

Faith at Home

SEVENTH GRADE – SALVATION HISTORY

*By understanding the history of God's actions in the world, we come to better understand His importance in our own lives. Please help your child to understand the following material, making sure that they can explain all words in **BOLD** in their own terms.*

Creation

- God created everything that exists
- Humans originally lived in perfect friendship with God

The Fall

- **ADAM AND EVE** don't trust that God's promises will be in their best interests, and disobey His commands to them.
- This damages their relationship with God in what is called **ORIGINAL SIN**.

God calls a People

- Although the relationship between God and humanity is damaged, God doesn't give up on us.
- He calls different people and makes with them a series of **COVENANTS** – agreements of mutual fidelity and trust between God and the people He was calling to follow Him.
- He calls **ABRAHAM**, his son **ISAAC**, and his grandson **JACOB** to follow Him in a special way.
- He promises a special land – now the country of Israel – where they can live.
- Jacob's Sons become the founders of the **TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL** – God's special people.

The Exodus & Entry into the Promised Land

- When a time of famine comes, Jacob's sons move to Egypt, where there is food.
- Later on, a new pharaoh comes to power, and makes them all slaves.
- God calls **MOSES** to lead His people back to the Promised Land.
- He sends ten plagues to make the Egyptians let the Children of Israel leave.
- Moses leads the people out of Egypt in an event called the **EXODUS**.
- They pass through the Red Sea, and spend 40 years living in the wilderness before they enter the Promised Land.

The Jewish Kingdom

- After Moses the Israelites are led by people called **JUDGES**, who guide the people in accord with the Word of God.
- Eventually, they ask God for a king to lead them, and He gives them **SAUL**.
- Saul is later unfaithful in following God's will, so He gives them a new king, **DAVID**.
- God makes a promise that one day one of David's descendants will be king forever.
- David's son **SOLOMON** is very wise, and builds a temple for God in Jerusalem.
- In following years, some kings are good, but many are bad.
- The Jewish Kingdom splits in two because the kings are evil and don't get along: the Kingdom of **ISRAEL** in the north, and the Kingdom of **JUDAH** in the south.

Exile & Restoration

- The corruption of the kings and the people's unfaithfulness to God means that the two Jewish kingdoms become weak.
- In 721 B.C., the Kingdom of Israel is conquered, and in 586 B.C., the Kingdom of Judah as well.
- The Jewish people are made to leave their land and move to the land of the people who conquered them; this is called **EXILE**.
- Even though all this has happened, God still remains with His people despite their unfaithfulness to Him.
- In 538 B.C., the Jews are allowed to return to the Promised Land.

Expectation of the Messiah

- Through all of these events, the people wonder how God is remaining true to the promises He made in the past to be with His people and bless them.
- The **PROPHETS** encouraged the people to remain faithful to God, and turn away from any sins in their lives.
- The last and greatest prophet is **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**, who prepared for the coming of Christ.

The Birth of Jesus Christ

- The birth of Jesus is announced by the Archangel Gabriel to **MARY** is what is called the **ANNUNCIATION**. Mary is engaged to **JOSEPH**, who is a descendant of King David.
- **JESUS** is born in Bethlehem, the city where King David had been born.

The Ministry of Jesus

- Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River, and begins His mission.
- Jesus teaches that we are all children of God, and need to live our lives as God's faithful people.
- He teaches that God is merciful and loving, but also expects us to be sincere in following Him.

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

- Some people feel threatened by Jesus' teaching and want to kill Him.
- At the Last Supper, on the night before He died, Jesus gave His disciples the **COMMANDMENT OF LOVE**, and also the **HOLY EUCHARIST**- the Sacrament of His Body and Blood.
- Jesus is betrayed by Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, and sentenced to death by **PONTIUS PILATE**, the Roman governor of Judea.
- Jesus is crucified by Roman soldiers, dies, and is laid in a tomb. We remember these events on **GOOD FRIDAY**.
- On the third day after, Jesus's followers find that the tomb is empty. Then, they encounter Him, risen from the dead. We celebrate this event on **EASTER**.
- For the next Forty Days until His **ASCENSION** into Heaven, Jesus spends time with His disciples, giving them proof of His Resurrection and continuing to teach them.

The Ministry of the Apostles

- Ten days after the Ascension, Mary and the Disciples are praying, and the Holy Spirit descends upon them and fills their souls on the day of **PENTECOST**.
- The disciples, now called **APOSTLES** (meaning "sent"), spread out throughout the world to share with others the message of Jesus.