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CO - LIT PROGRAMMES

FOR BAPTIST WOMEN

FIRST QUARTER

1978

Jan - Feb - Mar -

THEME: MISSIONARY MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

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Unit: Missionary Message of the Bible

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PROGRAMME ONE

THEME FOR THE QUARTER: MISSIONARY MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

Theme for Today: GOD'S PLAN

Scripture for a Devotional: Ephesians 3:1-13

or

Memory Verse:

"But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

PROGRAMME LEADER:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
(Genesis 1:1) The first verse of the Bible answers an important question that all people ask. All people ask, "Who did this?" The Bible says, "God did this." The Bible says that God created the heavens and the earth. The remaining part of the Bible tells why God created the world.

God has a purpose in everything that He does. You can learn what His purpose is for all people and for yourself by studying the Bible.

PART ONE: The Need for a Plan

The first eleven chapters of the book of Genesis tell about the creation of the world and man. God created man to have fellowship with God. When man sinned and broke fellowship with God, God began a plan that would allow man to come back to God. The Bible tells us how God has revealed His plan to man. In the

days of the Old Testament God revealed His plan through the prophets and other holy people. In the New Testament God revealed His plan through His Son, Jesus Christ.

PART TWO: The Plan Revealed

When Jesus came into the world to live as a man, He fully revealed God's plan to man. God's plan for man has always been good. When Jesus came and died on the cross for man's sin, He showed how great His love for man is. "But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

PART THREE: The Plan Shared

When Jesus died on the cross, arose from the grave, and ascended to heaven, everything that was necessary for man to have fellowship with God again had been accomplished. All of the work of salvation for man was finished. Man could now respond to God in faith and receive salvation. All men could now come to God.

God did not plan for a person only to accept Christ as Saviour. It is also a part of His plan that those who believe in Jesus as Saviour should share His plan of salvation with all people.

PROGRAMME LEADER:

The Bible tells us that God has a plan for man. The plan is that man might live in fellowship with Him through His Son Jesus Christ who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by Me" (John 14:6).

PROGRAMME TWO

THEME FOR THE QUARTER: MISSIONARY MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

Theme for Today: GOD CHOOSES ABRAHAM

Scripture for a Devotional: Acts 7:2-8

or

Memory Verse:

"And he believed the Lord; and he reckoned it to Him as righteousness."

Genesis 15:6

PROGRAMME LEADER:

The first eleven chapters of Genesis tell us that man became very evil after sin came into the world. At one time only one righteous man lived on the earth. This man was Noah. God destroyed all of the earth except for Noah, his family and the animals in the ark; but after the flood Noah's family began to live in sin.

God knew that there was only one way for sin to be conquered so that man could live in fellowship with God again.

PART ONE: The Promise to Abraham

God began His plan by choosing a man named Abraham. Abraham was not chosen because God loved him more than the other people in the world. Abraham was not chosen because he was a righteous man like Noah. The Bible does not tell us why God chose Abraham. God told Abraham to do something and God made a promise to Abraham. Abraham believed God. God was able to use Abraham in His plan

because Abraham believed God.

Genesis 12:1-3 tells what God said to Abraham. God told Abraham to leave his own country and to go to a land that God would lead him to. God said, "If you will do this, I will make you the father of a great nation. I will bless you and make you a blessing to all of the peoples of the world."

PART TWO: The Promise to Isaac

God tested Abraham's obedience when He commanded him to sacrifice his only son. When Abraham sought to obey God, God provided another sacrifice. In Hebrews 11:19 the scripture says that Abraham trusted God so much that he believed if Isaac died, God would bring him back to life again.

Abraham taught Isaac what God had revealed to him. After the time of the sacrifice God repeated the promise to Abraham. But when Isaac became a man, God Himself spoke to Isaac and repeated the promise to him. (Genesis 26:2-5).

PART THREE: The Promise to Jacob

Isaac had twin sons, Jacob and Esau. God chose Isaac's younger son, Jacob to be the one to continue the promise. Jacob's name means "cheater." Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for something to eat. Then Jacob cheated Esau out of his blessing. Jacob wanted the blessings of life, but he did not know the right way to get them. God was able to see something in Jacob that He could use.

As Jacob ran from his brother Esau, God spoke to Jacob in a dream. Jacob began to learn from God. First he learned that God

was not just the God of Isaac. He learned that God is the God of all people. God began making Jacob into a man that God could use. After many years Jacob's name was changed to Israel which means, "one who prevails with God" (Genesis 35:10).

PROGRAMME LEADER:

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were men of faith. They believed God and learned to be obedient to Him. The power to see the promise of God fulfilled depends upon obedience.

PROGRAMME THREE

THEME FOR THE QUARTER: MISSIONARY MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

Theme for Today: Moses Leads God's People

Scripture for a Devotional: Acts 7:17-34

or

Memory Verse:

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval."

Hebrews 11:1-2.

PROGRAMME LEADER:

During the years that the children of Israel lived in Egypt, the first part of God's promise to Abraham became true. The descendants of Abraham became so numerous that the pharaoh of Egypt became afraid of the children of Israel. But even under the harsh punishment of slavery the children of Israel continued to grow in number and strength. Then God chose a man named Moses to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land and to establish the nation.

PART ONE: Service Requires Obedience

Three months after the children of Israel left Egypt God spoke to them at Mount Sinai. First God spoke to Moses. In Exodus 19:5-6 God instructs Moses to tell the children of Israel that if they will obey God and keep His commandments, then they will be His own people chosen from all the nations of the earth and they will be a kingdom of priests to God, a holy nation. The children of Israel accepted

this agreement.

PART TWO: The Promise to the Nation

God spoke to the children of Israel from Mt. Sinai and gave them the Ten Commandments. But even hearing the voice of God was not enough to prevent the children of Israel from breaking the first commandment within three weeks.

God was very angry when the children of Israel made the golden calf and worshipped it. In Exodus 32:7-8 God does not call the children of Israel "His" people but calls them "your" people and "this" people. The children of Israel had disobeyed God. They could not disobey God and still be His people.

PART THREE: Israel Refuses to Believe the Promise of God

The story of the people of Israel is very sad. The nation of people failed to believe God many times. When God told the children of Israel to go into the Promised Land, they refused to go. God told them that He had given the land to them. All they must do was to go into the land, but the people refused to believe God.

In Numbers 14, Moses pleads with God for the people after they have turned against God and Moses. God answers the prayer of Moses to save the nation, but God refuses to allow any of the people who had sinned to enter the Promised Land. For forty years the people wandered in the desert until God had raised up a new generation that would believe Him.

PROGRAMME LEADER:

The children of Israel never understood what God wanted them to

become. The people knew that they worshipped the only true and living God. They failed to understand that God wanted all people to worship Him. They thought God was only for them. They never obeyed God enough to be used by Him to help the other peoples of the world learn to worship Him. They never became a kingdom of priests.

PROGRAMME FOUR

THEME FOR THE QUARTER: MISSIONARY MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

Theme for Today: OTHERS WHO FOLLOWED GOD

Scripture for a Devotional: Psalm 67

or

Memory Verse:

"Love the stranger therefore; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."

Deuteronomy 10:19

PROGRAMME LEADER:

The Old Testament tells about people who were not Israelites that learned to worship God. The children of Israel were told by God to love the stranger. Gentiles were allowed to become Jews if they believed in God. At different times in the story of God's people, people other than Jews became worshippers of God.

PART ONE: Some Chose God

Jethro was the father-in-law of Moses. He was a Midianite. Jethro built an altar and worshipped God. He believed that God was the true God. Moses invited Hobab, the son of Jethro, to travel with the other children of Israel and share in the blessing of God.

Numbers 22 tells about Balaam. He was not a Hebrew, but he was a prophet of God. When the children of Israel began the conquest of the Promised Land, they were helped by a woman named Rahab. She accepted Jehovah as her God and the Israelites accepted her and her family.

PART TWO: Ruth, the Moabitess

The story of Ruth shows that God wanted other people to have a part in His plan to bring all men back to Himself.

Ruth was a young woman who lived in the country of Moab. After the death of her husband, Ruth chose to go with Naomi, her mother-in-law, as she returned to her home country of Canaan. When Naomi told Ruth that Ruth should go back to her own country, Ruth answered, "Entreat me not to leave you or to return from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16).

Later Ruth married a relative of Naomi named Boaz. They were the great grandparents of King David. Ruth was an ancestor of Jesus, the Messiah.

PART THREE: Naaman, the Syrian

Naaman was the commander of the army of a powerful king in a country north of Israel. A young Israelite girl was sold as a slave to Naaman's wife. When the young girl learned that Naaman had leprosy, she told her master about the prophet Elisha in her country of Israel.

Naaman went to Israel and was healed by God's power. When he was healed he said, "Now I know that there is no other God in the whole world." Naaman promised that he would never worship idols or any other false god.

PROGRAMME LEADER

The book of Psalms is a collection of hymns that were sung in the worship of God. God's purpose of bringing man back to Himself was the theme of many psalms. Psalm 67 is about the call of the Jews to take God to all of the nations of the world. The Jewish people were never able to put the message of these hymns into practise in their lives. As a result the Old Testament contains only a few stories of other people who became worshippers of God. But in the lives of these people, God's purpose was being done.

PROGRAMME FIVE

THEME FOR THE QUARTER: MISSIONARY MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

Theme for Today: GOD'S PURPOSE REVEALED TO THE PROPHETS

Scripture for a Devotional: Isaiah 11:1-10

or

Memory Verse:

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the seas."

Habakkuk 2:14

PROGRAMME LEADER:

The prophets of the Old Testament spoke to the children of Israel about the sin in the lives of the people. The prophets called the people to repentance. Amos was a prophet that revealed God's justice and condemnation of the evil that was in the lives of the people of Israel.

Also the prophets in the messages to the people reminded them of the purpose God had when he chose them. Hosea reveals the love that God has for all of the people of the world. The writings of the prophets tell of the judgment of God that would come on the people of Israel because of their refusal to tell other people about the one true living God.

PART ONE: Isaiah

The prophecy of Isaiah tells about the coming Messiah and how the purpose of God will be fulfilled. The writings of Isaiah tell more about these events than any of the other prophets. Isaiah also

warns the people of Israel. God had revealed Himself more to the children of Israel than to other nations. Because of this, the people of Israel were under greater judgment from God than the other nations.

Isaiah reminded the people of God again that they were to be a witness to the world against idolatry and a light to the Gentiles. All of the prophets knew that Jehovah was the God of all nations. In Isaiah 66 Isaiah sees a vision of the time when all nations shall come to worship God.

PART TWO: Jonah:

God called Jonah to go preach to the city of Nineveh. When Jonah tried to run away from God, he learned that Jehovah is the God of all the world. Jonah was not happy when the people of Nineveh repented and began to worship God.

Jonah represents the children of Israel. The children of Israel are reminded of the purpose that God had for them. They were not pleased with God's plan. They did not want God to bless the other peoples of the world. They were bitter when their enemies repented and found favour with God.

PART THREE: Malachi

Malachi was the last of the prophets that God raised up to warn His chosen people. Malachi lived 400 years before Jesus was born. In the book of Malachi we are told that God's chosen people are once again a disappointment to Him. The children of Israel have not understood God's purpose in using them to lead the Gentiles to

believe in God.

Malachi 1:10-11 is a strong warning to the children of Israel to repent or face the judgment of God upon them as a people.

Malachi warns that God will choose someone else to fulfill His purpose because God's purpose of bringing man back to Himself will be accomplished.

PROGRAMME LEADER:

The Old Testament ends with a warning and a call to repentance to the children of Israel. It is very sad that in the hundreds of years since the promise was made to Abraham and the formation of the nation under the leadership of Moses, the children of Israel had never understood or fulfilled God's purpose in the life of the nation. Four hundred years later God Himself in the person of Jesus would make the final call to repentance.

PROGRAMME SIX

THEME FOR THE QUARTER: MISSIONARY MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

Theme for Today: Jesus Fulfills the Promise of God

Scripture for a Devotional: Jeremiah 31:31-34

or

Memory Verse:

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah."

Jeremiah 31:31

PROGRAMME LEADER:

When Jesus was born, the promise of God to Abraham was fulfilled. God had promised Abraham that through his descendants all the world would be blessed. Luke and Matthew give a list of names which show that Jesus is a descendant of Abraham. When Jesus was born, the angels announced to the shepherds that Jesus would bring peace on earth to all men of good will.

PART ONE: The Old Promise

The children of Israel had failed to share the message of God with the world as God had wanted them to. God had been patient with the children of Israel. He had given them many opportunities to tell the world of His love and to help man to live in fellowship with God. Now God was using one of the descendants of Abraham to bless the whole world.

The life of Jesus is the life of God's Son among His people. In the life of Jesus, God extended His love outside the limits of

the nation of Israel.

PART TWO: The New Promise

When God sent His Son into the world, He made a new promise with a new people. Israel was no longer to be God's chosen people. God's chosen people would be those who would accept Jesus as Saviour and begin to walk in fellowship with Him.

The children of the new promise were to have God's law written upon their hearts. Romans 9:8 says, "...it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are reckoned as descendants."

PART THREE: Jesus, the Saviour of the World

In Matthew 13 Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven as being like a mustard seed and yeast in bread. In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, Jesus tells His disciples that they are like the salt of the earth and light. These words tell how the kingdom of God is to spread all over the world. The beginning will be very small but it will spread and influence the whole world. The gospel of Jesus Christ is to be a light in the darkness of the world.

Jesus' ministry in the world was only about three years long. During those three years, He taught and trained a small group of disciples to spread God's Good News to all the people of the world.

PROGRAMME LEADER:

The old promise to the children of Israel depended upon their

ability to obey the law that was given through Moses. The Ten Commandments were written on tablets of stone. God's new promise was that His law would be within His people. He would write His law upon their hearts. When Jesus comes into a person's heart and life, God's new promise is fulfilled.

PROGRAMME SEVEN

THEME FOR THE QUARTER: MISSIONARY MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

Theme for Today: JESUS AND THE JEWS

Scripture for a Devotional: Luke 4:16-30

or

Memory Verse:

*"For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith
may be justified."*

Romans 10:4

PROGRAMME LEADER:

Jesus began to preach and to send out His disciples first to the children of Israel. The children of Israel were given one more opportunity to repent of their rebellion against God, to believe God, and to obey Him and fulfill the promise. At first Jesus was astonished because they did not believe Him. Soon He knew very well the hardness of their hearts. He could see how much the children of Israel hated God even though they thought that they were the only true worshippers of God.

PART ONE: Luke 10:25-37

In Luke 10 Jesus tells the story of the good Samaritan. Jesus said that God's commandment is for each of us to love our neighbor in the same way that we love ourselves. The story of the good Samaritan tells us that any person who has a need is our neighbor. In this story the religious men fail to help a fellow countryman. It is a foreigner that is despised by the Jews who helps the

wounded man. Jesus said to go and be like the good Samaritan.

Jesus said you show you are following God's law by what you do and not just what you say you believe.

PART TWO: Luke 15:3-32

In Luke 15 Jesus tells stories that show God's love for those who are far away from Him. The stories about the lost coin, lost sheep and lost son tell that God is seeking those who do not know Him. God is seeking those who are lost and there is great rejoicing when the lost one is found.

In the story of the prodigal son, the father is God. The older brother represents the children of Israel. The older brother is unhappy because the lost son has returned home. He does not want to share the blessings of the father. He does not want to share with the brother who has lived in sin far away from God. God is so happy that the lost son has come home. God reminds the older brother that he has had all of the blessings of the father. God begs the older son to join with Him in rejoicing that the lost son has returned home.

PART THREE: Luke 14:16-24

In Luke 14 Jesus tells the story of a man who prepared a great feast and invited many guests. At the time of the feast the man sent his servant to bring the guests to the feast. The guests made excuses and refused to come. When the master heard this, he was angry and told his servant to go out into the streets of the city and bring in the poor, maimed, blind, and lame. When the master

heard there was still room, he sent his servant out to find all the people he could so that the house might be filled. The master said, "For I tell you, none of these men who were invited shall taste my banquet."

In this story the master is God and the invited guests are the Jews.

PROGRAMME LEADER:

Most of the religious leaders did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah. They were looking for a messiah that would free their country from the control of the Romans. They refused to understand what Jesus was telling them. When Jesus condemned them for their unbelief, the Jewish leaders began to look for a way to kill Jesus.

PROGRAMME EIGHT

THEME FOR THE QUARTER: MISSIONARY MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

Theme for Today: JESUS AND THE GENTILES

Scripture for a Devotional: John 12:20-33

or

Memory Verse:

"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows His riches upon all who call upon Him. For, 'every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved'."

Romans 10:12-13

PROGRAMME LEADER:

Jesus preached most to the children of Israel. The disciples were sent out first to the children of Israel. It was their last opportunity to fulfill their part in the promise. The Bible tells in several places what happened when Jesus met people who were not Jews.

PART ONE: Jesus and the Cyro-phonician Woman

In Matthew 15:22-28 Jesus spoke to a woman who wanted Jesus to heal her daughter. Jesus tested her faith first by ignoring her. The disciples asked Jesus to send her away because her begging was annoying them. Then Jesus tested her faith by saying that salvation is of the Jews. When the woman came and pleaded again, Jesus said, "It does not seem right to take bread from the children and throw it to the dogs." The woman agreed with this, but added that even the puppies are allowed to eat the crumbs from the master's table.

When Jesus saw how great her faith was, He granted the woman's request. Her daughter was healed.

PART TWO: Jesus and the Roman Centurion (Matthew 8:5-13)

Jesus was in Capernaum when a Roman army officer asked Him to come and heal his servant boy who was very ill. When Jesus agreed to go with the man to his home, the Roman said, "I am not worthy for you to come to my home. If you will only say 'Be healed' my servant will get well."

Jesus was amazed at the faith the man had. Jesus told the crowd of people that many Gentiles like this Roman officer would come from all over the world and sit down in the Kingdom of Heaven with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

PART THREE: Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (John 4:4-42)

When Jesus went through Samaria and spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well, He had told His disciples that He needed to go through Samaria. The Samaritan woman and the disciples were very surprised at what Jesus did. Jesus broke many customs of the Jews when He spoke to the Samaritan woman.

Jesus told the woman that the day was coming when all men would worship God in spirit and in truth. Jesus admitted to the Samaritan woman that He was the Messiah that God had promised through the prophets.

PROGRAMME LEADER:

Jesus taught His disciples and He teaches today by the way He lived. He teaches through the things that He did. Jesus trained

His disciples and sent them out as witnesses. First they were sent to their own people and then to all people.

PROGRAMME NINE

THEME FOR THE QUARTER: MISSIONARY MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

Theme for Today: THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Scripture for a Devotional: Mark 15:21-39

or

Memory Verse:

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by Me'."

John 14:6

PROGRAMME LEADER:

The word Christ is a Greek word that means Messiah in Hebrew. Messiah and Christ mean the anointed one. All of the spiritual leaders of Israel were anointed. Priests, prophets and kings were all anointed. Jesus was a priest, prophet and king. He was also the Lamb of God who could take away the sin of the world.

PART ONE: Jesus, The Only Sacrifice

Jesus said, "Abraham saw my day" (John 8:56). The fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham was only possible because Jesus died on the cross. Jesus was God's sacrifice. Jesus was the only sacrifice that could be acceptable to God.

Jesus had never sinned. He did not deserve to die. He was God Himself. But Jesus humbled Himself and as a man He was obedient to God. Jesus knew that it was God's will for Him to die on the cross so that all men would have the opportunity to have fellowship with God. Just as God provided a lamb for Abraham to

sacrifice in place of Isaac, He provided His Own Son Jesus as a sacrifice for all people.

PART TWO: The Self-Sacrifice on the Cross

Jesus sacrificed His life on the cross because there was no other way for salvation to come to all people. Jesus suffered every temptation that any man has ever faced. He suffered temptation and overcame it as He died on the cross.

We became an heir with Jesus because when He died He made us righteous. He made us right with God because of His own righteousness. We have a place in the Kingdom of God because Jesus died for us.

PART THREE: God Restores Life

On the third day God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus obeyed God. He believed God would raise Him from the dead. When God raised Jesus from the dead, the power of sin and death were conquered. Fear and guilt could now be removed from a person's life.

Our hope is in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. What God did for Jesus, Jesus does for all people who will trust and obey Him. God raised Jesus from the dead to justify our faith.

PROGRAMME LEADER:

The most important event in the history of the world is the death and resurrection of Jesus. On the cross Jesus accomplished that which man would never be able to do for himself. When God

raised Jesus from the dead, it became possible for all men to be a part of God's plan.

PROGRAMME TEN

THEME FOR THE UNIT: MISSIONARY MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

Theme for Today: THE LAST TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Scripture for a Devotional: Acts 1:1-11

or

Memory Verse:

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so send I you.'"

John 20:21

PROGRAMME LEADER:

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He appeared to His disciples many times during the 40 days before His ascension into Heaven. When Jesus talked to His disciples, He told them again what He wanted them to do. Jesus reminded His disciples at least five times after His resurrection that they were to be His witnesses to the whole world.

PART ONE: Luke 24:44-49

On the evening of the day that He was resurrected, Jesus appeared to the ten disciples and those that were gathered with them. Jesus told them that all of the prophecies of the Old Testament about Him were fulfilled. These prophecies were found in the law of Moses, in the writings of the prophets and in the psalms. It was then that the disciples began to understand fully the meaning of Jesus' ministry as Messiah. Luke 24:25 says that Jesus opened the minds of His disciples so that they were able to understand the

scriptures which spoke of Him. In verses 46 and 47 Jesus summarizes all that was spoken of Him in the scriptures. Jesus said, "It was written long ago that the Messiah must suffer and die and rise again from the dead on the third day."

Jesus then appointed His followers to be the ones to carry the message of forgiveness to the whole world. Jesus knew that His disciples would not be able to do this work in their own power. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to give them the power which they would need to carry His message around the world.

PART TWO: John 20:19-23 and John 21:15-17

John writes about several appearances of Jesus to His disciples. Two of these appearances are found in John 20:19-23 and John 21:15-17.

In John 20:19-23 Jesus said to His disciples, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you." Jesus was sending His disciples into the world with a task to do. He was sending them to take His gospel of repentance and salvation to the whole world. Again He gives them the power of the Holy Spirit to guide them as they do His work.

In John 21:15-17 Jesus was talking to Peter about his responsibility in the Kingdom of God. He asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Each time Peter replied that he did. Jesus gave him the same instructions each time when He said, "Feed my sheep." Jesus was telling Peter to take care of those whom Jesus died to

save. In verse 19 Jesus said to Peter, "Follow Me." What Jesus said to Peter He also says to every believer.

PART THREE: Matthew 28:16-20

The great commission of Jesus is recorded in more than one place in the gospels. One of the best known passages is found in Matthew 28:16-20. Jesus spoke to His disciples in the quiet countryside of Galilee. He told His disciples to take His message around the world making disciples as they went. He not only gave them a command to go to all the world, but He told them that He would be with them as they went.

PROGRAMME LEADER:

In each one of these scriptures Jesus is telling the disciples that they are the ones who are to take His message of salvation to the whole world. He also tells them that they will not be alone. He says that He will be with them as they go from place to place telling everyone about Jesus.

PROGRAMME ELEVEN

THEME FOR THE QUARTER: MISSIONARY MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

Theme for Today: THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES POWER TO WITNESS

Scripture for a Devotional: Acts 2:1-12; 38-39

or

Memory Verse:

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8

PROGRAMME LEADER:

Jesus told His followers to wait in Jerusalem until they had received the power they needed to be His witnesses. The disciples were together praying during the time of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to give power to the disciples.

After the disciples received the power of the Holy Spirit, they were prepared to fulfill God's plan for bringing all the people of the world to Himself. The followers of Jesus had seen the complete revelation of God to man through Jesus. The work of the Messiah had been completed. Now through the power of the Holy Spirit the small group of followers was to take the Good News to all the people of the world.

PART ONE: The Jews Hear the Good News at Pentecost

One of the signs of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was the ability of the disciples to speak in 15 different languages. They witnessed in each person's own language to all the people who

had come from countries of all the world for the Feast of Pentecost.

When Peter preached to the people, each person listening to Him understood His message. Over 3,000 people became followers of Jesus on the day of Pentecost.

PART TWO: The Gentiles Hear the Good News

Cornelius was a Roman centurion. He was not a Jew, but he was a man who worshipped God. When God spoke to Cornelius, Cornelius obeyed God's instructions and sent for Peter.

When God spoke to Peter in a vision, Peter was not sure of God's instructions. God's message was different from what Peter had been taught from the time he was a child. When Peter became sure of what God wanted him to do, he followed God's instructions.

After Peter preached to the household of Cornelius, the entire household accepted Jesus as Saviour and Lord. Peter understood more fully God's message to him. "And Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, but in every nation any one who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him'" (Acts 10:34-35). Peter took the Good News of Jesus Christ to the Jews and to the Gentiles.

PART THREE: All the World Hears the Good News

The Holy Spirit led the early Christians to all parts of the world. As the Christians traveled to new places, they told all who would listen about Jesus and His death and resurrection. Many people believed. The believers stayed true to Jesus during many persecutions.

The Apostle Paul after seeing Jesus on the road to Damascus was the most important person to take the Good News to the Gentiles. In a dream Paul saw a man from Macedonia telling him to come to his country and share the Good News. Before his death in Rome, Paul had established many churches which had Jewish and Gentile believers.

Through the years the Holy Spirit has continued to lead people to share the Good News of Jesus with all people. Many people have heard the Good News because the Holy Spirit spoke to Christians and sent them as He sent the Apostle Paul to places where the Good News had not been told.

PROGRAMME LEADER:

The purpose of God has not changed. It is still God's plan for all the people of the world to know Him as the one and true God. Since the time that Jesus was here on earth, God's chosen people to fulfill the new promise are the people known as Christians. Each of us who has received Jesus Christ into our hearts and lives has the same responsibility that was given to the children of Abraham. Each person is to obey God. Each person can become a blessing to all the people of the world as he introduces people to Jesus.

B I B L E R E A D I N G S

FIRST WEEK: God's Plan

Day 1: John 3:16-21
Day 2: John 1:1-18
Day 3: 1 John 4:7-10
Day 4: Ephesians 3:1-13
Day 5: Mark 12:28-34
Day 6: 1 John 5:1-5

FIFTH WEEK: God's Purpose Revealed to the Prophets

Day 1: Jonah 1-4
Day 2: Joshua 9
Day 3: Psalm 47
Day 4: Psalm 117
Day 5: Psalm 67
Day 6: Psalm 96

SECOND WEEK: God Chooses Abraham

Day 1: Acts 7:2-8
Day 2: Romans 4:1-5
Day 3: James 2:18-24
Day 4: Genesis 22:15-18
Day 5: Hebrews 11:8-22
Day 6: Galatians 3:6-9

SIXTH WEEK: Jesus Fulfills the Promise of God

Day 1: Philippians
2:5-8
Day 2: Romans
5:12-25
Day 3: 2
Corinthians
5:21
Day 4: Matthew
16:24-25
Day 5: Galatians
2:15-16
Day 6: 1 Peter
2:4-10

THIRD WEEK: Moses Leads God's People

Day 1: Exodus 19:1-8
Day 2: Hebrews 11:23-29
Day 3: Numbers 14
Day 4: Exodus 3:1-12
Day 5: Acts 7:17-34
Day 6: Acts 7:35-43

FOURTH WEEK: Others Who Followed God

Day 1: Numbers 10:29-32
Day 2: Numbers 22-24
Day 3: Joshua 2:1-21,
Joshua 6:22-25
Day 4: Ruth 1-4
Day 5: 2 Kings 5:1-14
Day 6: Exodus 18:10-12

SEVENTH WEEK: Jesus and the Jews

Day 1: Luke
14:16-24
Day 2: Luke
10:25-37
Day 3: Luke 15
Day 4: Matthew
10:5
Day 5: Matthew
15:21-28
Day 6: Romans
9:30-33

EIGHTH WEEK: Jesus and the Gentiles

- Day 1: Matthew 8:5-13
- Day 2: John 4:1-43
- Day 3: Matthew 15:21-28
- Day 4: Philippians 2:9-11
- Day 5: John 12:20-32
- Day 6: Acts 11:17-18

NINTH WEEK: The Death and Resurrection

- Day 1: Psalm 22
- Day 2: Mark 15-16
- Day 3: Matthew 27:27-54
- Day 4: Luke 24:13-32
- Day 5: John 19:17-27
- Day 6: John 20:1-10

TENTH WEEK: The Last Teachings of Jesus

- Day 1: Matthew 24:14
- Day 2: Luke 24:44-49
- Day 3: John 20:19-23; 26-29
- Day 4: John 21:15-17
- Day 5: Matthew 28:19-20
- Day 6: Acts 1:6-8

ELEVENTH WEEK: The Holy Spirit Gives Power to Witness

- Day 1: Ephesians 3:14-20
- Day 2: Acts 2:1-4
- Day 3: John 14:15-24
- Day 4: John 16:5-15
- Day 5: Acts 10:34-43
- Day 6: Acts 10:44-48