

Welcome to Table Talk



Table Talk helps children and adults explore the Bible together. Each day provides a short family Bible time which, with your own adaptation, could work for ages 4 to 12. It includes optional follow on material which takes the passage further for older children. There are also suggestions for linking **Table Talk** with **XTB** children's notes.

Who can use
Table Talk?



TableTalk

A short family Bible time for daily use. Table Talk takes about five minutes, maybe at breakfast, or after an evening meal. Choose whatever time and place suits you best as a family. Table Talk includes a simple discussion starter or activity that leads into a short Bible reading. This is followed by a few questions.

- **Families**
- **One adult with one child**
- **A teenager with a younger brother or sister**
- **Children's leaders with their groups**
- **Any other mix that works for you!**

XTB

XTB children's notes help 7-11 year olds to get into the Bible for themselves. They are based on the same Bible passages as **Table Talk**. You will find suggestions for how **XTB** can be used alongside **Table Talk** on the next page.

In the next three pages you'll find suggestions for how to use Table Talk, along with hints and tips for adapting it to your own situation. If you've never done anything like this before, check out our Table Talk web page for further help (see website addresses below) or write in for a fact sheet.

THE SMALL PRINT

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HOW TO USE Table Talk

Table Talk is designed to last for up to three months. How you use it depends on what works for you. We have included 65 full days of material in this issue, plus some more low-key suggestions for another 26 days (at the back of the book). We would like to encourage you to work establishing a pattern of family reading. The first two weeks are the hardest!

DAY 1 What shall we do?

KEYPOINT
When the people heard Peter's speech, they asked, "What shall we do?" Read Acts 2:38-39

Today's passages are:
Table Talk: Acts 2:38-39
XTB: Acts 2:37-40

TABLE TALK

Recap: Look again at yesterday's five points from Peter's speech.

READ

When the people heard Peter's speech, they asked, "What shall we do?" Read Acts 2:38-39

TALK

Peter told them to **repent**. What does that mean? (To repent doesn't just mean saying sorry. It means asking God to help you to **change**, and to do what He says.) What two things did Peter say would happen? (Their sins will be forgiven, they'll be given the gift of the Holy Spirit.)

DO

Use the illustration in **Notes for Parents** (on the previous page) to show how Jesus rescues us from our sins.

PRAY

Verses 39 means that this promise is for us too—even though we live 2000 years after Peter! Thank God for sending Jesus so that you can be forgiven.

Building up

The apostles had the task of telling others about Jesus. Some of them also wrote the books that make up the New T. But what if they forgot some of what they had seen or heard? Or didn't understand it? Read **John 14:25-26** to see how the Holy Spirit helped them. Thank God for making sure that what the apostles taught and wrote down about Jesus was true and accurate.

Table Talk is based on the same Bible passages as **XTB**, but usually only asks for two or three verses to be read out loud. The full **XTB** passage is listed at the top of each **Table Talk** page. If you are using **Table Talk** with older children, read the full **XTB** passage rather than the shorter version.

The main part of **Table Talk** is designed to be suitable for younger children. **Building Up** includes more difficult questions designed for older children, or those with more Bible knowledge.

As far as possible, if your children are old enough to read the Bible verses for themselves, encourage them to find the answers in the passage and to tell you which verse the answer is in. This will help them to get used to handling the Bible for themselves.

The **Building Up** section is designed to build on the passage studied in **Table Talk** (and **XTB**). **Building Up** includes some additional questions which reinforce the main teaching point, apply the teaching more directly or follow up any difficult issues raised by the passage.

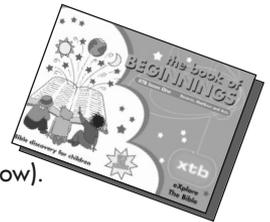
KEYPOINT

This is the main point you should be trying to convey. Don't read this out—it often gives away the end of the story!

Linking with XTB

The **XTB** children's notes are based on the same passages as **Table Talk**. There are a number of ways in which you can link the two together:

- Children do **XTB** on their own. Parents then follow these up later (see suggestions below).
- A child and adult work through **XTB** together.
- A family uses **Table Talk** together at breakfast. Older children then use **XTB** on their own later.
- You use **Table Talk** on its own, with no link to **XTB**.



FOLLOWING UP XTB

If your child uses **XTB** on their own it can be helpful to ask them later to show you (or tell you) what they've done. Some useful starter questions are:

- Can you tell me what the reading was about?
- Did anything surprise you in the reading? Was there anything that would have surprised the people who first saw it or read about it?
- Is there anything you didn't understand or want to ask about?
- What did you learn about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?
- Is there anything you're going to do as a result of reading this passage?
- Did you stick in a Promise sticker? If so, why? What was the promise?

Have an adventure!

Table Talk is deliberately not too ambitious. Most families find it quite hard to set up a regular pattern of reading the Bible together—and when they do meet, time is often short. So **Table Talk** is designed to be quick and easy to use, needing little in the way of extra materials, apart from pen and paper now and then.

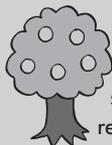
BUT!!

Most families have special times when they **can** be more ambitious, or do have some extra time available. Here are some suggestions for how you can use **Table Talk** as the basis for a special family adventure...



PICNIC

Take Table Talk with you on a family picnic. Thank God for His beautiful Creation.



WALK

Go for a walk together. Stop somewhere with a good view and read Genesis 1v1—2v4.

GETTING TOGETHER

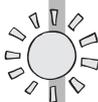
Invite another family for a meal, and to read the Bible together. The children could make a poster based on the passage.

MUSEUM

Visit a museum to see a display from Bible times. Use it to remind yourselves that the Bible tells us about real people and real history.

HOLIDAYS

Set aside a special time each day while on holiday. Choose some unusual places to read the Bible together—on the beach, up a mountain, in a boat... Take some photos to put on your Table Talk display when you get back from holiday.



You could try one of the special holiday editions of XTB and Table Talk—**Christmas Unpacked**, **Easter Unscrambled** and **Summer Signposts**.

FOOD!

Eat some food linked with the passage you are studying. For example Manna (biscuits made with honey, Exodus 16v31), Unleavened bread or Honeycomb (Matthew 3v4—



but don't try the locusts!)

DISPLAY AREA

We find it easier to remember and understand what we learn when we have something to look at. Make a Table Talk display area, for pictures, Bible verses and prayers. Add to it regularly.

VIDEO

A wide range of Bible videos are available—from simple cartoon stories, to whole Gospels filmed with real life actors. (Your local Christian bookshop should have a range.) Choose one that ties in with the passages you are reading together. **Note:** Use the video **in addition** to the Bible passage, not **instead** of it!

PRAYER DIARY

As a special project, make a family prayer diary. Use it to keep a note of things you pray for—and the answers God gives you. This can be a tremendous help to children (and parents!) to learn to trust God in prayer as we see how he answers over time.



Go on—try it!

DRAMA OR PUPPETS

Take time to dramatise a Bible story. Maybe act it out (with costumes if possible) or make some simple puppets to retell the story.

Enough of the introduction, let's get going...

DAYS 1-15

Notes for Parents

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Acts is the second book written by a doctor called Luke. His first book tells the life of Jesus. His second book tells us what happened after Jesus died and came back to life again.

Acts is short for “Acts of the Apostles”. It’s all about how Jesus’ closest disciples (now called apostles) began to spread the good news about Jesus.

Note: *Disciple* means “pupil” or “learner”. It is used in the Gospels to describe all those who followed Jesus. In practice, we often use this title for Jesus’ twelve closest followers. *Apostle* means “sent one”. The twelve Apostles were chosen (sent) by Jesus to tell the world about Him. (Acts 1v8)

THE HOLY SPIRIT FACT BOX

It is important to make clear to people that the Holy Spirit isn’t a force (like electricity). He’s a **person**. He’s **God!** Jesus sends us His Spirit to live inside us and help us to follow Him.

THE HELPER

The Holy Spirit helps us

- ★ wherever we are
- ★ to know Jesus is with us
- ★ to follow Jesus
- ★ to tell others about Jesus
- ★ to pray

Always refer to Him as *He* not *it*. Some children can be worried about the Spirit (associations with ghosts/spirits etc.). Make sure they understand that He is the Spirit of *Jesus* with the same character as the Lord—powerful, but also loving, kind, caring.

Children may like to make or draw a Fact Box, or design one on a computer, to put these facts in. Extra information can be added as you read through the Book of Acts.

DAY 1 The never-ending story



KEYPOINT

Jesus tells His followers to wait for the Holy Spirit, who will help them to follow Jesus

Today’s passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 1v4-5

XTB: Acts 1v1-5

TABLE TALK

Luke wrote two books—Luke’s Gospel and Acts. (Gospel means “Good News”.) In his Gospel, Luke “*wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven*” (Acts 1v1-2). Think of **five** things Luke would have written about or flick through Luke’s Gospel to find some examples.

READ

Luke’s second book, Acts, tells us what happened after Jesus died and came back to life. It starts with Jesus telling His followers to *wait...* **Read Acts 1v4-5**

TALK

What did Jesus tell His friends to wait for?—v4 (*The gift that God His Father promised*) What was this gift?—v5 (*The Holy Spirit*) The Holy Spirit is called “The Helper”. Why do you think that is? How does He help us? Read the *Holy Spirit Fact Box* in **Notes for Parents** to find out more.

THINK

The Holy Spirit helped Jesus’ friends to keep following Him—and to tell others about Him. Following Jesus is hard at times. We need help too.

PRAY

Ask God to help you—even when it’s hard.



Building up

After being brought back to life, Jesus spent 40 days with His followers. **Read Acts 1v3** to see what Jesus did and taught during that time. Why do you think Jesus’ followers needed proof that He really was alive? How would this help them later, when they started to tell other people about Him?

DAY 2 Mission impossible?



KEYPOINT

The Holy Spirit will help Jesus' followers to spread the message about Him.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 1v8

XTB: Acts 1v6-11

TABLE TALK

I live near London. How many ways could you get a message to me? (*Post, phone, visit, email, text message, fax, messenger...*)

READ

Jesus' followers had to tell other people the great message about Jesus. How many people do you think they had to tell? **Read Acts 1v8** to see what Jesus said.

TALK

What four places does Jesus mention? Who would help them to witness (tell people) about Jesus? (*The Holy Spirit*)
(*Optional*) Find Israel and **Jerusalem** in an atlas. **Judea** and **Samaria** are both parts of modern Israel. Look for countries *nearby* where the message about Jesus could spread quickly. Now find some *far away* countries—"the ends of the earth".

A bunch of ordinary men telling the whole world about Jesus **seems** an impossible mission! *Why wasn't it?*

PRAY

The good news about Jesus has spread to every country in the world. It has reached **you** too! Thank God for the people who tell you about Jesus.

Building up

Find out how Jesus left His disciples by reading **Acts 1v9-11**. Film makers use special effects to make people appear to float, but Jesus really did rise up into the air! Why do you think Jesus was able to do this? The angels promised that Jesus would come back again. Are you looking forward to Jesus returning? Why?

DAY 3 The Chatterbox team



KEYPOINT

Matthias is chosen to replace Judas. The Holy Spirit will help him to tell others about Jesus.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 1v21-22 + 26

XTB: Acts 1v21-26

TABLE TALK

Are any of you chatterboxes? (i.e. You can't stop talking!) The apostles were to be chatterboxes about **Jesus**—but they needed one more man to join them. What kind of man do you think they'd need? (*What might he be good at? What would he need to know?*)

READ

Peter described the kind of man they needed. **Read Acts 1v21-22**

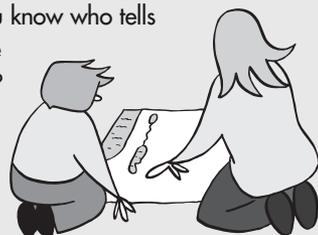
TALK

What did Peter say was most important? (*Someone who'd been with Jesus from the beginning.*) What are some of the things this man would have seen and heard? (*Miracles, Jesus' teaching, Jesus' death and resurrection...*)

Read v26 to find out who was chosen. This was a H-U-G-E job. Who would help Matthias to do it? (*Holy Spirit, 1v8*)

PRAY

Who do you know who tells other people about Jesus? Ask God to help them.



Building up

A twelfth apostle was needed to replace Judas. The Old T had said that one of Jesus' followers would betray Him, and that he must be replaced. Read Peter's summary of this in **Acts 1v15-17 + v20**. Think about the qualifications Peter **didn't** include in v21-22 (e.g. *good at making speeches, clever, brave...*) Why didn't Peter add any of these? What's most important for people **today** if they're going to tell others about Jesus?

DAY 4

Great tongues of fire!



KEYPOINT

Jesus keeps His promise to send the Holy Spirit.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 2v1-4

XTB: Acts 2v1-4

TABLE TALK

How many languages can you speak? (Even if it's just to say **Yes**, **No** or **Hello!**) How about **Hebrew**? (Oh yes, you do! *Alleluia* [*Hallelu Yah*] is Hebrew. It means **Praise the Lord.**)

READ

Jesus had promised that the Holy Spirit would come. He did—with some very surprising results! **Read Acts 2v1-4**

TALK

What three strange things happened? (v2—*sound of wind*, v3—*tongues of fire*, v4—*other languages*) Jesus' followers were to be chatterboxes about Him. When the Holy Spirit came He gave them new languages. How would they help?

PRAY

Praise God in these different languages—they all mean "Praise the Lord."
Le Seigneur soit loué! (*French*)
Looft den Here! (*Dutch*)
Il Signore sia lodato! (*Italian*)
El Señor sea glorificado! (*Spanish*)

DO

(Optional) Make a poster praising God in these languages. Include English and Hebrew too. *You could draw flags as well.*

Building up

The apostles had the task of telling others about Jesus. Some of them also wrote the books that make up the New T. But what if they *forgot* some of what they had seen or heard? Or didn't *understand* it? **Read John 14v25-26** to see how the Holy Spirit helped them. Thank God for making sure that what the apostles taught and wrote down about Jesus was true and accurate.

DAY 5

Look who's talking



KEYPOINT

The Spirit gives Jesus' followers new languages to help them spread the message.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk : Acts 2v5-8

XTB : Acts 2v5-13

TABLE TALK

Either: Use an atlas to find Israel, Turkey, Crete, Egypt and Italy. *Or:* Give clues to guess some of these places.

READ

Remind each other of yesterday's story. Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival, so there were loads of people in Jerusalem for the celebrations. They came from many countries, including the ones listed above. **Read Acts 2v5-8**

TALK

Why did the crowd gather? (v6) (*They heard the noise.*) What surprised them so much? (*Galileans, from North Israel, spoke in all their languages.*) **Read v8 again.** How would you answer their question?

PRAY

God wants the **whole world** to hear about Jesus. Pray for anyone you know who teaches about Jesus in another country. If you can, send them an email, letter or gift and tell them you are praying for them.



Building up

God could have sent the Spirit at any time. Why do you think He chose a time when so many people were visiting Jerusalem? **Read Acts 2v12-13** to see two reactions to what happened. Have **you** told anyone about Jesus recently? How did they react? Were they amazed? Or puzzled? Did they laugh at you? Talk about the best way to respond to these different reactions. Ask God to help you to keep talking to others about Jesus.

Peter pipes up



KEYPOINT

Peter tells the crowds that Jesus is the Christ (God's chosen King)—but that they killed Him!

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 2v17,23,24,31,33

XTB: Acts 2v14-36

TABLE TALK

Copy these five sentences onto strips of paper. These are the key parts of Peter's speech to the crowds in Acts 2. Try to put them into the correct order.

DO

- A:** God brought Jesus back to life.
- B:** Jesus has poured out His Spirit on His followers.
- C:** Long ago God said amazing things would happen when He sent the Holy Spirit.
- D:** Jesus is the Christ (*God's chosen King*).
- E:** It was always God's plan that Jesus would be killed.

READ

Check **Acts 2 vs 17, 23, 24, 31 + 33** to see what order Peter said these in. (*Answer: CEADB*) Note: Keep this list for tomorrow's Table Talk.

THINK

Peter has just told the crowds that Jesus is the **promised King**—but that they killed Him! How do you think they will react? (*More about that tomorrow.*)

PRAY

Look again at the five points listed. Notice how God was always in control. Praise God that His plans always work out.

Building up

When Peter was talking to the crowd, he summed up some key facts about Jesus. **Read Acts 2v22-24.** Find at least *five* important facts about Jesus in the verses. Verse 23 says that Jesus was killed by **men**—but that it was always part of **God's** plan. *Who* was in control?

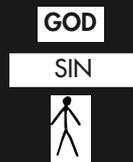
Does v24 confirm your answer?

Notes for Parents

GOD'S RESCUE PLAN

(You need pencil & paper.) *Prepare three separate pieces of paper. Write **GOD** on one, **SIN** on a second, and draw a person (a stick man is fine) on the third.*

Place the pieces of paper as shown.



ASK: WHAT IS SIN?

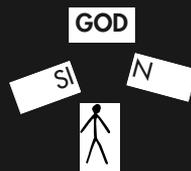
Sin is more than just doing wrong things. We all like to be **in charge** of our own lives. We do what **we** want instead of what **God** wants. This is called Sin.

ASK: WHAT DOES SIN DO?

As the picture shows, **sin** gets in the way between us and God. It stops us from knowing God and from being His friends. Sin is a H-U-G-E problem—and there is nothing **we** can do about it.

In **Acts 2v38** Peter says that our sins can be forgiven. This isn't because of anything **we** do—but because of what **Jesus** did. When Jesus died on the cross He was being punished. He took the punishment that we deserve, so that we can be forgiven.

Take the paper saying SIN and tear it in half. Then place the two halves as shown.



ASK: WHAT GETS IN THE WAY NOW BETWEEN PEOPLE AND GOD? (Answer: Nothing!)

When Jesus died, He dealt with the problem of sin so that we can be forgiven. There is nothing to separate us from God any more. This was **God's Rescue Plan** for us.

DAY 7

What shall we do?



KEYPOINT

Peter tells the crowds to repent—to turn away from their sins. We need to repent too.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 2v38-39

XTB: Acts 2v37-40

TABLE TALK



Recap: Look again at yesterday's five points from Peter's speech.

READ

When the people heard Peter's speech, they asked, "What shall we do?"

Read Acts 2v38-39

TALK

Peter told them to **repent**. What does that mean? (*To repent doesn't just mean saying sorry. It means asking God to help you to **change**, and to do what He says.*) What two things did Peter say would happen? (*Their sins will be forgiven, they'll be given the gift of the Holy Spirit.*)

DO

Use the illustration in **Notes for Parents** (on the previous page) to show how Jesus rescues us from our sins.

PRAY

Verse 39 means that this promise is for **us** too—even though we live 2000 years after Peter! Thank God for sending Jesus so that you can be forgiven.

Building up

Peter told people to "repent and be baptised". At that time, trusting Jesus and getting baptised happened together. The baptism was a public sign that someone had put their faith in Jesus and was now living for Him. Why does it help to make a public stand for your faith? Do people know that **you** are a Christian? How?

DAY 8

Growing all the time



KEYPOINT

About 3000 people became followers of Jesus. These new Christians had changed lives.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 2v45-47

XTB: Acts 2v41-47

TABLE TALK

Do any of you have a nickname? Would you like one—and if so, what? The first followers of Jesus were given a nickname—**Christians**. Why do you think they were called that? (*They believed Jesus was the **Christ**, which means **God's chosen King**.*)

READ

After hearing Peter's speech, about 3000 people became followers of Jesus—**Christians**. (v41) They met together every day. Read what they were like in **Acts 2v45-47**

TALK

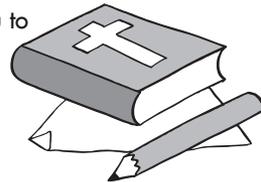
What did these new Christians do? (*Shared with each other, gave to those in need, met daily, praised God.*) What did others think of them? (See v47)

THINK

If someone looked at **your** life, could they tell that you are a Christian? How? If not, what needs to change?

PRAY

Ask God to help you to live for Him, just as these early believers did.



Building up

Read Acts 2v44-45

Think carefully about **your** money and possessions. How do you decide the best way to use them? Think of someone you know who has less than you. How can you share with them? Ask God to help you to do it.

DAY 9 The three o'clock miracle



KEYPOINT

Peter heals a lame man in the name of Jesus.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 3v1-8

XTB: Acts 3v1-10

TABLE TALK

(Preparation) Write WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, and WHY on five pieces of paper.

READ

Read Acts 3v1-8 Younger children may like to act the story out, to mime it as you read it again, or to retell it using dolls or puppets.

Use the question cards to talk about the story.

TALK

WHO was there? (*Peter, John, lame man*). **WHERE** were they? (*Temple, Beautiful gate*). **WHEN** did it happen? (*3 o'clock in the afternoon—the "ninth hour"*). **WHAT** happened? (retell the main points—beginning, middle and end). **WHY** was the man "walking, jumping and praising God" (v8)?



PRAY

This man was very excited! He easily could have forgotten to thank God—but he didn't! It's easy to forget to thank God for the great things He has given us. Think of some things to thank and praise God for now.

Building up

A good way to help you understand a Bible passage is to ask questions. **WHY** is particularly useful. *For example:* **Why** were Peter and John going to the Temple? (v1) **Why** did Peter say what he did to the lame man? (v6) **Why** was Peter able to heal the man? **Why** do you think Luke included this story in the book of Acts?

DAY 10 Chatterbox time



KEYPOINT

The crowds thought *Peter* had healed the lame man—but he points them to *Jesus*.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 3v12 + 16

XTB: Acts 3v11-16

TABLE TALK

Have some fun asking each other questions. Every answer has to include **Banana!** e.g. How are you going to school? *On my banana.* What's the weather like? *It's raining cats and bananas!*

READ

The crowds were **amazed** by the healing of the lame man. They thought Peter must be special and powerful—but Peter said no! **Read Acts 3v12** Why didn't Peter want them to think he'd healed the man by his own power? What do you think Peter will talk about now? (*No—it's not bananas!*)

TALK

Read Acts 3v16 Who does Peter talk about *instead* of himself? What does he say about Jesus?

PRAY

Peter took every opportunity to be a chatterbox about Jesus. Do you? What opportunities will you have this week to tell someone about Jesus? Ask God to help you.



Building up

Read Acts 3v13-15 We saw yesterday how asking questions helps us to understand a Bible passage more clearly. *Here's a few more:* The crowds were amazed by the *miracle*, but **What** does Peter choose to talk about? Use these verses to make two lists. 1—What does Peter say that **God** has done? 2—What had the **people** done? **Why** did Peter want them to know all this? **Why** did Peter say that the apostles are witnesses (v15)? (*To show it's true.*)

Signposts



KEYPOINT

Miracles are like signposts, pointing to who Jesus is.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 3v16

XTB: Acts 3v16

TABLE TALK

Where might you see a “Keep Out!” sign? Or a “Welcome” sign? What are they for?

READ

John’s Gospel says that miracles are like **signposts** (John 20v31). Jesus’ miracles point to *who Jesus is*. Peter’s miracle was like a signpost too. **Read Acts 3v16**

TALK

Who did Peter’s miracle point to? (*Jesus*) How was this man healed? (*By faith in the name of Jesus.*) Is Peter saying this man was healed by faith in a **dead** man? (*No! God brought Jesus back to life—v15*)

THINK

Jesus didn’t die a second time—He is still alive today. We can’t see Him or touch Him, but we can know that He is with us. Jesus sends us His Spirit to live inside us and help us to follow Him.

PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank you that You are still alive today. Please help us to follow You today and always. Amen

Building up

Have fun chasing down some other verses that end in 3v16.

John 3v16 is probably the best known verse in the Bible. How does it link with **Acts 3v16**? Compare these verses with **1 John 3v16** and **Matthew 3v16-17**. What do all these verses have in common? Finally check out **2 Timothy 3v16** (*This explains why Table Talk aims to help you to read the Bible for yourself.*)

Notes for Parents

PROMISED LONG AGO...

The crowd Peter was speaking to were Jewish. They would have known their Old Testament very well—the **people** in it and the **promises** God made...

MOSES

God promised that He would send a prophet (which means God’s messenger) like **Moses**. The people must listen to this new prophet. (*This promise is in Deuteronomy 18v15 + 18*)



THE PROPHETS

The Old Testament **prophets** spoke of a time when God would send a **rescuer** to His people, called the Messiah or Christ. (*For example, in Isaiah 53v4-6, and Zechariah 9v9.*)



ABRAHAM

God promised that one of **Abraham’s** family would be God’s way of blessing the whole world. (*See Genesis 12v3 + 22v18*)



In the last part of his speech, Peter showed that **Jesus** came as the answer to *all three promises*. **Read Acts 3v22-26**

Wow! God promised that Jesus would come—and He did! He came to rescue His people and bless the whole world—just as God had said. We can trust God to **always** do what He says.

DAY 12

Promised long ago



KEYPOINT

Peter tells the crowds to turn away from sin, and turn towards God.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 3v19

XTB: Acts 3v17-26

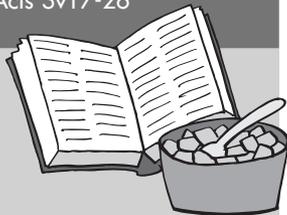


TABLE TALK

Note: The end of Peter's speech is quite complex. Older children may like to follow it through using **Notes for Parents** on the previous page. With younger children just focus on verse 19.

Do you remember what Peter told people to do at the end of his **last** speech? (Acts 2v38—"Repent and be baptised.") What do you think he will tell people to do at the end of **this** speech?

READ

This time Peter tells the crowd something to **turn away** from and something to **turn towards**. **Read Acts 3v19**

TALK

What are they to *turn away* from? (*Sin*)
What are they to *turn towards*? (*God*)

Last time 3000 people became Christians. (Acts 2v41) What do you think will happen this time?

Read Acts 4v4 to find out.

PRAY

Wow! Loads of people believed the message about Jesus, and turned to God. Thank God for anyone **you** know who has become a follower of Jesus recently.

Building up

See **Notes for Parents** (left) for ideas on how to build on today's **Table Talk**.

DAY 13

B-I-G trouble!



KEYPOINT

The Holy Spirit helped Peter to keep bravely talking about Jesus, even when it got him into trouble

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 4v7-10

XTB: Acts 4v1-12

TABLE TALK

Play two quick games of hangman. The words are **Chatterbox** and **Prison**.

READ

Because he was a **chatterbox** about Jesus, Peter got into **BIG** trouble. The Temple leaders had Peter and John thrown into **prison!** The next morning they were dragged in front of the Jewish Council. **Read Acts 4v7-10**

TALK

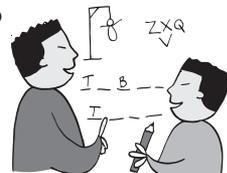
What question was Peter asked? (v7)
What was his answer? (v10) The men questioning Peter were the same ones who had Jesus **killed!** Why was Peter able to answer them so bravely? (v8—the *Holy Spirit helped him.*)

THINK

Do your friends laugh at you for following Jesus? Or say that church is boring? The Holy Spirit will help you to stand up for Jesus—just as He helped Peter.

PRAY

Ask God to help you to stand up for Jesus.



Building up

Read Acts 4v11-12 Peter again shows how the Old Testament points forward to Jesus. (*He is quoting Psalm 118v22*) Why does Peter want the people to understand that the Old T talks about Jesus? (*The Jewish leaders claimed that Jesus had NOT come from God.*) You sometimes hear people say that all religions are the **same**. What does v12 say about that? Compare it with Jesus' own words in **John 14v6**.

DAY 14

Stop talking!



KEYPOINT

Peter knew that God had to come first—no matter what happened—so he carried on talking about Jesus.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 4v18-20

XTB: Acts 4v13-22

TABLE TALK

Do you ever get told to stop talking? Why?

The Jewish leaders had a problem. They **hated** what Peter was saying about Jesus—but they couldn't pretend the miracle hadn't happened. So they decided to tell Peter & John to *stop* being chatterboxes! **Read Acts 4v18-20**

READ

TALK

What were Peter & John told not to do? (*Not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus*) Did Peter agree to do what they said? (*No!*) Who was Peter going to obey instead? (See v19)

Peter knew that God had to come **first**—no matter what happened. When do **you** find it hard to put God first? (*e.g. when your friends want you to lie to get them out of trouble, or when you don't feel like reading your Bible or going to church.*)

PRAY

Ask God to help you to put Him first—just as He helped Peter & John.

Building up

Peter & John were ordinary men. They hadn't even had much schooling. So why were they able to stand up to these leaders so bravely, and explain themselves so clearly? Think about **your** answer to this question—then compare it with **Acts 4v13** to see what Luke wrote. Why do you think being with Jesus had made such a huge difference?

DAY 15

Growing all the time



KEYPOINT

The Holy Spirit helped Jesus' followers to be bold, and to keep spreading the message about Jesus.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Acts 4v29-31

XTB: Acts 4v23-31

TABLE TALK

Recap the whole story. Every time you mention **Peter** everyone has to stand up, turn around and sit down again. (**Key points:** *Peter & John [P&J] went to the Temple, healed lame man, crowds amazed, P spoke about Jesus, many believed, P&J arrested, P spoke about Jesus again, P&J set free but told NOT to speak about Jesus.*)

READ

Peter & John were set free, and went back to the other believers. They'd been told **not** to speak about Jesus. Instead they asked God to help them **keep** talking about Him!

Read Acts 4v29-31

TALK

What did they ask God for? (v29—*help to speak boldly about Jesus*, v30—*miracles*) The believers wanted **everyone** to know about Jesus. That's why they asked God for help. How did God answer their prayer? (v31)

PRAY

If we ask God to help us tell others about Jesus, He will **always** help us. Pray to Him now—thanking Him and asking for His help.



Building up

Look back through the first four chapters of **Acts**. What have you found out about the first Christians? Can you think of some ways that **you** are like those early believers? How could you be **more** like them? Pray together about your answers.

DAYS 16-30

Notes for Parents

THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Genesis is a Greek word. It means “beginnings”. The book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. It tells us about:

- The beginning of the **universe**
- The beginning of the **human race**
- The beginning of God’s special family, the **Israelites**

HOW? WHO? and WHY?

How we came to be here is a fiercely debated question among Christians (sometimes too fiercely)! Whatever your view on **How** the universe came into being, it is important to concentrate on teaching children **Who** made us and **Why**. And also why the world is in such a mess. These are questions that are at the heart of Genesis also (and which Christians have no disagreement about!) The major questions of life are answered in this remarkable book, so it is very important that you do not teach it as ‘just another creation story.’ (Your children will probably have been exposed to other creation stories at school already).

In Genesis we see what God is like. During the next fifteen days of Table Talk we will see that God is the **Star-Maker** and **Promise-Giver**. (Note: *In the XTB children’s notes, children stick in Promise stickers whenever God is shown to be making or keeping a promise.*)

Genesis also shows that God is **King** of the world that He made. But sadly we see that people *don’t want* God to be their King. (This is what **Sin** is.)

BLOW YOUR MIND!

The Bible starts with **God**. Nobody made God. Before anything else existed, God was already there! This is incredibly hard to get our heads around—but it’s true!

DAY 16

In the beginning...

KEYPOINT



God created the Universe out of absolutely nothing. He just spoke—and it was made!

Today’s passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 1v1-5

XTB: Genesis 1v1-5

TABLE TALK

Give everyone one minute to collect one or more things that give **light**. (e.g. *torch, candle, bike light, table lamp—be careful with plugs... You could put things round the room beforehand.*)

READ

Today’s reading starts at the very beginning of the Bible. It tells us where light came from...

Read Genesis 1v1-5

TALK

Who is the first person mentioned in the Bible? (v1—*God*) What did God do? (*He created everything*) Verse 3 tells us that God created light. How did He make it? (*He spoke*)

DO

(*Optional*) Ask your child to draw the sun. What did they need to draw it? (*Paper, and a pen or pencil*) Can they make a picture out of *nothing*? (*No!*) But God is **so powerful** that He created the universe out of absolutely nothing! He just *spoke*—and the universe was made!

THINK

Imagine if there was **no light**—and everything was always dark. Think of some things you *couldn’t* do.

PRAY

Thank God for creating our world—and for the light to see and enjoy it.

Building up

The book of Genesis doesn’t mention Jesus by name—but He’s there. The New Testament makes it clear that Jesus is the Word through whom all things were made. Check out **John 1v1-3** and **Colossians 1v15-17**. What do these verses tell you about Jesus?

DAY 17 He also made the stars



KEYPOINT

Everything God made was good—it was just how God wanted it to be.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 1v24-25

XTB: Genesis 1v6-25

TABLE TALK

Ask each person to choose a favourite animal—and to say why they chose it.

READ

Chapter One of Genesis tells us the order in which God made things when He created the world. Use **Notes for Parents** (opposite) to check out what God made on Days 1 to 6.

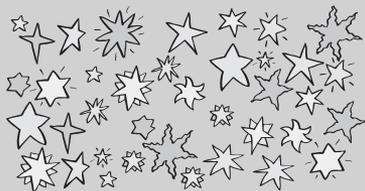
Find out more about Day Six by reading **Genesis 1v24-25**

TALK

How many kinds of animal did God make? (*Loads!*) Why do you think God made so many? Think of some words to describe what God made (e.g. *great, beautiful, varied...*) Genesis describes everything God made as **good**. It was just how God wanted it to be.

PRAY

Each choose two things in Creation to thank God for. Take it in turns to pray: **Thank You God for making...**



Building up

Read **Genesis 1v16**

The end of v16 is my favourite throwaway line in the Bible: "He also made the stars." What does this great sentence tell you about God?

Compare it with **Psalms 147v4**

There are further *Building Up* suggestions in **Notes for Parents** opposite.

DAY 17 Notes for Parents

THE DAYS OF CREATION

Day 1
(v3-5)



Day and night

Day 2
(v6-8)



Sky and water

Day 3
(v9-13)



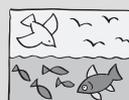
Sea, land and plants

Day 4
(v14-19)



Sun, moon and stars

Day 5
(v20-23)



Fish and birds

Day 6
(v24-31)



Animals and people

CREATION GAME

Children may like to make a simple game, using 12 pieces of card. On six cards *write* Day 1, Day 2...Day 6. On the other six *draw* what God made. The game is to match what was made with the correct day. Children could use it to test visitors!

Do a quick whiz through **Genesis 1v3-25** to spot the words that keep popping up (v4,10,12,18,21, 25). When "God saw that it was good" it doesn't just mean that He liked it! The word "good" means that it was fit for the purpose God had made it for. Everything was just as God planned it.

None of it happened by accident!

DAY 18

Spot the difference



KEYPOINT

People are different from animals. We are made in God's image (likeness) and rule the rest of God's creation.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 1v26-28

XTB: Genesis 1v26-2v4

TABLE TALK

Do you have any pets? How are you different from them? (e.g. you talk, draw...)

READ

Yesterday we saw that God made animals on Day 6. Then He created people. **Read Genesis 1v26-28**

TALK

Verse 26 tells us **two ways** that people are different from animals. What are they? (1—made in God's image, 2—rule over fish, birds and animals)

THINK

People are made in God's likeness (image). That means made like God Himself! Wow! Does that mean we can do the amazing things God can do? (No!) But it *does* mean that human beings **rule** the rest of God's creation. (See v28) God has put us **in charge** of His world—to look after it and enjoy it.

(Optional) Read **Genesis 2v1-3** What did God do when He had finished creating the world? (v2—He rested) God wasn't tired! He stopped because He had **finished** His work, and it was exactly how He had planned it. Everything was perfect.

PRAY

Thank God for creating a good world for us to live in. Ask Him to help you to look after it.

Building up

People sometimes say that we're no different from animals. How does **Genesis 1v26-27** help you answer that? Does this mean it doesn't matter how we treat animals? Why/why not?

DAY 19 Whose job is it anyway?



KEYPOINT

It's God's job to decide what's good and bad—not ours.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 2v15-17

XTB: Genesis 2v4-17

TABLE TALK

Test each other to see if you can remember what God made on each day. Check **Notes for Parents** on Day 17 if you're not sure.

READ

Chapter Two of Genesis tells us more about the creation of man. Verse 7 says God made man "from the dust of the ground". Then God planted a garden for the man to live in.

Read Genesis 2v15-17

TALK

What was the man to do? (v15) (*To work and take care of the garden*) God told the man he could eat from any tree except one. Which one? (v17) What would happen if he ate from it? (*He would die*)

THINK

If the man eats from this tree, he will want to decide for himself what's good and bad. What's wrong with that? (*The world is God's place—He created it—He is King. It's God's job to decide what's good and what's bad.*)

PRAY

Father God, thank you that You know the **best** way for us to live. You show us what's good and what's bad. Please help us to trust You and obey You.

Building up

The man had a **choice**—to obey God, or to eat from the forbidden tree. We have the **same choice**—to obey God or do what **we** want instead. Do you find it hard to believe that God always knows what's best? Why? (*Adults need to be honest here too.*) Ask God to help you to trust Him and to live His way.

DAY 20

She's the one!



KEYPOINT

It wasn't good for Adam to be alone, so God made Eve as a companion for Adam. She was like him, but different.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 2v18 + 20-23

XTB: Genesis 2v18-25

TABLE TALK

Name Game: Try to go right through the alphabet naming an animal for each letter. (e.g. Aadvark, Baboon, Camel...)

The first man—**Adam**—was living in a perfect garden, in a perfect world. But something wasn't good...

Read Genesis 2v18

What **wasn't** good? (*Adam being alone*)

God brought the animals to Adam, so that he could name them all. But none of them could be Adam's companion, because people are **completely different** from animals (as we saw on Day 18). **Read Genesis 2v20-23**

What companion did God make for Adam? (*A woman*) What did God make her from? (*Adam's rib*) Do you know what Adam called his wife? (*Eve—Adam chooses this name in Genesis 3v20*)

The woman was just what Adam wanted. She was **like** him—but **different**. Thank God for creating both men and women, boys and girls.

Building up

Did you know that marriage was invented by God? **Read Genesis 2v23-24** Adam's wife was very special to him because she came from his own body. God says all marriages are special—**two** people come together and form **one** partnership. Thank God for His great gift of marriage.

DAY 21

Snakes and ladders



KEYPOINT

Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They listened to the devil's lies, and ate the forbidden fruit.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 3v1-5

XTB: Genesis 3v1-7

TABLE TALK

(*You need paper & pencil*) Draw a picture to sum up what you know about Adam and Eve so far. (e.g. garden, man and woman, trees, one tree they mustn't eat from...)

READ

There was someone in the garden who wanted to *spoil* everything.

Read Genesis 3v1-5

TALK

What did the snake pretend that God had said? (*They mustn't eat from any tree in the garden*) Then the snake lied again. What did he say **wouldn't** happen? (v4) (*They wouldn't die*) What did he say **would** happen? (v5) (*They'd be like God, knowing what's good and bad*)

THINK

Whose job is it to decide what's good and bad? (**God's job**—as we saw on Day 19) But Eve listened to the snake's lies. She ate the fruit—and gave some to Adam too.

PRAY

The snake was the devil in disguise. The devil always wants us to disobey God. Ask God to help you **not to listen** to the devil's tempting ideas.

Building up

How would you explain **Sin** to someone? (*Discuss your ideas.*) This story helps us understand what sin is. Adam and Eve didn't want God to be King—to be in charge. They wanted to decide for themselves what was good and bad. They chose to do what **they** wanted instead of what **God** wanted. This is **sin**.

**KEYPOINT**

Sin separates people from God. Adam and Eve had to leave the garden because of their sin.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 3v8-13

XTB: Genesis 3v8-24

TABLE TALK

Recap yesterday's story: What did the snake tell Eve? What did Adam & Eve do?

READ

Adam and Eve had disobeyed God. When they heard Him walking in the garden they hid. **Read Genesis 3v8-13**

TALK

God knew that Adam and Eve had eaten the forbidden fruit. Who did Adam blame? (v12) (*Eve*) Who did Eve blame? (v13) (*The snake*) Adam and Eve both *blamed* someone else—but they had both *chosen* to disobey God. They chose to sin. As a result (v23-24) they had to leave the perfect garden.

THINK

Sin **separates** people from God. Adam & Eve had to leave the garden because of their sin. They couldn't live with God for ever, as they were meant to. Sin gets in the way between **us** and God too. But who did God send to solve the problem of sin? (**JESUS**—as we saw on Day 7)

PRAY

Thank God for sending Jesus to solve the problem of sin.

Building up

Read God's curse on the snake (the devil) in **v14-15**. It sounds odd—but there's a great **promise** here. God is saying that one of Eve's family (her offspring) will *beat* the devil. Who is this about? (*This promise is all about Jesus—one of Eve's family—who came as our Rescuer to beat the problem of sin for ever.*) Thank God for keeping His promise to send Jesus.

Adam and Eve had two sons. Their eldest son, Cain, was a farmer. Their younger son was called Abel. He was a shepherd.



Cain and Abel both gave gifts to God. These were called offerings.

Cain gave God some of his crops.



Abel gave God the best of his flock.



God was pleased with Abel's gift. But He wasn't pleased with Cain's gift.

Cain was so angry that he took his brother Abel out to a field—and **killed** him!



DAY 23

The best way to live



KEYPOINT

Cain killed his brother Abel—the first murder. Cain's sin separated him from God.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 4v8-12

XTB: Genesis 4v1-16

TABLE TALK

Read the story of Cain and Abel in **Notes for Parents** (on the previous page).

READ

Cain had just committed the first murder. Then God asked him where his brother was. **Read Genesis 4v8-12**

TALK

What did God ask Cain? (v9) What was Cain's answer? (v9) Cain lied, but *God knew* what he had done. How did God punish Cain? (v12) (*He wasn't able to grow crops any more. He became a wanderer, with no home.*)

See how sin **spreads**. Cain lied to God and murdered his brother. As a result of his sin he was **separated** from God (v16 makes this clear). Does this remind you of anything? (e.g. Adam & Eve were separated from God because of their sin.)

PRAY

Say **sorry** to God for the times you disobey Him. **Thank** God that He's given us lots of help in the Bible to show us the best way to live.

Building up

It's tempting to think that being in charge of our own lives must be better than being told what to do. But this horrible story shows what happens when people live **without** God in charge. The Bible tells us that God always knows the **best** way for us to live. Do you believe that? Why/why not?

DAY 24

Build a lifeboat



KEYPOINT

People's hearts were so full of evil that God decided to flood the earth clean.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 6v5-8 + 22

XTB: Genesis 6v5-22

TABLE TALK

Find any Noah stuff you have. (*Books, toys, pictures, t-towels!!*) Use these to help you think about the story of Noah—but bear in mind that children's books may focus on cute animals rather than on God!

READ

In the last two readings we've seen that **sin spreads**. Today we see just how far it had spread... **Read Genesis 6v5-8**

TALK

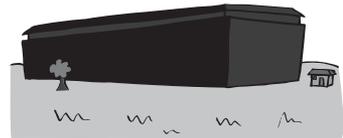
When God looked at the people, what did He see? (v5) (*Their hearts were full of evil*) How did God feel? (v6) (*Sorry that He had made them*) God was so sorry that He had made man, that He decided to flood the earth clean. But *one* man was different. Who? (Noah) What does verse 8 say about him?

THINK

God told Noah to build a boat (an ark) so that Noah and his family would be kept safe. (*The details are in v14-16*) Imagine being told to build a H-U-G-E boat—miles away from the sea! Would you do it? Why/why not? What would your friends say?

PRAY

Read v22. Noah obeyed God *completely*. Do you want to be like Noah? Then ask God to help you.



Building up

Read **Genesis 1v31** and compare it with **Genesis 6v6**. What has changed between these two verses? Why?

DAY 25

Into the ark



KEYPOINT

Noah obeyed God completely. He built the ark, filled it with food, and pairs of every animal and bird.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 7v1-5

XTB: Genesis 7v1-10

TABLE TALK

How many birds can you name in one minute?

READ

Noah had built the ark, and filled it with food for all. Now it was time to get on board. **Read Genesis 7v1-5**

TALK

How many *animals* did Noah take? (*7 pairs of each clean animal, 2 pairs of each unclean animal—see Building Up below if you want more information.*) How many pairs of *birds* did Noah take? (*7 of each kind*) It would start raining in seven days time. How long would it rain for? (v4) (*40 days and 40 nights*) What does v5 tell you about Noah? (*He obeyed God totally*)

Have you ever tried to catch a pet that doesn't want to be caught? Noah couldn't possibly catch all those animals and birds! So God made them **come** to Noah! (*"they will come to you" 6v20, "they came to Noah and entered the ark" 7v9 NIV*)

PRAY

Noah *obeyed* God by doing what he could do—and *trusted* God to look after the rest. Ask God to help you to do the same.

Building up

Whether an animal was **clean** or **unclean** had nothing to do with mud! The clean animals (like sheep) were the ones that could be offered to God as a gift (a sacrifice). Any animal offered to God had to be perfect. Thousands of years later, the death of Jesus was the ultimate, perfect sacrifice to God.

See 1 Peter 1v18-19

DAY 26

God's great rescue



KEYPOINT

Sin must be punished, but God provides a way to be rescued.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 7v20-24

XTB: Genesis 7v11-24

TABLE TALK

Find a very simple jigsaw. (About 20 pieces.) Time how long it takes you to do it.

READ

The Bible fits together like a Giant Jigsaw. All the way through we find the *same two* things. **1—Sin must be punished. 2—God provides a way to be rescued.** Look out for these two things in the story of Noah.

The flood waters kept coming for 40 days. Everything was under water—even the highest mountains!

Read Genesis 7v20-24

TALK

1—Sin must be punished. At the beginning of chapter 6 we saw how wicked the people had become (6v5). How did God punish them? (*The flood*) **2—God provides a rescue.** God provided a way to be rescued from the flood. What was it? (*The ark*) Who was rescued? (v23)

PRAY

The Bible says that Jesus is the greatest Rescuer of all. (Matthew 1v21) **Everyone** sins. We **all** disobey God and deserve to be punished. Thank God for sending Jesus to be your Rescuer.

Building up

Why were Noah and his family rescued? (See Genesis 7v1) *Note:* This doesn't mean that Noah was perfect! Who is the only perfect man to have lived? (*Jesus*) But Noah did obey God—and he trusted God to rescue him.

DAY 27 God remembers Noah



KEYPOINT

God kept His promise to rescue Noah and his family. He sent a wind to dry up the flood waters.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 8v6-12

XTB: Genesis 8v1-14

TABLE TALK

How do you remember things? (a diary? a knot in your handkerchief? an alarm?...)

Genesis 8v1 says "God remembered Noah". God doesn't forget things!! When God **remembered** Noah it means He **acted** on His promise to rescue Noah from the flood. He sent a wind to dry up the water.

READ

The flood waters were going down. Now Noah had to find a way to check if the floods had completely gone.

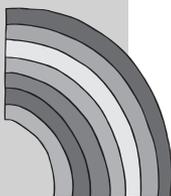
Read Genesis 8v6-12

TALK

What two birds did Noah send out? (A raven & a dove) What happened the first time he sent the dove? (v9) (*It came back with nothing*) The second time? (v11) (*It brought back an olive leaf—so Noah knew the water had gone*) The third time? (v12) (*It didn't come back*)

PRAY

God remembered Noah and his family. He had promised to keep them safe—and He did. Thank God for always keeping His promises.



Building up

Read **Genesis 7v11 & 8v13-14** to work out how long Noah and his family lived on the ark. (*Just over a year!*) Imagine spending a year on a boat with all those animals! The noise! The smell! Do you think Noah found it easy? Why do you think he kept trusting God all that time? Ask God to help you to trust Him patiently as Noah did.

DAY 28 Out of the ark



KEYPOINT

Noah thanked God for rescuing him. God promised never again to destroy all living things.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 8v20-22

XTB: Genesis 8v15-22

TABLE TALK

Try to mimic the sounds Noah had been listening to for a year. (e.g. *water slapping the ark, the wood creaking, animal noises, bird calls...*)

God told Noah and his family to come out of the ark—so they did. After leaving the ark, Noah gave thanks to God. He took some of the "clean" animals and offered them to God as a gift.

Read Genesis 8v20-22

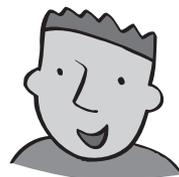
READ

TALK

God was pleased with Noah's offering and thankfulness. What did God promise? (v21) (*Never again to destroy all living things*) Instead, God promised that for as long as the earth exists some things will *never end*. What are they? (v22) (e.g. *cold & heat, day & night...*)

PRAY

Look again at the list in v22, Which of these is true for **you** right now? Thank God that these things remind you that God is keeping His promise to take care of our world.



Building up Read Genesis 6v14

Who told Noah to build the ark?

Read 7v1 Who told Noah to enter the ark?

Read 7v16 Who closed the door of the ark?

Read 8v15-16 Who told Noah to come out of the ark? What do these verses tell you about God? (e.g. He's in control of every detail, He keeps His promises, He's a God who rescues...)

Rainbow promises



KEYPOINT

God made a covenant (a binding agreement) with Noah—never again to destroy the earth.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Genesis 9v8-13

XTB: Genesis 9v1-17

TABLE TALK

Rainbow Fun: Do you know the colours of the rainbow? (*Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet*) A traditional (if rather boring!) way to remember them is "**Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain**". Can you make up a better one instead?

READ

Now that the floods had gone down, God made a **covenant** (a binding agreement) with Noah and his family. **Read Genesis 9v8-13**

TALK

Who did God make His covenant with? (v9-10) (*Noah, his family [descendants] and every living creature*) What did God promise? (v11) (*Never again to destroy the earth*) What is the sign of God's covenant? (*The rainbow*)

DO

(Optional) Draw a rainbow. Write "**God always keeps His promises**" under it. Stick it on your wall—or send it to someone else to remind them of God's faithfulness.

PRAY

Thank God for keeping the promise He made to Noah, to all of creation and to you.

Building up

The account of Noah shows us God's character. **Psalm 145** praises God for who He is. If you have time, read the whole Psalm. Otherwise, just read **v8-13** which praise God for His compassion towards His creation. Thank God for being like this.

A perfect man?



KEYPOINT

The NT sums up Noah. He wasn't perfect—only Jesus is!—but he trusted and obeyed God.

Today's passages are:

Table Talk: Hebrews 11v7

XTB: Hebrews 11v7

TABLE TALK

Briefly retell the whole story of Noah, using Noah pictures or toys if you have any. Choose **two** words that describe what Noah was like.

READ

Find out what one part of the New Testament says about Noah... **Read Hebrews 11v7**

TALK

What *two key things* does the book of Hebrews tell us about Noah? (*He had **faith** in God. He **obeyed** God.*)

THINK

Noah stood out among the other people of his time. He was the *only* one who trusted and obeyed God. Does his story help **you** to trust and obey God? Why? (e.g. *we've seen that God always keeps His promises*)



PRAY

Dear God, Thank you that You always keep Your promises. Please help us to **trust** You. Thank you that You show us the best way to live. Please help us to **obey** You. Amen

Building up

Genesis 9 ends with an odd little story, where Noah planted the first vineyard, turned the grapes into wine—and got drunk! Then his son Ham didn't treat Noah with the respect he should have shown. (Genesis 9v18-29) Noah and his family were *not* perfect! (*There is only one perfect man—Jesus.*) But we can still learn loads from Noah's faith and obedience. Thank God for the things you've learnt from Noah's life.

MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

The next 20 days are based in Matthew's Gospel. (*Gospel* means *Good News*.) The first four chapters cover the birth of Jesus and His early ministry. Then we will be investigating part of a big block of teaching called The Sermon on the Mount (*chapters 5-7*).

As we'll see, Matthew squeezed in loads of chunks from the Old Testament. He did this because the Old T is full of promises about a new king...

God's Promise to Abraham

God promised that one of Abraham's family would be God's way of **blessing** the whole world.
(*Genesis 12v3 + 22v18*)



God's Promise to David

God promised that one of David's family would be a **King** who would rule for ever and ever. (*2 Samuel 7v12 + 16*)



God's Promise to His People

God promised that He would send a **rescuer** , called the Messiah or Christ. (e.g. *Isaiah 53v4-6, Zechariah 9v9*)



KEYPOINT

Matthew starts with Jesus' family tree, to show He is the King promised to Abraham and David.

Today's passages are:
Table Talk: Matthew 1v1
XTB: Matthew 1v1-17

TABLE TALK

Talk about your family. Who is in your family? Who is your mum's mum? Who is your dad's sister? and so on.

DO

(*Optional*) Work together to draw your own family tree. This can be quick, if just close family, or the start of a longer term project.

READ

Matthew's book starts with a family tree. **Read Matthew 1v1**

TALK

A "genealogy" (NIV) lists a person's family line. Which three people are listed in verse 1? (*Jesus, David, Abraham*) God promised Abraham and David that someone from their family would be a great King. Who do you think this King was? (*JESUS. The title Christ means "God's chosen King"*)

PRAY

(*Optional*) Read **Notes for Parents** opposite for more details of God's promises.

Jesus had a human family like we do. Thank God for your family and pray for each person in it.

Building up

Why did Matthew want us to know that Jesus comes from the same family as Abraham and David? (*To show that God kept His promise to Abraham and David to send Jesus as the King*) Does it **matter** that God keeps His promises? Why?