

JESUS CHALLENGE
Welcome

Welcome to the 40 Day Jesus Challenge for Kids! Over the next 40 days, I am challenging you to give up 20 minutes of your day to study and get to know Jesus better. You will look at stories from the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and from the very beginning of the book of Acts to learn more about Jesus. Jesus was a son, a brother, a teacher, the Messiah, King, and Son of God. On day 40, I will ask you a question. Who is Jesus?

Before we begin I want to talk about something important. You will read about Jesus being the **Messiah** many times over the next 40 days. The Jewish people in the Bible believed that God would send a deliverer or a Messiah to Earth. It is talked about in the Old Testament many times. This Messiah would be someone who saved God's people. They expected the Messiah to save God's people from human rulers. God was planning to send a Messiah to save people from sin. Sin separated people from God. The Jewish people had to offer sacrifices to the priest in the temple so they could be forgiven. Jesus died on the cross to be that sacrifice for you and for me. We can believe in the Messiah and we can be part of God's family! I hope this challenge will teach you many new things that will amaze you! I pray that you will be excited to be a follower of Jesus too!

Do you accept the challenge? Great! Let's begin!

JESUS CHALLENGE

MAPS

Israel is in red. Can you color the United States of America? You might want to ask a parent to help you. When you hear about Israel you will know where to find it!



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Israel_in_the_world_\(W3\).svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Israel_in_the_world_(W3).svg)

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 1

Jesus is born. We read about this in the book of Matthew and Luke. Look at Matthew 1:1-17. It begins with the genealogy of Jesus. What is a genealogy, you ask? It is a list of names of people who are related. This is the list of people who are related to Jesus's earthly father, Joseph. You can see the name of his grandparents and great grandparents and great great grandparents and great great great grandparents... I think you get the idea. I want you to look at the names and write down the people you recognize who are related to Jesus. Pay close attention to royalty!

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

If you want to know more about these people, you can find information about many of them in the Old Testament.

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 2

There are angels and shepherds and animals and a manger and a star involved in the story of Jesus's birth. We study this in detail during the Christmas season but you can read about Jesus's birth in more detail in Luke 2:1-19. Today, let's look at Luke 2:21-38. On the 8th day Joseph and Mary take Jesus to the temple. There is a man named Simeon who is righteous and devout and the Holy Spirit had told him that he would not die until he saw the Lord's Messiah. Verses 29-32 tell us what he says as he holds baby Jesus! Read verse 32. It says that Jesus will be "the _____ of your people Israel." What would you have said if you had held baby Jesus, the Savior of the world?

Glory means worshipful praise, honor, and thanksgiving! Do you remember what the angels said when they saw the shepherds? "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14) Glory to God!

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 3

Yesterday we read that Jesus was taken to the temple as a baby. Today let's look at Luke 2:36-38. Someone new meets Jesus. What is her name? _____ It says she is a prophet. A prophet is someone chosen to speak God's words or a prophet may know things about God that others do not. What does the Bible say she did day and night?

Anna praises God and speaks about the child and how the child would rescue Israel. How does she know anything about Jesus? He's a baby. She is a prophet and God revealed this to her!

Abraham, Daniel, David, Deborah, Elijah, Elisha, Ezekial, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Moses, and Samuel are a few of the prophets we can read about in the Bible. One of my favorite stories is how Elijah was taken away by God in 2 Kings 2:11-12 without dying. Check it out!

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 4

Today we're going to look at Matthew 2 and learn about the Magi's visit to Jesus. You might be thinking, "Didn't the Magi already see baby Jesus.... you know when the shepherds were there after the angels visited them at his birth... with the manger and Joseph and Mary?" Open your Bible to Matthew 2:1-12. It says **after** Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Magi came to Jerusalem from the east. Look at a map with Jerusalem on it and look to the right of Jerusalem. The Magi came from that direction when they saw the star the night Jesus was born. They didn't see Jesus the night he was born. They saw the star!

The King of the land is named King Herod. Now, he is upset to hear that a new king has been born. He finds out from the Magi when the star had appeared and he sends them to go and search for the child and report back to him so he could go and worship the baby, too. We are going to stop here for a moment. He is lying. King Herod is lying! He does not want to worship any baby. He is a king and he wants everyone to worship him!

Verse 10 says that the Magi see the star again and they are **overjoyed**. They meet the child, Jesus, with his mother and they bow down and worship him and give him gifts. They do not go back to Herod because a dream warned them not to go back! They go home by a different route.

The Magi do not meet Jesus the night he was born. He might have been close to two years old when they finally arrive and get to meet him. Remember, there are no cars, trains, or planes! Travel is slow and hard. Just imagine how important this trip has been to them. The Magi have given up years of their lives traveling to meet Jesus and give him gifts.

What would you be willing to give up to know Jesus better?

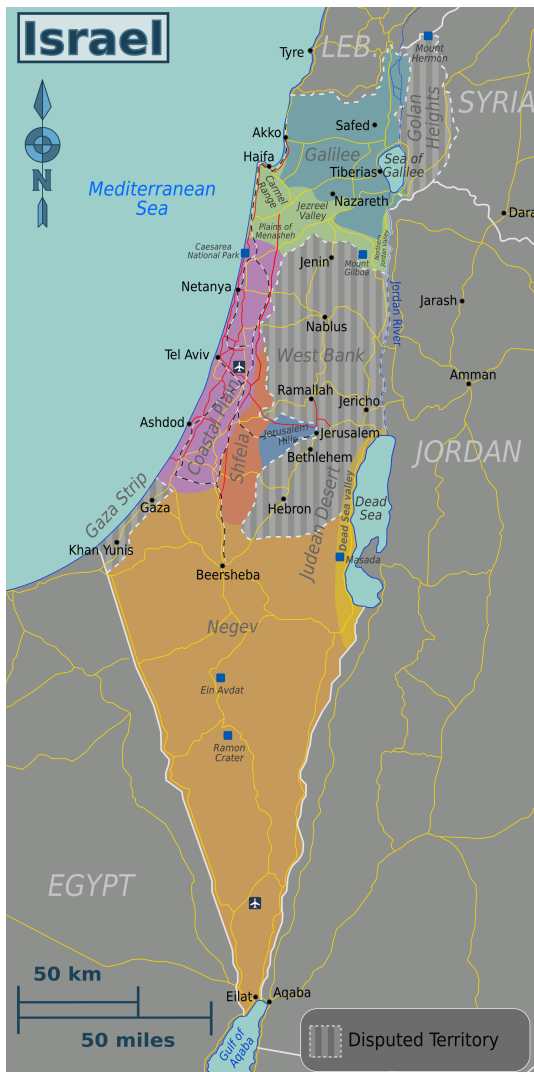
JESUS CHALLENGE DAY 5

Remember King Herod? He's not the good guy in our story. He isn't planning anything good for any child that anyone said would be a future king. Matthew 2:13-18 is our reading for today. An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream and tells him to take Jesus and Mary and to escape. Read Matthew 2:13.

Where are they supposed to go?

Joseph obeys. Look for Bethlehem on the map. Now can you find Egypt? That's where they go.

Back to King Herod. Verse 16 says that he isn't happy when he realizes the Magi have not returned to tell him about Jesus. He gives orders to kill every child two years old and younger. Jesus had escaped and was safely living in Egypt with Joseph and Mary.



JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 6

Matthew 2:19-23 is our reading for today.

Who died in verse 19? _____

An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph and tells him it is now safe to return to the land of Israel. He goes to Galilee and lives in a town named Nazareth. Look at the map. Find Nazareth. Jesus will spend a lot of time in this area.



JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 7

Luke 2:40-52 is today's Bible reading. This is interesting — we have no information about Jesus from the time he was taken to Nazareth to today's reading. Verse 40 says Jesus grew and became strong and was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was on him.

As you grow, what would you like people to say about you?

Jesus is now 12 years old. He is the age of about a sixth grader! Jesus's parents had gone to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover and are now traveling home. This is a big celebration. A lot of people are there. A lot of family was there. A day goes by and Joseph and Mary think Jesus is with relatives but they can not find him. They search through the traveling crowds. They don't find Jesus. They travel back to Jerusalem. After three days they find Jesus. I know I would have been frantic with worry if my child had been missing that long! Please read Luke 2:46 and answer the questions.

Where was Jesus? _____

With whom was he sitting? _____

What was he doing? _____

Verse 47 says that "Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers." His parents, though, are not happy with him. They are worried because they did not know where he was! He said he was in his Father's house but his parents did not fully understand what that meant.

Jesus goes to Nazareth with his earthly parents and obeys them. Jesus is the Son of God and he still obeys his earthly parents!

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 8

Today we are going to learn about John the Baptist. John and Jesus are the same age. Their mothers were pregnant at the same time. They are distant cousins. John came to prepare people for the arrival of the Messiah! In chapter 3 of Luke, we read that John the Baptist is preaching about a baptism of repentance and for the forgiveness of sins. He tells the people in Luke 3:16 that he baptizes with water but that the Messiah will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. Verse 21 tells us that Jesus is baptized. As he is praying heaven is opened and the Holy Spirit descends on him in the form of a dove. A voice comes from heaven that says, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Imagine what the other people are thinking as they witness this! Can you draw a picture of this beautiful scene?

Jesus is now about 30 years old and this is where his ministry begins!

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 9

Luke 4 opens with this. “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for 40 days he was tempted by the devil.” During this time Jesus eats nothing and at the end he is hungry! Of course he is hungry, right? 40 days!

The devil speaks to Jesus and tries to deceive him. You can read about this in Luke 4:3-13. Can you figure out where the words come from that Jesus uses to answer the devil?

They come from _____.

When Jesus answers the devil he quotes scripture. He uses God’s words! I want to point this out because I think this is important. I think this shows us that it is important for us to know and memorize God’s words too!

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 10

John's disciples follow Jesus in John 1:35-42. John passes by Jesus with two of his disciples. Did you know that John has disciples? Disciples are followers. He has people who follow him. John says, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When his disciples hear this, they turn around to follow Jesus. Andrew is one of these men. He goes to find his brother Simon and tells him, "We have found the Messiah" and he takes him to meet Jesus. Look at John 1:42. Jesus changes Simon's name.

What name does he give Simon? _____

In John 1:43-51 Jesus calls two more disciples. List their names.

How does Nathanael know Jesus is the Son of God in John 1:50?

JESUS CHALLENGE DAY 11

A wedding! It appears that Jesus is at a wedding in Cana in Galilee with his mother and his disciples. Can you find Cana on the map? Mary tells Jesus that there is no more wine and tells the servants to do whatever Jesus tells

them to do. You can read about this in John 2:1-12. This is written as Jesus's first public miracle! Jesus has servants fill six stone water jars with water. When Jesus has the servants take the water to the master of the banquet, he tastes it and said, "You have saved the best (wine) till now."

What did Jesus do? _____

I like how Mary tells the servants to do whatever Jesus told them to do. It is as if she knows he would turn the water into wine. I wonder how many miracles Mary saw Jesus do at home before his public ministry? I wonder if Jesus's siblings got upset because they could not do everything that their big brother Jesus could do? How would you feel if your brother was the Son of God and could do miracles? Would you be jealous or would you want to tell everyone and think it is cool? Just some things for you to think about!

<http://www.bible-history.com/maps/Map-Galilee-Northern-Palestine.jpg>



JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 12



It says in John 2:1-12 that Jesus and his brothers and his disciples go to Capernaum for a few days. Do you see Capernaum on the map? The disciples had just seen Jesus's miracle of turning water into wine and in John 2:11, it says, "and his disciples believed in him." The Bible doesn't tell us, but what do you think they do together?

I think a lot of questions are being asked.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 13

Today's Bible reading will be a little bit longer but it's important! John 2:13-25 tells us that Jesus went to Jerusalem. It is almost time for the Jewish Passover.

What is Passover you ask? Let's go back to the Old Testament to Exodus 12 where Moses is leading God's people out of Egypt. God's people were slaves. Moses gave instructions to God's people and the angel of the Lord **passed over** the homes of God's people and saved them. After this they walk through the Red Sea on dry land! They celebrate to remember!

Jesus finds people selling animals for sacrifices and exchanging money in the temple. He makes a whip and drives everything out of the temple courts. People want to know what authority Jesus has to do this. He says in verse 19, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The people reply that it took 46 years to build the temple!

What temple is Jesus talking about? _____

Jesus is not talking about a physical building. The religious leaders are beginning to wonder who this person is. He bothers them because people are listening to Jesus. He speaks with authority.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 14

Today we will read from John 3. Jesus is teaching a Pharisee named Nicodemus. Pharisees are Jewish religious leaders. The religious leaders think they know everything about God! Suddenly this man named Jesus, who they do not know, starts teaching. They are curious and want to know more. Read John 3:2.

How does this man know that Jesus is from God?

John 3:16 is a very popular verse. Jesus speaks this to Nicodemus. Please write it here.

Unfortunately, the religious leaders never really believed that Jesus is the Son of God. He's the Messiah they wait to meet! They will continue to watch him and try to catch him making mistakes. Jesus doesn't sin! The Pharisees just never learn this.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 15

Find Samaria on the map. Jesus is traveling from Judea and back to Galilee and he goes through Samaria. Samaria is on a hill about 35 miles north of Jerusalem. (This would be about the same distance as traveling to Harrisburg from the Lancaster area.) This area was taken over and the people were captured by another country a long time before Jesus was born. The people intermarried. That means that Jewish

people from Samaria married non Jewish people from other areas. The Jewish people who were not captured don't like this and they don't like the Samaritans!

Today we will read about Jesus talking to a Samaritan woman in John 4:1-26. He asks her for a drink of water because she had come to draw water from a well. He tells her about living water. He tells her about himself. His disciples had gone into town to buy food. The Samaritan woman is surprised because Jews typically don't talk to Samaritans. She is also surprised that Jesus knows about her. He knows about her sin. But we know that Jesus is unlike any other Jew. He is unlike any other person on Earth! The Samaritan woman knows scripture and she knows that a Messiah is coming. Read John 4:26.

Who did Jesus tell her he is?

This woman believes and tells others! Jesus stays in Samaria for two days and more people believe in Jesus. Do you want to tell others like the Samaritan woman did? Pray and ask God to help you to tell others about Jesus.



JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 16

We are in John 4:43-54 today. Jesus returns to Galilee and he visits Cana. Do you remember what he did in Cana the last time he visited?

There is a royal officer who has a sick son. When he learns that Jesus is nearby he goes to him and begs him to come and heal his son. Jesus does not go but tells this father, "Your son will live."

The man believes Jesus and leaves. His son is healed at the time Jesus speaks to him and tells him that "your son will live." This man and his whole household believe in Jesus!

Who do you believe Jesus is?

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 17

Jesus is in Galilee and Luke 4:15 says, “He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.” Then he goes to Nazareth. Remember that Jesus grew up in Nazareth and the people there know him as “Joseph’s son.” He reveals to them that He is the Messiah!

People in the synagogue are furious with Jesus for what he is saying and drive him out of town and take him to a hill because they want to throw him off the cliff! Read Luke 4:30 and fill in the blanks.

“But He _____ right through the _____ and went on His way!”

Joseph’s other sons could not do this. Only the Messiah!

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 18

Our Bible reading today comes from Luke 5:1-11. Jesus is with his first disciples and in this passage they leave everything they have to follow Him. What is a disciple? A disciple is someone who follows. Jesus's disciples follow him. Read about this and answer the questions.

Simon Peter had worked all night.

How many fish did his crew catch? _____

Jesus tells him to let down his nets for a catch. He does it.

What starts to happen to the nets? _____

Why? _____

Draw a picture of what that scene might have looked like.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 19

Luke 4:31-44 tells us that Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and he teaches people on the Sabbath and they are amazed at his teaching because his words have authority. He calls demons out of a possessed man and the man is uninjured. He leaves the synagogue and goes to the home of Simon. Simon's mother-in-law has a high fever and they ask Jesus to help. He heals her and she gets up at once and begins to wait on them. At sunset, people bring many sick people to Jesus and he heals each one of them.

At daybreak, Jesus goes to be alone but the people are looking for him. They don't want him to leave. Please read Luke 4:43 and answer the question.

Why does Jesus say he must leave?

Jesus is healing many people wherever he goes!

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 20

Jesus continues to preach and heal. He even tells people that their sins are forgiven. This bothers the Pharisees and teachers of the law. Nobody can forgive sins but God!

Jesus sees a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth in Luke 5:27. Jesus says, "Follow me," and he does. Levi holds a great banquet for Jesus at his house. The Pharisees and teachers of the law complain to Jesus's disciples. "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" they ask in Luke 5:30. Please fill in Luke 5:31.

"Jesus answered them, 'It is not the _____
who need a doctor, but the _____.'"

Jesus came to forgive sins! Think about your life. Is there a sin in your life that you need to confess? Please take time to talk with God today and ask for forgiveness.

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 21

In Luke 6:12-16 it tells us that Jesus chose 12 disciples.
Please list all 12.

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In verse 12 it tells us that Jesus spent the night praying! We might find it unusual that Jesus went by himself to pray but he did this often.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 22

Jesus spends a lot of time teaching his disciples. His disciples would be the teachers when he was gone. He knows this. They do not. There is so much for them to learn. Luke 6:17-19 tells us that he teaches and heals people. People could touch him and be healed immediately! Then Jesus turns and begins to teach his disciples in Luke 6:20-26. You might recognize these as the beatitudes!

I want you to open your Bible to Luke 6:27. What does it say?

“But to you who are listening I say: _____

your enemies, do _____ to those who hate you.”

God wants us to love. Go love others today and be like Jesus!

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 23

Jesus heals a centurion man's servant. Look at Luke 7:1-10. A centurion is an officer in the Roman army. The officer in today's story has a dying servant. He has heard of Jesus and sends elders of the Jews to ask Jesus to heal his servant. This man has extraordinary faith in what Jesus can do. He doesn't ask him to come personally. He doesn't ask him to touch his servant. He doesn't consider himself worthy of having Jesus in his home. Yet he asks Jesus to heal his servant and Jesus does!

In Luke 7:9-10 it says, "I have not found such great faith even in Israel." What do you believe Jesus can do?

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 24

Have you ever been on a boat? Did you like it? Was it a nice sunny day? Was it warm? Draw a picture of yourself in a boat.

One day Jesus and his disciples are in a boat to go to the other side of the lake and Jesus falls asleep. Just then a storm appears on the lake! The boat is being swamped with water and the disciples are afraid that they will drown. They wake up Jesus. Please read Luke 8:22-25. What does Jesus do?

Even the wind and the rain obey Jesus!

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 25

Jesus heals many people. He raises many from the dead also.

Whom does he raise from the dead in Luke 8:40-42, 49-56?

What is the father supposed to do in verse 50?

Who do you know that has a great faith in Jesus? Write about it here.

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 26

We know that Jesus taught his disciples many things. Did you know that Jesus gave them the power and authority to drive out demons and cure diseases like he could? Read Luke 9:1-6. Jesus gives his disciples rules to follow and they set out “proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.”

What can we learn from this story?

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 27

Jesus's disciples return and tell Jesus what they had done! They spend time together. I wonder if they talk to each other about the miracles they have seen? I bet they all want to tell Jesus and that it is a noisy scene! The crowds learn about their location and follow them. John 6:1-15 and Luke 9:10-17 tell of the famous miracle: The Feeding of the 5,000. Jesus's disciples ask Jesus to send the crowds away. They are in a remote area and they don't have food for everyone. Jesus replies by saying, "You give them something to eat." Imagine how they look at each other when Jesus says this. Did Jesus joke? Was he always serious? They have five loaves and two fish and there are 5,000 men, plus women and children. Jesus instructs his disciples to gather the people in groups of about 50. Jesus gives thanks for the food and the people eat and there are 12 basketfuls left over. There are leftovers! Remember the disciples had just been out proclaiming the good news and healing people and now they have 12 left over baskets of food.

Finish this sentence.

Jesus is _____!

*Check out Matthew 15:29-39 for a similar story! You could write on the back how they are the same and how they are different.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 28

The disciples are in a boat again on the Sea of Galilee. This time Jesus is not with them. He had dismissed the crowds after the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 and spent time praying. Alone. A strong wind blows and the waters grow rough. Out on the water the disciples see Jesus walking to them. If you don't believe me you can look it up in John 6:16-24 or Matthew 14:22-36! So imagine you are in a boat and you see someone walking on water.

What are you thinking?? Are you scared??

Jesus's disciples think it was a ghost! Jesus says to them, "Do not be afraid." I bet they had to blink really hard to see that it was Jesus! Peter replies, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus replies, "Come." Peter gets out of the boat and starts to walk to Jesus. As long as he keeps his eyes on Jesus, he can walk on water. When he stops looking at Jesus, he sees the waves. He becomes afraid and begins to sink. Jesus catches him and they climb on the boat. The wind dies down.

The people who are in the boat together worship Jesus saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 29

In Matthew 16:13-20 Jesus asks his disciples a question. “Who do people say the Son of Man is? They give some answers and Jesus asks, “But what about you? Who do **you** say I am?” I want you to read Peter’s reply in verse 16 but first I want you to answer this question. If Jesus looked at you and asked this question, how would you answer?

“Who do you say I am?”

Peter replies, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” He goes on to tell Peter that he is blessed for knowing this because it was His Father in heaven who allowed him to know this. He also says, “I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.” Did you know that the name Peter means **rock**? Cool, right??

Here are some other facts you might find interesting about Peter. He was loud and he often said the wrong thing and was told by Jesus that he was wrong. He was a fisherman. His family owned several boats and hired servants. He was married. His brother, Andrew, introduced Peter to Jesus. Andrew was also a disciple. After Jesus died, Peter went back to being a fisherman for a while. He was the leader of the disciples. He was a preacher and church leader. Scholars think he was crucified in Rome because of his belief in Jesus. He wrote 1 Peter and 2 Peter.

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 30

Today's story takes place about six days after Jesus told his disciples that he would be killed and would rise again on the third day. They didn't understand what this meant. He mentions this again in today's Bible story, which you will find in Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:2-13, and Luke 9:28-36. What Peter, James, and John witness in today's reading they are not to share until "the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." Go ahead and read one of those passages. Please draw a picture of what you like best about this story.

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 31

Luke 10 begins with Jesus appointing 72 others and sending them out in groups of two to every town and place where he was about to go. Jesus tells them not to take a purse or a bag or sandals and not to greet anyone on the road. When they enter a house they are to say, "Peace to this house." They are to stay and eat and drink whatever is given to them and they are not to move from house to house. Jesus sends them to heal the sick and give the message that "the kingdom of God is near to you."

Please look at Luke 10:17.

How do the 72 return? _____

If you were chosen to be a disciple and able to heal people with the power of Jesus, how would it make you feel? Would you do it?

Luke 10:23-24 says Jesus spoke these words privately to his disciples. "Blessed are the _____ that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

I think what these 72 got to see was remarkable! Amazing!
Miraculous! I think it was something they would never forget!

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 32

One day a disciple asks Jesus to teach them to pray. It doesn't say which disciple asked. Was it Peter? Was it James? Was it John? We don't know. Here is what Jesus says in Luke 11:1-13. Please fill in the blanks.

“When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your _____, your kingdom come.

Give us each _____ our daily bread.

Forgive us our _____,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

God wants you to talk to him. He wants you to ask. He wants to bless you! Spend time praying today.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 33

The more I read about Jesus the more excited I get! I'd like you to meet Jesus's friends Mary and Martha. In Luke 10:38-42 Jesus is invited into their home. Martha is upset with her sister Mary because she is sitting and listening to Jesus while Martha is working. Jesus tells Martha that Mary chose what is better.

Now we are going to jump to John 11. I want you to see that Jesus was a friend of this family. Lazarus is Martha and Mary's brother and he became ill and died.

Who does Martha believe Jesus is? Read John 11:27. Martha says, "I believe that you are the _____, the Son of _____, who has come into the world."

The shortest verse of the Bible is John 11:35.

What does it say? _____

What happens in John 11:43-44? _____

Jesus brings his friend back from the dead. He wanted to do this. He wanted to see the Power of God! Jesus can do anything!

JESUS CHALLENGE

DAY 34

We are going to read a very well known story about children. You can find the story in Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16, or Luke 18:15-17. Go ahead and read it.

People are bringing babies to Jesus. The disciples tell the parents to stop doing this! Jesus does not agree with his disciples. He says, "Let the little _____ come to me."

Draw a heart below. Jesus loves you. He doesn't care if you are young or old. He loves you! Take a moment to thank Jesus for loving you!

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 35

People will praise Jesus as King in today's story. It's Pick Your Favorite Gospel Day! You can read from Matthew, Mark, Luke or John! Go ahead and open your Bible to Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-40, or John 12:12-19.

Jesus asks two disciples to bring him a colt. This colt is a Mommy donkey and she probably has her baby with her. The disciples do what was asked. They throw their cloaks on the colt and Jesus sits on top. He rides the donkey and people spread their cloaks on the road. Why do you think they do this?

The people hope Jesus will be their king. They hope he will bring freedom to them. They cry out "Hosanna" which means "Save us." Kings would enter a city on a great horse. Jesus enters the city on a donkey. A peaceful animal. Laying down their cloak means that they are giving Jesus authority over them. They are allowing him to be in charge. They want him to overthrow the government and be their king.

Jesus is not the kind of king the people expected. He is the kind of king the people needed. They need to be forgiven for their sins. They need a Savior.

We need a Savior. Thank you Jesus!

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 36

Matthew 26:14-39, Luke 22:24-27 and John 13:1-17 tells about the last passover meal Jesus had with his disciples. It's often called "The Last Supper."

As Jesus breaks the bread, he gives thanks and says, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he takes the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gives it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." They end by singing together.

We call it communion when we remember and celebrate in church. The three gospels are similar but John adds that Jesus washed the feet of the disciples that night too! Can you draw a loaf of bread and a cup to remember this story?

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 37

Jesus died on the cross. Lots of things happen that lead to this. Jesus told his disciples that he would be killed. They didn't understand yet. But soon, soon they would understand! I have made a timeline of some of the events in order. I will stay with the Gospel of John but you can find this in all four gospels!

1. Jesus ate and sang with his Disciples. (John 13:1-17)
2. Jesus tells the disciples that one of them will betray him. (John 13:21)
3. Judas left. (John 13:30)
4. Jesus tells Peter he will disown him 3 times before the rooster crows. (John 13:38)
5. Jesus tells the disciples about the Holy Spirit. (John 14:26, 15:27)
6. Jesus prays to be glorified, he prays for his disciples, he prays for all believers. (John 17)
7. Judas led soldiers and officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They carried torches, lanterns, and weapons. (John 18:2)
8. Jesus arrested. (John 18:12)
9. Peter said he was not a disciple of Jesus. (John 18:17, 25, 27)
10. The rooster crowed. (John 18:27)
11. Jesus was questioned before the high priest (John 18:19-24)
12. Jesus was sent to the Roman governor, Pilate. (John 18:28-38)
13. Pilate found no charge against him. (John 18:38)
14. It is custom for Pilate to release a prisoner at Passover. The people chose to release Barabbas (a criminal who probably committed murder and robbery) and not Jesus. (John 18:40)
15. Jesus was flogged and wore a crown of thorns (John 19:1-2)
16. Pilate told the Jews again that he found no basis for a charge against Jesus (John 19:4)
17. The chief Jewish priest yelled "crucify!" (John 19:6)
18. Jewish leaders insisted that according to law that Jesus had to die because he claimed to be the Son of God. (John 19:7)
19. Pilate handed Jesus over to the Jewish leaders. (John 19:16)
20. Jesus carried his cross. (John 19:17)

A lot happened. How does reading this make you feel? _____
You may be feeling a lot of different emotions that may include anger, sadness, confusion, love. It's okay to feel these things. Jesus told his disciples over and over that this would happen and that it was God's plan. Remember, there is a happy ending! Oh Happy Day!

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 38

Pilate has a sign fastened to the cross that says, “Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews.” The chief priests are upset by this. They say Jesus claimed to be this but that he is not. Pilate doesn’t change it. Pilate, a Roman ruler, is correct. The Jewish leaders are not.

Jesus’s mother, Mary wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stand near the cross. Jesus sees John and tells him to take care of his mother.

Jesus dies. His body is taken down and it is wrapped in strips of linen and laid in a tomb. You can read this in John 19:18-42.

You know what happens next! You know that Jesus did not stay dead. Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb and it is empty. She runs to Peter and John and they run to the tomb. I think it is funny that John writes in John 20:4 that he outran Peter and got there first! I wonder if there was some competition between them?

Next we read that Mary Magdalene weeps outside the tomb and Jesus comes to her. She is the first person to see Jesus after he became alive again. She goes to the disciples with the good news!

Who is Mary Magdalene? In Luke 8:2 she is introduced as someone that Jesus healed from demons. She was a follower of Jesus and traveled with him and his disciples.

Read John 20:19. How do you think Jesus entered the room?

How did the disciples feel in John 20:20? _____

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 39

Jesus returns to Earth for 40 days. He visits many people and performs many miracles. Today we will read Luke 24:51.

Where does Jesus go after he blesses his disciples?

Now please read Acts 1:8-11. It's similar.

Who does Jesus tell the disciples that they would receive?

Where does he go? _____

What covers him? _____

Who do you think the men dressed in white are? _____

You gave up a lot of your time to learn about Jesus! You should feel proud of yourself. I challenged you to 40 days. We have 1 day left.

JESUS CHALLENGE
DAY 40

You just spent 40 days learning about Jesus! Please write down two of your favorite things that you learned about Jesus.

1. _____

2. _____

Now please answer this question.

Who is Jesus?

What does Jesus mean to you?

Take the time to look at what you have written today and pray. Praise God for your two favorite parts of the Bible about Jesus. Praise God for who Jesus is. Thank God for what Jesus is to you. Confess that you have sin in your life. Thank God for sending Jesus to be your Savior. Thank Him for dying on the cross so that your sin can be forgiven. Finish your prayer talking to God about things that are important to you.

JESUS CHALLENGE
Completed

You did it! May God bless you and grow you into a strong man or woman of faith!

If you want to know how you can get to know Jesus better here are a few ideas.

1. Go to church. At church, you can learn about the Bible. You can make friends. You can be a part of the family of God.
2. Read the Bible on your own. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are full of more stories about Jesus that we did not have time to include in this challenge. These books are also full of stories, called parables, that Jesus used to teach people about God's ways.
3. Pray! Jesus prayed.
4. Tell others what you know. Be a disciple of Jesus!