



**The Life of Jesus
for
Confirmation Candidates**



Jesus is born in Bethlehem

The angel Gabriel told the virgin Mary that she would have a son, Jesus.

Shortly before Jesus was born, His mother Mary and her husband Joseph had traveled to Bethlehem to be counted in a census. When they arrived in Bethlehem, there was no place to stay. The only room they could find was a place where animals stayed. The baby was born there and Mary laid Him in a feeding trough, since they did not have a bed for Him. Mary and Joseph named the baby Jesus.



The Three Wise Men

When Jesus was born, a star appeared over Bethlehem. The star was seen by wise men in the East who, believing it portended a king's birth in Israel, traveled to Bethlehem.

The star went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. The wise men entered the house and saw the child with His mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



Jesus as a young child visits the Temple

When Jesus was about 12 years of age, He visited the Temple in Jerusalem, the capital city of the land of Judah. While at the Temple, Jesus spoke about God and about the Scriptures. His knowledge impressed the people who were in the Temple that day.



Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist

When Jesus had reached the age of about 30, it was nearly time for Him to begin His ministry. But first He went to John the Baptist and was baptized in the Jordan River.

As Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on Him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are My dearly loved Son, and you bring Me great joy."



Jesus Calls His First Disciples

One day while walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw Simon Peter and Andrew his brother casting a net into the water. Jesus called out to them, “Come and follow Me and be My disciples.” And they left everything to follow Jesus.

A little farther on, Jesus passed two brothers, James and John, who were mending their nets. He also called them to be His disciples, and they too followed Him.



Jesus eats with “Scum”

As Jesus was walking along, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow Me and be My disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed Him.

Later, Matthew invited Jesus and His disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked the disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?”

When Jesus heard this, He said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”



Jesus Turns Water into Wine

Afterwards, Jesus went to Cana to attend a wedding party. His mother, Mary, also attended. But the host of the wedding party did not have enough wine for everyone who had gathered. This was an embarrassing situation for the wedding host. So Mary told Jesus about the problem. Jesus then miraculously changed six large clay pots of water into fine wine for the wedding party.



Jesus talks of God's love and plan of salvation

Jesus explained to Nicodemus what a person must do to have salvation and eternal life.

Jesus said, "God loves the world so much that He gave His only Son, and whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him."



Jesus tells a Samaritan woman about the “living water”

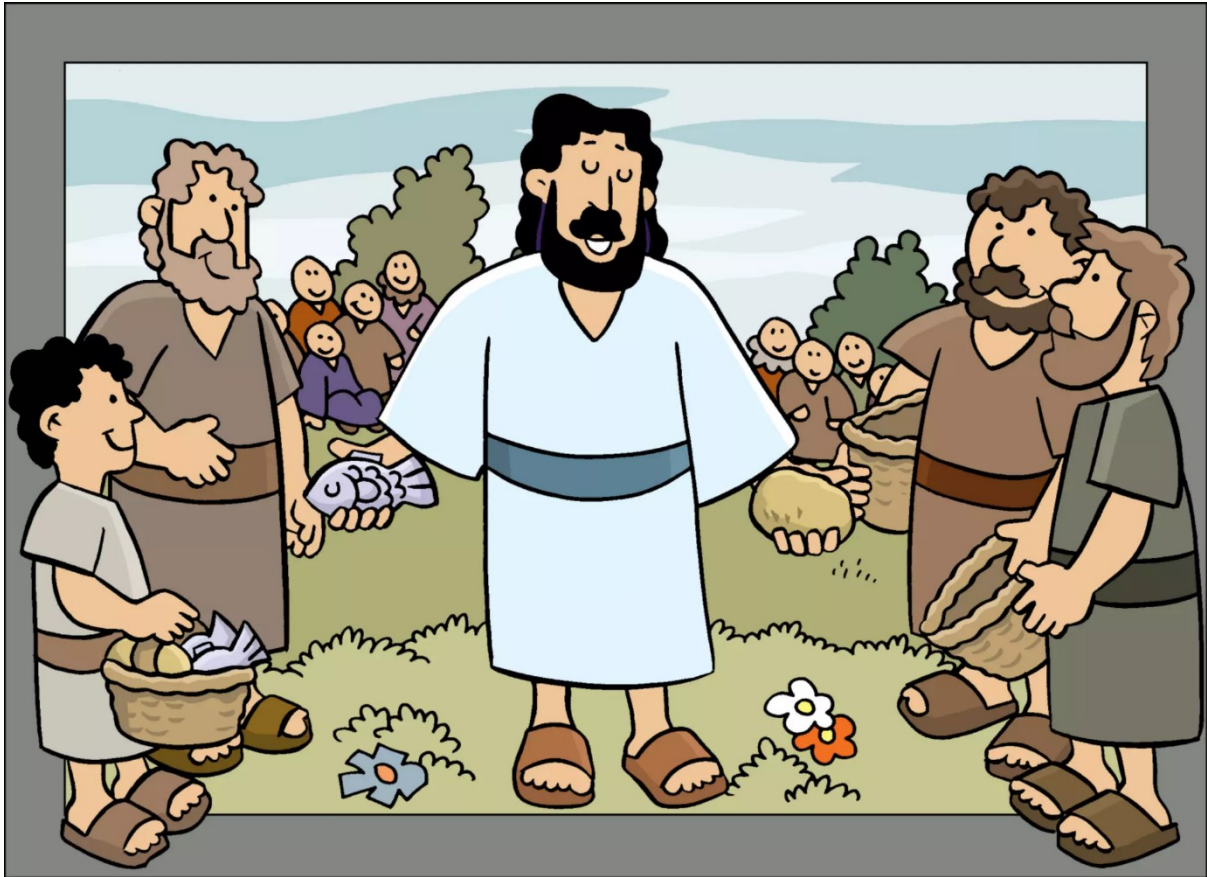
As Jesus and His followers traveled through Samaria, Jesus took a rest near a well. There He met a Samaritan woman and spoke to her about the “water of life.” Jesus told her, “Those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”

After Jesus told the woman that He was the Messiah, she left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone about Jesus. The people came streaming from the village to see Him and many believed in Jesus that day.



The Parables of Jesus

When Jesus spoke to the multitudes, He often explained deep truths by means of parables—stories about common events, circumstances, and things that His listeners could easily relate to. Times have changed, but the timeless truths contained in the parables of Jesus are just as relevant today and just as feeding to our souls as they were to those who first heard them 2,000 years ago!



Jesus feeds 5,000 people

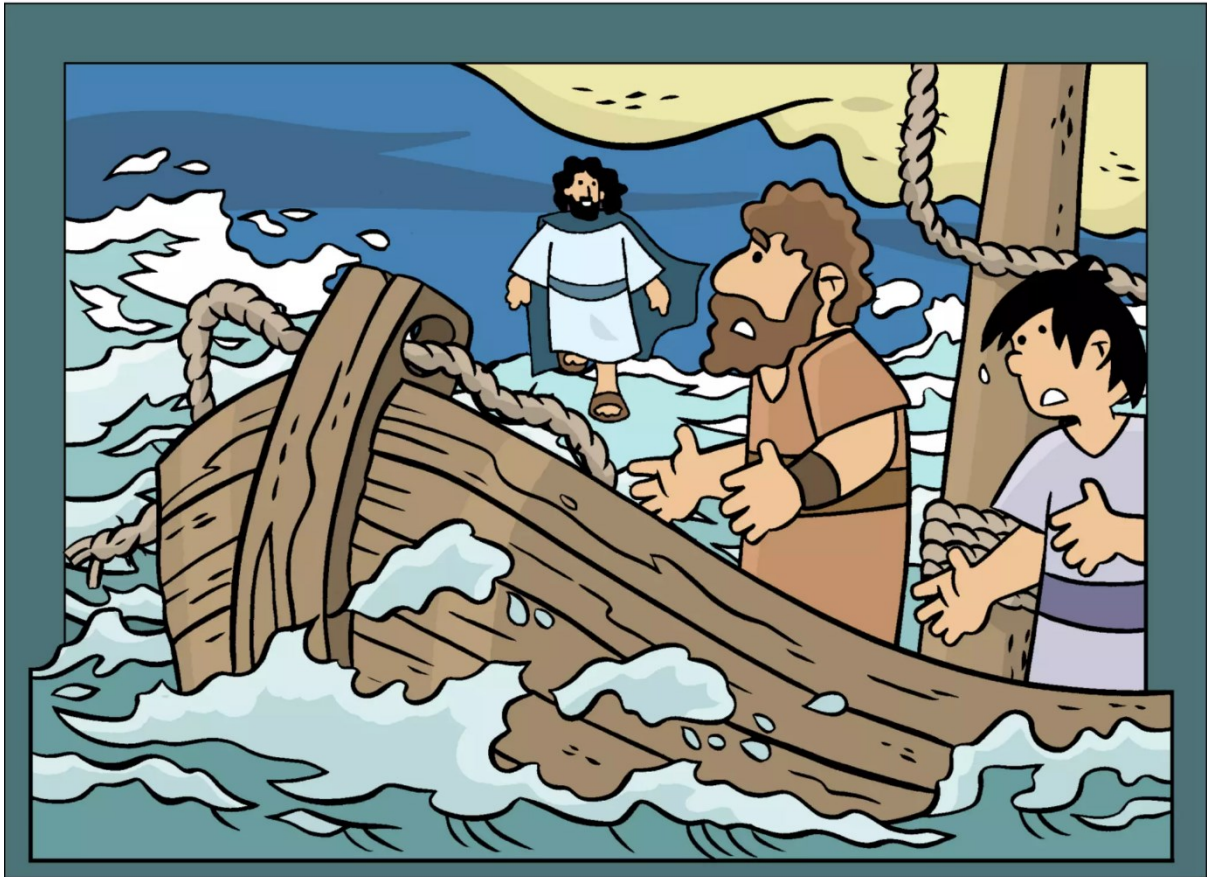
Jesus went to a remote area to be alone, but the crowds heard where He was headed and followed on foot from many towns. When Jesus saw the huge crowd, He had compassion on them and healed their sick.

It was getting late in the day, and Jesus' disciples were concerned that the crowd did not have any food. Jesus told His disciples to feed the crowd, but the disciples said they only had five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus gave thanks, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples who gave them to the people, who all ate and were satisfied. 12 baskets of leftover crumbs were later gathered, so much had the food been multiplied!



Jesus brings Jairus' daughter back to life

A ruler of the people came to Jesus and said that his daughter had just died. Jesus and His disciples went to the ruler's home and saw a gathering of mourners. Jesus told the mourners to leave the house, and He told them that the girl was not dead, but asleep. The mourners laughed at Him. But, after the mourners had left the home, Jesus took the girl by the hand and the girl rose up, alive.



Jesus walks on water

Jesus told His disciples to go out into the water in a boat while Jesus went to a private place to pray. Later, Jesus walked out to the boat and startled the disciples. They thought they were seeing a ghost walking on the water. But after they realized that it was Jesus, they worshiped Him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."



Payment of the Temple Tax

On their arrival in Capernaum, the collectors of the Temple tax came to Peter and asked him, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the Temple tax?”

“Yes, he does,” Peter replied. Then he went into the house.

Jesus told Peter, “Go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin. Take it and pay the tax for both of us.”



Jesus at Simon the Pharisee's Home

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. When a certain immoral woman from that city heard He was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she knelt at His feet, weeping. Her tears fell on His feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing His feet and putting perfume on them.

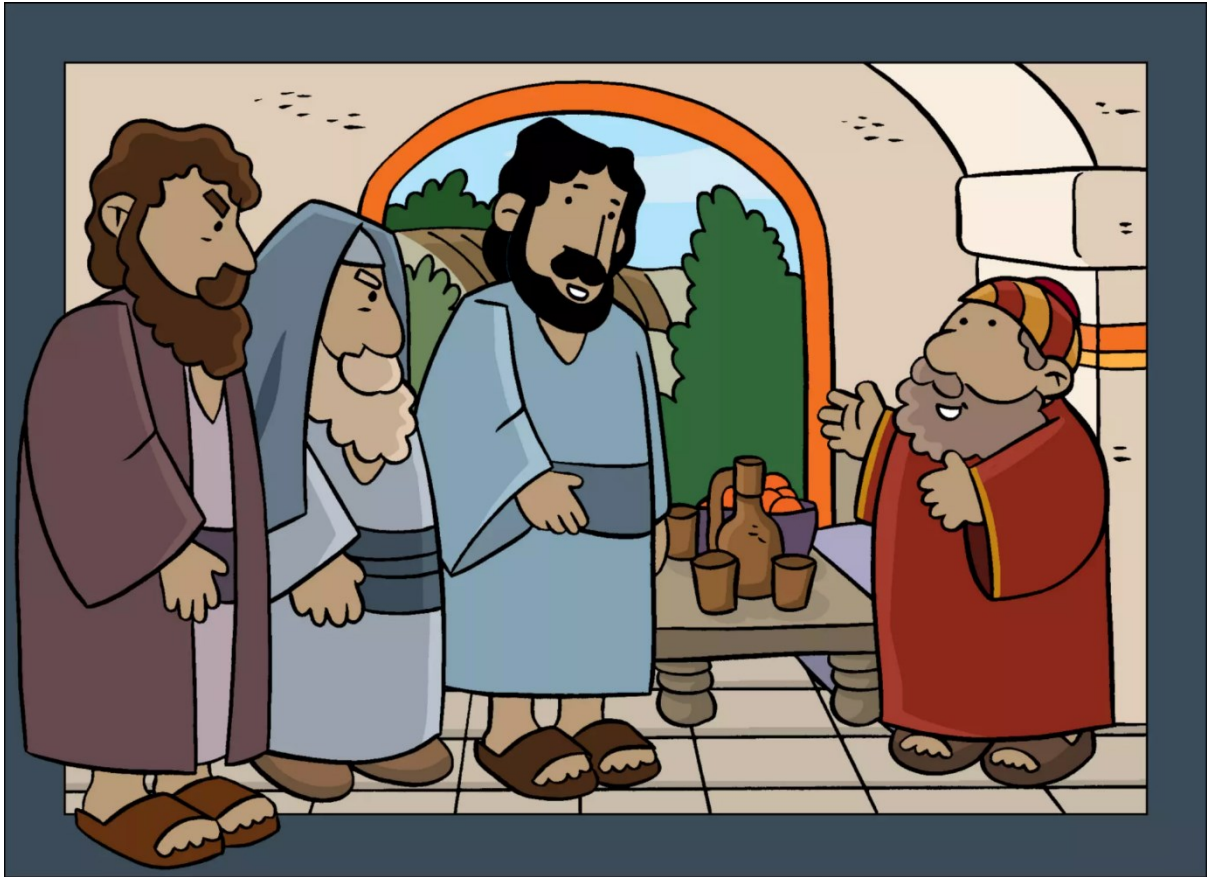
Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you; go in peace."



Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

A woman named Martha welcomed Jesus into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what He taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me."

But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."



Salvation for a Swindler

Zacchaeus was the wealthy head of a large office of government tax collectors. To the Jews, tax collectors were the absolute lowest of the low, well known for being cheaters and robbers of the poor.

Immediately after he met and talked with Jesus, Zacchaeus' entire life was turned around. Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"

Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."



Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

When Jesus received word that His friend, Lazarus, was seriously ill, He said: "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

A few days later, Jesus traveled to Lazarus' town, where he was told Lazarus had been dead for four days. Jesus told Martha, Lazarus' sister, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," Martha told him, "I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." Jesus then went to the tomb and called out for Lazarus. Lazarus rose back to life and walked out of his tomb.



The Last Supper

At the last supper Jesus ate with His disciples before His death, He gave thanks and broke bread, and shared it with them. "Take and eat," Jesus said. "This is My body, which is broken for you.

After the bread, Jesus poured wine into a cup. "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you", He told His disciples. Even though He knew He was about to die a painful death, His heart overflowed with selfless love for others—and it does to this day. He would have shed His blood for you alone, and He would do it all over again, just for you. He loves you that much!



In the Garden of Gethsemane

Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane. Then Jesus went to pray by Himself. Jesus prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, please let me not have to drink this cup of suffering. But if there is no other way for people’s sins to be forgiven, then let Your will be done.”



Jesus is crucified

Jesus' enemies had Him arrested and brought to trial on false charges. And though the Roman governor found Jesus innocent, he was pressured to execute Him.

Just before His arrest, Jesus had said, "They couldn't even touch Me without My Father's permission. If I would but raise My little finger, He would send legions of angels to rescue Me!" But instead, Jesus chose to die, to save you and me. He chose to give His life because He knew that was the only way God's plan for our salvation could be fulfilled.



Jesus Lives

Three days after His lifeless body was laid to rest, Jesus rose from the dead.

On the day that Jesus rose from the dead, two of His disciples were going to a nearby town. As they walked, they talked about what had happened to Jesus. Jesus approached them and started walking with them, but they did not recognize Him.

The two men invited Jesus to stay with them, so He did. When they were ready to eat the evening meal, Jesus picked up a loaf of bread, thanked God for it, and then broke it. Suddenly, they recognized that He was Jesus!



Jesus ascends into Heaven

During the next forty days, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times. Once, he even appeared to more than 500 people at the same time!

After Jesus had visited His disciples and told them to go into the world and preach the Word of God, Jesus was taken into Heaven. Angels appeared and promised that in the same way that Jesus had been taken, He will return!



Jesus Returns

Jesus is inviting you to a party!--The grandest, most thrilling and exciting party that has ever been held! It will be a feast that will be attended by billions of people from all over the World and it will be held in a place that is so big and so beautiful and so out-of-this-World that it is beyond your imagination!

When Jesus returns, the trumpets of God will sound and Jesus' mighty voice will thunder from the heavens, "Come up!" and all of His saved children will be caught up together with Him in the clouds. Then we will all fly away with the Lord to the greatest party ever held—a wonderful reunion with the Lord and all of our loved ones!