

***The Holy Spirit***

***For North Eastern India***

***Adding a prophetic edge***

***For Our Times***

***August/September 2001***

**Table of Contents:**

1	He came to make a difference
2	The Holy spirit was present at the very beginning of creation
3	The same Holy Spirit was present at Jesus Birth and the birth of His Ministry
4	The Holy Spirit was present at the birth of the Church
5	The Climbing of Everest/Zion a biblical journey in a nutshell!
6	Personal Gifts of the Spirit
7	Fruits of the Spirit
8	Wrap Up session
9	A play production relating to the redemptive journey
10	Short talk topics:-
	Namaan
	Zachaeus
	Forgiving Father
	Thy Kingdom Come
11	Women's topics
	Hannah
	Ruth
	Ruth 2
	Mary Magdalene
12	Certificate template

# 1. He came to make a difference!

**Objective of session;**  
**To assist members to realise that we are talking here about change.**  
**By reflecting on their own lives, as we show them in the gospel readings and in the shared discussions, they can identify and record the changes that have occurred in their lives. What the students have recorded can form the basis of their testimonies.**

**Have several class members read this in sequence:-**

Acts 22 1-29 Paul's testimony and conversion- Then:-

Discussion: ( between Dawn and I and Interpreter and I other seminar member - (interchange seminar members for each session.))

• Give an example from own life(s) of personal need for conversion

• Give an example of attitude towards Christians

• Give an example of personal life attributes before conversion

• (study, achievements, etc)

• Give an example of conversion experience

• Discuss and reflect what happened on the road to Paul

Murderer to evangelist, against to for

Life changing experience – 180d turnaround!

No longer a murderer!

**Now have students read:-**

2 Cor 12, 1-10 Paul's experiences

Discussion:

Give an example of a personal special (supernatural) experience you have had

Reflect on why Paul did not attribute the experience to himself

• He and the experience were not the focus

• If this is agreed, what is the focus then? (Jesus)

Reflect on personal thorns in the flesh you mite be challenged with – our tests – consider the effects of them being lifelong

Focussed on provision of Grace – His help, dependence, Humility

**Student's prepare their testimonies on paper for sharing later**

(Spiritual experience; thorns and sufferings)

**Memory verse: 2 Cor 12,9**

“..My Grace is all you need, for My power is strongest when you are weak..”

## 2. The Holy Spirit was present at the very beginning of the universe

**Objective of session;**  
 To assist members to realise that we are talking here about involvement. By reflecting on the original presence of the holy Spirit at creation and His speaking to God's people through one person (a Prophet) they can identify and record the role of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. and changes that have occurred in their lives.

Have several class members read this in sequence:-

Gen 1 The creation

Discussion :-

Describe and example of a thing today which hovers (- a bee, a helicopter)

Reflect on and consider the meaning of waters

List and share what uses water has in our lives

Share from the Bible some references to Jesus and water

Living waters.

John 4, 13-14 = (Baptism = Naham = Jonah = Exodus if time

allows)

Jphn 7:37-39

Consider how the Holy Spirit spoke through people in the old testament

Have several members in the class read these scriptures and from discussion,

draw from the class conclusions similar to the conclusion stated :-

- Gen 3 "God's promise about Jesus

Conclusion = He will come from a woman

- Gen "Abraham & Isaac and the lamb offering"

Conclusion = God will provide a lamb

- Isaiha 53 "An all embracing suffering servant"

Conclusion = He will suffer

Conclusion = For sin sickness and disease

- Psalm 20 " His sufferings described personally"

Conclusion = His suffering will be horrendous!

Student's practise hearing many voices, then one voice as they follow an obstacle course blindfolded.

Memory verse 1 John 4,13

"...God is Love, Whover lives in Love, Lives in God, and God in Him"

### 3. The same Holy Spirit was present at the Birth of Jesus and His Ministry

**Objective of session:**  
To explain, by reference to scripture, how Jesus was conceived, (in accordance with prophecy) and why He had to be the Son of God.

#### Jesus Conception

Have several class members read this in sequence:- Luke 1,26 – 38

Discussion:

- Have students in the group each describe and name who their father and mother are.
- (Use a family tree, showing the Townsend Family and getting students to draw a tree of their family).
- Ask the students to identify Jesus father and mother and write the correct answer on a drawing.
- From Genesis 3, and using questions and answers, draw out the following issues:
  - Satan ruled the world
  - He rules all of mankind
  - Salvation needs to come from outside of this lineage, If not within the rule of Satan.
- Jesus father was the Holy Spirit!

#### Jesus Baptism

Have several class members read this in sequence :- Mark 1 6-15

Discussion:

- From a group discussion, bring out the following points:-
- John's role = a pointer, like a signpost
  - Discuss examples in India of signposts by having students draw a picture of a signpost
  - John heard God's audible voice – beforehand and after
  - The Holy Spirit => Dove descending
  - (Have the students explain where else in the Bible do we learn of the role of a dove ? (Noahs Ark = end of the flood))

### Jesus Testing

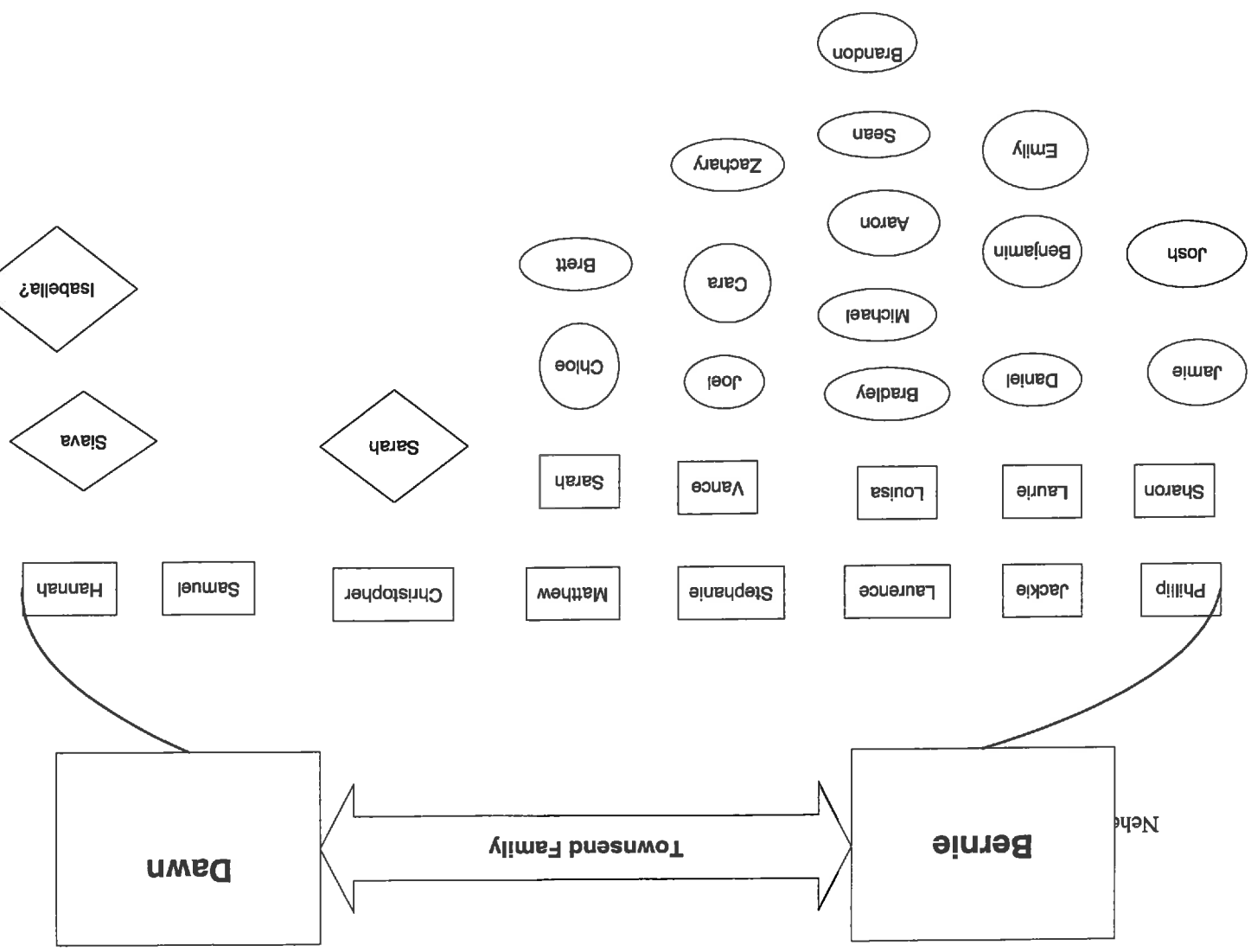
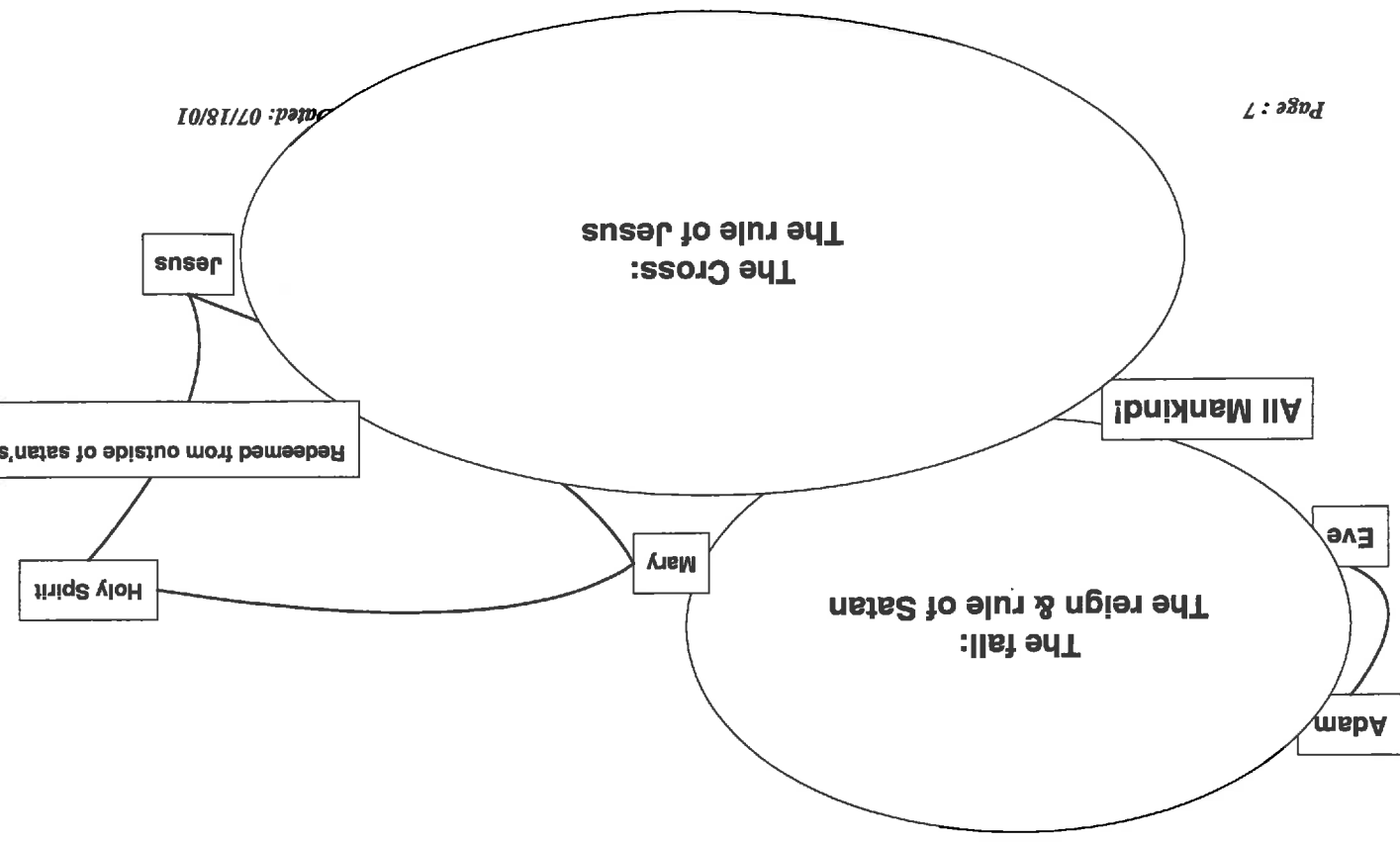
Have several class members read this in sequence :- Luke 4, 1-15

#### Discussion

From a group discussion, bring out the following points:-

- The Holy Spirit lead Jesus out
- A desert experience is necessary in our walk
- The use of scripture to fight the devil - never departs from us
- The ministering angels – always present
- The power demonstrated - the difference noticed by people

Student's practise having one person lead them through an obstacle course blindfolded. Discuss the difference between many voices, one voice, (as in session 2) and a helping hand from the viewpoint of the blind person being lead.



### Church

## 4. The Holy Spirit was present at the birth of the

**Objective of session:-**  
 Through examination of scripture, to help students become aware of the assistance which was promised and is now available to members of the Church in their journey of faith.

Have several members in the class read these scriptures and from discussion, draw from the class conclusions similar to the conclusion stated :-

- Joel 2,28                      The promise to the church of the spirit
- Luke 24,49                 The promise of the Spirit restated
- Acts 1,8                      The promise of the spirit restated, again- Jesus had to die
- Acts 2, 1-16                The coming of the age of the Holy Spirit
- Acts 10, 44-48             The Gentiles are included!
- Acts 19, 1-7                Water and H.S. baptism in Ephesus

### Discussion in a group:

Our personal experiences as a family – Dawn & I  
 Something different in our lives  
 Something real for us  
 The cost to us of the anointing - separation & loneliness

Students practise having trust in other people as they fall and let go!.

### Discuss:

- Is it hard to trust other people completely ?
- Its not always easy knowing whom to trust, is it?
- What about the Holy Spirit?
- What kind of person is He?
- Can He really be trusted to understand and help you?
- How do you know this?

### Testimonies from students

## 5. The climbing of Mt. Zion -

**Objective of interactive session;**  
**To have students participate in the history of salvation from the Fall through the promises to the victory!**

### Summary:

**Fulfillment of the Promises - Jesus on the cross**  
 We are now \*:-

- Redeemed – Col 1:13-14
- Forgiven - Col
- Justified - Roms 8:30; 33.
- Made Righteous – 1Corr 1,30
- No condemnation. –Roms 8:1

### The session.

Arrange for groups of four students in a team.

Have the teams move up the camps, by answering

Ensure that students know that whenever anyone accepts Jesus as Lord, they can immediately advance to the summit of the mountain. The trekking has been completed, the flight has begun.!

### Preparation for the interactive case study :

Arrange for the establishment camps around the room or around the building .  
 All students who have been of assistance during the sessions to date would receive a card advancing them to Base Camp to participate in the questions; in advanced groups, one member could be "crippled or blindfolded" to provide for team assistance (the sherpas).  
 Have the pastor test the questions at each camp and allow the advancement of each group. Explain that this is the pastor's role, the church's role is to walk and to carry, and to prepare.  
 "Sins of the world" will be adhered to the male and female persons by each member of the team. Use a computer sticky label.  
 After reciting the words on the Cross, peel the "sins of the world" off each stick person and burn them. Showing how sin is dealt with through the cross, and that sin is dealt with, not the person.  
 We suggest that summit is rewarded with a celebration for the students of sorts.  
 At the conclusion; have the students write up a card for each of the victories (mentioned above\* ) from the Cross and place it on the wall around the classroom.

The Journey up the mountain!

Nehemia Church

**Base Camp:**  
Discuss the effects of the sill of Adam

Genesis 3:14-19

Broke with God  
Sickness and disease  
Broke with one another  
Broke with the land

**Camp One:**  
Discuss the treatment of sin and disease in O.T.

Gen 3,21,  
Lev 1; 10-13,14-17  
6:1-7  
Deut 5;1-21

Clothed by God =  
• Goat and Chicken offerings!  
• Descn of Sins

**Camp Two:**  
Examine the prophecies in the O.T about Jesus and the Cross

Psalms 22  
Genesis 3  
IS 53  
Gen 22, 1-14

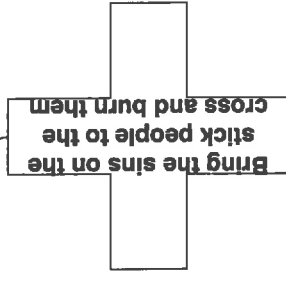
A Man offspring of a woman  
Abraham & Isaac  
Isaiah = suffering servant  
Psalms = Thorts from a cross

**Camp Three:**  
Enter on the "stick people" one of mankind's persistent sins.

Deut.5; 1-21  
John 13 34-35



**Camp Four:**  
List the seven words Jesus spoke on the Cross.



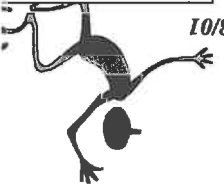
**The summit!**

Redeemed  
Forgiven  
Justified  
Made righteous  
No Condemnation



d: 07/18/01

Luke 15; 11-32  
The Lost Son



## 6. Personal gifts of the Spirit

**Session Objectives:**  
 To provide students with details of the spiritual gifts, from scripture, from our experience and from their own experiences.  
 To establish a desire in students to seek the gifts and to use them.

Have several members in the class read these scriptures:-  
 1 Cor 12 1-30

Write up a card for each Spiritual gift and place it on the wall around the classroom.

### Personal Gifts

Tongues - means of communicating with God  
 Mark 16:17 1 Cor 14,2

Personal story

Interpretation – so Church may be uplifted when a message is given in tongues

(Dawn & I)

Prophecy – NT To uplift and encourage

1 Cor 14:3

(The gifts in the people in Nepal)

### Gifts of Words of Revelation

Wisdom - a word to attest to the revealing power of God – from Scripture – uplifts  
 Matt 4:1

(In prison – the mind games)

Knowledge – a word of understanding or empathy - between God and Man – uplifts

John 4:18 The woman at the well

(In prison – the breakout)

Discerning of Spirits – ability to see motivating forces – from God's perspective

Luke 9: 37-43

(In India)

### Gifts of Power

Faith – belief in the impossible and the improbable

Luke 17:6 Faith to move a mustard seed

(Our walk – a testimony)

Healing – gifts to the people

(Acts 28:1-7 Bought others)

(Be opened – testimonies in India and Nepal)

Miracles –

Acts 5:12-16

Have students place a personal example on any of the cards.

Give students an opportunity of praying for spiritual gifts.

## 7. Fruits of the Spirit

Objective of session  
To explain the cost of the anointing. The hard evidence. The fruits must be sought and received as much as the gifts, cannot have one without the other.

Have several members in the class read these scriptures:-  
Galatians 5:22-23

Have the students write up a card for each Spiritual fruit and place it on the wall around the classroom.

Love	Joy
Peace	Patience
Kindness	Goodness
Faithfulness	Humility
Self-control	

- &/OR -

Have several members in the class read these scriptures:-  
1 Cor 13:4-8

Love is:-	Kind
Patient	Not Conceited
Not jealous	Not ill-mannered
Not proud	Not irritable
Not selfish	Not keep a record of wrongs
Not happy with evil	Happy with the truth
Never give sup	Faith, hope and patience never fail
Eternal	

Have the students write up a card for each Spiritual fruit and place it on the wall around the classroom.

Have them write their name on the card which gives them the most difficulty, all students pray for one another for an inflowing of the Holy Spirit into that area of their lives.

- 9. The History of Redemption**
  - An aerial overview
  - A play presentation

**8. Wrap up session:**

Discuss what the students have learnt.

Schedule Thesis interviews where students are available.

Resolve with the students to uplift one another in prayer, to change, to make a difference, with power.

Joint prayer

Act 1

Man and God a relationship

Scene 1

The Fall of Man and its effects

A person in the Garden, walking with her mate and with God, amongst the flowers and the trees and the animals.

- Props:
- Flowers, 2 trees (life & Good/evil), fig leaves.
  - (NB One of the trees will be later used for the Cross - one to hide behind
  - Pillow, weeds, spade or garden tool
  - Cover to put over the good part of the garden
  - Animals - Sheep (with covers (skins)), Chickens, birds, Knife (for killing & skinning)
  - Altar
  - Torch with a light = God (later extinguished)
  - Ram in a thicket
  - 2 people & God

Read Gen 2 8-9

Read gen 2 15-17

Read Gen 3: 6 -7

Enact the story after it is read:-

Apple eating, apple sharing, clothed = fig leaves

"My will be done, not yours: Oh God"

Read Gen 3: 8-10

Enact the story as read,

God walking in the garden

Man/woman hiding behind the bush

Emphasize the separation which occurred between man and woman as

they blame done another

Read Gen 3: 16-19

Enact the story as read:-

Trouble in pregnancy, pain at birth

Ground cursed

Weeds and thorns (weeds appear)  
Work hard to produce (use the garden tool)  
Return to the soil from whence you came

Scene 2  
Sin Offerings for man to restore the relationship

Read Gen 3,21

Still in the garden scene

Enact the story as read

View of an animal being killed,

Cover the person's body (Adam & Eve) with the skins

Cover half of the garden with a sheet = garden = closed

Extinguish the light = No presence of God

Read Gen 4, 3-6

Still in the garden scene - but outside -around the perimeter

Enact the story,

Cain's plant offering not acceptable to God

Abel's animal offering = pleasing to God

(Use the light to signify pleasure)

Read Gen 22 6-14

Still outside the garden scene

Enact the story

Abraham & Isaac walking up the mountain - fire & sticks

Abraham tying up Issac on the altar for sacrifice

The angel stopping him from killing his son with a knife

The ram in the bushes

Place on the animal a list of sins from Deuteronomy 5, 1-21

The animal offered as a sacrifice - son set free

"On the lord's mountain, He provides"

**Act 2**  
Insight to God's plan for restoring relationships with Man

**Scene 1**  
What God says in the bible about restoring relationships

Read Gen 3:15  
Still outside the garden scene  
Enact the story

Bring out that restoration will be from the offspring of a woman  
Also, if possible, enmity between Satan and the Restorer

**Scene 2**  
What God says through a prophet - the suffering servant

Read Is 53

Return to the garden scene; the tree in the garden bare, cross-like now,  
reverse view of the cross

Let the readings speak for themselves, with the naked cross in the center of  
the garden

Place on the cross emblems representing:  
Suffering and disease

Sins

Punishment

**Scene 3**  
What Jesus was thinking to himself on the cross

Read Read Ps 22

Let the readings speak for themselves, with the naked cross in the center of  
the garden - still a reverse view. Place on the cross the following props:-:  
Crown of Thorns, Nails, Cloak

Scene 4  
Jesus spending time in the Garden

Read Luke 22: 39-44  
Let the reading speak for themselves, with the naked cross in the center of the garden - turned around to full view:  
Props = Cross, Crown of Thorns, Nails, Cloak  
"Not My will; but yours be done"

Scene 5  
Jesus on the Cross

Enact the story as follows:-  
Place the sins of mankind at the foot of the cross (from Deut 5: 1-21)  
(Use audience participation here)  
Enunciate the seven words on the Cross  
- Fr Forgive them  
- This day you will be with Me in Paradise  
- He is your son; she is your mother  
- I Thirst  
- My God, My God why have You abandoned Me  
- Father, in your hands I place my Spirit  
- It is finished  
- Burn the sins and sufferings and afflictions

Act 3

Man and God restored!!

Scene 1

Eating together!

Read John 21, 14-15  
13

Return to the garden scene: the tree full of fruit and leaves now  
Enact the story

Man and God at table, sharing a meal  
Use the light as a fire

Cooking and eating bread and fish

Scene 2

Heaven and Earth and Man restored

Read Rev 2,7

Enact as you see fit

Those who win the victory = right to eat the fruit

~~Read Rev 2, 1-5~~

Read Rev 22, 1-5

Enact as you see fit = much fruit, many trees

Dwelling of God with them = original garden Incl Light)

Scene 2

Mankind restored!

Read Luke 15, 20-24 (What the Kingdom of Heaven is like)  
Enact the story

God = running to the lost and kissing Him

Lost = Robe = covers dirt (sin)

Shoes = free to go wherever

Ring = power to authorize in His name

Calf = No longer sacrifice = celebration!

10. Short session Topics:-

**A. Namaan - 2 Kings 5**

- Jewish girl - maidservant
- believed
- Spoke up
- No recognition of Namaan
- No ceremony
- Treated him ordinary
- high & mighty
- indignant at his treatment
- Not what he expected
- Knew of other Gods + one true God
- Conflicte = other gods of worship
- Advised action
- Words of compassion
- Right time and place
- Baptism (John 7: 37-39)
- death - life
- Gift of life = free
- Money-hungry
- Gehazi
- deception
- took matters into his own hands
- Leprosy - descendants

**B. Zachaeus - Luke 19, 1-10**

- Creator God
- Sycamore tree
- Seed planted
- Grown and watered
- Protected by angels - trampled camels, humans, dogs
- That day when Zachaeus would come by.
- He had to climb
- In his suit and with his bag
- He chose Jesus:
- (Power, authority, knowledge, acceptance, pleasure, Financial security, Material pleasures - what do you have to give up?)
- Jesus looked up
- "I must stay in your house, today"
- Repentance
- "Look Him in the face today, he wants to come - will you respond?"

**C. The Forgiving Father - Luke 15 11-32**  
The father = longing, waiting, running, embracing  
The robe of righteousness – covering sin and dirt  
The slippers = freeman – to travel  
The ring – the authority to assign

**D. Thy Kingdom Come!**  
Gen 2

God walking in the cool of the evening, heaven and earth together.  
Adam = My Will not yours; Jesus = Gethsamene = Your will, not mine  
Adam took up the tree of knowledge  
Jesus took up the tree of the cross  
Adam removed from the garden; heaven/earth separated  
John 18,36  
He came to establish a Kingdom  
Not of this world  
John 21 7-14  
God and Man at table sitting down!  
Rev 2

2,1 Jesus walking amongst the lampstands  
He has returned, re-established the relationship (NB not service)  
2,7 Overcome; return to first love – fellowship (Eg. Human love); the tree  
of life, in the garden of God  
Rev 22, 1-2  
Describes the tree of life in the new order (21 = the new order)



**11. Women's Ministries**

**'So Jesus answered her, "You are a woman of great faith! What you want will be done for you" (Matthew 15:28)**

**India**  
**August/September 2001**

**Presented by Dawn Townsend**



## Hannah's story

A story of faithfulness and encouragement for today's women

Introduce myself and give a brief story of who I am and where I come from  
New Zealand, eight children, 15 grandchildren

1. Have two people in the group read from the Bible:

First = 1 Samuel 1, 2-11  
Second = 1 Samuel 1, 12 - 21

2. Read with the interpreter, the following paraphrase of the story.  
Let me introduce you to a lady called Hannah who had a big problem. She lived  
in Israel many centuries ago and was married to a man called Elkanah (that  
was not her problem - he was a nice fellow)

Elkanah actually had two wives, which was quite common in those days, (that  
was not Hannah's problem either)

The other wife's name was Peninnah (but that is not the problem). Here comes  
the problem! Peninnah had some children, but Hannah did not. Hannah  
desperately wanted to have children of her own, but for some reason, she could  
not, and that made her very, very unhappy. Elkanah, her husband, was very  
kind and sympathetic to her, and he loved her dearly, but Peninnah, his other  
wife, laughed at her and made fun of her in front of her friends

Once every year, the problem for Hannah became even worse. When it was  
time for the family to pack up and go to the temple at Shiloh to worship God,  
Peninnah used to tease and mock Hannah even more about being barren and  
not having any children. She felt low, without any real use as a woman, and  
very unfulfilled. She thought that she might be cursed, or sinful in God's eyes.  
She felt unloved.

What did Hannah do about her problem?  
She cried and refused to eat, but that really did not help much.

Hannah became so upset that she left the meal table in tears and went to the temple to pray. She was talking to God and crying at the same time. She just told God how bad she felt and she asked God to help and to give her what she wanted so badly – a child.

She started to feel better when she prayed, and soon she stopped sobbing and continued to pray to her God silently, telling God all of her troubles and feelings. Hannah said to God, "Lord Almighty, look at me, your servant. See the trouble I am in and remember me. Do not forget me. If you give me a son, I promise that I will dedicate him to you for his whole life."

An old priest called Eli was nearby, watching her. He thought that she was drunk and he became cross with her being in the Temple, God's house. When she explained that she was really praying and telling God all of her troubles, Eli said to her, "go in peace, and may the God of Israel give you what you have asked him for".

Guess what happened later that year!! Yes, Hannah gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel. No longer could Peninnah tease her and upset her. God had solved her problem.

Her prayer was answered. God gave her exactly what she had asked Him for. In fact He had given her much more than she had asked, because God had important plans for this baby boy. He was to become a very important person in leading the people of Israel for many years.

Hannah did keep her promise. When Samuel was three or four years old, she took him to the temple at Shiloh and spoke to Eli the priest. She said, "Excuse me, dir, do you remember me? I am the woman you saw standing here praying to the Lord. I asked him for this child and He gave me what I asked for. So I am dedicating him to the service of the Lord. As long as he lives, he will belong to the Lord. Hannah was doing what God wanted her to do and she knew that God would take good care of her Samuel. She prayed a really joyful prayer of thanks to God.

Read the first two verses of 1 Samuel Chapter 2

Samuel was well cared for by Eli and he helped Eli in looking after the temple. Each year his mother Hannah came to visit him and she bought him new clothes to wear.

Was Hannah lonely and sad at home? Not for long

Read 1 Samuel 2,21

: Move members into groups of three  
 : Distribute paper teardrops and pens  
 : Have members write their names on a teardrop  
 : Have them write an example of prayer answered in their own life,  
 or a longing they  
 want answered ( draw a picture)  
 : Have them describe the picture to one another, stand up and  
 describe one.

Dawn to give a testimony from her own life of God's faithfulness and answer to prayer.

Early childhood. Not wanted at the start, no room in my grandmothers home as I had an older brother and sister. We shifted out to our own home, but my mother had to go to work, so I had to go back to my grandmothers home during the day, and would play up and run away when there were fights, and then my other grandmother come to stay at our house to look after me. She used to lock me in the cellar of the house, so I would climb a way up further and would not come out for her, made some friends with the darkness, I did not know how else to show my emotions.

I was a very independent child, so I would go to places – swimming baths, school, at all times of the day and have to catch the train home and then walk about 2 kilometers from the station. One night I was molested on the train as an eight year old. My parents ended shifting into town where I could get from one place to another quite easily and safer, only a minute walk of the tram

I seemed to annoy my mother very easily, and would get lots of hidings from her, some times she would take to me with a broom and I would end up with lots of bruises on my legs and body.

I was the third child of eight of us. My father use to work very hard in a moulding shop, where they use to melt down steel in very hot furnaces ans was very hot at the end of the day, and he use to go drinking in the pub, and in those days he only had 1 hour to drink, so he use to have a lot and it affected his judgements, and when he came home I would somehow do something to upset him, and then he would hit me and of course I would scream, and he would hit me again, and I would scream louder, and it would go on, until my mother would interfere. I never gave in to him, sometimes my face was so sore, but his ears must have rung with my piercing screams.

I needed to be healed from these things, which Jesus took me thru.

## The book of Ruth

A story of non Jewish girl condemned by the law, is bought under the wings of the Lord of Israel. It is an historical story, but it is also prophetic. I want to relate it to you, and tease out the prophetic aspects of the story for you the women of India.

**Introduction**  
 The book of Ruth is one of the only two books in the Bible which bear the names of women. They are Ruth and Esther, they both have different stories to tell. Ruth is a young non-jewish girl who is brought to live among the Jews and marries a Jewish husband in the line of King David. Esther is a young Jewish woman who is brought to live among the gentiles (non-jews) and marries a gentle husband on the throne of a great empire.

The stories have relevance in India for us women today. Through these women's stories, the Holy Spirit will talk to us today about being a Non-Christian and marrying a Christian (Ruth) and also about being a Christian and marrying a non-Christian (Esther). Just about covers all of our circumstances.

The story starts with a famine in the land, and the family goes down into Moab or Egypt where there was plenty, to escape the famine. Elimelech, Naomi's husband died, and she was left with her two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. Both sons married Moabite women, one was named Orpah and the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years. Then both of Naomi's sons died and Naomi stirred by news from home went on the way to return to the land of Judah. And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go return each to her mother's house. The Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me."

### Read Ruth 1 9-18

Naomi returns from Egypt, bringing Ruth with her. They returned emptied in spirit and destitute and widowed. They are introduced to Boaz, a Jewish man, a relative of Naomi. She goes into the fields of Boaz to pick up the corn husks left over by the harvesters. She stepped into the field of one who was to be help her give her hope give her life, in other words redeem her.

This was no act of chance for, "that Moabite widow who came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab." She received sustenance and feeding, parched corn and she was thankful. No grief of loss or rejection in a strange land, even though the Law forbade that she a Moabite enter into the Jewish congregation. In obedience to the word of Naomi, she went to the threshing floor!

We take up the story of Ruth in chapter 3: 9-18  
Would someone like to read this for us

Consider Naomi's advice to Ruth "Sit still"  
We have just read that in verse 13, Boaz has given his promise that he would take the part of her "kinsman redeemer." Her relative who would bring her out of slavery.

Verse 25 'Boaz gave Ruth a token of his promise;' six measures of Barley. She then goes home to wait

To anyone who would look on her from the outside, nothing had changed.  
Her status had not altered  
She is still Ruth the Moabite  
Still poverty stricken

Is not this the same with us, when we give ourselves to Jesus? Outwards appearances still the same, appearances like clothes, family, name, status?

But Ruth now is in possession of a promise and she has the token of that promise in her hands. The barley, She has now to wait for the Redeemer to do his part.

Not an easy place to be. She has to sit still and wait. A little bit like we women do when we become pregnant. When we know that we are pregnant, our status does not alter at the start, our name is the same, our money does not change.  
We sit and wait for the fulfillment of the new life in our care.

So it is with Salvation in Jesus. Many times in this process with Jesus we bring worry or concern or a need to His attention in prayer. There is that assurance from His Word – that he hears and is committed answering us. Then we sit still and wait as He works it through our experience.

We must learn that:

- The Holy Spirit is not motivated by some undue sense of urgency
- He does not have to dash about busily to prove himself to us
- There is no burst of frantic activity before we change our minds!

In verse 13 Boaz said to Ruth "lie down until the morning." "Wait until day breaks."

- Ruth had to endure a period of darkness before she saw the evidence of his working

**Now for everybody:**

Write on your teardrop one time in your life where you have not waited on the Lord. Where you have not trusted Him. Where you never received an answer

Confess that area in your life to Him now, say that you are sorry for doubting Him

Now let us all wait together for Him to come and sustain us

Lay hands on them

Just the other week, Samuel our 7<sup>th</sup> child was going to take a big boat out to sea. At the time the winds were very high and the sea was very rough, and I didn't like the idea of it, but Sam is 21 and does what He wants to do, thinks we are being over protected parents. So the only thing that we could do was pray. He didn't go that night, or the next, but the sea seemed to be quieter and we didn't worry any more, or pray. We awoke about 4 o'clock in the morning and didn't think to pray about anything, and just wanted to go back to sleep. What we found out the next morning that the ship started to take in water, at 4 o'clock and by 6 o'clock the helicopter had to come in and rescue them.

God gives us two things that are assurances for us to hold onto in our waiting:

- His Son, the Word of God made flesh
- His spirit, the token or proof of His promises. Dawn to give a testimony form a period in her life, waiting for a promise to be fulfilled

- His Word, "I will do it"
- "Six measures of Barley"

Boaz gives Ruth two things that are assurances to hold her during this time of waiting:

- Maybe God has not heard
  - Maybe He does not want to do anything about it
  - Perhaps its not His will
  - Perhaps I do not deserve an answer, after all I am a sinful person
  - Perhaps I do not have enough faith
  - Perhaps I should start acting now, and force Him into responding
- Waiting is not easy!
- How often our experience parallels that of Ruth. We come to Jesus presence, we lay a matter before Him, in faith, relying on His word, and nothing seems to happen.
- Before long, a rash of possible explanations or doubts tempt you:

**RUTH PART 2**

Get a member of the group to read Ruth ch 4: 9-22

I have bought all....

Have you ever thought about what marriage is all about?

You leave your parents and your family, even your name, and become one with your husband.

Have you ever thought about what raising children is all about?

The child first invades your body, then your emotions and your possessions. Every aspect of your life is spent in the demands and needs of your children

Have you ever thought what following Jesus is all about?

Like marriage and having children, following Jesus is meant to touch every aspect of our lives.

In the bible story that we have just read, Boaz bought both Ruth and the Land. What Jesus did for us on the Cross and what happens when we accept Him as our personal saviour is a total concept, it affects both what we are and what we have.

As to our persons, Jesus first takes up our spirits, then His presence is expressed in our souls, and finally He lays hold of our bodies.

As to our possessions, Jesus lays claim on our substance, time, talents, opportunities, and spiritual gifts.

There is nothing that we have, now or in the future, on earth or in heaven, that we did not receive. From Him.

By creation and through redemption, all that we have and all that we are, totally belongs now to the redeemer. (Its no longer I that Liveth.... You are a new creation!)

Let us read the words of Paul in the new testament (1 Cor 6:19-20) "You are not your own, you are bought with a price therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are Gods".

There is another very vital side to this transaction – one which we often fail to see. While my person and property become my Redeemers; His person and His property becomes mine; not as independent from Him, but as one with him. A lesser example is marriage, while you both give your all to each other, and all your possessions, you can move around, accept challenges overcome crises in the world around you with full use of both of your resources. You can be good in one area, while your partner is weak in that area.

#### Give examples:- Money Children Sam

Through redemption that is in Jesus all that I am and have becomes His and all that He has becomes mine, even the power to raise people back from the dead, to find money in fishes mouths, to walk on water, to calm the storm, to heal the sick, give sight to the blind. We are joining heirs with Jesus. We are joined to the Lord.

In the Bible story, Boaz resources became Ruths, because she bore his name, she was in union with him.

In Matthew 1, Jesus genealogy, four women are mentioned – most unusual

Verse 3 = Tamar

Verse 5 = Rehab

Verse 5 = Ruth

Verse 6 = Bethsheba, the wife of Uriah.

I would like you to note something:

Tamar – pretended to be, and played the role of, a prostitute  
 Rahab – Was a prostitute in Jericho  
 Ruth – came from a nation of prostitutes (Numbers 25,1)  
 Bathsheba – prostituted herself in front of David.

The point is that in spite of obvious weaknesses, from which we would probably discount them from any place of significance in God's eyes, He lays hold of their lives. In His grace, he takes these women and makes each a bride and a wife and a mother whose offspring stand in the lineage of His Son. Who alone is the Saviour of the world. In God's plan, sick and sinful man and women can only be saved by Jesus a man without sin.

The failures of the past come under His redeeming touch.  
 The old truly does pass away and the "New" flows from His creative touch. It does not matter how chequered – weak – sinful of even sick your past has been, or is now. The world and the devil will count you out, of no use, too sinful, past the point of no return.

Men and Women will discount you and dismiss you from ever being a force for God.

But, God will not abandon you. If you will allow Him, he will work redemption to its fullest extent in you and then you will 'bring forth' in the purposes of God. Something of His purposes will come to birth in you. You will become a channel of His redeeming purposes for others on this earth.

Ruth became part of the Messiah's line. She had been a Moabite, a barren wife, a widow. She stood in need of redemption, of healing and restoration. She allows that to work in her, she then becomes a channel of Jesus to flow to others. There are many other Ruths still in their Moabs. We live with them, work with them. Play with them. Even study beside them.

We must ask Jesus and His Holy Spirit to make us productive in extending His kingdom purposes – to make us a channel to others of the love and life which he has given to us.

Ruth became the Great grandmother of David, who did more to establish the kingdom than nearly all before him.

Who is to say that we might not be potential mothers/fathers to a David, that someone we influence (or we ourselves) do much to extend the Kingdom in this day and age and nation.

Using you teardrop.  
Write down a prayer request that you have for a child or grandchild of anybody else. It could be that this talk has stirred you into seeking forgiveness or healing or deliverance for your own life.  
Now let us pray jointly for them

Pebble in water – ripple effect  
Yeast in bread  
Food colouring  
The snake dance – all joining each other and the leader takes us one way.

1. Have a member read Matt 14 1-9
2. Imagine for a moment, that we have all been invited to a party.
3. Describe for me what a party or celebration is like in India
4. Dawn to tell them about a party in NZ What we have parties for and what we do at them
5. House in a small village town called Bethany. It is a time of tremendous celebration. Our host is Simon, once a leper, now made clean by the healing power of Jesus from Nazareth. Also present, is Lazarus, recently risen from the dead by Jesus. Lazarus's two sisters, Martha and Mary, are there, as too are the disciples of Jesus, who are enthusiastic and ready to celebrate and enjoy the feasting.
6. The guest of honour – well it is Jesus Himself, The one who made it all possible. For a brief time He is here enjoying the comfort and encouragement of close friends, who love Him because he has so generously loved them.
7. Our attention at the party now turns on Mary. Who a week previously had mourned the death of her brother Lazarus. She has a large stone jar in her hand, she breaks off the narrow neck of the jar, and uses the entire contents to anoint Jesus head and his feet. She empties the entire contents of the jar. He smells like He has been betrothed to marry as this type of perfume was often used as a pre wedding gift, a dowery in that part of the world at that time. The jar and its contents would have cost about a year's wages.
8. The guest's reactions were varied. Some expressed loving appreciation, some were in awe, others affirmed and encouraged Mary, clapping in agreement, yet others turned away and began talking in disapproving terms. Judas was the main opponent, he considered it a careless act "what a waste" he said.
9. Jesus, who had thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the act of tender love, is filled with grief at the opposition to Mary. He speaks out in verse 6-9.

**MARY MAGDALENE;**  
**“BROKEN OPEN AND Poured OUT”**

10. This is one of the tenderest moments of history, Jesus is anointed for His death and burial, in advance, The moment is spoiled by the harshness of criticism and judgment, as Judas goes off to betray Jesus and sell His life to the Jewish leaders.

11. We need to pause for a moment and consider how we would have reacted in the same circumstances. Would we have seen the waste of scarce resources? Or would we have seen the giving and receiving the perfume as a gesture of love?

12. How prepared are we to break open the most precious things we have, even life itself with all its secrets and plans, joys and fears, and pour out all that we have and are in grateful response to Jesus, no matter who is looking on or what they might say to and about us. In Mary we see complete love, abandoned compassion. “! Don't know how to Love HIM”

13. The followers of Christ, are ones who love, and laugh, and give themselves to Jesus freely and continuously. They know His word and they are quick to obey. Jesus says to them “You will have plenty of opportunities to serve me without excuses or delays, by serving those who are spiritually and physically poor.”

14. Our God is for us – not against us. Our greatest need is to catch a vision of His dream for us. Not to be limited by what we can and do achieve, or what the world will allow us to achieve. Mary's gift of love can remind us of the opportunities to reach out to others that we have been given and not used. Of the gifts and power which He has given us and sadly, also which we have not used. Sometimes our lives can be a story of lost chances. We have not been prepared or able to pour out the oil of His anointing on other lives around us. Other lives created by Him, with a plan to be with Him in eternity with Him forever. Other lives created by Him, to be made clean, to be made whole, to be healed and freed, from our jar of perfume and oil.

15. Sin is anything which blocks that love of God flowing through us to others – the way we react, the fights with others that we are still carrying on, the busy-ness, the fear and judgments we have of others, Anything that prevents us from reaching out and pouring His anointing on their lives.

16. How do we interpret Mary's love for Jesus? A beautification project in and around a church building or breaking our stone jars of perfume and oils (our most precious possessions) for others inside and outside the body of Christ? Mary saw the shortness of time and length of eternity, “you only live once” rule of the world transformed by her into “We are alive for eternity!”

17. The painful truth is: there is both response and reserve in our beings when it comes to Jesus. There is need to break off the top of stone jars and let the perfume ointment of ourselves flow out in unreserved praise and worship. We need to know that we do have a stone jar, that our lives are in fact stone jars, and that they contain perfumed ointment for the lost, sick and needy.

18. Enter here some worthy scriptures:
- You are made in His image and likeness
  - You are beautiful and wonderfully made
  - His masterpiece
  - The apple of His eye
  - Temple's of the Holy Spirit
  - The Father and the Son live in you
  - They have made their home in you
  - Greater is He that is in You, than he that is in the world
  - Conquerors, victorious, the head, not the tail!..

- 19 Love involves action, not just words – in our lives, others lives, in our society
- 20 Sense for a moment how you would feel if you were completely open to Jesus strategy for your life, Picture yourself fill with His love and freedom. Get the picture?
- 21 What would you do today if you were to love lavishly? In your family – spouse, children, parents, other family members, your church, your work, your neighbourhood.

Take out your teardrop and write an action which you can do in response to this call to love lavishly.

Group participation:  
Get the members to call out one at a time their resolution  
Ask the group "Will you support me?" The group to respond "I will!"  
Communal prayer!!

**This is to certify**

That: \_\_\_\_\_

Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Participated in a workshop on God's Holy Spirit in India - a Bible Study with a prophetic edge.

Presented in August/September 2001

Dawn Townsend

Bernie Townsend

Wellington  
New Zealand

