

Stories and Concepts

There follows a list of stories and texts from the Bible. Below each story/text the key concepts are listed. The lists are not exhaustive; you may wish to add your own concepts (as long as they are integral to the story/text). School friendly versions of these concepts have been used wherever possible, e.g., instead of the concept 'revelation of God's character' we use 'showing what God is like'.

The New Testament

Parables

The parable of the Lost Coin, Lost Sheep and Lost/prodigal Son (Luke 15)

1. Lost and found
2. Forgiveness
3. Celebration/joy
4. Showing what God is like/images of God (Father, shepherd, woman)
5. One lost person matters

The parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13: 31-32)

1. Kingdom of God (people accepting Jesus/God as king and thereby creating an invisible 'kingdom' where people try to live by Gods values)
2. Jesus the King
3. Things that start small and grow large (the Kingdom growing)

The parable of the Treasure and the Pearl (Matthew 13: 44-46)

1. Kingdom of God
2. Worth/value
3. Treasure (material and non material)
4. Sacrifice (things that cost)

The parable of the Great Feast (Luke 14: 15-23)

1. Invitation
2. Kingdom of God
3. Acceptance/rejection (excuses)
4. Open to all

The parable of the Workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20: 1-16)

1. Fair and unfair
2. Mercy (more than fair, not less than fair)
3. The Kingdom of God

The parable of the Sower (Matthew 13: 1-30)

1. Good news
2. Responding to the good news
3. Temptation/troubles/Worries
4. Being fruitful

The parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37)

1. Friends and enemies
2. Love in action
3. Stereotypes
4. Choices and actions
5. Making judgements

The parable of the Friend at Midnight and Unjust Judge (Luke 11: 1-13 / Luke 18: 1-8)

1. What God is not like
2. Prayer
3. God on our side

The parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21: 28-32)

1. Doing what is right not just saying what is right
2. Changing one's mind
3. Words and deeds

The parable of the Two Houses (Matthew 7: 24-29)

1. Foundations for life
2. Listening and doing

The Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25: 31-46)

1. Identifying (Jesus identifies with the poor in this story)
 2. Judging
 3. Separation
 4. Good and bad actions
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Miracles

The Wedding at Cana (John 2: 1-11)

1. Not wishing for publicity
2. God's abundant provision
3. Sign (of who Jesus was)
4. Power
5. Trust
6. Compassion
7. Jesus showed what God is like by how he behaved

Walking on Water (John 6: 16-24)

1. Fear
2. Sign (of who Jesus was)
3. Power of the creator (Christians believe Jesus and the Holy Spirit were with God making the world)
4. Trust/faith
5. Jesus showed what God is like by how he behaved

Stilling the Storm (Mark 4: 35-41)

1. Fear
2. Sign (of who Jesus was)
3. Power of the creator (the one who made the wind and waves)
4. Lack of faith
5. Jesus showed what God is like by how he behaved

The Feeding of the 5000 (Mark 6: 30-44)

1. Sign pointing to who Jesus was
2. Power
3. Abundant provision
4. Compassion
5. Sharing
6. Jesus showed what God is like by how he behaved

The Ten men with Leprosy (Luke 17: 11-19)

1. Jesus showed what God is like by how he behaved
2. Sign (of who Jesus was)
3. Faith
4. Power
5. Thanks
6. Compassion

The Man Let Down through the Roof (Luke 5: 17-26)

1. Faith and determination
2. Friendship
3. Sign (of who Jesus was)
4. Forgiveness
5. Healing the whole person (spirit and body)
6. Power
7. Compassion
8. Jesus showed what God is like by how he behaved

(Note. In this story Jesus is not saying the man's illness is a result of sin – he specifically denies this elsewhere. He is healing the whole person; the man obviously had things wrong beside his paralysis.)

Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10: 46-52)

1. Sign pointing to who Jesus was (Son of David i.e. King/Messiah)
2. Power
3. Faith
4. Compassion
5. Sight/insight (Bartimaeus could not see but he did have insight into who Jesus was)
6. Jesus showed what God is like by how he behaved

The Troubled Man (Gedarene demoniac) (Mark 5)

1. Healing the mind and spirit
2. Person of Jesus (who he was)
3. Power
4. Compassion
5. Jesus showed what God is like by how he behaved (cares for people with all types of problems)

Jairus' Daughter and Lazarus (Luke 8: 40-56 / John 11: 38-44)

1. Restoration to life – resuscitation not resurrection
2. Bringing hope
3. Faith
4. Power
5. Sign of who Jesus was
6. Jesus showed what God is like by how he behaved

People Jesus Met

The rich young man (Luke 18: 18-30)

1. Important questions
2. Making decisions
3. Priorities
4. Making sacrifices

Zacchaeus (Luke 19: 1-10)

1. Greed
2. Repentance
3. Making amends
4. New start
5. Changing on the inside
6. Acceptance/rejection
7. Jesus showed what God is like by how he behaved

Nicodemus (John 3: 1-21)

1. Asking the big questions
2. Starting anew
3. Fear/courage
4. The Spirit

Martha and Mary (Luke 10: 38-42)

1. Priorities
2. Ways of serving
3. Doing and listening
4. Jesus showed what God is like by how he behaved (women had low status at the time)

Jesus and the children (Mark 10: 13-16)

1. Acceptance
2. Time for others
3. Blessing
4. Showing people they are important (children had low status at the time)
5. Jesus showed what God is like by how he behaved

Key Events

Annunciation (Luke 1: 26-38)

1. Good news
2. God's unusual choice
3. Responding to God's choice
4. Messengers
5. Trust

Jesus' Birth (Luke 2: 1-20)

1. Beginnings/birthdays
2. Fulfilment of promise/prophecy (add Christmas prophecies, Isaiah, Micah, etc.)
3. Gift from God with Love (John 3.16)
4. Celebration
5. Worship
6. Messages (Peace on earth)
7. Following/guiding (wise men)
8. Challenging evil (Herod)
9. Incarnation (God becoming one of us in Jesus, giving up power, experiencing what human life is like, coming to show what God is like)

Jesus' Dedication in the Temple - Simeon and Anna (Luke 2: 21-40)

1. Prophecy and fulfilment
2. Salvation
3. Waiting in hope

Jesus in the Temple at 12 years old (Luke 2: 41-52)

1. Son of God
2. Son of man (Mary's son, part of a human family)
3. Wisdom

Temptation (Luke 4: 1-13)

1. Prayer
2. Temptations between right and wrong
3. Making hard decisions
4. Messiah (what sort of special king should Jesus be?)
5. Choosing the hard road of suffering

Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3: 13-17)

1. Setting an example
2. Identifying with imperfect human beings
3. Son of God (God's voice affirming it)

Call of disciples (Luke 5: 1-11)

1. Choosing
2. Making sacrifices: what they left behind
3. Beginning a new role ('job')
4. Starting a journey
5. Followers and leaders

The Transfiguration and Simon Peter's Confession (Mark 9: 2-13 / Mark 8: 27-30)

1. Who Jesus was
2. Showing Jesus' true nature
3. Temptation (Jesus rejected Peter's easy options and chose the path of suffering)

The entry into Jerusalem – Palm Sunday (Matthew 21: 1-11)

1. Welcome
2. Praise
3. Who Jesus was (Son or descendant of David/Messiah/special king)
4. Opposition
5. Humility (rode an ass not a war horse)

Throwing the money changers out of the Temple (Matthew 21: 12-17)

1. Anger (righteous anger)
2. Injustice
3. Jesus' authority
4. Sacred places/places to pray

The Last Supper (Mark 14: 12-26)

1. Goodbye
2. Presence (Jesus presence then and his ability to be with them in a different way in the future)
3. Remembering
4. Sharing
5. Giving thanks
6. Looking forward, looking back (back to the Passover and forward to the Churches' celebration of Communion/Eucharist)

Judas and Peter (Peter: Luke 22: 54-62 / Judas: Luke 22: 1-6)

1. Failure in friendship
2. Betrayal/denial
3. Conscience
4. Courage (Peter did follow Jesus to the court unlike the other disciples who ran away)
5. Fear (Peter reacted out of fear when confronted. Judas motive may have been the same)
6. Facing ourselves when we do something wrong
7. Forgiveness (Peter is forgiven – John 21:15-24; Judas never asked for it.)

Death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15: 1-11)

1. Death, endings
2. Life, beginnings: resurrection (John 11: 25-26)
3. Eternal life – life after death
4. Good news (Luke 24: 6-7)
5. Surprise (Luke 24: 1-12)

For ways of understanding the death/resurrection see Easter section.

The Trinity

God

1. Eternal (Revelation 21:6)
2. Loving (Friend – James 4:23, Father – Romans 8:14-17, Mother – Matthew 23: 37, Husband – Isaiah 54:5)
3. Forgiving (Father – Luke 23:34)
4. Judge (Potter – Romans 9: 21)
5. All knowing and all seeing (Eagle – Exodus 19: 4, Deuteronomy 32: 9-11)
6. All powerful (King – Revelation 15:3)
7. Guide (Shepherd – Psalm 23)
8. Creator
9. I am (Exodus 3)
10. Holy one (Exodus 19)

Jesus

1. Friend (John 15:14)
2. Teacher (John 3:2)
3. Son of God (Luke 1:35)
4. Son of Man (Matthew 20:18)
5. Messiah (John 4: 25-26)
6. King of Kings (Revelation 19:16)
7. Lamb of God (John 1: 29)
8. Light of the world (John 8: 21)
9. Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9: 6)
10. Good Shepherd (John 10: 14)
11. Saviour (1 Timothy 4:10)

The Holy Spirit

1. Comforter and Defender (John) Comforter and defender are two ways of translating the same word in Greek – you won't find comforter in modern version, only in older versions such as The Authorised and the Revised Standard version.
2. Real but invisible friend (John 14: 16-17)
3. Guide (John 16: 13)
4. The fulfilment of a promise made by Jesus at the ascension (Acts 1: 3-5)
5. Fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5: 22-23)
6. Gifts of the spirit (1 Corinthians 12: 1-11/ Romans 12: 6-8)

Festivals

Advent

1. Prophecy (Isaiah 2:7; 9:2-7; 11:1-9; Micah 4: 1-5)
2. Waiting in hope (Isaiah 9: 1-7)
3. Announcing the imminent arrival – John the Baptist (Mark 1: 1-8)
4. Being chosen Mary (Luke 1: 26-38)
5. Getting ready for Christmas – internal preparation (a practice of the Church)

Christmas (Luke 2: 1-7)

1. Jesus' birthday
2. Gift from God (Isaiah 9: 6)
3. Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)
4. Light of the world (John 1:9)
5. Fulfilment of promise/prophecy (add some of the prophecies)
6. Incarnation (John 1: 14)
7. Baby with a mission – to bring the good news of God's love and forgiveness (Matthew 1: 21)

Lent

1. Feasting: Pre-Lent Shrove today and Mardi Gras
2. Fasting: Ash Wednesday and Lenten Fast
3. Getting ready for Easter: internal preparation/spring clean
4. Sorry and Forgiveness (general quote about Gods willingness to forgive)

Easter

1. New Life (2 Corinthians: 14-15)
2. Sadness to Joy: death and resurrection (John 16:17-33)
3. Victory over death and evil/sin: battle between good and evil, life and death. Death not being the end and love emerging as more powerful than hatred. (Colossians 2: 13-5)
4. Reconciliation: forgiveness, mending the friendship between God and humanity (John 3: 16)
5. Sacrificial love: love that costs (John 4:10)
6. A demonstration of Gods love: how far God will go to demonstrate his love and break through the barrier of apathy and wrong that prevents the relationship (John 3.16)
7. Salvation: rescue from wrong
8. Atonement: covering or wiping out sin
9. Redemption: freedom from the slavery of sin

Ascension (Luke 24: 50-53 / Acts 1: 1-11)

1. Saying Goodbye
2. Handing over to the disciples
3. Spreading the message
4. Waiting
5. Promise – of Holy Spirit
6. Return: Angels promise he will return one day

Pentecost/Holy Spirit

1. The coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)
2. Empowering (Acts 2)
3. Conversion (Acts 2)
4. The invisible friend (John 14: 16-17)
5. The defender and comforter (John 16: 7-11)
6. The gifts of the Spirit (Romans 12: 6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11)
7. The fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-23)

Harvest

1. Thanks Psalm (Psalm 136)
 2. Sharing (1 Samuel 30: 1-25, Matthew 14: 13-21)
 3. Celebrating God the provider – Succoth/Tabernacles (Exodus 16: 1-30, Leviticus 23: 39-43)
 4. Celebrating the fruitfulness of God's world: creation (Genesis 1-2)
 5. Acknowledging our responsibility for the world: stewardship (Genesis 1)
 6. Acknowledging our interdependence with the earth: creation all linked and interdependent (Romans 8: 19-23)
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Old Testament

Key Events

Creation (Genesis 1-2)

1. A world created from nothing
2. Humanity made in the image of God: able to tell right from wrong, form relationships, creative, etc.
3. People created purposefully, not by chance
4. Humanity given responsibility for the earth: stewardship
5. People related to the earth and interdependent
6. Created for a relationship (friendship) with God
7. Creation reflects God's wisdom and creativity and desire to give more than what is just needed for life. Creating abundantly.

Fall (Genesis 3)

1. Freedom to choose between right and wrong
2. Obedience/disobedience
3. Temptation
4. Deceit
5. Taking responsibility for one's actions
6. Bearing the consequences

Noah (Genesis 6-9)

1. Judgement
2. Trust/faith
3. Obedience
4. Rescue (ark)
5. Sign of the rainbow (a covenant or agreement)
6. A new start

Abraham: call and promises (Genesis 15-17)

1. Being called by God
2. Being chosen
3. Responding to choice
4. Promises
5. Covenant or agreement
6. Fulfilment
7. Faith/doubt/trust

Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22: 1-19)

1. Testing
2. Obedience
3. Trust/doubt
4. Willing to make a sacrifice

Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25: 19-34)

1. Jealousy and rivalry
2. Deceit and trickery
3. Selfishness
4. Encountering God
5. God's unusual choice

Jacob and his wives (Genesis 29: 1-30)

1. Love
2. Deceit and trickery
3. Greed
4. God's view of people is often different from others (he rewarded the plain Leah not the beautiful Rachael)

Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

1. Special and chosen (God doesn't only choose nice people)
2. Dreams and hopes for the future/losing dreams
3. Jealousy/rivalry
4. Injustice
5. Deceit
6. Suffering and change (Both Joseph and his brothers are changed by their experiences)
7. Reconciliation and forgiveness
8. God's providence (planning, care and provision)

Moses: birth, youth and call (Exodus 1-7)

1. Oppression and God's response to suffering (Exodus 1)
2. Rescued (Exodus 2: 1-10)
3. Providence (God's care and guidance and ultimate control of events (Exodus 2: 1-10)
4. Identity (Exodus 3: 11-12)
5. Preparation (Exodus 4: 1-17)
6. Call and God's unusual choice: Moses had a speech impediment (Exodus 3-6)
7. Leadership (Exodus 7: 1-7)

Exodus (Exodus 7-14)

1. Battle (between God and Pharaoh in the plagues)
2. Power
3. Escape
4. Miracle
5. Guiding

Crossing the desert (Exodus 15: 22 – 19: 25)

1. Guidance
2. Provision (by God)
3. Obedience/disobedience
4. God's presence

Giving the law (Exodus 20)

1. Law, rules and a way of life
2. Reflecting God's values
3. Covenant (agreement)
4. Obedience/disobedience
5. Chosen to set an example (Israel was chosen to live in a way that would set an example to other nations)

Joshua (Book of Joshua)

1. Leading
2. Deciding (Chose who you will serve, God or the Gods of Canaan)
3. Trusting (Jericho)

Gideon (Judges 6: 11 – 8: 27)

1. Being chosen: another unusual choice
2. Fear and courage
3. Asking for guidance (Gideon set up several 'tests')
4. Trusting (attacking the Midianites)

Samuel (Book of 1 Samuel)

1. God speaking
2. Listening
3. Being dedicated or set apart (Samuel was dedicated from birth)
4. Praying (Hannah)

Saul (1 Samuel 9-10)

1. Chosen
2. Kingship
3. Jealousy (of David)

David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

1. Intimidation and fear (Goliath frightened the Israelites)
2. Trust
3. Courage
4. Trusting in God's power
5. God's unusual choices (works through a young shepherd boy)

David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 20)

1. Friendship
2. Loyalties and choosing sides
3. Making difficult choices

David anointed by Samuel (1 Samuel 16: 1-13)

1. Anointed by Samuel for a special position
2. Chosen by God
3. God looks on the inside

David and Saul (1 Samuel 18-31)

1. Jealousy
2. Hunting/hiding
3. Not taking revenge

David the King (2 Samuel 2-12)

1. Kingship
2. Covenant (agreement)
3. Promise of the Messiah (special king will come – a descendent of David)
4. Failure
5. Relationship with God
6. Poetry (Psalm 23 and 18)

Solomon (1 Kings 1: 28 – 11: 43)

1. Wise (his choice of wisdom, Queen of Sheba, proverbs)
 2. Foolish (wives, forced labour, too many palaces)
 3. Choosing what is important
 4. A special place for worshipping God (Temple)
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Prophets

Elijah

1. Challenging the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18: 16-46)
 - a) Challenge/contest
 - b) Making up ones mind
 - c) Trust
 - d) Prayer
 - e) Hatred (Jezebel)
 - f) Weakness (Ahab)
 - g) God's power
2. Encountering God – the still small voice (1 Kings 19)
 - a) Fear
 - b) Depression
 - c) God's care
 - d) Meeting God
 - e) Different aspects of God (power and tenderness)
3. The widow's oil (1 Kings 17)
 - a) God's abundant provision
 - b) God cares for the marginalised
 - c) Faith
 - d)
4. The Widow's son (1 Kings 17)
 - a) Helping
 - b) Trust
 - c) God's power/miracle
 - d) Restoring to life (resuscitation not resurrection)

Jeremiah

1. The King and the message (Jeremiah 36)
 - a) Messages
 - b) Responsibility
 - c) Not wanting to hear
 - d) Courage
2. The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31)
 - a) Agreements
 - b) Promises
 - c) Internal/external
 - d) Relationship with God

Ezekiel: The valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37: 1-14)

1. Hope
2. New life
3. The Holy Spirit

Jonah

1. God as God of whole earth (Jonah 1: 9)
2. Messages (Jonah 1:2 & 3:2)
3. Running away from responsibility (Jonah 1: 3)
4. Judgement (Jonah 1: 4-17)
5. Mercy and eagerness to forgive (Jonah 3-4)
6. Enemies (Jonah 1:2)

Amos

1. Justice (Amos 5: 24)
2. Inequality (Amos 5: 11-12)
3. Gods message (Amos 5: 4-17)
4. God's standard (Plumbline – Amos 7: 7-9)

Hosea

1. God as father (Hosea 1: 10)
2. God as husband (Hosea 2: 16)
3. God's love (Hosea 2: 23)

Daniel and the Lions (Daniel 6)

1. Being faithful
2. Making a stand
3. God being in a situation
4. Persecution
5. Protection
6. Prayer

Esther (Book of Esther)

1. Providence
2. Reluctance
3. Chosen for a purpose
4. Responsibility
5. Courage
6. Prayer
7. Rescue
8. Persecution