



Worship Illustration: Storybook
The Love Sub
Prophets & Promises: Advent of the Promised One
Unit 10, Lesson 52

The Story of God and His People

Jeremiah 7:23; John 3:16; Matthew 22:37-39

"Dr. Sominex!" Professor von Himmel shook the sleeping researcher's shoulders. "Wake up!"

"That's impossible!" Dr. Sominex shouted as he jumped up from his chair at the lab table.

"What's impossible?" Professor von Himmel asked. He leaned over to gather some papers that had fallen to the floor.

"That you are going to tell the entire story of the Bible in five minutes!" Dr. Sominex replied.

"Oh good, you got my email about why I am visiting today," the professor replied.

"Yes, and I repeat...it is quite impossible to tell the entire story of the Bible in just FIVE MINUTES!" Dr. Sominex emphasized.

Professor von Himmel smiled. "Is anything impossible with God?"

"Well, of course not..." Dr. Sominex acknowledged. He reached for a timer on a nearby bookshelf and set it for five minutes. "And your time starts NOW! Where do we start?"

"Where else? The Bible of course!" Professor von Himmel held up his Bible to reveal several colorful bookmarks hanging out of the pages. "The Bible is filled with wonderful stories. Together they combine to make the story of God and His people."

"Look at all of the bookmarks!" Dr. Sominex commented. "Where do we actually start?"

"Well we start at the beginning of course." Professor von Himmel turned to the first book of Genesis. "In the beginning God made people and He loved everyone that He made. He wanted us to be *His* people."

"Interesting." Dr. Sominex glanced at the timer. "You better move faster. You've got four minutes left."

"Well, many times God said He wanted us to be His people," Professor von Himmel continued.

"Yes! I remember when God told that to Jeremiah in a promise." Dr. Sominex reached for the Bible and turned to the bookmark at Jeremiah 7:23. Reading God's words, he said, "Obey Me, and I will be your God and you will be My people. Walk in all the ways I

command you, that it may go well with you."

"God has always wanted us to be His people," Professor von Himmel explained.

"Oh, you mean the Israelites," Dr. Sominex suggested.

"Well they are certainly part of the story, but that's not the whole story," Professor von Himmel said. "You see the prophets..."

Dr. Sominex held up the timer so that the professor could see the display. "You now have three and a half minutes."

"Where was I?" Professor von Himmel glanced at the bookmarks and found his place. "Ah yes, the prophets gave the people God's warnings, choices and promises about returning to God and seeking Him. Even though a few tried very hard, no one could completely obey God."

"That's right. Disobeying God is doing wrong in God's eyes. That's called sin," Dr. Sominex said.

"Right," Professor von Himmel agreed. "Well, the people's sin separated them from God."

"That's really sad because God wants us to be close with Him as His people," Dr. Sominex said.

Professor von Himmel nodded. "Right. So God sent someone to make a way for us to be with Him forever."

"That's right!" Dr. Sominex smiled. "God sent His Son, Jesus. All who believe in Him are forgiven and are close to God forever." He pointed to the timer. "You now have two minutes."

Professor von Himmel ignored the timer. "Anyway that's who God's people are today: all people who believe in Jesus."

"So I am a part of the story of God and His people?" Dr. Sominex asked.

"Yes! Believers and non-believers, people from Bible times and each of us today...we are all part of His great story."

"And there are so many amazing parts to the story. One of my favorites is about Elijah," Dr. Sominex said as he laid the Bible on the table and both men sat down.

Professor von Himmel looked more closely one of the bookmarks. "Look, there's a riddle on this bookmark: God promised Elijah He'd take him higher, God took him to heaven in a chariot of...?"

"Wire!" Dr. Sominex finished triumphantly.

"No..." Professor von Himmel frowned. "Don't you think the Lord would send something more exciting than wire?"

"Oh yeah..." Dr. Sominex thought for a moment. "I've got it! A rubber tire!"

Professor von Himmel stared at him. "God took him to heaven in a rubber tire? Really?" Dr. Sominex shrugged. "Maybe he bounced to heaven."

"It was a chariot of fire! Do you want me to just give you the answers?" Professor von Himmel offered.

"Oh no," Dr. Sominex said. "I want to keep guessing. I'm doing really great so far."

"Okay!" Professor von Himmel read the riddle on the next bookmark, "God has a plan if we'll seek His way, He is the potter we are the..."

"We are the...? We are the...? Hmmm." Dr. Sominex suddenly grinned and sang in a horribly off-key tune, "We are the champions my friend and we'll keep on fighting to the end..."

"Stop singing!" Professor von Himmel shouted. "It's clay! God is the potter, we are the clay!"

"And He shapes us into what He wants us to become. I knew that!" Dr. Sominex insisted.

"Then why didn't you say it?" Professor von Himmel asked in exasperation.

"I just felt like singing." Dr. Sominex turned the pages to another riddle bookmark. "Give me another riddle. I'm getting closer!"

"Fine." Professor von Himmel read, "King Darius punished Daniel and then, God rescued him from the lions'..."

"Teeth!" Dr. Sominex finished.

"It has to rhyme with the word 'then.'" Professor von Himmel said with his head in his hands.

"Men!" Dr. Sominex shouted.

"No!" Professor von Himmel cried out. "Where does a lion live?"

"A cage! A zoo! The circus? Detroit!" Dr. Sominex guessed.

"God rescued Daniel from the lions' DEN," Professor von Himmel enunciated.

Dr. Sominex laughed. "That works, too!"

"That's because it's the correct answer," Professor von Himmel said through gritted teeth.

"Give me one more chance! I'm sure I can get it," Dr. Sominex begged.

Professor von Himmel read the next riddle, "Jesus died for God's people to save, then on Easter God raised Him from the...?"

"Tomb!" Dr. Sominex announced.

Professor von Himmel pounded his fist on the table. "Tomb doesn't rhyme with save!"

"Oh, it has to rhyme?" Dr. Sominex asked innocently.

"They all rhyme," Professor von Himmel pointed out to his absent-minded friend.

"I hadn't noticed. What rhymes with 'save'?" Dr. Sominex thought for a moment, and then sat back in his chair confidently. "Wave!"

"No! God didn't raise Jesus from the wave!" Professor von Himmel yelled. "It's GRAVE!"

"Ohhhhhh, ok!" Dr. Sominex said. He pointed to the timer. "Okay, we've got 30 seconds. Time for just one more?"

Professor von Himmel read the next riddle, "The greatest commandment for God's people to obey is to love the Lord with all your heart every single..."

"Clay!" Dr. Sominex shouted.

Professor von Himmel just stared at him. "Clay? Really?"

Dr. Sominex shrugged. "Well it worked for the potter."

"It's *DAY!* Love the Lord every single *DAY!*" Professor von Himmel breathed a sigh of relief as the timer chimed the end of the five minutes. "I think that wraps up the most important thing in the whole story about God and His people: it's about love!"

Dr. Sominex stared at the timer. "Wow, I can't believe it's already been five minutes. You really did tell the whole story of God and His people!"

Professor von Himmel finally smiled again. "Yes! We did it just in time. And speaking of time, remember: no matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!"

"Oh good, because I am getting sleepy," Dr. Sominex announced and promptly fell asleep once again; his head resting on the table next to the Bible. Professor von Himmel removed a blanket from a nearby shelf and draped it across the sleeping doctor's shoulders. He then quietly tiptoed out of the room to find Commander Cosmos so he could share the five-minute version of story of God and His people with him, too.