
28. Story about a large fish and a small worm
30. Two-part book about the kings of Judah and Israel





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P R E V I E W

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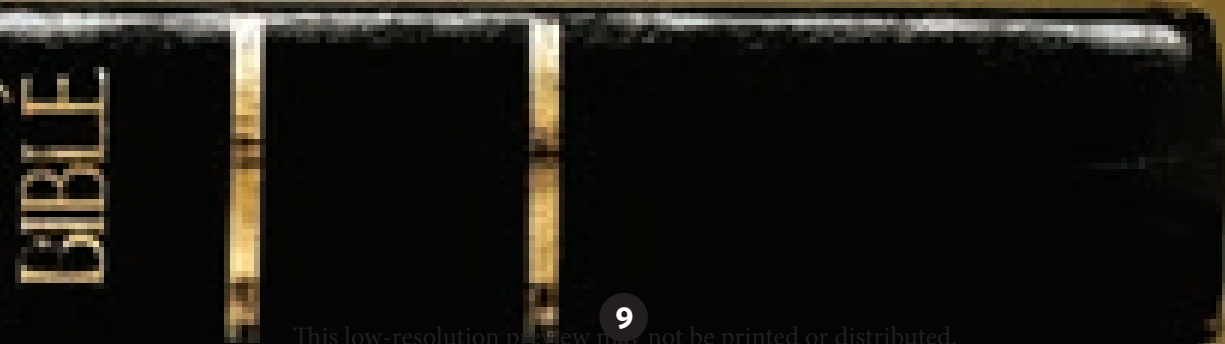
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# What's in the Bible?

## PREVIEW

### A Whole Library in One Book

If someone were to ask you, "What's the Bible all about, anyway?" what would you say? You might say the Bible is a book of true stories about God and God's people—and most of all about Jesus. But the Bible is more than true stories; for example it also includes poetry and advice and letters.

- How many books are in the Old Testament?
- How many books are in the New Testament?
- How many are in the whole Bible?

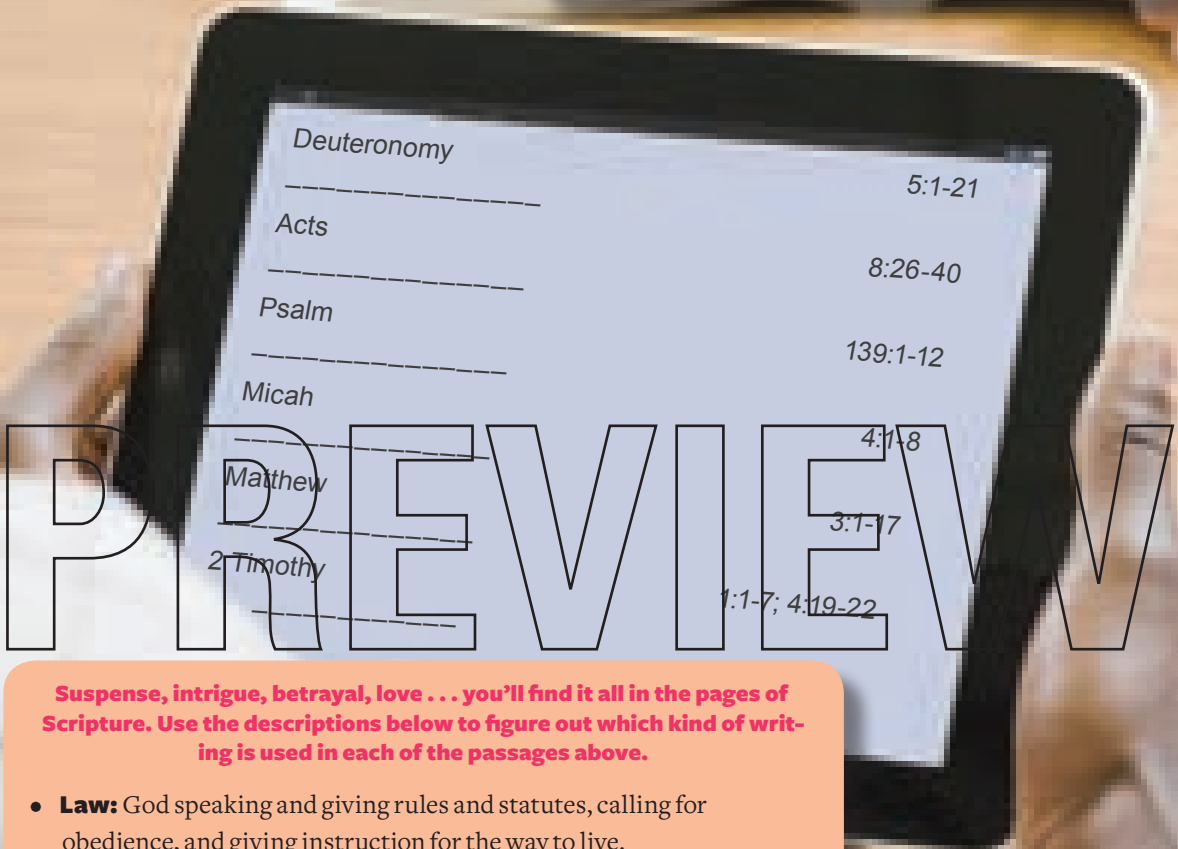
The Bible is more like a little library jammed into one big book. Like most libraries, it offers different types of writing by many different authors who wrote at various times in history.

But the library in the Bible is special, because all of the books fit together to tell one big story. They all fit together because God planned the library and chose the authors! Then God inspired those authors to write all that people would need to know to be saved.

Notice all the different kinds of books in the library of the Bible. Using your Bible or your memory, write in the names of the missing books!

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way.

—2 Timothy 3:16 (*The Message*)



**Suspense, intrigue, betrayal, love . . . you’ll find it all in the pages of Scripture. Use the descriptions below to figure out which kind of writing is used in each of the passages above.**

- **Law:** God speaking and giving rules and statutes, calling for obedience, and giving instruction for the way to live.
- **History:** a telling of past events with details of specific people, places, situations; a plot unfolds, often with dialogue between people.
- **Poetry:** powerful imagery, rhythm, simile, and metaphor—notice how the verses are displayed as phrases instead of complete lines.
- **Prophecy:** present and future tense, describing what things should be like now and what they will be like when the kingdom of God fully comes; powerful imagery.
- **Gospel:** an account of the things Jesus did and said during his earthly ministry.
- **Letters:** a letter to the early church giving greetings and instructions.

# The Spirit & the Word

"Dad, tell us the one about the talking donkey!"



As more Israelites began to learn how to read and write, people began to write down what they heard. Kings paid scribes to record the events that occurred during their reigns, and poets like David wrote down songs and poems.

The writers of God's Word wrote on sheets of papyrus or parchment scrolls. They used a pen cut from a reed and ink made from soot mixed with oil.

What makes the Bible writers different from other writers? What makes the Bible different from other books? The answer is "inspiration." Inspiration refers to the way God "breathed out" the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16). God moved, influenced, and inspired the writers by the Holy Spirit. They wrote in their own way, but the Holy Spirit guided the process.

Because the Bible is inspired, it's also true and trustworthy. And it's "infallible."

Today the Holy Spirit inspires us to receive and believe the Bible.

- What would you say to describe how the Bible was inspired?
- What do you think it was like for the Bible writers? Do you think you were inspired by God?
- Do you notice when you read the Bible that there is something about it that makes you feel like you're hearing from God?

I  
need a  
printer

I say  
James is  
inspired!

I say toss  
it out!

It stays in!



# PREVIEW

...egan to write down the stories they told and their reigns. Wise men, called "sages," wrote ...ent that were glued together and rolled into ...ed with oil or gum and water.

...t makes the Bible different from other books? ...hed into" the biblical writers (2 Timothy ...pirit. The writers used their own words and

...other way of saying this is to say the Bible is

...think they knew that their writings were

...ng different about it?

Many more books were written than we find in our Bible today. Who decided what writings belonged to the canon—the list of Spirit-inspired writings that we call the Bible? How did they decide? Scholars are still working on the answers to those questions.

The Jewish leaders "canonized" many of the Old Testament books long before Jesus was born. It was easy for them to see, for example, that the five books of the Law were inspired by God (look back at the bookshelf to see what the five books of the Law are). It was probably harder to tell this for some of the other books; for example, the book of Esther never mentions God by name.

Some of the Old Testament writings weren't agreed on until the first century A.D.

The early church decided over time on the books of the New Testament. No doubt they often disagreed and debated. The leaders of the early church based their decisions on careful research and much prayer. Decisions were not made alone or hastily. The Spirit worked to make sure that the finished Bible contained all the important writings that future Christians would need for their faith.

- Have you ever read something in the Bible and thought, "Wow! Is that really in the Bible?"
- Did you realize that there was debate about which books should be part of the Bible?

"Where is an easy button when I need one?"



"Put your phone away"

"It's the Bible, Mom!"



# PREVIEW

Until the fifteenth century when the printing press was invented, all copies of the Bible had to be made by hand. Monks did much of this copying. They often added illustrations and beautiful lettering to the manuscripts.

Eventually the Bible was translated from the Old Testament Hebrew and the New Testament Greek into many different languages. Today, Wycliffe Bible Translators estimates that the entire Bible has been translated into over 450 languages, while various parts have been translated into over 2,000 languages—however, for the Bible to be printed into every known living language, over 6,900 different translations would be needed! During all this copying and translating, the Holy Spirit has preserved the Bible from changes that would affect its meaning.

—facts from [www.wycliffe.org/about/statistics.aspx](http://www.wycliffe.org/about/statistics.aspx)

"In da Bginnin God cre8d da heavens & da earth."

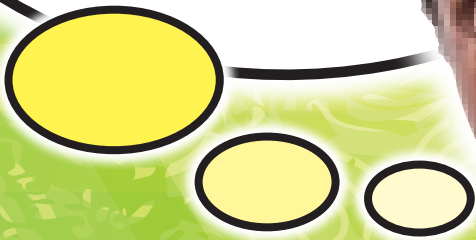
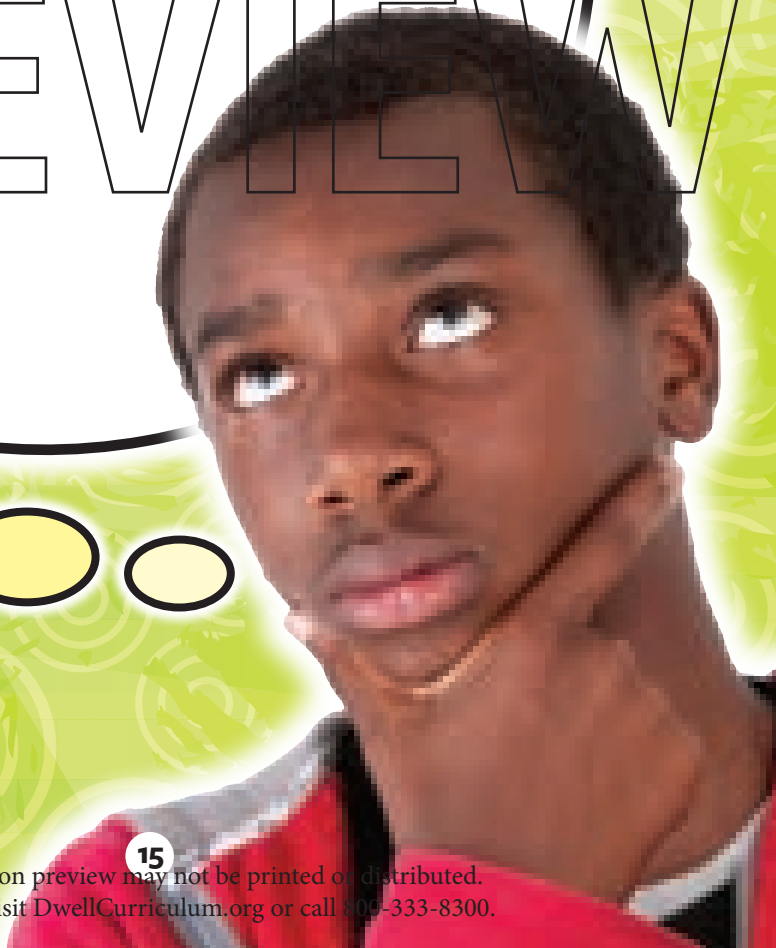
That's according to a version of the Bible translated into the text message language of cellphone users.

The Bible Society in Australia launched its translation of all 31,173 verses of the Bible in the modern, abbreviated language of text messages. . . . Sending the entire Bible by text message would take more than 30,000 dispatches.

—From [http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2005-10-06-bible-cellphones\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2005-10-06-bible-cellphones_x.htm)

How Do You Know That the Bible Is True?

PREVIEW



# Traveler's Prayer

The *Tefilat HaDerech* or the Traveler's Prayer is a prayer for a safe journey recited by Jews when they travel by air, by sea, and even on long car trips. It is recited at the onset of a journey and often done while standing.

-from Wikipedia.org

## Traveler's Prayer

May it be your will, God, our God and the God of our fathers, that you should lead us in peace and direct our steps in peace, and guide us in peace, and support us in peace, and cause us to reach our destination in life, joy, and peace. Save us from every enemy and ambush, from robbers and wild beasts on the trip, and from all kinds of punishments that rage and come to the world. May you confer blessing upon the work of our hands and grant us grace, kindness, and mercy in your eyes and in the eyes of all who see us, and bestow upon us abundant kindness and hearken to the voice of our prayer, for you hear the prayers of all. Blessed are you, God, who hearkens to prayer.

-adapted from the Chabad.org Jewish Practice website ([www.chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/379130/jewish/Text-of-the-Travelers-Prayer.htm](http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/379130/jewish/Text-of-the-Travelers-Prayer.htm))

PREVIEW

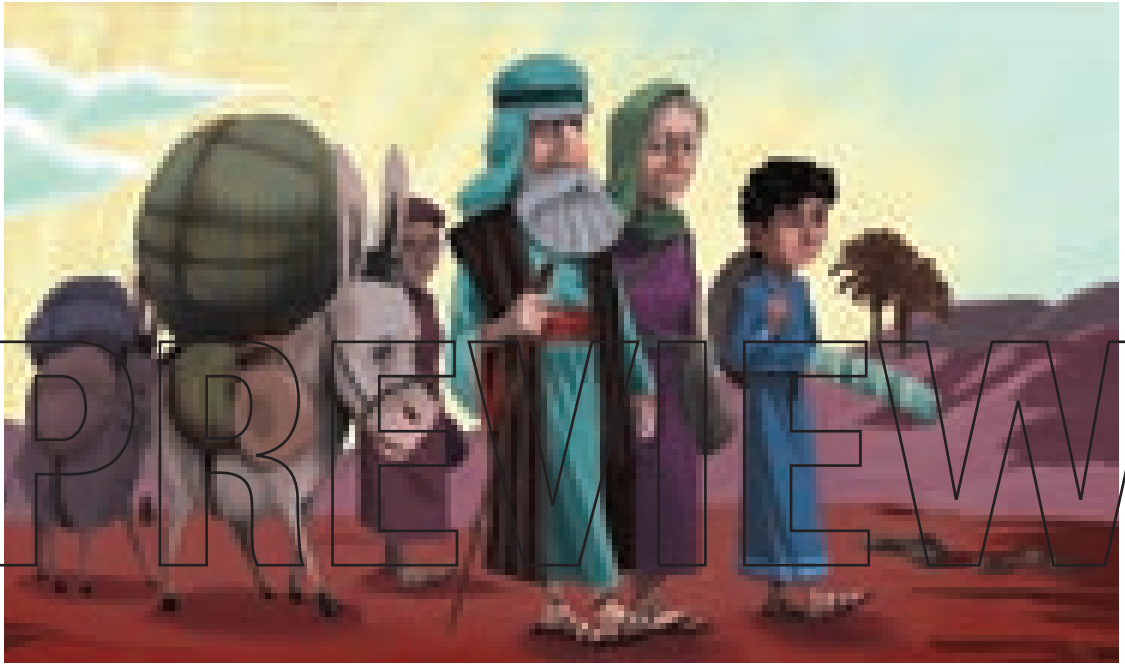
God's Plan  
→



# God's Covenant with Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 12:1-5; 15:1-18; 18:1-15; and 21:1-6, NIV (New International Reader's Version)

## The Journey Begins



The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your country and your people. Leave your father’s family. Go to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation.

I will bless you.

I will make your name great.

You will be a blessing to others.

I will bless those who bless you.

I will put a curse on anyone

who calls down a curse on you.

All nations on earth will be blessed because of you.”

So Abram left, just as the Lord had told him. Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran.

He took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot. They took all of the things they had gotten in Haran.

They also took the workers they had gotten there.

They set out for the land of Canaan. And they arrived there.

“Leave your country and your people. . . . Go to the land I will show you.” If God spoke those words to you, would that sound like an exciting adventure or a difficult move?

Some time later, Abram had a vision. The Lord said to him,

“Abram, do not be afraid.

I am like a shield to you.  
I am your very great reward.”

But Abram said, “Lord and King, what can you give me? I still don’t have any children. My servant Eliezer comes from Damascus. When I die, he will get everything I own.” Abram continued, “You haven’t given me any children. So a servant in my house will get everything I own.”

Then a message came to Abram from the Lord. He said, “This man will not get what belongs to you. A son will come from your own body. He will get everything you own.”

The Lord took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can.” Then he said to him, “That is how many children you will have.”

Abram believed the Lord. The Lord accepted Abram because he believed. So his faith made him right with the Lord.

Do you every find it hard to believe God? What do you do when you have doubts about God?

He also said to Abram, “I am the Lord. I brought you out of Ur in Babylonia. I wanted to give you this land to take as your very own.”

But Abram said, “Lord and King, how can I know I will take this land as my own?”

So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a young cow. Also bring a goat and a ram. All of them must be three years old. Bring a dove and a young pigeon along with them.”

Abram brought all of them to the Lord. Abram cut them in two. He placed the halves opposite each other. But he didn’t cut the birds in half. Then large birds came down to eat the dead bodies of the animals and birds. But Abram chased the large birds away.

As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a deep sleep. A thick and terrible darkness covered him.

Then the Lord said to him, “You can be sure of what I am about to tell you. Your children who live after you will be strangers in a country that does not belong to them. They will become slaves. They will be treated badly for 400 years. But I will punish the nation that makes them slaves. After that, they will leave with all kinds of valuable things.

“But you will die in peace. You will join the members of your family who have already died. You will be buried when you are very old.”

“Your children’s grandchildren will come back here. That is because the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached the point where I must judge them.”

The sun set and darkness fell. Then a burning torch and a fire pot filled with smoke appeared. They passed between the pieces of the animals.

On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram. He said, “I am giving this land to your children after you. It reaches from the river of Egypt to the great river Euphrates.”



The Lord appeared to Abraham near the large trees of Mamre. Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent. It was the hottest time of the day.

Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. He quickly left the entrance to his tent to meet them. He bowed low to the ground.

He said, "My lord, if you are pleased with me, don't pass me by. Let a little water be brought. All of you can wash your feet and rest under this tree.

"Let me get you something to eat to give you strength. Then you can go on your way. I want to do this for you now that you have come to me."

"All right," they answered. "Go ahead and do it."

So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick!" he said. "Get about half a bushel of fine flour. Mix it and bake some bread."

Then he ran to the herd. He picked out a choice, tender calf. He gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then he brought some butter and milk and the calf that had been prepared. He served them to the three men.

While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

"Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.



Does anything in your life seem impossible to fix, understand, or get through? Pause and talk to God about that situation.

"Over there, in the tent," he said.

Then the Lord said, "You can be sure that I will return to you about this time next year. Your wife Sarah will have a son."

Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already very old. Sarah was

too old to have a baby. So she laughed to herself. She thought, "I'm worn out, and my husband is old. Can I really know the joy of having a baby?"

Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, 'Will I really have a baby, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for me? I will return to you at the appointed time next year. Sarah will have a son."

Sarah was afraid. So she lied and said, "I didn't laugh."

But the Lord said, "Yes, you did."

The Lord was gracious to Sarah, just as he had said he would be. He did for Sarah what he had promised to do. Sarah became pregnant. She had a son by Abraham when he was old. He was born at the exact time God had promised him.

Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah had by him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him. He did it exactly as God had commanded him. Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Sarah said, "God has given laughter to me. Everyone who hears about this will laugh with me."



# PREVIEW



## God's Covenant

I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

—Genesis 17:7, NIV

**Q.** How did God bring us salvation?

**A.** Through gracious covenant promises given to Adam and Eve in the garden,

to Noah and his family,

to Abraham and his children,



# PREVIEW

to Moses and  
the people of Israel,

and to all people of every nation—  
through his new covenant in Jesus Christ.  
—Q&A 13

**Q.** What are these covenant promises?

**A.** I will be your God,  
and your children's God,  
if you keep my covenant,  
serve me alone,  
and trust in my saving love in Jesus Christ.

—Q&A 14



# Keeping the Covenant

**Leader:** Our loving God spoke these words: "I am the Lord your God! You shall have no other gods before me."

**All:** Lord, help us to always give you first place in our lives.

**Leader:** "Do not make any idols."

**All:** Lord, help us to worship you—and you alone—with all our hearts and minds.

**Leader:** "Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God."

**All:** Lord, help us to use your holy name with reverence, to praise you in everything we do and say.

**Leader:** "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."

**All:** Lord, help us to use our Sundays and every day for praising and serving you.

**Leader:** "Honor your father and your mother."

**All:** Lord, help us to love our parents and those who have authority over us. Help us to listen to them and obey them.

**Leader:** "Do not murder."

**All:** Lord, help us to be kind to one another, forgiving each other just as God forgives us.

**Leader:** "Do not commit adultery"

**All:** Lord, help us keep our thoughts, words, looks, desires, and actions clean and pure.

**Leader:** "Do not steal."

**All:** Lord, help us to respect other people's property and to wisely use the gifts you give us.

**Leader:** "Do not tell lies about others."

**Group:** Lord, help us to be truthful, to say things

that help and encourage others.

**Leader:** "Do not covet what others have."

**All:** Lord, help us not to be greedy or ungrateful. Help us to be happy with what you've given us.

**Leader:** Lord, we confess that we can't do all these things that you ask of us.

**All:** Forgive us, Lord, in Jesus' name, and help us to keep your covenant.

**All:** Amen.

As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said, "I am holy; you be holy."

—1 Peter 1:15-16,  
*The Message*

# Mount Sinai Today

Have you ever heard God speaking to your heart? Not in a booming, thunderous voice, but with an unmistakable nudge that sends you in one direction or another? At Mt. Sinai God laid it all out—all his hopes and expectations of what a life lived for him would look like. God is calling you to live for him too. But what does that mean, here and now?

Take a look at the words God spoke. Next to each commandment jot down a specific way it could be broken by someone your age:

**“I am the Lord your God! You shall have no other gods before me.”**

**“You shall not make for yourself an idol.”**

**“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.”**

**“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”**

**“Honor your father and your mother.”**

**“You shall not murder.”**

**“You shall not commit adultery.”**

**“You shall not steal.”**

**“You shall not give false testimony.”**

**“You shall not covet.”**

Take a look at your list—what’s wrong with living this way? What is offensive to God about the things you’ve written? Now go back, and list several ways that you could keep the commandments.

Spend a little time talking with God about life.

Maybe there is something you’d like to confess and receive forgiveness for. Maybe you’re glad that his laws protect you from harm. Maybe you’d like to ask for God’s help with some choices you’re making. Pray silently or write your prayer in the box.



# The Covenant Maze

Trace the expansion of the covenant from Adam and Eve, to Noah, to Abraham, to Moses, and finally to people of every nation. **You may not use the same path twice.**



# PREVIEW



**Q.** How did God bring us salvation?  
**A.** Through gracious covenant promises given to Adam and Eve in the garden, to Noah and his family, to Abraham and his children, to Moses and the people of Israel, and to all people of every nation—through his new covenant in Jesus Christ.



# Wind and Fire

## A Podcast of Pentecost

### Characters

- Reporter
- First person in crowd
- Second person in crowd
- Third person in crowd
- Fourth person in crowd
- Peter
- Sound effects specialists  
(follow all direction  
printed in parentheses)



# PREVIEW

## Scene 1: 8:00 a.m., Temple Square, Jerusalem

**Reporter:** This is [name], reporting from the ancient city of Jerusalem. As you know, it's the Festival of Weeks (Pentecost), and many Jews and converts to Judaism have gathered in this city from around the world to celebrate. I'm standing in the square near the temple. I can hear the sounds of many different languages all around me.

*(sounds of people talking excitedly in different languages)*

The people around me are waiting to get into the temple to

pray. Here's someone next to me who is speaking my language.

Ah, excuse me; you're from this area, aren't you?

**First person in crowd:** Sure, I live right here in Jerusalem. But I can't believe all the visitors in this city. I can't understand most of them. Must be people here from just about every county in the world.

**Second person in crowd:** I'm from Jerusalem too and I've heard people are here from as far away as Rome. Someone said . . .

*(a soft wind sound begins, gradually building in volume and continuing through the end of this scene)*

**Reporter:** Excuse me—there seems to be something very strange going on here. There's a weird sound, like a . . . like a strong north wind blowing really hard, only the air around me is calm! Not a breeze is stirring, but listen!

*(the wind sound gets louder)*

The sound seems to be coming from a house near the temple.

*(wind continues, mixed with people in crowd saying: "What's that noise? Where's it coming from?")*

This is [name], signing off for now. I'll be back with a live report as soon as we can determine what's happening.

## Scene 2: Approximately 8:30 a.m., same place

**Reporter:** Good morning, once again. This is [name], reporting from Temple Square in Jerusalem. Things have calmed down here—that mysterious wind sound I reported earlier has stopped. There is, however, a wild rumor about the house where the wind was coming from. According to an eyewitness, the people inside the house had orange flames of fire dancing on their heads!

*(laughter from crowd in background)*

No one seems to be taking that rumor seriously. Wait a minute! People are coming out of the house now. They're walking into the crowd and talking and gesturing. . . . Let me see if I can get a closer look.

*(sounds of people talking in many different languages)*

Excuse me, can you tell me what's happening here?

**Third person in crowd:** These men are all talking in different languages!

*(talking sound continues)*

**Fourth person in crowd:**

That's impossible. These men are from this area. There's no way they could speak all those languages!

**Reporter:** Apparently the men are telling the crowd about the



Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

—Acts 2:5

wonders of God—something you might expect on a religious holiday like this. Excuse me, could you tell our listeners what you think about this?

**First person in crowd:** I think we're seeing a miracle. How else can you explain it?

**Second person in crowd:** It's no miracle—these men have had too much to drink, that's all.

*(crowds begin to chant: "They're drunk! They're drunk!")*

**Reporter:** This is [name], reporting. Join me on the hour for an update of this unusual situation at the temple.

## Scene 3: 9:00 a.m., same place

**Reporter:** Hello again from Temple Square, where so far it's been an interesting day, to say the least. First a strange sound, like a wind. Then ordinary

people talking in many different languages. Apparently one of them is going to address the crowd.

*(shouts of "Be quiet!" come from the crowd)*

There appear to be other men around the speaker. Let me

count them a minute. . . . eight, nine, ten, eleven—eleven other men are standing behind the speaker, whose name, I heard someone say, is Peter.

**Peter:** Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine o'clock in the morning!

*(the crowd boos and cheers)*

**Reporter:** It appears now that Peter has the attention of the crowd. He's an excellent speaker. Let's listen in.

**Peter:** This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen: “In the Last Days,” God says, “I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters; your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams. When the time comes, I’ll pour out my Spirit on those who serve me, men and women both, and they’ll prophesy. . . . And whoever calls out for help to me, God, will be saved” [Acts 2:14-21, *The Message*].

*(crowd sounds of agreement, disagreement)*

**Reporter:** Apparently Peter is claiming that he and the others have received some kind of special power from God.

**Peter:** Fellow Israelites, listen carefully to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man thoroughly accredited by God to you—the miracles and wonders and signs that God did through him are common knowledge—this Jesus, following the deliberate and well-thought-out plan of God,

was betrayed by men who took the law into their own hands, and was handed over to you. And you pinned him to a cross and killed him [Acts 2:22-23, *The Message*].

*(crowd sounds of agreement and disagreement)*

**Reporter:** For our listeners who may not know, Jesus was a prophet who claimed to be the Son of God. He was crucified just outside the city a few weeks ago.

**Peter:** You killed him, but God untied the death ropes and raised him up. Death was no match for him [Acts 2:24, *The Message*].

**Reporter:** Peter is now repeating a rumor begun by Jesus’ followers: that Jesus is actually alive today.

**Peter:** This Jesus, God raised up. And every one of us here is a witness to it. Then, raised to the heights at the right hand of God and receiving the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, he poured out the Spirit he had just received. That is what you see and hear. . . .

All Israel, then, know this: There’s no longer room for doubt—God made him Master and Messiah, this Jesus whom you killed on a cross [Acts 2:32-33, 37, *The Message*].

**Reporter:** This large crowd has fallen absolutely quiet. Peter has apparently convinced many that the Jesus they crucified is alive and is ruling in heaven right now.

**Third person in crowd:** Brothers, what shall we do?

*(crowd echoes this cry: “What shall we do?”)*

**Peter:** Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites [Acts 2:38-39, *The Message*].

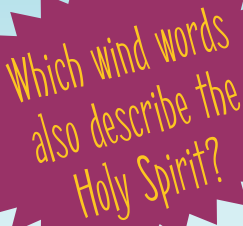
**Reporter:** Peter is continuing to preach, but already many in this large crowd are kneeling in prayer. Many are saying they want to repent and be baptized in Jesus’ name. What an amazing Pentecost this has been!

*(crowd saying “Praise God! Praise God!”)*

This is [name], signing off for now from this most unusual Pentecost celebration in the Temple Square in Jerusalem.

Modern Jerusalem. The Dome of the Rock was built on the site of the ancient temple visited by Jesus and the apostles. The Holy of Holies within the temple was God’s home in the center of Jerusalem. It was destroyed around the year A.D. 66.





Which wind words  
also describe the  
Holy Spirit?



Wind . . .

Has the wind ever woken you up in the middle of the night? Maybe it was rattling the windows or whistling through the trees. . . . Imagine a wind like that when you hear about the wind at Pentecost: “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting” (Acts 2:2). Brainstorm and jot down some words you associate with wind.

PREVIEW

Fire . . .

Imagine a warm, crackling bonfire or a single candle burning in an Advent wreath. Remember some Bible stories that include fire: Moses and the burning bush, the Israelites at Mt. Sinai; can you think of any others? Imagine seeing, hearing, smelling, and feeling these fires as you read the Pentecost story: “They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them” (Acts 2:3). Brainstorm and jot down some words you associate with fire.



How is the Holy  
Spirit like fire?

# The Spirit in Me

At Pentecost the Holy Spirit was heard in the wind and seen in the fire. You may not have a flame above your head, but if you believe

in Jesus then you do have the Spirit burning within your heart! You also have a story to tell about how God has worked in your life.



## My Story

- \* I believe in God because:
- \* Here's what Jesus did for me:
- \* I feel especially close to God when:
- \* I still have some questions about God:

# REVIEW

**Q.** How are people included in God's covenant?  
**A.** By hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ, by receiving the sign of baptism, and by being made new (regeneration) through the Holy Spirit's working in their hearts and lives.  
-Q&A 16

Now spend a minute quietly asking God to give you an opportunity this week to share a little bit of your story with someone who

needs to hear about God's love!  
Printed or distributed by DwellCurriculum.com or call 800-333-8300.



# DWELL

Where the  
Living Water  
Flows

Blog

Bio

Photos/Videos

Resources



Welcome to *Dwell*. I started this blog a couple months ago because the strangest thing happened to me. I was minding my own business, getting water at the well, when this Jewish guy asked *me* for some water. And if that wasn't strange enough, he told me that if I knew who he was, I would be asking *him* for water. Can you believe that? I was like, is this guy for real? He didn't even have a bucket. And then he started talking about *living water*. Water that could quench your thirst forever...

Now that got my attention. Who wants to lug a jug to the well EVERY DAY? If this guy invented a new system, I wanted to hear about it. But he wasn't talking about water at all! The next thing I knew he was telling me all about my love life—he knew everything there was to know about me. And by the time I picked my jaw up off the floor he was telling me that he was the Messiah. That's right THE MESSIAH. I'm telling you, this is a true story.

I ran back to town so fast I lost a shoe on the road. I told the first people I saw that they better head over to the well because there is a guy there that would blow their minds! He's the real deal, the one we have been waiting for! No more thirsting for me, my soul is quenched.

Long after Jesus moved on to the next town people still had questions and wanted to talk about the Messiah, so I started this blog so that we could have a place to *dwell* together—to ask questions and get answers, to encourage each other and learn together. I hope you'll add some comments and post a few thoughts of your own.

Peace,  
Samari Tan

## Comments

**February, 33 A.D.**

Hi Samari,

I know God loves me, but I've never really been sure if I'm saved. What does it really mean to be saved, and how can I be sure that I am?

**April, 33 A.D.**

Hey Samari,

I have been reading some of the posts on your blogs, and I'm just not sure that I can relate. I have a really good life—lots of friends, lots of stuff to do. I don't feel like my life is missing anything. I don't feel “thirsty” like you describe. Why do I need Jesus?

**April, 33 A.D.**

Hi Samari,

I can't believe you actually met Jesus FACE to FACE! I'm like a million miles away and I know I won't get to see him up close, but even without seeing him I feel his love every day. Whatever I face I know Jesus is right there with me. Do you know what I mean?

**Post a comment here**

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

God says to you:  
"I choose you to be my own child. I give my covenant promises to you. I will be your God and you will be one of my people."

When you are ready, you are invited to join the members of God's covenant family who stand up and say out loud for all to hear that they belong to God, that Jesus is their Lord and Savior, that the Spirit is working in their hearts and lives. God's people joyfully look forward to the day when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ!

**RESPOND**

As I think about publicly professing my faith in Jesus,  
I feel . . .  
I have these questions . . .

**REVIEW**

**Q.** How does this salvation become our own?  
**A.** Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.  
—Q&A 17

