

## LUKE -IT'S A FACT

*The gospel of Luke for children contains 72 short stories that spell out the **incredible facts** about the life of Jesus. The stories come directly from what Luke wrote down and are retold with the intention of drawing attention to the truth that Jesus of Nazareth was the most wonderful man that ever lived and the facts this gospel records serve to show his was the perfect life and that life was the life of God.*

### **Story 1 (1.5) It is a fact- Jesus is God with us**

It was a hot June day when old Zacharias was finishing being a priest at Jerusalem and King Herod was a sick and angry man. Zac got home on or before what we call the longest day - June 21 after working as a priest from June 13 to 19 in the month of Abia. When he came home to his wife he could not talk because he did not first believe the news God gave him. He had written the news down and showed it to his wife. It read "We will have a son who will be a messenger for God's own son our Messiah"(God's King). Jesus was that King and He was to be born to Mary -their cousin just over six months later and so Jesus' birth was in September - when Jews built little huts of branches to celebrate their days in the wilderness. That's why the bible says Jesus "tabernacled" with us (John 1.14)and so God announced Jesus coming to live on earth to a priest because Jesus was to be God's only great King and priest.

### **Story 2 (1.8) It's a fact angels visit us**

An angel suddenly stood at the side of the altar and told Zacharias that he should have a son and call him John. He would be great and turn many to God and he would prepare the way of Messiah. Zacharias asked for a sign for he doubted this because he and his wife were very old. Gabriel answered "You will be dumb till the child is born" That was awesome. When he came out from offering prayer people sensed something strange. It was because he did not believe he was made dumb and could not speak. But nine months later when his son John was born he was given back his voice. The Lord insists we believe His word.

### **Story 3 (1.23) It is a fact God still answers prayer**

It is a fact of history that God's angel Gabriel visited Zac as he prayed at the altar with the answer to his prayer and his dreams as well. Gabriel made a second visit to earth in December of the same year to a girl named Mary(the Virgin Mary) saying "Blessed are you among women (or) wives...you will have a son and call him Jesus." Mary asked "How?" and the angel told her God the Father and the Holy Spirit would do it for there is nothing impossible with God.

## **Story 4 (1.38) It is a fact God has plans for you**

Mary was the most special Jewess ever and she said "Yes" to all God planned for her life. The birth of Jesus was what we call a "miracle" and happened in September. Through Jesus God has plans for your life -to forgive all you confess is wrong and give you his Holy Spirit to live in you.

## **Story 5 (1.44) It is a fact God knows us before we are born**

Mary soon went to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was more like a great aunt than a cousin. The journey was about 100 miles. When Mary made it to Ein Keren the hillside home of Elizabeth and Zecharias she shouted out her *Shalom* greeting and the little boy John jumped up and down in his mum's womb.

Mary had written a little song about the baby she would have. She had been reading the bible (the Old Testament part) and she found these bright words of promise. Her son would "Have the Creator's hands, He would scatter the proud and unseat kings. He would lift humble people high and feed hungry people. He had helped Israel and remembered His promise to Abraham to send his own Son." The Church has called this song "The Magnificent Song". Mary knew her son was also God's Son.

## **Story 6 (1.59) It is a fact God loves obedience**

Little Jewish boys were very special. They were given to God on a special day when a mark was made on their skin. It was soon after birth and at that time their name was given. People wondered why "John" was not named after his dad. His dad wrote his name on a little board and at that very moment his voice returned. This time he was obedient to God and fully agreed his son should not be Zac 2 but John as God said. When we do as God wants He does good things for us.

## **Story 7 (1.65) It is a fact Zacharias got his voice back when he did what God said.**

In the hills between Jerusalem and Bethlehem an old lady and gentleman as old as your grandma and grandpa had their first baby and it was big news. God told this boy's dad what his name was to be. His dad wrote his name on a little tablet just 8 days after birth and as he wrote he found immediately that he could speak again after being dumb fore 9 months. His first words were a song of praise to God. For everyone in the hills it was awesome. What would this "chip off the old block" be like?

**Story 8 (2.1) It is a fact that Augustus Caesar was part of God's plan prepared 700 years before**  
A very important man called Augustus ruled the world in those days. He was the Roman Emperor. Let's call him Gus. He got out his writing set and totted down what it cost to run the world and then found out how many people he had in the empire to pay this big bill. He figured every family should pay their share. That, my young friend, was the beginning of what we call "tax". Because Gus had this big idea families went to where their roots were and this meant Joseph went to Bethlehem-and so Jesus was born there exactly as God promised to the prophet Micah (5.2)700 years before

**Story 9 (2.2) It is a fact that Mr.Q was part of God's plan**

There was another idea that Gus had. He knew the Jews were rich. Herod, her king was spending lots of money building harbours and water-works and castles. Gus thought he could get his hands on good money in Israel. He sent his friend Quirinius "Mr Q" to get the Roman army to see to it that the Jews paid up in full. That taxation demanded that Joseph get to Bethlehem to put his name down among Jewish working men who had to pay. While he was there in Bethlehem our LORD JESUS was born.

**Story 10 (2.6) It is a fact Jesus was born in a stable**

Bethlehem was so very busy. The fine house David gave to his servant Chimham long ago was now an inn and had a place for horses and donkeys called a hostelry. The kind inn-keeper got a cosy corner ready for Joseph and Mary in that big barn and just after the sun rose in the morning Jesus was born. Joseph and Mary tore pieces off their own clothes and wrapped Jesus up to keep him warm. Probably the first little garment Jesus had was Mary's veil. Joseph laid the most important person ever born in a horse's feeding trough in some straw. A humble start of Jesus' life don't you think. The Lord is not proud. God is love.

**Story 11(2.13)It is a fact-all the angels sang at Jesus birth**

Meantime sleepy shepherds a few kilometres away were huddled near a fire. They kept their sheep close to some caves because of roaming wolves. The fire kept them warm but wild animals didn't like the fire or smoke and stayed away. In a flash bright angels appeared all lined up like an army and the shepherds were shocked. The heavenly army

sang "Glory to God and peace on earth to those who want it this way" and one great angel said "Fear not!" "I have good news for people like you who want to get involved. The long awaited Messiah-King has been born for you - do you want to go and see Him? He's in the stable with all the horses and he is wrapped in torn clothes and a veil.

### **Story 12 (2.15) It's a fact Mary gave us the Shepherds' Story**

"Who's going? I'm going. I want to go too! Don't leave me! Let's all go!" the Shepherds all wanted to be in on the act. This was the greatest day of their lives. These men felt that God cared for them. They nearly did a four minute mile as they tumbled breathless into Bethlehem at dawn. We don't know if they tip-toed round the streets like wee Willie Winkie. They made a beeline for the old stables to find Mary and Joseph wondering at their lovely baby. And sure enough Jesus was wearing little torn clothes. Mary and Joseph had given everything they could - down to the clothes on their back. The shepherds told the story of the angels and sang the angels' song. They would have embraced Joseph and probably gave him some food before they left singing and talking out loud to the LORD in heaven - so happy that God loved them.

### **Story 13 (2.42) It is a fact Jesus talked with the rabbis for three whole days**

Luke's story jumps over 12 years. Mary probably told Luke that Jesus grew up a beautiful boy and everybody loved Him and God His Father loved and kept him. She maybe didn't say it but she believed that He was *perfect*. Anyway, twelve years on Jesus went to Jerusalem to become a "Son of the law". He had to show he could read the Law of Moses in Hebrew. He proved outstanding. He tied the great teachers up in knots and answered every question they asked. In fact he stayed there when the family left for Nazareth - 90 miles north. Suddenly Joseph and Mary became alarmed. They had started for home with family friends thinking the boys were following them - but no - Jesus was missing. They trotted back on the little donkey over many miles and looked everywhere. It was three days later that they found him in the temple still discussing big things.

### **Story 14 (2.46) It is a fact that Joseph & Mary like us put something before Jesus**

Sure enough he was still talking with the best scholars of the nation - even putting questions to them. Mary and Joseph had a big question for Him to answer. Why did you do this - you of all boys must have known that we were very,

very worried?" He replied "For what did you seek me?" This shows us that Mary and Joseph loved Jesus' company but for once had put something else before it and that they must have asked him questions when they were perplexed. He told them how precious to Him his Father in heaven was and that from seeing his life they might have known how close to God he always was. He joined them and as a wonderful trio they set off chatting as they went home.

### **Story 15 (3.2)** It is a fact God told John in the desert that Jesus would take sin away

Mary's story jumps forward another 18 years. Now baby John is a mighty leader calling the nation to turn from wrong and even shaking King Herod's throne by demanding that he sort out his marriage. Streams of people walked from Jerusalem and other cities into the burning heat of the desert by Jordan to listen to John. Thousands got baptised and even the Roman soldiers came to ask how they could live better lives. His words rang out "Prepare in the desert a straight high road for the Messiah-king." "No more crooked things and rough manners. Get right with God." No prophet ever drew such crowds. The whole nation seemed to want to live God's way.

### **Story 16 (3.21)** It is a fact God spoke from heaven about Jesus His Son forgiving sin.

Along Jordan's banks stood Jericho, the lowest city on earth. Jesus stooped low and was dipped in the Jordan River (this is called "Baptism") by John. John nearly refused to baptise Jesus because Jesus had no need to repent and John knew that. He called Jesus "The Lamb of God" because the Father loved Him so much and soon he would die for the sin of the world. Even John could not imagine what was to happen next. The heavens burst open and God spoke so John could hear Him and He said "You are my beloved son - I'm so pleased with You". God's Holy Spirit came down like a "wrestler" to strive with the world but he came like a "dove" to Jesus. Immediately He sent Jesus to wrestle with the devil about the future of the world in the mountains of the wilderness.

### **Story 17 (4.25)**

Jesus would have nothing to do with Satan's future plans for the world and avoided the traps that Satan was setting for him in the desert and in Jerusalem. Instead he started to tell the nation and the world of a year soon to be when God would receive those who called on Jesus and take their problems and failures and give them peace instead - this year came when Jesus died for sinners three years later. The cross was like a key that opened heaven to people who looked to Jesus.

### **Story 18 (4.36)**

Soon Jesus was back in Capernaum, Galilee. Satan was following him and spoke through a man who tried to believe in God but also wanted to listen to the devil. The man shouted out in the synagogue “We know you are God’s Holy One”. In Israel to know someone is to have power over them. Jesus commanded the devil to leave that man and that man’s life was changed completely. Jesus showed the devil had no power over him. A battle has been raging for men and women boys and girls since Jesus came. He is king and is still wrestling his kingdom back from Satan. All over the world Satan is being defeated but he will not give up *till Jesus returns* to rule.

## **Story 19 (5.1)**

People knew what Jesus said was what God was saying. They followed so close to him at the seaside that he had to get in a boat. Peter, the big fisherman let Jesus use his boat as he spoke to the people and after a hard night’s fishing with no catch Jesus asked Peter to go out again. He didn’t want to – but like the others he knew Jesus’ words were God’s words. He did it and when they put their nets out they took the biggest catch of fish ever. They filled two boats with fish and almost sank. Peter said to Jesus “I know I am a sinner – You should not bother to stay about me!” but Jesus loved Peter and later on made him his greatest preacher and Peter gave up fishing on Galilee and preached far and wide – even in Rome.

## **Story 20 (5.12)**

A lovely thing almost happened but it didn’t. Jesus cured a man with spots and sores whose fingers and toes would be falling off for he was a leper. Jesus asked one thing – that he get two sparrows and bring them to the priest to offer them as Moses commanded. You see there were very few lepers healed since the days of Moses and this cure was special – it proved who Jesus was. Moses said one little bird had to die and the other was put in a pot and water washed over it. The water from one bird and the blood from the other Moses said must be shaken over the man who was cured. This was to tell the story of Jesus dying and Jesus living and being baptised and cleansing us of sin.

## **Story 21 (5.17)**

From north and south people came to Capernaum to hear Jesus. The great scholars and holiest men came. As Jesus taught men lowered their paralytic friend through the roof and Jesus said “Man your sins are forgiven”. The man who had been on a bed rose up and the common people just could not believe what they saw – they went crazy. The learned men were not amused. “Only God can forgive” they said in chorus. They thought Jesus was just playing God but Jesus was really God; that’s a fact.

## **Story 22 (6.1)**

The next story is set at festival time after the Jewish people had fasted. Jesus disciples were hungry. Passing through corn they broke off some stalks and ate the oats. Holy men coming behind challenged Jesus; “Why do your disciples eat on Sabbath?” Jesus told them an old story written by Samuel (1Samuel 21) where David ate bread only priests usually ate in the holy place – but God did not condemn him. Our Lord showed he valued our welfare more than rules men argue about.

## **Story 23 (6.6)**

We worship on Sunday because Jesus rose that day. Jews still worship on Saturday because God rested that day after making the world. One Saturday Jesus was sitting

restfully teaching in the synagogue. It was the anniversary of his ancient rest. He spotted a man who may have had a stroke. The man's hand did not work. Jesus asked the man to come forward and He healed him. The "*Holy Joes*" though they had caught Jesus this time. In their hearts they began on Saturday to plan to kill him. Jesus put a question "Is it right on Saturday to do good or evil? They were mad but went away silent.

### **Story 24 (6.12)**

Jesus had some tough years ahead and He knew He came to die for sinners. He went up a mountain near Capernaum and talked to God the Father all night about these plans. When Jesus prayed He was really making vows or telling the Father he would go through with what they had planned – God's will. God the Father gave His full support for what His Son was doing. For Jesus to die was very hard, but it was the only way to save mankind. He was about to set out on a journey that would lead to dying on the cross.

### **Story 25 (6.13)**

The disciples knew when Jesus was not in his Capernaum house He would be up in his choice prayer mountain. There were crowds of disciples who loved Jesus – in fact he had 70 that once went all over the land telling out his good news and healing people. Jesus chose 12 that he knew would leave home at his call and go with Him. He gave some of them new names. He called the twelve "apostles" because he would send them out on special tasks. Among them were fishermen, at least one nobleman's son and a rich tax-man and even Judas Iscariot who kept the money Jesus was given. With eleven of these men and Saul of Tarsus Jesus reached the world with His message.

### **Story 26 (6.16)**

The story of Judas is fully told in Luke's second Book – the Acts. Judas made a show of sticking by Jesus. He "had the bag" as the treasurer of the twelve. He kissed Jesus again and again in Gethsemane but there was no affection in his heart; it was a sign to the soldiers to capture the right person in the darkness from the twelve amid the trees of the Garden. Judas and Pontius Pilate get punished by the policeman in the *Punch and Judy show* which you may have watched on holiday.

### **Story 27 (6.49)**

This story is one of the finest Jesus told. Boys and girls sing about it in a little chorus that goes...

The wise man built his house upon the rock and the rains came tumbling down.

The rains came down and the floods came up but the house on the rock stood firm

The foolish man built his house upon the sand and the rains came tumbling down.

The rains came down and the floods came up and the house on the sand fell flat!

The point of the story is that we should get to know Jesus obey His teaching and do His will.

### **Story 28 (7.11)**

This story is like no other. Jesus reaches a village called Nain and meets a funeral coming out of town. This was a “new town”. Jesus visited every town. The young boy who had died was a widow’s only son. Jesus went over and put his hand on the bed where the dead boy lay. He said “Young man, I say arise! The boy started talking and Jesus lifted him down and gave him to his mother. What a story. The people said “God has visited his people!”

### **Story 29 (8.1)**

Did you know that Jesus went to every single city and village in the country of Israel? Nobody else except Jesus and his disciples ever did that. Even king David never did it. Jesus misses nobody out. Illness and demon possession never had such a set-back. This big tour by the real King of the country with the news of the Kingdom of God was supported by money and practical help from three wonderful women - Mary Magdalene, Joanna wife of Herod’s top-man and Susanna.

### **Story 30(8.22)**

In the story of the storm on the sea there is a hurricane force wind, cloud and darkness. The disciples had put up sails but they were caught in a violent storm. Jesus was asleep in the boat. They woke Jesus up shouting “Master, master, we are perishing”. He rose up and gave an order to the wind and the big wave that was about to sink them. How he stood in face of such wind was a mystery. The disciples called Jesus “the Man in charge” and “the one near-by”. We should treat Jesus just like that.

He only is the maker of all things near and far  
He paints the wayside flower and lights the evening star  
**The winds and wave obey Him**, by him the birds are fed  
Much more to us his children, He gives our daily bread.

### **Story 31 (8.24)**

The wind and the big wave stopped as quickly as you would click your fingers. Where did they go to? They seemed to fall asleep. The disciples were shocked and said “Who is this?” Jesus turned to them and said “Where is your faith?” He expected them to trust through the storm. Luke puts in a little word which means that what they made of it was that they were not able to argue from it Jesus was God but who else could he be?

### **Story 32 (8.40)**

Jesus landed safely on the other side. A very scary man made mad by the devil lived in a graveyard stopping all travellers on the road on that side of Galilee. He ran at them shouting “I have nothing to do with you, Jesus”. Jesus healed him but the many demons in him took over the pigs grazing on the hill and they ran over a cliff into the sea. Local people were scared and asked Jesus to leave. The man got dressed properly and Jesus sent him to tell good news to the great cities over Jordan. Jesus sailed back west and people gave Him a big welcome for they knew the terrible storm He had run into. Now people could get all round Galilee Lake safely for the first time in years. Jesus did two wonderful miracles next. He healed a woman whose body was bleeding for 12 years and Jairus’ little girl was brought back to life. They both went on to believe in Jesus. (Jairus was in charge of the synagogue which Jesus attended).



## **Story 33**

Luke tells us that Jesus and his disciples were alone praying when the Lord asked the question “Who do people say I am?” They told Jesus that there were three ideas people had. Some thought he was John the Baptist risen from the dead. Some thought he was Elijah back from heaven. Some thought he was one of the ancient prophets come back to earth. Jesus asked them if they thought like that. Peter piped up “You are the Christ of God”. Jesus said, “Keep it to yourselves – I am going to suffer and die and then rise again. After that the whole world had “**the proof**” – the risen Lord.

## **Story 34(i)**

An outstanding story of Jesus is His *transfiguration*. Jesus took his three closest companions Peter James and John up Mount Hermon after their visit to Caesarea Philippi. This story is so important that Luke splits it into 5 parts. In the first part Jesus tells his disciples that one day He is going to come back from heaven with Angels. He also referred to certain who had stood on earth who would be in heaven before they died. These might be Moses and Elijah and John the divine.

## **Story 35 (ii)**

Jesus knelt and made promises to God the Father as he spoke. His face was lifted up and the three disciples saw it change to be entirely different and his clothing sent out white light. Then in a glorious cloud Elijah and Moses stood beside Him. They talked about the victorious army of saints he would take to heaven out of Jerusalem after his death and resurrection. The disciples were very tired and sleepy. They missed lots of the conversation but woke up to see the men standing there side by side with Jesus. What a proof of life after death the disciples had been given.

## **Story 36 (iii)**

Moses and Elijah then began quickly to walk away across the land – it seemed they were going to travel through it. Then Peter spoke up. “Ever present master it is good for us to be here. Let’s make three little booths – one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” Peter was thinking of a much longer stay – maybe a holiday – maybe even about keeping these leaders longer. Peter was dreaming of the baby days of Israel– like a mother singing “lullaby” –trying to live in the past. But Jesus always moves on. The easy bit of God’s plan is to know it; the hard bit is to carry it out.

## **Story 37 (iv)**

As Peter gave his idea a cloud covered them all. They were frightened of this cloud. The sky had been blue. This cloud seemed to come from nowhere. It was suddenly very dark. This was the ancient glory cloud that hid Israel from Pharaoh. This “Glory cloud” is called *KEBODH* in the bible. The God who spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai had come at that moment to be present on earth.

## **Story 38 (v)**

A great voice sounded – the voice of God the Father came from the cloud “This is my son the beloved, listen to him.” In the middle of these words the cloud was melting away as quickly as it came and there was just Jesus beside them. In the cloud the words “This is my beloved” and after the cloud “Obey him.” Jesus told them not to

tell this story that really happened till he had risen from the dead. They stayed as silent as sleeping babies about all this but announced the great victory foretold by Moses and Elijah on this mountain after His resurrection. These three men now had absolute proof that Jesus worked day by day with the Father and that the God of time and eternity had sent His own Son.

### **Story 39**

Back down among the crowds a man had brought his only-beloved son who was yelling out and being torn apart and thrown as in wrestling. Satan was treating him terribly. The disciples could do nothing. What was the problem? Luke tells us of three problems – lack of faith; twisting or turning aside from God and allowing Satan to get involved in his life. Jesus then asked the question “How long shall I be with this generation that twists away from me and hold up their hands”

### **Story 40**

Jesus was looking forward to going back to heaven now. He set his face like an arrow to get to Jerusalem for the final days of his life. Jesus wanted to stay in a certain Samaritan village on the way but messengers came back with the news that they did not want him if he was going to Jerusalem. Jesus disciples asked if they should call down fire on the village. The Lord said “That’s not the Spirit that guides you!” The Son of Man came to save and not to destroy. Jesus went to another (Samaritan village). This shows our Lord loved all mankind.

Jesus loves the little children – all the children of the world.

Bright and cheery, sad and weary they are precious in His sight.

### **Story 41 (9.57)**

Jesus was now on his way to the cross and had probably left that house in Capernaum to his mother and family. Three lads asked to follow him. One was ready – but when he heard he would have to leave home he stopped. Another wanted to wait till his father died. Jesus told him the Kingdom could not wait. A third wanted a farewell party for his friends. Jesus told him the ploughman does not look back. This tells us that those who really want to tell the story of Jesus need to sacrifice their own dreams.

### **Story 42 (10.22)**

Jesus sent 70 men out to tell others of his kingdom and gave them total protection and gifted them to subdue demons. They came back so happy that Satan was defeated wherever they went. When they came back Jesus did two things. First he told them that he saw Satan fall from heaven. The disciples’ mission was a first sign of Satan’s final failure to halt the gospel. Second, Jesus expressed a short joyful prayer to the Father that his children were sure He would win and they would live forever.

### **Story 43 (10.38)**

Jesus came to a country village (Bethany) where Martha and Mary lived. Martha was topsy turvy with work but Mary knew life could go on with but a very few things and Jesus answered Martha who called for her sister’s help saying “One thing is essential and Mary has chosen that! What do you think that was? It was enjoying Jesus’ company and learning from Him.

## **Story 44 (11.1)**

This is the story of how the Lord's prayer came about and what it's about. The disciples listened to Jesus praying and one of them asked to be taught how to pray like the Master. John the Baptist taught his disciples to pray. One of Jesus disciples had once followed John and it may be to him we owe the Lord's Prayer. Jesus instructed them to put the God of heaven first; to put his Kingdom first and to make heavens' rule on earth a priority. He said they should ask for tomorrow's bread and for the forgiveness of the past day's sin when they had forgiven others. They were to ask not to be brought into the great trial of suffering and war but most important were to plead to be saved from Satan.

## **Story 45 (11.14)**

This story shows us that the devil can take away the human voice. When Jesus gave a dumb man his voice people said Jesus was using Satan's power. Jesus reminded them that even Pharaoh's magicians knew when a miracle was the FINGER OF GOD. He showed that he was stronger than Satan the powerful Lucifer. He also said that when Satan leaves a life it is like leaving a home-he wants back in. So if anybody goes back to doing bad things he becomes worse.

## **Story 46 (11.27)**

Every Jewish woman wanted to be mother of Messiah. One woman believed Jesus' mother had already become that happy person. Jesus A woman who knew Jesus was truly good and great shouted out "Happy is the mother who gave you birth and fed you from her breasts". Jesus said "As happy as mother was to feed me- happier still are those who feed on God's word and just as mother protected me before I was born happy are those who watch daily to obey what God says."

## **Story 47 (11.30)**

The whale is the biggest animal on earth – it can weigh 100 tons and live 200 years. Long ago there lived a man called Jonah. He was swallowed by some type of whale-like fish after asking to be thrown into the sea because he refused to preach to Nineveh and went west instead in a ship bound for Spain. God sent a storm and prepared the fish to get him back on track. Because he was 3 days in the fish and then vomited up alive and Jesus was to be in the tomb 3 days and rise again the Lord said Jonah was his big sign of his great mission as God's son. A ditty is written about Jonah which goes

Come listen to my tale of Jonah and the whale  
Way down in the middle of the ocean – a very curious notion  
How did he get there? Whatever did he wear?  
Away down in the middle of the ocean

## **Story 48 (23.18)**

The mustard seed story is one of a species of garden plant that grew like Jack's bean-stock until it became a tree and the birds which do much harm in the garden came to roost in its branches. This story is a parable "An earthly story with a heavenly meaning". It looks ahead until today when the church is so big and spread over the world that all kinds of people. Jesus told another story from the kitchen about a woman baking whose yeast filled the whole loaf and made it very big. So Jesus foresaw these days when the sun never sets on His kingdom because it is in every land.

### **Story 49 (14.1)**

Always tenacious to observe Sabbath some Pharisees invited along with Jesus for a meal stayed well away from Him to obey some laws they liked to keep. There was a poor man present with lots of unwanted water under his skin probably poisoning him. He probably could not eat much. Jesus asked the guest was it lawful to heal on the Sabbath. They didn't say a word. He then asked them if they would not immediately rescue their donkey or ox if it fell into a pit with water in it on Sabbath. They had no answer. So if we love someone we will help them as soon as we can no matter the day.

### **Story 50 (15.14)**

Jesus told a true story of a young man who got lots of money from dad and went far away. He made new friends who helped him spend his cash. Then crops failed and food became very, very expensive. The poor Jewish boy took a job feeding pigs; the pay was poor and the boy wished he could eat the pig food. Suddenly he thought he could go home to dad. To his surprise at the end of a long journey dad came running and gave him a new coat a ring lovely sandals and threw a party. Jesus said this dad is just like God who has great love for those who go astray when they repent.

### **Story 51 (16.21)**

The death of a beggar called Lazarus made it into the best stories of Jesus. This beggar was name "God helps" and daily he sat at a big gate of a rich man's home. He was weak and unwell. Dogs licked his sores and that helped a little. The beggar did and angels carried him to be with Abraham in heaven. Soon after the rich man died and went to Hell. Somehow the man could see Lazarus enjoying heaven and asked Abraham if he could have a little drink sent to Hell. Abraham said there was no way over from Heaven to Hell. The story teaches us to believe in God's plan and trust Christ who made Heaven and Hell. It also shows us we should care for others.

### **Story 52 (17.11)**

On the border of Galilee and Samaria today there is an important place where the east west and north south roads meet it is called Afula. Long ago 10 men with leprosy called out to Jesus. They stood a long way off. They called to Jesus saying "You are the One in command and the One who comes near – have mercy on us". Jesus answered "When you have marched there show yourselves as an army of fit men to the priests". They could have laughed at Him but they marched and did what He said.

### **Story 53 ((17.14)**

The story goes on to tell us that the strange thing about it was that they were not cured when they called for his mercy they were cured as they obeyed Him and went off to show the priest something that had not yet happened. Why did Jesus allow the delay when He could have healed immediately? The answer is – He wants to show that even when we think He has failed us He never will.

### **Story 54 (17.26)**

Would you believe it Jesus is coming back to visit the world one day soon; well he really is! He said things would be going on as usual. There would be ordinary birthday parties of boys and girls and for parents too when they thought back over their lives; there would be kids drinking pop and grown ups sipping wine and chatting about the news and there would be brides and grooms giving promises to each other. Then suddenly Jesus and his angels would come and take many away. Maybe a sudden war will happen at the time but most wonderful Christians will be taken to heaven. Don't ever forget this story for the day is coming near!

### **Story 55 (17.28)**

The bible tells us there is going to be a big war in the Middle East. Jesus said the day he came would also be like that of Lot. At that time Abraham was praying that Lot would not lose his faith because he lived in a bad city called Sodom. People then were partying and drinking pop and wine and falling in love. People were going to the shops which were in full swing selling lots of eats and lovely clothes. There were busy men building new houses to live in. Then suddenly the whole city went up in flames. Jesus will not only visit to take Christians to heaven but shortly after will return to stop a very great and sudden disaster of the worst war ever known. Remember Jesus is coming to visit first. Be sure you know and love Him and to be ready to welcome Him by making him you're Saviour.

### **Story 56 (18.23)**

Jesus told a story about a man who had lots of money-he was like a millionaire. He asked how he could live for ever. The first thing Jesus taught him was that he was a sinner. Jesus said "There is none good but God. The next thing Jesus taught him was that he should love and care for those around him-he said he had done this-but he had not helped the poor. The third thing Jesus taught him after he had said "sorry" for his sin to God "shown his care for others" was to "follow him" as he was going to Jerusalem to die on the cross and to rise again. Had he done this he would have become a disciple and helped all the apostles. But he went away sad. See what he missed because he made the decision not to do what Jesus said.

### **Story 57 (18.35)**

The tale of was Bar -Timaus of Jericho the world's lowest and oldest city is told all over the world. He heard the noise of a big crowd and asked ""What is going on?" They told him Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. He roared out like a lion "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those in front of Jesus told him to shut up but he screamed out like a black raven "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus asked "What do you want me to do for you?" "I want to peep up and see you!" he said. Jesus said "Look up; you believed that I am Messiah, faith has saved you!"

Everybody started singing. Bar-Timaeus kept up with the disciples and kept on following Jesus. The story tells us how important it is to keep close to Jesus.

### **Story 58 (18.9-10)**

Zacchaeus was a very little man and a very little man was he;  
He climbed up into a sycamore tree for the Saviour he wanted to see.  
And as the Saviour passed that way he looked up into the tree and said  
“Zacchaeus, come down, for I’m coming to your house for tea.”

**Jesus said to Zacchaeus that He was to be a sacrifice like Isaac**, Abraham’s son for He would be offered up (on a cross) and bring salvation. This is why Jesus came as a man.

### **Story 59 (19.15)**

Everybody was excited as Jesus nearer Jerusalem. They thought the kingdom of God on earth was here. Jesus knew that belonged to the second time He would come – maybe in your lifetime. So Jesus told a story about a noble who left for a distant land and left 10 servants in charge giving them money to develop his business till he came back. One servant reached 10 cities, another five but a third hid his master’s money in the ground. When the nobleman came back he congratulated the men who had reached so many cities for him and rebuked the servant who did nothing.

Work for Jesus day by day  
Serve Him ever, falter never Christ obey  
Yield Him service loyal true  
There’s a work for Jesus only you can do!

### **Story 60 (19.29)**

Jesus you will remember was known in every town and village through the land. Now between him and Jerusalem there are just two villages – Bethphage and Bethany. The first is just by the main Jericho- Jerusalem Road He was on. He sent two disciples to ask for a *he-haw* and her colt. He said they should say to the owners “Adonai has need of them” That strange word means “God”. Soon people were throwing their coats on the road in front of Jesus *he-haw*. They started to sing a song David wrote long ago about the coming King with the words everybody knew “Hosanna to the son of David” (You can read it in Psalm 118.26). Jesus seemed to be everybody’s favourite. But there were other crowds inside the city loyal to Herod and the priests who hated Him.

### **Story 61 (20.1)**

Jesus was now telling his story openly as he did to Zacchaeus. When he came to the temple he had chased out the money-men and traders. He told them it was a place of worship and His Father’s house. A day or two later the top religious people sent and asked him what right he had to put the traders out. He replied by asking them if John the Baptist had a right to act instead of the priests and offer forgiveness without the temple sacrifices. They refused to answer and so he said “neither will I answer!”

### **Story 62 (22.14)**

Have you been looking forward to anything; perhaps your holiday or Christmas? There was an hour Jesus looked forward to so much-it was his last Passover. Everybody was on holiday. Many went to Jerusalem. They had a feast that reminded them of being freed from slavery 1500 years ago. Jesus was about to change it's meaning to be a sign of freedom from punishment for sin. A slain lamb was the centre of the Jewish feast. Jesus the Lamb who was to die on the cross was the centre of this new Passover when Gods wrath fell not on Pharaoh's firstborn but God's own Son. Jesus took the cup *willingly*; he said His body was given *willingly* for them; He said his blood was shed *willingly* for them and he said He himself had decided *willingly* to take the way of the cross.

### **Story 63 (22.24)**

Have you every argued with a brother or sister when you were eating a meal and mum or dad had to sort it out? At His last meal with them a friendly battle broke out at the table between the disciples about who would be greatest and Jesus had to speak to them. Jesus said that people respect kings because they do great big things. He said the young who were bold as soldiers for Jesus should be greater and those who worked and helped should be leaders.

For me to live is Christ to die is gain.

I'll be a militant, a man of God

A gambler for Christ-a hero! –

C.T. Studd (Missionary to China)

### **Story 64 (22.44)**

Have you ever been hot and had to wipe your brow with a handkerchief? Luke next tells the story of how Jesus' agony affected His body. His brow was covered with sweat which was red like blood. Jeremiah long ago said there was no sorrow like his. Jesus was in a garden of Olive trees at the time. While he was in such distress his disciples were sound asleep. He told them to awake and get praying to avoid big trouble. The trouble is they might have started like Peter to fight and been bound up and crucified with Jesus. Prayer keeps us near to our shepherd and safe from Satan.

### **Story 65 (22.66)**

Luke was stunned to discover *how* the last day of Jesus life (Good Friday) started. The Elders (some of the 70 ruling council) and the two High-Priests and the writers of Jewish bibles took Jesus before the seventy rulers. They asked Him one question: they said "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus answered "**If I speak as God** you will not believe; if on the other hand I should ask you if you think I am you would not reply or release me. From this time "**the Son of Man** (myself) is going to be seated on the right hand of God in power. They all said "That means you are **the Son of God**". He said to them "You have to say "**I am**" (Jehovah). They said "Why do we need a witness for these things from his mouth are witness enough."

### **Story 66 (23.44)**

Did you know it is night for months in the Arctic? Did you know that for three hours when Jesus was on the cross (from 3pm to 6pm in Israel) it was dark over the whole world? The history of South America tells us it was dark there that day. People near the cross beat their chests and turned to run fearing the judgment of God. Judgment there was-but it fell on Jesus who said "Father I give my Spirit to You." A Roman

soldier said “This man still is and was a just man.” That soldier knew Jesus was still alive after death. It was the women of Galilee including Mary that told this story.

### **Story 67 (24.4)**

Three days later (Sunday) at the doorstep of dawn three women came to the tomb with perfumes they had made and others were with them. They found the round stone which was as tall as a man and as wide as a man’s foot was rolled away. They went in but Jesus body was not there but there were two mystery “men” who were alive after death standing in shining clothing. They fell face down. The men said “Why seek the living with the dead (Soldier’s corpses). **He is not here – He is risen.** The men reminded them that Jesus said He would be crucified and rise the third day”. The women returned and told the apostles. They thought the women were seeing things and telling tales but Peter ran to the tomb kneeled in and saw the clothes for Jesus like had been wrapped up like a mummy. But Jesus was out of the rolled garments! No man could get out of such garments stuck together with spice like glue.

### **Story 68 (24.15)**

On Sunday evening nobody but Mary Magdalene had seen Jesus. Two people were homeward bound walking the 7.5 miles to Emmaus talking about their disappointment that on the “third day” when Jesus promised to rise there was no sign of Him. Then suddenly a man caught up with them on the road. He asked them why they were sad and angry and why they were arguing. Then one of them called Cleophas replied sharply “Are you just a stranger in Jerusalem and do you not know the main news of these days?”

### **Story 69 (24.19)**

The story of the two people continues:-

Jesus asked the two people on the way to Emmaus “What sort of things-? He seemed to show surprise. He wanted to know how important they thought these events were. They replied that they all cantered on Jesus of Nazareth –a prophet close to God in what He said and did. He was betrayed by religious leaders and crucified. They said **they had hoped He was about to bring Israel back to God** and set her free.

### **Story 70 (24.21)**

The Story of the two people continues:-

“It is the third day since all this” the travellers said. “Some women went to Jesus’ tomb but the body was gone. They reported a vision of messengers from heaven who said Jesus was alive. Some of us went to check it out and they found the body was gone.” Jesus said “You are not using your heads and your hearts are slow to stir aflame with passion to believe what the prophets from Moses have been saying.” Then Jesus over the miles explained how his life was all foretold in the Old Testament.

### **Story 71 (24.30)**

The Story of the two people continues:-

They got near home. Jesus seemed to want to go on but he joined them for a lamp-lit meal and at the table as he gave thanks and broke the bread. When they opened their



eyes after prayer and saw his hands and arms they saw the scars that proved He was crucified. Then just as suddenly as He appeared Jesus vanished. His company and talk had made them use their heads and they became passionate to tell the others He really was alive and even after dark two very different joyful men made it to Jerusalem and as they were spilling out their story to the apostles Jesus himself just as suddenly appeared in the middle of them all and asked for some of the food He could smell cooking. He ate fish and honey. He could hear smell taste feel and see-he and all the senses you have-He was still really human. He went through the entire Old Testament showing he had to suffer rise and be heralded over the world till He came again. He promised the good news promise would be on them as they acted like chariots to carry it worldwide.

## **Story 72 (24.51)**

On day forty after He came alive out of the tomb Jesus went with his disciples toward Bethany and a little tower on the Mount of Olives marks the spot on the mountain where He lifted up his hands spoke lovely words telling them He would watch over them and all Christians till He returned. As He continued to speak this blessing He rose into the skies and was parted from them as they knelt and worshipped before returning to Jerusalem with great joy and they stayed there throughout the Passover holiday week celebrating singing and praising God,

Amen.

**Bob Coffey**  
**Aramaic Bible Companion**