

The Carpenter's Ruler



Telling the Story of God

By

M. Kurt Jarvis

Introduction

The story of God is a powerful story that can change lives of all ages. The story is not complicated but over the years theologians and religions have made God's story, at times, so convoluted few could understand the pathway to God and Heaven.

But it is NOT complicated and Jesus did not make the way to Heaven complicated. John 3:16 gives the basic plan, "*For God so loved the world (everyone) that He gave (sacrificed) His Only Son and ANYONE who believes in Him (as God's only Son and sacrifice for man's sin) shall not perish but have everlasting life.*"

After Jesus' life on earth was completed, He was sacrificed on a cross for man's sin. He died, He was buried, and THEN! – Jesus was resurrected. He came back to life and conquered death. This was God's plan from the very beginning of the earth and universe when everything was created many thousand years before Jesus even came to earth.

That's the basic plan. Then, when Jesus left this earth, He gave all His followers only ONE COMMAND..." *go into all the world and teach everyone what I have taught you.*" - Matthew 28:19,20

So, basically two things: first, believe that Jesus is God's only Son given to man as a sacrifice for sin, ask forgiveness and then, second, go and tell the world His Story. That's basically it!

Now, believing on Jesus as our Savior and having our sin forgiven is not that difficult to do. It's just a matter of accepting all that God has said through His Son, Jesus, when He was on earth, and believe what God has written to us in His Word, the Bible.

The challenge for most is going into all the world and telling this story to everyone. Many feel you need to be a preacher, teacher or missionary to "go and tell," but that's not what Jesus said., He told ALL His followers to go and tell the Story.

Going and telling is also not difficult. Some may say they don't speak well. Others may say they can't remember all the details of the Bible and have confidence to tell the Story. But Jesus didn't say we have to be a great speaker or theologian, He said just go and tell the Story!

Scientists and educators have researched and say that when people hear something that is told they can remember about 20% of what is said, like a school lesson the teacher says, or the sermon the preacher gives. But those same educators and researchers also tell us if you "show" the story as you "tell it," people can remember about 40% or twice as much of the story and the story details.

With this in mind, in this book is a unique way to both tell the Story and show the story with a simple tool, a folding carpenter's ruler. Folding rulers are easy to find in any hardware or home store. They can work a near miracle and are easy to use for anyone who wants to tell the Story and help the listener remember twice as much of the story detail than if you just tell or read the story. The ruler can be made into many shapes that help illustrate the stories and also captivate the attention of the listeners.

Start your journey on the next page and see how easy it is to become a master storyteller. Then, GO... and tell the Story, just as Jesus told you and me to do.

Telling the Story of God

Telling God's story is not a difficult task. Being a good storyteller just takes practice. With this approach the carpenter's ruler makes storytelling even easier. The ruler gives you something to hold in your hand and manipulate and gives the teller added confidence. Also, any audience is captivated wondering what is going to happen next so you will always have a very attentive audience, even with younger children as well as senior age adults.

These stories are basic outlines. The story can be told as it is written or the teller can add additional details and enhance the story any way they want.

It is suggested for each story that the teller go right to the Bible and read the story several times.

Then take the ruler and follow the bold print directions make the story object shape as you tell each part of the story. Once you get the "hang" of making the ruler story shapes it comes easy.

Before telling go through each story and make the ruler shape or turn the story bag as you tell and rehearse.

Remember, this is exactly what Jesus commanded us to do. He said **GO AND TELL THE STORY!**

Jesus used illustrations all the time. He didn't have a ruler but He had the environment and stories of people, like the Prodigal Son or the Good Samaritan or the story of the Sower and the Seeds to illustrate a truth. We have the benefit of other items we can use to enhance our storytelling.

Use this guide to help you learn the basic story, freely add additional Bible details where you want, and just relax and enjoy **TELLING THE STORY OF GOD.**

Pray that God will bring to your mind what you need to say and what you need to tell for each situation. You will find the Holy Spirit will guide you as you tell.

If time is limited you can select stories in sequence and make the best of telling what you can. In some situations, you might be telling with a translator. In those situations, keep your phrasing short for your translator and you may not be able to add a lot of extra details.

May God bless you greatly as you are faithful to Him and follow His command of going to the entire world; your family, friends, neighbors, town, city, state, country and world and **TELL HIS STORY!**

NOTE: You do NOT have to use all the stories at once. If you only have 5-10 minutes you can select any one story and tell it. Or, you can select your own set according to how much time you have for telling. Make sure that in a story series you make the Story of God connect from story to story.

Kurt Jarvis, Telling His Story

The whole story of God is in Bible – it is God’s Book, it is the Story of God

Bible- The Bible tells us the entire story of God and the story of mankind from the very beginning. This book is the only Book that was written by God – all other books on religion were written by men and their ideas about God and people.

One way we know that this book was written by God is that in this book over 1,800 prophecies or predictions that God gave His people came true.

Carpenter’s ruler – three sections - The Bible tells us that God has three Persons but they are all the same God; there is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

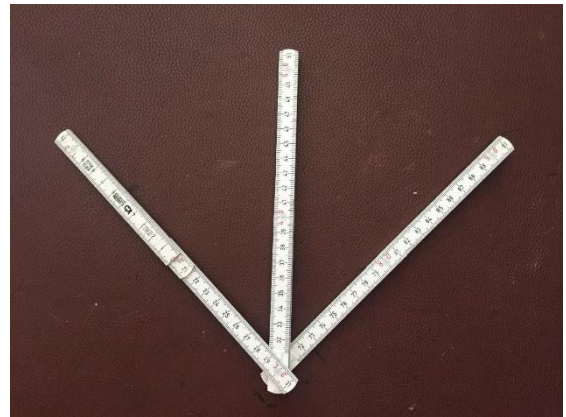
Section 1: In the very beginning the Bible says “In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth.

Section 2: In verse 2 it also says that the Spirit of God moved over the surface of the water. So, in these first two verses we read of two of the Persons of God.

Section 3: Then in the New Testament in the book of John, the first verse reads “In the beginning was the Word and Bible scholars all agree that refers to Jesus and it also says that everything that was made was made by Him. So, Jesus was also there in the very beginning of creation.

Fold together into one: Yes, there are three persons of God and all three are one God and they all serve us in different ways.

As you begin you telling, in this beginning have a Bible in your hand and show it.



Creation

Before the earth, moon, sun and stars were created there was nothing. God created everything out of nothing. He created the Heavens and the earth but everything was dark.

Spokes shape – Then God created light and separated light from darkness. He called the light day and the darkness He called night.



Wave shape – In the beginning water was everywhere. God separated the water and made a huge space. God created a space in the water. The space above the water He called sky



Tree shape – Next God gathered the water below in some places and that was the seas and He gathered the dry ground and called that land, and on the land, He created all the trees and grasses and flowers and all other plants.



Quarter moon – Next God created all the stars, the moon, the plants and the sun. The greater light He called day and the lesser light He called night.

Bird shape– Then God created living things; animals and birds, and all sorts of reptiles and every creature that lives.



Person - Then God decided to create people, living beings that would be in His own image and He created man, the first man, Adam, and then He then created Eve so that Adam would not be alone. God said that mankind, men and women, would oversee all that He had made in the world.

Seven shape: When God was finished, He looked over all he had created and he was pleased. And so, on the 7th day God rested from His work and made the 7th day a special day for all mankind to rest and enjoy the world.



Adam and Eve – Sin Enters the World

Adam and Eve lived on the earth and had companionship with each other. God gave Adam the job of naming all the animals and birds and things that crawled on the earth. Adam gave every different living being a name.

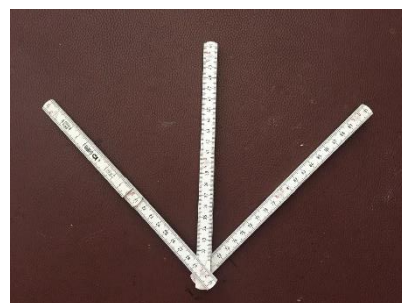
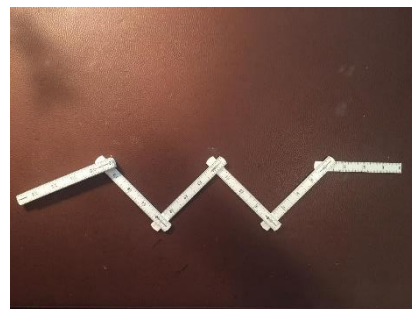
Tree shape – God also gave Adam and Eve a beautiful garden in which to live. The garden was filled with wonderful things to eat and God told them they could have anything they wanted from the garden. There were apples and oranges and bananas and lettuce and carrots and all sorts of other fruits and vegetables.

God also wanted Adam and Eve to obey Him and so He also gave them a test. In the middle of the garden He placed one tree, the Tree of Knowing Good and Evil. At that time there was no evil in the world. God said they could eat from anything in the garden but that one fruit tree they could never touch or eat from, because if they did, they would die.

Woman shape – One day Eve was walking in the garden and as she walked past the tree that God said they should not touch or eat from, a voice called her.

Serpent shape - It was Satan disguised as a beautiful serpent. He tempted Eve to eat from the trees God said to never touch or eat from. She did and when she did, she then she gave the fruit to Adam and he ate. Immediately they both knew what evil was because they had disobeyed God and they also knew what good was. Now sin and disobedience had come into the entire human race.

God shape – Later God came to visit with Adam and Eve and when He could not find them, He called them. They were hiding. God asked them why they were hiding. Adam and Eve confessed they had disobeyed. Because they now would eventually die God sent them out of the garden because the Tree of Life was there and now they could no longer eat from that tree.



Noah – God Begins Again

As time went on and people were born and more people were born, God wanted everyone to love Him and obey Him. But almost all people had turned away from God and following God's ways. When God looked over the entire earth there was only one family that had remained faithful to Him and was obeying His ways. That was the family of Noah

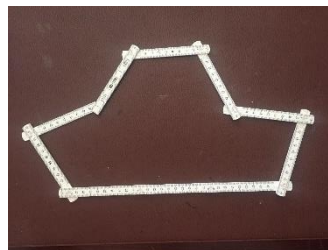
God was so unhappy with all the people in the world He decided to destroy all living things and start the human race over.

God went to Noah and told Him his plan. He would destroy the earth with a flood. It had never even been rained before this as the streams and rivers water everything. God told Noah to build a huge boat, as He was going to flood the entire earth. Noah obeyed without question. It took Noah and his three sons about 75 years to hand build the ark God had told them to build.

Giraffe shape - Then God told Noah to take two of every kind of living thing in the boat with him and his family.



Ark shape – After Noah and his sons and their wives and all the living things were safely inside God closed the door of the ark. Then it rained heavy for 40 days and 40 nights and the ark rose twenty feet above the highest mountain. Everything on the earth was destroyed.



Tree shape: When the flood went down all the grasses and trees began to grow again



Rainbow shape: Then after 370 days the ark settled on dry ground and Noah and his family and all the living creatures came out of the ark and began starting the world over again. God put a rainbow in the sky to remind people whenever they saw it that God would never destroy the earth again by a flood.



The Tower of Babel

Globe shape: After Noah and his family came out of ark God told them and the generations that would follow to spread out and settle over the entire world.

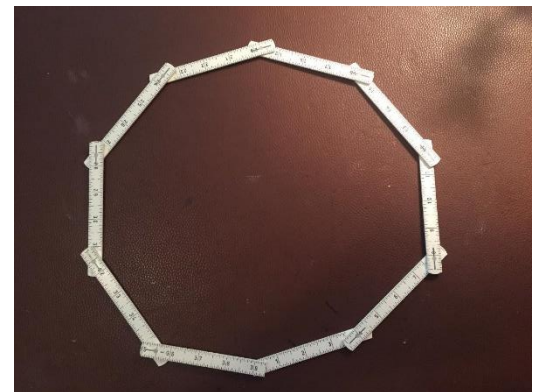
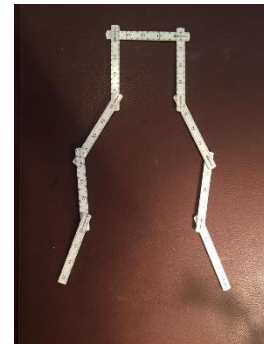
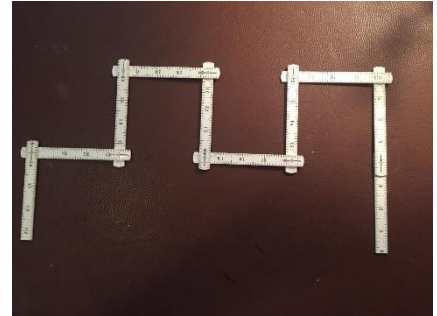
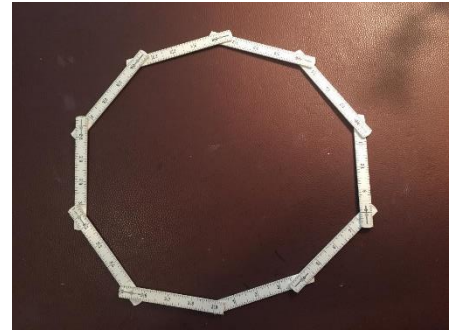
Cityscape: Once again the people disobeyed God and instead of going into other lands, they all settled in one place and grew a huge city. Everyone had the same language in the city so it was easy for people to stay together. The city became larger and larger and people began selling items to each other, and trading food. There were farmers and merchants of all kinds. They thought their city was the most wonderful place in all the world.

Tower shape: Some of the leaders got together and had a great idea. One of them said, *“Let’s build a tall tower that will reach into the Heavens and then everyone even far far away will see the tower and know we are the biggest and best in the entire world.”*

Globe shape: Then God came down and saw what they had done and saw the tower. God said, *“If this is what these people have done there will be no stopping them from staying in one place. Let us give them different languages so they will be forced to spread out over all the earth.”* And that is what God did.

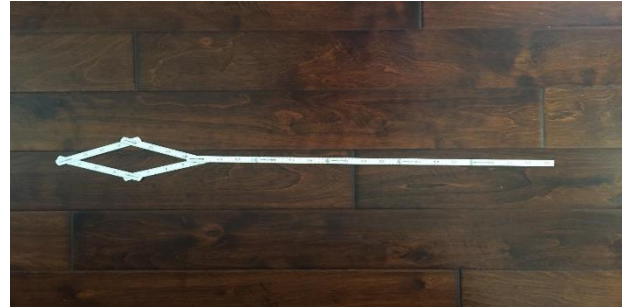
All of a sudden there were many languages and people could not understand all others. They had to stop building the tower because the builders could not understand directions from each other. Soon those with the same language got together and moved far away into other places in the world and set up new cities.

When people do not obey God, He has ways to make us obedient.



Abraham – The Father of the Greatest Nation

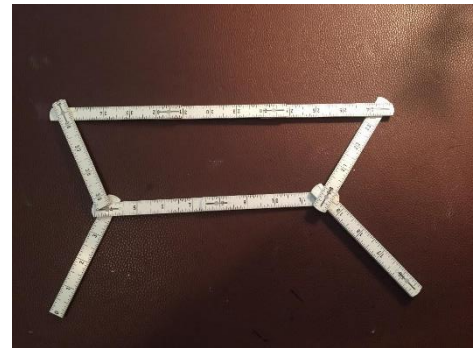
Arrow shape: Long after the Tower of Babel and people moving into all the world the population grew and grew. Many generations followed. Several generations later a man named Abraham went with his wife and many servants to the land far west to live. Abraham and Sari, his wife, had no children and Abraham was seventy-five years old.



Star shape: After arriving in their new land God spoke to Abraham. God took Abraham outside his tent and said, “*See the stars of the sky? Your descendants will be so many, like the stars, you will be unable to count them.*” Abraham thought to himself, “*My wife and I have no children, and we are old, how can this happen?*”



Cradle shape: After several more years and no children, Sari told Abraham he should take their servant, Hagar, and have a child with her. Abraham did and together they had a child which Abram thought would be the generations and descendants that God’s promised. But that was not God’s plan.



When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord reminded Abraham of the promise that he would have children. God told Abraham that the son he bore by his servant would not be the family to inherit the land that God had promised.

Star shape: When Sarah was ninety, she became pregnant just as God had promised and when Abraham was 100 years old, she had a son whom they named Isaac, who would be the father of many children and generations. Today those generations were the beginning of the Jewish nation and eventually the Jewish people will return and take possession of the Holy Lands God had promised Abraham.



Joseph

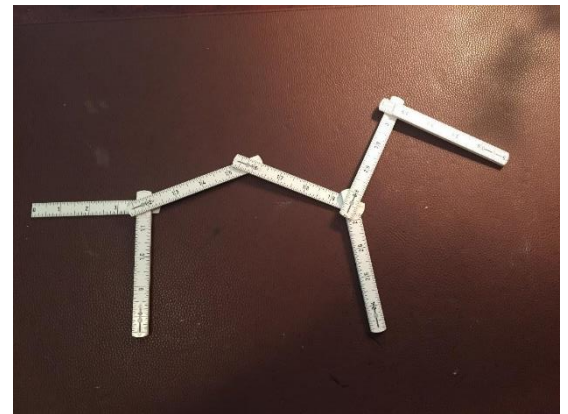
Coat shape: One of Abraham's grandson's Joseph, had 11 brothers. He was the second youngest. Joseph didn't know it **yet but God had a special plan for Joseph**. His father, Jacob, loved him the most and had a special coat of many colors made for him,



Bundle of wheat shape: In the night God gave the boy Joseph several dreams. He told his brothers and father out in the field there were bundles of wheat and all the other bundles bowed down to him. **Star shape:** Then he said he dreamed that the sun and moon and eleven stars were also bowing down to him. This made his father and brothers very angry that he thought he was better than anyone else.



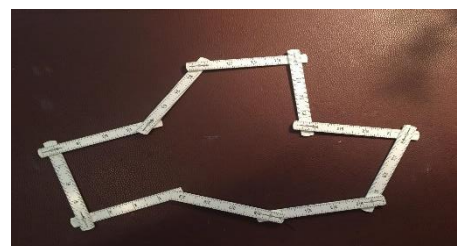
Sheep shape: One day Joseph's father told him to go find his older brothers and see how they were doing. Joseph's brothers were out far away with the sheep. It took Joseph several days to find them. When they saw him coming it made them even more angry. They got together and made a plan. *"let's get rid of him once and for all,"* one of them said. So, when Joseph came, they grabbed him, tore off his coat and threw him in a deep dry well. The next day they were deciding what to do with him and some traders came by on their way to Egypt. They sold Joseph to the traders and thought they had gotten rid of him once and for all. **But God was still working His plan.**



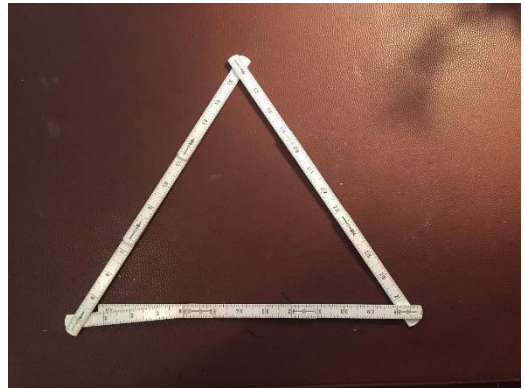
Coat shape: The brothers took his coat, killed a goat and put goat's blood all over it. Then they took the coat with them back home and showed it to their father, Jacob.



Cloud shape: When Jacob saw the coat with blood, he said his son must have been killed by wild animals and he looked toward Heaven and wondered why this had happened. **But God was still working His plan.**



Pyramid shape: The traders went across the sands many miles to Egypt there they sold Joseph as a slave to Potiphar, the head of Pharaohs' palace. Soon Potiphar discovered that Joseph was very smart and put him in charge of the palace. Sometime later Joseph was accused of doing something wrong, but he was innocent, but Even so, Potiphar had him put in prison for ten years. **But God was still working His plan.**



Then one-time Pharaoh had several dreams he didn't understand. None of his court magicians could tell him the meaning either. One of Pharaohs servant said he knew of a man in prison, Joseph, who could interpret dreams. Pharaoh sent for Joseph and Joseph said only God could tell the meaning of dreams. God told Joseph the meaning and Joseph told Pharaoh.

Flower shape: Joseph went to Pharaoh and told him the dreams meant there would be seven years when there would be a lot of grain for the people but after that there would be seven years of no rain and famine. Because of Joseph's warning the Egyptian stored grain for the famine and the people survived.



During the famine Josephs' brothers came to Egypt to buy grain. When they came to Joseph, they did not recognize him but he recognized them. They bowed before him just like Joseph's dreams had indicated. Joseph finally told them who he was and the brothers said how sorry they were for what they had done. But Joseph said to them they may have meant it for harm but God meant it for good. Because of this the Jewish people were saved from starvation and death.

God had worked His plan.

Joseph and his father Jacob and all his brothers were given land in the area and they all settled there. Many more generations were born from Jacob's family and soon the Jewish people were many.

Moses is Called to Save God's

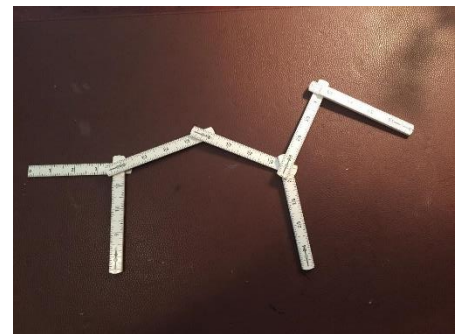
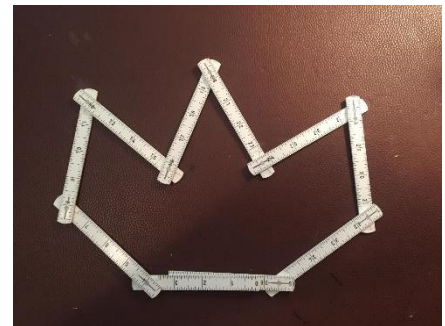
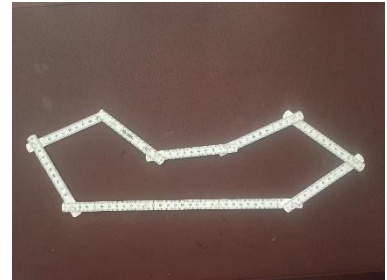
People Soon a pharaoh came to power that knew nothing about the history of the Jewish people. Because the Jewish people were so many, pharaohs made them all slaves and they had no choice as the Egyptians were in control.

Basket shape: One day Moses was born to a Jewish couple. At the same time pharaoh was afraid of so many Jewish people so he ordered that all boy babies should be killed. To keep Moses safe, his mother put him in a basket and floated him on the Nile river where pharaoh's daughter came to bathe.

Crown shape: Pharaoh's daughter saw the basket and inside she found the baby. A servant told the daughter she knew someone who could raise the boy. It was Moses' mother but no one knew. Pharaoh's daughter had Moses' mother raise him.

Sheep shape: Moses was taken to the palace and raised as a member of pharaoh's household. When Moses was a young man one day Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Jewish man. This angered Moses so much that he attacked the Egyptian, killed him and buried him in the desert sand. Some men saw him and later accused him of murder. Moses fled and went far away, married and had a family. He raised sheep and goats and livestock for a living.

Flame shape: When Moses was 80 years old, he was out taking care of his flocks when he saw a bush on fire but it was not burning up. He went close to the bush and God called him and said He knew how the Jewish people were made slaves and that He was going to rescue them and give them their own land. He told Moses that he would be the one to lead them to freedom. God also said that pharaoh would not want to let his slaves go.



God told Moses he was to tell pharaoh what God wanted and that if Pharaoh did not let them go God would send ten plagues on Egyptians to show that God meant what He said. After nine terrible plagues the final plague was the plague of death> Moses was to tell the Jewish people to kill a lamb and put the blood on the door for protection. That night the plague of death came across Egypt. All the first born died except where blood was on the door.

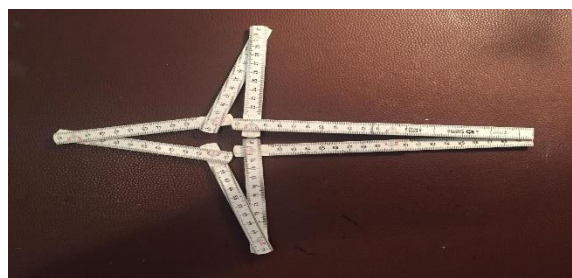
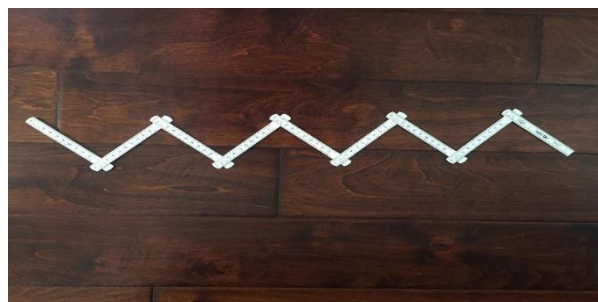
Waves shape: Then pharaoh said they could all leave but after they left pharaoh changed his mind and took his army and went after them. Moses and the people came to the red sea and could not cross.

Folding over waves shape: But God told Moses He would open this sea and God did. When pharaoh's army tried to follow them, God closed the sea on them and pharaoh and all his army were killed.

Ten number shape: While they were going through the desert to the promised land God called Moses to the mountain and gave Moses the **Ten Commandments** so that the people would know how God wanted them to live.

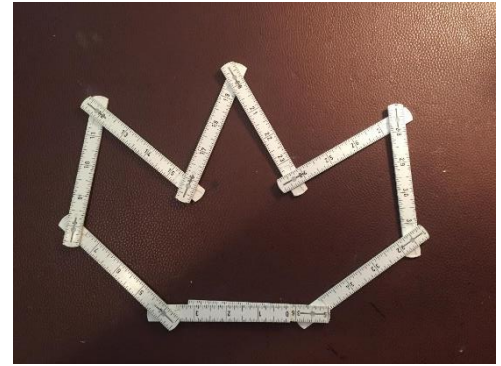
Sword shape: Finally, God led them to their new land. But there were enemies of God there and God's people had to fight many armies to conquer the land. Soon the people complained and disobeyed God. Because of their disobedience God made them wander in the wilderness desert for forty years as punishment before they could go into the promised land.

Star shape: After the forty years ended Joshua had become the leader of people and led them into the land which is Israel today. Many years passed and God promised His people that one day He would send His Son, Jesus to set up a new Kingdom for His people.



A Messiah is promised / Jesus is Born

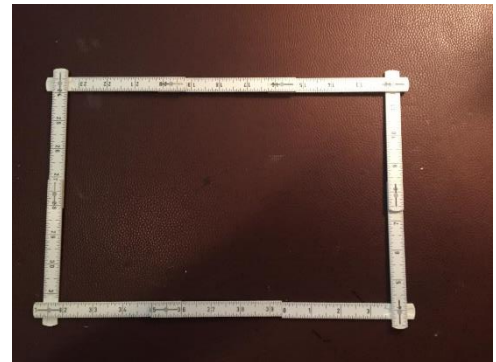
Crown shape: While God's lived in the land many years past. During that time God gave His people judges to rule over them and then Kings and during the time of Kings God sent prophets to remind the people how to live for God. People would go from obeying God to disobeying and the prophets tried and tried to warn people and get the people to do what was right, but many did not.



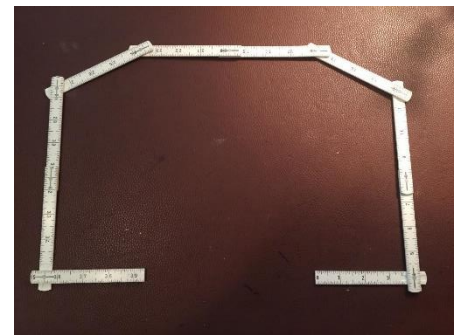
Finally, God stopped talking to people through His prophets for five hundred years.

After 500 years everything was about to change.

Box shape: Everyone likes to receive Christmas presents because usually there is something inside, we really want or a surprise of something we never thought we would ever have. But for many people Christmas has lost its meaning and many really do not even know what Christmas is really all about



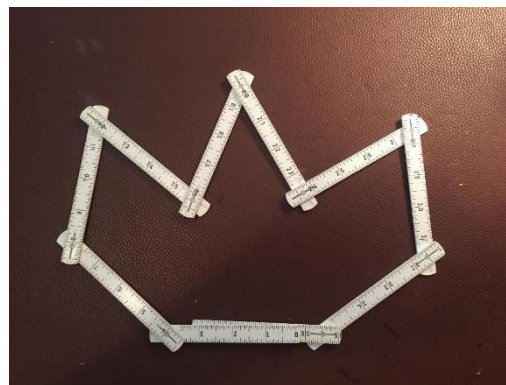
Stable shape: On the first real Christmas day Jesus was born. He was sent by God to a woman, a virgin, who had never been married or been with a man, and was sent as a gift for all people of the earth. But Jesus was not born as king or a prince, Jesus was born like a common person even though He was the greatest King that would ever be on the earth. His mother and father had to stay in a stable with animals the night the baby Jesus was born.



Stars shape: God even sent angels to announce that Jesus was born, the Savior of the world, but God didn't announce it to the king in the area, God sent angels to announce it to shepherds in the fields. God even sent hundreds of angels to sing to the shepherds and praise God for the Gift of Jesus He had sent to earth.

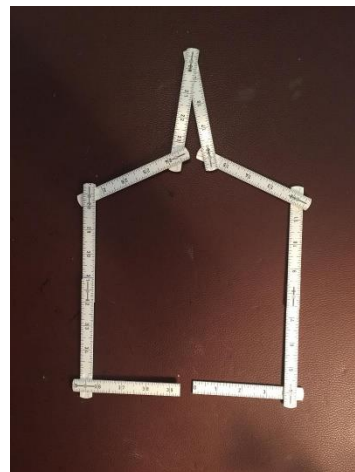


Crown shape: Sometime after Jesus was born, wise men from the east who studied the Heavens and the Scriptures, knew there would be a sign in the sky, a very bright star, that would announce that the Messiah had been born. The wise men traveled far far west and followed the star which led them to the home where Jesus and His parents lived.



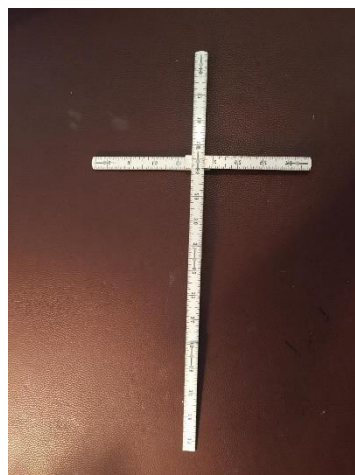
They brought very expensive gifts and presented them to Jesus' parents to honor Jesus as the promised Messiah and the new King of kings.

Temple shape: As a boy Jesus grew up where His parents lived in a small town named Nazareth. There He learned how to be a carpenter like His earthly father. The Bible does not tell us much about His childhood, but when He was twelve years old the boy Jesus was in the temple and teaching the priests about the things of God. His parents were amazed at all the things He was saying.



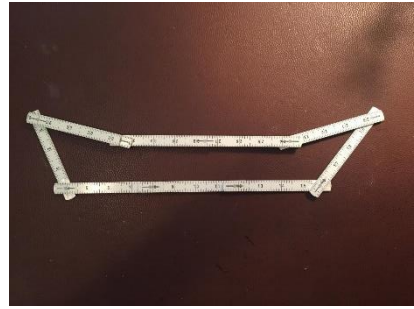
Cross shape: Jesus knew that He had a special mission from God the Father and that one day He would be crucified on a cross and for the sins of all people for all time. Jesus would give His blood as a sacrifice so that any who believed in Him as God's Only Son and asked to be forgiven could have eternal life.

Jesus was sent from Heaven by God the Father where the Bible says the streets are paved like gold. Jesus wants everyone to know Him, believe in Him and to be with Him in Heaven after their life on this earth is over.



Disciples Discover Jesus is God Storm (Carpenter's Ruler)

Boat shape: The Bible tells about a time that Jesus was teaching crowds of people all day near the Sea of Galilee. When He was done teaching, He told the disciples to get into the boat and sail over to other side of the sea. Jesus was so tired from teaching that He went to sleep in the back of the boat while the disciples sailed the boat across.



Lighting shape: Soon a strong windstorm began to develop. Lightning appeared and the disciples were very afraid. The wind got stronger and stronger and the waves got higher and higher. The disciples rowed harder and harder but they could not fight against the strong winds.



Waves shape: Jesus kept right on sleeping through the storm. The winds and the waves got so bad the disciples thought the boat would turn over and they would all drown. Jesus never woke up, even in the middle of the worst part of the storm! Finally, the disciples were so afraid they woke Jesus up and said: "*Master, wake up, do you not even care that we are all going to drown?*" Jesus woke up and He just stood up and just said to the wind and the waves, "*Stop...be calm.*" Immediately the winds stopped blowing and the waves stopped beating against the boat. All was calm. **(pull ruler out straight)**

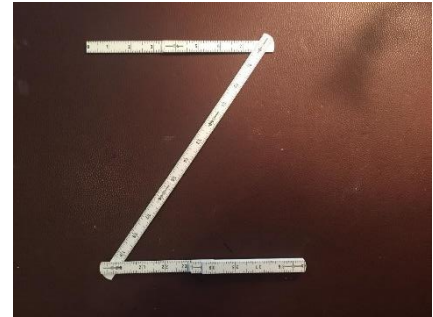


The disciples were amazed. The winds and the waves immediately stopped when Jesus spoke to them. Jesus said to the disciples, "*Why were you so afraid. Where is your faith and trust in Me?*"

When the disciples saw that Jesus had the power over the winds and the waves of the sea, they knew He really was the Son of God.

Zacchaeus Becomes a Believer in Jesus (carpenter's Ruler)

“Z” shape: Zacchaeus in the Bible was one of the head tax collectors in the city of Jericho. The Bible says he was a rich man. He was a chief tax collector. The tax collectors were responsible for the tax collectors were hated because of the way they ripped off the people. Even though Zacchaeus was Jewish he partnered with Rome. Jewish tax collectors like Zacchaeus were known for cheating the taxpayers. Jews saw Jewish tax collectors as traitors to their own people



Question mark shape: So, in this story Jesus meets Zacchaeus who did not even have one friend. Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to his village and that He did miracles. Zacchaeus was curious and decided to go into the village to see Jesus. When he got there a large crowd had gathered. Because Zacchaeus was a very short man he could not see over the heads of the people and no one would let him through where he could see Jesus arriving.

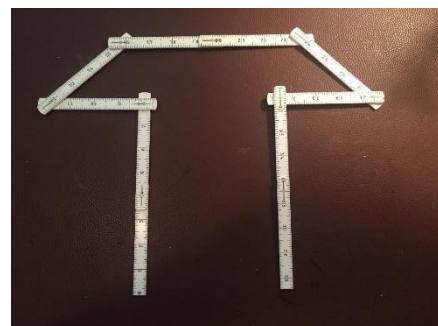


Tree shape: Zacchaeus was determined to see Jesus and Zacchaeus did not give up. Then he saw a Sycamore tree by the road and he climbed the tree. This way he could see Jesus when Jesus walked by.



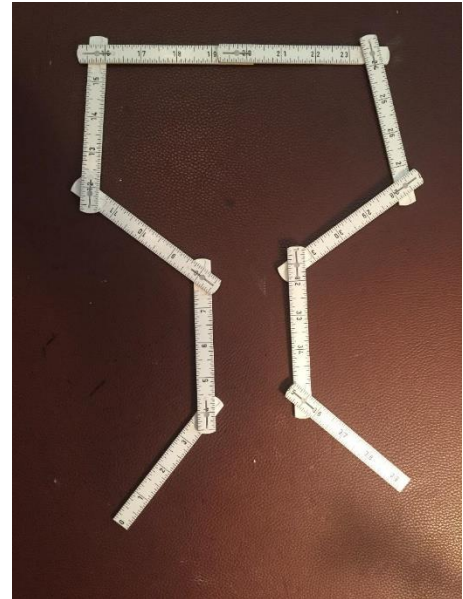
Soon Jesus came down the village street and when Jesus came near the tree that Zacchaeus had climbed Jesus looked up in the tree and said, *“Zacchaeus, why don't you climb down out of the tree so I can visit with you at your house?”*

House shape: When they got to his house Jesus told Zacchaeus about the things of God and how God wanted Zacchaeus to live and be honest with people. Zacchaeus told Jesus he was sorry for what he had done and was going to give each person back four times what he had taken. Jesus said that this day Zacchaeus became part of God's family because he showed that he was sorry for his sin.

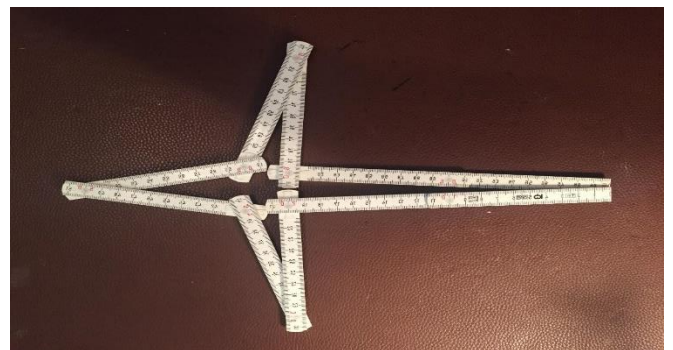


Jesus is Crucified, Buried, Risen and Ascends to Heaven

Wine goblet shape: Jesus was making Himself known more and more as God and as the Son of God come to earth for all people. As Jesus' time on earth was coming to an end, He got His 12 disciples together for a last meal which is why it is called the "last supper." On that day they were in an upstairs room at a house having a typical meal together that included bread and wine. As they were eating Jesus took the loaf of bread and broke it. When He did, He said to His disciples, "*This bread that I am breaking will always be a reminder to you and everyone that My body will be broken and killed as a sacrifice for the sin of all people.*" Then Jesus took the wine and said to His disciples, "*This wine will always be a reminder to you that my life blood is being poured out for you and everyone.*"



Sword shape: Later that night Jesus and the disciples went to a nearby garden so Jesus could be alone with them one last time. It was a dark night. Now Judas, one of the disciples, knew that the Jewish leaders wanted Jesus killed and Judas had betrayed Jesus and told the Jewish leaders where they would be. While they were in the garden the Jewish leaders with Roman soldiers came, arrested Jesus and took Him away. The disciples were shocked and afraid. They all ran from the garden wondering what was going to happen next.

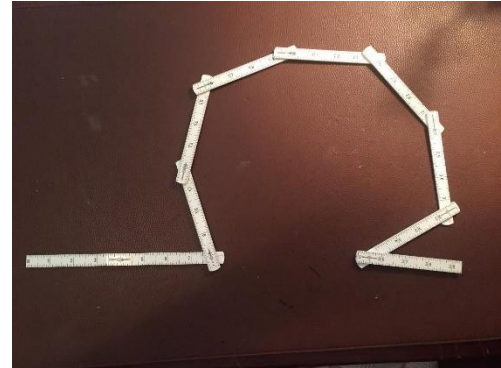


During the next day Jesus was taken before Pilate, the governor. The crowd of people that were there for the trial turned against Jesus and yelled for Him to be crucified. Pilate was afraid of the people and even though he knew Jesus had done nothing wrong he said they could crucify Him.

Cross shape: First they tortured Jesus and whipped Him. The next morning, they took Jesus and paraded Him through the city and made Him carry the cross they were going to crucify Him on. They took Him to a hill outside the city and nailed Him to the cross. They put the cross in the ground and left Him there to hang and die as His blood dripped out of Him. At three o'clock in the afternoon Jesus spoke and said it was finished and He took His last breath.



Tomb shape: Friends of Jesus came and took His body down, wrapped it in white cloth and buried Him in a cave that was borrowed from one of His followers. Then the Romans rolled a huge stone in front of the cave and sealed it so people would know it was not to be opened. Roman guards were posted at the tomb so that no one would try to come steal His body and tell people that Jesus came back to life from the dead.



Number three shape: Then on the third day, Sunday, Mary and Salome, who were followers of Jesus, went to the grave to put spices on His body. When they got there the tomb was open. The guards were gone and Jesus' body was not there. Mary saw someone in the garden and thought it was a worker. She asked him where they had taken Jesus' body. When he answered she knew right away it was Jesus. Jesus had come back to life and had risen from the dead exactly as He said He would.



After this Jesus also met with His disciples and then later, He met with His followers on a hillside and told them to all go into the entire world and tell others about Him and God and Heaven. He told them anyone who believes that He is the only Son of God and asks forgiveness of sin will be forgiven and one day be in Heaven with Him where the streets are paved like gold.

After he said this Jesus ascended to Heaven and disappeared into Heaven.

The Holy Spirit Comes

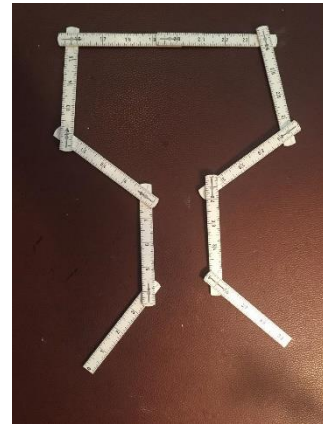
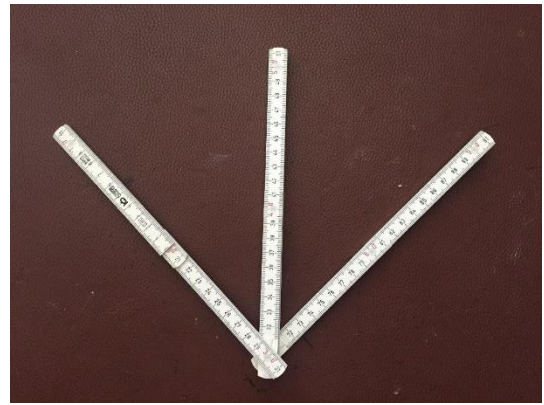
Three sections God shape: In the first story we read about God in three persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God the Father was the first connection with man. He was there in the garden with Adam and Eve. He spoke directly to Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the many prophets. Then Jesus promised that when He left this earth that the Holy Spirit would not only be on the earth, but would be inside each of those who were believers in God.

After Jesus ascended into Heaven God sent Himself as the Holy Spirit to empower all believers in the whole world and help believers go and tell God's story to all nations.

Wine Cup Shape: On the Day of Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus ascended to Heaven, the disciples were gathered in a room for a feast when there was a sound like a rushing wind. The sound filled the entire house where the disciples had gathered.

Flame shape: Then there appeared flames sitting on top of each person in the room. All at once people began speaking in different languages. Others heard the loud talking and came to the room. All the people speaking different languages yet everyone understood what the others were saying. Peter stood up and explained that this ability to speak different languages was the fulfillment of Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit would come. After the Holy Spirit came to the believers, the believers left the room and went right away and spoke to others about Jesus and many became believers that day.

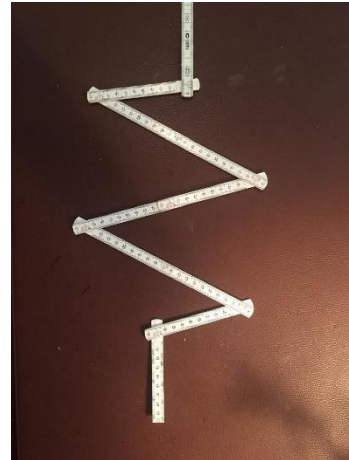
World shape: From that day right up to today, everyone who believes and accepts Jesus as God's only Son and asks God to forgive them of their sin has the Holy Spirit with them to give them power to live for God. The Holy Spirit empowers each of us to do what Jesus commanded that we should tell everyone about God.



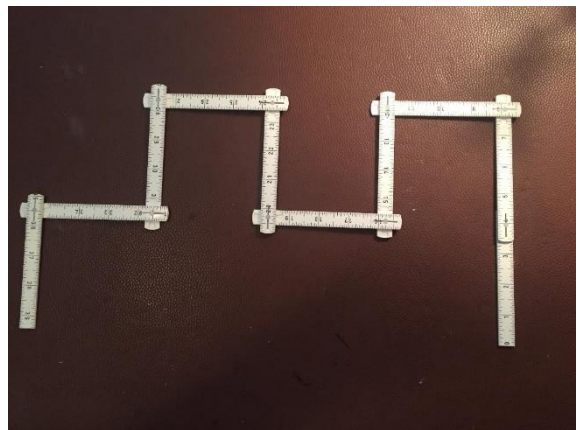
Paul and Apostles

The apostle Paul is one of the most important persons in the Bible. After Jesus died and went to Heaven the thousands who were followers of Jesus were confused. Many were not sure what had happened and they needed someone to lead them and help them remain with God.

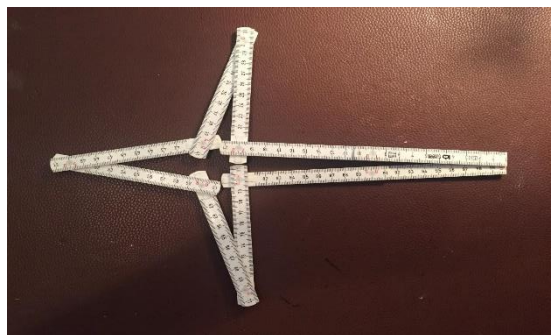
Dollar sign shape: Saul was a Pharisee, a Jewish leader. The pharisees wore white robes with blue trim. Saul and pother pharisees did not believe in Jesus and in fact they did everything they could to stop those who were doing what Jesus taught. Saul even had followers of Jesus beaten, some put in prisons and some even killed. Jesus taught that people could get to Heaven by believing in Him and not just following all the rules the Pharisees made up. The Pharisees taught that if you paid money you could have sin forgive. Jesus said we have our sin forgiven by asking God for forgiveness.



City shape: One day Saul was on his way to the city of Damascus to search for followers of Jesus and have them put in prison. As he was walking on the road a very bright light from Heaven knocked him to the ground. It made him blind. Then God spoke and said He was going to make him a messenger for Jesus. God changed his name to Paul. Paul now believed Jesus was the Son of God Paul had to get someone to take his hand and lead him to Damascus.



Sword shape: When Paul got to Damascus, a Christian prayed and his sight was restored. He preached to people about Jesus and that he now knew that Jesus really was the Son of God. The other Pharisees were against Paul and what he was saying and plotted to kill him. They placed guards at the city gates to catch him. But the other believers helped Paul escape. They lowered him over the city wall in basket to the ground on the other side.

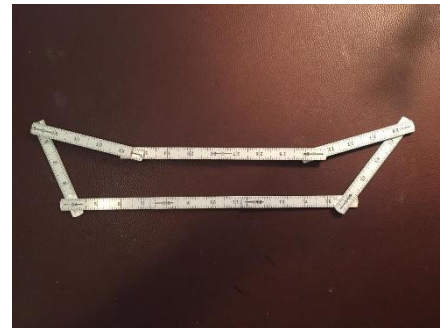


After his escape he went to Jerusalem and then on to the city of Tarsus and began his missionary journeys to go everywhere and tell people about Jesus and the way to Heaven.

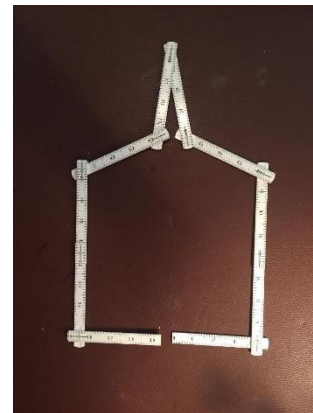
Number three shape: Paul went on three missionary journeys and had great success. But finally, the Jewish leaders got him and took him to a trial in Jerusalem. They would have killed him but Paul told them he was a Roman citizen and they could do him no harm. Instead they sent him to Rome to be tried by the Emperor.



Boat shape: While he was on a ship on his way to Rome a terrible storm came up. The storm lasted for two weeks and it was so dark the entire time they could not see the sun or the stars. Finally, the ship was wrecked but Paul and the others got safely to shore. God protected Paul so he could continue telling others about Jesus.



Church shape: The soldiers continued on their journey taking Paul to Rome. While he was in prison for many years waiting trial, Paul wrote many letters to the churches, he had started all over the region. Some of those letters are in the New Testament of the Bible and we can all read them. Those churches and Paul's letters started the Christian church which now is all over the entire world.



Becoming Part of God's Family (Gospel Story Bag)

DARK (black): The dark side of this bag reminds us the Bible says we are all born into sin. The Bible tells us **in Romans 3:23** that everyone has sinned and disobeyed God. We all live in spiritual darkness until we come to know God and about His Son, Jesus.

RED: The Old Testament part of the Bible tells us that God provided a way for people to come out of spiritual darkness and their sin. In the Old Testament the sin could be forgiven and that was with the sacrifice of animals. In the book of Genesis, the first sacrifice of animals was made after Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sinned. God had to destroy animals to make clothing for Adam and Eve as result of their sin and disobedience. After that God instructed His people to offer sacrifices of animals and birds as an offering to Him for their sin. But in the New Testament God sent Jesus, God's only Son, to earth to live and die and conquer sin and death. Jesus died and it was through his death that we have the opportunity to believe that Jesus really was God's Son. The Bible tells us in **John 3:16** that God loved everyone in the world so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus to come to earth and die on a cross for us so that everyone who believes in Jesus can one day live in Heaven with God forever.

CLEAN (white): From the very beginning God had a plan to remove sin for all time. That plan was God's way for us to have the sin that we were born with removed. In the Bible in the book of **I John 1:9** it says if we tell God we are sorry for our sin and ask God to remove our sin He will cleanse us or clean us from all soon. This clean panel reminds us that if we ask God or forgive us, He will do that.

GREEN: This panel reminds us that just like the leaves and grass are green and grow, that we also need to grow in our spiritual relationship with God. In the Bible and the book of **II Peter 3:18** God says we need to grow in knowing Him and that is how we grow. We grow when we believe in Jesus, when we read the Bible, pray, and spend time with other people who also believe in Jesus as their Savior.

YELLOW: The yellow color is a reminder of God's promise that if we believe and trust in Jesus as our Savior, that when this life is over, we will be with God in Heaven. The Bible describes Heaven as a perfect place; a place for all who know and believe in Jesus and it is a beautiful place where the streets are paved like gold.

When Jesus was ready to leave the earth, He reminded his followers that He was going to prepare a place for everyone in Heaven who believes in Him. (**John 14:2**)

If we believe in Jesus and have asked Him to forgive us of our sin, we become part of His family of believers in Jesus and after this life is over, we will immediately be in Heaven with God.

Prayer of acceptance

Jesus, I know that I have sin in my life and have not been obedient to You. I am asking You to forgive me and set me on a new life path. I want to follow You and tell others Your story through what I say, what I do and wherever I go.

Thank You for saving me and bringing me into Your family.