

**GYM NIGHT**

**STORIES**

**2008**

First printing: December 2008

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# TOPICS

New things

Thanksgiving

Kingdom

Prophet, Priest and King

Hidden Object

Bad King

Party

Most Famous Story of the Bible

“Follow Me”

Family

“Follow Me” – Part 2

Love: God’s Christmas Present

# NEW THINGS

## What is new with you?

Suggestions ??....

New month – Saturday, October 4 – start of gym nights this year

New school year: new teacher, new classmates, new courses

New clothes

New chances

Many things are new

We like new things – new toys, new equipment, new games

God likes some new things too !

Unfortunately, not everything new is good.

My wife's father is in hospital with a stroke.

His faith is good. He is looking forward to a new body from God.

## What is new in the world?

??.....

The biggest thing is that there is a problem of money in the world.

There are a lot of people in trouble.

There may be a time when we will not have any more money.

There may be poverty and people may not have food.

We need to have help from the damage to come.

The Bible says to “Run from the wrath to come.” (Matthew 3:7)

In reality we are all poor and naked. We all need help.

God is the richest one in the world. We should run to him.

## What is not new?

??.....

We can be glad for the things that we still have and haven't lost.

We have many blessings here like life, food, family and friends.

But there are many problems in the world that are not new.

There are the same problems of arguments, hunger and sickness.

The Bible says that we have the same problems with our heart.

The Bible says that our hearts are “wicked”. We often do bad things and we do not deserve to go to heaven or even be blessed.

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Rom 3:23)

Thankfully, forgiveness and hope are not new.  
Because of God we can be forgiven. We can be forgiven because Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins.

“To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)

This is becoming new in our hearts and in our friendship with God.

## **What will be new?**

??.....

There are always new things to learn about God.  
There are new opportunities that he gives us each day.  
There is a song that says: “God’s mercies are new every morning.”

Try to look for something new from God every day.  
God’s gifts can fill us with the highest joy and happiness.

Eventually, there will be a “new heavens and a new earth.”  
This will be a perfect world with no sin or problems. (Rev 21:1) Our bodies will be new again without tears or death. (Rev 21:4)  
Those who are dead in Christ will rise first. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

The best time to start enjoying God is now.  
There will come a day when there won’t be a new day for us.  
Eventually we will run out of time to call on God.  
Ask for help today so that you can enjoy him now.

**Now is** the time of God's favor, **now is** the **day** of **salvation**. (2 Corinthians 6:2)

## **THANKSGIVING**

What is special about this weekend? (October 11 weekend)

THANKSGIVING

It has always been a great celebration.  
Where does the idea of Thanksgiving come from?  
Suggestions??.....

Is there anything that you are thankful for?

Did you know that bad things are happening? Trillions of dollars have been lost in the last few days, especially in the United States. But banks in Canada have not lost too much money.

We can be thankful for the banks in Canada.  
They have been ranked as the best in the world.  
We can be thankful that they are careful with our money so that we don't lose our money and then have none left.

We can be thankful for our home. We can be thankful that we can afford to have a home. Many people are losing their homes.

We should be looking forward to our home in heaven that we will be able to live in forever. Jesus said to his friends,

“In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (John 14:2-3)

It is going to be a beautiful place that we can have even if we lose our home here on earth. God said,

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

#### PICTURES OF JEWISH FESTIVALS HAPPENING NOW

Jesus was a Jew and he celebrated festivals from the Old Testament times. The Fall is an important time for this.

In Jewish tradition, October 9 was the Day of Atonement.  
It is a day to repent and be sorry for our sins. (Leviticus 23)

The Day of Atonement means the day of covering, canceling, and forgiving. It was a symbol of when Jesus the Great High Priest made atonement for us by sprinkling His blood on the mercy seat not only covering our sin, but taking our sin away!!

The blood is the power of the New Covenant. It gives eternal life, brings forgiveness before God and makes us God's children.

On Tuesday, October 14 it will be Succot.  
This is a time to be thankful that our sins have been forgiven.

Succot is a celebration that lasts for 7 days. Jews stay in a little shelter near their houses to remember that they were saved out of Egypt by God and God stayed with them while they travelled through the desert. During those years they lived in a shelter.

When we study these celebrations we can remember what Jesus celebrated. We can understand that Jesus was the real reason for Thanksgiving. He is the one that will give us an eternal shelter from our sins in heaven. This is something that we can celebrate.

## **KINGDOM**

Were you thankful last week?

Remember that it is still “Thanksgiving Week” if you celebrate it the way that Jesus did. He celebrated Thanksgiving for a whole week. It was their tradition in Israel.

Thanksgiving will continue until October 20<sup>th</sup> which is Monday.  
Try to stay thankful all the time.

I know someone who was really thankful last week.  
Do you know who it was?

It was Stephen Harper.  
He is really thankful because he is still the Prime Minister.  
Some people thought that he would lose the election (Oct 14).  
He won the election so he will try to help Canada as the PM.

Did you know that Stephen Harper is like a king? He is.  
He is the leader of Canada just like a king led his country.  
He shouldn't act proud or rude but should lead his country fairly.

Did you ever look at the map of Canada and study it.  
I know that some of you are studying Canada this week.  
Canada is like a kingdom. It is the land of the king of Canada.

Did you know that Canada had a different name before?  
It was different than just “Canada”.  
Can you think of the name?  
It was called “the D\_\_\_\_\_ of Canada”.

It was called the “Dominion of Canada”.

“Dominion” means the land of the king.  
The “domain” of an animal is the land that they rule over.

On the Parliament building in Ottawa there are words from the Bible carved on the stone of the Peace Tower.

“He will have dominion from Sea to Sea.” (Psalm 72:8)  
Did you know that Jesus was called “the King”?  
He has been called “the servant king” because he helped people.  
He suffered and died for his people like a good king would do.  
He was “the King of the Jews” and will be called “King of Kings”.  
Jesus will receive the Kingdom from God when he comes again.

Jesus wants you to reign with him in his Kingdom. Everyone who believes in him will also reign with him. (Revelation 22:5)

If you have asked Jesus to come into your heart and you believe in him, then you are related to the King. You are a king or queen.

Live like the King wants you to live. Do good things and make the world into a beautiful place. Say things that are true.

God has given you a little kingdom now.  
Your kingdom isn't big but there is still a place where you can use your creativity and ability to make it better. You may have been given a room to sleep in. That is like a kingdom. You can organize your things in your room and make it look nice.

Did you know that the Prime Minister wants you to do something?  
Only you can do this job and it will help him a lot.  
He wants you to pray for him and to pray for Canada. Ask God to give him a good mind and heart so that he can be smart and good.

Jesus gave a great verse to try to live by:

“Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)

Jesus also taught us to pray by saying,

“May Your Kingdom come, may Your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.”  
(Matthew 6:10)

## **PROPHET, PRIEST AND KING**

Today I have some mystery people for you to guess.  
They're going to come in a few minutes.

There were 3 important jobs in the Old Testament and in the past. They were the most important types of people.

One we talked about already. It is the job that we talked about last week. What was the job?

HAVE THE **KING** COME IN AND SIT DOWN

Why was a king important?

He ruled the people: he organized, protected and led them.

Did you know that originally God didn't want them to have a king? Why do you think he didn't?

He knew that the king would take their taxes and control them. He would be a burden on them. They would worship the king.

God is the real King and all other kings are weak copies of him.

God is called the "King of the Universe".

Can anyone name the most famous king that the Jews had?

David.

What is David known for?

He killed the giant when he was young. God saved David from the giant Goliath because David loved God. God helped David be a good king. When he sinned, he turned back to God with all his heart. He wrote songs and played music in worship to God. David prayed constantly to God for help and depended on God.

Now it is time for the second type of person to come in.

**PROPHET** COMES IN – DEMONSTRATES ACTIONS

This type of person is someone who spoke for God. They would come sometimes and give a message like,

"Stop doing bad things! Obey God ! Turn back to God."

Sometimes they would tell the future, like:

"If you don't let the people go, you will get punished by God!"

"An important person will come, he will be born in Bethlehem."

They could do miracles. They could make lightning come down, make the sun stop shining, or cure sick or dead people.

Do you know the title of the job that these men had? **PROPHET**

There were many prophets like Moses, Samuel, Elijah.....

## HAVE THE PRIEST COME IN

This man spoke to God for the people. He represented them and asked God to forgive them. He brought gifts to God to ask God for forgiveness. Then he told the people that they were forgiven.

At David's time there were many priests. There was also a high priest who was most responsible. The high priest would go into the most Holy place of the tabernacle or Temple once a year. He was going in front of God to ask for forgiveness.

There were 3 big jobs, Prophet, Priest and King.  
All of them were important and gave lessons to people about God.  
The Prophet told the words of God to the people.  
The Priest showed the people that they needed a perfect sacrifice. The King showed that God was royal but would die for them.

There is someone who was all 3 of these jobs put together.  
He was a prophet because he could do miracles and tell the future. He brought a perfect sacrifice to God that can forgive everyone.  
He was the King because he loved people and died for them.  
Who was it?

Jesus

Some day in the future, Jesus is going to come again as a King and we will see how royal he is. Then he will make a perfect kingdom and there won't be war or hunger or pain anymore.

## HIDDEN OBJECT

### HAVE A HIDDEN OBJECT UNDER A CLOTH

Can anyone tell me who David's son was?  
He became the King of Israel. The name starts with S.  
He was a good king and the richest king of the past.  
He built the temple for God in Jerusalem and worshiped God.  
Because he was trying to serve God, God asked him to ask for something as a reward.  
He said. "This people is so great in number, give me wisdom so that I can rule well."  
God was happy with Solomon since he had not asked for riches or long life. Because he had asked for wisdom, he said that he would give him riches and fame, long life and peace too.

The king was Solomon.

### SHOW EVERYONE THE SWORD

This is called the “Sword of Solomon”.

## **BAD KING**

Today I want to talk to you about a bad king.  
His name started with the letter A. Can you guess it?

Ahab. He saw the wrong thing, wanted the wrong thing, planned the wrong thing and did the wrong thing.

### **THERE ARE SOME LESSONS TO LEARN**

1. Be careful what you see
2. Be careful what you want
3. Be careful who your wife (or husband) will be
4. Be careful what you plan
5. Be careful what you do

What do you think Ahab saw that caused problems?

#### **SHOW SOME GRAPES**

Next door to the palace there was land that belonged to Naboth.

Naboth was an honest man and respected the king and God.

Ahab saw these growing everywhere in the vineyard.

What do you think was the problem with seeing this?

#### **HE WANTED THE GRAPES. HE WANTED THE LAND**

##### **Lesson 1. DON'T LOOK AT THINGS**

We see things all the time. It is our most important sense. We can see long distances. It helps us understand things and plan things.

We have to be careful what we see so that we don't get tempted. Look away if you see something that tempts you. Go away from it.

##### **Lesson 2. DON'T WANT THINGS**

We can want lots of things. Cool stuff, video games, food...

God wants us to want him most of all. He'll give us what we need.

“Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you. (Matthew 6:33)

#### **NABOTH SAID NO AND AHAB WENT HOME AND SULKED**

##### **3. BE CAREFUL WHO YOUR WIFE WILL BE**

She could get you in trouble. She could wreck your life.

You could do the same thing to a girl. Be good and don't sin.

Jezebel was Ahab's wife. She said to him : Aren't you the king!! Get happy, eat some food and I'll get you the vineyard

#### 4. BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU PLAN

Don't plan to do something bad. Be happy with what you have. If you want something, you can go and work and then you can buy it. You will get respect from others for being a good worker.

Jezebel made a plan. She told some men to lie about Naboth. They told the judges that Naboth had sworn at the king and God.

#### 5. BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU DO

The plan actually worked. The judges had Naboth killed...  
God saw what happened and he sent Elijah to accuse Ahab.  
Ahab was punished with death but he also learned to repent.

## **PARTY**

I feel that God has planned this week as a week of celebration parties and so that is what I want to talk about this week. Can you tell me about any celebration parties this week?

Monday was Raymond Belleau's birthday  
Tuesday was Barrack Obama's election party.  
Saturday night is my birthday party.  
Sunday we will have a 4 year anniversary party for our Church.

#### GET A PICTURE OF OBAMA'S PARTY IN CHICAGO

Obama looked good. He looked like a president. He spoke well.  
People from around the world liked Obama and had parties.  
It was good to have black people and white people up on the stage.

The party was a long time in coming. Obama had to wait for 2 whole years before the party would come to him. He had to face many challenges, doubts and criticism. Finally his day came and he was rewarded with almost 1 million people at his party.

Do you remember Obama's favourite word? "CHANGE"  
Many people hope for "CHANGE YOU CAN BELIEVE IN".  
But the problems are going to last. Solutions are hard to find.

In the last words of Obama's speech he told what the real solution for people is. Do you know what he said?

**"GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS AMERICA"**

There have been parties this week and there are parties in the Bible Celebrations are important for God. He wants His people to celebrate and to realize when there are good times.

Can you think of any celebration parties mentioned in the Bible?

### SHOW A GLASS WITH WINE AND SOME BREAD

The most important party that Jesus went to was the Passover celebration. It was the night that they celebrated when the angel of death passed over the people of Israel in Egypt and didn't kill them. They celebrate it every year. Jesus celebrated it on the last night before he was crucified. Now we call it by a different name. It is most commonly known as the Last Supper. (picture of it)

Just like Obama took 2 years of work before his election win, it took Jesus 3 years of work before his biggest achievement - his death on the cross which paid for the punishment of all our sins.

For us too, we need to have patience in trying to achieve a celebration. It takes some work to achieve a good project, or pass a course or graduate from school. These things are all worth celebrating when you get them done. Work hard so that you can finish your tasks – then celebrate. God will celebrate with you.

Passover was the biggest celebration of the year in Jerusalem. It happened in the spring. Jesus and his disciples went to a large room in the upper part of a house. When Jesus came, he had them all sit down and he explained the future to them. He explained that he had been looking forward to the meal since it would be the last one that he would have before his sufferings. He said:

“I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

“I will not drink wine until the kingdom of God comes.”

“This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is given for you.”

“I give to you a kingdom as my father gives me a kingdom so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” (Luke 22)

Jesus has been waiting for 2,000 years. Right now he is sitting at the father's right hand side on his throne and waiting until the right time. Soon he will come again and set up his Kingdom on earth. Then there will be food and celebration and the Kingdom that he was waiting for. We will be reigning with him on thrones if we are trusting in him as our saviour.

## MOST FAMOUS STORY OF THE BIBLE

SHOW THE ATLAS WITH THE WORLD ON IT

I have mystery for you to solve.  
I want you to try to guess what the story is today.

I think that this is probably the most famous story of the Bible.  
It is one of the most important stories in the Bible.  
This story involved 8 main people and God.  
However everyone in the world was also involved.

The 8 people told the story to their children and grand children.  
This story is famous around the world. Every country has it.  
The North American Indians knew this story.  
There is a statue of it in the Museum of Civilization.

SHOW THE BACK OF THE CANADIAN \$20 BILL

The Chinese knew this story and it says 8 people were involved.  
There are more than 700 versions of this story in the world.  
It comes from the Old Testament.  
The event lasted for almost a year.  
The animals of the world were buried under dirt and water.  
The event caused the fossils of the world to be formed.

SHOW SOME FOSSILS

The event formed the layers of rock. (limestone, sandstone, shale)  
It caused coal to be formed by burying lots of plant material.  
It caused oil and gasoline to be formed under the earth.

God did it because the sins of the people were too great and it made him sad that He had made people.

At the end of the story, God gave them a promise never to do it again and he put a famous sign in the sky.

There was one man that God thought was right and loved him. He told this man to do something. God told him to build something. It was made out of wood and had to be sealed with pitch or tar.

The water under the earth came shooting out of the ground.

There were earthquakes and the dirt got mixed up in the water so that it was muddy and messy water.

The rain came down for 40 days and 40 nights.

The water rose up over top of the mountains and the water went swooshing all over the earth with giant waves and storms.

## SHOW THE WATER AND SAND SHAKER

## SHOW THE MODEL OF NOAH'S ARK WITH THE DOOR

Everyone likes to remember Noah. We like to see the boat sailing on top of the water. We focus on the family that was saved. Not on those that died. However we should remember those that died.

Why did they die? They died because they were bad. They did evil. They were punished for their sin.

We will be punished for the bad things that we do too. We are still faced with the threat of death.

However we can be saved from our sins like Noah and his family. There is still a way of escape today.

There is a door that we can go through in order to go to heaven. Noah had to go through the door to be saved. We have to go through the door to be saved.

Jesus said: "I am the door. Whoever enters by me will be saved."

## JESUS CALMED THE STORM

"Who is this that can even calm the sea." HE WAS GOD

## JESUS WALKED ON THE SEA

They worshipped him saying "Truly you are the Son of God."

We have problems in our life that are like waves of the sea. Sometimes the waves crash around us and we are in trouble. Jesus can help us in our troubles and save us from our fears. Have faith and peace and trust in God. He will help you. When you see him answer your prayers, it will make you have more faith.

# **"FOLLOW ME"**

## I HAVE A LITTLE QUIZ FOR YOU

What was Jesus' job before he started his work of teaching and doing miracles?  
Ask for answers. Fisherman? Carpenter? ? ?

Take a vote. Was it a fisherman or a carpenter?

Answer: Carpenter. He was the son of Joseph who was a carpenter. (Show the tools of a carpenter.)

Have you ever seen the movie called “The Passion of the Christ”?  
There is scene that shows Jesus doing the work of a carpenter.  
He is working hard and doing exact work by making a table.  
I am sure that he was an excellent carpenter.  
Maybe you might become a carpenter too. It is an important job.

Last week we learned that Jesus walked on the Sea of Galilee.  
Today there is a story of when Jesus walked beside the Sea.

There were two fisherman brothers who were fishing in a boat.  
There were two other brothers who were repairing their net.

Then Jesus came near, walking on the shore. He saw them at work. He had a plan to do miracles and to die on the cross for our sins. He knew that he wanted to have some people to work with him. He wanted them to learn how to do miracles and to teach others too. These men would become the leaders in his group that would help him to spread the good news about God’s Kingdom.

So he called them.

First he called to Peter and Andrew:

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

And they left their nets and went with him.

Then he went closer to James and John and he called them too.

“Follow me.”

And they left their nets and went with him.

Jesus found more people and he called them to come with him. Finally there were 12 men whom he had as friends. There were many other people that he had as friends and they sometimes travelled with him too. However, the 12 were the closest friends and they were called his disciples.

Now it is interesting that Jesus called them and they followed him. They became famous and after Jesus went to heaven, they continued to do miracles and taught about heaven and God. Some of them travelled to different countries and there are churches in those cities and countries still today.

He called them to “Follow Him” but he is also calling us to “Follow Him” still today. He calls to me, “Follow me”, and he calls to you, “Follow me.” He wants us to do things for him.

Why should we follow him?

Answer: Because he is the way to get salvation and heaven.

How can we follow him today?

Answer: By reading the Bible, by praying, by worshipping him, by going to church, by being nice to other people, by making cookies for someone, by being patient with someone...

Jesus gives us the power to follow him. He wants us to succeed. He says he will bless us and give us happy times.

Did you know that the happiest times in my life are in church?  
I can get really close to God. It feels like I am in heaven.  
The people I meet in church are great. They are my best friends.  
I laugh with them and we have fun.

God wants us to follow him even when it is hard. Sometimes we might have to suffer, but God can give us strength to continue and sometimes God shows his special love to us.

Jesus wants us to follow him right to heaven. He can bring us to heaven because he is preparing a place for us there.

This week, I want us to try to follow him. Try to decide about how you can follow him. Do your best and then tell me what happened.

## **FAMILY**

Ask the kids to sit beside their parents.  
I want you to sit there because you are in the same family.

Families are very important to God.  
He loves the idea of a family.  
There are many reasons why God loves the idea of a family.

Why do you think he likes a family?

1. A family allows us to be related and love each other.
2. The family is the way to raise kids and protect them.
3. The family is best way to teach kids to live a good life.

Even though there are often problems, when there is trouble the family usually helps each other and loves each other.

God wants us to make our families strong and loving and good.  
God wants us to forgive each other and have fun together.

There is a more important reason why God loves the family.

1. God has a family and wants us and others to enter his family.
2. God wants us to learn about being in His family by being in our human family.

In the Bible we read that God is the Great Father. He is the Great Creator. We are his children because we have been created by him and he knows us perfectly well.

Actually though, each of us is away from God the Father. We usually aren't close to him, or friends with him.

Without God's help, we can't know him. We can't see him. We can't touch him. We can't hear him.

In fact, it is worse than that. Each of us has gone away from God.

It is easy to go away because we can't see or hear him. But we sometimes do things that show that we don't love him. We can be angry at him. We can do bad things. We can swear.

By ourselves, we can't even get close to God.

The Bible says that,

“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Rom 3:23)

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way.” (Isaiah 53:6)

However, we can each become part of His family.

If we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and we trust him for our salvation, then we enter his family.

When we become adults, God wants us to leave our childhood family and start our own family.

We are supposed to be like God and have our own family.

Family is good for us.

Pray that your family will be able work together to solve the problems that you find.

May God help us enter His family and understand how to be a good member in His family.

## **“FOLLOW ME” - Part 2**

PUT THE BLUE PLASTIC SHEET OUT ON THE FLOOR

“Pretend that this is the sea.”

“I'd like to have 2 brothers come up here.” (pick 2 people)

They will be Peter and Andrew who became friends of Jesus.

They were out in a boat on the Sea, fishing with a net.

“Let’s watch them fish for a minute.” (kids demonstrate)  
I’d also like 2 other brothers and an adult to come out and begin repairing their nets.  
(pick other people)

“These are James and John and their father.”

“Let’s watch them fixing their net for a minute.”

Then Jesus came near, walking on the shore. He saw them all at work. He had a plan to do miracles and to die on the cross for our sins. He knew that he wanted to have some people to work with him. He wanted them to learn how to do miracles and to teach others too. These men would become the leaders in his group that would help him to spread the good news about God’s kingdom.

First he called to Peter and Andrew:

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

And they left their nets and went with him.

Then he called James and John too.

“Follow me.”

And they left their nets and went with him.

The next 3 years, Jesus did miracles and taught people. They had an amazing life all together. They were with the most amazing person that ever lived. They heard stories about God that they had never heard before and they could even do miracles too.

Did you know that there was a time when the disciples were very disappointed in Jesus? They felt like going back fishing again.

It was when he died on the cross. They couldn’t believe that he had died. He had been their hero and then he was gone. They hid from the Romans and didn’t feel happy at all. They were shocked.

Amazingly though, he appeared to them alive again. He showed that he had the power over death. He appeared a number of times to them but he didn’t stay with them like he had before. One time Jesus appeared to them was beside the Sea of Galilee.

There were 7 disciples there including Peter, James and John.

Peter said, “I’m going fishing.”

They said, “We’re going with you also.”

They got into the boat and that night they caught nothing.

When the morning came, Jesus stood on the shore; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

Then Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any food?”

They answered Him, “No.”

And He said to them, “Throw the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.”

So they cast and they were not able to pull it in because of the fish.

John said, “It is the Lord!”

When Peter heard that it was the Lord he swam to shore.  
The other disciples came in by boat.  
They dragged the net with the fish behind them.  
When they arrived, Jesus already had a fire going with fish cooking and bread also.  
Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you caught."  
He said, "Come and eat some breakfast."

They didn't know what to say because they were so amazed.

After eating, Jesus said, "Peter do you love me more than these?"  
Peter said, "Yes."  
Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."  
3 times he asked that.

That means to take care of the people that belong to Jesus.  
Jesus wants us to work for him and help the poor and everyone who needs our help and our love.

Jesus said, "Follow me."

Let's try to do the things Jesus wants us to this week.

## **LOVE: GOD'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT**

This is our last meeting before Christmas.  
I wanted to do something that related to Christmas.  
What do you think is the best thing about Christmas?  
??... (Presents! gifts!)

I thought I'd talk about God's gift to us.

Can you think of any gifts that God gives us?

Peace, comfort, joy, rest, peace, hope, love....

Remember that God gives many, many gifts to us.  
When Christ ascended to heaven, he led captivity captive and gave gifts to people. (Eph 4:8)

I want you to think about "REST" this Christmas time.  
Try to have rest this Christmas time.  
Don't get too busy and forget about Jesus. Learn more about Him.  
Some people get too worried and busy at Christmas time.  
They go shopping at every store they can find.  
They spend all of their money and even spend more than that.  
Then they have to carry the burden of having to pay later.

Find a way not to spend more than you have.  
Enjoy Christmas and don't worry about things.  
Resting and enjoying your rest is important.  
Just lie down and think that God loves you and sent Jesus for you.  
Think that he paid for your sins and wants you to enjoy heaven.

SHOW A TOY WAGON WITH BLOCKS ON IT.  
SHOW HOW HEAVY IT IS TO PULL

Jesus said,  
Come to me and I will give you REST-all of you who work so hard beneath a heavy yoke. Wear my yoke-for it fits perfectly-and let me teach you; for I am gentle and humble, and you shall find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:28)

Can you think of God's best Christmas gift to us?  
Christmas is a time to give gifts and God is the one who started it.  
How did it all start?

GOD SENT JESUS.

Did you know that when Jesus was born, there was great sadness?  
The people were poor and they were in slavery to the Romans.  
People were under a yoke of bondage and debt and taxes to Rome.  
This poverty showed them that they needed God.  
They were calling out to God for help and salvation.  
And there are many Christmas songs that show that too.

“Oh come, O come Emanuel and ransom captive Israel”

They knew that they were in slavery to their sin too.  
They had done wrong things and could not go to heaven without God's help

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

God gave his son to the world.  
In the Bible it says that “God is love”.  
Therefore, God sent LOVE to the world.

“God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.”  
(John 3:16)

This Christmas, ask Jesus to forgive you for your sins.  
Trust in him to make you ready to go to heaven.

LET'S SING A SONG TOGETHER

God rest you merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay (fear)  
Remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray  
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, (tidings: news)  
Oh tidings of comfort and joy.

Give a candy cane for a treat.