



ESSENTIAL BIBLE STORIES—CONTINUED

We continue our journey through the important stories from the Bible that every Christian should know. As we conclude reading the book of Genesis, we will move into the book of Exodus.

Your Goal: Read the Bible together once per week. Feel free to sit comfortably in your living room, at your dining room table, etc. You may wish to have copies of the Bible for each member of the family, but only one copy is necessary. Take turns reading. When children are old enough to read, encourage them to read at least a few verses.

WEEK	READING	THEME
April 4-10	Genesis 42	Joseph and His Brothers
April 11-17	Genesis 43	Joseph and His Brothers
April 18-24	Genesis 44	Joseph and His Brothers
April 25-May 1	Genesis 45	Joseph and His Brothers
May 2-8	<i>Break for Bright Week — Christ is Risen!</i>	
May 9-15	Genesis 47	People of Israel Move to Egypt
May 16-22	Genesis 48	Joseph Visits Jacob
May 23-29	Genesis 49	The Death of Jacob
May 30-June 5	Genesis 50	The Death of Joseph
June 6-12	Exodus 1 & 2	Moses Saved from Death
June 13-19	Exodus 3	The Burning Bush
June 20-26	Exodus 4	The Burning Bush
June 27-July 3	Exodus 5 & 6:1-13	Moses Talks to Pharaoh

(Next Issue will begin July 4, 2021!)

PRAYING AS A FAMILY

Your Goal: Offer the prayers on the next page at least once per week. Stand together as a family facing a place of prayer with an icon, etc. You may read them together, or take turns offering the prayers. For additional prayers, please refer to the "**Come to Me**" prayer book (available at orthodoxgoods.com).

Pay special attention to the different prayers for the changing liturgical seasons of the church. In this way, you will be able to extend what is happening in church to what you are praying at home.

The Usual Beginning Prayers

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

◆ ***April 4-May 1 & June 20-July 3:***

Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who are in all places and fill all things. Treasury of blessings, and giver of Life, come and dwell within us, and cleanse us from every blemish, and save our souls, O blessed One.

◆ ***May 2-8: Use the "Special Bright Week Prayers" below.***

◆ ***May 9-June 9: Sing or say three times:***

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs, bestowing life.

Then continue with "Holy God..."

◆ ***June 10-19: Go directly to "Holy God..."***

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us! (three times)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

O most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; O Lord, cleanse us of our sins; O Master, forgive our transgressions; O Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (three times)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

SPECIAL "BRIGHT WEEK" PRAYERS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs, bestowing life. (three times)

Having beheld the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection; for You are our God, and we know no other than You; we call on Your name. Come, all you faithful, let us venerate Christ's holy resurrection. For, behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His resurrection, for by enduring the Cross for us, He has destroyed death by death.

A Prayer for Our Family

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign on high with Your Eternal Father and the Holy Spirit. By Your presence, You blessed the home of Your Ever-Virgin Mother and the righteous Joseph. Come also to us and fill our home with Your blessings. We humbly pray to You: unite our family in a bond of peace and harmony. Instill in our hearts wisdom and virtue, and help us to obey Your commandments. Banish from us all anger and bitterness, and instead grant us a spirit of forgiveness and peace. Help us to be examples of Your love. In moments of trial and temptation, give us the strength to avoid sin. Send your holy angels to guard us from all misfortune and evil. O Christ, we enthrone You as King of our home: may we also be made worthy of a place in Your heavenly kingdom forever. Amen.

Praying for Others

Save, O Lord, and have mercy on (name anyone you wish to pray for at this time).

St. Ephrem's Lenten Prayer

Add this short prayer on weekdays from March 15 to April 28.

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power and vain talking.

But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience and love.

Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not judge my brother. For blessed are You forever and ever. Amen.

A Prayer to the Mother of God

Hail Mary, full of grace, O Virgin Birthgiver of God, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have given birth to Christ, the Savior and deliverer of our souls.

A Prayer to the Holy Trinity

The Father is my hope, the Son is my refuge, and the Holy Spirit is my protection. O Holy Trinity, glory to You!

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of Your most-pure Mother and of all the saints, have mercy on us. Amen.

Before the dawn Mary came with the women and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. And they heard from the angel: He abides in life everlasting. Why seek Him among the dead as if He were a man? Behold the burial shroud! Go and proclaim to the world: The Lord is risen and has conquered death. For He is the Son of God and He is the Savior of mankind.

You descended into the grave, O Immortal One; yet You destroyed the power of death. As Conqueror, You arose, O Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women: "Rejoice", granting peace to Your Apostles, and offering resurrection to the fallen.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs, bestowing life. (three times)

And He bestowed upon us eternal life, therefore let us worship His resurrection on the third day!