



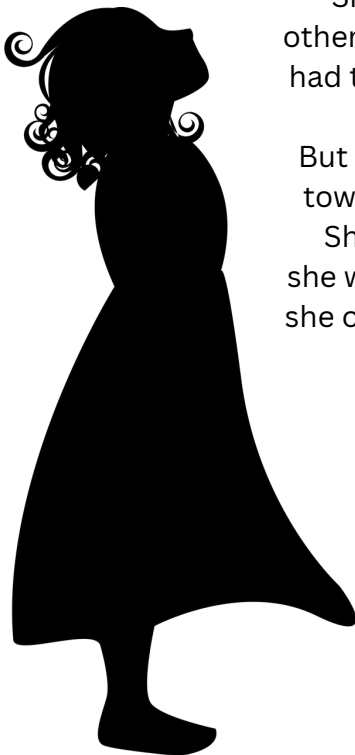
Children's FAITH DISCOVERY

Lesson 3: God's letter to us

Mary Jones' story

More than 200 years ago a girl named Mary Jones was born in Wales. She grew up in a poor family and she did not know how to read or write. But every week she went with her family to church. She loved to hear the pastor read and tell all the exciting stories from the Bible. She just so wished she could read and have a Bible of her own, so that she did not have to wait a week before she could hear more stories.

One day her dad came home with very good news: A teacher was going to start a small school where the kids in the village could learn to read and write. Mary was excited, she was a very good student, and it did not take long before she could read. There was a lady in the neighbourhood who had her own Bible, and she allowed Mary to visit her and read in it. But oh, how Mary longed to have her own Bible! One day she made up her mind: She would do all she could to make it happen!



She was still but a child, so she started to sell eggs, repair clothes, and do other small jobs that would help her earn a little money. Guess how long she had to work before she had enough money for a Bible? 6 years! So precious was a Bible to her that she was willing to work all this time to get it.

But in her village, there were no Bibles for sale. She would have to walk to a town called Bala about 40 kilometres away. That is a very long way to walk!

She started early in the morning and walked all day. Her feet were sore as she walked barefoot. She wanted to save the only pair of shoes she had until she came to the town. When she reached the town, the sun was about to set.

The next morning, she met the pastor who sold Bibles. "But I have no more Bibles to sell", he answered her. Mary was devastated. She

cried and cried and cried. She told the pastor how long she had saved up money to buy the Bible and how long she had walked to buy it. The pastor understood it was really important for her to get the Bible, so he eventually found a Bible that was meant to be sold to someone else and allowed her to buy it. Oh, so happy she was.

So very, very happy! Now she could read the Bible for herself. The Bible is like God's letter to us, and now she had her own letter!

It's not strange that the Bible was so precious to Mary. In the Bible we can read so many interesting stories that teach us very good things. Some of the things the Bible teaches us are:



To be caring, kind and helpful.



To love others, even those who do aren't nice to us



That Jesus loves us very much and cares for us as a good shepherd cares for his sheep.



That God created everything and cares for each one of us



That God is able to take care of us when we are in danger



That God answers Prayers



That Jesus will come back to take his children home to heaven.

1. On the next page you will find 7 stories/passages from the Bible. Look them up and pair them with the icons (with a line)!



1 Sam. Chapter 24



John 14:1-3



Psalms 8:4-5



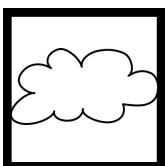
Dan. Chapter 6



Luke 15:1-7



Luke 10:25-37



1. Sam. 1:1-20

The Bible is a wonderful book, but maybe you have heard people around you asking questions like: “How can we trust the Bible?” “How do you know that what the Bible says is true?”. That’s what we will talk more about right now.

2. How did the Bible come into existence?

Read 2. Pet. 1:21

Answer:

The Bible itself says that it was inspired and given by God. In the Bible we have some parts called prophecies. That means that we can read about things that were going to happen before they happened. When we see that what the Bible says really happens later in history, it helps us to trust that the Bible is true. Today we are going to look at one of those exiting prophecies!

More than 2500 years ago there lived a big, famous king. He was the most famous king in the whole world at that time. His name was Nebuchadnezzar and he was the king of the great kingdom of Babylon. He was very rich and proud. One night he had a very strange and scary dream, and he felt sure it was sent to tell him something. In fact, it was a dream about the future.

3. What did he see in his dream?

Read Dan. 2:31-33

Draw what you read and colour it in!

(If you want to see what it might have looked like, you can watch this animated video:
<https://bible-scenes.com/dream-statue-of-nebuchadnezzar/>)

4. What happened next in the dream?

Read Dan. 2:34-35

Answer:

So, what could this strange dream mean? Did it say something about the future? In Babylon where king Nebuchadnezzar lived, there was also a prophet called Daniel. Maybe you have heard of him – he is the same Daniel that was thrown into the lion’s den. Daniel knew God. He and God were close friends, and God decided to use Daniel to tell the king what the dream meant. Let’s find out!

4. What did each part of the big statue mean? Let’s start with the head or gold!

Read Dan. 2:36-38

Answer:

Nebuchadnezzar was king of the great kingdom of Babylon, so there we have the first kingdom of the statue.

5. How many other big world kingdoms would come after Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon, before we read about a divided kingdom?

Read Dan. 2:39-40

Circle the right answer:

1 2 3 4

6. Now we are down in the feet of the statue. Would this also be a strong world kingdom like the others?

Read Dan. 2:41-43

Circle the right answer:

YES NO

This is quite interesting. In his dream Nebuchadnezzar saw that after his kingdom, Babylon, there would be three more world kingdoms, and then there would be a divided kingdom, where powers would try to stick together, but they would not work. This is what God showed Nebuchadnezzar more than 1500 years ago. Did it really happen? Can we trust the Bible? Yes, everything happened just like the Bible predicted:

Babylon reigned from 605 – 539 BC

Medio Persia reigned from 539 – 331 B

Greece reigned from 331 – 168 BC

Rome reigned from 168 BC – 476 AD

After this the kingdom was divided and became a mix of religious and political powers. We still live in a world like this today. So far all that the Bible predicted in this story has happened!

7. What happened next in the dream, and what would that mean?

Read Dan. 2:34-35+44-45

Add what you read to your first drawing. And write here what the stone would mean:

If all that the Bible predicted has happened so far, we can also be sure that what it says about the stone is true, but this we shall learn more about in another lesson. For now I wanted you to know that we can trust the Bible, and that the Bible is like a letter from God teaching us so many precious things. I hope you will learn to love it as much as Mary Jones did! Let's pray as we end:

*Dear Father in Heaven,
Thank you for the Bible. Thank you that it is like a letter for me where I
can learn more about You and what You want me to do. Help me to love
the Bible like Mary Jones did, and to take time to read it every day.
In Jesus name, Amen.*

These lessons are made by Stine Gro Struksnæs/TENT Ministry. Each lesson corresponds with one episode in the "Children's Faith Discovery Program". Visit our web page to watch this series and learn more about what we have to offer: **tentministry.net**

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