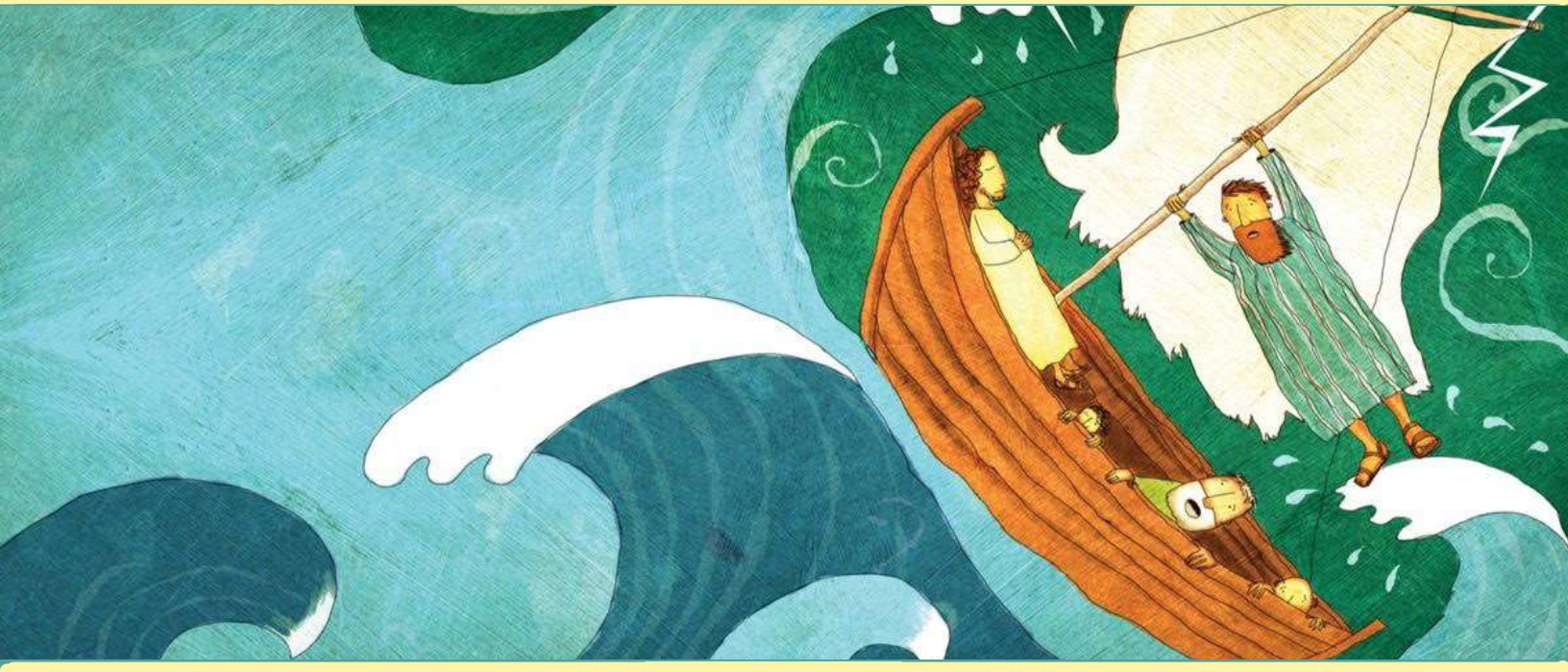
the Jesus Storybook Bible

LENT GUIDE



WRITTEN BY
SALLY LLOYD-JONES
ILLUSTRATED BY JAGO

Dear friends, little and big (and grown-ups, you can stay too, it's okay) —

Before the beginning of time God had a wonderful plan. He knew things would go wrong with his perfect world. He knew his children would run from him and break his world and his heart. Even though it was never meant to be this way. He knew, when his children ran from him, sin would come into his perfect world—and sickness and tears and dying would come. But God had a plan. He would come down and rescue his children. He would send his Great Rescuer, Jesus. And together they would pull off the greatest Rescue the world has ever known.

But just before Jesus began his Great Rescue operation where did he go?

To a university to get trained? To important leaders to get their help? To a spa to get some rest? To shop to buy some things?

No. He went out into the desert.

That seems like a bit of an odd place to go. Why did he go there?

"Jesus needed to get away by himself and be somewhere quiet and lonely. He needed to be with his heavenly Father to get ready for his new life.

In the desert, Jesus thought about the Secret Rescue Plan he had made with God. Before the foundation of the world, they both knew what would have to happen. To rescue God's children, Jesus would have to die. There was no other way. It was the reason he had come."

"Lent" is the time we remember this Secret Rescue Plan as well. And we make room for time with our Heavenly Father, too. As we read the stories of God's Great Rescue we remember important things. We remember why we needed Jesus to come. That we can't rescue ourselves. How much he loves us.

"Lent" is the time just before Easter. It's a strange word. But it comes from an old English word meaning "Spring."

Think about spring for a minute. Just before spring arrives, when it's still winter, what does it look like?

Not good.

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The trees have no leaves. The flowers have all disappeared. The ground is hard as stone and the water is frozen. Most of the animals and birds have gone away. It looks like everything is dead. But spring is coming. And when it does—flowers, blossoms, rivers, leaves, life!

As we read this Great Rescue Story together, God wants us to remember: however we are feeling today, wherever we are today, whatever is happening in our lives today—however it looks, even if it looks like there is no hope at all—spring is coming. It may look like nothing is happening. It may even look like everything has died.

But...

Spring is coming!

Easter is coming!

Jesus dies —yes, but he comes alive again!

And one day death and sickness and tears—they will be no more. Because God is making the story end happily for his world—and for his children!

Sally

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PAPER CHAIN LENT READING GUIDE

HOW TO MAKE THE READING CHAIN:

1. Print off this Lent Guide, making sure to print double sided!
2. Cut along the dotted lines to create strips of paper.
3. Making sure that the number side of the strip faces outward, tape, glue, or staple the far ends of one paper strip together into a ring.
4. Thread another strip of paper through the center of the first paper ring, then join the ends of this second strip together.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 (making sure that the chains are in numerical order) until all 40 strips of paper have been linked together, forming a chain.
6. For every day of reading, rip one ring off the chain starting with number 1, and read the chapter printed on the flipside of the ring.

Note: Sundays are Catch Up Days, so there are no chains to open.

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The Story and the Song

The Beginning: A Perfect Home

The Terrible Lie

A New Beginning

A Giant Staircase to Heaven

Son of Laughter

The Present

The Girl no one Wanted

The Forgiving Prince

God to the Rescue

11

12

13

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God Makes a Way

Ten Ways to be Perfect

The Warrior Leader

The Teeny Weenie... True King

The Young Hero and the Horrible Giant

The Good Shepherd

A Little Servant Girl and the Proud General

Operation "No More Tears!"

Daniel and the Scary Sleepover

God's Messenger

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22

23

24

25

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27

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29

30

Get Ready!

He's Here!

The Light of the Whole World

The King of All Kings

Heaven Breaks Through

Let's Go

A Little Girl and a Poor Frail Lady

How To Pray

The Singer

The Captain of the Storm

31

32

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Filled Full

Treasure Hunt

The Friend of Little Children

The Man who Didn't Have Any Friends

Running Away

Washed with Tears

The Servant King

A Dark Night in the Garden

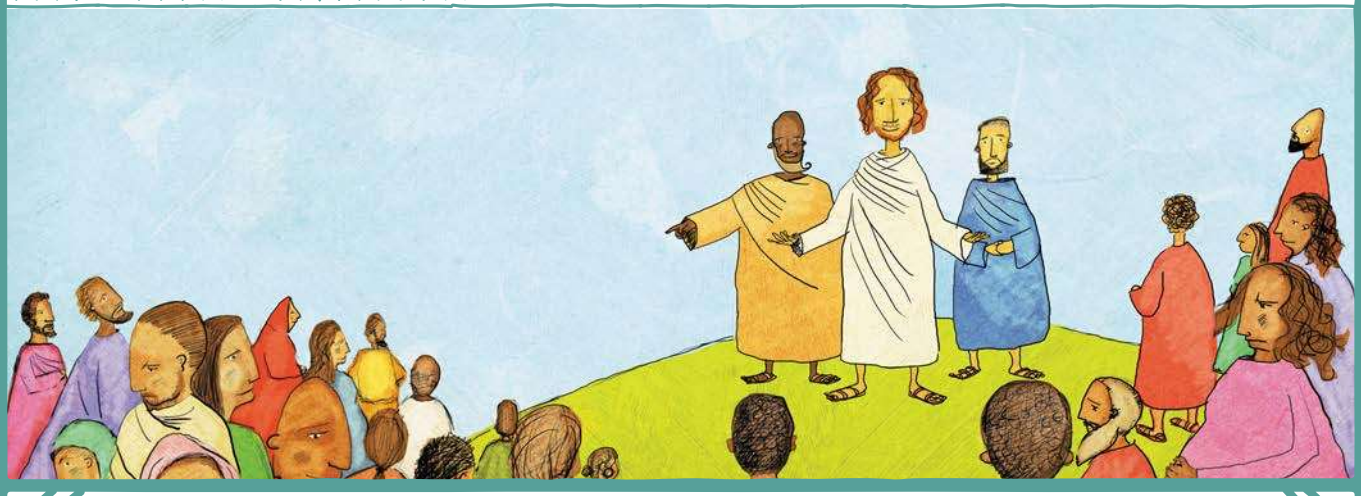
The Sun Stops Shining

God's Wonderful Surprise

2021 Lent Calendar - Reading Guide

Feb 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 The Story and the Song 1	18 The Beginning: A Perfect Home 2	19 The Terrible Lie 3	20 A New Beginning 4
21 Catch Up Day	22 A Giant Staircase to Heaven 5	23 Son of Laughter 6	24 The Present 7	25 The Girl no one Wanted 8	26 The Forgiving Prince 9	27 God to the Rescue 10
28 Catch Up Day						



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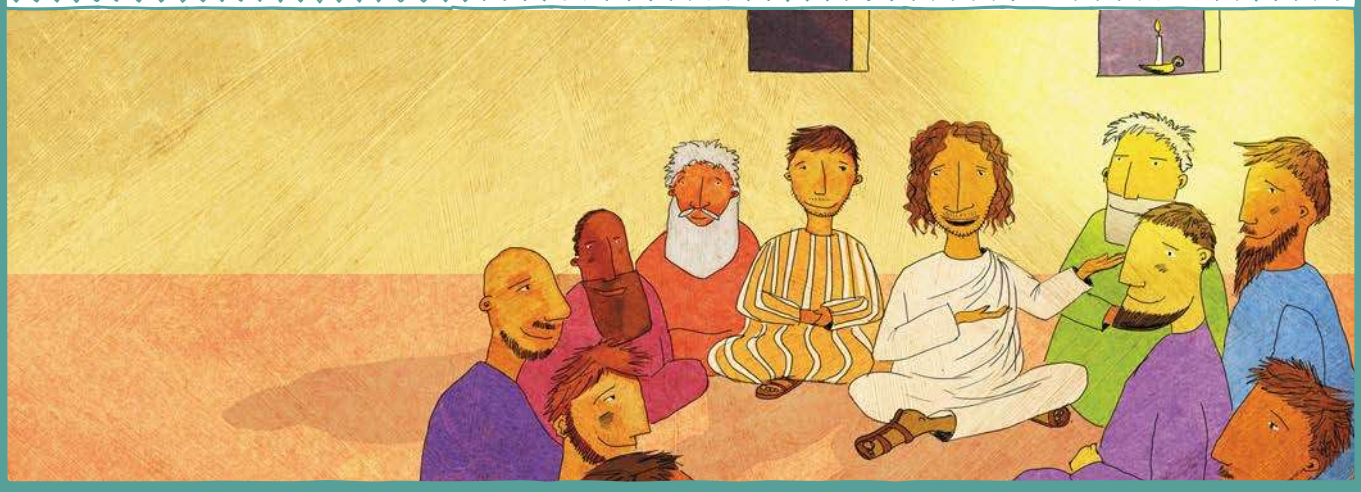
2021 Lent Calendar - Reading Guide

Mar 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 God Makes a Way 11	2 Ten Ways to be Perfect 12	3 The Warrior Leader 13	4 The Teeny Weenie... True King 14	5 The Young Hero and the Horrible Giant 15	6 The Good Shepherd 16
7 Catch Up Day	8 A Little Servant and the Proud General 17	9 Operation "No More Tears!" 18	10 Daniel and the Scary Sleepover 19	11 God's Messenger 20	12 Get Ready! 21	13 He's Here! 22
14 Catch Up Day	15 The Light of the Whole World 23	16 The King of All Kings 24	17 Heaven Breaks Through 25	18 Let's Go! 26	19 A Little Girl and a Poor Frail Lady 27	20 How to Pray 28
21 Catch Up Day	22 The Singer 29	23 The Captain of the Storm 30	24 Filled Full 31	25 Treasure Hunt 32	26 The Friend of Little Children 33	27 The Man who Didn't Have Any Friends 34
28 Catch Up Day	29 Running Away 35	30 Washed With Tears 36	31 The Servant King 37			



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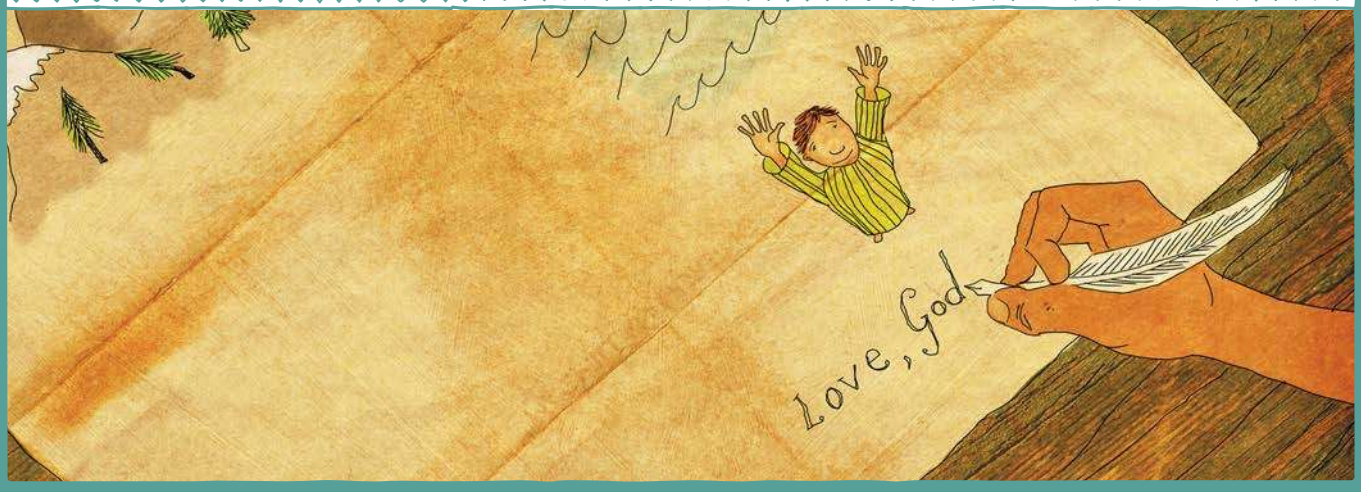
2021 Lent Calendar - Reading Guide

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 A Dark Night in the Garden 38	2 The Sun Stops Shining 39	3 God's Wonderful Surprise 40
4 Happy Easter!						



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