

good news™

2024-2025 Christian Teacher Planner

FAITH HOPE LOVE



The greatest of these is **LOVE**



1 Corinthians 13:13

Name _____



26 Monday

Read the Whole Story

This week's Good News comes from Mark 7:14-23.

27 Tuesday

What's the Word?

The definition of **understand** is...
How are the words *taught* and *learn* related to **understand**?

28 Wednesday

My Thoughts

Do not merely listen to the word,... Do what it says.
James 1:22
I think this means...

29 Thursday

I Pray

Lord Jesus, please help me **understand** and share how much you love me with all those I meet.

30 Friday

Faith, Hope, Love

Is there something about your faith you would like to **understand** better? Ask a teacher, a family member or your pastor help you.



In what direction from Capernaum did Jesus and the disciples have to travel to get to Gennesaret where our Bible story takes place?

31 Sat.

Notes



2 Monday

Labor Day (USA); Labour Day (CAN)

Read the Whole Story

This week's Good News comes from Mark 7:24-37.

3 Tuesday

What's the Word?

The definition of **open** is...
What did Jesus mean when he told the man's ears to "Be **opened**"?

4 Wednesday

My Thoughts

I think the best way for me to **open** my ears to listen to Jesus' words is...

5 Thursday

I Pray

Lord Jesus, continue to **open** my ears to your voice and **open** my heart to your love.

6 Friday

Faith, Hope, Love

Make a list of the people in your life who have helped you truly hear God's Word.



According to this Bible story, Jesus left Tyre and went to Sidon. Next he went back to the Sea of Galilee in Decapolis.



Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!").

Mark 7:33b-34

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Spelling List

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____





9 Monday

Read the Whole Story

This week's Good News comes from Mark 9:14-29.

10 Tuesday

What's the Word?

The word **wonder** in this Gospel story means...

- a) amazed
- b) disgusted

a) amazed

11 Wednesday

Patriot Day (USA)

My Thoughts

I have seen excitement sweep through the crowds when...

12 Thursday

I Pray

Lord, store up **wonder** in my heart when I think of what you mean to me.

13 Friday

Faith, Hope, Love

What surprising thing about Jesus can you share this weekend? Tell someone what Jesus' cross means to you.



The Bible says that Jesus and his disciples began a journey through Galilee on the way to Capernaum. What towns did they pass on the way?

14 Sat.

Notes

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Spelling List

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____
- 12. _____
- 13. _____
- 14. _____
- 15. _____
- 16. _____
- 17. _____
- 18. _____
- 19. _____
- 20. _____
- 21. _____
- 22. _____
- 23. _____
- 24. _____
- 25. _____





16 Monday

Read the Whole Story

This week's Good News comes from Luke 1:39-45.

17 Tuesday

What's the Word?

The definition of **fulfill** is...
What part of God's plan was **fulfilled** through Mary?

18 Wednesday

My Thoughts

Mary said yes to God even when she knew it would be hard. I admire Mary because...
I hope I will follow Mary's example whenever I...

19 Thursday

I Pray

Pray Mary's prayer:
My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
Amen.

20 Friday

Faith, Hope, Love

After dinner or at bedtime invite your family to join you in reading some of the Christmas story in the Gospel of Luke, Chapters 1 and 2.



In this reading, Mary is visiting her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah, is a priest in the temple in Jerusalem.

21 Sat.

Notes

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Spelling List

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____





23 Monday

Read the Whole Story

This week's Good News comes from Luke 2:22-40.

24 Tuesday

Christmas Eve

What's the Word?

Look in the dictionary to learn the different definitions of intelligence, knowledge and **wisdom**.

25 Wednesday

Christmas Day

My Thoughts

I would like people to think of me as a person of **wisdom** because...

26 Thursday

Boxing Day (CAN)

I Pray

Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to the world to remove all doubt and fear. I am eagerly awaiting your return. Amen.

27 Friday

Faith, Hope, Love

Be an angel and announce Jesus' birth. Be a shepherd by worshipping and leading others to the manger.



Find the temple in Jerusalem where this Bible story takes place. What were Jesus and his family doing in there?

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Luke 2:39-40

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Spelling List

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____





30 Monday

Read the Whole Story
This week's Good News comes from John 1:10-18.

31 Tuesday

What's the Word?
The meaning of the word *among* in this story is...

1 Wednesday

New Year's Day

My Thoughts
Jesus lived as one of us, with us. To me this means...

2 Thursday

I Pray
Heavenly Father, I ask you to keep the world's children safe from violence, hunger, homelessness, disease and death. I ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

3 Friday

Faith, Hope, Love
The message of the angels to the shepherds was "...on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Help bring peace within your own family in 2025.

4 Sat.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling **among** us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Spelling List

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____



PP. 26-27: WEEK OF AUGUST 11-17, 2024
WORD: REMAINS

THE GOOD NEWS • JOHN 6:51–69

The Words of Eternal Life

We hear again Jesus' astounding statement: "The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh" (John 6:51). Not surprisingly, the people listening to Jesus ask, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" It's a good question. Jesus doesn't really explain how it happens, but he promises eternal life to those who eat his flesh and drink his blood. Jesus has not yet given his disciples—and us—his body and blood in Holy Communion, but with these statements he looks ahead to that life-giving gift. Those who feed on Jesus by faith, and who by faith receive his body and blood, will live forever.

This is too much for some of Jesus' listeners. It's a "hard saying." Who can understand such things? Again, it is a matter of Spirit-born faith. Jesus says, "It is the Spirit who gives life, the flesh is no help at all." Only people taught by God the Holy Spirit can believe in Jesus. The flesh—human thoughts and effort—are no help at all. There are some people listening, including Jesus' own disciple Judas, who will reject the teaching of the Spirit. They will refuse to believe. Some people who had been following Jesus until now cannot believe such things. They stop following him. Jesus asks his twelve disciples if they also want to leave him. Peter replies for them all, with a Spirit-taught answer that is our answer, too: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

DISCUSSION: Many people today do not believe in Jesus. Where do they go to look for eternal life? Discuss with your students the way in which people look to other religions or to their own efforts to find God. Talk about the way in which things like money or popularity can become gods. Pray that others will come to know and believe in Jesus, the Bread of life.

PP. 28-29: WEEK OF AUGUST 18-24, 2024
WORD: ELDERS

THE GOOD NEWS • MARK 7:1–13

Rituals, Rules and Commandments

In this lesson, we hear the complaints of people who don't believe in Jesus, and who really don't want anyone else to believe in him either. Among those who do not believe are some Pharisees, members of a very strict Jewish religious group, and scribes, men who studied the Jewish laws. In order to make sure they obeyed God's commandments as perfectly as possible, Jewish teachers had invented many detailed laws and traditions to supplement God's commandments. Some of these extra religious duties involved ceremonial washing before eating or after leaving the public marketplace. The scribes and Pharisees criticize Jesus' disciples for not washing according to these special rituals.

The problem does not lie with Jesus' disciples, but with the unbelieving and self-important religious leaders. Jesus directs their attention to the Old Testament, to the prophet Isaiah who wrote about this exact problem. The Pharisees and scribes honored God outwardly, with their lips and with their pious words and actions, but inwardly they did not believe—their hearts were far from God. They acted as if their own invented rules were more important than God's commandments!

Jesus uses the Fourth Commandment as an example: "Honor your father and mother." The Pharisees and scribes had found a way around that one. If they wanted to excuse themselves from honoring and caring for their parents, they could just say that whatever help (financial or otherwise) might have been given to their parents had instead been donated as "Corban," that is, an offering to God. Using this ritual trick to deny to their parents the honor due them, the teachers of the law were at the same time denying the honor due to the Word of God. As you will see in the lessons to come, even though some Pharisees come to believe in Jesus, many of them will refuse to give him the honor due to the Son of God.

ACTIVITY: Even though it isn't Mother's Day or Father's Day, have your students create cards and write thank you notes to their parents, grandparents or other guardians. Students may take the finished cards home or you may provide envelopes and stamps for mailing

CHRISTIAN TEACHER EDITION *good news*
FOR THE 2024-2025 PLANNERS • SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

PP. 30-31: WEEK OF AUG. 25–31, 2024
WORD: UNDERSTAND

PP. 32-33: WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1-7, 2024
WORD: OPENED

THE GOOD NEWS • MARK 7:14–23

Clean from the Inside Out

The scribes and Pharisees invented many rules about being ritually clean and about being “defiled,” or unclean, in the sight of God. Jesus teaches the people the truth about such rules: “There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” The Pharisees had rules about hand washing. (Note: This rule was about ritual washing, done in an effort to make a person spiritually “clean” in the eyes of God; remind students that bathing and hand washing are good things to do in order to protect and care for their bodies and health!) The Pharisees also had detailed rules about which foods should or should not be eaten.

When Jesus’ disciples asked him about his lesson, Jesus replied that food just enters the stomach and then passes out as waste. Eating or not eating certain foods does not make a person clean before God. Things that are unclean come from the inside, from a person’s heart—evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, coveting, pride and all other kinds of sin. Sin starts inside of us, in our thoughts and desires (James 1:14-15). These evil things—these sins—make a person unclean in the sight of God. Following detailed rules cannot make us clean from these sins. Only the blood of Jesus can make us clean: “If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

ACTIVITY: Invite your pastor to talk with your class about the part of our worship service called the Confession and Absolution. What does it mean to confess our sins? What are the words of absolution? The word *absolve* comes from the Latin word meaning “to loosen” or “to set free” How are we set free from our sins?

THE GOOD NEWS • MARK 7:(24–30) 31–37

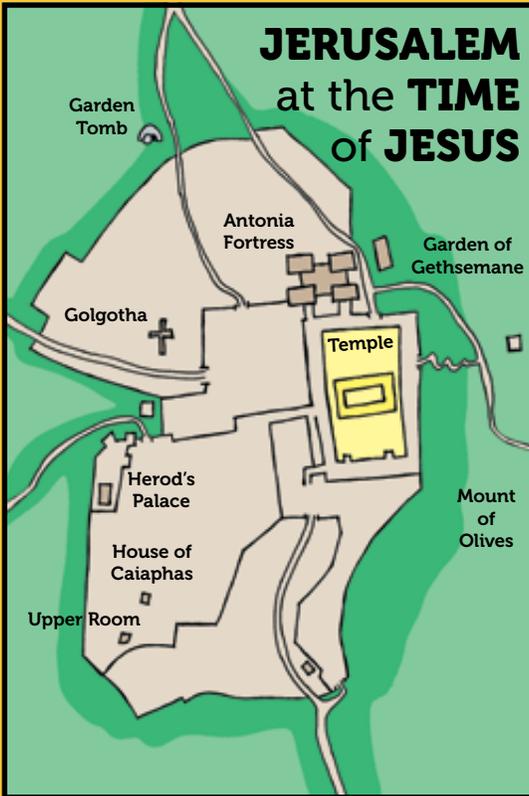
Ephphatha!

This lesson is about a different kind of uncleanness. Jesus travels through a territory outside of Israel. A woman who lives in the area comes to him to ask for help. An unclean spirit, an evil demon, has possessed her little daughter. This woman is a Gentile, which means she is not Jewish. She probably does not know about all the rules and rituals for being clean, but she has heard of Jesus and she knows he can help her daughter. Jesus, however, answers in a strange way: “Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” He is the Messiah of Israel, sent first of all to heal and save “the children,” that is, the people of Israel. Should the Bread of life be thrown instead “to the dogs,” that is, to the people outside of Israel? The woman does not give up. The Spirit has created faith in her heart. She has been “taught by God” and she replies, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” The Bread of life is for her and for her daughter, too. Jesus praises her faith and sends the unclean spirit out of her daughter. Jesus is the Bread of life for Israel and for all people: “For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (John 6:33).

Jesus continues on through an area called the Decapolis (“ten cities”). He touches the ears and tongue of a man who is deaf and has difficulty speaking, saying as he does so, “Ephphatha,” which means, “Be opened.” The man is healed and the watching crowds are amazed. Jesus warns them not to tell others—it is not yet time for him to be revealed as the Messiah of Israel—but news about him spreads. People are wondering, “Who is this Jesus?”

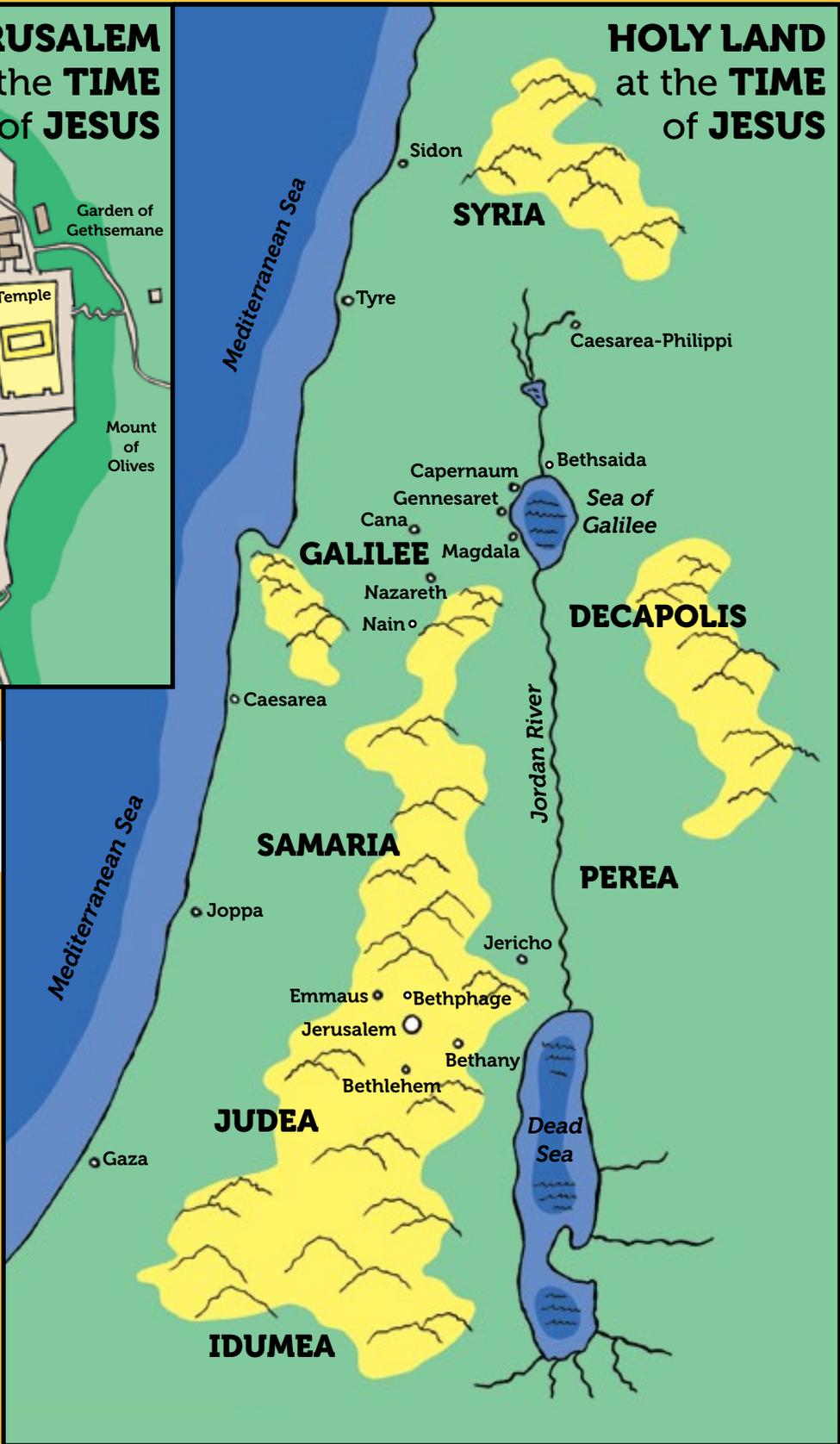
NOTE: The title “Messiah” (“Christ” in the Greek language) is a Hebrew word meaning “anointed one.” It is a title for God’s promised Savior (Psalm 2:2). Just as ancient kings were anointed with olive oil to show that they were set apart for special work (1 Samuel 16:13), at his baptism Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit for his earthly ministry (Mark 1:9-11).

ACTIVITY: There may be people in your local community, like the woman or the deaf man in this lesson, with whom you can share the Bread of life and ordinary bread, too! Share the love and compassion of Jesus with them. Working with your congregation or other school classes, have your students collect food, clothing, books and toys to donate to a local shelter or mission.



JERUSALEM at the TIME of JESUS

HOLY LAND at the TIME of JESUS



REGIONS
Bodies of Water
Cities



CENTIMETERS

