

English for Life

Bible Overview

Ten Bible-based English lessons

Intermediate

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Overview of the Bible summary

The Bible:

- One author: God
- One story: redemption
- One subject: Jesus

The Bible has had a significant impact on human history. Written by different human authors guided by God, it forms one story about God's plan to redeem his world through Jesus. Jesus says that all scriptures point to him (Luke 24:27).

The Old Testament is an unfinished story that the New Testament concludes. In the Old Testament, God promises the coming of Jesus. In the New Testament, God proclaims Jesus as the fulfilment of this promise.

The Garden of Eden is a picture of God's people in God's place under God's rule. It is damaged when Adam and Eve disobey God, but God immediately promises to re-establish his kingdom. The remainder of the Bible is about how he does that – in part through Israel and then fully through Jesus. When Jesus walked on earth, he announced that God's kingdom had come in him.

These 10 Intermediate-level lessons take you through an overview of the Bible's narrative and themes. They are designed to introduce students to the message of redemption, which runs throughout the Bible story.

Each lesson includes 2 parts:

- **Part 1** is a general English component on a topic relevant to your students' everyday lives, and it is closely connected in theme and language to the Bible text in Part 2.
- **Part 2** aims to help students read, discuss and comprehend a paraphrased Bible text describing a specific event in redemptive history. The big idea for each lesson is provided for the teacher and illustrated by one simple sketch. The teacher will also add icons to a timeline each lesson to build the Bible overview narrative. This timeline and accompanying icons are then used to prompt students to summarise the main points of the narrative each week.

Lesson components

Each lesson includes the following components:

Part 1

Aim

To activate knowledge, generate interest, and build language and concepts relevant to the Bible text.

Lesson stages

Activate knowledge

Introduce the topic, find out what your students already know, and build language.

Focus on language

Provide input related to the topic and focus on a specific aspect of language to help students improve and refine their skills.

Undertake speaking tasks

Encourage students to talk with each other, practise new language, share personally on the topic and build their confidence.

Lead into Bible

Read a short statement that links Part 1 to the Bible time that follows in Part 2.

Part 2

Aim

To introduce an important event in the overall message of redemption in the Bible through reading, unpacking and discussing a paraphrased Bible text.

(**Note:** Each lesson's 'big idea', stated on the lesson title page, focuses on how the passage speaks to the Bible's overall message of redemption.)

Lesson stages

Review previous lessons

Briefly review the narrative in previous lessons by displaying the timeline on page 6 and pointing to the icons that you have added each lesson. You may also wish to prompt students with the summary sketches from previous lessons to summarise the narrative so far.

Predict content

Help students anticipate the language and content in the text and find out what they already know.

Read and comprehend

Introduce students to the text and allow them to listen to and read it several times. They will interact with it and retell the narrative through a variety of activities.

Invite curiosity

Invite and answer students' questions about the language and the content of the text.

Timeline and summary statement

Display the summary sketch for the lesson and invite a volunteer to summarise the message of the text. Add the icon for the present lesson to the timeline as you state the big idea.

(**Note:** In Lesson 4, the timeline includes an additional icon and a brief explanation of the events that occur before the account in the text for the lesson.)

An important question

Ask one broad question about the text.

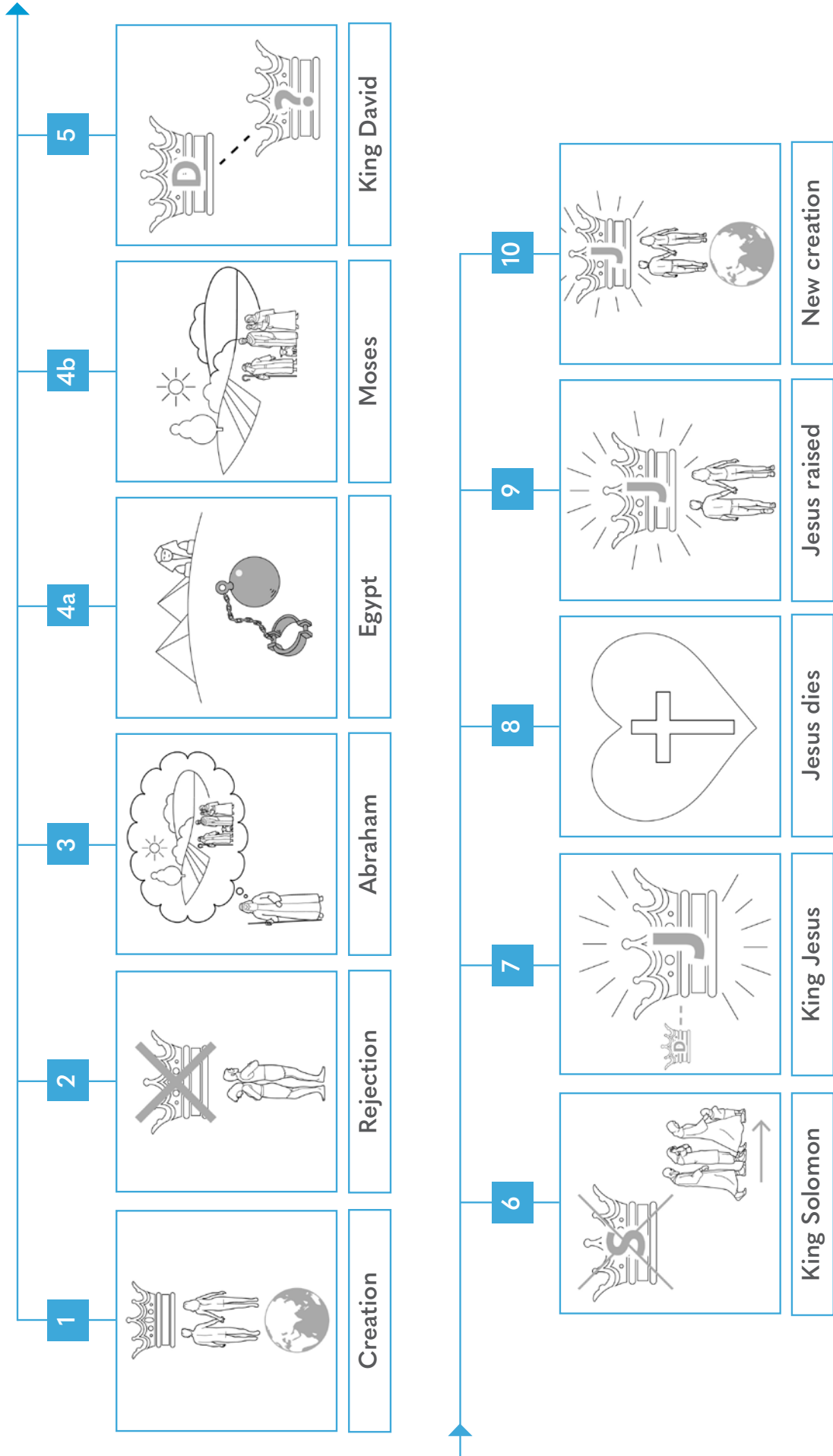
Teaching tips

- When defining new words, always ask students to try to define words before you do it, and practise new words in new sentences.
- After students have worked in pairs, ask each student to share their partner's answers.
- Give instructions clearly by modelling, repeating, and writing them down. This is especially important for new and multi-step activities.
- Make sure you allow enough time for most of your students to complete an activity before moving on.
- If you are asking students a question (e.g. 'What is the past tense of ...') and the answer that a student gives is incorrect, ask 'What do others think?' before you give the correct answer. If no-one gives the correct answer, prompt (e.g. slowly write the beginning of the word on the board). Always try to draw students out before you give the answer.
- Always encourage collaboration when students are completing worksheets.
- Refer to the Glossary on pages 8–9 for simple definitions of words that come up in the Bible texts.

Equipment for each lesson

- Whiteboard and markers
- Large table for displaying resources
- Timeline from previous lessons and Blu-Tack

Bible overview timeline



You will add a new icon each lesson. Refer to this table as a guide, together with the completed timeline on page 6.

Start by placing the first icon on the far left of the timeline in Lesson 1. Place each new icon to the right of the previous one.

The first (additional) icon in Lesson 4 fills in the crucial history between Lessons 3 and 4.

Lesson number	Icons	Summary statements
1		God made a good world and rules over it. God made people to be his friends and rule the world under him.
2		People rejected God's rule and broke their friendship with him. God sent them out of the garden.
3		God chose a man and promised to bless his descendants with their own land under his rule. God promised to bless all people through them.
4a		<i>Abram lived with his descendants in the land but during a famine they went to Egypt. After a long time, they became slaves in Egypt.</i>
4b		God used Moses to rescue his people from slavery in Egypt and promised to give them their own land.
5		God gave the people a good king to rule them in their land. God promised that a descendant of King David would one day rule forever.
6		David's son, King Solomon, disobeyed God. God took the kingdom from him and sent his people out of their land.
7		God's promise to bless the world was fulfilled in King Jesus, a descendant of King David.
8		When Jesus died, he took our punishment for rejecting God so that we can be God's friends instead of his enemies.
9		God raised Jesus from the dead and he rules forever. We can belong to Jesus' kingdom by trusting and obeying him.
10		Everyone who follows Jesus will live as friends with God, under his perfect rule in his new creation.

Glossary

(Note: Word meanings are given in the context of the Bible passages in this lesson series.)

(your) ancestor	someone from a past generation in your family
angel	a messenger sent by God from heaven
baptise	to dip a person under water as a sign of their new life in Jesus
crafty	clever but dishonest
create	to make something from nothing
creation	everything that is made by God
creator	the one who made everything from nothing
curse	to say that something bad will happen as a punishment
(your) descendant	a person born after you in your family
forgiven	to not be punished by God for rejecting him
God's kingdom	where God rules
Holy Spirit	the Spirit of God sent to people
honour	to recognise someone's worth
image	likeness (in this context, in character and role)
Lord	someone who has authority over people
Most High God	the all-powerful God who is above all other beings
nation	a group of people living together with a common culture

promise	a declaration that someone will do something, or something will happen
raised	brought from death to life
right hand	a position of power
sacrifices	something valuable given to God or a god
worship	to praise and give honour to something

PowerPoint resources

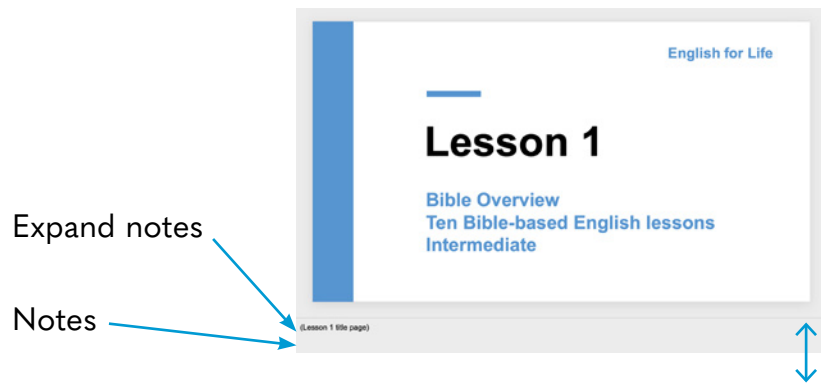
A PowerPoint presentation has been produced to accompany these lessons. The instructions in this book are written for face-to-face delivery without the use of a PowerPoint presentation, but the slides can be used alongside the lesson book to provide alternatives to handouts and board activities. Where there is an instruction to 'display' a printed resource sheet, you may instead choose to display a PowerPoint slide, but you do not have to use the PowerPoint presentation. It is an additional resource for those who would like to use it.

Some of the activities described in this book are not practical in a PowerPoint presentation and have not been included. Other activities have been adapted to suit lesson delivery using a PowerPoint presentation. For example, in the 'Review previous lessons' section, the PowerPoint presentations only include the sketches and summary statement from the previous lesson.

Instructions

If you plan to use the PowerPoint presentation, prepare for your lesson by opening the PowerPoint file that matches the lesson and reading the teaching notes. These notes can be found underneath each individual slide.

To open the note box, click on the 'Notes' tab on the bar below each slide. The size of this box, and therefore how much text you can read, can be adjusted by moving the line at the top of the box up and down.



To familiarise yourself with the presentation, select the 'Slide Show' tab on the menu bar at the top of the PowerPoint window. Open 'Play from start' and click through the slides (using the arrow button or your mouse).

