



## What's your favorite Bible story?

This question came from a confirmation student after we had done a skit based on King Ahab's coveting of a vineyard owned by a guy named Naboth. (1 Kings 21)

The answer to this question probably changes 'most every time I'm asked. I suppose it depends on what situation I find myself in at the time. Below are some biblical accounts that always stick out in my mind. (I don't have room for all of them, so I'll finish next month.)

I find a common theme running through most of these accounts: It seems I tend to remember people who set some examples of faithfulness, especially when it would have been easier not to!

Esther (Esther 1-10): I love how, even though God is not mentioned by name in the entire book, He literally is everywhere behind the scenes. Esther's uncle Mordecai made a comment to her that should make all of us stop and think about the purpose God has for us being in a given situation: "And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Zacchaeus (Luke 19): Jesus' encounter with this hated tax collector gives us a perfect illustration of Jesus' mission. He stated that mission to those who thought it was absolutely awful that He had gone to eat at the house of a "sinner." "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Zacchaeus himself sets us a great example of the change Jesus wants to bring about in our lives.

The birth of Jesus (Matthew 1, John 1, Luke 2): Having just gone through the amazing way God chose to come into our world, the details are fresh in my mind. There are so many examples of believing what had to seem "unbelievable": The obedience of Joseph for whatever God called him to do. The shepherds' checking out the unlikely message from the angel that they would find the Messiah in an animal feed trough, and discovering that it was 100% true! Mary's willingness to do whatever God knew was best. And, of course, that army of angels (that's literally what "heavenly host" means) praising their "Commander in Chief" who has just "moved out" from heaven to earth to win the war against Satan! But mostly I love the account of Jesus birth because of who He really is: God - with us! (Immanuel)

The Wise Men (Matthew 2): Again, this one comes to mind quickly because we will soon be celebrating their coming to worship Jesus

The Magi set some great examples for us too: The example of following God's guiding; persevering until they found Jesus; humbly worshiping Him; and being discerning enough to not tell Herod they'd found Him.

Check back next month for more of my favorites - including the one that I told the confirmation students about.

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)