

# CEP Bible timeline

## *Teaching notes*

This Bible timeline pack includes:

- nine A2 full-colour posters
- nine A4 black-and-white photocopiable masters
- teaching notes outlining how to make the best use of your poster pack.

The Bible timeline posters are a valuable resource for all forms of ministry, displaying God's plan of salvation as revealed through the Bible. Children, young people and adults can all benefit from the visual stimulus provided by these informative and attractive posters, which aim to help students of all ages learn a sequential outline of the key events of biblical theology from Genesis to Revelation.

The set of full-colour posters may be hung as a permanent display in a learning area. In this way, they can be referred to again and again, and each biblical event can be placed in the context of God's overall plan of salvation.

The set of black-and-white photocopiable masters is ideal for copying for each member of a group. They also give students a timeline that can be taken home and used to reinforce the learning that has taken place in the classroom or program you are teaching.

### *Tips for using the Bible timeline posters*

- Set up a permanent display of the Bible timeline posters at the front of your learning area. Place the posters side-by-side to create a continuous timeline. You may laminate the posters so that they will last longer.
- Alternatively, set up a display of the Bible timeline posters each learning session. You may like to gradually add the posters to the display as different parts of the Bible are taught.
- After teaching from the Bible, ask a student to locate the event or person discussed on the Bible timeline posters. Discuss the context of the event or the life of the person in God's overall plan of salvation.
- For younger groups, make a small window to place over the event or person they are learning about. Invite a child to remove the window during or at the conclusion of the session.
- The posters can be used as a revision tool at the end of a unit of learning. Ask a student to choose an event on a poster and talk briefly about its significance in God's plan of salvation.

### *Tips for using the black-and-white photocopiable masters*

- Make a copy of the photocopiable masters for each person in your group. As the events are covered in your teaching and learning time, students could decorate the appropriate outlines.
- The specific Bible passage could be noted beside each illustration.
- Students could make an individual booklet to take home. Each photocopiable master could be stuck onto a double-page spread of a scrapbook or onto light coloured cardboard, with notes about the illustrations made on the opposite page.
- Copies of the photocopiable masters could also be used as a revision tool. You could hand out copies and ask the students to choose a specific number of events to talk or write about.

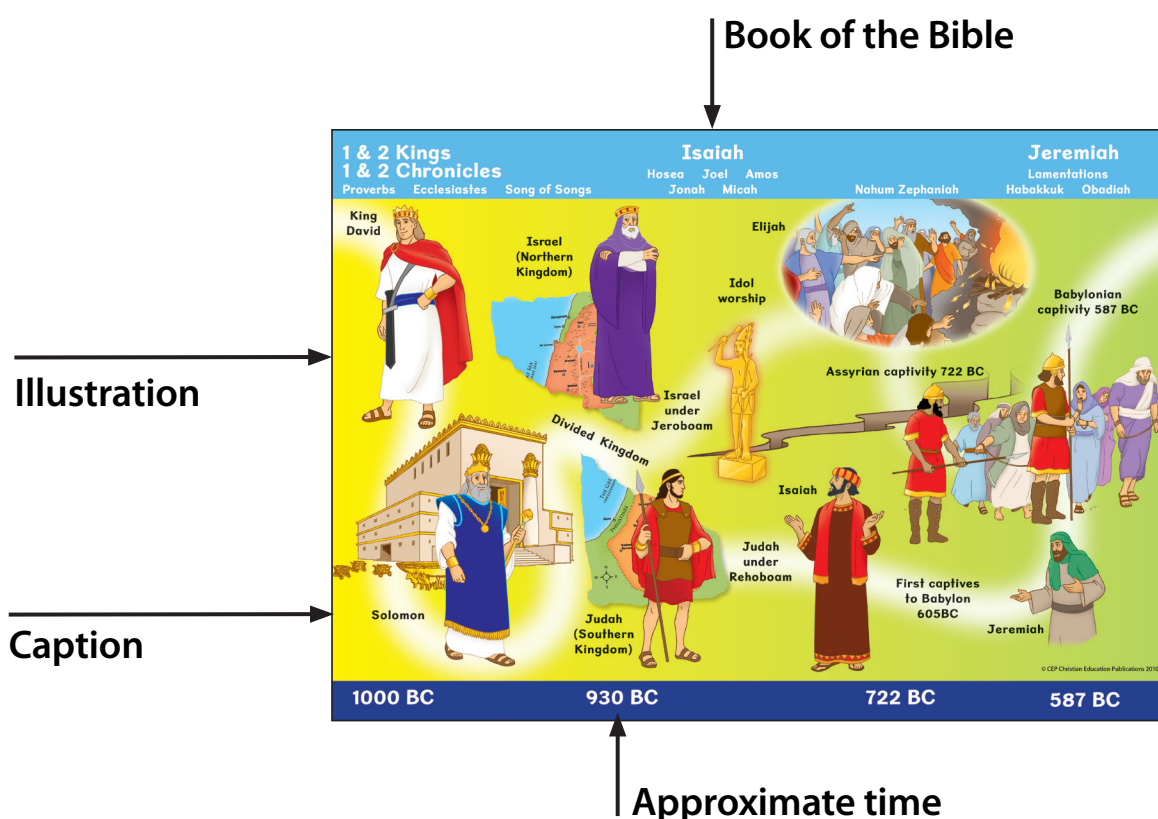
## Tips for using these teaching notes for a nine-session program

- Use the Bible timeline over nine sessions, looking up the Bible references and discussing how the people and events form part of God's salvation plan fulfilled in Jesus.
  - Add a new poster to the Bible timeline each session to build on previous learning and visually explain how the Bible fits together.
  - Provide each group member with a black-and-white version of each poster (provided in this pack).
  - Encourage group members to make notes, record questions or write key verses on their black-and-white copies of the timeline.
  - Design your own follow-up reading tasks or questions for the group members to explore before the next session.
  - These teaching notes will give you the Bible references for each person or event shown on each poster in the Bible timeline pack.
  - There is a key question given in these teaching notes for each section which would provide a useful point of discussion for youth or adult groups.
- Allow members of the group to research different aspects of each poster.
  - Before each session read through all the teaching notes for each poster to give yourself an overview of the main events and people.
  - Read one of the following books with the group to enrich their learning:  
*According to Plan* by Graeme Goldsworthy (IVP)  
*Symphony of Scripture* by Mark Strom (IVP).

## Features of the Bible timeline posters

Each poster or black-and-white photocopiable master gives a visual illustration of the key events of one part of God's plan of salvation as revealed in the Bible. This includes significant people, locations and events. Captions have been included to sum up the significance of each illustration.

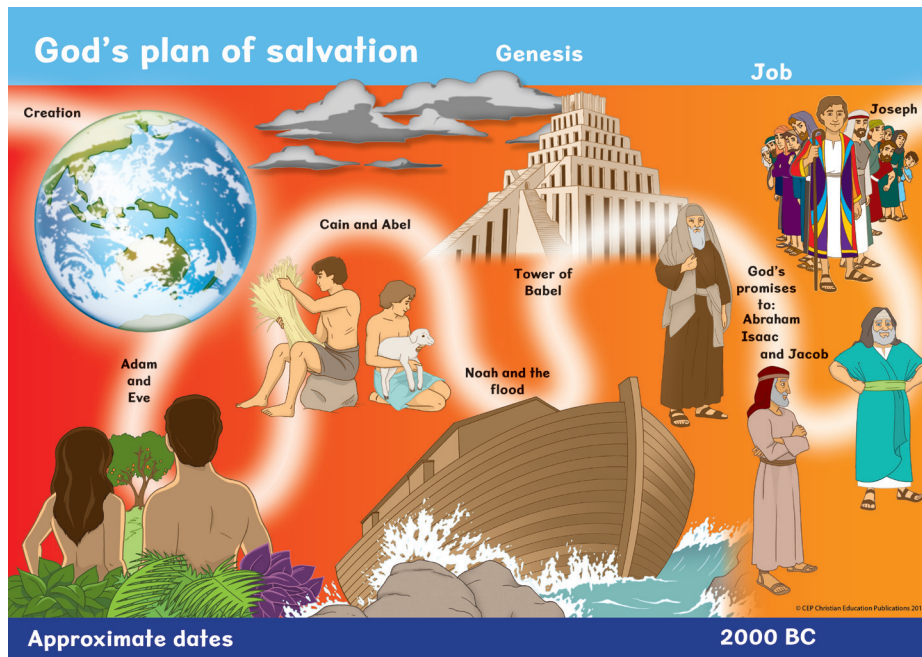
Across the bottom of each poster there are approximate dates indicating when the events featured took place, or when the people pictured lived. Across the top of each poster there are references to the books of the Bible that correspond to the timeline below.



# Bible timeline summary

## Poster 1

Bible timeline poster 1 depicts the key events of Genesis from creation to the fulfilment of God's covenant with Abraham.



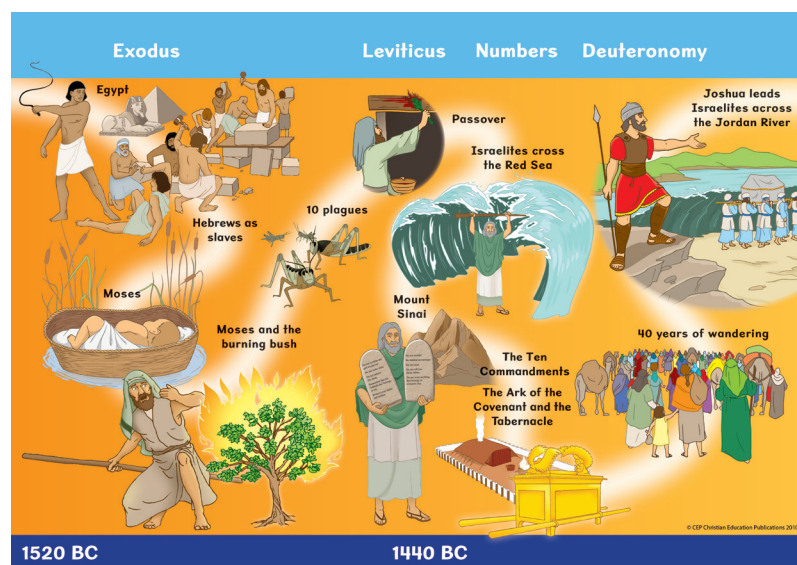
Key event	Bible reference	Significance	Questions
Creation	<b>Genesis 1–2</b>	<p>God is the creator of our world.</p> <p>His creation is good and we can appreciate the beauty, grandeur and diversity in all we see.</p> <p>In its original state creation was good.</p> <p>When God created humans he called his creation very good.</p>	<p><i>What is the significance of having a creator who is sovereign over all we see?</i></p> <p><i>What aspects of creation demonstrate to you God's creativity, wisdom and power?</i></p>
Adam and Eve	<b>Genesis 1–3</b>	<p>Humans were created by God to be caretakers of his good and perfect world.</p> <p>They are different from all other creatures, being made in God's image.</p> <p>Humans have the capacity for love for one another. They have been given the task of ruling over creation as caretakers. They can relate to God personally.</p> <p>God placed Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. However, given the opportunity to trust and obey God they chose instead to mistrust him and disobey his command.</p> <p>Sin then entered God's creation.</p> <p>All aspects of God's world have been spoiled by sin. Humans now experience hurt in relationships with one another. They tend to exploit and misuse creation, rather than caring for it. They are no longer able to relate to God as their friend because their sin deserves God's judgement.</p>	<p><i>Why is the Genesis account so significant in our understanding of what it means to be human?</i></p> <p><i>What was the motivation behind the sinful choice of Adam and Eve?</i></p> <p><i>In your own experience of this spoiled creation, what do you find most frustrating, disappointing or frightening?</i></p>

Cain and Abel	<b>Genesis 4</b>	<p>Events in the family of Adam and Eve reveal the sad impact of sin on relationships.</p> <p>Abel's offering to God was made with a heart of faith (Hebrews 11:4), but Cain's offering was unacceptable. Cain's sinful attitude and jealousy resulted in the murder of his brother.</p>	<i>In what situations might sin's effect on relationships escalate and grow?</i>
Noah and the flood	<b>Genesis 6–8</b>	<p>Sin continued to have an impact on God's world and by the time of Noah, wickedness and evil was widespread.</p> <p>God acted in judgement on sin and sent a flood to wipe out humans.</p> <p>A man named Noah, however, lived a righteous life and 'walked with God' (Genesis 6:9). God acted in mercy, rescuing Noah and his family.</p>	<i>Do you find the idea of judgement confronting and uncomfortable? Why?</i>
Tower of Babel	<b>Genesis 11</b>	<p>Events after God's demonstration of his grace (to Noah and his family) reveal the continuation of humankind's sin. People on earth forget about God and are filled with pride. God scatters the people after they attempt to build the Tower of Babel to make a name for themselves instead of for God. What will God do about human sin?</p>	<i>When are you tempted to be proud and forget about God?</i>
God's promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob	<b>Genesis 12–28</b>	<p>God chose Abraham. Through this man God had a plan to deal with sin.</p> <p>Abraham was not perfect (no one is, except Jesus), but he acted in faith and obeyed God's call.</p> <p>God made promises to Abraham—a land of his own, children who would grow into a nation, blessings to his family and through his family to the whole world.</p> <p>God was faithful to these promises in his dealings with Abraham's descendants. These promises were ultimately fulfilled in Jesus (see posters 6–9).</p>	<i>What do you think would have been the most difficult part of Abraham's life of obedience to God?</i>
Joseph	<b>Genesis 37, 39–50</b>  <b>(Genesis 45:5–8)</b>	<p>Joseph was a son of Jacob. He was betrayed by his brothers and sold as a slave. In Egypt he rose from slave to governor. He managed the economy in Egypt to save people from a famine, including his own brothers and father.</p> <p>Joseph saw God's hand at work in these events.</p> <p>Jacob and his family settled in Egypt and continued to grow in number.</p>	<i>How could Joseph have learned to see his suffering as a part of God's good plan?</i>

# Bible timeline summary

## Poster 2

Bible timeline poster 2 shows the journey of God's people from Egypt to the Promised Land.



Key event	Bible reference	Significance	Questions
Egypt  Hebrews as slaves	<b>Exodus 1</b>	Many years passed and Joseph was forgotten. The descendants of Jacob became slaves to the Egyptians. They grew in number to over one million.  They were cruelly oppressed and cried to God for help.	<i>What aspects of God's promises to Abraham have been fulfilled? What other aspects seem at risk?</i>
Moses	<b>Exodus 2</b>	God heard the cries of his people and sent a rescuer. The baby Moses was saved from death when Pharaoh's daughter took him from the Nile River. He was raised in the palace.  After killing an Egyptian, Moses fled to the desert.	<i>How is Moses, sent as a rescuer to Israel from God, a type of Jesus?</i>
Moses and the burning bush	<b>Exodus 3</b>	God spoke to Moses through a burning bush, identifying himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and called Moses back to Egypt to lead his people out of slavery.	<i>What is surprising about God calling Moses to lead his people?</i>
10 plagues  Passover	<b>Exodus 7-11</b>	In judgement on Pharaoh's stubborn refusal to let God's people leave Egypt, God sent plagues on the Egyptians.  The first nine plagues were: blood, frogs, gnats, flies, livestock dying, boils, hail, locusts, and darkness.  The final plague, which was death to the firstborn son, passed over those Israelites' homes which were marked with lambs' blood on the doorposts.  The Israelites left Egypt.	<i>Why would Pharaoh have remained so stubborn about allowing the Israelites to leave Egypt?</i>

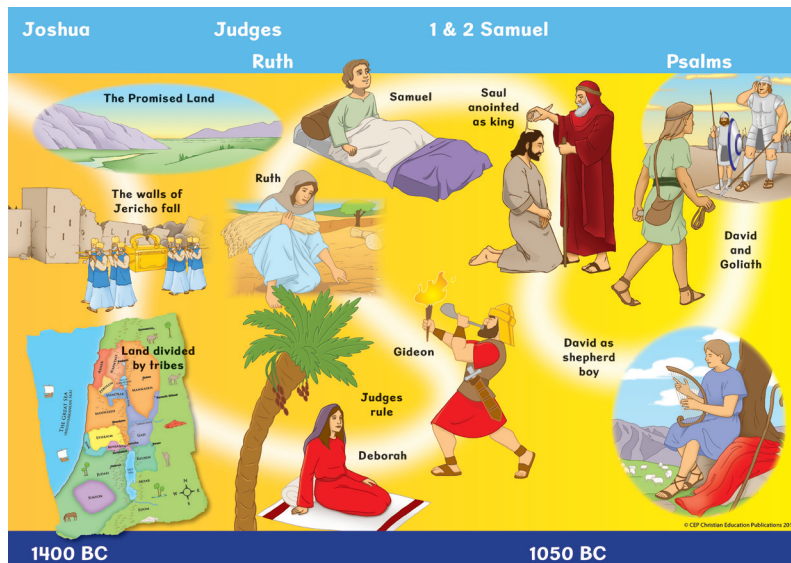


Israelites cross the Red Sea	<b>Exodus 12–15</b>	<p>Moses led the people through the desert to edge of the Red Sea. Pharaoh followed with his army.</p> <p>Miraculously the Red Sea parted, allowing the Israelites to walk through on dry land.</p> <p>When Pharaoh tried to follow, the water swept back and destroyed his army.</p>	<i>What impact would this event have had on the Israelites both individually and as a nation?</i>
Mount Sinai	<b>Exodus 19</b>	<p>God's people gathered at Mount Sinai where they were reminded of God's actions in rescuing them from Egypt. After a terrifying display of his power, God spoke through Moses telling his people how they should live in response to their great rescue.</p>	<i>What difference might it have made to the Israelites to see such a terrifying display of God's power?</i>
The Ten Commandments	<b>Exodus 20</b>	<p>The Ten Commandments were given to Moses on pieces of stone.</p> <p>These laws told the people how to live in a way that showed their love and trust for God, and their love towards their neighbour.</p> <p>These laws shaped their national way of life and governed their worship of God.</p>	<i>Why did the people need laws to live by?</i>
The Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle	<b>Exodus 25–30</b>	<p>God gave detailed instructions for building a tabernacle, which was the place of worship and sacrifice for sin.</p> <p>He also instructed the people to build the golden Ark of the Covenant in which the law was kept.</p>	<i>Why was it significant that God gave such clear instructions about how he was to be worshipped?</i>
40 years of wandering	<b>Numbers 14</b>	<p>God led his people to the Promised Land, but they did not trust that he could give them victory over its inhabitants. They rebelled against God.</p> <p>Their punishment was to wander in the wilderness for 40 years until the next generation was ready to go into the land.</p>	<i>What difficulties would Moses have faced as leader during those 40 years?</i>
Joshua leads the Israelites across Jordan River	<b>Joshua 1–4</b>	<p>God named Joshua as the next leader of his people. It was Joshua's task to lead the people into the land and take possession of it.</p> <p>As they crossed the Jordan River the Israelites finally entered the land promised so long ago to Abraham's descendants.</p> <p>The River Jordan stopped flowing as they crossed over under Joshua's leadership. This closely parallels the crossing of the Red Sea under Moses' leadership.</p>	<i>What other promises originally made to Abraham were still to be fulfilled?</i>

# Bible timeline summary

## Poster 3

Bible timeline poster 3 displays the story of God's people taking possession of the land and living under the judges and then under Saul as Israel's first king.



Key event	Bible reference	Significance	Questions
The Promised Land	<b>Joshua 5</b>	The Israelites crossed the Jordan under Joshua's leadership. They dedicated themselves to God with the sign of circumcision.  They celebrated the Passover and ate their last meal of manna.	<i>What was the significance of God no longer sending manna for the people to eat?</i>
The walls of Jericho fall	<b>Joshua 6–7</b>	The city of Jericho was defeated but not with weapons. Jericho was defeated by marching feet, blowing trumpets and a shout.  It was clear that God was with Joshua and the people, giving them the land he had promised to Abraham so long ago.	<i>What is surprising about Rahab being mentioned in the New Testament? Where in the New Testament is she referred to?</i>
Land divided by tribes	<b>Joshua 13–24</b>	The Israelites fought for a long time to take possession of the land of Canaan.  The land was divided up between the tribes.	<i>The Levites (the tribe of priests) were not given their own land, but told to live in cities scattered throughout Canaan. What implications would this have?</i>

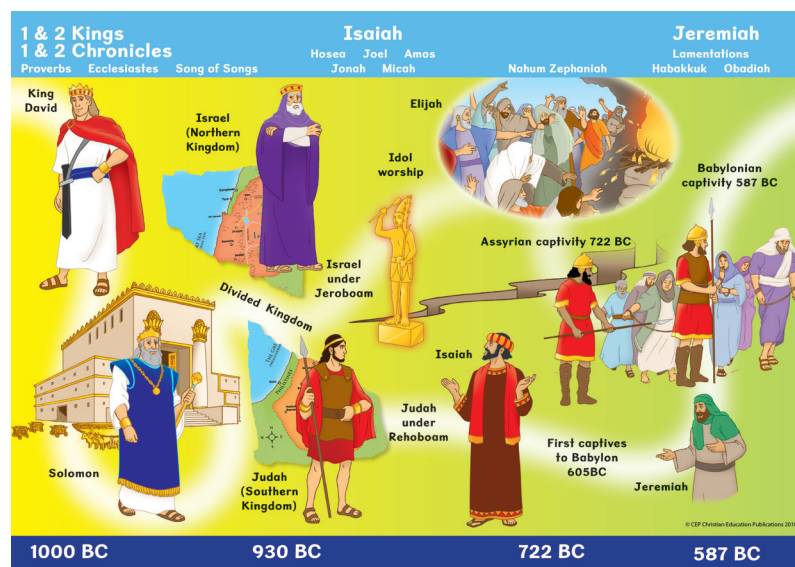
Judges rule, for example, Deborah and Gideon.	<b>Judges</b>	<p>The Israelites entered a cycle of rebellion, oppression by their enemies, crying to the Lord for help and rescue under the leadership of various judges.</p> <p>The religions of the Canaanites influenced the people of God. There was no king and 'everyone did as he saw fit' (17:6).</p>	<i>Why did the people repeat the cycle of rebellion against God and the resulting oppression by their enemies?</i>
Ruth	<b>Ruth</b>	<p>The story of Ruth occurred during the time of the judges.</p> <p>Ruth was a Moabitess who came to faith in the Lord and who experienced God's faithfulness to her.</p> <p>She was David's great-grandmother.</p>	<i>What aspects of God's character are evident in the narrative of Ruth and Boaz?</i>
Samuel	<b>1 Samuel 1–28</b>	<p>Samuel was a very significant figure in the history of God's people. He was a prophet and judge. During his leadership Israel became a monarchy. God spoke through Samuel to the Israelites, even after they had a king.</p>	<i>In what ways was Samuel a foreshadowing of Christ?</i>
Saul anointed as king	<b>1 Samuel 8–31</b>	<p>The Israelites asked for a king so they could be like the nations around them (8:5). In this request they rejected the leadership of Samuel and the rule of God himself.</p> <p>Despite their rebellious motives, God gave his people a king. Saul was the first king of Israel but his repeated disobedience to the Lord resulted in his rejection as king and the anointing of David.</p>	<i>What were the attitudes and actions shown by Saul in 1 Samuel 15 that resulted in his rejection by God?</i>
<p>David as a shepherd boy</p> <p>David and Goliath</p>	<b>1 Samuel 16–17</b>	<p>David was anointed by Samuel as future king while he was still a shepherd boy.</p> <p>David demonstrated his trust in the Lord when he volunteered to fight against Goliath while still very young. David defeated Goliath and gave all credit to the God of Israel.</p>	<i>What names does David use for God in 1 Samuel 17? What do these names say about God?</i>



# Bible timeline summary

## Poster 4

Bible timeline poster 4 introduces King David, a man after God's own heart. While illustrating the downfall of Israel into two separate kingdoms, this poster examines the prophets and the exile of God's people.



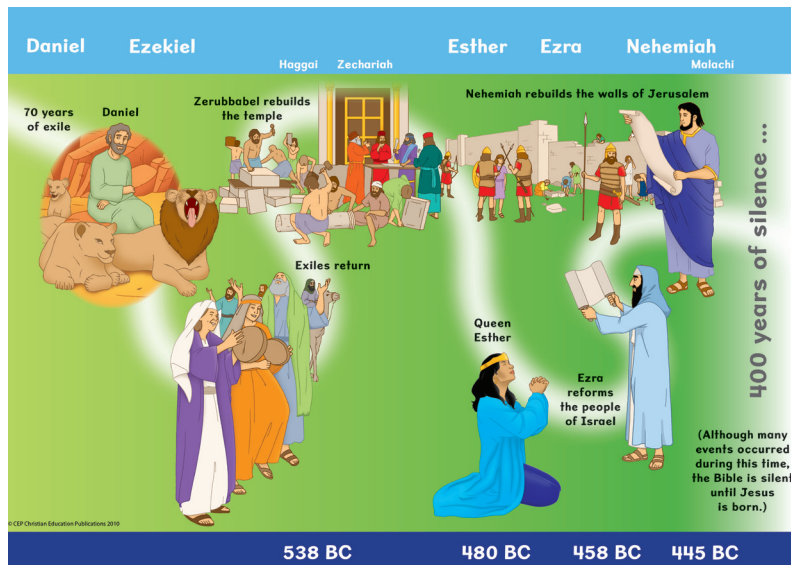
Key event	Bible reference	Significance	Questions
King David	<b>1 Samuel 18–2 Samuel</b>	<p>King David is known as Israel's greatest king—a great ruler, warrior, poet and musician and a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14).</p> <p>David foreshadows the great saviour king Jesus who would be descended from his royal line and would rule forever (2 Samuel 7).</p> <p>David was far from perfect, committing adultery with Bathsheba and arranging the death of her husband (2 Samuel 11).</p>	<i>Read Psalms 23 and 51 and discuss what these psalms reveal about David's character and his relationship with the Lord.</i>
Solomon	<b>1 Kings 1–11</b>	<p>Solomon began his reign well, asking God for wisdom. Under his rule God caused Israel to prosper and the Temple and royal palace were built.</p> <p>However, Solomon ended his reign in disobedience, worshipping other gods.</p>	<i>What led to the downfall of Solomon?</i>
Divided kingdom	<b>1 Kings 12–2 Kings 25</b>	<p>With the death of Solomon, Israel became a divided kingdom. This was God's judgement on the sin of the leaders and people of Israel.</p> <p>Solomon's son Rehoboam inflicted heavier taxes on the people and they rebelled against his rule. He ruled over Judah in the south and Jeroboam became king of Israel in the north.</p> <p>This division of the kingdom was never repaired.</p>	<i>How have God's promises to Abraham been fulfilled up to this point? How do they appear to be under threat?</i>
Israel under Jeroboam	<b>1 Kings 11</b>	Jeroboam ruled the 10 tribes of the northern kingdom of Israel.	<i>What does God say about how his promises will be fulfilled?</i>
Idol worship	<b>1 Kings 12–14</b>	Jeroboam set up shrines and golden calves in an effort to replace Jerusalem as the centre of worship. The people worshipped these idols.	<i>Why did the people of Israel so readily turn to idols?</i>

Elijah	<b>1 Kings 17– 2 Kings 2</b>	<p>Elijah was one of Israel's greatest prophets and a contemporary of the evil king Ahab.</p> <p>Key events in his life were his contest with the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 17), his escape from Queen Jezebel (1 Kings 19), and the chariot of fire that took him to heaven (2 Kings 2).</p> <p>He appeared at the transfiguration of Christ (Mark 9).</p>	<i>How can you explain the fact that Elijah experienced times of great courage and bravery as well as times of fear and despair?</i>
Assyrian captivity 722 BC	<b>2 Kings 15–18</b>	Following repeated disobedience and rebellion against God, the northern tribes suffered crushing defeat at the hands of Assyria. The survivors were taken into captivity. They never returned to Israel.	<i>Hosea is the last prophet to Israel. Read Hosea 11 and describe God's relationship with his people.</i>
Judah under Rehoboam	<b>1 Kings 11–14</b>	Rehoboam was the first king of the two tribes of the southern kingdom of Judah. His harsh rule triggered the split of the kingdom. He and Jeroboam were at war against one another. Under his rule the people of Judah worshipped other gods and set up idols and shrines.	<i>What are some present-day idols that we might be tempted to worship?</i>
Isaiah	<b>Isaiah</b>	God is holy and must judge sin. Around 700 BC, the prophet Isaiah predicted severe judgement upon Israel and Judah, but also the surrounding nations. All had turned away from God. What hope was there? Isaiah also predicted that a suffering servant would be slaughtered like an innocent lamb, and this act of sacrifice would lead to glorious restoration for God's people.	<i>What does the word 'atonement' mean? How does Isaiah 53 help us to understand the New Testament?</i>
First captives to Babylon 605 BC	<b>2 Kings 24</b>	Jerusalem was destroyed and many captives were taken to Babylon.	<i>Lamentations records the fall of Jerusalem and also expresses the anguish and despair of the author, thought to be Jeremiah. Read Lamentations 3:1–40 and note what causes the writer grief and what offers him hope.</i>
Jeremiah	<b>Jeremiah</b>	<p>Jeremiah predicted and then witnessed the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC. God's judgement had fallen on his own people.</p> <p>"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" Jeremiah 17:9. By nature, humans are faithless, evil and in rebellion against God. What hope is there? None, unless God radically intervenes and changes our hearts. In chapters 31 and 32, Jeremiah foresees a time when God would do this (Jeremiah 31:33; 32:38–41)</p>	<i>How was this fulfilled in the ascension of Jesus?</i>
Babylonian captivity 586 BC	<b>2 Kings 25</b>	Following repeated disobedience and rebellion against God, Judah was taken into exile out of its land.	<i>God had shown himself to be gracious again and again; how would he demonstrate his grace this time?</i>

# Bible timeline summary

## Poster 5

Bible timeline poster 5 introduces the return of God's people to the Promised Land and the reestablishment of Jerusalem.



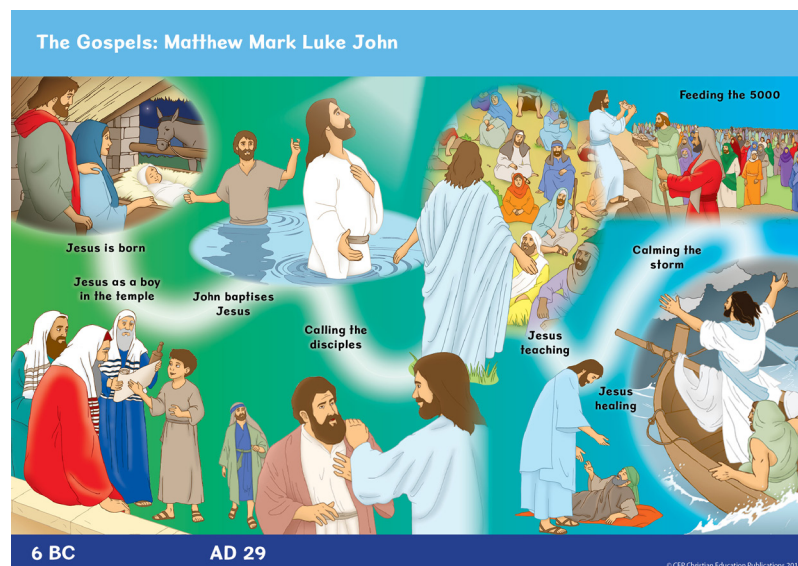
Key event	Bible reference	Significance	Questions
70 years in Exile	<b>2 Chronicles 36:15–21</b> <b>Jeremiah 25:11</b>	As Jeremiah prophesied, the exiles stayed in Babylon for 70 years.	<i>How would the exiles have understood what had happened to them? What might have given them hope?</i>
Daniel	<b>Daniel</b>	Daniel was taken as a captive to Babylon while he was still a young man. He was an interpreter of dreams and a prophet.  He remained faithful to the Lord while living in Babylon, and was rescued from death in the den of lions.	<i>What pressures would have made life as a faithful Jew difficult while in exile in Babylon?</i>
Exiles return	<b>2 Chronicles 36:23</b> <b>Ezra 1</b>	Under the rule of King Cyrus of Babylon, the exiles were allowed to return to their land.  They settled back in their towns and began to rebuild the Temple.	<i>There was a celebration when the foundation to the Temple was laid (Ezra 3:10–13). Some shouted with joy but others wept. Why would there have been such different reactions?</i>
Zerubbabel rebuilds the Temple	<b>Ezra 1–6</b>	The prophets Haggai and Zechariah preached to the people as the temple was rebuilt. Zerubbabel oversaw the rebuilding work.	<i>Why would it have been important to have prophets as well as builders in the rebuilding process?</i>

Queen Esther	<b>Esther</b>	<p>The setting of this book is the Jewish captivity in Persia. The events probably occurred as the Temple was being rebuilt in Israel. Many Jews, like Esther, stayed behind in Persia.</p> <p>Haman's plot to annihilate the Jews failed and Queen Esther showed great courage in working towards the rescue of God's people.</p>	<i>What effect would the rescue of the Jews remaining in Persia have had on those who had returned to try to rebuild Jerusalem?</i>
Ezra reforms the people of Israel	<b>Ezra 7–10</b> <b>Nehemiah 8–10</b>	Ezra returned to Jerusalem with a second group of exiles. He took the lead in reviving worship and obedience to the law.	<i>Why did Ezra make such strong demands of the exiles? (See Ezra 10)</i>
Nehemiah rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem	<b>Nehemiah</b>	<p>Nehemiah was a cup-bearer to the king of Persia. He returned to Jerusalem with the third group of returning exiles. He led the people in the rebuilding of the walls of the city of Jerusalem.</p> <p>Nehemiah also had a role in calling for spiritual and social reforms.</p>	<i>What was the significance of rebuilding the walls of the city of Jerusalem?</i>
400 + years of silence			<i>During these years of waiting, what would the faithful Jews have longed for?</i>

# Bible timeline summary

## Poster 6

Bible timeline poster 6 introduces the New Testament and features the birth and ministry of Jesus.



Key event	Bible reference	Significance	Questions
Jesus is born	<b>Matthew 1–2</b> <b>Luke 1–2</b>	<p>Jesus was born to Mary, a virgin, who conceived when the Holy Spirit came upon her.</p> <p>Jesus was born in a back room of an inn where the animals were sheltered.</p> <p>Angels announced his birth and declared him to be ‘a saviour, Christ, the Lord’.</p> <p>Wise men from the east came to worship Jesus. They brought gifts suitable for a king.</p>	<i>Imagine being one of the shepherds who heard the angels announce Jesus’ birth. How might you have responded?</i>
Jesus as a boy in the temple	<b>Luke 2</b>	<p>Jesus called God his father, thus identifying himself as God’s son, a theme which is developed very strongly in the Gospels. Jesus is God’s son—God himself has come to earth to save us from our sins.</p>	<i>These are Jesus’ only recorded words before the age of thirty—what is their significance?</i>
John baptises Jesus	<b>Matthew 3</b> <b>Mark 1</b> <b>Luke 3</b>	<p>John called upon God’s people to repent in preparation for the coming Messiah. His message was that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. John baptised with water and spoke of one who would baptise with the Spirit.</p> <p>When John baptised Jesus, a voice declared him to be God’s Son, and the Spirit came on him in the form of a dove.</p>	<i>What was the significance of Jesus’ baptism?</i>
Calling the disciples	<b>Matthew 10</b> <b>Mark 3</b> <b>Luke 6</b>	<p>Following a night in prayer, Jesus chose twelve men to be his closest disciples. They were the apostles. These men were taught and equipped by Jesus to lead the church after Jesus’ ascension.</p> <p>The twelve were: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Matthew, Philip, Bartholomew, James, Thaddeus, Thomas, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot. (Matthias later replaced Judas Iscariot.)</p>	<i>Why did prayer play such a significant part in Jesus’ life (see Luke 6)?</i>

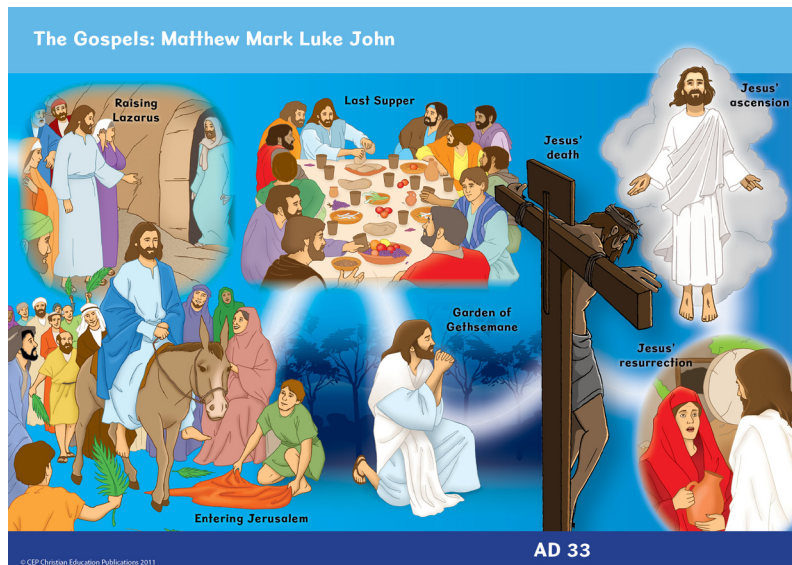
Jesus teaching	<b>The Gospels</b>	<p>In his teaching, Jesus claimed to have authority as God's Son and declared himself to be the long-awaited Messiah. He taught about God, his kingdom and how members of his kingdom should live.</p> <p>Each Gospel has a distinctive purpose and emphasis in its presentation of Jesus' life and ministry.</p> <p>Matthew's Gospel shows how Jesus fulfils Old Testament prophecy and expectations. Jesus is clearly presented as Messiah (16:16), descendant of King David (1:1) and the one who would give his life as a ransom for many (20:28). Matthew's Gospel records Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of heaven and how believers are to live.</p> <p>Mark's Gospel presents Jesus as the authoritative Son of God (1:1). This simple but vivid account of Jesus' life shows Jesus as Lord over disease, death, creation and the devil. He had come to serve and give his life (10:45). Mark was probably written for a Roman audience.</p> <p>Luke's Gospel was probably written for a Greek audience (1:1–4). Luke presents Jesus' life with an emphasis on the importance of prayer, the Holy Spirit and his title of Son of Man (19:10).</p> <p>John's Gospel shows Jesus clearly as the fully divine Son of God. It is by believing in him that we find life (20:31). John records Jesus' 'I am' statements (6:35; 8:12; 10:7, 9, 11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1–2). In John, Jesus' miracles are called 'signs', as they point to the truth about who Jesus is.</p>	<i>Is it possible to just accept Jesus' teaching and not his claims about being God's Son?</i>
Jesus healing	<b>Matthew 9</b>  <b>Mark 2</b>  <b>Luke 4–5</b>	Israel was waiting for a mighty king who would defeat its enemies and bring healing to the nation. Jesus showed he was this king by healing those who were brought to him as a fulfilment of OT prophecy. This can be seen in Luke 4:18 where Jesus read a passage from Isaiah about himself. Luke 5:17ff tells of the paralysed man who was healed by Jesus. Here Jesus forgave his sins and was rightly recognised as making himself equal with God, since only God can forgive sin. Jesus' healing miracles demonstrate that he was fulfilment of OT prophecy: he is the Messiah and he is also God's Son.	<i>Why didn't many Jews believe that Jesus was the son of God even after witnessing many miracles?</i>
Calming the storm	<b>Matthew 8</b> <b>Mark 4</b> <b>Luke 8</b>	Jesus stunned his disciples as even the wind and the waves obeyed him, displaying his complete authority even over apparently natural forces. His self-giving sacrifice on the cross—seen at the end of the Gospels—must be read in light of this. The disciples asked, and the reader is therefore prompted to ask along with them, 'Who is this man?'	<i>Read Psalm 65:7. What conclusion do you come to about Jesus' identity?</i>
Feeding the 5000	<b>Matthew 14</b> <b>Mark 6</b> <b>John 6</b>	Jesus stunned the large crowd, and they exclaimed 'This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world'. Again he displayed his complete power over nature, and he also showed that he was the Shepherd who would feed his sheep (John 10).	<i>How did Jesus display his power over nature?</i>



# Bible timeline summary

## Poster 7

Bible timeline poster 7 continues with the New Testament and features the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.



Key event	Bible reference	Significance	Questions
Raising Lazarus	<b>John 11</b>	Jesus' friend had been dead for four days. Although Lazarus was decaying, Jesus restored him to earthly life. This foreshadows the eternal life that Jesus promised his believers. Jesus had displayed his power over sickness, over nature and now even over death.	<i>How does this encourage you as a follower of Jesus in light of the reality that we are mortal?</i>
Entering Jerusalem	<b>Matthew 21</b> <b>Mark 11</b> <b>Luke 19</b> <b>John 12</b>	Jesus entered Jerusalem with people shouting praise. He left Jerusalem despised, led out to be hung on a cross.	<i>How could people's responses to Jesus change so quickly in this narrative?</i>
The Last Supper	<b>Matthew 26</b> <b>Mark 14</b> <b>Luke 22</b> <b>John 13</b>	Jesus spent a night with his disciples breaking bread and drinking wine. This symbol would point to a greater reality. Jesus' blood would soon be poured out, and this sacrifice would usher in the New Covenant between God and man.	<i>Recall Poster 2 and discuss how the Passover was a shadow of what Jesus (the true Lamb of God) came to do for us.</i>
Garden of Gethsemane	<b>Matthew 26</b> <b>Mark 14</b> <b>Luke 22</b>	Jesus was not a robot marching towards death. The reality of what was about to happen reached a climax. There was no other way to save humanity. In agonising anticipation, Jesus submitted to his Father's will. Ultimately the death of Jesus on the cross is God's plan of salvation for you and me.	<i>Give thanks together as you reflect on Jesus' choice to die for you and me so our sins can be forgiven and we can have eternal life with him.</i>

Jesus' death	<b>Matthew 26–27</b> <b>Mark 14–15</b> <b>Luke 22–23</b> <b>John 18–19</b>  <b>2 Corinthians 5:19–21</b> <b>Romans 3:22–26</b>	<p>Opposition to Jesus resulted in his death.</p> <p>He was crucified on a cross, despite being completely innocent of sin.</p> <p>His death was a willing sacrifice for sin for all who have faith in him. Jesus' death is the basis of our redemption and forgiveness.</p>	<p><i>From the cross Jesus said: 'It is finished' then died. What do you understand Jesus' words to mean?</i></p>
Jesus' resurrection	<b>Matthew 28</b> <b>Mark 16</b> <b>Luke 24</b> <b>John 20–21</b>  <b>1 Corinthians 15</b>	<p>Jesus came back to life showing his victory over death and the sufficiency of his sacrifice for sin.</p> <p>Many people saw him and testified to the truth of his resurrection.</p> <p>Confidence in Jesus' resurrection is a crucial part of our hope as Christians.</p>	<p><i>What difference would it make if Jesus did not really rise from the dead?</i></p>
Jesus' ascension	<b>Acts 1</b>	<p>Jesus ascended to heaven where he rules as Lord. He is alive. He is the head of his body, the church. He will return.</p>	<p><i>How might Jesus' disciples have felt on seeing him leave in this way?</i></p>

# Bible timeline summary

## Poster 8

Bible timeline poster 8 outlines the fulfilment of Jesus' great commission as enabled by the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Key event	Bible reference	Significance	Questions
Pentecost	<b>Acts 2</b>	On the feast of Pentecost the disciples were gathered together in Jerusalem.  The Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke in other languages. Peter, empowered by the Spirit, addressed the crowd and thousands believed in Jesus. All who believed in Jesus received the Spirit.	<i>How was Peter changed after he received the Holy Spirit?</i>
Peter preaching	<b>Acts 1–15</b>	Peter the apostle became the leader of the early church, based at Jerusalem. He showed courage before the authorities (Acts 4), was present when the first Gentile believers at Cornelius' house received the Spirit (Acts 10,) and took leadership at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15).	<i>Why was the coming of the Spirit on the Gentile believers so significant?</i>
The Church begins	<b>Acts</b>	Following the dramatic beginning at Pentecost the church continued to grow, despite persecution and trouble.  The book of Acts records the growth of the church as the Holy Spirit empowered believers to bear witness to Jesus.	<i>After Stephen's martyrdom the believers scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. In what way did persecution have a positive outcome? Does it always?</i>
The Apostles spread the good news: Philip and the Ethiopian	<b>Acts 8</b>	Persecution in Jerusalem saw the disciples scatter outwards, and as they travelled to other cities they spoke about Jesus to all they met. Philip explained the good news and baptised the Ethiopian eunuch.	<i>Have you seen persecution helping the spread of the gospel in the present day?</i>

Paul's conversion	<b>Acts 9</b>	God moulds hearts and minds for his good purposes. Although Paul was a persecutor of Christians, Jesus radically confronted him on the road to Damascus. After this experience Paul talked about Jesus and the salvation he brings to everyone he met.	<i>What does this event tell us about God's sovereignty?</i>
Paul and Barnabas	<b>Acts 4, 9, 11–13</b>	The OT contains prophecies that Gentiles would be saved. The most significant one was that through Abraham the whole world would be blessed. But most Jews forgot this. Here the gospel spreads outside Jerusalem and beyond Israel. Paul and Barnabas were used powerfully by God.	<i>Do you believe that God can use <u>you</u> powerfully to tell others the good news about Jesus' death and resurrection that brings forgiveness and eternal life with God?</i>

# Bible timeline summary

## Poster 9

Bible timeline poster 9 continues to outline the fulfilment of Jesus' great commission, as enabled by the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Key event	Bible reference	Significance	Questions
Paul embarking at Antioch	<b>Acts 11</b>	Antioch is where Christians were first identified as Christians. God's people are those who are in Christ. To be a Christian is to trust and follow Jesus, who died and rose again to save us from our sins.	<i>How do you see yourself, in Christ in name only, or in a relationship with Christ (which means union with Christ)?</i>
Paul's missionary journeys	<b>Acts 9-28</b>	Saul was an active persecutor of the church, but he experienced a vision of the risen Christ and was changed forever.  He became a powerful missionary to the Gentile world. During his journeys many churches were planted.  Paul wrote many of the epistles while he was imprisoned in Rome, where he died.	<i>Paul describes himself as 'compelled to preach' the gospel of Jesus (1 Corinthians 9:16). What do you think he meant by this?</i>
Paul and Silas in prison	<b>Acts 16</b>	Paul and Silas were happy to be counted as worthy of suffering for Jesus.  Moreover, they continued in all kinds of difficult circumstances to tell others about Jesus.	<i>Can you rejoice for your salvation in the most unlikely circumstances?</i>

Paul's letters	<b>Romans</b> <b>1 &amp; 2 Corinthians</b> <b>Galatians</b> <b>Ephesians</b> <b>Philippians</b> <b>Colossians</b> <b>1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians</b> <b>1 &amp; 2 Timothy</b> <b>Titus</b> <b>Philemon</b>	Paul's letters were written to meet specific needs and situations. They teach doctrine designed to ground people steadfastly in the Christian faith. They also offer application of biblical truths to everyday life.	<i>Choose one of Paul's shorter letters and read it in its entirety, as it was meant to be received. What major themes stand out? What kind of language does Paul use when writing about Jesus?</i>
John's vision of heaven	<b>Revelation</b>	<p>The book of Revelation is an account of John's vision of the risen Christ, ruling over our world. This book reveals a great hope for the time when Jesus returns to 'make everything new' (Revelation 21:5).</p> <p>For God's people all sorrow, suffering and disappointment will end. God will 'wipe every tear from their eyes' (Revelation 21: 4)</p>	<i>How could this vision of the future and Christ as Lord strengthen Christians in difficult times?</i>
God's people today		<p>God's people today live as servants of Christ. They seek to live his way, bringing glory to their Lord. They live by grace, resting on God's salvation of them through Christ.</p> <p>In serving Christ his people seek to be light and salt in the world while they await his return.</p>	<i>Why should the attitude of servanthood be the basis of the Christian life? How can Christians set their eyes on Jesus and persevere until the end?</i>

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