

# Sunday School Newsletter



St Simon's Anglican  
Church

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We welcome our  
new minister,  
Malcolm French!

If you would like  
Sunday school  
supplies dropped  
off or mailed to  
your home just  
let us know!

Call or email!

Have you ever opened up a gift and found that it wasn't what you were expecting? And you had to act like you really liked the gift—maybe even loved the gift if it was from someone special? Well, the story of God and the Israelites is sort of like that--except sometimes the people didn't even try to pretend to love God.

Imagine that you have been selected to be one of God's Chosen People!! Your super faithful ancestor, Abraham, listened to God's call and moved all the way from Babylonia to God's Promised Land. God promised to bless Abraham and make him a great nation with many children, some of whom would be Kings! YAY!! Sounds too good to be true!! That was over 4,000 years ago!

**But**, Abraham's sons didn't get along, his grandsons didn't get along. In fact, his great grandsons were so jealous of their younger brother Joseph that they sold him as a slave to some Egyptians! Luckily, when the land was struck with famine and your ancestors ran to Egypt to beg for food, Joseph had become Pharaoh's right hand man and he forgave his brothers and took such good care of them they all stayed in Egypt! YAY!

**But**, years passed and a new pharaoh forgot all about Joseph and turned all his descendants into slaves! God chose Moses to lead them out of Egypt and back to the Promised Land!! YAY!

**But**, the people didn't trust God so they wandered for 40 years in the desert and a new generation entered the Promised Land! God promised to honour his promises to Abraham and bless them! YAY!

**But**, even though God sent them Judges and Kings and Prophets, the people still turned away from God. They fought against one another. Finally, other nations invaded the Promised Land and made slaves of them—even taking some back to Babylon and Assyria. God told the prophet Isaiah that the people would be allowed to return (which they did) and that He would send His son to bring a peace that would never end. YAY!! God told other prophets a king would come from Bethlehem, a king would come riding on a donkey. So many clues hundreds of years before Jesus was born! YAY!!

**But**, 2,000 years ago, the people were still living almost like slaves under Roman rule. Along comes wise and fair and loving Jesus, God's greatest gift to us. How do you think God's people felt? Some were expecting a mighty warrior king to drive out the Romans. Do you think they were disappointed? How would you have felt? This year we will learn about Jesus and his life.

We are all chosen by God.

And God knows that love is the greatest gift of all.