

ST MATTHEW IN THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT – QUARTER 2

If using *The Story Bible* with kids as you read, the weekly headings match the chapter titles.

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|--------------------------|--------|--|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dec 6 | Joseph Forgives | Genesis 42-45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dec 13 | The Birth of Moses & Moses and The Burning Bush | Exodus 1-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dec 20 | Moses and the Plagues | Exodus 5-10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dec 27 | The Passover | Exodus 11-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jan 3 | Crossing the Red Sea | Exodus 14-15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jan 10 | The Ten Commandments | Exodus 19-20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jan 17 | The Twelve Spies in Canaan | Numbers 13-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jan 24 | The Bronze Serpent | Numbers 21-23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jan 31 | Rahab Believes | Joshua 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Feb 7 | Entering the Promised Land & The Fall of Jericho | Joshua 3-4, 6 |

GOD'S PEOPLE BECOME A NATION

A lot has happened in the story so far, but it's still just beginning! God's good creation was broken by sin that spiraled out of control. The Flood gave a bit of a fresh start, but humanity still failed and it was clear that sin was more than we could overcome on our own. God chose one man, Abram (later Abraham) and made a promise to him: he would father a nation that would bless the world.

In our readings this quarter, we watch as that promise begins to take root. The great-grandson's of Abraham follow Joseph to Egypt and settle down there. Joseph's position and connections ensure that they are well taken care of in the midst of the famine and they quickly grow into a nation. But the twists and turns keep coming.

What starts as a safe haven in the midst of a region-wide famine turns into a hostile relationship and the children of Israel being enslaved at the hands of the Egyptians. With Jacob and Joseph long gone, their favor with Egypt's leadership is gone now, too. But a deliverer is coming: Moses.

God calls a reluctant Moses to confront Pharaoh and lead His people to freedom. God's power is on full display as He dramatically frees them from slavery and leads them to freedom toward the land that God has sworn in a covenant to give to Abraham's descendants. But in what will become an enduring theme not just for the Israelites but for humanity as well, they have a hard time being faithful to God and trusting His promises to them.

But God remains faithful and patient with them and they eventually reach their destination. Now, there are new opportunities to trust God. The pagan nations living in the land will be removed and God promises victory to the Israelites even though that victory is going to come in some strange looking ways (who would think that trumpets would be a weapon of war?).